

This history of the first five years of OSAT's existence is based on a series of articles ("Five Years Ago in OSAT") published in the Yodel from 1995 to 2000.

Early Spring 1991

OSAT celebrates its birthday on the first Thursday of Daylight Savings Time every year. Why? Well, the handout that Jim H distributed at the first meeting of the 1991 AA Mt. Rainier Expedition on March 20, 1991 scheduled a conditioning hike up Tiger Mountain for Thursday, April 11. By the time the first newsletter went out on April 3, it had been suggested that this Thursday night hike become a regular Twelve Step meeting.

The following April 24 about a dozen people met at Coulon Park in Renton to discuss the structure for an ongoing club. Among the names suggested were:

- Getting High
- Getting High on High
- More than Twelve Steps
- Recovering Alcoholics Mountaineer Society (RAMS)

The group decided to adopt the same name as the Thursday night AA meeting, and the rest, as they say, is history!

Even at this early date, a substantial calendar of activities was scheduled. There were conditioning hikes on Mt. Si every Tuesday, two Pilchuck climbs (one for ice ax practice), a Camp Muir conditioner, and an overnight to Park Butte and two to St. Helens planned. Clearly the combination of dedication and foresight got OSAT started with a full head of steam.

The first OSAT volcano climb was an unsuccessful attempt by seven members on St. Helens in late April of 1991. "The weather turned us around at about 7000'. but a good time was had by all." The first successful summit (other than Tiger and Si!) was by twelve members on Mt. Pilchuck the following weekend, and five summited the North Peak of the Brothers on May 11-12, "although we only had about 30 seconds of visibility."

The May 9, 1991 newsletter was the first to bear "One Step at a Time" on the masthead, the club having been christened at an organizational meeting April 24th. The newsletter was distributed at the Tiger Mountain Meeting to save mailing costs, and "business meetings" were planned for the first Thursdays of the month at JB's in Issaquah (later to become IHOP) following the Tiger Mountain AA meeting. It was explained at the Tiger Mountain Meeting that the collection funds were being used to support the club (reproduction and postage), with any excess donated to InterGroup. Therefore, the club had no dues at that time.

There were 85 names on "The Roster" published in the May 1991 newsletter. Jim had been collecting names of interested individuals for several months prior to the first meetings. There is no further club record for nearly 30 of these people, and it's possible they never actually participated in the club or group, or only came to one or two events. As with any group this size, over the years others have drifted (or been plucked) away. Nevertheless, many of the people on the first roster were still active in OSAT five years later: climbing, sharing, and working together with those who have joined since, to keep OSAT as vital and exciting in the future as it was in the beginning.

Late Spring 1991

The newsletter (i.e. Jim) reported that just three months after getting started, "There is something VERY special about having a meeting on a mountain top after a strenuous hike. Many of us are already very addicted to it!"

The first climb course was in full swing. Paul C led 15 members on a conditioning hike to Camp Muir for the first 12-step meeting at that location. Jim speculated that it was the highest meeting in the history of the state. Prusik training was scheduled for Camp Long, as was a roped travel outing at Paradise at the end of June.

Snow climbs of The Brothers, Granite and Dickerman were successful in May, but the planned Memorial Day climb of Baker was canceled due to bad weather. Four members spent the weekend on Ray's Knoll in Glacier Basin above Monte Cristo, but scrubbed climbing plans when they woke up to the sound of avalanches.

The issue of safety was discussed at an informal meeting in early June. It was determined that every activity would have a leader responsible for determining climber ability (physical, skill, equipment) to participate in an event. Each member was responsible for carrying (at least) the "10 essentials", and the possibility of requiring a liability release was also first discussed.

Early Summer 1991

July 20 1991 is arguably the most significant date in the history of OSAT. Thirty-five OSATers in three teams (designated Green, Red, and White) worked their way up the Emmons Glacier route of Mt. Rainier. Among the twenty-six who summited were sixteen who were there for the first time, and five others who had climbed to the top for the first time in the previous five weeks to give the big group a bit more experience. Twenty-two of the participants had little or no prior mountaineering experience prior to that spring, and on average the climbers who didn't summit actually had more previous experience than those who did! It was Jim's third Rainier summit in a little over a month.

The climb violated the intent of MRNP regulations setting a maximum party size of twelve. This was before the single page "party registration", and each climber filled out their own registration card. Jimmy had told everyone who their color-team leader was, but he became nervous when he discovered that most people had registered with him named as their climb leader!

Jim issued a press release following the expedition, and the story was picked up by the *Bellevue Journal American* and *Climbing* magazine among others. A tribute to the climb published in the August newsletter concluded with a (dry) toast: "To the man who helped more people get higher than anyone else in the State of Washington on July 20: Here's to you Jim! And to the men and women who got higher than anyone else in the State of Washington on that day, and to those with them who gave their all in the attempt: Here's to you, OSAT! Thanks for the memories. You showed that courage, determination, and mutual assistance can overcome the greatest challenge."

OSAT had accomplished its initial goal. In so doing, it also accomplished much more. Jim's goal of having an AA meeting on Rainier's summit had blossomed into a growing, vibrant organization

with enough momentum, energy, faith, and vision to assure it would continue long after this first glorious dream-come-true.

Late Summer 1991

The idea of having an AA meeting atop Mt. Rainier was the seed from which OSAT grew, but as the first climb grew from anticipation to memory, it became clear it was not the group's *raison d'etre*. A full calendar of events was laid out. An Icicle Creek rock climbing weekend in early August attracted over a dozen members: "A good time was had by all--Eileen rappelling is especially memorable." (Five years later, no one could remember why!) There was also a climb of the Mazama Glacier on Mt. Adams near the end of August on which 11 of 12 summited. Other late summer climbs included McClellan Butte, Snoqualmie Mountain, Granite Mountain, Merchant Peak.

Attendance at the Tiger Mountain meeting on Thursdays ran 15-30. There was a gleam in Jimmy's eyes when he mentioned that "some people have started identifying OSAT as their home group!" during the latter part of the summer. This was a sign, even more so than the Mt. Rainier success, that OSAT had arrived; it was not going to be just another passing success in the life of Jim H. As another indication of OSAT's permanence, plans were being established to move the AA meeting indoors during the winter, with an optional hike just before. OSAT club meetings were held irregularly, either before or after the Thursday AA meeting. During September, Sunday afternoon meetings were held part way up Mt. Si, and a Tuesday evening meeting also ran for a while on Tiger.

