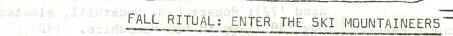


No. 527 - November 17, 1976

A newssheet published by the Ski Mountaineers and Rock climbing Sections of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter. Send subscriptions & address changes to: Tim Ryan, 708 Loma, Hermosa Beach, 90254. Subscriptions \$2 per year. This is a 6 page issue.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO MUGELNOUS PAST DUE

Send in your two bucks to Tim Ryan (address above), if not already done. Otherwise, this may be your last issue! Mugelnoos subscription is required to maintain section membership in RCS & Ski Mountaineers. Delinquent subscribers list appears elsewhere in this issue.



May thru October the Rock Climbing Section handles Mugelnoos programming. The Ski Mountaineers enter the picture November, and continue thru April. The traditional November program will be a ski-movie and slides put on by Mark Goebel - it promises an evening of delightful entertainment for climbers and skiers alike. The RCS resumes its practice climbs and instructional sessions in December. Beginners are urged to participate now, while the opportunity is afforded. Contact an RCS officer for details on this season's rope classes and beginners climbs.

The Ski Mountaineers will have many one day beginners ski tours as soon as adequate local snow permits. Those interested in joining SMS on a scheduled overnight Sierra tour should receive an equipment checkout ($\frac{1}{2}$ hr prior to any Mugelnoos meeting), and appear on a local checkout tour to determine applicant's ability and condition. SMS ski tours are fairly strenuous, and entail skiing with packs in varying snow conditions. This is alpine skiing, not Nordic and applicants are required to know how to ski (the SMS does not teach skiing). Nordic 'skinny-skiers' are urged to seek the Chapter's Snow Touring Committee.

SKI MOUNTAINEERS SECTION ALPINE SKI TOURING SCHEDULE 1076 77

	SKI MOUNTAINEERS SECTION ALPINE SKI TOURING SCHEDULE, 1976-77	adonistin di . ::
2/12/76 1/9/77 /22 – 23/77 /29–30/77 5–6/77 *	So. Calif. Mtns. "checkout" tour So. Calif. Mtns. "checkout" tour Mammoth/June Mtn. skiing & "checkout" tour Pear Lake Hut tour (second choice) backpack Pear Lake Hut tour (first choice date) backpack "" G. Shin G. Wilt	no - 664-1534 y - 375-4882 no - 664-1534 ss - 379-6833
/13/77 /19-20/77 /27/77 /5-6/77 /12-13/77 /13/77 /19-20/77 ,2-3/77 /16-17/77	San Antonio Hut tour (backpack) So. Calif. Mtns. "checkout" tour San Antonio Hut tour (backpack) Mt. Bradley: joint trip with SPS (backpack) So. Calif. Mtns. "checkout" tour San Gorgonio Wilderness tour (backpack) Union Valley (car camp) tour	erman 391-6076 erg - 472-6768 enhall 793-0806 erg - 472-6768 le - 376-9090 - 781-4576 no - 664-1534 s - 379-6833
/23-24/77 00 /30-5/1/77 00 /14-15/77 00 /21-22/77 /24/77 ·28-30/77 /4-5/77	Mammoth skiing / Convict Lake area tour Pear Lake tour (backpack) Ski Mountaineers Pk. (Thompson Ridge) (backpack) San Joaquin Pk. tour / Mammoth skiing Annual Ski Mountaineers Banquet Ritter Range tour (backpack) Rock Creek area tour (backpack) M. Goeb M. Bran	el - 820-1962 herd - 838-9617 s - 255-9521 le - 376-9090 - 375-4882 el - 820-1962 dsma - 285-9613 ey - 886-4154

* Final date will be announced in December issue of Mugelnoos. NOTE: All scheduled tours are subject to cancellation/relocation due to unpredictable snow conditions. Call leader well in advance. And starting right now, THINK SNOW! (BL)

More SMS information on inside pages

community for putting snow over. You did it. !!

