

THE MUGELNOOS

No. 502 -- October 16, 1974

A newsheet published by & for the Ski Mountaineers & Rock Climbing Sections of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter. Send address changes and subscriptions to Carolyn Smith, 260 Vista Del Parque, Redondo Beach, Calif, 90277. \$2 per year. A 4 page issue.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--------|---|---|--------|---|-------|------|---|--------|
| | TTTTTT | W | W | 000000 | | DDDDD | U | U | EEEEEE |
| THE | T | W | W | 0 | 0 | D | D | U | U |
| | T | W | W | 0 | 0 | IS | D | D | U |
| | T | W | W | 0 | 0 | | D | D | U |
| | T | W | W | 000000 | | DDDDD | UUUU | | EEEEEE |

ALL you REGULAR readers of MUGELNOOS are REMINDED that in order to PRESERVE THAT REGULARITY you should take NOT ONE but a COMBINATION OF MEDICALLY PROVEN INGREDIENTS (TWO U.S. Dollars!) and MAIL them to the MUGELMATTER whose NAME is LISTED ABOVE.

ANNUAL ROCK CLIMBER'S PICNIC TO BE HELD SUNDAY OCT. 27 AT PACIFICO

The annual RCS picnic will be held at Mount Pacifico on Sunday, Oct 27 beginning at 11:00 o'clock. Picnikers are requested to bring their own food and dining paraphenalia as there are no picnic facilities available. The Club will furnish cold pop and beer. To get to Mt. Pacifico take Angeles Crest Highway (State Highway 2) from La Canada to Angeles Forest Highway to the Mill Creek Summit, turn right and continue to the mountain on a fairly good dirt road. It may be advisable to park your car a bit beyond the sign indicating off-road vehicles, and walk the remaining quarter mile to the bouldering area, since this final stretch of road is as bad as I have ever seen it. See you there. (JD)

SOUTHERN CALIF SKI HUTS GET ANNUAL WINTERIZING

On the Oct 5-6 weekend both the San Antonio and Keller huts were inundated with a swarm of willing (?) workers, who put both establishments in good shape for the winter season to come. Sparked by the best attendance in some time, the Baldy Hut work party finished painting the outside (except the roof, which will be saved for more adventurous souls later), completed the final details on the new outhouse and locked it up, spiffed up the kitchen a bit, and cut & stored a fair amount of both cooking and heating wood. Total attendance for the weekend probably reached over 30, with some coming up Saturday or Sunday only. 21 stayed the entire two days and partook of the exceptionally fine victuals prepared by Kathy Quinn (ham dinner Sat night, with yams & all the trimmings). The entourage even included 5 Ski Mountaineers (Chairman Mark Goebel, Treas John Tedberg, Steve Milkie, John Lendenhall and Pat Iffert). Another SMS member, Walt Davie was there in spirit if not by proxy, having spent many long hours preparing a set of 8 hinges (with Titanium rivets! --ed) specially formed & shaped to install on the 4 windows most often vandalized, so they may be folded inward & out of the vandals way same as the one now fixed on the north side. We plan to finish this project in conjunction with the repaneling of the hut with plywood later on. Another project which was put off till later was the re-routing of a portion of the trail. The idea here is to eliminate the tortous present routing thru the "Big Butch" area. Presently it switchbacks needlessly up the south side of the Butch, then drops down again as it crosses, passing adjacent to a rock face which is most uncomfortable to negotiate when carrying skis. Howard Gates stomped out a better route, and we will do some trail building later (continued page 4)

TAHQUTZ - - SEPT. 14--15

Seventeen climbers (ten members) formed partners among themselves on Saturday, making life easy for leader Jim Moore and assistant John Ripley. Leader Moore graciously substituted on very short notice for Dan Eaton, who aggravated a hand injury a few days before the climb. Parties climbed the Maiden (continued page 4)

MUGELNOOS STAFF

EDITOR.....Walt and Edie Davie
MUGELMATTER.....Carolyn M. Smith
MUGELGRAPHERS Mary Ferguson/G. Shanno
REPORTERS Jim Dutzi, Bill Dixon, John Wedberg, John Ripley, Ruth Lendenhall, Attila Talach, Ellen Wilts, Jean Dixon

NEXT EDITOR: Barbara Lilley
2121 Lindley Ave.
Northridge, Calif. 91324
886-4154; 883-2100 x2205
NEXT ISSUE: November 20, 1974
DEADLINE: Friday NOON Nov. 15