The August 1991 newsletter was the first to identify OSAT as "an outdoor club for members of Twelve Step Recovery programs." It was also the first time that the need for financial support was mentioned: "We would like a donation to cover mailing and other expenses. Five dollars per year is suggested." Also, the idea of a book about the Mt. Rainier climb was brewing in Jim's head. He indicated a desire "to draft a book that would intermingle the individual stories with a narrative on the planning, preparation, and climb itself" and envisioned it becoming published, widely read, and "help some people stay sober" as well as make a little money for the club.

Thus OSAT grew, from the early days when dreams and visions dominated to the maturity of mixing those dreams with the warmth and security of experience.

Fall 1991

In November 1991, OSAT appeared on Recovery Talk Radio, and put an ad in the *Mountaineer Bulletin* and *Sign Post* magazine. A flyer was developed for distribution to halls and treatment centers. The word was still spreading.

As the Thursday Tiger meeting moved to JB's Restaurant for the winter, there was an attempt to begin a Sunday afternoon meeting part way up Mt. Si. This ended after four tries, failing due to too few attendees and too many distracting hikers. The beginnings of a club organization emerged from a couple of meetings in December after the regular AA meeting at JB's. Initially "committees" (i.e. individuals) were identified for service, communication, safety, finance, equipment, and the next Mt. Rainier climb.

Jim led 15 OSATers to the top of Mt. Si on Thanksgiving, continuing a personal tradition for him and beginning a new one for the club. There was also a ski trip to Paradise, a Toys-for-Tots race at Sand Point, and the first OSAT Christmas Party. Between Christmas and New Years a planned Rainier attempt turned into the legendary 1st OSAT winter ascent of Mt. Hood which drew 10 participants, 3 of whom summited. Returning in whiteout conditions, following wands back to the top of Palmer Lift, is a story oft-told since by OSAT old timers who were there. The fact that Jim was not the only leader in OSAT was brought home on New Years Day 1992, when there were three separate events, climbs of Mt. Si and Pilchuck, and participation in a midnight 5K run at Gig Harbor.

The November 1991 newsletter was the first to sport the beginnings of the club motto, which at that time was "Climb mountains and don't slip." To see the rather tortured and circuitous path the motto took in the subsequent year and a half before becoming "Keep climbing mountains and don't slip", check out the Traditions page on the OSAT website.

Winter 1991-92

1992 got under way with the first OSAT meeting in a snow cave atop Skyline Ridge at Stevens Pass. Ten OSATers attended the meeting, although only four earned their snow cave merit badge by spending the night. Thus began yet another OSAT tradition. Luckily the event was planned for early February, as the winter had an unusually low amount of snow. In early March eleven members drove all the way to Goat Flats trailhead above Mountain Loop Highway and hiked up to Three Fingers. A week later seven summited Merchant Peak. Everyone's climbing calendar was filling up fast, with OSAT events planned for three of every four weekends between February and July!

Running at Green Lake was a regular Tuesday night conditioning activity while awaiting the return of daylight savings time and the Thursday night Tiger meeting.

In February 1992 the first international OSAT climbing trip was organized: Jim, Dave and Steve climbed Popo and attempted Ixta in Mexico. In the process they established a long standing record by having an AA meeting at 17,000 feet.

Planning for the second OSAT Mt. Rainier climb was well under way, with some changes instituted so Jim wouldn't get arrested for leading a 35-climber group on the mountain. In the meantime, the February/March 1992 edition of *Climbing* magazine featured a short item about the first climb the previous year.

Early Spring 1992

On April 9, 1992 OSAT began its second year. As has been the tradition ever since, the club celebrated its anniversary on the first Thursday evening in Daylight Savings Time by re-initiating the Tiger Mountain AA meeting. The previous weekend a dozen climbers made an attempt on Mt. St. Helens, and got to about 5,400 ft before succumbing to lots of "snow, snow, snow", but they reported a "great meeting, good exercise, fun time was had by all." The other major climb in April was The Brothers.

Instructors outnumbered students 14 to 11 at the Stevens Pass ice ax practice as the second annual climbing course hit the mountains. It was a great day with sun, soft snow, and a special meeting atop Cowboy Mountain.

OSAT was being exposed to more and more of the community. At the April business meeting it was decided to take the OSAT story to treatment centers. Later in the month Jim, Karen, Steve, and Robert were on Recovery Talk Radio, and Jim and Steve made a presentation about OSAT to the Federal Way Rotary club.

Late Spring 1992

As the Thursday night meeting moved back to Tiger Mountain in April, it was noted that the meeting was held there during its first season rain or shine. Although members were prepared to adjourn to JB's (now IHOP) "in case of VERY inclement weather", it never happened during that first year. In those days a brief "club meeting" usually preceded the AA meeting atop Tiger. Steve and Karen were in charge of the meeting then. Some of the attendees regrouped at JB's afterward for food and more fellowship.

On April 1, 1992 ten members held a club business meeting at Walt Q's work. A number of important decisions were made and ideas discussed. An initiation fee of \$12 and annual dues of \$12 were approved, and it was decided to have a membership card. A policy that expenditures over \$50 required group approval was adopted. Francy S was in charge of finances in those days. (The initiation fee was dropped some years later, and the expenditure limit raised when a more formal organization was established.) There were over 140 names on the mailing list in May newsletter.

Interest in the climbing course demanded a second ice ax arrest outing to Stevens Pass in May, which, like the earlier trip, was highlighted by the 12-step meeting atop Cowboy Mountain. Six climbers responded to Jim's "must be in VERY good shape" challenge and summited Whitehorse (6000 foot vertical in 6.5 hours). Later in May five summited Shuksan with good weather, a good meeting, and a scare from a falling boulder.

The Memorial Day Weekend hike to Camp Muir was, indeed, memorable. Here's the newsletter report in full: "24 OSATers made it to Camp Muir in good time on a warm (hot) day. It was a special time, a magical day. Some of my memories? Sitting together in the snow facing south, throwing snowballs at the camera buffs who ventured out to snap a group photo; asking Francy if "balance in one's life" was the same as "cross-training"; watching JR proudly hike the last few yards to the meeting; waiting forever to be served at the restaurant and not caring."

