



No. 519 -- March 17, 1976

A newsheet published by the Ski Mountaineers and Rock Climbing Sections of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter. Send subscriptions and address changes to: Tim Ryan, 708 Loma, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. Subscriptions \$2 per year. This is a 4 page issue

SMALL BUT GOOD

On the March 7 Local Checkout Tour, three participants and one fearless leader toured the summit of Mt. Waterman. It was a clear and windless Sunday morning. The descent was enlivened with excellent spring snow conditions. The skiers were: Mary Omberg, Ed Omberg, R. J. Secor, and Sigmund Meieran. RJS

HURRICANE AT RUBIDOUX

The scheduled March 6 Rock Climb at Mt. Rubidoux Park was a breezy operation! When students and faculty were signing-in at 9 AM the wind gusts must have been at least 40 MPH. The intrepid mountaineers prevailed, however and a full day was spent at belay anchors, rappelling, and prussik. For the stay-at-homes, it should be noted that the Belay Anchor part of the Proficiency Card now includes placement of chocks, pitons and natural runners. There are two more practice climbs this year: March 21, at Stony Pt., and April 25, also at Stony Pt. Instructors in attendance were Jim Endo, Herb Null, Dick Mundwiler, Al Toering, Jim McPherson, Jerry Wulf, Randy McDonald, George Neuner, Jack Bradford, John Ripley, Jim Erb and LeRoy Russ. Non-Members Dave Hornby and Glen Graebic also assisted. EY

LEAP YEAR AT BIG ROCK -- MS. SCHEDULING

The careful planning of the RCS Schedulers went all for naught, at least as far as the February 29 Climb at Big Rock was concerned. The event was attended by not a single, single female. The clever schedulers had contrived a diabolical plan whereby BOTH of the Climb Leaders were to have been female and single in the hopes that this once-in-four-years event would be a real Leap Year outing. As it turned out, neither leader could attend but substitute Leader Dale Stein brought his wife, so it wasn't a complete shut-out. Planners: try again in 1980! EY

FEB. 14 RESCUE SEMINAR

Would you pass-up a three day weekend for a one day trip? Instructors Tidball, Cunningham, Jeter, Youngberg, Lantz and Fried as well as 32 other dedicated persons did--for a jointly sponsored SPS/RCS rescue seminar. Among those attending were members of both sections, along with persons involved with LTC and BMTC. In addition, there were observer/participants from the National Speleological Society, the Sierra Madre S/R and the Los Padres S/R.

Among the exercises conducted were: Lowering injured climbers by various methods, on steep faces, raising climber on similar face, and aiding a fallen climber hanging by a swami from an overhang; it was observed that most participants were able to prussik to the victim and put him/her into a full body harness in well under 20 minutes. This last problem was, perhaps, the most difficult and the most fun. The victim was then hoisted up with a "Z" system as soon as enough climbers arrived to man it. Special credit goes to Dennis for hanging around all day. Andy Fried asks that all who participated that day please send their comments and suggestions to him--508 N. Bronson Av., L.A. 90004. AF

RCS MAILING WITH THIS ISSUE

In the envelope which brings this Mugelnoos to you (RCS members), you should receive the following:

1. List of Section Climbs
2. Emergency Card--dime not included; if you would like the dime, please send 10¢ and a SASE and allow 30 days for handling!
3. RCS By-laws
4. Current RCS membership roster, thanks to Mary Yount's typing; member-response in returning the SAS info cards was poor.

Future corrections to items 1, 3, and 4 will be made via the Mugelnoos.

You are urged to do your part in helping keep the RCS Secretary up to date on your changes to name, address, phone number, etc. LR

MUGELNOOS STAFF

EDITOR Lloyd Balsam
MUGELMAILER. Tim Ryan
MUGELGRAPHER Mary Ferguson
REPORTERS: John Wedberg, Ruth and John Mendenhall, Barbara Lilley, Emory Yount, R.J. Secor, Andy Fried, LeRoy Russ, Tom Jeter, and Ron Master.

NEXT EDITOR: Tom Jeter
15520 Wilmaglen
Whittier, CA 90604
Phone: (213) 943-3112

NEXT ISSUE: 21 April 1976
DEADLINE: Friday, 16 April

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS: 3rd Wed. of each mo. 7:30 PM, Lemon Grove Rec. Ctr. (7:00 PM for Ski Mountaineers equipment talks), 4959 Lemon Grove Av., Hollywood--near Melrose & Normandie. Programs, eats. All are welcome.