and district to the same

MUGELNOOS STAFF

Norman Kingsley MUGELMAILER Tim Ryan MUGELGRAPHER Mary Ferguson REPORTERS: Walt & Edie Davie, Braeme Gigas, Mark Goebel, Tom Jeter, Barbara Lilley, Ruth D. Mendenhall, Royal Robbins, LeRoy Russ, Tim Ryan

NEXT EDITOR:

John Wedberg

1374 Stradella

Los Angeles CA 90024

472-6768

NEXT ISSUE: DEADLINE:

December 15, 1976

Friday, Dec. 10, 1976

CALENDAR

- RCS Safety & Trng Cmte members Nov. 20 practice climb, Stony Pt. Contact: Dick De Rusha
- AnChap Schedule deadline, get Nov. 22 your writeups in.
- Nov. 27- Joshua Tree climb, members and guests: Contact: Bob & Barbara Schuppe.
- RCS Stony Pt. practice climb. Dec. 12 Contact: Norm Rohn
- SMS local alpine tour & check-Dec. 12 out. Contact: George Shinno
- SMS/RCS Mugelnoos meeting. Equ-Dec. 15 ipment 7pm, meeting 7:30pm

MUGELNUDS MEETINGS, 3rd Wednesday of ea. month, 7:30pm, Lemon Grove Recreation Center, 4959 Lemon Grove Ave., L.A., just off Hwd. Fwy. near Melrose exit. Trip news, program, refreshments, etc. Skiers, climbers, guests welcome!

NEW ADDRESS

Dave Field

Gail Wilts (Field)

26 4th Street, Hermosa Beach CA 90254

Phone: 379-6833

Dec. 15 Mugelnoos program: "Ski Mtrng in the Alps" by Great Britain Ski Club Pres Kirstein. Mr. Kirstein, age 70+ still going strong, a REAL skier. Great show!

RCS ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

At a recent meeting, RCS ballots were tabulated and the new slate was made known. Fred Wing assumes the 'Chair'. Andy Fried, Vice-Chairman; John Ripley, Secretary-Treasurer; Safety Cmte head Dick De Rusha; Honorary Membership Cmte head John Ripley. Other committee assignments have not been finalized. They will appear in the next edition of Mugelnoos. Meantime, we all wish Fred, Andy and John much success in continuing the traditions of RCS leadership.

RCS FINDS OLD-TIME HONORARY MEMBERS

Royal Robbins was the first RCS member to become an Honorary Member under the current (73) Bylaws, and was awarded the appropriate document at the RCS Oct. 24 picnic. However, there have been two previous Honorary Members, under the old Bylaws, which stated no one was eligible who had belonged to the RCS. This unknown fact was unearthed by John Ripley, member of the Sierra Club History Committee, who has read all available RCS documents. Norman Clyde was elected in Oct. '37 (he died '72); Robert L.M. Underhill, elected May '38 lives in New Hampshire.

OLD MYSTERY SEALED

Historian John Ripley, after studying ancient Mugelnoos'es wants to know why Ray Ingwersen used to be known as "Unborn Seals", even in official minutes. Does anyone remember?? (RDM)

OLD MUGELNOOSES STILL BADLY NEEDED

Out of 300 subscribers, doesn't anyone have some early issues of the 1950's that could be used to complete the file of the past 39 years for the A.A.C. library??!! These Mugelnoos will be bound and saved for all mountaineers! use. Needed are: 1950: Jan(205); Mar-Aug(207-212); Nov, Dec (215,216). 1951: Jan-Nov(217-227). 1952: Entire year (229-240). 1953: Jan-April (241-244). Copies of real oldies given in return ('38-'44) Please contact Ruth Mendenhall, 335 Sequoia, Pasadena 91105 (RDM)

MINUTES OF SKI-MOUNTAINEERS SECTION CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING, Oct. 26, 1976

Meeting held at Club's Chapter headquarters; present were D. Mantle, M. Goebel, G. Wilts, B. Lilley, M. Brandsma.