The quotation from The 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet first appeared in the March 25 1992 newsletter. Jim H was first exposed to the quotation about the spirituality of mountains from the Dalai Lama in a drama concerning mountaineering. He made the effort to get the full text of the quote, and began including it in the club newsletter. The quotation became a cherished tradition of OSAT, reminding us why mountains and mountaineering are important in our lives.

Early Summer 1992

During OSAT's second summer, the Thursday night Tiger Mountain AA meeting became so popular, with usually at least 40 people attending, that it was decided to add a Tuesday evening meeting. Anne G (now Anne B!) joined Steve S in coordinating these meetings. In July, a new Lake 22 AA meeting was initiated in a driving rainstorm by seven hearty OSAT-North-ers. Dick H and Teresa H coordinators, this meeting quickly grew in popularity due in part to the fantastic, and very spiritual setting. Jim and several other OSATers also started a Union Club Meeting in Renton.

As Jimmy moved apartments, his old personal phone number which had doubled as the OSAT phone, became a dedicated OSAT line. In addition to linking people seeking information with those providing it, the recording began to be used as an activity information line. Thus, the OSAT hot line was born. In July, Jim also began the practice of publishing "Current Club Traditions" in the newsletter.

A couple of June Rainier climbs attempted the DC route. Five of nine climbers summited on one trip, while the other had to abort from Camp Muir in snow in poor visibility, with Greg taking the compass bearings and leading the way down.

At the beginning of the summer, OSAT mourned the passing of a member of the first OSAT Rainier climb, John Codling. John had made a name for himself for having gotten lost on his first Mt. Si climb. Jim accepted responsibility for having gone ahead and leaving John and a companion, both unfamiliar with the trail, to descend in the darkness by themselves. John's honesty, work ethic, willingness to help others, and positive outlook even when facing the health consequences of his smoking endeared him to his fellow climbers "Hiking up the trail, smiling, with his red cheeks radiating joy and friendship."

OSAT harriers initiated another tradition that second summer, fielding a team for the Ashford to Oceanshores Relay Race which completed the course of over 160 miles in less than 20 hours. The team included Dick W, Dave B, and Paul C, and were supported by Karen.

Meanwhile, OSAT climbers were busy adding to their skills by completing various Mountaineers courses. A Mountaineer scramble up Wahpenayo led by Jim included Shirley, Charlie A, Dick W, and Mike D. A week later Jim and Shirley were joined by Greg A and Dave N on a climb up Chimney Rock, and a Granite Mountain hike in the rain included many OSATers who are active to this day--"all made it to the summit and back without drowning. Barely."

Late Summer 1992

The two OSAT Rainier climbs in July 1992 both featured memorable events. The DC climb ended up splitting into two summit parties on consecutive days due to Jim and Shirley waiting an extra day at Ingraham Flats. This is probably the only time in recorded history that Shirley asked to wait and rest before heading for a summit. Those who summited the first day included Dave B (his first), Hoot, Charlie, Robert and John R. They held a memorial moment for John C, whose widow and son were simultaneously participating in the moment from the top of Crystal Mountain. Jim and Shirley summited the next morning ahead of an RMI group led by Phil Ershler.

The following weekend while ascending the Inter Glacier John S spent an hour on a one foot ledge about twenty feet down in a crevasse after a snow bridge collapsed while he was walking

across it. Getting John out to safety is an adventure none who participated will ever forget, and those who missed the experience were treated to detailed accounts, one by the "victim" and one by Jim as lead rescuer, which were subsequently published in the *Mountaineers Bulletin*.

In August a dozen tackled Glacier Peak. Nine summited in partly cloudy, very windy conditions with a short pitch of steep ice near the top requiring a belay. The long hike out, partially in darkness, suggested that it would be several years before the participants forgot the pain and would climb Glacier again in two days.

Paul C volunteered to organize family hikes, and the OSAT AA group established some specific operating guidelines and traditions for itself, such as no smoking in the circle, dogs must be kept under control at all times, birthday night traditions, etc. As Fall approached, the club anticipated the first OSAT Retreat in September. The calendar was chock-full of October-December events, climbing, running, parties, and meetings.

Fall 1992

OSAT organized its first retreat in the Fall of 1992. The spectacular Peggys Pond area was selected. In spite of iffy, cold weather with snow showers, 22 OSATers showed up including Dave N and family with the help of a pair of llamas. A wonderful candlelight meeting highlighted a weekend in which the glacier climbers slogged up Mt. Daniel while the rock climbers scrambled up Cathedral Rock. A touchy situation arose when the ranger showed up at camp and advised that everyone could be fined \$50 each for breaching the party limit of twelve in the wilderness. In the end, he proved to be a friend, and left the group with a warning.

Later in September Shirley and Terri hiked the Pacific Crest Trail from Snoqualmie to Stevens, enjoying the autumn foliage and completing the trek in fresh snow. Over a dozen OSATers traveled south to hold one last Camp Muir meeting (#6), "including a young man with 30 days of sobriety who did not know about the meeting until he was almost there" (Ivar S, who became an active member). Fourteen showed up for an Icicle Creek rock climbing seminar and got "pumped".

Organization of the club advanced during the latter part of the 1992 climbing season. Twenty-one members attended the September "business meeting" (what we would now call the "club meeting"), many of whom are still active in OSAT. It was decided to have such meetings on a monthly basis. Prior to this the business meetings had been held on an *ad hoc* basis. Expenditures were approved for an advertisement in the *Mountaineer Bulletin* and to purchase the first club equipment at the Mountaineer equipment sale. The idea of turning OSAT into a non-profit, tax-exempt organization was first discussed, and a call went out in the newsletter for anyone knowing how to go about this. (It wasn't until three years later that non-profit incorporation and tax-exempt status were actually obtained.) Responsibilities for club communications were broadened with Teresa taking charge of newsletter distribution and Linda Z running the hotline.

As the Tiger Mountain Thursday AA meeting prepared to move to JB's (now IHOP) at the end of October, it was decided to start up a Sunday morning meeting on the mountain in hopes of providing an AA meeting in a wilderness setting throughout the winter. We were still ending meetings with "Keep climbing mountains and don't slip in between", but for the most part OSAT looked and felt much as it does today.

Winter 1992-93

OSAT approached its second winter repeating a number of first year events which thus established them as "traditions". At the same time, club members continued to innovate and develop new ways to have fun together.

In October rainy climbs were made of Del Campo (successful) and Kaleetan (not quite as successful, but beautiful with an early snowfall nonetheless). In November another rainy trip up the Three Fingers trail only got as far as Saddle Lake, with some of the party not even getting out of their cars at the trailhead!

