



THE MUGELNOOS

No. 506 -- February 19, 1975

A newsheet published by and for the Ski Mountaineers and Rock Climbing Sections of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter. Send address changes and subscriptions to: Tim Ryan, 2400 $\frac{1}{2}$ Alma Ave., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266. \$2 per year. This is a 4 page issue.

PEAR LAKE ALPINE SKI TOUR -- JAN 25-26

Although the calendar indicated that we were still in the winter season, the view that greeted 14 skiers and 1 snowshoe-er at Wolverton Meadows was more like that of a Spring day in a low snow year, i.e. bare ground and warm, clear skies.

Since skiers are some of the most optimistic people in the world, we started up the well-defined trail to Pear Lake with visions of snow-covered trees, powder skiing, and endless ski runs just over Heather Gap. Three of the participants, with about 75 years of combined mountaineering experience, were so engrossed in heavy discussion that they walked right past a sign directing a left turn for Pear Lake. Luckily, the leader, who wasn't leading at the time, got them to turn around and come back to reality. The way they were moving out, the waters of Lake Isabella would have been lapping about their feet before they realized their error.

After Heather Gap, the snow deepened sufficiently and skis were donned for the remainder of the trip to the Hut. The Hut was sporting a new plastic-covered roof, and the john has been remodeled; otherwise, it was the same good old Pear Lake Hut.

Even though new snow had not fallen for at least a month, the north-facing slopes above the Hut and below the peaks were still covered with a consistent, powdered surface. In fact, it was the best and most skiable snow that has been encountered in the last four winter trips.

Thanks to the efforts of Tom Cardina, the group enjoyed tasty wine-flavored cheese fondue, and with additional spirits were sufficiently relaxed for the Second Annual Moonlight Powder Ski Run. Once you have made a run through the powder under a full moon, you will never be the same again. (It also sobers you up very quickly, but I think that is primarily due to the hike up the hill). Returning with a new gleam in our eyes, we devoured several bushels of Barbara Lilley's famous Pear Lake Popcorn before retiring for the night.

On Sunday, ascents of both winter and true Alta Pk. were made before skiing back to Wolverton Meadows. The return trip was marked by some devious route-finding for continuous snow, and, thanks to Ed Unge's help, the skis were on snow most of the way.

MG

MARCH MUGELNOOS PROGRAM A DANDY

Don't miss the March Mugelnoos meeting! Norman Kingsley is bringing his slides of climbing in the Alps, Dolomites, England, etc. Featured will be the classic alpine mixed climbs: Aig. du Midi & Petit Dru, Mt. Blanc, Biancogrande, Piz Badile NF. In the Dolomites: Tre Cime Comici route, Rosengarten, Pelmo, Kreuzkofel, Sella Tower, Civetta, Phillip-Flamm. In the UK: Cloggy, Strone & Gritstone. Plus the ascent of Manaslu (26,759'). Kingsley is the author of the new book Icecraft (96 pp) from La Siesta Press.

JW

PRACTICE CLIMBS ** STONY POINT, JAN 12; MT RUBIDOUX, JAN 26

The second Practice Climb on Jan. 12, led by John Moore, was remarkably similar to the highly-successful first climb that Dale Stein led in December. Compare the statistics:

	Moore	Stein
Total Students	51	52
RCS Instructors	14	16
Student/Instructor Ratio	3.64 to 1	3.25 to 1
Total Rope Fund donation	\$18.50	\$17.00
Donation/Student	36¢	32¢

RCS 'member-in-waiting' Phil Bruce came to the rescue of the Training Committee by negotiating a fantastic deal for 1200 ft. of new Tubbs Goldlon rope at 9¢/foot. With this addition, we were able to field 21 RCS ropes, all of which were kept busy, (You should have seen the massive, 10-rope prussiking operation honchoed by Jim Campbell and Leonard Hall.) Phil also donated \$100 worth of parts and labor to make an exact replica of Hans Lees' pulley & trigger contraption; and LeRoy Russ came up with an 85-lb. bucket of cement. Despite Phil's fine diagram of how all this works, it took birdmen-engineers Fred Wing, Tom Jeter and John Moore quite some time up in the parking lot oak tree to rig up correctly for the 'leader belay' test. (to p. 3)

MUGELNOOS STAFF

EDITORS.....Larry & Sue Tittle
 MUGELMAILER.....Tim Ryan
 MUGELGRAPHER.....Mary Ferguson
 REPORTERS: Walt Davie, Mark Goebel, Norm Kingsley, Tom Jeter, Barbara Lilley, Ruth Mendenhall, LeRoy Russ, John Wedberg.

