



No. 507 -- March 19, 1975

A newsletter 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 1/2 Alma Ave, Manhattan Beach, Ca 90266. \$2 per year. This is a 4 page issue.

BALDY BUSTED -- MAMMOTH SWINGS

Both Baldy tours this year were cancelled for lack of snow. The trail to the Hut was dry all the way, and the bowl contained only widely spaced strips of unconsolidated crud. The summit area could best be described as a dome of ice. This was the condition prevailing at the time of both the Feb and March schedulings. Your Editor trekked to Baldy Sat, Mar 15, to see what the subsequent storms had done for the mountain. He found the following: hordes of BMTG ice ax students, about two feet of snow in the bowl (continuous down to the car), and the Hut had been vandalized of its money box (appears they entered thru the upstairs front window; approximately \$30-50 was taken). Your Editor knows each and every bend & turn in the Hut trail, so he took off ahead of the BMTG, hoping they would follow his tracks. They did, for about 90% of the way, but as usual they saw the opportunity for short cuts here and there; thus, when others follow later and as the snow melts, our trail will be broken down in those areas as usual. Your Editor's position on the BMTG use of the Hut area is well known; he continues hoping they will go somewhere else and leave one of the few nice spots alone, so the few may enjoy the winter scene in its prime without inundation by the crowds of humanity found everywhere these days. The four hours it took them to reach the Bowl could have been used profitably somewhere else for practice time. (JW)

Some of the Ski Mountaineers have been beating the lack of snow locally by journeying north. Mammoth has been swinging, the skiing there being generally excellent everywhere. There was even some rare good deep powder snow on the FACE of June Mountain, plus the usual good powder on June's Chair #3 as March storms continued to add to the Sierra snowpack. Late spring tours will probably "go" after all! (EL)

ROCK CLIMBERS ATTENTION:

- Memorial Day, Yosemite Valley: We are hoping to get a group camp site in the Valley for this trip, but at this date the Park Service does not have a reservation system for camp sites.
- Mugelnocs Meeting, May 21: In conjunction with Pete White's program on climbing in Yosemite, we plan to assemble a gallery of photographs of Valley climbs and climbers. The RCS Chairman requests that members and friends dig into their photo albums for some prints that can be exhibited at the meeting. A task force will be on hand an hour before the meeting to mount and hang the prints.
- LTC: RCS members who are not yet qualified leaders are urged to enroll in the April 5-6 LTC lecture series. Reservation forms are available from Gordon Fisk, 6054 Hayter, Lakewood 90712.
- Joshua Tree, Apr 5-6: Trip leader John Moore has reserved camp site #6 at Sheep Pass for Fri and Sat night.
- Environmental Expo '75: RCS will participate in this activity at Rancho Park in West LA on Apr 13. We will demonstrate rappelling, etc. Any volunteers?
- RCS Members Married: RCS members Rebecka McDonald and Don Hamilton were married on Mar 8 in Arcadia. Becky is the daughter of former RCS member Rob Roy McDonald, and Don is a lucky guy.
- Connecticut Yankee in the Minarets: We got a letter from Amedea Tagliapietra requesting to join any party climbing Banner, Ritter and the Minarets in late July or August. Since RCS is not scheduling that area this year, I am giving him a dress here so that members can consider his request: PO Box 175, Gales Ferry, Conn 06335. (EY)
- Membership Roster: Contact Sec-Treas Leroy Russ for a copy. No one was dropped last year for lack of 4 climbs. (LR)

MUGELNOOS STAFF

Editor John Wedberg
MUGELGRAPHER Mary Ferguson
MUGELMAILER Tim Ryan
REPORTERS: Emory Yount, Barbara Lilley,
Ruth Mendenhall, Leroy Russ, Steve Wilkie,
Tom Jeter, Mark Goebel

NEWS EDITOR: Tom Jeter
1520 Filmaglen
Whittier, Ca 90604
943-3112

NEXT ISSUE: April 16, 1975
DEADLINE : Fri, Apr 11

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS: Third Weds of each mo,
7:30 PM, Lemon Grove Rec Ctr, 4959 Lemon Grv
Ave in Hollywood. 7 PM rock climbing begin-
ners sessions; 7 PM alpine ski touring eqp-
ment sessions. Program, refreshm. All welcome

C A L E N D A R

- Mar 22 - Rock Climb, Mt Rubidoux
- Mar 22-23 - Ski Tour Alpine, San Geronio
- Apr 5-6 - Rock Climb, Joshua Tree
- Apr 5-6 - Alpine Ski Tour, Onion Valley
- Apr 16 - Mugelnoos Meeting, 7:30 PM

