



THE MUGELNOOS

No. 528 -- December 15, 1976

A newsheet published by and for the Ski Mountaineers and Rock Climbing Sections of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter. Send subscriptions & address changes to: Tim Ryan, 7230 Loma, Hermosa Beach, Ca 90254. Subscriptions \$2 per year. This is a 4 page issue.

RCS SPRING SCHEDULE PREVIEW

1/9/77	Stoney Point	3/26	Stoney Point
1/22	Mt Rubidoux	4/2	Big Rock
1/29	Sespe Gorge (not in Chapter Sched. Meet 9 AM at the shoulder in gorge. About 2 1/2 mi N of Ojai, Hwy 33)	4/9-10	Joshua Tree (again)
2/5-6	Fossil Falls	4/16-17	Pinnacles Natl Monument
2/19	Stoney Point	4/30-5/1	Suicide Rock
2/26-27	Ice climb, see Andy Fried	5/11-15	Candlelight (Whitney Portal)
3/6	Mt Rubidoux	5/22	Safety Tests (Pacifico)
3/12-13	Joshua Tree Natl Monument	5/28-30	Kings Canyon
		6/11-13	Yosemite (the Valley)
		6/18-19	Tahquitz
		7/2-4	North Palisade (Sierra)

(FW)

CHAPTER BANQUET TO FEATURE OLD TIMERS

This coming March 5th the Angeles Chapter Banquet will be of special interest to Mugelnoos subscribers. Nate Clark will show movies of prewar club activities: the 1934 High Trip, the '36 winter ascent of Mt Lyell, and a '41 ascent of Mt Clark. Nate, currently vice president of the Sierra Club Foundation, is a former Club President, former SMS Chairman (1945-46), and old time climber. The movies show numerous club luminaries, including local RCS/SMS pioneers Glen and Muir Dawson, and northerners such as Dave Brower, Lewis Clark (Nate's brother), Norman Clyde, Jules Eichorn, Francis and Marjory Farquhar, Jack Riegelhuth, and Bestor Robinson.

Tickets for the evening at Les Freres Taix are \$6.25, payable to Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter. Seating is limited for the affair, so send your check now to Angeles Chapter Banquet, Sierra Club, 2410 Beverly Blvd, LA 90057. (JR)

THE ABOMINABLE SNOW MAN DOES EXIST

The abominable snowman (hereafter referred to as ASM) is not a myth. It exists right in our midst like a WW II 5th column! Like a few other species, notably pigeons, sparrows, opossum, and rats, it thrives in populous areas -- and is quite numerous in Southern California.

The ASM is considered to be abominable because of its habit of stomping deep holes into the snow slopes favored by skiers. The species is especially abominable to nordic cross-country skiers because it walks in ski tracks, stamping deep holes as it goes. The unfortunate nordic skier expecting an effortless return trip in the laboriously broken out track, finds instead that it is necessary to ski back over what to the user of light nordic skis looks like a series of abandoned mine shafts!

Apparently the ASM lacks the intelligence to find its own route through the country, so either follows skiers' tracks or stays close to the highway. Large numbers of ASM may be seen along the mountain highways almost any weekend that there is snow. Occasionally a large group of ASM will leave the highway, probably encouraged by the idea of safety in numbers (the herd instinct), and will make a mass migration to areas such as the bowl in the south slope of Mt San Antonio. Any area visited by the herd soon becomes trampled into something resembling a pock-marked lunar landscape.

A species similar to the ASM, but comparatively inoffensive is known as "Bigfoot", or "Susquatch", depending on locality. This species is characterized by its shuffling manner of walking and by the peculiar lacey pattern of its huge almost overlapping footprints, which unlike the smaller footprints of the ASM, indent the snow surface only slightly.

The bigfoot or susquatch has not been observed to congregate in large herds like the ASM, and may often be seen far from the roads whenever there is snow.

