



No. 517 -- January 21, 1976

A newsheet published by the Ski Mountaineers & Rock Climbing Sections of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter. Send subscriptions & address changes to: Tim Ryan, 2400 1/2 Alma Ave, Manhattan Beach, Ca 90266. Subscriptions \$2 per year. This is a 6 page issue.

ROCK CLIMBERS SWOON -- SKIERS MOON

...and STILL no snow! Local resort operators who are making snow are calling their conditions "fair to good", which is a huckster's way of saying LOUSY! Warm, spring-like weather prevails in Southern Calif, with no storms in sight at this writing. The rock climbers are swooning, but the skiers are mooning for some of the white stuff on which to ply their trade. The annual winter ski tour to the Pear Lake Hut is scheduled for Jan 29-Feb 1, but looks doubtful at this time and will surely be cancelled unless Sequoia Park gets a big storm soon. The checkout tour at Mammoth went OK, but too late for a report due to press time (Mammoth was Jan 18). Speaking of Mammoth, Tim Ryan & Norm Kingsley went ski touring in the area around Duck Pass and Red Cones, reporting excellent snow conditions, including 1-2' of powder on the north and east facing slopes. The back side of Mammoth Mtn is completely bare, and many of the downhill runs are studded with rocks. Think snow!

MORE ON MSR-NPS LAW SUIT

(Ed. note: As promised in the Dec Mugelnoos, here are more comments pro & con. Again, the Sierra Club and Mugelnoos takes no stand in this dispute.)

Dear Editor,

The Nov Mugelnoos plugged for contributions to the so-called Pemberthy (MSR) suit against the Nat'l Park Service's having any restrictions against park use. This seems to be in direct opposition to the efforts in Calif to modify use of Yosemite so as to preserve at least some of its natural beauty against "development" (even the cliffs aren't enhanced by paint and tramways!). Climbers should at least examine all the facts before deciding they are being denied their "rights". IS UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO RAINIER WHAT CLIMBERS REALLY WANT??

No Climbing Restrictions

In a panel discussion between climbers and several Nat'l Parks' representatives at the American Alpine Club meeting in Issaquah Dec 5, the following facts (among others) were brought out: (1) There have been no restrictions whatsoever on climbers since 1969 except registration, and rangers have been happy with the arrangement. (2) There are some mild regulations on back-country use to protect the fragile sub-alpine meadows, necessitated by the mandate when the parks were established to protect the natural surroundings for all time. (3) The Park Service likes to receive input from climbers, listens to and is influenced by it.

Go Snowmobile to Top?

In demanding unrestricted approach to "natural wonders" such as the summit crater, part of the suit, climbers should know that on Mt Baker, not in a park, snowmobiles go to the fumaroles. The AAC has appointed a task force similar to its Yosemite task force, made up of climbers, to study the problems on Rainier in detail. Seattle area climbers did not seem to favor the suit.

Ruth D. Mendenhall

Dear Editor,

I felt the message about supporting the suit against the Forest Service at Rainier, (actually, against the Park Service --Ed.) could have used more fact and less emotion. I couldn't tell if the Sierra Club or the SMS supports this policy, and there was nothing to tell me if failure to grant 2900 camping permits should have been done or not. What is the optimum capacity of the Park to balance use (which I am certainly for) against preservation (which I'm also for)? It's hard to take requests seriously when proponents claim to know other peoples feelings and motives (the Director of the Park feels parks are not for people). The MSR Newsletter has come up with a lot of good information which I appreciate, but the tone expressed on the Rainier problem really turns me off. He may be right, but I personally would rather hear an analysis of both sides of the question and less emotionalism.

Freeman Allen

(...more letters elsewhere this issue.)

