

No. 509 May 21, 1975

A newsheet published by and for the Ski Mountaineers & Rock Climbing Sections of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter. Send address changes to Tim Ryan, 2400 & 1/2 Alma, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266. Subscriptions \$2 per year, due in October. Published monthly. This is a 8 page issue.

SKI MOUNTAINEERS BANQUET TO BE HELD ON MAY 28

It is not too late to plan to attend! Call Tom Cardina at 799-3092(eves.) or 681-2301, Ext. 212(days). All Ski Mountaineers--long-time, new, active, inactive--and guests are urged to come and help celebrate another successful ski touring season (which is by no means ended). There will be good food, lots of conversation, installation of officers and a program that will include one of the best recently made ski movies, "Powder for the People." The Banquet will be held at the Smoke House, 4420 Lakeside Drive in Burbank--off the Hollywood Freeway at the Barham exit. Cocktails at 6:30 PM. Dinner at 7:30 PM. Price: \$6.00. BL

ALPINE SKI TOUR, SARDINE CANYON/PINYON CREEK, April 19-20

This cold, stormy spring caused numerous cancellations and changes of S.M. ski tours! However, eleven hearty-seeming souls somehow decoded the revised S.M. schedule and met Sat. in Independence only to find that a wild exploratory had been planned rather than the standard Onion Valley trek. What would they see--wild canyons, untrod ridges, secret powder bowls? No, actually they saw 40 BMTC students pretending to enjoy spring climbing, old mines complete with an old miner and nearly 6000 vertical feet of skiing in Sardine Canyon on snow good enough that it almost deserved a better rating than "lousy".

The route was up from Onion Valley (road open-just barely) toward Golden Trout Lakes over the steep ridge just under and west of Kearsarge Pk. For 2600' of gain, they walked and skied down almost 6000' to a mine road which wraps a mile over to intersect the Onion Valley road. The upper 300' of Sardine Canyon were blown bare of snow, then came some good powder skiing down to Sardine Lake. Patchy snow led to a steep hard-packed snow slope down to the mine (open in summer). Below the mine, snow was continuous down to the road and slopes were excellent; unfortunately due to the late winter the snow was not consolidated enough to provide good skiing. A car shuttle is required but this would really make a fine tour with more spring-type snow conditions. (Little Onion Valley also looked worth investigating.)

Having braved one exploratory, intrigued by its challenge, they decided on still another plunge into the unknown for Sunday. As a result, 4 of the group left! Undaunted, indeed buoyed by good camping and high spirits the night before (Louis Martini spirits, to be precise), several pushed into Pinyon Canyon the next morning. (This is the first canyon south of Onion Valley, reached by a dirt road just west of the Symmes Creek campground road.)

A rough trail led them snowless into the canyon and after 80 minutes of bruising effort they paused to remove catsclaw and survey the scene; at this juncture S.M. Ch. M. Goebel "chickened out" and slithered back to the car to spend his exploratory Sunday napping. Another hour's work brought 3 diehards to the snow and 1200' of good spring skiing on one of the side slopes of the canyon. The upper part of Pinyon Creek was loaded with snow and despite 2 hours of bushwhacking would provide lots of skiing for a determined party. Actually, both trips deserve another try as even with the late winter conditions all skiers had more turns than falls and the SM spring touring season was underway at last--right, MG? Even the weatherman provided 2 days of bright sunshine with only an occasional cloud. DM & BL

THE FUTURE OF YOSEMITE--DO YOU CARE AT ALL???

Snowmobiles in Yosemite? More conventions? A funicular to Glacier Point? These and similar "improvements" may appear if the lovers of the forests, cliffs and streams keep quiet. If you missed the local hearings in April, take a few minutes to express your ideas in a letter to Yosemite Master Plan Team, c/o Golden Gate NRA, National Park Service, Ft. Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123. Every skier and climber should care enough to spend 10 minutes writing a letter for or against "progress" as MCA sees it.

RDM

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NEXT ISSUE: June 18, 1975
DEADLINE: Monday Noon, June 16

CALENDAR

May 24-26: Ski Tour, Rock Creek
(SMS) H. Hickman 248-2325
May 24-26: Rock Climb, Yosemite Valley
(RCS) M. Sherrick, 344-0964
May 31-Jun 1: Ski Tour, Virginia Lakes
(SMS) B. Feldmann(805)527-0406
June 7-8: Ski Tour, Parker Canyon
(SMS/SPS) B. Lilley 886-4154
June 7-8: Rock Climb-Exploratory
(RCS) E. Yount (714)525-5196
June 14-15: Ski Tour--Location undecided
(non-sched.) B.Lilley 886-4154
June 18 - Mugelnoos Meeting, 8:00 PM

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

If any Mugelnoos subscriber knows the
current address of RCS/SMS member Jim
McNamara, please send it to the Mugel-
mailer, Tim Ryan.