(Note: This report is based largely on my own personal observations and on material published in Mugelnoos, and articles published in Argosy Magazine, National Wildlife, and others.) (SW)

JANUARY PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

Mugelnoos program for Jan 19th will be slides: "Trekking Through Nepal" by Maynard Brandsma. Don't miss this meeting! Views of the Himalayas are always spectacular, whether viewed from below or on them. (BL)

(MLB)

MUGELNOOS STAFF

EDITOR John Wedberg
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NEXT ISSUE : Jan 19, 1977
DEADLINE : Friday, Jan 14th

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS: Third Weds of each month, 7:30 PM, Lemon Grove Rec Center 4959 Lemon Grove Av, LA. Near Hwd Frwy at Melrose. Program, refreshments. Climbers, skiers & guests all welcome !!

C A L E N D A R

- Dec 24-26 Baldy Ski Hut will be open, despite notice in Schedule. Host is Randy Bernard.
- M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S ! !
- Jan 9 Rock climb, Stoney Point
- Jan 9 Local checkout ski tour
- Jan 19 MUGELNOOS MEETING, 7:30 PM
Ski Mtnrs eqpmt talks 7:00 PM
- Jan 22 Rock climb, Mt Rubidoux
- Jan 22-23 Checkout ski tour, Mammoth
- Jan 29 Rock climb, Sespe Gorge (Fred Wing)
- Jan 29-30 Possible ski tour to Pear Lake
call Chuck Wilts 379-6833

THE SKI MOUNTAINEERS --
WHAT WE DO AND DON'T DO

I guess the best way to describe what we do is simply that we climb mountains on skis -- regular "skiing" skis, that is, like you see at Mammoth. We use attachments which adapt the skis for climbing; when the climb is over we rig for downhill and ski back to camp and out to the cars. This is sometimes called "alpine ski touring"; we call it mountaineering on skis, or ski mountaineering. Nordic cross-country is NOT the same thing! You can't really "ski" on the light, narrow nordic equipment; and nordic gear is not meant to ski on, only glide, or stride, or possibly ascend gentle uphill slopes. Alpine skis are heavy, have steel edges, are designed to ski downhill on at a good rate of speed with safety; they have safety bindings, nordic do not. The alpine skier wants his bindings to release in the (unlikely?) event of a fall far from the roadhead in the wilderness; nordic bindings are designed to hold the boot on the ski until after the tour (usually one day) is over. For these and many other reasons the SMS has found thru experience that nordic & alpine do not mix on the type of trips the SMS schedules. For the present we feel that the advanced nordic skiers can schedule any type of tour they want thru the Snow Touring Committee or go on their own private trips, and let the Ski Mountaineers alone so they can continue to enjoy their own unique sport. Let's hope this will lay this subject to rest for yet another season. (BL and JW)

WHERE IS LITO?

Lito Tejada-Flores, former RCS member, is now head of the Teleride, Colo ski school. (RDM)

RCS IN WONDERLAND ?!!

A recent weekend reconnaissance brought Jim Endo, Dan King and non-members Ron Overholtz and Don Wilson to survey new route possibilities in the Wonderland of Rocks region of Joshua Tree N.M. This relatively unexplored area abounds with sound monzonite crags of up to 400+ ft. The group's interest centered on two large domes located northwest of Barker Dam, hence the names North and South Barker Domes. On Nov 11 Dan King and Ron Overholtz climbed a crack system on the northeast face of N. Barker Dome. The route is called Heavy Breathing and is rated II, 5.9, A2. (DK)

THANK YOU, PAUL ESTES ! !

Paul Estes, old-time RCS member, has sacrificed his 1950-53 Mugelnooses as a donation to the American Alpine Club's library in NE, where bound copies of club publications are kept if available. There will now be a complete Mugelnoos file on the shelves, starting with No. 1, Jan 29, 1938. Paul's copies are a much-appreciated contribution to the country's mountaineering records. (RDM)

UNBORN SEALS

Bob & Luella MacConaghy recall that Ray "Unborn Seals" Ingwersen once had a parka made of the skins of unborn seals. They think that Howard Koster built the term up to imply that if the seals were unborn, they never really existed -- which made the parka something like "the Emperor's clothes." This explains the mystery propounded in the Last Mugelnoos. (RDM)

FORMER RCS CHAIRMAN GOING STRONG

Howard Koster, old-time RCS & SMS member, was third to finish in Pasadena's "Walk for Hunger" Nov 20. The two who finished before Howard were 3 or 4 decades younger! (RDM)