CALENDAR

- Oct. 19-20 Rock Climb, Bald Eagle Peak
Dan Eaton - Meet 8am Sat 19
Ski & Mtn Shop, 814 W. Lancaster Blvd., Lancaster.
Oct. 22 Ski Mountaineers' Central Comm Mtg, Club Hdqtrs. Members Welcome, suggestions?
Oct. 26 Mountaineering Committee Mtg, 9am, Club Hdqtrs.
Oct. 27 RCS Annual Picnic, see Pg. 1
Nov. 2-3 Rock Climb, Tahquitz
Bob & Barbara Schuppe (714) 837-7797
Mark Cole (213) 391-5555
Nov. 20 MUGELNOOS Program: see below
Nov. 30-Dec 1 Rock Climb, Joshua Tree, Indian Cove, see Nov. MUGELNOOS for details.

NEW ADDRESSES

Ski Mountaineers' Chairman:
Mark Goebel
1632 Barry Ave., #7
Los Angeles 90025
820-1962

New Ski Mountaineer:
Robert Trousdale
17909 Valerio St.
Reseda, 91335
881-3872

RCS member address change:
Ron Laster
302 8th St., Apt H
Huntington Beach, 92648
(714) 960-3202

PROGRAM FOR NOVEMBER 20th MUGELNOOS

Special program on Alpine Ski Touring by Mark Goebel--slides taken on Ski Mountaineers section tours--see how you look skiing that unpacked snow! The fantastic winter mountain scenery should be of interest to both climbers and skiers. Not all winter programs will be skiing oriented. Rock climbers are urged to continue attendance.

MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE TO MEET LOCALLY

The Sierra Club Mountaineering Committee will meet at Angeles Chapter HQ Saturday morning, 9:00 AM Oct. 26. Anyone is welcome to attend. Subject Discussed will be safety & training, mountain rescue, Ascent magazine, summit registers, and many other allied topics. (J)

SOMETHING MISSING?

Your Editor has the uneasy feeling that one of the articles submitted for this issue was lost---perhaps fashioned into

HUT MANAGER REAR-ENDED ON FREEWAY

Jim Powers, San Antonio Ski Hut Manager, recently suffered a severe knee injury in an automobile accident, and allegedly will not be able to hike for some months. (RDM)

SNOW IN SEPTEMBER FOR ZERMATT

Walter and Helen Hennies, old-time climbers & skiers, wrote from Zermatt Sept. 30: "It is winter here. Snow below the village. No hiking. Spent a week in Grindewald, had some rain and snow but managed some good trips in between. We joined the Swiss Naturfreunde, and have stayed in three of (their) places. Some are primitive, but the one at Zermatt is like a hotel--good look across to the Matterhorn..." (RDM)

CLOUD SEEDING PROPOSED TO HELP

INYO - MONO SNOWPACK

Filing of a draft environmental impact report on a proposed winter cloud-seeding project in Inyo Basin was announced by the Los Angeles Dept. of Water & Power. Duane L. Georgeson, engineer in charge of the DWP Aqueduct Division, said copies of the report have been submitted to the Mono county board of supervisors and chamber of commerce as well as state and federal agencies and environmental groups. "The program is planned to increase the winter snowpack on the eastern slope of the Sierra in order to augment the snow-melt runoff," he said. "It is believed the project will increase winter precipitation by about 5%."

The cloud seeding will be done by aircraft by a contractor experienced in the work, Georgeson said. The final environmental impact report is scheduled to be completed in November, he said. If the Los Angeles Board of Water and Power Commissioners approves the project, the DWP hopes to carry out the program this winter. Copies of the draft report on the project can be reviewed at the Bishop and Bridgeport Libraries, the June Lake Community Building and DWP offices in Lone Pine, Independence and Bishop. (Inyo Register 9/19/74)

TABLE MOUNTAIN NO. "SKI SUNRISE"

Ski-Sunrise (formerly Table Mountain Ski Area), with new ownership as of last December, is endeavoring to establish itself as a major Southern California Ski Area. Development of a master plan is in progress and will include two double chair lifts (4000' x 800' v & 3000' x 350' v), expanded base facilities, and a summer recreation and camping program. This year, Ski Sunrise will concentrate on bringing the facility up to top operating efficiency. New skiers to the area are advised that the guaranteed satisfaction plan is being continued. Skiers have one hour to try the slopes and snow and, if not satisfied, to have their lift ticket fee refunded. (Bravo! -ed) (Far West News 10/1/74)

paper airplanes or cut up with scissors by tiny hands. If this is the case, please accept apologies and resubmit for the Nov. issue!