NEW SKI MOUNTAINEERS--WELCOME!

Al Toering Ph:(714)835-3952
832 Garfield, #1
Santa Ana, CA 92701

James C. Powers Ph:(714)968-4397
22121 Luau Lane
Huntington Beach, CA 92646

Maynard Brandsma PH:(213)285-9613
7117 N. Rosemead Blvd., #221
San Gabriel, CA 91775

Reinstated Ski Mountaineer

Don Chorzempa Ph:(805)259-5246
P.O. Box 713
Newhall, CA 91322

COLD RECORD SET

April 1975 had the coldest average maxi-
mum temperature in L.A. weather history.
Second coldest was 1967 which had a simi-
lar weather pattern but far greater pre-
cipitation, breaking a 40-year record for
Sierra snowfall. (This was eclipsed two
years later when the winter of '69 pro-
duced an all-time record snowpack.) At
closing date (4/27) Sugarbowl ski area
(on I-80) had 25 ft. & one So. Calif. area
operated in May. As of May 16, Mammoth
reported 8 ft. and 4 Lake Tahoe ski re-
sorts were also still in operation.

Reports indicate that the Tahoe region
has 200% of normal snowpack for this time
of year; 150% of normal for the season.
The Southern Sierra snowpack is also
above normal but the water content is
actually below.

Tioga pass probably won't be open
before early June.

S.M. DIRECTORY TO APPEAR

A Ski Mountaineers Membership List will
be published with the June Mugelnoos. Any-
one with a new phone no. (since June 1974),
or has failed to notify the Mugemailer
(Tim Ryan) of a change of address or who
have re-subscribed to Mugelnoos and wish
to be reinstated as a member of the S.M.
Section should notify B. Lilley, 8421
Lindley Ave., Northridge, Ca. 91324 by 6/5/75

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

The Pear Lake Ski Hut is no longer
available for use after May 1. It is
"made ready" for the ranger who lives
there during the summer months and enters
on duty approximately May 15.

UNLIKELY EVENT FOR 1976

That the BMTC will not only make but
actually keep an agreement to look for
and use areas other than the "Baldy Bowl"
for their ice axe practices.

THIRD GENERATION

Lois (Thompson) Malone, now of 351
Centre St., Boston, Mass. 02130, writes
that her daughter Ruthie Scherr has pre-
sented her with a granddaughter, Heather
Elizabeth. Ruthie & her family live in
San Diego. Lois plans to stay in New
England, but while visiting in Calif. had
a 2-person art show in Santa Ana. (RDM)

OUTSTANDING!

Adrienne Jones, who with her husband
Dick, was an active RCS & Ski Mtnr. mem-
ber way-back-then, recently won an award
for her book, "So Nothing Is Forever."
The award, for the most outstanding child-
ren's book, was presented by biographer
Irving Stone at the Friends of the UC
Irvine Library's 10th annual award dinner.
(Adrienne was honored 3 times) (RDM)

HIGH ADVENTURE FOR KIDS 10 TO 14

Charles Bell, local climber and exper-
ienced youth leader, is announcing sev-
eral trips (1 to 3 weeks) in the High
Sierra for boys and girls. An unusual
opportunity! Send applications and in-
quiries to High Adventure, Antioch Col-
lege/West, 1067 N. Fairfax, L.A. 90046. (RDM)

LAMENT OF A SEATTLE AREA CLIMBER

"I'm unhappy at having participated in
the creation of wildernesses as I now
find it difficult to get permission to
use them. This was not what I had in
mind." (MSR Newsletter, March 1975)

ANGELES CHAPTER HAS OWN T.V. SHOW

A program called "Sierra Club--Eye on
the Earth" premiered on May 20 on KVST-
Channel 68 and will be scheduled on a
continuing once-a-month basis. Send
letters re issues you would like to see
on T.V. to: Sierra Club-Eye on the Earth
KVST-Channel 68, 1136 N. Highland Ave.,
Hollywood, CA. 90038.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Gail Wilts) 1401 Ocean Ave. #1
Janet Wilts) Seal Beach, CA 90740
Dave Field) PH: 594-0644.

UNLIKELY EVENT FOR 1975, 1976, 1977, etc.

That reports on all the scheduled
activities during the past month will be
sent to current Mugelnoos ed. by deadline.
(Hopefully, a report on the Suicide Rock
climb will appear in the next issue.)

R.E.I.'s EXPANSION COSTLY TO CALIFORNIANS

In mid-March, Recreational Equipment, Inc., of Seattle, Wash., opened a branch store in Berkeley, Calif. (1338 San Pablo Ave.) This store might prove to be a convenience for those Californians who live within driving distance but now all Californians must add California sales tax when ordering by mail from Seattle (which cuts considerably into the 10% dividend).