Your Editor will hereby explain his incapacitation last month: That Saturday he took his youngest, now 60 lbs, hiking thru 6-8" of snow to the Baldy Hut. 3/4 there, he discovered COTTON socks & frozen feet on the tyke. He wrapped the little one's feet in mittens & hoisted him to his shoulders & carried him down, (cont'd page 2)

MUGELNOOS STAFF

Editor John Wedberg
MUGELMAILER Tim Ryan
MUGELGRAPHER Mary Ferguson
Reporters: Ruth Mendenhall, Barbara Lilley, Jim Sharpsteen, Freeman Allen, Norman Kingsley, Bob Frampton, George Harr, Jim McPherson, Fred Wing, LeRoy Russ

NEXT EDITOR: Larry & Sue Tittle
23506 S. Oakrest Lane
Harbor City, Ca 90710
325-6241

NEXT ISSUE : February 19, 1976

DEADLINE: Friday, Feb 14th.

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS: 3rd Weds of each mo., 7:30 PM Lemon Grove Rec Center (7:00 PM for Ski Mountaineers equipment talks), 4959 Lemon Grove Ave, Hollywood (nr Melrose and Normandie). Programs, eats. All are welcome

C A L E N D A R

Jan 24-25 Rock climb, Joshua Tree
Jan 31-Feb 1 Alpine ski tour, Pear Lake
Feb 7 Rock climb, Mt Rubidoux
Feb 8 Local checkout ski tour
Feb 14-15 Alpine ski tour, Baldy Hut
Feb 18 Mugelnoos meeting

NEW ADDRESS -- Correction

Dan & Dot Taylor
8788 B-205 Coral Springs Court
Huntington Beach, Ca 92646

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

Nick Clinch is the new Executive Director of the Sierra Club Foundation. As offices are in San Francisco, the Clinches will be moving to the Bay Area. They will be missed by their many RCS friends. (RDM)

WANNA BE A FAMOUS WRITER?

ASCENT Magazine, the Sierra Club's mountaineering journal, is always on the lookout for "good" stories. So, if you have one to tell, write it up. Or, if you know someone that climbs and can write well, tell them to submit stories. Emphasis should be on non-topical-current writing, e.g., something that won't be passe a year from now. It can be an expedition report, a "reportage" on a unique area, place; historical, hysterical, humor, whatever. The worst that can happen is that it'll be turned down, the best that it'll be accepted. Then, you'll be discovered! If you have already sold articles, you'll know how to write such stories. If not, call Ruth Mendenhall or Norman Kingsley, both of whom have sold stories and can give you quick pointers on whether or not you have something to write about. And if you don't succeed, write again! (NK)

WHAT'S YOUR LINE?

AAC members (or anyone else) are urged to send short news items to the AAC News, which needs to be brightened up with info about current climbs, trips, jobs, etc. There is no deadline exactly, but new news is usually better than old oldies. Address is American Alpine Club News, 113 E. 90th St, New York, N.Y. 10028. (Approximately 20% of RCS members are also AAC members). (RDM)

Editor Incapacitated -- cont'd

severely straining his lower back muscles in the process (possibly from the hoisting, more than the carrying). He could hardly move for about a week. It took 2 1/2 hours to do what little there was on Page 4 last month, so he gave it up. He's returned to normal now. His 5-year-old is now examined for wool sox prior to departure...

RCS PRACTICE CLIMB

On Sun, Jan 11 twenty-seven instructors turned out to help 65 students at Stoney Point on a perfect day -- mild, sunny and almost windless. The student-instructor ratio of 2.4/1 was the best yet. Seventeen new students were accepted on this, the 2nd climb, making a total of 79 in all. The list is now closed for the year. Most students have now been signed off on all required skills except belay anchor (which is being postponed for Rubidoux' good granite) and leader belay, where only about half of them had time to catch the bucket, despite Phil Bruce's heroics in the arboreal habitat of even earlier primates, to set up the bucket harness in the great oak. Much appreciated were the contributions of the following instructors: Andy Fried, Jim Sharpsteen, Randy McDonald, Jim Erb, Fred Wing, Ed Nissen, John & Ruth Mendenhall, Horton Johnson, LeRoy Russ, Valerie Lloyd, Theresa Halala, George Neuner, Jack Bradford, Jim McPherson, Dave Hornby, Carl & Jerry Wulf, Frank Meyers, Leonard Hall, Maynard Brandsma, Ron Master, Bill Barger, Dick Mundwiler, Earl Kesler, Phil Bruce and Tom Jeter. (FW)

...MISC. FROM YOUR EDITOR'S BAG ...