Karen hosted the first OSAT Halloween Potluck. Tom M led TWO trips to Scenic Hot Springs Snow greeted twenty-five who showed up for the second annual Thanksgiving Mt. Si hike (fifth annual for Jim). A smaller group headed up to Annette Lake the same day.

The runners busied themselves with the Toys-for-Tots run and then the Seattle Marathon. Jim, Bob C, Heidi and Karen S all finished the 1/2 marathon, while Anne G (now B) and Greg A both completed their first full marathon, to the cheers of Karen, Steve S, Dave B, and Hoot.

In early December nine OSATers completed a classic climb up the Hogsback route on Hood. It was a beautiful day, with few others on the mountain. Clean cold air, good hard snow (which later gave way to knee deep powder, and then to patches of ice) led to "a glorious day...Sometimes there are days when everything seems right, when it's exciting just to be alive, and you know without a doubt that God loves you and wants you to be happy and make it to the summit."

OSAT hadn't yet begun having Gratitude Dinners in 1992. Nevertheless, there was lots of gratitude to go around. A sculpture of Mt. Rainier was bestowed at the Christmas Party, inscribed "1st Annual Service Award, Presented to Jim Hinkhouse, Founder OSAT".

Winter 1993

The first OSAT New Year's Day hike (in 1992) was on Mt. Pilchuck, but wintry conditions led to moving the 1993 event to Mt. Si. The trail was icy, and there were many horror stories related by the 15 or so who made it to the summit meadow area. Chuck was the only one to tackle to Haystack, but the weather was beautiful and "visibility was extreme."

The second annual Meeting in a Snowcave was led by Greg. Three caves were dug, twelve attended a meeting in the larger one, and eight spend the night. Everyone enjoyed themselves, although they just barely got home because of road closures due to avalanches.

A business meeting in December featured Greg A's Denali slides, and in February the club was treated to Jim & Shirley's Ecuador slides. The first official OSAT T-shirts were designed and ordered. Jim, Steve, and Karen also began making slide presentations about OSAT to share with regional treatment centers.

The Thursday evening meeting moved back to the "new" Issaquah IHOP (previously JB's), and the OSAT North people began meeting at Granite High School parking lot where they decided where to have their meeting, usually someplace off the Mountain Loop Highway.

Spring 1993

Winter 1993 closed out with Dave N leading eight OSATers on a Valentine's Day hut ski adventure. The trip in was under threatening skies, but after a snug, friendly, and warm evening in the hut the group awoke Sunday morning to beautiful clear views of Rainier, Adams, and St. Helens.

Spring is a special time for OSAT. Just like the trillium and avalanche lilies, we emerge from the winter fresh with enthusiasm for life and a readiness to bring joy and excitement to anyone who happens to be in our vicinity. OSAT's second birthday was celebrated as its first, with the return of the Thursday Tiger meeting to the summit at the start of Daylight Savings Time. Dave N amazed everyone by showing up at the summit with a decorated cake. The third year of Tiger meetings also saw more and more people using the trail directly up from the end of the pavement, as the regular West Tiger 3 trail was under repair. At the time, what is now known as The Cable Line was a scant track following the buried cable, barely recognizable as a trail. It also marked the emergence of theft problems at the Tiger Mountain trailhead.

Terri S began the Meadowdale Park Beach Monday evening OSAT-AA meetings that spring. This was the predecessor to what later became the Carkeek Park OSAT-AA meeting. Terri set a seemingly unmatched longevity record as an OSAT-AA meeting chair with years (and years, and years) of service to OSAT. Dick and Theresa also resumed the Lake 22 OSAT-AA meetings that spring.

The third annual climbing class welcomed 13 "rookies" to climbing and to the club. With substantially fewer students, the class was a bit less formal in 1993, but included 3 ice ax arrest field trips and lots of personal instruction. The main Mt. Si trail was closed for the first half of the 1993 hiking season, so we all became more familiar with other conditioning climbs off I-90: the old Si trail, Tenerife, McClellan, Bandera, and Granite.

Early Summer 1993

The spring and early summer of 1993 marked an explosion of OSAT AA meetings. By July there were six weekly: Tiger on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings, Meadowdale Park Beach on Mondays, Lake 22 Sunday afternoons, and Pete Mountain in Enumclaw on Wednesday evenings. A group conscience at the meetings resulted in adoption of the OSAT Preamble written in April, and thus the OSAT "wilderness AA meeting format" and the distinction between the AA groups and the club was formalized.

With the preamble also came the final formulation of the motto "Keep climbing mountains, and don't slip." The newsletter had carried a number of versions of this saying through the first two years of OSAT's existence, including:

"Climb mountains and don't slip"

"Keep climbing mountains and don't drink in between."

"Keep climbing mountains."

"Keep climbing mountains and don't slip in between."

Jim also called for the eventual development of bylaws and election of officers or trustees or directors. "Yes, we are getting big enough for this AND yours truly would like a little less to do" he admitted in the first newsletter to bear the "*OSAT Yodel*" banner (May 18, 1993).

On May 16th Jim, Greg, Robert, Charlie A, Chuck T, and Rik summited Mt. Baker up the beautiful Boulder Glacier route. This climb concluded the first OSAT ascents of all the Washington state volcanoes. Robert T and Jim had been on all five: Rainier and Adams in 1991, Glacier in 1992, and St. Helens and Baker in 1993.

The May 1993 *Yodel* also carried a thrilling account of a first Rainier summit on the first OSAT climb two years before, by Anne G (now B), who received her 10th birthday coin on that climb. After recounting how she felt at different points on the climb (nauseous, hungry, dizzy, disoriented, weak, scared) Anne concluded "I am definitely looking forward to doing more of this". As they say, some of us are sicker than others!

Late Summer 1993

Challenges of a growing club surfaced in the summer of 1993. At the June club meeting the problem of "equal access" to OSAT sponsored events was discussed, as some were complaining that climbs were full before they were published in the newsletter. A number of OSAT traditions were proposed in July concerning the development of a Climbing Committee and an OSAT Technical Leader List. These suggestions gave way at later meetings to the less formal organization of climbs that exists today, with the climbing chairman simply responsible for keeping a healthy list of activities available and the leader and participants mutually qualifying each other for their participation in a given event. All of this seemed pretty important given the expeditions being considered: OSAT climbers were beginning to look for international adventure, and the July 1993 *Yodel* contained the first notice for the February 1995 Kilimanjaro Expedition.

