

# THE WUJELNODS

No. 538 - October 19, 1977.

A newsheet published by and for the ski mountaineers and Rock Climbing Sections of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter. Send address changes and subscriptions (\$2.00) to Phil Bruce, 8544 Eucalyptus, Downey, 90242. A two-page issue

## TAHQUITZ -- AUGUST 13-14

Two days of perfect weather to climb with many friends, old and new. Twenty-eight people signed in Saturday and twenty-three on Sunday. Among the pleasant surprises were Ken McNutt, whose name was on the sign-up sheet as a "guest" for Sunday's climb (Ken is a former RCS chairman and held many RCS and SC positions), a lovely dinner Saturday night with Judith Fairchild, who had just returned from a summer in Yosemite Valley climbing and working at the hospital, and Warren Harding, who swapped stories, jokes, beer, and swordfish steaks with us until midnight. DD

## TAHQUITZ -- SEPTEMBER 17-18

The scheduled trip to Tahquitz Rock over Saturday and Sunday, September 17-18, attracted record numbers of climbers, who enjoyed perfect, slightly fallish weather over the entire weekend. There were 38 climbers in all, including 23 RCS members, 9 students and 6 guests. A total of 53 climbs were made on eighteen routes--nine on Fingertip, seven on the Maiden, five on Frightful Variation and four on the Left Ski Track. The most notable accomplishments were by Steve Kinney and Brian Parker on Shit 4 Brains, El Camino Real, Lower Arch (free) and Passover--mostly 5.9 and above. I'm told that their performance on Lower Arch and Passover was almost past belief.

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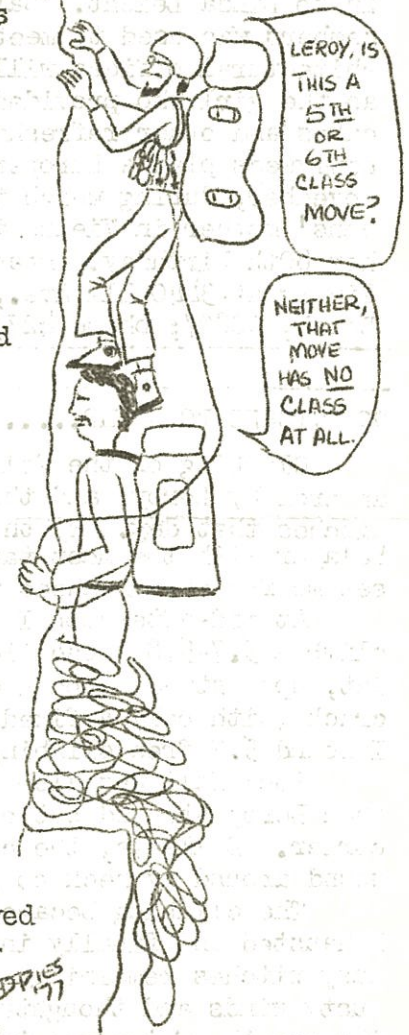
## 99 PITCHES TO CLIMB ON THE WALL, 99 PITCHES TO CLIMB

Discontent with simply reading about big Yosemite climbs, weekend climbers Leroy Russ and myself mobilized our forces toward the North Buttress of the Middle Cathedral Rock (Grade V) late Friday AM, September 23. Scare stories from our best information sources indicated that this route has claimed excessive wear and tear on haul bags and climbers who were of less than superman stature. So, our strategy was to carry all water, food and bivy gear in packs and move at a comfortable steady pace.

The first few pitches required scrambling up grungey downward-sloping ledges which provided a great opportunity for dumping miniature rock slides in the face of the second person on the rope. A couple of 5.7 cracks among these pitches gave some credibility to this first portion of the climb. By the time we had reached the right Rabbit Ear, my climbing efforts had primarily been concentrated on getting us off route and in creating immense tangles in our two ropes. With daylight getting short, I led up the next pitch to fix a rope for the next day. Working my way into an awkward 5.9 lieback, I sought the powers of the Six-Million-Dollar Man but only managed to take one of his 30 foot leaps in the direction of gravity.

Saturday began with an exchange of whoops and hollers from a party on El Capitan and a memorable jumarc ascent through a squeeze chimney with packs. After several more pitches of free, aid, and off-route climbing, the long shadows on the valley floor told us to bivy soon. Resigned and somewhat discouraged because of our slow movement up to route, the comfort of our bivouac ledge was quite welcome, but all peace was destroyed when Leroy's snores got out of hand. Noise abatement procedures were simple, a few hard yanks on the anchor line and serenity returned to the valley. ..cont.....