Dick DeRusha (and his wife) have a new baby, born Jan 1. Your editor attempted to learn the newcomers' name & gender by phoning 636-7000, which is a wrong number. . . . Larry Reynolds was seen cavorting about the Stoney Point area the other Sunday; he reports his present domicile is Jackson Hole, where he says he bicycles, climbs, skis, and when absolutely necessary, works! His photography is being sold around the countryside, whilst he reposes in God's country and breathes clean air. . . . Ron Hayes, RCS members might remember from the 50's, has moved to Van Nuys; he's still acting, doing some commercials, and running rivers. Tom Jeter & friends are going caving in the Mojave, under the watchful eye of some experts from the Nat'l Speleological Society. Ken McNutt, RCS chairman of yore, was spotted hiking in the Baldy area with Ed Levinton and Jack Bradford; Ken is still actively climbing, tho not with the section. . . Bob Frampton says the guy running the Union 76 station in Big Pine will give you 2¢ off on gas if you stop there instead of booming on into the clutches of the hucksters in Bishop. (Frampton hasn't caught on to the self-serve joints in Independence, I guess; they trim at least a nickel from those gougers in Bishop.) . . . A sad note: our dear friend and many years SPS climbing companion of the 50's & 60's, Ted Maier died on Jan 3rd. Miles Brubacher spoke at the memorial service in Santa Monica Jan 7th. Ted was only 50, leaves two teenagers and wife Mary Jane. . . .

THE BLUE DANUBE BOYS A CAVING GO

A bunch of the boys was whooping it up in the Blue
Danube saloon.
Phil Bruce had just fed the music-box, which was hitting
a jag time tune.
Whilst there on a stool with his feet on the bar sat
Dangerous Dick Derush,
Assailing us all with his tales most tall, fresh back from
the Hindu Kush.
With a face most hair, and the dreary stare of a dog whose
day is done,
He cried in his beer about Porter strikes, of peaks he got
nary a one.

When out of the night, wearing pants too tight, and into the
din and the glare.
There stumbled a Caver just up from her pit, bone weary and
loaded for bear.
She looked like a gal with a foot in the grave and scarcely the
strength of a louse.
But she bellied right up, hit her fist on the bar and ordered
drinks for the house.
There was none could place the strangers face, though we searched
ourselves for a clue.
But we drank her health and we soon found out, her name was Donna-Lou.

She had just come back from the bowles of the earth, called Cave of
the Winding Stair.
Having searched and searched for that little room which houses the
register there.
Now we men was all fearless climbing types, used to looking down on
tourists and trees.
Hearts of eagles have we, perched high on the crags, sniffing the
rarerified breeze.
I'm looking for men, Donna-Lou said with a grin, men with spirit of
devil may care.
Who will go with me to Hades and back, down that black hole called
Winding Stair.

Now this was too much for the hairy faced lout, perched high atop of
his stool.
When he whirled around he let out a shout, fell and hit the ground
like a fool.
But the rest of us we gave a whoop, and told Donna-Lou we'd go with
her there,
And wouldn't come back till we'd found that room, and sat on the
devils chair.
Now this was easy to say, but come the next day by the cold sober light
of the dawn.
I had to wonder about the commitments we'd made, and regret the
promises spawned.

Were we Cragmen up to the task, serious Cavers might ask, peering into
the blackness like moles,
Of consecutive hundred foot drops onto guano caked rocks, would we then
continue our goals?
While breathing bad air just how would we fare on our bellies in muck
like the worms?
Through narrowing crawlways it would be our luck to get stuck, God at
that thought my stomach churns!
What makes me sick, remembering Dangerous Dick out cold on the floor
of the bar;
He's got an excuse (darn his eyes), I'de like his ruse, for me things
went way way too far!

