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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AAC Grants Support Young Climbers' First Ascents
and Alpine Research**

(GOLDEN, COLO.) – The American Alpine Club (AAC) today announced awarding 21 grants totaling \$9,530 for new alpine research projects and young climbers' pursuit of challenging objectives, including several first ascents, around the globe.

The AAC grants program provides resources for climbers and explorers to attempt new challenges, conduct scientific research, and push the envelope of human accomplishment in mountain and polar environments.

The American Alpine Club Research Grants

AAC Research Grants, with funds from The Arthur K. Gilkey Memorial Research Fund, the William Putnam Research Fund, and the Bedayn Research Fund, support scientific research projects within the scope of the AAC's charter. Recipients of the 2003 round of research grants will share \$5,630, which supports the following studies:

- Keith Bosak (Boone, N.C.) – effects of conservation policy in the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve, India
- David Daly (Lemoore, Calif.) – research of Walter 'Pete' Starr, Jr. gravesite, on Michael Minaret in Inyo National Forest, Calif.
- Adam French (Missoula, Mont.) – research and documentation of human impacts of recreation in Cordilleras Blanca
- Paula Hartzell (Worcester, Mass.) – glacier ecology: macroinvertebrates and their habitats
- Anna Marie Heckman (Seattle, Wash.) – recreational impact to indicators of ecological impairment in high elevation ecosystems in North Cascades and Mount Rainier National Parks
- Steve Israel (Vancouver, B.C.) – structural and metamorphic geology of the Atnarko complex, Coast Mountains, B.C.
- Matt Kinsey (New York, N.Y.) – cerebral blood volume changes during treatment of acute mountain sickness measured with near infrared spectroscopy
- David Lovejoy (Prescott, Ariz.) – snowpack structure, snow metamorphism, and climate on Nevado Cayambe, Ecuador
- Jeffrey S. Munroe (Middlebury, Vt.) – detecting latest Holocene climate change in North Uinta Mountains through repeat photography
- Amy Townsend-Small (Port Aransas, Texas) – stable isotopes as an indicator of nutrient cycling, organic matter transport, and hydrologic regime in the Andean headwaters of the Amazon River
- Simon Trautman (Bozeman, Mont.) – creep velocities as indicator of wet snow stability in Bridger Range, Mont.
- Emanuel Voyiaziakis (New Hyde Park, N.Y.) – review of current frostbite treatment therapies, research and patient case histories from Mont Blanc Massif

Mountaineering Fellowship Fund Grants

AAC Fellowship grants, backed by the REI Challenge Fund, Boyd N. Everett, Jr. Memorial Fund and the John R. Hudson Memorial Fund, aid American climbers age 25 years and younger to gain experience in mountain areas that would otherwise be out of their reach.

“We're extremely excited to receive a grant,” said Thaddeus Josephson. “It is a very valuable resource for making a dream come true.”

Awarded twice annually (grant submission deadlines are April 1 and November 1), this round of Fellowship Fund grants totals \$3,900 and supports six team's climbing objectives:

Johann Aberger (Carbondale, Colo.) and Evan Stevens (Moab, Utah) – an unclimbed face on Flat Top Peak, Cirque of the Unclimbables, Northwest Territories of Canada

William Hinckley and Aaron Thrasher (both from Anchorage, Alaska) – a climb of Cobra Pillar on Mount Barille and new routes on the Gargoyle

Thaddeus Josephson (Bozeman, Mont.) – new route on North Face of Nevado Ulta, exploration of Cordillera Huarochiri

Roy Leggett (Estes Park, Colo.) and Michael Soucy (Crested Butte, Colo.) – first ascent in the Bugaboo region of the Purcell Mountains in British Columbia, Canada

Cory Nauman (Warrenton, Ore.) – Belligerence or possible first ascent on Incisor, Combatant, Waddington Range in British Columbia, Canada

Josh Wharton (Boulder, Colo.) – a first ascent of the south face of Kichatna Spire, Alaska

About The American Alpine Club

The American Alpine Club is a national 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that has represented climbers for an entire century. Founded in 1902, The American Alpine Club is dedicated to promoting climbing knowledge, conserving mountain environments, and serving the American climbing community. The AAC currently has 6,700 members throughout the U.S. and across the globe.

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