C A L E N D A R

- 21 March Practice Climb, Stony Point
- 21-22 Mar. SPS/SMS joint trip, Diamond Pk.
- 27-28 Mar. San G. Wilderness ski tour.
- 31 March 1st Aid Class sign-up closes
- 3-4 April Rock Climb, Joshua Tree
- 10-11 Apr. Onion Valley Ski Tour
- 17 April Rock Climb, Sespe Gorge
- 21 April MUGELNOOS MEETING--SMS Elect'ns
- 24-25 Apr. Pear Lake ski tour
- 24-25 Apr. Keller Ski Hut, work party
- 25 April Practice Climb, Stony Point
- 25 May Ski Mountaineers Annual Banquet

WELCOME TO NEW SKI MTNEER

James Angione
8022 Swan Cr.
La Palma, CA 90623 (714) 865-2721

FIRST AID CLASSES

Registration for the first-aid classes for RCS Leaders--described in detail in the February MUGELNOOS--closes March 31st. Call LeRoy Russ for your reservation, (213) 295-9703. LR

MILES' BROKEN

Condolences to Miles Brubacher. Miles broke a leg skiing Baldy in mid-February, first time in 26 years on the white stuff. He (and we) hope its 26+ years 'till next time. JW

YOUR VINYL RESTING PLACE

RCS or Ski Mountaineer members in the mkt. for a waterbed (ideal for Sierra trips where water is plentiful and free--ed) can get a substantial discount through RCS member Ron Master, prop. of Ron's Waterbeds shop. Call him at home, (213) 598-4705, in Seal Beach. He can arrange delivery. RM

"DAN'S" QUITTS

Dan's Skking and Mountaineering, one of the few stores in California to carry Alpine touring equipment, is having a Going-Out-of-Business Sale during March. The store is at 844 W. Lancaster Blvd., in Lancaster. Phone ahead to be sure they'll be open when you arrive. (805) 942-0804. BJJ

CLIMBING EQUIPMENT AT A DISCOUNT

Arrangements are being made to obtain a group purchase of rock climbing equipment at discount prices for RCS members, probably sometime in May. Contact Tom Jeter, 943-3112, for equipment available, prices, and other details or write him--see left.

EVEREST LECTURE
APRIL 6th

In 1975, a tremendous mountaineering feat was accomplished by Britishers Dougal Haston and Doug Scott. These men were the Summit Team which successfully conquered the previously unclimbed southwest face of Everest. Haston and Scott will be in Los Angeles on April 6 to present a feature-length slide-show of their ascent--8:00 PM at West Ridge Sports, 11930 W. Olympic Bl., West Los Angeles. \$2.00 donations will be accepted. This is sure to be a memorable lecture by two of the most capable mountaineers in the world today. TJ/RDM

WANTED: Pair of used, lace-type ski boots. Street shoe size 9. John D Mendenhall, (213) 793-0806.

SKI MOUNTAINEERS ELECTIONS ARE "GO"

Although this can almost be called the "year with no winter" (last year was the "year with no spring"), the April 21 MUGELNOOS meeting is Ski Mountaineers ELECTION TIME AGAIN. The elections will be held after the regular meeting and program. With good luck, the new Ski Mountaineering movie will be available for showing: see yourself in action! But, in any event, and even if you blame this year's Central Committee for the current drought, all loyal SMS members are urged to attend this one meeting, at least, and socialize, vote, reminisce about good snow years, and **DEFEND THEMSELVES FROM BEING ELECTED!** BJJ

MT. WATERMAN FROM THE EAST

An exclusive group of 3 tourers, Steve Wilkie, Jim Angione and John Mendenhall, had an enjoyable ascent of the 8038' peak on the SMS scheduled tour on February 22. The views were superb and the snow-ice-snow prevented boredom. JDM

MT. WATERMAN FROM THE WEST

John Mendenhall made the 1700' ascent to the summit of Waterman from the west on March 7. The skiing was superbly isolated and he had the rounded snow ridges all to himself. JDM

PACKERS' QUOTAS

In the February 18 issue of the MUGELNOOS, Earl Kesler raised the question of quotas in the mountain areas, and whether the Packers have an arrangement whereby they are able to reserve a (substantial?) % for their customers. Barbara Lilley has checked and found that Sierra packers and their customers are excluded from the back-packers quotas for entry into the Sierra. It is not known if the packers have quotas of their own. RIT