49 new RCS students (80% of total enrollment of 62) encountered a strong instructor turnout (18) at the first Practice Climb at Stony Point, Dec. 14. We organized the climb a bit differently from last year, which seemed to work well. Basically, we sent the students out in small groups (5) for the day, with one or more instructors for training. However, all Proficiency Card Signoffs were restricted to 3 hawk faced, no nonsense types (Norm Rohn for U. Belay, Tom Jeter for Knots, and Jim Erb for Rappel). Signoff standards were probably tighter than they've been in some years, as some 25-30% of the students going for signoff flunked their tests in each category. (They all have 5 more Practice Climbs to come up with the necessary proficiency). Tom Jeter insisted each student be able to tie himself into a climbing rope while blindfolded and wearing mittens. When Climb Leader Norm Rohn saw this, he heartily approved, with the comment that the students should be able to do that while also standing in an ice cold shower. That sounded good, so Phil (Rube Goldberg) Bruce has been commissioned to devise an apparatus which will deluge our students in ice water while they go for their rappel, prussicking, and knot tying signoffs. Seriously though, we are making real progress in the quality of our rock climbing training. Emory has authorized an additional \$200 purchase of more ropes and slings, and future Practice Climbs promise to be even more enjoyable for all concerned; come and see for yourself! Instructors for the climb were: Norm Rohn (Leader), LeRoy Russ, Tom Jeter, Dick Mundweiler, Jim Erb, Phil Bruce, Leonard Bayless, John Ripley, George Fowles, Tom Sarazen, Jim Endo, Earl Kessler, Carl Wulf, Horton Johnston, Dick Derusha, Jim McPherson, Maynard Brandsma, Jeff Lash.

NOTE: Special thanks to new RCS member Earl Kessler, who kindly donated 100 FT. of new 1" Tubular webbing to the RCS in appreciation for the rock training he received last year.

Below is the RCS Training Committee call list, as of 1 Jan 1976. It would be helpful if RCS members who know they can serve as an instructor for a specific Practice Climb, would call the Tng. Comm. member responsible for them at least a week prior to that climb. This would help the Tng. Comm member meet his quota of instructors without unnecessary telephoning (\$\$\$). Dates of the remaining Practice Climbs are: Feb 7 (Rub), Mar 6 (Rub), Mar 21 (SP), Apr 25 (SP).

Dick Derusha 661-9924	Leonard Bayless 693-3035	Dick Mundweiler 633-4174
Maynard Brandsma John & Ruth Mendenhall Chuck & Ellen Wilts Nick Clinch Bob Lindgren Al Meckler Bill Barger	John & Tom Genest Jim Campbell Jene Crenshaw Helen Kilness Allan Carlson Carl & Jerry Wulf Jim Sharpsteen Wally Azbill Don Pies	Don Rappolee Barbara & Bob Schuppe Jim Erb Herb Null Jim Dutzi Emory Yount John Moore Al Fowler
Phil Bruce 861-1159	Bob Trusdale 881-3872	Andy Fried 466-0480
Craig Williams John Ripley Ed Nissen Tom Sarazen Michael Dale Mark Cole Bill Dixon Hans Lees Dick Sykes Norm Rohn Earl Kessler	Dale Stein Frank Meyers Leonard Hall Dave Burdett Barbara Lilley Harvy Hickman Jack Bradford Bob Kamps Horton Johnston Theresa Halula Mike Sherrick	Dick Stanton Jeff Lash Don Lauria Fred Wing LeRoy Russ Dan Eaton Tim Ryan Valerie Lloyd Jim Endo
Randy McDonald 842-4863	John Falcon Paul Johnson	El Segundo Hawthorne 5213 W 138th 1221 Sycamore El Segundo
Ron Master Jim & Ray McPherson George Fowles Al Toering Dan King George Neuner	Dove Menke	Tom Jeter (Ch) 943-3112 Andy Fried (V. Ch) 466-0480

Tom Farson 389 PV. DR

ATTN: R C S M E M B E R S

Bylaw ChangeBylaw Article IV -- Meetings

This bylaw requires a business meeting each November. Your chairman is forming an ad hoc committee to initiate an alteration to this bylaw article:

Alteration: Annual business meeting to be held in October. The specific date to be decided by the chairman in office.