Old Business: No money for completion of SMS ski mountaineering film available from Sierra Club (cost \$500); a tax deductible donation could be made to Sierra Club Foundation for this purpose - any takers? New equipment list is now available. G. Shinno will handle sale of ski-mtrng equipment at meetings. Mugelnoos meetings will remain at Lemon Grove thru next scheduling period.

New Business: More SMS patches will be made up when moneys available. Freeman Allen was made a Qualified Leader(T) for 5MS. The Spring schedule was planned (the complete SMS 1976-77 touring schedule appears on front page). A summer trip was tentatively scheduled for Sept. 10-11. Mugelnoos programs were tentatively planned as follows:

Nov. 17 - Ski mountaineering movie & slides by Mark Goebel

Dec. 15 - Ski Mountaineering in Europe - slides by Mr. Kirstein (see above)

Jan. 19 - South American peak bagging - slides

Feb. 16 - Canoeing thru the wilds of Canada - T. Parke

Mar. 16 - Peak bagging in Montana and New Mexico - B. Lilley

Apr. 20 - Mountaineering program by "West Ridge"

(For more up-to-date information, contact the person listed as "Program Arranger" for that meeting night.) (BL)

R.C.S. PICNIC A BLAST

Over a hundred people showed up for free lunch, beer and climbing at the RCS annual picnic, Oct. 24, at Big Rock.

Climbing was wondrous to behold, as the likes of Royal Robbins, Chuck Wilts, John Long, Don Lauria, Bob Kamps and John Mendenhall simultaneously did their thing on interesting routes. Royal had never climbed at Big Rock before, so the wily Emory Yount sensing an opportunity, enticed him into leading a particularly devilish route called "Northwest Passage" as his first climb.

Robbins quickly climbed up to the crux in elegant style and looked it over for a few seconds. Then the great Master backed off without comment and downclimbed in equally elegant style. This proved irresistable for undauntable Dick Mundwiler, who immediately challenged the same route. Dick suffered three consecutive leader falls of 15 feet attempting the aforementioned crux.

The climbing continued in this vein, hot and heavy, into the early afternoon. Then, the free lunch was attacked with the same gusto as previously evidenced on the rock. There was enough food to feed an army, but by the same token there was an army there to eat the food. By the end of the day, not a crumb was left, and everyone went home looking forward to next year's picnic.

Special thanks go to Phil Bruce for honcho'ing the booze and carting everything to the picnic site. Donna Mroczkowski, Karen Mounsey, and Larry Tidball for the Herculean task of preparing the food; Barbara Stanton and all the others who contributed tasty dishes to the repast.

GRADE SYSTEM FOR SKI-TOURS

Now that the UIAA-grade system is standard useage in the western world, the question arises why there's no similar method in use for skiing. Currently, tours are described in ways that tell much about the subjectivity of the person describing the tour: i.e. 'strenuous at high altitude, experienced mountaineers only (Mt. Shasta); good skiers required on steep snowfields, timing critical (Lassen Peak); medium difficult skiing, half day tour (Red Lake Pk.); difficult, strenuous tour, high alpine character (Mt. Walt); technically easy, with sudden elevation change (San Jacinto)". These are good and fair descriptions. But they tell one nothing of difficulties that might be encountered.

It's obvious the development of a ski-grading system presents greater problems than did the current method of grading rock: rock stays the same day in and out, snow and avalanche conditions are in flux.

Rating ski tours, we consider steepness, breadth of runs, gullies, danger from rock ribs bordering runs, exposed boulders, sudden drop-offs, relative avalanche dangers dependent upon conditions, and crevasse or snow-bridge areas. "Normal" or "average" snow conditions would have to furnish basic criteria on which to base ratings. The big difference between the following suggested ski ratings, and current rock methods, would be that where rock-grades indicate technical difficulty, whereas ski-grades indicate possible dangers.