BILL DIXON FAMILY ENCOUNTERS PEAKS AND PALPITATIONS

The Dixon Family (Bill and Jean and 4 kids aged 6 to 13) decided this was the year to climb Whitney. To avoid the mob we camped at Upper Boy Scout Lake, and ascended via the Mountaineer's Route. In addition to third class on the cliffs below East Face Lake and at the top of the route, we had a rock dislodge and bang Alan (the 6 year old) on his "pinny", breaking it.

With this casualty, we decided to descend via the trail to 12,300 feet and return to camp cross country west of Lotan's Throne and via Pinnacle Pass, arriving at 11:00pm. Long Day!

Next day, Bill and the two oldest boys climbed Carillon. Weather was ideal for both climbs. Marmots, mice and chipmunks were bold and ravenous..... (BD)

P.S. Bill wrote this Sept. 9 on a trip to San Jose via PSA. On the return trip he suffered a heart attack (Sept. 9) Bill was about three weeks in hospital and is now out of danger. The doctor has "confined" him to two months at home. He is now sitting up and walking a little. Prognosis is good.

(JD)

Your Editor talked with Bill, found him cheerful and anticipating recovery.

HUASCARAN TRAGEDY

Seven members of the Freelance Alpine Research Team sponsored by Westridge Sport Sports Store in West Los Angeles traveled to Peru in early July to climb 21,000 ft. Mt. Huascaran. The climbers were Tom and Ted Limp, Norma Viault, Dianna Dee, Don Hudson, Steve Rodgers and Gail Wilts.

It took the party 12 days to reach their high camp at about 19,500 feet in the Gargantuan Pass. With one member ill at high camp, the other six members set out for the Summit. Tom, Norma, Ted and Gail reached the summit in a shroud of clouds. With poor visibility the four began to descend towards their high camp. Both couples were roped together and were on the steepest snow slope below the summit when Ted Limp lost his footing and began tumbling. Although Gail tried to arrest herself, Ted had picked up speed and pulled herself off backwards. They tumbled for almost 1000 feet before stopping on a snow ledge.

Norma and Tom saw them fall and were able to descend to them quickly. They found Ted wrapped in a mass of climbing rope, incoherent, in very poor physical shape with a possible broken neck.

Although Gail had poor equilibrium, she was able to return to high camp with the help of Norma. Gail suffered from a concussion, bruises and possible rib fractures. Three other members of the team nearly lost their lives in a valiant attempt to rescue Ted before they realized it was too late and they had to leave him on the mountain.

On the final descent from high camp, Gail ran a crampon through her hand. After first aid treatment the team managed to return with no further incidents.

Gail has fully recovered now, and reports she is climbing mountains in the Sierras which include the east face of Whitney. Her mother suggests she take up knitting! (The Editor can remember her mother doing direct-aid more often than knitting!) (EW)

LATTERHORN CLIMB

Attila Takach arrived in Switzerland July 29, and reports a somewhat gloomy climb of the Latterhorn as follows:

On July 31 at 3:45a.m. I started the climb from the Hornli Hut. Using a flashlight in the beginning I climbed through fog, snow, hail, thunder and lightning. At times there was only 25 yards of visibility. With a 15 minute rest at the summit the long descent began on dangerously slippery rocks. I checked back at the hut at 3:30p.m. having successfully completed the climb.

It was an unknown mountain with unfamiliar climbing conditions. (Especially to a climber only familiar with the California mountain ranges.) The climb was performed singly, without a recommended Swiss Guide or even a partner and it was decided to perform the climb immediately after arrival from the U.S., since weather conditions seemed to be sufficient.

The difficulty of the climb, according to the ratings in the U.S. would be equivalent to a class 4 climb with the added difficulty of the ice, snow, rapidly changing weather conditions, extended period of exposure and falling rocks from other climbers.

At the last few steps off the rocks from where a trail leads to the hut, I slipped on ice and slid into an uncontrollable fall on a 2 mile long ice slope, finally terminating my slide 160 yards down the slope in a 3 foot deep fissure. In the ascent, a helmet prevented me on several occasions from acquiring head wounds from falling rocks kicked off by others.