Jim used to keep track of how many meetings OSAT had conducted at Camp Muir: Bob C led #7 in May just days before his departure to Denali, #8 followed on June 6th, the day after the roped travel field trip in Pinnacle Basin, and #9 included sherpas and climbers on the third of three Rainier climbs conducted: in 1993. First-time summiters on the first OSAT "slow" (3-day) climb included Ivar, Francy, and CC. This trip featured a move from Muir to Ingraham Flats on the middle day, and one highlight was Francie declaring victory in using a pee bottle. Tom D also was on this climb. The second climb was up the Emmons (Doug and Rik sat out the summit day at Camp Shurman after Doug needed to turn around an hour or two out of camp) and the third climb in mid-August featured exciting crevasse crossings on the Ingraham direct and was Scott H's third Rainier climb in three weeks! In addition, Robert, Charlie, Jim and Anne climbed the Kautz Glacier route.

Other events that summer included OSAT rock climbers up the Tooth behind Bob C and down to Smith Rocks following Anne G's (now B) lead, a car camp at Ipsut Creek, an Enchantment Lakes encampment holding the first OSAT-AA meeting at Snow Lake, the first Mt. Si Breakfast fund raiser (Linda Z and Laara's first time to the top of the Haystack), and Carol P celebrated her first Rainier summit by providing beginning kayak lessons below Snoqualmie Falls. Eleven OSAT climbers had Olympus to themselves later in the summer, and a few climbed Mt. Constance on two separate climbs.

Twelve candidates vied for the five spots in the first Board of Servants election (they weren't elevated to the level of "Trusted" servants until later). The campaign speeches were reported to be spirited, and there was talk of developing political parties within the club, with the Liberal Rock Jocks facing off against the Conservative Scramblers and Moderate Alpine Ascenders.

Fall 1993

The Autumn of 1993 brought several firsts to OSAT. The first BOS (subsequently (BOTS) was elected in October: Terri S (chair), Dave B, Karen P (C), Steve S, and Bob C accepted the "honor and privilege" to serve the club. They got right to work in establishing the roles and responsibilities of eight committees. The first OSAT ice climbing seminar was conducted on the Nisqually Glacier, and Joseph H and his friend Joe began the first OSAT MOFA course -- sixteen eventually graduated, significantly elevating the level of self-reliance and safety of OSAT climbs.

In October Paul C tackled the Twin Sisters east of Bellingham. Rik and his daughter Hillary joined him on the North Twin, while Kathy O followed him on a heroic bush-whack up and down the South Twin. The rock on the Twins is unique in Washington, it trashes your gloves, grabs your boots, and makes you feel like Spiderman.

Other memorable climbs included the Snoqualmie and Guye duo on the day before the big Halloween party at Steve and Francy's, and finally (on the third try) a successful climb to the Three Fingers lookout.

Jim celebrated his 15th AA birthday with Shirley by hiking through the Enchantments in a single day, his eighth consecutive year in "this hallowed ground". They met three OSATers who were spending a weekend fishing, which helped solve the logistics of going in Mountaineer Creek and coming out Toketie & Snow Creeks. Jim described Shield Lake as perhaps his favorite spot in Washington: "The short larch trees are like old friends - I talk to them and they seem to answer me. I recognize familiar granite benches and boulders. The fall colors are everywhere. Above the cliffs and peaks and below is the sparkling lake ... we reach the lake shore too soon, but the walk on the plush, grassy meadow is also a delight."

Fall/Winter 1993-94

The last Thursday Tiger Mountain meeting of 1993 ended up being quite an adventure. The meeting was sparsely attended, since 16 members were beginning their MOFA course, but rescue and evacuation skills got a real world test due to a badly injured knee. "It made me aware that one must be prepared when hiking or climbing. We shouldn't take anything for granted, even on a simple evening hike one needs to carry the ten essentials. A little extra weight was worth a lot when it was needed. Thanks to the OSAT members who stayed with me - it eased the pain." Some neophyte OSAT Tiger rookie, right? Wrong!! None other than the venerable Tom M. As Jim said, "If this can happen to Tom, then it can happen to anyone..."

Thanksgiving 1993 found Mt. Si under a mantle of snow, and 25 OSAT hikers built up their appetites by trudging up the trail on a beautiful day. Many brought crampons, mindful of hazardous trail conditions the previous year, but most made it to the gully without them. The

haystack "looked a little treacherous, and most of us turned around", but Dave N and Rik could not resist getting the very best possible view for the day from the summit.

Bob C led a successful December by eleven climbers up Mt. Hood. John and Kim hosted about 40 at the Holiday Party. Linda Z reported on the New Years climb up "Mt. Sigh" in icy and snowy conditions: "Steve and Francy talked me into it...When we finally reached to the top, I cried tears of relief...I wanted to be lifted off by helicopter." It was on this same Mt. Si climb that Susan R, who had essentially zero experience, learned to rappel down the snow-and-ice filled gully from the Haystack!

Although many OSAT traditions were well established by this time (winter of 1993/94), lots of important changes were taking place as well. As BOS Chair Terri S observed: "Jim H devoted innumerable hours during the previous three years to the organization of OSAT...In fairness to Jim and to be responsible to ourselves, we must divide the workload... It is time OSAT became self supporting in labor as well as in funding...As much as we try to fight change, sometimes it is necessary." The challenges of organizing on this basis were many, but the wisdom of launching OSAT into this new era is now unquestioned.

Winter 1994

In February 1994 Jimmy Hinkhouse retired from Boeing, where his second tour of duty with the company culminated in the position of Economist for the Commercial Airplane Company. Rik glanced at Jim's PROFS (electronic) calendar the last week he was at work, and found it worth making a copy of to share at Jim's OSAT retirement party at Steve and Francie's. It gives a flavor of what was important in his life at that time:

Mon 2/21		Return from Hut Skiing
Tues 2/22	6:00PM	Meet Aaron [his son] for dinner
Wed 2/23	11:45AM	Lunch with Myles [he had lunch once a week with Myles W, who made a large donation to the OSAT library]
	1:00 PM	Economics with WHL & TDM
	5:30 PM	Run at Greenlake
	7:00 PM	B.O.S. Meeting
Thu 2/24	11:30 AM	Farewell luncheon [this was at Shumsky's Brass Rail in Renton]
	2:00 PM	Market Research Staff Meeting
	4:45 PM	Climb Tiger Mtn, then OSAT meeting
Fri 2/25	2:00 PM	Exit Interview, Marcia's office
	5:00 PM	Beginning of the remainder of life

Ten items (other than the last one): 3 business, 1 family, 2 social, and 4 Outdoor/OSAT-related!