It is now even more worthwhile to send \$1.00 to Eastern Mountain Sports, 1047 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, Mass. 02215, for a copy of their catalog. EMS does not carry downhill or Alpine ski touring equipment but other items and prices are comparable to those of R.E.I. Also, EMS usually ships by United Parcel, which should provide somewhat faster service than the 3 weeks it now seems to take for surface U.S. parcel post mail to travel from Seattle to Los Angeles! BL

LONG-TIME SKI MOUNTAINEERS HONORED BY SIERRA CLUB

At the April 16, 1975 Mugelnoos Meeting, Special Service Awards were presented by Les Reid on behalf of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club to Charles Gerckens and Steve Wilkie. The following is from the "Southern Sierran, April 1975.

Charles and Lillian Gerckens have worked hard on behalf of Harwood Lodge and San Antonio and Keller ski huts since joining the Club in the early 1940's. Charles is presently chairman of the Keller Hut Committee and of the Ice Skating Section. One of his first jobs was printing the "Mugelnoos" for many years. Over the years he has attended innumerable work parties for the Lodge and Ski Huts. When a wing was added to Harwood Lodge, he spent 13 weekends in a row building footings in the basement. For the past 18 years he has been custodian of the Chapter chain saw and has cut all of the firewood for the Keller Ski Hut and most of the wood for Harwood Lodge. He has also been chairman of the Ski Mountaineers, was on the Chapter executive committee for several years and was once vice-president of Angeles Chapter.

Steve Wilkie was manager of the San Antonio Hut for 12 years, devoting much of his time to maintenance and repairs. He is still on the Hut Committee and attends work parties at both San Antonio and Keller Huts. He has been a member of the Ski Mountaineers Section central committee a number of times and still serves as ski test chairman altho in recent years his attention has turned to the Nordic style of ski touring--he is an advisor to the Snow Touring Committee. (BG & BL)

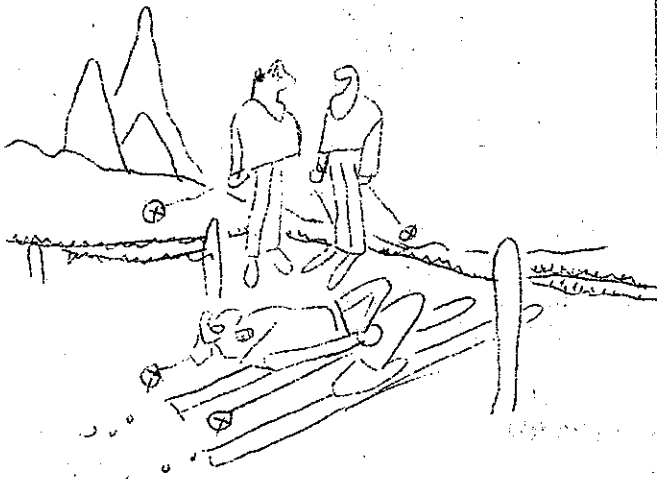
ROCK(SNOW)CLIMB, TAHQUITZ ROCK, April 19-20

Six eager trainees clutching proficiency cards were standing knee-deep in snow-banks at Humber Park Saturday morning, so the leader and two self-sacrificing members moved them off to the south side of the rock. The noble volunteer who agreed to lead the Orange Peel had no trouble with the move at the bolt but understandably asked for an upper belay when he encountered old ice, new snow and running water in the "easy" traverse left. This became slightly more complicated than anticipated when the "friction ledges" turned out to be 5th class considering the accumulated snow and ice. Placing an upper rope was somewhat delayed therefore, but eventually all except one of the novices made the climb. A couple of late-comers climbed the first pitch of the Ski Tracks (sounds appropriate-ed.) and rappelled off--this late in the afternoon after a motion picture crew filming a TV commercial cleared out. (Another form of wilderness pollution?)

Based on the general circumstances, Sunday's climb was cancelled and prominent notes were left at strategic points to warn the foolhardy. August, anyone?

CAR POOLING RECOMMENDED AT BIG ROCK

In the second of 2 reports on the March 16 Big Rock climb, it was indicated that Hazards of Cross-Country Skiing



(Skiing, Spring '73)

"That's a great limbo..."

the Water District is very adamant about collecting \$1 for every car that enters the Recreation Area, even though one can drive only as far as just below the dam (on the right) and must hike about one-half mile to the rock. Probably the best plan would be to meet at the Headquarters office (below the dam, on the left) and there consolidate as many climbers as possible in one vehicle for the short drive in. FW

(Write-up on the climb appeared in April Mugelnoos.)

MORE TAXES FOR CALIFORNIANS

Holubar Mountaineering of Boulder, Colo. opens a California store on May 16 in Santa Ana. (By the time you read this it is already too late to avoid paying the Calif. sales tax on mail orders.)