NEXT EDITOR: John Wedberg
 1374 Stradella Rd.
 LA 90024 472-6768
 NEXT ISSUE: March 19, 1975
 DEADLINE: Friday, Mar. 14

CALENDAR

Mar 1-2 Mt. Mopah. Bob & Barb Schuppe, Mark Cole. Limited to 16 RGSers
 Mar 6-9 Baldy Hut, alpine tour
 Mar 15-16 Big Rock (RGS), Barton, King, Stanton
 Mar 16 Local alpine tour
 Mar 19 Mugelnoos Meeting
 Mar 22-23 Alpine Tour, San Geronio
 Mar 22 Mt. Rubidoux, E. Yount
 NOTE: Only people checked out in advance may come on alpine ski tours, other than the one-day trips.

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS: The third Wed. of ea month, Lemon Grove Rec Center, 4959 Lemon Grove Av in Hollywood. 7 AM rock climbing training; 7 P.M. alpine ski touring equipment session; 7:30 PM regular mtg begins: program, refreshments. All welcome

NEW SKI MOUNTAINEERS

Welcome to:

Clifford Cameron
 828 E. Sacramento
 Altadena, CA 91001
 797-8127

R. J. Secor
 2366 Las Lunas
 Pasadena, CA 91107
 795-5520

FOR SALE: Head skis with Lift cable & Nevada toe; all set for touring. Marker touring attachment, Trima climbers. \$90 complete. Call: Tom Waves
 213-697-8382 (after 6)
 714-821-2621 (days)

Dear Editor,

The Jan. issue of Mugelnoos exaggerated in its claim that it is now starting its 39th year of publication. Mugelnoos No. 1 was published on Jan. 29, 1938. Thus, this noble publication has just finished its 37th year, and has started on its 38th. Also, before and during WW 2 editors were not changed every month, although that has been the unique policy for a long time.

Ruth D. Mendenhall

DEATH OF DON SHELDON

"Don Sheldon, an Alaskan bush pilot for more than 25 years, died Sun. (Jan 26) at the age of 53.

"...Generally acknowledged as the foremost flyer in the Mt. McKinley area, Sheldon was the primary support pilot for the climbing expeditions that assaulted N. America's highest peak s.w. of Anchorage during the past two decades. (next col.)

"A native of Colorado, Sheldon moved to Alaska from Montana at the age of 17. "Sheldon leaves his wife Roberta and 3 children".

(L.A. Times, 1/27/75)

This may be of interest to those who have climbed in the Alaska Range with the aid of Don. (His death was due to cancer, and the gov. of Alaska has asked that a peak be named after Sheldon -- this info from the Walter Cronkite News). NG

SIERRA CLUB MOUNTAINEERING FEST

Al Steck is coming down to narrate personally the Pamir Expedition pictures at the Sierra Club's 1975 Mountaineering Festival, Fri. June 6 at the Rodger Young Auditorium ballroom. The evening will get underway around 6:30 PM with folk dancing and other entertainment, with the program due to start around 8:30 PM. Steck had some hairy adventures, including being buried in an avalanche. He & a handful of other Americans made the summit of Mt. Lenin (23,341'). One American and 8 Soviet women climbers perished in a fierce storm which engulfed them on the summit ridge.

This should be a worthwhile evening. Tickets are \$5 from Angeles Chapter HQ: send self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of tickets. Entire proceeds to the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, and the AAC Pamir Expedition Fund. JW

DOUG SCOTT, LEO DICKINSON TO APPEAR

Doug Scott, author of Big Wall Climbing and famous head of the Brit. Alpine Club's Alpine Climbing Group, will appear in La Canada with his program "Changabang". He will appear either Apr. 23 or 30; tickets will be on sale at the Sport Chalet. Exact info will be in the next issue, or can be had from Norman Kingsley, 790-4275.

Located in the Garwhal Himalaya, Changabang is a white granite shark's tooth 22,500' near Trisal & Nanda Devi. This will be the first USA showing of a stunning first ascent in this heretofore unclimbed area. (Norman Kingsley will have a few slides of Changabang to show at the Mar. 19 Mugelnoos program).

Famous photog Leo Dickinson will appear on a yet-unspecified date with his program "Climbing in Patagonia". Torre Eggar, Innominata & others were climbed in winds peaking at 140 mph. Further details available soon... The Crescenta Valley Group is sponsoring both programs NK

SIERRA SNOWPACK BELOW NORMAL

First surveys of the season indicate that the Sierra snowpack is substantially below normal for this time of year. LA DWP snow courses in the Cottonwood Creek & Big Pine areas were less than 30% of normal; and courses in the Bishop Creek & Mammoth areas were 50% of normal, as of Feb. 1. April-Sept. runoff to Owens River and Mono Basin drainages is estimated at 65% of normal this summer, assuming normal snowfall this month and next.