In March 1994 a Mt. Ellinor climb was canceled due to high avalanche danger forecast for the Olympics, but trip leader Joseph H rallied four of those who planned to go for a Mt. Si climb. The four met three additional OSATers in the parking lot, and thus began a classic Mt. Si adventure. In spite of lots of snow in the gully, most of the group elected to try for the summit. The combination of Rik's crampons, Joseph's rope and runners, and Pete's harness and 'biners, six of the group got to the upper ridge, and three summited. So what? Well, legend has it that the OSAT pennant was discovered on this climb. The pennant subsequently made appearances in OSAT summit pictures.

At the March 1994 club meeting, the assembled membership approved a proposal to have the BOS (predecessor to the BOTS) develop and submit to the membership for approval a mission statement, documentation of traditions, and club bylaws. The club meeting protocol was also established, including “The Chair has the authority and responsibility to cut-off people if they exceed their allotted time limit. This is a tough job, but somebody has to do it. Therefore, just before the closing, there will be a round of applause for the Chair.”

Early Spring 1994

April 1994 marked OSAT’s third birthday. As usual, the event was observed at the first Thursday meeting atop Tiger after Daylight Savings Time moved the meeting back from IHOP. About the same time Terri P began running 12-step study meetings atop Tiger on Tuesday evenings.

Dave N, and Doug H were elected from a field of five candidates to fill the unexpired terms of two BOS members who stepped down. Bob C stepped in as Chair of the BOS (not to become “Trusted” for another year!). The other members of the BOS were Steve S and Dave B. The club meeting day (second Wednesday of the month) was established at the April meeting, as was the decision to obtain a post office box. It was also at the April 1994 meeting that the OSAT Mission Statement was adopted: “To provide a clean and sober environment for members and friends of 12-step recovery groups to participate in outdoor and social events in the spirit of conservation, preservation, and ecology.”

The 1994 climbing course was run out of Camp Long. There were about 35 students. The class instituted a weekly conditioning hike up Mt. Si on Saturdays with a meeting at the base of the Haystack.

Of course the fourth OSAT climbing season got into full swing with the arrival of spring. Among the April activities were a beginning rock climbing seminar led by Bob C attended by 12 eager rock jocks, followed later in the month by Bob’s climb of Outer Space. Not to be outdone, the OSAT Women, led by Terri S, spent a beautiful day on the Leavenworth rock. Alpine hikes included a trip up the avalanche gully route on Granite Mountain in fog, and an especially memorable Sauk Mountain climb by a dozen OSATers. Those who were there will remember perfect conditions for step-kicking up the slope, fabulous views in every direction from the summit, Robin’s dramatic self-belay at the top of the snow slope during the descent, and the victory celebration at the Mt. Baker Cafe’s Duke Wayne Room in Concrete (now closed).

Late Spring 1994

At the May 1994 club meeting the search for a permanent meeting location was one topic of conversation. The meetings had been held at the Mercer Island Library, but regular scheduling of it was impossible. The club also voted to list the OSAT hot-line in the yellow pages and with directory assistance. The pennant scrapbook made its debut at the meeting, and paid membership was reported to be 66.

May climbing events included a trip led by Joseph to Monte Cristo. An anonymous contributor to the *Yodel* confided that “I was in an element of exposure I was not familiar with, but nevertheless submitted after a confidence-building belay was set up. In the end, the mystery climber gave

thanks for another step toward confidence and trust in myself, others, and especially my Higher Power who works through others.”

Steve S led a successful trip up Vesper on a beautiful day. Pam G extolled the glories of a wonderful glissade on which she characterized herself as wild woman, and the entire group had a glorious time.

Another climb was the Memorial Day assault on Mt. Stuart. Although it began as a multi-route rendezvous attempt, in the end we consolidated to a single group on the Cascadian Couloir route. After raining all night, half of the group elected to return home, an adventure in itself when the trail out of the valley couldn't be located and a classic Cascade bushwhack ensued. Although the mountain was covered in clouds, those who persevered reported steep snow, boulders, the rocky traverse, and blow-me-over wind made this a climb to remember. Jim, Rik, Bill L, Chris S, Rich P, and Ken M summited, while Shirley prepared a fire for the group's second night out. As one might expect, the best weather of the weekend was reserved for the trip out, on which we got a fabulous view of the mountain from Longs Pass. This was truly a memorable Memorial Day climb, and is one of the reasons Peak 6878 near Longs Pass was initially proposed as Hinkhouse Peak.

Early Summer 1994

Pete S led a memorable McClellan Butte climb in June. Bill L was scouting out the mountain as a paragliding launch site, Steve & Francie renewed wedding vows with a summit kiss. Ivar and Marina were in training, dashing to the summit in record time, and Robin K were also on the trip.

Rainier climbs that summer included a June Birthday Gratitude climb that started out with an emotional Camp Muir meeting involving 27 including sherpas. Pam G's first-hand account is filled with gratitude for Robert (with his yodels) and Terri S urging her on in spite of foot problems. Jimmy, Steve & Francie, Ivar & Marina, Tim, Scott, Winton, & Diane completed the 100% successful party. The first climbing course climb wasn't so lucky. The mountain had perfect summit weather on the 3rd and 5th, but on the 4th of July when the OSAT group got to the top of Disappointment Cleaver, wind and poor visibility turned the team around. There was satisfaction and pride, however, in making it 1000 feet higher on the route than RMI (or any other climbers) did that day! Later that week Bob C's group of Scott H, Hoot, Mike, Robin, Ken M, Charlie and Christian summited via the Emmons, and at the end of the month Shirley, Charlie A, and Dick W led students Gerald and Peder to the summit.

Jim H led the first OSAT climb of Little Tahoma. The group watched goats in the evening from their bivvy just below Meany Crest. A perfect day greeted them as they made their way up Fryingpan and Whitman Glaciers. A great summit photo was taken of Jim & Shirley, Dave N, Rod B, Dave N and Rik by Charlie A.