The following type of equipment was necessary for the climb:

Crampons, ice axe, rope, gloves, helmet and a few carabiners were also helpful. Crampons were mounted two thirds of the way up the mountain and taken off just before reaching the bottom of the rocks. This was done due to the weather

(continued pg. 4)

SKI HUTS GET WINTERIZING (Continued from pg. 1)

when the ground is softer (and less dusty). The Baldy nut chain saw worked steadily all weekend, mostly slicing off cartwheels from a deadfall down near the creek below the hut. Considerable kitchen stove wood was thus split & stored (although still not a full supply). With careful use we will probably have enough heating wood for the winter. The group buttoned up the job and descended to Snowcrest Lodge, where they met erstwhile work leader Jim Powers, complete with cast and chauffeur (Bill & Cherie Warner). Warner sprung for cold beer and/or 7-up all around, making for a merry Sunday afternoon before the drive back to Smogville. Powers' auto accident will keep him out of the mountains for the next 10-12 months, it was learned (a slightly better prognosis than his VW received: officially a total wreck). (JW)

TAHQUITZ--SEPT 14-15 (Continued from pg. 1)

Uneventful, NE Face, West Lark, NE Face, Sahara Terror and Angle Iron. A starlight descent of the trail was made by six people following a late return of one party, with everyone down to Lumber Park by 8:00. On Sunday, eight signed in, including five members; a number of Saturday's members opted for Suicide. Fool's Rush, Titschen's Folly, NE Face and Angle Iron Traverse were climbed.

Notes on routes: On Saturday, NE Face climbers and other members agreed that no 5.3 traverse can be found on that route--around 5.5 seems closer. The Angle Iron Traverse, done both days without pins no longer has a fixed pin at the wall, although a bombproof nut can be placed a couple of feet above the pin scar. (JR)

MATTERHORN CLIMB (Continued from pg. 3)

conditions of that particular day. Crampons were fit for icy, snowy and generally wet rocks as well. Three American climbers, all in their twenties, were short of crampons, recognized their shortcomings in equipment and returned without completing the climb. Due to the overcast, cloud and fog covered the mountain making sunglasses unnecessary.

There were at least four people each taking a guide up for their climb. The nationalities of the climbing parties were: two Americans, one Austrian and one Italian each with a guide, then two Italian, one Austrian, two Germans, one Swiss one Japanese and one Dutch-English party (presumably without guides?-ed) The parties consisted mostly of two people on a rope.

After having finished the climb, I was standing with another climber in front of the hut, watching some others descending. I asked him how was his climb. "Good," he replied, "very good", he said nodding his head. What a show-off this guy is, I thought. Of course, his apparent confidence was accentuated in my mind since I was slightly unnerved by the previous little incident on the icy slope. I decided to be inquisitive and ask him casually, how many times had he climbed already the Matterhorn. To this, he replied; "Oh, about a hundred and fifty times!" Well, so much for these Swiss guides!

On the way back to Zermatt from the hut, a couple of us missed the last cable car down by just a few minutes. So all four of us weary climbers decided to take a nice 13 mile "stroll" down to the village. But what difference does it make, I ask you, after such an exciting day on the Matterhorn? (AT)

SOLE NOTES ON TAKING GAS

Now, that the oil companies are getting the lead out of gasoline, your Editor has been wondering as to the suitability of the recently offered lead-free automobile gasolines for use with Coleman stoves and other gasoline appliances. Accordingly, letters with this line of inquiry have been sent thus far to Standard and Texaco. In order to avoid misinterpretation, I shall quote reply contents verbatim:

Mr. R.C. Williams, Customer Assistance Representative of Standard Western, writes: "Yes, we do still make white gas called Blazo. I would recommend that this be used instead of unleaded gasoline. Although the properties are similar there are different components in unleaded gasoline which leave heavier deposits which could have an adverse affect on your camping stove."

Mr. R.C. Rankin, Jr. (countersigned R), Assistant Regional Manager-Retail, Texaco IA:

"Lead-free Texaco is not recommended for use as a pressure appliance fuel due to its high vapor pressure characteristic which exceeds Coleman specification for vapor pressure on product used in their camp stoves."

Your Editors talked with an individual who had successfully used lead free auto gas in a camp stove. He felt that the price of an occasional generator was offset by the lower price of the fuel. (WD)

ADDITIONAL WILTS FAMILY CLIMBS

Chuck and Ellen Wilts report a week of mostly backpacking and hiking in the Minarets area the last week in August. Chuck climbed the third class route on Banner and also took a close look at Al Steck's east face route from the glacier. The weather was beautiful, but the trip came to a quick end on Labor Day weekend when masses of people swarmed into Lake Ediza. The Wilts predict that in due time there will be more people than mosquitos! ***** Chuck and Janet Wilts teamed up in September to make an ascent on the east face of Whitney. Another rope of three including Gail Wilts followed. ***** Geo & Marion Harr, Chuck & Ellen backpacked into Prior Lake in the E.Sierras in late Sept. They report beautiful dense forests, too much logging, and no fish! (EW)