From the Inyo Register

2/6/75

PRACTICE CLIMBS, CONT.

Participating instructors were: John Moore, Jack Turunen, Dale Stein, Jim Campbell, Dean Hinegardner, Andy Fried, Leonard Bayless, Horton Johnson, Dick Mundweiler, Fred Wing, Tom Jeter, Jeff Lash, Leonard Hall, Ray Grabiec.

First, the statistics: students, 48; RCS Instructors, 13; Student/Instructor ratio, 3.69 to 1; total Rope Fund donation, \$26.15; donation/student, 55¢. LeRoy Russ started the morning with some glum comments on the state of our treasury, and how the RCS was now operating out of his pocket. Climb leader Herb Null seized the advantage, and with powerful oratory managed to up the Rope Fund contribution to almost double that of the first two practice climbs. Still, this is about half what we need; we're training ourselves into the poorhouse. Any suggestions?

Our instructors continue to come up with outstanding innovations destined to become the standards for the future. Dick DeRusha, Don Rappolee, Jim McPherson, and Dick Mundweiler created a smorgasbord-style facility for belay anchor signoff that is probably the most comprehensive that the RCS has ever devised. Students who successfully got through this knew they had been tested! In the same vein, John Mendenhall decided to lead a pitch, and the students who followed were able to view first-hand a protection system of runners, sophisticated chock placements, and pitons put together by a master craftsman. Tom Jeter and Jim McPherson were already headed down to call the sheriff, when LeRoy Russ and John Moore straggled in at dusk with their charges, whom they had worked mercilessly all day at some hidden Shagri-La. Instructors for this climb were: Herb Null, Jack Turunen, Dick Mundweiler, Don Rappolee, Jim McPherson, Dick DeRusha, Karin Sundquist, Fred Wing, John Moore, Tom Jeter, John Mendenhall, LeRoy Russ, Ray Grabiec.

Smack! Drool! Gurgle!

Tom (The Greek) Jeter won his beer bet with Mike Dent hands down! If you will recall the bet (Dec. Mugelnoos), Mike believed that less than 30% of the students at a practice climb would ever be seen again at our training. Tom needed 16 repeat students from Dec. 8 at the Jan. 12 Practice Climb to win. We actually got 31 returnees for a cool 60% repeats. It would seem there is something different about our students or our training program this year. TJ

1975 MUGELNOOS EDITORS

MUGELEDITORS!! Save this issue of Mugelnoos so you'll know who the next editor is, etc. Finished stencils must be at Angeles Chapter HQ, 2410 Beverly Blvd. LA 90057; attn.: Mary Ferguson, by Mon. afternoon; so work with a Fri. deadline for material.

MAR -- John Wedberg 1374 Stradella Rd. LA 90024 472-6768	AUG -- Jim McPherson 308 Bowling Green Dr. Costa Mesa, CA (714)557-4086
APR -- Tom Jeter 15520 Wilmaglen Whittier, CA 90604 943-3112	SEP -- Mike Sherrick 6256 Belmar Ave. Reseda, CA 91335 344-0964
MAY -- Barbara Lilley 8421 Lindley Ave. Northridge, CA 91324 886-4154	OCT -- Walt & Edie Davie 3629 Ocean View LA 90066 390-3938
JUN -- Ruth D. Mendenhall 335 Sequoia Dr. Pasadena, CA 91105 793-0806	NOV -- Lloyd & Rosie Balsam 913 Kenter Way LA 90049 472-2031
JUL -- Bob & Barbara Schuppe 23492 Dune Near Rd. El Toro, CA 92630 (714)837-7797	DEC -- John Wedberg 1374 Stradella Rd. LA 90024 472-6768

REPORT FROM DAN'S MOUNTAIN SHOP

Dan Eaton has found 8 pr. of Vinersa climbers. They are the strips only, but he bought some attachment kits and is fitting them with fronts & backs, leaving the middle straps for individual installation to fit the ski & binding placement. They range in size from 180's to 205's, plus one 220 and two wide, extra heavy-duty 215's. He has no idea what the cost may be, and he is figuring his expense on them.

Also, Dan has some Reme Securis bindings at about \$30/pr., and some cables at \$1.50 each. Dan states that the new Bushwhacker Mountain Skis are in stock at \$77 per pr. without bindings (Reme Securis goes good on them). The Buschwhackers come in the fish-scale base, which climb approximately similar to most waxes, but run downhill fairly well, albeit noisily. They are extra wide, 105mm (vs 90mm normal) and short, 150mm.