SUPER SUNSCREEN

An excellent sunscreen may be made by mixing 50 grams of para-amino-beuzoic-acid (PABA) with one quart of rubbing alcohol. Apply the solution to your skin and make sure that it does not get into your eyes. The PABA which adheres to the outermost layer of skin after the alcohol evaporates completely blocks out all the ultra-violet rays. This combination is sold commercially under the name "Class Five" for nearly a dollar an ounce. If you have any difficulty in obtaining the PABA in powder form from your local drugstore, write to: Tom Park, 22655 Marlin Pl., Canoga Park, CA 91307.

TR

ANOTHER "SIGN OF THE TIMES"

A young man hiking in an off-limits area above Palm Springs was killed when he apparently lost his footing on a sheer cliff and plunged 80 ft. onto the rocks below, Riverside County authorities said. He was identified as R. Henderson, 22, of Riverside. Three companions apparently fled after the mishap because the area, Tahquitz Canyon, had been placed off-limits due to fire damage. (LA Times, 3/27/75)

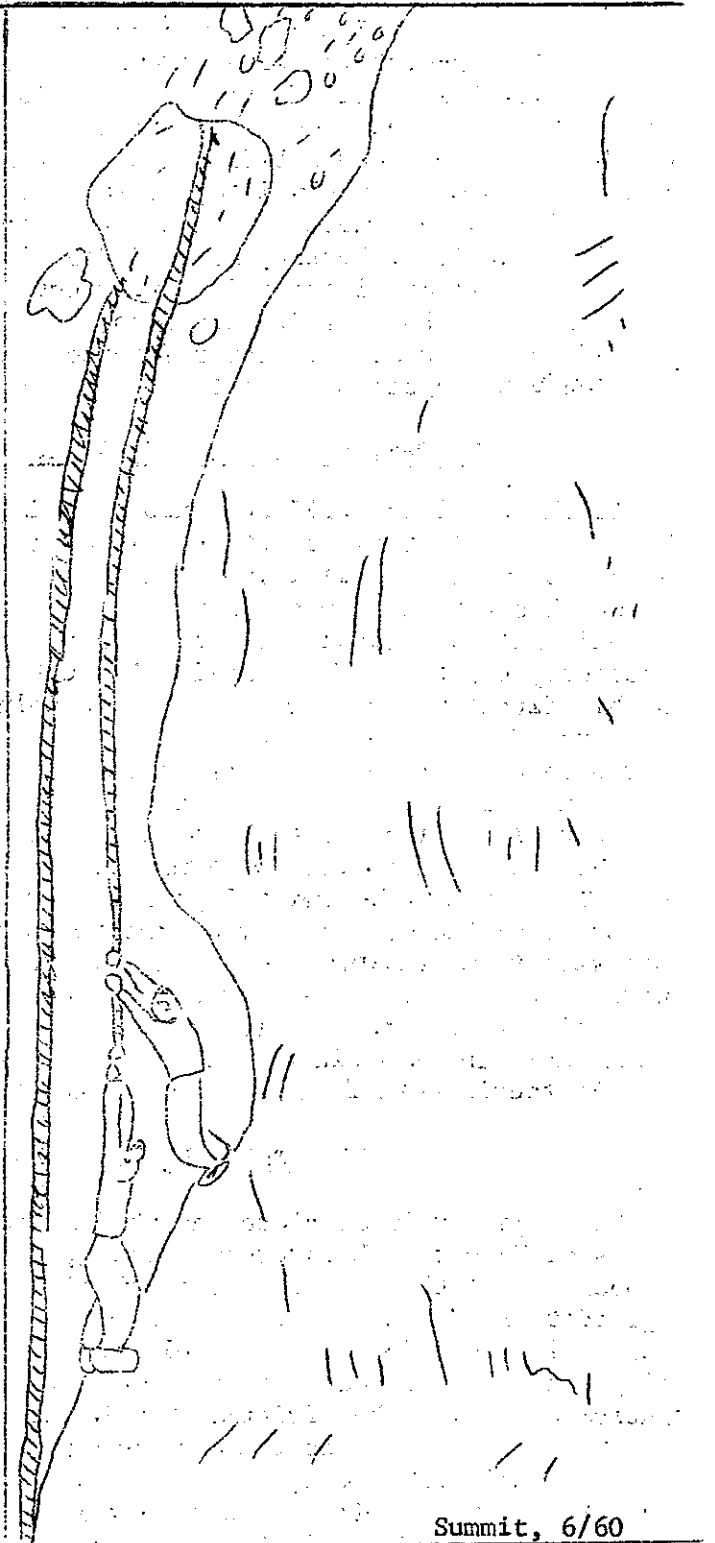
JW

AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB GRANTS GRANTS

Assorted grants were announced at the April meeting of the AAC Board of Directors. Research funds went to 2 projects: (1) Research on a new type of eye glasses for mountaineers; (2) A study on Baffin Island. Mountaineering fellowship funds available are to be divided among those eligible of 10 applicants. Grants of \$25 to \$50 are available for young climbers in mountain-related conservation projects, such as the Mt. McKinley clean-up. (They need not be AAC members.)