RCS ADDRESS CHANGES

- Jim Erb, 1545 San Carlos Pl, Orange 92665
Ph (714) 990-4517
- Dean Hinegardner, 2158 Ardenwood Av, Simi
93063 Ph (805) 527-2934
- Lois Malone, 351 Centre St, Boston, Mass
02130 Ph (617) 521-1025
- John Ripley, PO Box 1034, Downey 90240
Ph (213) 869-9670 (LR)

NEW SKI MOUNTAINEERS

- Ambrose Su
8904 O'Helveny Ave
Sun Valley, Ca 91352 (213) 768-1025
- Dee Trent
344 Taylor Dr
Claremont, Ca 91711 (714) 621-1172

BOOK DEPT

Recent books from La Siesta Press of inter-
est to local outdoor people: Southern
California Peaks by Walt Wheelock, and
Grand Canyon Treks by Harvey Butchart.
Both are packed w/trail & other info. (RDM)

MORE ON McDONALD WEDDING

Old timers may recall Rob Roy McDonald and
his older brother Doug were enthusiastic
members of the RCS-Ski Mtnrs-Mugelnoos
clique in 1938-39. Doug died some years
ago, tho his family came in from Phoenix
for the wedding (Gunny, sons Stuart and
Scott, daughters Skye & Dawn. (RM)

SKI MOUNTAINEERS ELECTIONS

Once again all loyal Ski Mountaineers are
urged to mark down APRIL 16 on their cal-
endars and plan to attend the Mugelnoos
meeting and VOTE! Fortunately, a quorum
is not needed (as in the RCS) but it is
your opportunity to show your support for
the Section and enjoy exotic Japanese home-
made refreshments by May Heishi, a program
of mountaineering in Ecuador, and conver-
sation with old friends. (The elections
don't take long!) SEE YOU ALL THERE. (BL)

MAMMOTH GET-TOGETHER

March 29-30 is the weekend this year when
many SMS-ers plan to be at Mammoth for the
usually undrilled weekend of yo-yo skiing,
Hot Creek streaking, etc. Chair #1 at 8:30,
unless it's storming: then head for June!
(BL)

PEAR LAKE TOUR GOES WITHOUT HUT

Altho the SMS failed to win the Hut on the
weekend of Apr 26-27, the Pear Lake tour
will go anyway (barring a big storm), as
the super spring snow skiing is well worth
the inconvenience of camping out, and the
west side of the Sierra is the only safe
place to travel on opening day at Crowley!

ATTENTION SKI MOUNTAINEERS (BL)

The West LA Group of the Angeles Chapter is
sponsoring Environmental Expo '75 at Rancho
Park in the MIA area on Apr 13. This will
be open to the general public, and its pur-
pose is to let them know what's happening
and encourage them to participate in the
struggle to save our natural resources. The
Expo will also explain the activities of the
various sections and groups of the Angeles
Chapter. The SMS has been asked to partici-
pate in the form of a booth. I am asking
a few volunteers to volunteer! Run our
booth between 11 and 5 on Apr 13 (no to rs
that weekend). We will explain our activi-
ties and our specialized equipment to people
when they stop by the booth. Anyone who has
been on at least one tour can do this. Also,
will anyone loan us a slide projector with
automatic cycle feature? We will show slides
of past trips. Your Chairman doesn't wish
to do it all, so please step forward and
volunteer! Call Mark Goebel at 820-1962
and help support your Section. (IG)

CO-ED DEES IN TAIHO ALEA STORM

Evelyn Golding, 21, died from exposure after
being stranded on cross-country skis near
Donner Summit. She and her fiance, Keith
Ulisse, 21, had begun a cross-country ski
trip but were unable to locate the nearby
Peter Grubb Hut before the storm forced them
to bed down under a tree. Ulisse left the
girl to find help or shelter; he found the
Hut, but he returned to find Miss Golding
had died. (FAR WEST SKI NEWS 3/1/75)

FOSSIL FALLS FEB 8-9

In spite of the weather forecasts 13 hardy
RCS members met at Fossil Falls for a week-
end of climbing and festivities. Many of the
usual routes were done and a few of the spec-
ial routes were ascended. The group was
treated to stories of petroglyphs, artifacts
and local archaeological sites by Ray Van
Allen. The lure of the fantastic climbing
was so great that it even brought two of our
northern Calif members Jim Hoste & Mindy
Bagdon down for the weekend. The highlight
of the trip was Jim Campbell's masterful
ascend of the infamous Ed's Crack. As far
as is known Jim is the only other person
besides Ed (who put in the climb) who has
made the climb and many of our best climbers
have given it their all over the years. The
speed and skill which he demonstrated would
have the novice thinking it was an easy
climb but those who have tried and failed
know it is far from easy and a considerable
achievement. Other climbs of interest were
Hoste & Bagdon's climb of the blocks. Mindy's
comment that it was probably only 5.7 in
difficulty but 5.10 in fright probably sums
up the feelings of all of us who have done
it. (Your Editor apologizes for losing the
name of the reporter of the above story; he
failed to sign it, and the Jan Mugelnoos
which named the leader was missing.)