The Sierra Club's second annual Environmental Expo is to be held on Sunday, April 25th, 11 AM-5 PM--at the Cheviot Hills Recreation Center, 2551 Motor Avenue, Rancho Park. The Expo has expanded into an exhibition of the Angeles Chapter's many activities. Sierra Club members from the Climbing, Conservation, Backpacking, Bicycling, Rafting and other activity groups will have demonstrations, display booths, films, and slide presentations. Other local conservation groups have also been invited to participate. It's an opportunity to find out how to get the most out of the Club's activities, socialize, and acquaint newcomers with the Sierra Club.

The Expo will include a Bake Sale and an Arts and Crafts Sale to defray expenses. If you can contribute, please contact Kathy Defani (Bake goods) 559-3094, or Doug Silvestri (Arts & Crafts goods) 392-7516. Also, volunteers are needed for general assistance. Please contact LeRoy Russ (213) 295-9703, or Emory Yount (714) 525-5196.

SOLO CLIMB PROVES NEARLY DISASTROUS

An experienced ski mountaineer, Bart Baxter, 25 year old San Francisco-based Coast Guard Search & Rescue pilot, spent 6 fearsome days at the end of February trudging through and digging himself out of 7 foot snowdrifts after failing in a long-ambition, winter solo climb of 14,162' Mt. Shasta. A predicted storm (tch,tch!--ed.) struck a day early, thwarting Baxter's goal to get quickly to the top, and get out. Subsequent whiteouts disoriented him. After several days of waiting out the white out, in a short excursion from his (adequate) tent to a nearby ridge to get his bearings for "escape", in a fleeting period of clearing, high winds obliterated his steps in the snow (his route back to the tent) and forced him to make an ice cave for shelter. Luckily (he felt this was his last chance to avoid freezing) he was able to "see out" from the ridge later that night and chart his (successful) night course down to Shasta Ski Bowl. There, none the worse for the ordeal, save the loss of his equipment, he obtained transport back to San Francisco next day. (From Braeme Gigas & Sac'to Bee, 3/2)

CLIMBERS FALL 4000 FEET TO DEATHS

Three Seattle climbers, Vernon Stiles, and Jack and Judy Amos, fell 4000' to their deaths as they approached the summit of Mt. St. Helens, February 7. Several other climbers saw the fall. The three climbers were roped together. They lost footing at the 9500' level on the 9677' peak. Another climber who had made the ascent earlier in the same day, Jim Springer of Tacoma, said conditions on the normally mild climb were "extremely tricky" that day because of ice at the higher elevations. The three victims were among a dozen climbers trying for the summit that day, but were trailing the rest of their party. Santa Ana Reg., 2/10//BJL

MAYBE "ITS GETTING CLOSER, CISCO" !?

This article is excerpted from an article in the May 1968 issue of MUGELNOOS

CAN WE WAIT THIS LONG FOR SNOW??

The winters of 1979-82 will be very wet ones in California, with lots of snow in the mountains and lots of rain in all the watersheds.....predicted. R. Curry, UCSB. Mr. Curry also forecasted that, in general, the winters between 1968 and 1977 would be progressively drier. (BUT, the year after this revelation came all-time record snowfall in the spring of 1969! 1972-73, 1973-74 and 1974-75 were also years with above average snowfall.)

Curry believed that the jet streams are the single most important factor in determining the weather of the temperate zones. ... "More than a century of weather records show that there are unusually wet periods, with seasons spaced about 15 years apart, as well as longer, overlapping cycles lasting from 70 to 90 years. Calif. has just (1968) emerged from a wet period that culminated in heavy rains and snows in the 1966-67 winter," he said.