The AAC endorsed several expeditions (necessary before climbing groups can enter certain areas). The Club is also trying to help solve access and climbing use problems on Natl. Park and Forest Service lands, at both local and national levels.

(RDM)



Summit, 6/60

"I believe that does it!"

ALPINE SKI TOUR, PEAR LAKE "PARADISE", May 10-11

In spite of a forecast for the usual weekend storm, 14 skiers gathered at Wolverton parking lot in Sequoia Park Sat. morning and were rewarded (at last) with a perfect weekend of spring snow and sunshine, with only a few high clouds. Snow was continuous from the parking lot, and they arrived at their camp upstream from the Pear Lake Hut in time for all skiers to enjoy at least one 800' ski run on perfect spring corn snow on the west-facing slopes above. Two diehards finished their last run after 5:00 PM, having acquired 2000' vertical feet before skiing down to "tent city."

A mild night (barely 32°F) made a 7:45 AM departure less painful and 13 had carried their skis up firm snow to the "winter summit" of Alta Pk. by 10:00 AM. Shortly thereafter, the snow on the south side was pronounced READY and down they skied for over 2000', the snow becoming better with each turn, like skiing on velvet, on the most perfect spring corn snow to be found--for the third year in a row! The long climb back was on snow ideal for climbing skins, with an occasional cooling breeze, during which they admired their ski tracks and pushed visions of helicopters from their minds. The descent of the now-thawed north slopes was equally as enjoyable, with excellent spring skiing right back to camp.

The return to the cars was completed in 3 hours--snow was heavy and tiring to ski but at least adequate and continuous (unlike the "winter" tour). The sunburned but exhilarated skiers drove through air perfumed by orange blossoms to the traditional fine Chinese dinner at Gang Sue's in Porterville.

BL

SAN GORGONIO ALPINE SKI TOUR, April 26-27

Saturday morning, nine Ski Mountaineers met at "Poop-Out Hill" for this tour (rescheduled from Pear Lake). There were 3 inches of fresh snow on the road and trail (the snow level was down to 4000') with threatening clouds overhead! The group then hiked/skied to Dry Lake on snow that was turning sticky in the morning sun. As they were eating lunch, the sky completely clouded over and the temperature dropped below freezing. Just to keep warm, they decided to tour over to the north face of San Gorgonio. On the way they were entertained by out-of-control Nordic skiers crashing through the woods. Touring up to about 10,800', they found excellent skiing on the descent, causing them to forget the cold weather, with 5 inches of fresh powder snow over a non-icy packed base. The skiing was so good several made a second run before returning to Dry Lake.

There were snow flurries in the early evening but after a cold night (14°F), Sunday morning dawned clear. The skiers headed west with their packs toward the base of Charlton Pk. After leaving packs, they climbed south to the "Big Draw" on San Gorgonio, with the powder becoming sticky in the warm sun. Near the top of the Big Draw they removed climbers and prepared for the downhill run, while Doug Mantle climbed on over to Jepson Pk. Down to timberline was in dry powder over a firm base (they left an impressive number of ski tracks); the rest of the way back to the packs the skiing was excellent on soft spring snow.

After lunch, six climbed to the ridge just south of Charlton; D. Mantle continued on along the ridge to "bag" the peak. Again the ski descent was excellent, on soft spring snow. After this run, they collected packs and skied down to Slushy Meadows on sticky but good spring snow. Snow was nearly continuous to within a mile of Poop-out Hill.

Most who had toured this area before felt this was one of the best trips ever due to the unusual experience of having excellent skiing everywhere. The reason for this was a heavy, late snow year with cold air and overcast keeping the snow dry on Saturday and a very strong sun on Sunday rapidly changing the snow to spring conditions. Those who missed this tour will have a long wait to again get a chance at such good skiing on San Gorgonio. BF

LAWSUIT AGAINST NATIONAL PARK RESTRICTIONS

(Its About Time!)

Mountain Safety Research, Inc. (MSR) tests climbing equipment and also manufactures and sells mountaineering gear which is constantly tested and modified to make it safer and better. Now MSR is going to court for the benefit of climbers and backpackers, with an impending lawsuit against the Park Service and the Supt. of Mt. Rainier National Park who through use of the permit system have imposed absurd and excessive restrictions on the number of climbers and hikers in the Park (a permit was even denied for crevasse rescue practice!).