Proposed Grading System

- I Relatively flat terrain
- II Slightly steep terrain, broad bowls, no crevasses or 'schrunds', good run outs, suitable for beginners.
- III Steep, but open terrain up to 30° grade. Under good snow cover conditions, minimum rock-studding or cliff-bordering. No crevasse danger if on glacier. Touring experience necessary.
- IV Moderately steep terrain, average over 30°. Narrowing gullies, couloirs, bordered by rock, cliffs, that offer danger in event of fall. Crevasse danger if on glacier, route-finding expertise through crevassed regions required.
- V Extremely steep terrain, over 45°. Narrow couloirs, gullies requiring precise quick-turn skill. Rock-and-boulder studded runs. Extensively crevassed regions if on glacier. Tours requiring extensive experience and courage.
- VI Extreme terrain. Cliffs; icy, steep runs, fatal falls possible if uncontrolled, belayed travel mandatory. Extremely high avalanche danger; route through unpredictable ice-falls; or route through narrow snow gullies on steep rock faces. Only for highly competent, experienced technical skiers.
- VII Heini Holzer's type of ski-tour.

Avalanche conditions are described as follows in conjunction with the above method of rating/grading ski-tours.

(Proposed Ski Grading System, cont'd)

- A No possibility of avalanche, even under bad conditions.
- B Little possibility of avalanche under normal conditions.
- C Danger of slab-avalanche.
- D Danger of spring wet-snow avalanche.
- E Especially dangerous under heavy, new snowfall conditions.
- Constant danger from avalanches at all times.

Comments and criticism?



LETTERS NEEDED TO SAVE STONY POINT (Please)

Climbers need to realize that like other 'endangered species', their continued existance depends totally on preservation of their natural habitat. At the RCS annual business meeting two weeks ago, Al Fowler reminded us that the 'Big Rock' climbing area was saved from dynamiters by the timely lobbying of the San Gorgonio Chapter RCS.

The time has come for the Angeles Chapter RCS to do the same thing for Stony Point! Briefly, Stony Point is up for sale by the owners. It's been offered the City of Los Angeles for \$180,000 if it can be made into a public park. This concept is endorsed by our Chapter's Ex-Com who resolved that 'Stoney' be acquired for continued as a rock-climbing, et al, area. Now, the owners of the area stated that unless significant progress toward the above end is seen by the end of the year, they will sell the property for commercial development. Thus, the fate of Stony Point will be decided in the coming months.

What is needed is a letter from YOU and all your climbing friends, expressing your views to: Councilman Robert M. Wilkinson

8444 Reseda Blvd., Suite D Northridge, CA 91324

for further information, petitions to circulate, contact Tom Jeter, chairman, Sierra Club Stony Point Task Force, 15520 Wilmaglen, Whittier, CA 90604 (TJ)

RETRACTION ON A OCT 20 'MUGELNOOS' STORY re 'ROPE BROKE'

An item in last months 'Mugelnoos' reprinted from the pages of the S.M. Evening Outlook, told of Robert Locke killed on Mt. Watkins when he fell and his rope broke. Since then, more accurate information has been uncovered by W. & E. Davie, and Royal Robbins.

Edie Davie sent a UPI story datelined Yosemite, stating 'Climber's Rope Not Cause of Fall To Death' -i.e. "it apparently was severed, possibly by the weight of Locke body or by equipment smashing it against the rock wall as he fell".

Now, Royal Robbins sent your editor a very comprehensive letter he wrote Yosemite Park HQ, summarizing results of an investigation into the events he conducted with YNP personnel Bill Wendt, John Dill and Dale Bard. Quoting Robbins' letter:

"Locke fell, etc. Falkenstein stopped the fall and looked over to see Locke hanging from a badly damaged rope. As Falkenstein lowered Locke to a ledge, the rope parted. Locke fell an additional 150 ft before being stopped by his 11mm haul-line." Robbins describes Locke's fall as a pendulum, fall factor less than 1, not statically held. But how had the rope been cut? Consensus is: Locke, falling right to left, smashed into the portion of his rope leading down to his belayer. It was cut by Locke's hardware, though whether by hammer, pitons, nuts, or carabiners is uncertain. Pieces of broken carabiner were found, with edges of almost knife-like sharpness. "Locke was carrying a sling of 7mm Edelrid rope which was smashed and cut in a manner similar to his climbing rope. A small uncut part of the rope was weakened in the fall, and parted after holding Locke for a few moments." (RR)