BICYCLES ON SID WALKS

City of LA, Muni Code Section 55.15 was amen-
ded 5/23/69 to permit bicycle riding on side-
walks.

RETURN TO CHIMBORAZO

Since Barbara Lilley had been stormed off Mt Chimborazo, highest peak in Ecuador (20,700'+) in Sept 1973 (climbing Mt Cotopaxi instead), she and 8 others -- Tom Cardina, Diana Dee, Horace Ory, John Otter, Cuno Ranschau, Bill Sanders, Graham Stephenson and Bill Stauffer -- arrived in Quito, Ecuador (9,200') on Fri, Feb 14, 1975 to attempt the peak at a time of year when the weather is supposed to be better. (Even Ecuadorian climbers disagree on this matter!) Through Bill Sanders and his very efficient travel agent (Janis Rusk of Riviera Village Travel in Redondo Beach) surface arrangements such as hotel and transportation in Ecuador were completed in advance, thus permitting a lower group inclusive tour air fare. Included also was a worthwhile tour of Quito Friday afternoon by Metropolitan Travel in Quito.

Sat, two 4-wheel-drive vehicles transported the group to about 12,000' for a conditioning climb of Rucu-Pichincha (15,500'+) just outside Quito -- a non-technical hike up a trail and over easy volcanic rocks to the summit. Sunday the climbers rode a chartered van to Pogyos (13,000'), start of the climb of Chimborazo, where they spent the night, and Mon hiked to the refugio at approx 16,000', with their gear being carried by mules. Tues the group made a conditioning/scouting climb up to the "Red Walls" (18,000'). This time snowline was just 100' above the refugio; in Sept 1973 continuous snow was encountered only above the Red Walls.

Starting out from the refugio with crampons on at 1:30 AM Wed and ascending through alternate fog and sunshine, all but two were still making a bid for the summit 12 hours later when at about 19,200' they were chased off by an electrical storm, complete with buzzing ice axes and painful discharges from the tops of their heads! It snowed heavily all the way down. Diamox proved quite helpful to those who used it; unfortunately, before the next summit attempt (Thurs was of necessity a recuperation day) an Ecuadorian cold virus felled 5 members of the expedition. Another (who hadn't taken Diamox) was bothered by the altitude, so only three -- Stephenson and Lilley (who were probably immune from prior trips) and John Otter (who slept in a tent by himself) headed for the summit again on Feb 21. It snowed continuously but with no lightning or wind, and fortunately, an Ecuadorian guide and his client were in front showing the route and making the footsteps (the guide was later rewarded with all the gear the climbers were leaving behind in Ecuador). Stephenson turned back only 500' from the top; the remaining 4 came directly up to the higher (south) summit thus avoiding the notorious deep powdery snow between it and the western peak. As days are only 12 hours long, darkness overtook the climbers on the descent. Fortunately the guide led the way to the refugio as all tracks and markers were buried by the newly fallen snow, and return was completed by midnight -- a nearly 24-hour day! Next day they returned to the highway and caught the local bus to Quito in time for dinner Sat night. (Buses now pass by Pogyos every 2 hours and most go directly on to Quito without requiring a change.) Due to the time change on Sunday, flight connections were missed in Miami and return to LA was after 2:30 AM Monday morning!

Mt Chimborazo is the highest peak in the world, when measured from the center of the earth, due to the flattening at the poles. However, barometric pressure is also higher for this reason, and due to greater heat at the tropics. (This means, for example, that there is more air to breathe on its summit than on top of McKinley, which is 500' lower!)

Anyone wishing to contact an Ecuadorian climbing club for information and assistance in climbing the peaks may write (preferably in Spanish) to: Agrupacion Excursiones: Nuevo Horizontes, Apartado 2369, Quito, Ecuador. It was learned that white gas is still not available in Quito (alho it could be purchased in Guayaquil and brought to Quito). Kerosene is sold as "Kerox" and alcohol is sold by drugstores. Incidentally, gasoline for cars costs about 16¢ per gallon! (BL)

RCS PRACTICE CLIMB - FEB 23 - STONY POINT

Students	58
Instructors	13
Student/Instructor ratio	4.46 to 1
Rope fund donations . . .	\$41.00
Donation per student . . .	69¢

Participating instructors: Bob Lindgren, Andy Fried, John Moore, Leonard Bayless, Norm Rohn, Maynard Brandsma, Dale Knutsen, Fred Wing, Leonard Hall, John Genest, LeRoy Russ, Jim Erb, Tom Jeter.