Reason: This change will allow the chapter schedule requirements and RCS officer elections, trip scheduling and leader staffing to occur smoothly. Individuals having comments should contact the RCS Secretary verbally or in writing by February 7, 1976. (LR)

MOPAH PEAK -- DEC 26-27-28

The RCS made another trip to Mopah Pk on Dec 26-27-28, and to their surprise, it was still standing. Some day someone is going to pull out the correct rock and the whole thing will come down. The people were Phil Bruce, Harry Brumer, Al Carlson, Dick Mundwiler and Jim McPherson. There was a report that the road was closed, but they found no evidence of it and tooled straight in and up the wash to the peak. On the way, they met a pair of intrepid mountaineers from the Sierra Singles. They were returning from the peak and they had brought the summit register down with them! For some reason they thought it would be better off in a filing cabinet in San Francisco than on top of the mountain. We convinced them to let us put it back!

The next morning (Sat 12/27) Phil, Harry and Al set off to climb the North Buttress, 5.4 while Dick and Jim hiked around to the west looking for an unclimbed weakness. They found one. The route would have been beautiful if the rock had been good. They 3rd-classed about 100', then Jim let the first pitch till he ran out of nuts. The only anchor he could devise was to jam an angle piton lengthwise inside a crack. Dick came up and led through. Both the first and 2nd pitches were loose but easy climbing. They were sure that as the angle increased the rock would improve. The 3rd pitch started with a long traverse followed by steep, loose climbing protected by a half-driven knife blade and 2 or 3 loosely placed nuts. Jim climbed thru an owl's nest 90' above and found a ledge where he could anchor. Dick came up and kept going. He called down that it didn't seem to be any worse above, but neither was it any better. After what seemed like hours of watching loose rock fall past him, Jim heard Dick yell to climb, so he started up. The pitch was a horror. Jim said he's never been so scared. Every handhold and foothold was loose. At the crux move the chockstone Dick had stood on to place a pin fell out. Jim cleaned the whole pitch with his fingers! At the top there was an exposed step-across on holds that had the consistency of stale bread (complete w/crumbs!). Dick was anchored to 2 bad nuts and 2 of the shakiest pins you ever saw, but at least he was on a ledge.

On that ledge they made a pact never to come back to that busy mountain again. Getting hold of his nerves, Jim collected some hardware and started the next pitch knowing that Dick's anchor would never hold a fall. The first move was around a corner and up over a chockstone just like the one that fell out from under him below. By this time it was clear that the route was going to be like this all the way up, so he just threw in a nut expecting it to fall out and committed himself. The nut did come out when he past the shaky chockstone, but the adrenalin was pumping so he kept going and about 30' above, the dehdral opened into a 3rd-class area.

There was one more 5th-class pitch above, and they finished it in the dark. It was the only solid rock they saw all day! Dick coiled the rope while Jim groped around for the summit cairn to put the register back where it belonged.

They came down the 3rd-class route in the dark with one flashlight between them, and got back to camp about 8:00 PM. The party on the North Buttress was already in camp. They had climbed to just below the 2nd from last pitch when a falling rock knocked off Phil Bruce's pack! They spent the rest of the day trying to get it back without success, finally rappelling the climbing route to get down.

Next day they all went to look for the lost pack by climbing up below where it fell. Phil and Al followed the most likely route, but a falling rock hit Al in the shoulder and he had to be helped down. They were afraid the shoulder was broken (it wasn't) and they got him down as fast as possible.

Meanwhile, Harry Brumer had spotted the pack with binoculars from below, so the effort was not lost. After this weekend McPherson says he can hardly recommend Mopah for future climbs, as it is very loose and dangerous, and not too many people are interested anyway. Perhaps we should explore El Gran Trono Blanco next year. It is in Northern Baja Calif and is made of granite!! Anyone interested in an expedition over a weekend next winter contact Jim McPherson (714) 557-4086. (JM)

YOSEMITE MASTER PLAN

Don't rely on someone else to make the decisions YOU want implemented in Yosemite's future. Get in your two cents! Get your free copy of the new Yosemite Master Plan Workbook whatever about .
Write: Yosemite Master Plan Team, c
Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123.
who knows -- maybe Yosemite might w:

BOOK REVIEW (THE DEVIL YOU SAY!)