Among the evidence Curry assembled to support his observations were rainfall records going back to 1850 in Sacramento and San Francisco, and to 1877 in Los Angeles. They also include California Mission records kept by the Franciscan fathers, starting in 1769, mining camp newspaper records, letters and field notes of early explorers and settlers, and evidence of nature itself, such as tree rings and the growth records of lichens on rocks. Mammoth Lakes newspapers (there were two!) tell of unusually severe winters from 1889 to 1897, during which the town was buried under such deep snow that the summers were not hot enough or long enough to melt it. "The bodies of miners, who were killed and disappeared, until the snow melted several years later", Curry said. "In some of the summers, the stagecoaches and mail were unable to get to the town". L.A. Times, Apr. 19, 1968, and BJL

Updated snow surveys this winter show snowpack far below normal and conclude that the 1975-76 year will be one of the driest on record, per Dept. of Water and Power. All DWP snow courses show less than 40% of normal for March 1, even though there was an increase in snow depth during February. April-September runoff in the Owens River and Momo Basin drainage areas is predicted to be only 50% of normal, assuming normal snowfall for March. About the only ones to benefit are the golf courses and sun-resorts--in the depth of winter, yet! WL.St. Jrnl.; Inyo Reg.; JW/BJL

THE TRUTH, AT LAST

Lois Malone writes from Boston of a revealing article in the February 21 Boston Globe, interviewing veteran mountaineer Jim Whittaker. Jim was the first American to reach the top of Mt. Everest. In the interview, Jim and his wife Diane, also a climber, were miserating over their bad fortune on two recent climbs:

- Their abortive, eight-month attempt to scale K-2, the world's second highest, often referred to as the tower of ice--on the border of Pakistan and China. On that one, bad weather, illnesses and 600 obstreperous porters who did not feel obliged to complete the terms of their hiring agreements, did them in. Their other, problem ascent--
- Their SUCCESSFUL ascent of Mt. Everest, was heavily saddened by the loss of one of their number, Jake Breidenbach, in a tragic icefall accident; on that same climb, two other team-members lost all their toes and one other member lost some finger-tips.

In a serious tone, Whittaker said, "You never know what will happen to people under stress. You don't know how they'll change under dangerous conditions. The most important thing about choosing a team to assault a mountain is making certain they are compatible." Diane added, "That's right! Remember what one of the men who led one of the first expeditions on K-2 said: 'Mountain climbing is something that makes you want to kill your best friend over a lump of sugar!'"

The interview ranged into some of the details surrounding the above and at a sort of "grand finale" question, the interviewer asked, "What makes a good mountain climber?" Whittaker broke into a smile and replied, "It takes a man with no brains;" Whittaker said "They say the reason that climbers rope-up is so that the smart ones won't leave!"

LM

MORE "TRUTH" (?) REVEALED

In the forthcoming book, POWERS OF MIND, by Adam Smith, pro athletes such as Jack Nicklaus and John Brodie sound like Zen masters describing their altered states of consciousness through sports. But for the person interested in heavy Oriental Mysticism, T. M., E. S. P., or other "packaged schools of meditation," Smith recommends rock climbing, which, he says, first focuses attention completely, and then afterwards opens up the mind and permits a new state of awareness: "That's why people take-on activities that demand total attention (such as) mountain climbing . . . where penalties for non-concentration are so great that even the language-using mind shuts-up for a minute because it understands that at least for a few minutes it is better to get out of the way. The language-using mind gets to come back and write the whole thing up for the Sierra Club Bulletin; now time slows down and the climber is suddenly aware of all the crystals on the rocks."

Well, even if it doesn't explain why you climb mountains, it sure beats,
"Because it is there." From THE PITCH, January, 1976/JW

GOOD NEWS

In spite of the low snowpack in the Sierra and in the Southland, the early March snowstorms that dropped four feet of new snow at Mammoth (total of eight feet there, now) gives rise to reasonable speculation, maybe even prediction that all Alpine ski tours for the Ski Mountaineers can now go as scheduled. About the worst of it may be only that there will be a little more carrying of skis than was necessary during the last 3 above normal snow years.

BJL

INCREASED THERMAL ACTIVITY AT MOUNT BAKER

The increase in steaming and fumarolic activity at Mount Baker, Washington, that began a year ago has not diminished and in some aspects has intensified. Univ of Washington scientist David Frank says that clusters of hundreds of new fumaroles have doubled the area of snow-free ground and have melted large ice pits in the normally glacier-filled Sherman crater. Two of the ice pits contain frigid, shallow lakes. New clusters of fumaroles continue to appear through the melting ice. Fumarole temperatures have been at the boiling point; many are still inaccessible. A 1/2" thick blanket of ash coats the snow in the crater; the ash is largely secondary minerals, old rock fragments and pyrite-covered sulphur droplets. Earthquake Info. Bull., Spt-Oct. 75