RCS BYLAWS BELIED

RCS members should correct their Nov 73 bylaws to remove a recently discovered typographic error. P 2, Art III, Sec E, third to last line should read, "Vote shall be by secret ballot", not "signed ballot" as it appears on some copies. See Mugelnoos #491, page 4. (JR)

NEWLYWEDS

Karin Sundquist & Brian Gochel were married this past spring. The couple met while climbing at Suicide Rock. They have settled in Seattle where they enjoy breathing the clean, rain-washed air. Karin has volunteered to lead the first RCS ascent of Mt Stuart as soon as there are enough takers! Their address is: 3054 - 27th Ave West
Seattle, Wash 98199 (TR)

IT'S AN HONOR TO VOTE

RCS members must vote by Jan 30th on the proposal to make Glen Dawson an honorary RCS member. A ballot, statement of qualifications, and voting instructions are being sent to each member with this Mugelnoos. If you are a current member and did not get a ballot, contact John Ripley, RCS Sec-Treas. (JR)

LATE HUT REPORT

...woops, ran outa room. See P 3.

INFORMATION NEEDED: RCS

A new RCS roster will be published in Feb. Please be sure that RCS Sec John Ripley has your current address & phone number. Also, those who are not "T" leaders but have an O, M, or E Chapter rating should let John know. A few copies of a temporary updated roster are available now; send SASE to Ripley. (JR)

LATE HUT REPORT

Dec 4-5 the families of Wedberg, Ripley, and former SMS Chairman Bill Feldmann spent the weekend at the San Antonio Ski Hut. They report the mountain is completely dry, with only an occasional tiny patch of icy snow remaining from the Sept storms. Sun the Feldmanns and a couple of the Wedbergs went to the summit where they literally could not stand up against the fierce winds, estimated at 80 MPH plus. The Hut is in good shape for the winter, altho more wood in the cellar is needed. Thanks to Russ Hansen of Diamond Bar, the newly installed Walt Davie-engineered shutters are working perfectly.

RCS TRIP ADDED

A climbing trip to Sespe Gorge will be led Jan 29 (Sat) by Fred Wing & Ed Nissen. This trip does not appear in the current Schedule #213, so mark your calender. Meet 9:00 at the cliff; call the leaders for more info: Wing, 476-4398 Nissen, 425-6340. The Gorge was first scheduled by RCS in 1952 with Royal Robbins as Asst. (JR)

MUGELNOOS EDITORS FOR 1977

January 19: Tim Ryan
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February 16: Doug Mantle
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March 16: Andy Fried
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April 20: Tom Jeter
15520 Wilmaglen
Whittier 90604
943-3112

May 18: Barbara Lilley
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886-4154

June 15: Ruth Mendenhall
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July 20: John Ripley
Box 1034
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869-9670

August 17: Dick Stanton
627 Strand Ave
Santa Monica 90405
399-3836

September 21: Mike Sherrick
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Reseda 91335
344-0964

October 19: Bob & Barbara Schuppe
23492 Dune Mear Rd
El Toro 92630
(714) 837-7797

November 23: Norman Kingsley
Box 262
La Canada 91011
790-4275

December 21: John Wedberg
1374 Stradella Rd
LA 90024
472-6768

Note to above editors: Save this list so you will know who your successor is. Mugelnoos materials & typewriter are passed to next editor by mutual arrangement, the most common being simply to meet at the Mugelnoos meeting. Mary Ferguson usually runs off the edition on the Wed of the meeting, but prefers to have the stencils at Angeles Chapter HQ by the Monday before. If there are any questions ask one of the other editors, or in emergency call Mugelnoos Committee Chairperson Ruth Mendenhall.

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ...?

Whenever we see the annual RCS list of members they are dropping from the rolls, usually due to not attending the required four climbs, we hear cries of various forms of disparagement. One who was dropped recently at his own request thru a letter to the Chairman was chagrined when his name appeared with the others -- in his words, "my name was emblazoned on a roster of the unfaithful." Take heed: Reinstatement into the RCS is simple and instantaneous, thru a letter to the Secretary (and four climbs, of course).