RCS, SMS, SPS VETERANS ARKEL ERB, GRAHAM STEPHENSON LOST

Chapter and Section members mourned the loss of pioneer members Arkel Erb and Graham Stephenson. Both took a fatal fall near the summit of Dunagiri (23,184' Nepal). Details were amply described in the press, so won't be repeated here. 'Arky's' wife Ruth saw it all happen.

Arkel had been with the Section for as long as anyone can remember. He was an avid mountaineer, and an experienced one at that. Graham Stephenson too was a veteran. One wonders how two such competent, experienced, climbers can get the chop. Yet, realistically we know that even the most competent climber can get into trouble. When that trouble occurs at 22,000 ft., there's often little that can be done. The body and mind have trouble functioning in coordination at that height. Placing a simple anchor becomes a mind-boggling excercise, whether one is young or middleaged as these two were. It should be mentioned that Arkel's rope-mate was young (19) John Baruch, while Graham had Benjamin Casasola, insurance exec, politico, from Mexico D.F.

All we can say is that we're damn sorry. But having known Arkel, we wonder if he would have had it any other way — like in a car on a Freeway? Not Arkel. (BG, RDM, I

Following persons have send in your two bucks			to Mu	ugelnoos. If you	ı ar	e not include	d here,		
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ALPINE RESEARCH 'RAMER' BINDING

Here is an excerpt from a letter written by Paul C. Ramer, President, Alpine Research Inc., Route 4, Box 344, Golden, CULO 80401 on 9-15-76.

"Now for some good news. The 1977 RAMER binding incorporates some major structural improvements over the one you now own. We had very few reports of parts failure from our 1976 customers, except for those who used the binding for extreme bump skiing. While we still do not recommend that the RAMER be used in the bumps, the changes we have made will make it much more durable, especially in the heel clamp and spindle area. (How does the 'Ramer' perform in the 'grinds', Ed.???) We are therefore offering a 'Retrofit Kit' to 1976 RAMER binding owners which includes the new steel toe pieces, stiffer toe wires, all of the components of the new heel clamp system, and the new instruction booklet.

with this kit it will be possible for you to update your binding to the current standards, or set up another pair of skis without buying a complete binding. The cost is \$20 postage paid. You can obtain a Retrofit Kit from your dealer or directly from Alpine Research, Inc. Be sure to mention your binding serial number in all correspondence.

Also, the price of the Superclimber Kit has been reduced to \$8.00. If you own a good pair of skins, you can really do some outrageous things with the Superclimber."

(Wow! Dutrageous things with skins? If only the Marquis de Sade were alive to participate. Don't nobody tell the Vice Squad: Ed.)

LOCAL SKI AREA NEWS

Mountain High in the Wrightwood area (Formerly called Blue Ridge) installed a new double chairlift on Oct. 4, using a twin turbojet helicopter, first of its kind used for chairlift installation in the Angeles National Forest. Ten towers were installed, not only saving time but eliminating damage to the forest caused by building access roads.

Snow Summit has installed snow-making to the top. Info phone (800)472-4071 toll free. Most other areas have also increased their snow-making capacity. Mt. Baldy has replaced their old breakaway access chair with a modern, high speed lift. Permission for construction of the Stockton Flats chairlift has been received from the Forest Service and work on it is expected to begin soon.

(cont'd next page)

(local ski area news, continued)

At Mt. Waterman, after 34 years of faithful service, the first chairlift ever to serve Southern California was replaced by a 1200 passenger per hour double chairlift. This, plus limited parking, should provide the least crowded weekend skiing (for advanced skiers) in So. California.

