



No. 540 -- December 21, 1977

A newsheet published by and for the Ski Mountaineers and Rock Climbing Sections of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter. Send subscriptions and address changes to: Phil Bruce, 8544 Eucalyptus, Downey, Ca 90243. Subscriptions \$2/year. This is a 4 page iss

IMPORTANT NOTICE

next

Commencing with ~~XXXX~~ meeting, Mugelnoos now switches location and meeting time: PLACE -- Dept of Water & Power auditorium, 111 north Hope St, downtown Los Angeles. TIME -- Third Tuesday of each month. It's right across the street from the Music Center, just south of Temple on Hope.

SKI MOUNTAINEERS STILL LOOKING FOR SNOW

As we go to press the Southern Calif mountains were still devoid of any white stuff. The Nov storm gave us a dusting which quickly melted in the subsequent heat wave. In fact, Mammoth's four feet had shrunk to about 18" of spring snow, with nighttime temperatures staying in the mid to high 30's. Prior years have started equally disappointingly, so wax up the boards, goop up the boots, and think snow! (Late Thurs PM flash: snowing at Mammoth!)

RCS SPRING-SUMMER-FALL SCHEDULE

MAR 12	RUBIDOUX (PC)	Jeter	JUL 1-4	MINARETS	Brandsma, Bagdon
MAR 18-19	SUICIDE ROCK	Wing, Perkins	JUL 8-9	EXPLORATORY	Yount, Erb
APR 2	BIG ROCK	Yount, Bruce	JUL 22-23	TAHQUITZ	Yount, Moore
APR 8-9	JOSHUA TREE	Lindgren, Master	AUG 5-7	MT WHITNEY	_____, DeRusha
APR 16	RESCUE SEMINAR	Wing, Quinn	AUG 19-20	DEVILS PP	Russ, Tidball
APR 22-23	TAHQUITZ	DeRusha, Cole	SEP 1-4	TOULUMNE M	Nisson, Master
MAY 13-15	YOSEMITE VALLEY	Bagdon, McPherson	SEP 10	SAFETY TEST	DeRusha
MAY 21	SAFETY TEST	DeRusha	SEP 23-24	NEEDLES	Fried, Wing
MAY 27-29	KINGS CANYON	Russ, Carlson	OCT 7-9	YOSEMITE V	Wing, Nisson
JUN 24-25	TAHQUITZ	Russ, Pies	OCT 21-23	EL GRAN TRONO BLANCO, MEXICO	Russ, Fried

NOTE TO ALL QUALIFIED LEADERS: If you are scheduled for a trip you cannot lead, or if you would like to lead or assist one of the above, please contact RCS Chairman. (AF)

WILDERNESS ACCIDENTS -- WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY ..?? --Editorial

Maybe we should blame it all on Holubar, Gerry, and Kelty. They were the ones who pioneered the development of comfortable, light weight backpacking and mountaineering equipment, thus inviting the multitudes to set forth into the back country, previously the weekend abode of but a few of the hearty. Here in LA there were only two stores where you could purchase an ice ax (Vandegrifts and Sport Chalet) 25 years ago; now there are dozens -- maybe hundreds! Many get outfitted at one of these outdoorsmen's boutiques, and venture forth into the wilderness in their spiffy new duds, guidebook and ten essentials in hand, seeking adventure or who-knows-what... Some of these end up getting into some sort of trouble. Whose responsibility is it to bale them out, after they voluntarily place themselves in a high risk situation..? It is this writer's opinion that too many times it is you and I, the taxpayers, who end up footing the bill for an expensive helicopter evacuation which was either too hastily ordered, or need not be ordered at all. Too many wilderness travelers nowadays demand to be protected, cared for, or plucked to safety at the first inkling of trouble. Is not the challenge of pitting oneself against the elements, win OR lose, the thing that fascinates us about climbing? Remove the possibility of ultimate catastrophe and it would seem you remove the enchantment of the risk. The same thinking that now requires motorcycle riders to wear helmets and will probably soon insist on auto air bags, is doubtless responsible for the philosophy that the taxpayer should dash to the rescue of the wilderness traveler in trouble.

(Cont'd on page 2)

MUGELNOOS STAFF

EDITOR John Wedberg
MUGELGRAPHER Mary Ferguson
MUGELMAILER Phil Bruce
REPORTERS: Andy Fried, LeRoy Russ, John Ripley, Tim Ryan, Ruth D. Mendenhall

NEXT EDITOR: John Moore
2707 Killingsworth Ave
Orange, CA 92669
(714) 541-8886

NEXT ISSUE : January 17, 1978

DEADLINE : Friday, Jan 13th

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS: Third Tues of each mo,
7:30 PM, LA Dept Water & Power auditorium
111 N Hope St, downtown LA. Free parking.
Come ½-hr early (7:00 PM) for Ski Mtnrs
equipment demo. Program, refreshments.
Climbers, skiers, guests all welcome!!