OLD-TIME SKI MOUNTAINEER, GLACIER EXPERT, DIES

Art Harrison, an old-time Ski Mountaineer, died in May, according to his widow writing from Seattle. For many years Art sent annual reports to Mugelnoos as to movements of the Coleman Glacier on Mt. Baker. He was a scientist at the U of W, with an avocation of glacier study in Calif, Alaska, and Washington. He was the author of "Exploring Glaciers With a Camera", published by the Sierra Club, and an early work party member at Clair Tappaan Lodge, which still displays one of his photographs. Art's death was preceded by a 3-year illness. (RDM)

JOSHUA TREE -- NOV 27-28

Twenty-five members & guests signed in for this weekend climb at Hypothermia National Monument. As the weatherman had predicted, winds were strong & temperatures low (LOW!) but the campfires Fri & Sat night were great!

Sat at Hidden Valley Campground some of them set out to see if it was too cold to climb. It wasn't, quite, and a few routes were put up. In the afternoon they mounted a successful rescue of a bong & carabiner left by one of our guests in the Damper. This route is listed in the guide as F5, but is really F9, so it surprises all the new climbers.

Sunday was more of the same (C O L D). They arose to the occasion & rescued a rappel rope abandoned by Wing & McPherson in a late Sat descent from some unnamed massif. John Moore earned extra points for, besides being asst leader for the trip, transported two RCS guests from Banning to El Segundo after their car broke down. (EY)

FOR SALE:

Former RCS Chairman Dan Eaton has moved to points south, and writes that (as many before him, such as Wedberg, Turney, Grey, Harr, etc etc) his priorities have changed, and consequently offers the following for grabs:

Pair 185cm Fischer 2002 skis	\$48	Svea 123 stove, self-cleaning	\$8.00
Pair 185cm Head Standard w/Marker Simplex toe & Rotomat TR. Used on only one trip.	\$90	Holubar down-filled expedition mitts, mens large,	\$30
Pair 205cm Fischer 2002 w/Salamon 505 toe. Used 3 seasons.	\$95	Mens leather ski boots, size 9	\$10
Pair Galibier Makalu high altitude boots, size 9; incl felt and Arctic inner boot. Like new.	\$120	Contact Dan Eaton, 1238 Upas St, San Diego, Ca 92103. (714) 291-0284	

MORE PAID-UP MUGELNOOS SUBSCRIBERS:

G. Davis
D. Delph
F & C Henney
E. Kuttila
J. Miller
R. Neal
H. Null
S. Ossofsky
D. Petersen
D & V Peterson
D. Stanton
L.C. Stiles
K. Sundquist
H. Sutherland
C. Wulf
D. Hitson
R. Overholtz
L. Nelson
S. Moir
G. Shinno
T. Jeter
A. Carlson
M. Brandsma
D. Gorin
W & H Barnett
D. Brown
R. Gnagy
N. Clinch

F. Wing
J. Seaver
G. Macleod
P. Taplin
J. Lash
E. Nelson
W. Stauffer
M. Edwards
G. Ried
R. MacConaghy
B & B Schuppe
D. Knutsen
C. Youngberg
G. Oliver
L. Bayless
J. Bradford
M. Brubacher
C. Cameron
M. Campbell
N. Clark
K. Difani
F. Goble
R. Gregerson
J. Hulcomb
R. J. Harmon
H. Johnson
J. Kacin
E. Kesler

D. King
G. Kuskevics
H. Lees
J. MacNamara
B. Masson
A. Meckler
M. Momyer
G. Nauner
R. Robbins
T & C Ross
C. Rugg
L & S Tittle
T. Walker
Summit Magazine
J. McPherson
B & E Graff

WELCOME NEW RCS MEMBERS

Jim Butler	David Erskine
Pat Butler	David Hornby
Diana Dee	Abe Siemens
	Robt Somoano
Congrats, & happy climbing! (HL)	

QUOTE OF NOTE (?)

The following from a letter by BMTC advocate Ken Jones appearing in the Aug 76 issue of the SPS Echo: "While it is possible to learn mountaineering skills through participation in HPS, SPS, DPS and RCS activities, skills are picked up in a haphazard fashion." (BL)