(from FWSA News, 10-15-76)

(BL)

"R.E.I." STORE FUR SOUTHLAND

From Ruth Mendenhall, a card: " REI (the Coop) plans a store for the L.A. area within the next year, according to an item in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Corroberation: Former RCS'er Dick Sykes (ex-chairman) is being considered by REI for general manager post of this new store which will be in the Carson or Torrance area. Let's keep our fingers crossed for Dick.

BIG MOUTH EDITOR SHOOTS IT OFF — Again?

Celebrating the start of the '76-77 ski season, many of you SMS readers are looking over your equipment, getting ready for what we all hope will be a 'snowful' winter.

Most of you have been ski-mountaineering for many years, just as I have. You've seen equipment change drastically, although basically you're still doing it on alpine skis and skins. And there's the rub. More and more young skiers are forsaking traditional alpine equipment while making serious tours using Nordic equipment.

While spendign the summer in the Canadian Rockies, we met numerous northern colleagues who spend winters ski-mountaineering on 'skinny skis'. Example, the warden of the Mt. Ike Youth Hostel, and three friends, ski-toured from Banff area to Mt. Robson. Actually, they started up from Vermillion Pass, to the Wenkchengma Ridge, down into Yoho, over Howse Pass, past Coronation; then the Lyall icefield, the Columbia and Clemenceau icefields, Chaba glacier to Hooker, and on up to Yellowhead Pass, thence north through B.C. to Lynx and Robson. They measured 48,000 feet elevation gain in eleven days. All wore Nordic mountain skis, with 3-pin bindings, while carrying 12-day loads. No equipment failure was experienced.

The point is that skiers quite proficient on Nordic skis are completing tours that were formerly thought to be the sole preserve of ski-mountaineers. Naturally, the average Nordic skier can't complete such routes. The key is 'proficiency'. Right in our Chapter, there are developing Nordic skiers who'll someday do mountaineering routes. Just last winter, Dick Ramirez, Tim Ryan and some others including your editor, did tours that previously went only to ski-mtrs. So, the question arises, how long until the Ski-Mountaineers join the skinny-skiers, and vice-versa? Do we really need two totally seperate groups? Wouldn't we be better off in future simply having one organization that two types of outings, Nordic and alpine?

RCS'ers AXED AT ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Following RCS members were dropped at the Nov. 3, 1976, meeting:

JENE CRENSHAW JOHN GENEST DUN LAURIA MIKE SHERRICK MICHAEL DALE TOM GENEST RAY MCPHERSON DALE STEIN BILL DIXON THERESA HALULA NORM ROHN BOB STIRTON JIM DUTZI HARVEY HICKMAN JOHN (Tom) SARAZEN KAREN รบทบนูบIST DAN EATON JIM HOSTE BARBARA SCHUPPE DICK SYKES GEORGE FOWLES HELEN KILNESS BOB SCHUPPE JERRY WULF GLENN GRABIEC

Section D (REINSTATEMENT) A former member who wishes to regain active status may do so by complying with Article III, Sec. A(1)(2)(4) &(5b) and by thereafter submitting his request to the Secv-Trees.

Article III Section A (ENTRANCE REQUIREMENT) 1) Sierra Club membership. 2) Active participation during one climbing season as defined by RCS officers, in 4 scheduled climbs of the AnChap RCS. Each day of instruction or active climbing shall count as one climb.

(4) Subscription to Mugelnoos. (5b) Formal approval of membership application by the Safety Committee, as directed under Article VII, Sec. A (LR)

If you can lead on RCS climbs, it's essential you contact Fred Wing soonest. Deadline for new Schedule is Nov. 22nd and we need leaders badly. (AF)

*

One climber to another: "Guess what, Rurp McGoon, the guy you shared that hanging bivvy in a hammock with, was run over by an Off-Road Vehicle!"
"That's dreadful answers the other, "those damn ORV's will even get you on a hangin bivvy?"

CLUSING TIP: When in the Canadian Rockies you get tired of being rained out of your tent every night, there's relief to be had. Spend your nights in Can. Youth Hostels, you'll find them at the foot or base of most major climbing areas. \$1.50 per night, most have good stoves, running water, etc.