C A L E N D A R

Jan 7 Sat Rock Climb, Stony Point
Jan 8 Sun Alpine Ski Tour, local introd.
Jan 14-15 Sat-Sun Alpine Ski Tour,
introductory, Mammoth
Jan 15 Sun Rock Climb, Big Rock
Jan 17 Tue MUGELNOOS MEETING, 7:30 PM
Jan 28 Sat Rock Climb, Rubidoux
Feb 4-5 Sat-Sun Ski Tour, Pear L. Hut
Feb 4-5 Sat-Sun Rock Climb, Fossil Falls

NEW ADDRESSES

Jim Endo
160 N 2nd St, Apt C
Bishop, CA 93514
(714) 873-7361

Gail Wilts
715-A W Elm
Bishop, CA 93514
(714) 873-3172

Ron Master
1305 N McLean Dr
Santa Ana, CA 92703 (714) 537-4837

John Ripley
5912 El Rancho Dr
Whittier, CA 90606 (213) 692-5050

Leslie Masters
4844 Elmdale Dr
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274
(213) 378-4127

Al Carlson
3515-D Malvern Av
Buena Park, CA 90621

FOR SALE

1 Pair climbing shoes, PA's, size 11½
Good condition. LeRoy Russ(213)295-9703

Ski Rack. Old-fashioned kind w/posts and
rubber ties; holds poles also. Fits a
medium or large car, wagon or van with
rain gutters. Barbara Lilley, 8421
Lindley Av, Northridge. (213) 886-4154.
Price \$10.00.

Hiking boots. Brand new, never worn.
Voyager, size 4 N, for tiny feet.
Built just like the big ones, Vibram
soles, etc. \$25. Worth twice that.
John Wedberg. 472-6768.

PEAR LAKE HUT DATE

The alpine ski tour to the Pear Lake Hut
in Sequoia Park has been confirmed as our
1st choice: Feb 4-5. Skiers new to the
Section must be checked out beforehand. (MG)

WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY..? (Cont'd)

But maybe there is some merit to that idea,
when you consider our paternalistic federal
government insists upon feeding and caring
for us from our cradle to our grave --
maybe each hiker & climber should be labeled
"Property of the U.S. Government. Do not
fold, staple, or mutilate!"

(Persons of differing viewpoint are en-
couraged to voice their opinion. As
always, it is each individual editor's
discretion as to the content of any
particular issue of Mugelnoos. --Ed.)

PRACTICE CLIMB PARTY JAN 7

Tim Ryan has invited climbers to join him
for a spaghetti, salad, and wine party at
his new home near Stony Point. Those who
would be interested in attending this af-
ter-the-climb event should see Tim on the
morning of the climb and sign up. There
will be a slight cost to cover the food.
Directions to Tim's house will be given
out at that time. (TR)

ASCENT SEEKS MATERIAL

ASCENT Magazine, the Sierra Club mountaineering
journal, is soliciting articles,
photos, etc for the next issue. A perusal
of past issues will assist in understand-
ing the type of material needed, but some-
thing new might also make a hit. Contribu-
tions should be sent to Allen Steck, 335
Vermont Ave, Berkeley, CA 94707. (RDM)

FINAL KELTY SHOW

Final event in the series of shows at the
Kelty stores will be "Ski Touring in the
Wind Rivers", with author, climber, ski
mountaineer and photographer Dick Dorworth.
Slides of a 200-mile ski tour in Wyoming
will feature this finale. Showtime 7:30 PM
on Jan 11 in the Glendale store and Jan
12 at their Northridge location.

MINERAL KING HEATING UP AGAIN

Both sides in the battle to decide whether
Mineral King shall become a year round re-
sort complex, or remain natural, are gath-
ering their forces for all all-out fight
this time. Thrust for the opponents to
development, is to include the Mineral King
area in Sequoia Natl Park, which would un-
doubtedly insure the region against commer-
cial encroachment forever. One organiza-
tion dedicated to this end is "Skiers To
Keep Mineral King Natural", 1768 Corning
St, LA 90035; membership is \$3.00.

INFRA-RED CAMERAS FIND CAMPFIRES

The USFS will be using infra-red cameras
mounted in airplanes to detect illegal
campfires in the Sierra. These special
devices can detect a source of heat on the
ground the size of a match! Ground units
are directed to offending parties, who are
issued citations. (Inyo Register, 9/22/77)

WOMEN HAVE MORE ENDURANCE

According to Joan W.L. Ulliyot MD of San Fra-
ncisco, a woman's high percentage of body
fat gives her an advantage over men in long
distance running. She says that most men
suffer a loss of strength and power at the
20-mile mark, while women do not. (LA Times)
(Ask Barbara Lilley's hiking compan-
ions. --Ed.)