Dan advertises in the Angeles Chapter Schedule. His store is in Palmdale. He takes phone calls at home in the evening: (805)947-0231. JW

REPORTS FROM OTHER SHOPS

Jack's Ski Shop, Pico nr. Sepulveda, WLA, has many skis ideal for ski mountaineering. In the back room are stacks of BRAND NEW Head 320's collecting dust, for sale at \$25!! Also, many used standards and other metal skis perfect for ski mountaineering, bargain prices! (to p. 4)

MTN. SHOP REPORTS, CONT.

Racks of boots are there too, leather, buckle, all sizes. They promised me they wouldn't throw them away. Talk to Chuck -- a knowledgeable guy on the subject.

If you want probably the ideal thing: reconditioned HEXCEL skis, like new, fitted with Marker Rotomat or similar ski mountaineering bindings, on sale in Bishop at the Bike & Sport Shop for about \$95. See No. JW

EMBARRASSMENT OF RICHES DEPT.: This Ed. feels justified in claiming a "first" in the "Unlikely Events for 1975" sweepstakes: separately submitted trip reports were received from BOTH leaders of a ski tour! This was surely a unique trip, for the leaders constituted, statistically, 66.67% of the total trip attendance.

BASKING ON BLUE RIDGE (Or, Water-Skiing in the Slush)

Sunday morning, Feb. 9, leaders Davie & Wedberg had a slight suspicion that something was awry: it was pouring rain, and they had a Local Tour scheduled for 9 AM. They speculated that it was probably snowing at Blue Ridge and set off in the down-pour.

Driving through Pearblossom in the sunshine, their spirits reached new highs of anticipation. Arriving on Blue Ridge Summit (7300'), they set out with their single protege in a driving sleet storm which turned to RAIN after an hour's trudge. Davie opined that he had probably been more miserable at some time, but at that moment couldn't remember when. The snow had turned into a combination of mashed potatoes and wet cement. A 180 degree turn was definitely called for! The hour back to the car was the most disgusting in recent memory. Davie & Wedberg & Dee Trent will be happy to play Can You Top This with anyone. JW

LOCAL SKI SLOSH

The scheduled Local Tour of Feb. 9 met with an underwhelming response. The trip was well-represented with twice as many leaders as participants. The affair was held at Blue Ridge Summit, near Wrightwood, where conditions had been near ideal the previous day. Our party arrived in a wet snowstorm, put on climbing skins and departed. The storm soon changed to rain, and snow conditions from heavy powder to mashed potatoes to wet cement, a very consistent wet cement. The total effect was like being in a cold shower with limited visibility.

Two hours of this was enough to convince the leaders that the lone participant, Dee Trent, was qualified for further ski tours. WD

NOTES TO RCS MEMBERS

1. Please advise the Secretary/Treasurer of your address & telephone changes. Call 213-295-9703 or mail changes to: LeRoy Russ, 4587 Don Tomaso Dr., LA 90008.
2. Badges & Emblems are available from the secy/treas. Buy some, we need the money. Badges are \$2 each; Emblems are 50¢.
3. Last call for your climbing trip suggestions for the July-Oct. schedule.
4. The Training Committee will appreciate receiving any usable equipment, particularly slings. Contact Tom Jeter: 213-943-3112. Thanks!

LR R

MAMMOTH AREA SKIING

After four years of getting weathered-out of our annual Mammoth Area Check-Out Tour, we at last hit pay-dirt (almost literally) on Sun., Jan. 19. Chamber of Commerce weather prevailed, and two applicants plus leader had a super day of alpine touring on spring snow which got thin in spots. They spent the day climbing the mountain which separates 39 from #5 & 4 lifts. On the summit, a match flame would not have flickered!

All remaining local and Sierra tours should go, and San Geronio (Mar. 22-23) should be especially good. We'll cross our fingers for the Baldy Hut Mar. 8 & 9. JW

MORE "UNLIKELY EVENTS" IN 1975

1. That all Mugelnoos editors will refrain from printing uncalled-for personal remarks in Mugelnoos.
2. That Mugelnoos editors will pick up and deliver the Mugelnoos typewriter, etc. at the Mugelnoos meeting, thus conserving gasoline.
3. That any work will be done on the ski mountaineering movie.
4. That the "lost" Mugelnoos subscription checks will ever be found.
5. That a certain, well-known conservation club, originally mountaineering-oriented will take a stand against gas rationing. BL