After leading a successful scramble to the top of Guye Peak in June (with Ken M, Bob McG, and Joe K), Joseph H hitched up with Terry P for the west face rock climb. On his 3rd trip up the route, perhaps Joseph got a little overconfident: I blew the move, and paid the price....The rest of this climb will always have a special place in his memory because of one very talented lady, Terri P, who provided first aid, descended alone to a bivvy site, then off the mountain the next morning to summon the aid needed to get Joseph off the mountain.

Late Summer 1994

At the July 1994 club meeting “Trusted” was added to the title of the Board of Servants, and the Activities Hotline was added to the Information Hotline. Regular monthly meetings moved to the Kennydale Memorial Hall in August, and paid membership passed the 100 mark. Bob C reported that over 20 of the graduates of the 1994 climbing course summited Rainier. In October a committee presented a set of bylaws to the club.

Planning was well underway for OSAT’s next international climbing trip, the 1995 OSAT Kilimanjaro Expedition. Climbers sponsored a fund raiser breakfast atop Mt. Si in August, and sold t-shirts to raise funds. The club also voted a support donation to the expedition.

Jim, Charlie A, and Hoot reported on their epic climb of Mt. Jefferson in Oregon. The rotten summit pyramid was frightening. “It was like climbing a pile of books...the worst rock I’ve ever seen. And steep!” An attempt to see more of the mountain by taking a different way down unexpectedly led to a long day, with the trio returning to camp just before midnight.

A team of 12 OSAT runners was joined by a support crew for the Mt. Rainier to Ocean Shores Relay, which will be remembered for the fierce competition between the OSAT harriers and the all-women squad from the Los Angeles Police Department. When Dick W revealed he’d lived in Seattle for 25 years, her reply was Wow, that’s as long as I’ve been alive! In spite of Dick’s best efforts, the lead changed hands on this leg and the OSAT team was unable to catch the LA beauties. Nevertheless, OSAT finished in under 24 hours, and had a wonderful time!

Terri S completed the Wonderland Trail circuit in six days, struggling against loneliness, fear, and fatigue. She was nearly swept away crossing a flooded river, met a bear who, to her astonishment, had no fear of her, faced hallucinations and an upset tummy, but in the end persevered and completed the trek eager to try it again.

Jim H was enjoying his retirement to the fullest, as he reported on scores of climbs that summer with one, two, three, or a dozen other OSATers. The list of peaks was prodigious: Jefferson and Hood in Oregon, Stuart, Bonanza, Thompson, Olympus, Red, Merchant, Brothers, Copper and Iron, Lundin, Chair, Hawkins and Esmerelda, Ingalls, Chickamin, Baker, Shuksan, and twice each on the Tooth, Sloan, and Red. And those are just some of the ones he summited! There was also the usual list of weather disappointments including Rainier and the Tooth (twice each), Brothers, and Chiwawa. He capped off August with a trip to Montana and Wyoming to summit Granite Peak (highest in the state), and an attempt the Exum route on Grand Teton with Shirley which was frustrated when it started snowing at the rope-up point.

Many of the participants remember aspects of these climbs fondly as the last summer we climbed with Jim. Among them was the memorable Granite Peak climb: the pika who shared our camp, Jim fishing in Avalanche Lake, Jim startling some sheep at the col and scaring them away before Shirley and Rik got there, the chimney near the summit where we got our first 13,000 ft elevation rock climb during which Shirley pulled a basketball-size boulder off the mountain, and the Sound of Music descent through the alpine meadows on the way out.

Early Fall 1994

The 1994 car camp was held in good weather -- probably the last such weather we enjoyed at the Mountain Loop location for this event! Over 50 attended. We shared the Red Bridge campground with some candidates for one or more of our programs, but that didn't get in the way of four meetings: one each on gratitude, relationships, spirituality, and Mt. Dickerman! The Dickerman hike fielded a 4 year old Eric N, and this may have been Riley K's (age 3) first campout. One memorable OSAT moment, imitated but never topped to my knowledge, occurred on the summit of Dickerman. Before the meeting got started, someone asked an innocent passer-by to take a picture of our group with the pennant. Little did he know he soon would be demonstrating his photographic abilities with ELEVEN cameras laid out in a row on the ground. Other objectives that weekend included the ice caves, Monte Cristo town site, Del Campo, Goat Lake, Pilchuck, and Lake 22. Who says we gotta stick together?

A couple of weeks later 16 summited St. Helens (the last time many of the participant will go up in the fall!) for a memorable meeting, capped off with the launch of the Linda Z memorial balloon. She had just left for SE Asia for God-knew-how-long before we would see her again.

OSAT was well represented at a Lake Annette trail work party sponsored by Washington Trails Association -- our first participation in this worthwhile giving back to the trails we use. We all left our marks in little improvements, many of which are still there today for us and others to enjoy.

In November, Rik and Lisa were elected to join Steve S, Dave N, and Doug H on the BOTS. Retiring members Bob C and Dave B were thanked for their leadership throughout the first full terms of the club administrative body.

Late Fall 1994

The year 1994 closed out with the typical end-of-season activities at OSAT. Kim G hosted the Halloween party: particularly memorable costumes included Bob C as a cow, and Bob and Lisa walking backwards all night! Shirley R was honored with the 1984 OSAT Service Award at the car camp (this was before we started having Gratitude Dinners), the traditional Thanksgiving Day Mt. Si appetite builder featured nearly 40 participants, and we again tested the loading capacity of the Arvidson house at the Holiday Extravaganza.

The OSAT bylaws were adopted, providing a formalization of the structure of the club. Charlie A organized the 1995 climbing course committee. Monthly club meetings were held at Sunset Elementary School in Issaquah during this period, and 12-step meetings were coordinated by Ivar, Steve, and Francie.

Climbing activities included Shirley and Bob C leading Pete S and Robin up the Tooth on one of those magical autumn days of '94 (fall palette, perfect temperature, blue sky, panoramic view) - sound familiar? The planned Mt. Hood climb in December had to be canceled, but Dave N led an outstanding consolation climb of a eleven OSATers up Granite Mountain using all manner of means: hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, crampons. Above the trees the wind was howling and snow was blowing like fire hoses through breaks in the cornices, but half the group persevered up to the lookout.