In response to the pleas of LeRoy Russ to do something to get the RCS treasury solvent again, Climb Leader Bob Lindgren came up with a stroke of genius. Bob looked over the assembled RCS instructors, seeking the biggest and most steely-eyed (meanest looking) among them for the assignment of approaching each student individually for a Rope Fund contribution. Bob's gaze fixed on none other than member-in-waiting Phil Bruce, who was superbly qualified for the job. To see how all this turns out, turn to page 4!

ROCK CLIMB PRACTICE -- Cont'd:

It turns out that Phil was once in charge of raising an entertainment fund for a local labor union, and had considerable experience in dealing with would-be free-loaders. Without going into the details of how Phil did it, let me simply report that the contribution/student was considerably above that of any previous climb!

Journeyman bidman Phil Bruce accomplished with dispatch the task of correctly rigging the leader belay bucket of cement test high in the parking lot oak tree. This same job took three apprentice birdmen over twice as long at the previous Stony Pt climb, with numerous trips back to the ground for additional tools and equipment. Phil chose a much higher branch than before, and we think we now have the perfect setup. Not too hard, every student managed to hold all three bucket falls; and not too easy, the lighter girls would be lifted completely into the air and come back to the ground on their bottoms. (Great entertainment for the ever present peanut gallery!) Phil manned the trip wire all day, and made no attempt to hide his mirth when the ladies landed so unceremoniously. One of his victims, Margaret Newhall, got her measure of revenge at the end of the day, however. When Phil was up in the tree collecting the rigging, Margaret talked him into rappeling down with her new-fangled figure-8 descending devide. When Phil was half way down she pulled on the rappel rope, immobilizing him betwixt & between! Margaret then demanded that he toss down some of the folding stuff for the Rope Fund in return for his remaining descent to the ground. Dangling like a spider while photographers gleefully snapped pictures, Phil knew he's been had! She who laughs last (TJ)

SKI MOUNTAINEERS & ROCK CLIMBER AT NORDIC HOLIDAY

RCS member Andy Fried & SMS mbrs Pete Moritz, his brother Fritz, Ed Unge, Walter Boge, and Steve Wilkie enjoyed 3 snowy days at the Yosemite Nordic Holiday March 7-8-9. Ed, Andy and Steve toured 4 miles in the snowstorm Fri afternoon to get in shape for Saturdays race.

The weather cleared Sat morning for the start of the 7 mile race but about 2/3 of the 400 participants were caught by a renewal of the snow storm before finishing. Yosemite Mountaineering Schools Ned Gillette skied the 7 miles in 1 hr 18 mins 3 secs; Pete Moritz had the best time of any of the Mugelnoos group. Fritz could not compete due to a broken hand suffered in an auto accident. Bill Spina from the Snow Touring Committee also had very fast time. Unge won second prize in the over-50 age class.

At the Sat night racers party at the Camp Curry Cafeteria the beer flowed freely and the prizes were awarded such as skis, sleeping bags, packs, and bottles of champagne. Soon the party was enlivened by the popping of champagne corks. Noon Sun was the start of the 6 mile relay race with each skier in a team of three skiing once around the course. Meanwhile the snowstorm continued. With 19 teams competing, that of Unge-Boge-Wilkie finished in 9th place with a time of 47 minutes. Many thanks to Josephine Boge for taking care of our surplus sweaters and parkas during the race. (SW)

NORDIC SKIERS LUCK OUT

On that infamous rainy slushy day of Feb 9 when the Blue Ridge tour was rained out the nordic trio of Boge, Unge, and Wilkie arrived at Green Valley in the soggy Bernardino Mtns where they sat in the roadhead cafe sipping coffee & watching the trees outside dripping. After a discussion they decided that it was too wet to tour over the ridge to Snow Valley even with the prospect of a lunch stop in the shelter of the cozy Keller Hut.

Hoping it might be snowing at higher elevations they drove to Onyx Summit (8843'). There it was neither raining nor snowing. The sun was shining but there was very little snow on the ground. Ready to give up and head for home they happened to meet a Highland Outfitters nordic instruction group coming out of a side road, and were informed that there was good skiing a short distance back.

One thing led to another and the trio discovered a touring route on forest service roads leading back to the cabin reserved for the Snow Touring Committee tour March 15-16. They toured halfway back to the cabin before running out of time. This route starts 1500' higher than the alternate route referred to in the Sierra Club Schedule, so both snow and terrain conditions should be better for nordic skiers. (SW)

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING RCS MEMBERS

The RCS Training Committee would like to thank the following members:

- Fred Wing and Barbara Lilley for each donating a used rope.
- Andy Fried for donating a fleece lined leather vest to protect those holding the bucket fall.
- Phil Bruce for donating new pulleys costing \$15
- Leonard Bayless for a backup triggering device
- LeRoy Russ for a swell new Rope Fund collection box. (TJ)