FW  
Don's first successful Big Wall



MUGELNOOS STAFF

Editor (Oct.)...Bob & Barb Schuppe  
MUGELMAILER..... Phil Bruce  
MUGELGRAPHERS..... Mary Ferguson  
& Geo. Shinno  
CONTRIBUTORS: Dick DeRusha, Don Pies,  
Ruth Mendenhall, John Ripley, Fred  
Wing, Barbara Lilley, J. Wedberg

MUGELNOOS SUBSCRIPTIONS.....\$2.00 year

NEXT EDITOR: Norman Kingsley  
629 Groveview Lane  
La Canada 91011  
790-4275

NEXT ISSUE: November 16, 1977  
Deadline: Friday, Nov. 11, 1977

C A L E N D A R

Oct. 19: Mugelnoos  
Lemon Grove Playground Club-  
house  
Oct. 22-23: Work Party, San Antonio  
Ski Hut, Betty Powers, (213) 498-3522  
Oct. 22-23: RCS, Yosemite Valley  
Ed Nissen, (213) 425-6340

SKI MOUNTAINEERS OFFICERS TO MEET .....  
The Central Committee of the SMS will  
meet on Oct. 26, 1977 to plan the spring  
schedule. SMS members are welcome to  
attend and/or send in ideas for Alpine  
ski tours and Mugelnoos programs. Con-  
tact Secretary Barbara Lilley (days at  
883-2400, Ext. 1932) or any other Cent-  
ral Committee member listed in Angeles  
Chapter schedule. BJJ

 KNOT TIED FOR HANS LEES

Hans Lees, RCS member and long-time Safe-  
ty Committee Chairman, was married Sept.  
24 to Linda Leicht. Safety Committee  
members who used to meet at H an's ar-  
chitectural offices will remember Linda  
as the girl who provided the delicious  
cakes and other refreshments. The  
newlyweds plan a European honeymoon in  
November, during which they will visit  
Hans' mother in Vienna to help celebrate  
her 80th birthday. Meanwhile they are  
living at 3440 Elm Ave., Apt. 4, Long  
Beach, 90807; phone 427-4167.

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS

Third Wednesday of each month, 7:30 PM,  
Lemon Grove Rec. Center, 4959 Lemon Gr.  
Ave., LA, just off Hollywood Fwy near  
Melrose exit. Program, news, food.  
Climbers, Skiers, and friends welcome.

\*\*\*\*\* IMPORTANT NOTICE \*\*\*\*\*  
Beginning in January, 1978, Mugelnoos  
meetings will take place the third TUES.  
of each month (January 16, 1978) in the  
auditorium of the Department of Water  
and Power headquarters, 111 N. Hope St.  
Los Angeles, at 7:30 PM. This is located  
directly across Hope Street from the  
Music Center between Temple Street and  
First Street. Parking in a guarded park-  
ing area is available..

NEW RCS MEMBER: Leslie Masters  
has been elected to RCS membership  
effective Sept. 25, 1977. Congratu-  
lations and welcome! Leslie is the  
18th new member elected this year. If  
you know someone interested in RCS  
membership, have them get one of the  
new sheets explaining how to become a  
member. Contact John Ripley to get one.  
JR

FOR SALE: Head 320-W skis. Size 210.  
Marker TR bindings. Ideal  
for ski mountaineering.  
these are brand new. Not  
a scratch on 'em. They're  
all ready to go, just strap  
on the Vinersa's. \$50.00  
Contact Barry Coe. 476-2032  
(At this price, does not  
include the climbers.)

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FOR SALE: Boots, Vasque deluxe,  
size 4 narrow, for kids or  
other tiny feet. Brand new  
never worn! These are ex-  
actly like the full size  
models, fully padded,  
Vibram Montagna soles, etc.  
Would cost \$70 if they still  
made 'em. \$50.00. J. Wed-  
berg, 472, 6768.

BOOT REPAIR: R. M. Wheeler of Bishop  
specializes in mountaineering and climb-  
ing boot repair. He will mail order  
repair everything from EB's to double  
boots. Address: 206 W. Line  
Bishop, CA 93514

99 PITCHES TO CLIMB.....cont.

Climbing on the following morning was initiated by a beautiful 5.8 lead over an arch by Leroy, and this swung us both into momentum for knocking off many pitches that day. By this time, the competition was getting heavy for being the belayer with the most tangles in the two ropes. My efforts early on the route set me far enough ahead to unquestionably earn the "spaghetti award" of the climb.

At mid-afternoon I found my touchiest lead. Too tired to confidently free climb a 5.7-5.8 loose lieback with a pack, I attempted to aid the rotten rock. But, upon standing on a creatively placed sky hook that was creeping out of a crack (with only a fixed piton 75% broken off that protected a 20 foot ledge fall), I found 5.7 free climbing a secure alternative.

Rock fall was also posing a serious problem, but my helmet was most useful when Leroy stepped out of a pitch of mixed free and aid climbing and dropped an etrier. Bullseye, the carabiner landed square on top my helmet and the etrier wound around my neck no less perfectly than a Hawaiian lei.

The climbing became intense, the sunlight short and the final pitches near. Exhausted and finally in moon light, we called the third bivouac with only three easy pitches remaining. Sleep came with difficulty due to a drop in temperature, gusty winds and thoughts of the climb. Monday's climbing was allowed to wait for the warmth of the sun to motivate our bodies. Dehydration had cost us our appetites and I weighed 12 pounds less than on Friday. The 2000 foot face had taken about 22 pitches of not necessarily the most enjoyable climbing but by far the most worthwhile climbing we had both undertaken