Terri S and Jim made a journey to Mexican volcanoes Popocatapetl and Izztaccihuatl. Terri confided "The climbing ... was not technically difficult, but staying upright at 17,900' was more

challenging than I had anticipated.” One of the highlights was the stay at the lodge at Tlamacas, a climbers Mecca filled with enthusiasts from around the world, each with a full repertoire of stories. This was a warm-up for the big February 1995 OSAT Kilimanjaro Expedition. Needless to say many OSATers started the winter of 94/95 with extra incentive to keep in shape, as they pondered how their bodies would cope at elevations above 19,000 feet!

Winter 1995

The year 1995 began with a snowshoe trip to Lake Annette in which 10 OSAT members and friends plus China the dog joined Shirley R. Several attending were first timers (Ed, Sandy, and Allison), and the group enjoyed crystal clear skies, but a biting wind at the lake.

The fourth annual snowcave trip featured one cave large enough to accommodate the 15 who attended the AA Meeting in a Snowcave. (In most later years the group got too large to have the meeting in one of the snow caves.) Even claustrophobic Winton soon saw the advantage of abandoning his tent, out in the wind, for the snug and silent protection of the cave. As usual, Tom M won the IISA (Institute of Igloo and Snowcave Architects) award for the most functional and aesthetic survival structure.

The First OSAT Kilimanjaro trip left for its big adventure, sixteen strong under Jimmy’s able leadership!! The memories lived on for many years, in part because of the rare “Kilimanjaro” misprint t-shirts. The 1995 climbing course got under way under Charlie A’s able leadership. Seminars that year were held at the Camp Long meeting hall.

Early Spring 1995

Jambo, Habari?, Mzuri, sana!. Swahili filled the air as OSAT embarked on its first adventure to Africa in 1995. Sixteen OSATers accepted the six-day challenge of Africa’s highest peak (19,340’). Fabulous views, trekking through jungle, pouring rain on the approach to Horombo Huts at 12,200’, friendly guides and porters, Doug’s lost luggage catching up to him on the mountain, t-shirt trading with other climbers: Kilimanjaro has it all. To everyone’s disappointment, No Problem Winluck, the chief guide, insisted on splitting the group at Kibo Hut (15,400’) for the summit attempt. In the end, thirteen made Gilman’s Point on the crater rim, and eight reached Uhuru -- the true summit, in beautiful weather which Winluck attributes to the OSAT ritual he joins in to share, beginning every day with the Serenity Prayer. This OSAT 1995 Kilimanjaro Expedition included Jim, Steve and Francy, Hoot and Nancy, Bob and Lisa (pre-nuptials) Charlie A, Doug H, Robert T, Bill L, Cherie, Pam, Britt, CC and Mike S. More African adventures shared by the group included wildlife safaris, and relaxation on the beach at Zanzibar. Robert, Charlie, and Jim also made an attempt on Mt. Kenya.

Meanwhile, back in the Pacific Northwest, OSATers were helping construct the boardwalk at Snag Flats on the Mt. Si trail. Eight members showed up for the DNR’s Walk the Plank event, hauling the timbers up the first two miles of trail. Naturally, this wasn’t enough for most of the group, so the continued on in snow flurries to the summit.

Of course every OSAT hike isn’t necessarily an epic international adventure or a selfless volunteer project. Kim G offered a beautiful picture of spring creeping cautiously into the Northwest with her description of a weekly hike up Tiger. “Slowly at first, our steps search for footing that seems

unsure, but we're happy and laugh puffs of breath in the cool morning moisture...Deep mud baths suck on our boots...This climb is good. Life is good... The top never comes soon enough, but like a promise shares a secret of beauty and scenery that many shall never feel...Rainier standing guard ... Bear hugs and laughs... Thank you God for this tiny hill where life and you converge! Thanks for the people and paths you've set upon our Earth and most of all God, thanks for OSAT." Thanks, Kim!

Pam G blessed the *Yodel* with her analysis of Hugging is Healthy. Among the many characteristics cited by Pam, she noted that Hugging is all natural: It is organic, naturally sweet...reduces stress, cures depression, has no unpleasant side effects... it is theft proof, non-taxable, non-polluting, and fully returnable. Her conclusion: Hugging is practically perfect!

Late Spring 1995

May 1995 was the watershed moment in OSAT history. The tragic death of its founder, Jimmy Hinkhouse, and two other OSATers, Scott Hall and Tom Downey, tested the strength of our relationships to each other and to the group as a whole. Would OSAT survive without the physical presence of the central personality who brought us together? It was a question that weighed heavily during OSAT's period of mourning. What follows are excerpts from the memorial issue of the Yodel, filled with many tributes and recollections after the loss of the 1995 OSAT Denali Expedition; those in italics are inspirations quoted by friends from other sources.

- O *I look to the mountains, from whence cometh my strength. Issiah*
- O I went home...believing I could climb over any obstacle. That was what Jimmy taught me.
- O Thank you, Jimmy, for teaching me about the magic and spirituality of the mountains, for sharing your own spirituality and helping mine grow.
- O Jim - Thank you for bringing OSAT to life and giving a new way of life to so many. Thank you for all your encouragement...we are on the same trail and will be climbing always.
- O Running into Jim and OSAT four years ago on Pilchuck is proof positive of a higher power in action.
- O I will always think of Jim when I read the promises.
- O *This is the way I find the most of life and the most truth about myself. My understanding of life is definitely shaped by mountaineering. Voytek Kurtyka*
- O By knowing Jim...I got to know myself just a little bit better...He will be missed not only in my heart, but in a part of me I never knew I possessed.
- O I know that your spirits will push me up the trails and follow me down the tracks I turn.
- O My mother ...prayed that God would put men in my life that would be a positive influence. I believe Jim was one of those men.

- O Thank you Jim, for the miracles of your faith in the mountains as a healing source and for your faith in all of us whose lives you've deeply touched.
- O His exuberance and dedication to the students he led will stay with me as long as I continue to climb
- O I always learned more from Jim than just what he was trying to show me...I learned a little about patience and calm persistence.
- O Jim always knew just how far back to be: not too close, so you knew you were doing it on your own; but not so far back that you felt alone.
- O Jim once told me of... a phrase he wrote: 'a Sound of Music descent'whenever you're looking down on a high hanging meadow, or open a book to the picture of one, or stand in awe at Paradise, remember Tom, remember Scott, remember Jim, and think of a Sound of Music descent.
- O OSAT has come together like a family and stuck together through this crisis... The way we all came together and weathered the storm and now continue in his footsteps is testimony to the vision that Jim had. What an amazing miracle!