The law says that Rainier National Park is for the benefit and enjoyment of the people. It also states that the Park Service "shall promote the use of the park." Therefore, MRS believes that their restriction attitude is illegal and is challenging them under a statute of the Administrative Procedures Act, which states: "A person adversely affected or aggrieved by agency action within the meaning of a relevant statute is entitled to judicial review thereof." More than 2500 backpackers were denied their requests for camping permits in Rainier National Park in 1973.

Financial assistance is needed. Send contributions to: MSR-Mt. Rainier Defense Fund, Mountain Safety Research, 8th South at South 96th St., Seattle, Wash. 98108. If MSR wins this legal battle, it could affect entry restrictions in all National Parks.

MSR newsletters are well worth reading. Send \$1 (to above address) for yearly newsletter and catalog; \$1.75 more for reprint of back issues. For \$10 you become a Member and receive a MSR shoulder patch. (from MSR Newsletter, 3/75)

FROSTBITE!

Frostbite, simply stated, is that condition in which body tissues become frozen, and like hypothermia, assumes new importance as more people take to the mountains each winter. It usually occurs in the feet, hands or face where circulation is farthest removed from the "central core" of the body. The cold, often intensified by the effects of wind chill, slows or even stops surface circulation. Tissues, beginning at the skin and working inward, become first numb and waxy with a mushy feel, then white and frozen hard.

"Frost-nip" is that extremely rapid first stage of the real thing and can be treated in the field by immediate warming of the injured area against warm skin of the abdomen or armpit or by blowing warm breath on the area until the blanched color returns to pink. Frostbite occurs in situations of inadequate equipment, exhaustion and/or injury, inadequate nourishment, fear and hypoxia. True frostbite requires medical care and is not to be treated in the field unless far removed from medical help because once started, treatment must be continued and the victim becomes a full-time litter case. It is much better to walk a day on frozen feet than lose the feet due to premature efforts in the field.

(Loma Prieta, Dec. '73)

COMMITTEE GETS JOY RIDE

John Wedberg, Chairman of the Sierra Club Mountaineering Committee, took three members of the Committee with him in a Cessna 182, to attend the SCMC meeting April 19 in Berkeley. Norman Kingsley, George Shinno and Emory Yount rode with Wedberg in the single engine Cessna. They flew over the southern portion of the Sierra en-route to a landing at the Oakland airport. Yount got some movies of The Pinnacles from aloft, to show at the May meeting, depicting in fine detail the rock climbing area to be visited by the RCS later this year.

The SCMC met at Al Steck's Mountain Travel office, where they were visited by Jules Eichorn and Raffi Bedayn. After lunch at Fat Albert's in Berkeley, the four flew home over the Coast Range, the scenery below consisting largely of oil wells and urban sprawl. (How about a report on the meeting for next Mugelnoos-ed.) JW

B O O K R E V I E W

BERGSTEIGEN: Basic Rock Climbing, by R.C. Aleith. Aleith, Scottsdale, Ariz. 1971 (\$5.95). This book was written for Mr. Aleith's rock climbing school and on the whole seems basically sound and is outstandingly well illustrated. There are, however, a few things that make it unsuitable for the no-nothing beginners who are its intended readers. For example:-Climbing knots are named and illustrated but nowhere that we can discover does it say when to use them. About chocks, it says little except, "Using nuts is simple." But you really begin to wonder when you get to Group Climbing & Teamwork. "The party should carry at least 2 ropes...The(second) climber begins his ascent and upon reaching the ledge, takes the belay position while the leader coils and throws down the rope. The next climber secures himself to the rope and begins his ascent...the first man drops the belay line down to the next climber..." Apparently they never stay tied in. Presumably this method is for a school with 1 teacher and a bunch of pupils--but what do the students do later on their own, and is it good advice for the unaffiliated novice? (RDM)

FLASHLIGHTS

A new Lithium flashlight battery has been recently developed. Its advantages over alkaline batteries include lighter weight, high capacity, constancy of voltage, ability to function well at low temperature and a 6-year shelf life. Compared with 2 C-size alkaline batteries, 1 Lithium C-cell gives 3 times and 1 D-cell gives 4 times the hours of light. (Advantage of a D-cell is twice as many light-hours for the same money.) The initial expensive cost of Lithium cells compares favorably with the cost and weight of the alkaline batteries required to produce the equivalent light. Only disadvantage is that the commonly used PR-2 bulbs need to be changed every 4 or 5 hours.

Avoid flashlights which allow the battery to press directly on the solder base of the bulb. Motion will flatten the solder and make a bad oxidized contact and if the flashlight is dropped, the impact could smash the base. Reverse one of the cells in a 2-cell flashlight during transport so that even if the switch goes on, no current will flow. Rayovac makes reflectors with an orange peel surface which diffuses the central spot for better illumination although not as good for focussing. (MSR Newsletter, 3/75)

WATERPROOF ROPE??

