

by a fun party generously hosted by Sarah and Fred Glover at their nearby home.

The Section continued to sponsor the year-round free climber's coffee, held every Sunday morning in Yosemite with the Climbing Rangers, where members interact with other climbers and spread the good word about the AAC. Further, Section member and AAC Yosemite Committee Chair Linda McMillan continued to lead the free Saturday evening slideshow series in Yosemite as part of the climber's interpretive program, which generates further goodwill and exposure for the AAC.

On the conservation front, in September our members again represented the AAC at the Yosemite Facelift clean-up week organized by the Yosemite Climbers Association. The Section underwrote commemorative AAC/Facelift bandanas that were given away to all the Facelift volunteers.

The year ended with our Holiday Dinner, highlighted by AAC past president Jim Donini, who presented an outstanding slideshow of his four-decade long career pioneering hard alpine climbing and first ascents in Patagonia, Alaska, and the Karakoram. We had a record turnout for the event, due in no small part to Jim's prolific postings on Supertopo.

TOM BURCH, *CHAIR*

*Southwest Section.* We had three events in 2010, finishing strongly with a successful winter dinner after a climbing day in April at Malibu and a bit of climbing in Palos Verdes. On April 17 six climbers met at Malibu Creek State Park and hiked to the Power Wall. The Wall sits right above a stream with a variety of climbs and a diversity of pocketed terrain with some overhanging bits. Other climbers were already on the Wall but were happy to share the routes. We did some enjoyable sports climbing, sharing the camaraderie and lovely setting. After the climbing, several of us adjourned to Ted Vaill's house for a potluck dinner. The group enjoyed good food, more camaraderie, and to finish the day some of Ted's interesting videos of Tibet and trekking to Everest through Nepal. Thanks to Ted for hosting us and to Mary Tomkins for her excellent help.

On November 7 Brian Cox hosted a visit to a "secret" climbing spot in Rancho Palos Verdes near his home. There were a few fun super-short top ropes and assorted boulders right on the ocean. Ted Vaill, Jim Pinter-Lucke, and Mike and Mary Tomkins joined Brian for a pleasant seaside afternoon which was topped off by a beautiful sunset. Thanks, Brian!

The Section held its first holiday dinner in many years on December 5. It was a resounding success with 55 attendees with new, old, and prospective members. While the food and drinks were good, the two highlights were the considerable camaraderie and Phil Power's presentation and slideshow. Thank you all for coming and helping to contribute to the dinner's warm atmosphere. Special thanks to Tony Yearry for helping with the planning and to Phil for speaking at our dinner.

JIM PINTER-LUCKE, *CHAIR*

*Northern Rockies Section.* The Northern Rockies Section started out the year with its 2nd annual Sun Valley Dinner on January 7 at The Cellars Pub. Jamie Laidlaw, a Hans Sari Grant Recipient, presented a show of his most recent exploratory trip to Western Nepal. It was a fascinating story, more about exploration than skiing, but there now is the potential to open up some new territory for future exploration. There were about 20 people present including local Sun Valley area members Dick Dorworth, David Stelling, Bob Rosso, Greg Wilson, Clark Gerhardt, Marc Hanselman, Tim Ball, Wolf Riehle, Wick Warrick and AAC Board Member Doug Colwell. During brief technical difficulties, resident Aussie, Tim Ball, entertained the crowd with sheep jokes. A good night was had by all, members were

pleased with the Club coming to them, and plans were made for another dinner in the future.

On March 10 the AAC sponsored a film event in Salt Lake City at Brewvies Cinema: The Continuum Project, with members receiving a discount. *The Continuum Project* follows some of the world's best climbing talent around the globe to document bold new routes and daring repeats on ice, rock, and in the alpine.

Rockreation, a Salt Lake City area climbing gym, generously offered a discount on Wednesday nights to AAC members which extended for the entire year.

In mid-July the Section sponsored Piolet d'Or winners Kyle Dempster and Bruce Normand, who presented a unique slideshow on their Lyman-Spitzer Grant supported climb in China's Middle Kingdom. Dempster, Normand, and Jed Brown made the first ascent of Xuelian West (6,422m). The three men completed an alpine-style ascent of the 2,650-meter north face during a five-day round trip. The show, taking place at Black Diamond's retail store, played to a packed house. Both Kyle ("younger rope gun") and Bruce ("the professor") brought their own distinct styles to the show, making for a great evening.

At the end of July members in Salt Lake City gathered downtown for a movie night to see fellow Club member Conrad Anker in the *Wildest Dream* Imax film. Club members received a discount on their tickets and enjoyed a little pre-movie banter at a local restaurant prior to the show. No Kendal Mint Cakes were harmed during the attending of this event.

BRIAN CABE, CHAIR

*Wyoming Section.* The Section was active in 2010 as it continued to spread the word about the value of the AAC as an important climber's resource and to attract new members. We have found that climbers in Wyoming are young and have no money to pay annual dues. Yet they want to belong to established conservation and climbing organizations like the AAC. Several small fundraisers were held, but had minimal attendance and no income. The Section made a strong appearance in July during the 17th annual International Climbers Festival in Lander. The southforkice.com Mountain Hardware Monster Tent was used as the AAC booth. Climbers gathered in awe of the tent and to find out what the AAC was all about. Refreshments were provided, and we had a free raffle for AAC goodies. The climbers could learn about the Global Rescue Program and the advantages for joining the Club. Over 100 AAC informational brochures were handed out, but few, if any, membership applications received. The Section plans to be even more involved in Club membership drives in 2011. If you are new to the climbing community in Wyoming, please contact us (donfoote@southforkice.com) so we can assist you. Climb safe and enjoy Wyoming's outdoor adventures.

DON FOOTE, CHAIR

*Great Lakes Section.* In January the first Ice Pit Festival was held in Green Bay, Wisconsin, where 110-foot vertical walls provided an almost instant pump for 100 new climbers. The Section staffed a booth and participated in a membership drive and raffle.

In February one of the country's oldest ice festivals took place in Munising, Michigan, on the southern shores of Lake Superior. Mild temperatures greeted a record 481 participants at this year's Michigan Ice Fest. Climbers visited from 11 states and Canada, with one from California traveling the farthest. Days were spent at clinics, demos, and exploring climbs at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. After hard days of climbing, participants were treated to