

For Immediate Release

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The American Alpine Club Annual Meeting Called “Best Ever.”

President Jim Donini Unveils New Vision for the Organization

Golden, Colorado – April, 2007 – Board member and leading alpinist Jack Tackle called this year’s American Alpine Club annual meeting “... the best ever in the history of the club.”

AAC President Jim Donini’s remarks included the statement that “this is the greatest gathering of climbers across all generations I have ever been a part of.” 283 guests enjoyed the full complement of weekend activities and over 500 partook of at least some of the events.

Climber and founder of Patagonia, Inc., Yvon Chouinard, was honored with the David R. Brower Award for Conservation at the awards banquet on Saturday night. The nation’s leading award for climbers, the Robert and Miriam Underhill Award for climbing achievement, went to alpinist Carlos Buhler. During his 37-year climbing career, Buhler climbed new routes on five continents, including major routes on Mt. Everest, Huascaran Sur, Ama Dablam, University Peak, Changabang, and Sepu Kangri.

The evening was topped by a keynote performance by Beth Rodden and Tommy Caldwell, which included a twenty-minute video depicting Caldwell’s free ascent of two routes on El Capitan in one day.

In other awards and honors, Doug Colwell, the volunteer behind the AAC's rescue insurance program and an activist for access to climbing, received the Angelo Heilprin citation for service. Author and Rock & Ice editor (and former Climbing editor) Alison Osius was honored with the AAC's Literary Award.

A well-attended show by Steve House and Vince Anderson – who described their astounding new route on the Rupal Face of Nanga Parbat – and a variety of climbing clinics drew hundreds of climbers to the area. Participants had the opportunity to climb with the likes of Chris Sharma, Lynn Hill, Tommy Caldwell, Beth Rodden, Arno Ilgner, Steve House, Jack Tackle, Josh Wharton, Kate Rutherford, Vince Anderson, Chris Lindner, and Katie Brown. All in all over 500 people took part in at least some portion of the festival.

Donini also announced a vision for the club, which includes doubling the membership and a comprehensive survey of what climbers in America need. The assessment will be grist for a substantial fundraising campaign to support those needs.

Next year, the long tradition of AAC weekend celebrations will have even more of a party atmosphere. The AAC Classic will be a celebration of climbing – for all climbers – with competitions, slideshows, films and parties at which most of the club’s \$50,000 in annual grants will be announced.

The Club's annual awards will be given at a Benefit Dinner on a separate weekend. Both events will be in the Front Range to coincide with the opening of the new Bradford Washburn American Mountaineering Museum.

About the American Alpine Club

The American Alpine Club is the premier national organization in the U.S. devoted to the multitude of issues facing rock climbers and mountaineers. For more than 100 years, the AAC has led mountaineering adventure, scientific research and education in the U.S. The Club's active membership ranges from beginning climbers to a "who's who" of the world's most experienced mountaineers. The organization's dedication to education and conservation drives dissemination of knowledge, continued study and scientific exploration of the high mountains of the world, from the Arctic Circle to the peaks of Antarctica. For more information on the AAC, and to learn how to become active in the organization and the sport of climbing, visit the AAC Web site at www.AmericanAlpineClub.org.