A new rope to appear on the U.S. market this year is the so-called "Ever-Dry" or "Super-Dry" rope. Some manufacturers claim this type of rope to be 100% waterproof, but every rope will show some waterweight gain if submerged in water. If the rope has been used, the water will be absorbed faster. The "Ever-dry" treatment retards the inevitable for a period of time. Treated ropes tend to show less water weight gain during use under wet conditions. More important than waterweight gain is the effect of moisture on individual fibers. Untreated fibers lose 15-20% of their static strength when wet; treated fibers lose 5-7%. Therefore the treatment increases overall static strength of wet rope. In a fall, however, during the split second of dynamic loading, any moisture in a rope has no time to escape. It becomes a solid part of the rope structure which in turn reduces the elongation and energy absorption properties of the rope. The "Ever-dry" treatment does give the rope improved handling characteristics and abrasion resistance. (EMS Catalog 1975)

Comment: It would be interesting to see if the "Ever-dry" treatment will prevent kernmantle ropes from becoming "stiff wire cables" when used for glacier travel. However, these ropes are very high priced and unless technical climbing is involved, goldline or white nylon ropes are far more suitable and far more reasonably priced for glacier use. BL

SNOWMOBILE DAMAGE

Noise from snowmobiles can drive animals such as deer and elk from their normal winter feeding grounds or frighten them so that they run themselves to exhaustion and die of exposure. In addition, when snowmobiles compact the snow, they destroy the insulating air spaces. The resulting colder temperatures may kill plants and animals living under the snow. (Trail & Timberline, 2/75)

ROCK CLIMBING SECTION PRACTICE CLIMB - APRIL 27 - STONY POINT

STUDENTS	41
INSTRUCTORS	13
STUDENT/INSTRUCTOR RATIO	3.15:1
ROPE FUND DONATIONS	\$18.40
DONATION PER STUDENT	45c

A lower student turnout on a perfect April Sunday may indicate previous students are now getting ready for more ambitious climbs. Or maybe some of them have lost interest. In any event, the thirteen instructors mustered by T. Jeter instructed the not-quite-beginners in all climbing techniques required by the proficiency card. P. Bruce set up his usual smooth leader belay operation in the parking lot tree and was seen sadistically smirking just prior to pulling the rip cord for each aerialist/belayer.

Although P. Bruce afixed his steely eyes on each student as they signed in, the rope fund was not destined to be fattened greatly. This, even after successfully intimidating leader and instructors. Maybe a set fee of a dollar or so per climb would preserve P. Bruce's gimlet-eyed-sight in the future. It also may be a surprise to some that ropes, phone calls and postage are not provided free to such worthwhile endeavors as rock climbing instruction.

After watching several hopefuls finally make the overhang at Rock 2, it is suggested that more basic instruction in the fundamentals of prussiking be given in the future. However, more attention to prussiking rhythm and the life-giving benefits of a spare prussik sling at the crucial overhang might completely ruin the fun of watching a bushed beginner hanging in his (her) slings, totally unable to go up or down (no problem this outing). And why would you want a budding RCS'er to take the safety tests with the capability of passing same?

A word of appreciation for the training operation this year; T. Jeter's efforts have certainly made the climb leader's life much easier and the general skill level of the students seen at this outing appeared to be better than in previous years. Many thanks, Tom. (MV)

REAL "DO-IT-YOURSELF" KITS

Inspired by the example of the successful down-garment industry in the U.S., a manufacturer in East Europe has introduced a line of make-it-yourself clothing kits which combine low cost with convenience. What makes these kits unique is the means of supplying down for insulation. These kits, appropriately called "Pluck-A-Duck," cut costs by including a live duck in the complete starter kit, thereby permitting the purchaser to pluck his own duck. Since feathers are a self-renewing product, the owner of one of these kits will need to buy only fabric and thread to create an entire line of garments. In addition, a less expensive thrift kit offers a chicken instead of the standard duck, while a deluxe kit goes all the way with a northern goose. (Trail & Timberline, 2/75)

INFORMATION SOUGHT ON LAWSUITS

The American Alpine Club Legal Committee is interested in all information regarding pending or concluded lawsuits involving mountaineering activities, such as lawsuits against climbers brought by injured members of the same party, lawsuits against organizations involved in climbing activities brought by injured members of a sponsored climb, lawsuits against guides and guide services and lawsuits arising out of rescue activities including those brought by an injured rescuer. This information is needed so that the AAC has current knowledge of the trends in American (or foreign) courts regarding liability for mountaineering activities. All information will remain confidential; send it to: Chairman, AAC Legal Committee, 113 E. 90th St., New York, New York 10028. (AAC Newsletter, 9/74)

SUN AND SNOW

The effect of sun on snow is to gradually form a crust. South slopes are most affected (and thus will consolidate first), followed by west, then east. Winter sun, being low, will actually have more effect on the slopes which are more nearly at right angles to it--that is, the steeper slopes. Thus a south-facing slope could have a crust firm enough to bear a skier's weight, the east might have breakable crust and the north might have no crust at all. Under spring conditions, when all slopes are consolidated, skiers can follow the sun, skiing south & east slopes in the morning, north slopes at mid-day and west slopes in the afternoon (as was done on the recent Pear Lake tour). This should provide the best skiing for spring corn snow addicts.