Early ascents of El Picacho del Diablo in Baja Calif, described in 2 vivid essays by the great mountaineer Norman Clyde, are the heart of a new book just published by Dawson's Book Shop. "EL PICACHO DEL DIABLO, The Conquest of Lower California's Highest Peak, 1932 & 1937" includes Clyde's descriptions, maps, general information, and many fine black and white photographs.

The 1932 climb, believed at the time to be a first ascent (later it was learned the peak had been climbed in 1911) was made by Sierra Club climbers Norman Clyde, Bestor Robinson, Nate Clark, Glen Dawson, Dick Jones, and Walter Brem. The party set forth with lunch for one day. Three days later, hungry but successful, they returned from a rough, long, intricate assault. In 1937, Clyde and Randall Henderson of the Desert Magazine made a new route. Ski Mountaineer Nate Clark contributed most of the fine photographs, and John W. Robinson the introduction and bibliography. This hardcover book (\$15) is available at Dawson's Book Shop, 535 North Larchmont, LA 90034. Dawson's is also the place to find other mountaineering books, old, new, and rare. (RDM)

(Ed. note: The above was supposed to appear in Dec Mugelnoos, to give subscribers a jump on the public to secure this limited edition book.)

BALDY HUT CAT MYSTERY

Sighted: A light tan to beige mature cat, sunning and grooming itself on a rock 80' up from the San Antonio Ski Hut. The domestic looking feline was observed for a period of about 45 mins. It did not approach the hut, did not respond to calls, whistles. Date: Dec 21, 1975.

Sighters: Mugelnoos reporter Norman Kingsley (who is also the November Editor), his wife Anna-Lisa and 5 yr old daughter Gaby. Thinking the cat might belong to someone staying at the hut, Norm went over to find only Mark Ikeda there who had no knowledge of the animal and was not interested in investigating. The Kingsleys speculate the cat is making a good 'living' off the tiny mice that live underneath the hut, but wonder what happens when all the mice are eaten up? Look out hut goers, the cat might get you next, or hikers heading up to the summit might be gobbled up. How'd the cat get up there? Your guess is as good as anyones. John Wedberg swears it must have been trucked up by an MTC ice ax practice group! (NK)

MORE LETTERS ON MSR-NPS LAWSUIT

Dear Editor,

The source of the article on the MSR lawsuit against the Nat'l Park Service was the Sept 75 issue of the Mountain Safety Research Newsletter. This was inadvertently left out of the Nov 75 issue of Mugelnoos, perhaps implying an official stand taken by the Sierra Club.

This suit is the result of what MSR and others feel are unreasonable Park Service use restrictions at Mt Rainier Nat'l Park. The Park Service does not always reach an appropriate balance between use and preservation. (A permit was even denied for crevasse rescue practice!) There is just as much right to challenge the legality of restricting entry to a park as there is to challenge the legality of permitting a road to be built thru a park for non-park use. If the Park Service is acting illegally, it should be stopped.

Barbara Lilley

Dear Editor,

I think the following clipping from the Far West Ski Assn News for Dec 75 deserves attention, especially regarding the controversy over Yosemite planning, and also the MSR lawsuit. Having seen some of this myself in Europe and Norway, I'm more convinced than ever that the Sierra Club's position on wilderness is the right one.

(below I've condensed the Far West editorial--Ed.)

Jim Sharpsteen

An eyewitness report from a former "open trail" advocate after his tour in the Alps: "After a climbing trip to the Alps, where they have no restrictions as we do, and where nobody keeps tabs on who's climbing what, I was appalled by the conditions I experienced. On Mt Blanc, a hut with a bunk capacity of 75 was crowded with more than 300 climbers -- 2 per mattress, on and under tables, jamming aisles. Garbage-disposal consisted of tossing the hut's wastes down an icy chute directly below the single, 2-holer john. Far below, climbers heading for the hut fill their canteens with glacial water polluted from above, no warning signs. Later, on the Matterhorn, one was seldom off the crowded route as long as he could grasp a feces-stained rock projection."

Royal Members only: [unclear] [unclear]

We need your "yea or nay" vote on 2 items: (1) Do we accept Royal Robbins as an Honorary RCS Member? (2) Do we continue to hold an Annual RCS Picnic?