Spring corn snow which has been rained on will be as good as ever after it freezes and thaws again. Rain on winter snow followed by a night below freezing can turn south-facing slopes into "instant spring snow" which provide good skiing as soon as the sun thaws them out.

AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The American Alpine Club (AAC) is the only nationally organized Club devoted exclusively to the sport of climbing and mountaineering. Among its purposes is to act as a liaison between climbers and land owner agencies (USFS, NPS, etc.) of this country, between the many regional outdoor climbing and mountaineering organizations of this country, and between American climbers and governments of other mountaineous countries of the world; to aid in the exploration and study of the high mountains of the world through the sponsoring of expeditions and research; to record and disseminate information about all mountains of the world through its library, publications and meetings.

The AAC's accomplishments include the Teton Climbing Ranch (open to all climbers), sponsorship of the 1974 expedition to the Pamirs (Russia), the American Alpine Journal, and the report on Accidents in North American Mountaineering.

New members are being actively recruited. An applicant's climbing record should demonstrate a sustained interest and proficiency in mountaineering--generally 3 years of active climbing including ascents requiring technical climbing skills; other factors considered are evidence of leadership, variety in regions climbed in and types of climbing done, polar exploration, contributions to mountain art, continued service to the mountaineering community. (T&T, 9/74)

Application Forms can be obtained from Mike Sherrick, 6256 Belmar, Reseda, CA 91335. Phone: 344-0964.

STOVES

For an emergency stove, gasoline can be burned in a controlled manner in a metal cup, tin can, or pan, using a cover with a controlled opening. A cover can be made of aluminum foil or a tin can lid. Cut a cross in the center of the can and bend up the triangular tabs to form a square opening a bit larger than two inches. Measure out about one-half cup (4 oz.) of gasoline and pour it into the burner container. Put the cover with the aperture in place before lighting. Bend the tabs inward or outward to control the flame. A wind screen of foil is a big help in improving efficiency. Another system for controlling the flame is to fill the cup with dirt. The dirt will act as a wick and feed the gasoline to the flame. Cover part of the cup with anything which will not burn to control the size of the flame (which will be smoky).

When lighting stoves in a restricted space, denatured alcohol makes a better starting fuel than gasoline or kerosene because the flame does not flare so high. Carry in a squirt bottle. As a general practice, denatured ethyl (grain) alcohol is safer than methyl (wood) alcohol because the latter can destroy the optic nerve. However, denatured grain alcohol usually contains some methyl alcohol so don't drink it either!

(MSR NEWSLETTER, March 1975)

CALIFORNIA TO KORAKORAM

Led by Dennis Hennik, an expedition has recently left California for Pakistan, where permission has been obtained to attempt the first ascent of Mitre Peak in the Korakoram. This a technical snow and rock peak of over 26,000' and plans are to climb it Alpine style. From Karachi they will travel by jeep until the roads end, then continue on foot. The expedition is sponsored in part by the National Geographic Society, and a movie film will be made to be shown on their television series. Other expedition members include Yvon Chouinard, Don Lauria, D. Tompkins, Mike Covington, George Lowe, and Noel Matta, expedition doctor. JM

AIR IN SNOW CAVES

Oxygen in a snow cave can be reduced due to sagging of the roof, snowed-over entry and/or an ice layer glazing the outside surface. Pack the snow over the roof of a planned cave to strengthen it before digging and dig the cave bigger to allow for sag. Keep an ice ax inside to use for poking ventilation holes; keep the shovel inside also. Light a candle occasionally during the night to test the air for oxygen--a flame lower than half is cause for alarm.

(MSR Newsletter, Mar.1975)

ADVICE TO LEADERS

1. If the weather is so bad no one in his right mind would be there, BE THERE, because someone not in his right mind will be there.
2. You can reassure an overweight climber/skier that he could be rescued by promising him that you will bring him out even if it takes more than one trip.
3. The sign-up sheet is not used just to shorten the pencil. Be sure they sign in so you can notify the next of kin when they don't sign out.

(John Vitz "sayings", DPS Newsletter)

(Editor apologizes for corny fill-in articles used to fill space reserved until last minute for report on Suicide Rock climb.)