LIFE BEGINS WITH SUICIDE

The new RCS season began its life with the October 15-16 trip to Suicide Rock, led by Jim Campbell. Beautiful clear weather was enjoyed by about 20 each day.

Assistant John Ripley, the new Mugelnoos Chairman, promised Leslie Masters some days after the trip that he would try to get those writing up trip reports in Mugelnoos to make the articles more personal, not a mere compilation of statistics. He went home and promptly found that he had already sent in the sign-in sheets and couldn't remember what happened well enough to fulfill his promise!

At any rate, there was a good mixture of beginners and veterans, including John Mendenhall and Craig Williams. Student Scott Luther led the first pitch of Serpentine, making that part, at least, a beginners route. Frances Cholewa and Randy McDonald climbed "Surprise", Frances saying she enjoyed it, but "never again". E. Yount, J. Moore, and S. Luther explored the southern area, ending up in "Garbage Gulch", which they regard as well named.

Leader and wine supplier Jim "Any Port in a Storm" Campbell knows the rock very well from his explorations with Chuck Wilts. JC steered many into nice routes he knows about, although he steered himself to "Captain Hook", which he summed up as a nice continuous 5.7 that he would someday like to complete. The first pitch of the "Stretch", a nice 5.4 or 5.5, was quite popular (at least 4 parties).

Everyone left by about 3:00 on Sunday to ponder the reply made by LeRoy Russ to an inquiry about where he had gone on Sunday: "Up 'Yours'", quoth he.

(JR)

(Note: "Yours" is a climb next to "Graham Crackers"
--Ed.)

RCS ANNUAL MEETING

Outgoing Chairman Fred Wing presided over the RCS Annual Meeting, held Oct 13 at the DWP cafeteria in downtown LA. 27 members attended. Highlights follow:

- Training -- Al Carlson reported that 69 students participated in 6 practice climbs. A training manual was started. Leader anchors were taught for the first time, using newly acquired Section equipment.
- Mugelnoos-- Outgoing Mugelnoos Chairperson Ruth Mendenhall revealed that our Section newsheet is just about breaking even financially. Phil Bruce was officially installed as the new Mugelmailer. Ruth received a hearty round of applause for her practically continuous guidance of Mugelnoos since its inception in 1938.
- Safety -- Dick DeRusha noted the Safety Test now includes First Aid and CPR for new members entering the RCS. No significant accidents for '77.
- Money -- Treasurer for '77 John Ripley reported that, thanks to the institution of the training fee 2 years ago by Yount, Russ, Jeter and Co, the RCS is in fine shape financially (don't tell the Angeles Chapter! --Ed.). The training program generally supports everything.
- History -- Ripley summarized the archiving and interviewing activities of the History Committee and went on to give the committee's recommendations of 5 nominees for honorary membership. Voting endorsed all 5 for a mail ballot later this year. The give are: Arthur B. Johnson, John & Ruth Mendenhall, and Chuck & Ellen Wilts.
- Activities-- Fred Wing reviewed the past year's schedule of activities, which included a record 55 days of climbing in an 11-month season (shortened by Annual Meeting date change). 13 inactive members were dropped: Kabler, King, Lilley, Stanton, and Trousdale thru resignations, and Barger, Kamps, Kesler, Lloyd, Meckler, Ossofsky, Rappolee, and Toering thru not making the 4 required climbs.
- Elections-- The final business of the evening was the election of officers for 1978. The nominating committee consisted of Yount and Russ. The new Chairman of the RCS was simply proclaimed, when no one could be found to oppose him. Ed Nissen and Al Carlson ran for Vice-Chairman, while Bill Bragg opposed Dave Perkins for Sec-Treas. The final results were:
 - CHAIRMAN -- Andy Fried
 - VICE-CHRM - Al Carlson
 - SEC-TREAS - Dave Perkins
- Adjournment-- The meeting ended at 9:55 PM, after discussions of issues brought up by members from the floor.

(JR)

MUGELNOOS EDITORS FOR 1978

JAN -- John Moore 2707 Killingsworth Ave Orange, CA 92669 (714) 541-8886	JUL -- John Ripley 5912 El Rancho Dr Whittier, CA 90606 (213) 692-5050
FEB -- Tim Ryan 7255 Studio Rd Canoga Park, CA 91304 (805) 526-4430	AUG -- Tom Jeter 321 E Orangewood Ave, #C-7 Anaheim, CA 92802 (714) 750-2590
MAR -- Andy Fried 538 N Bronson Ave LA 90004 (213) 466-0480	SEP -- Judith Fairchild 1424 Greenfield Ave LA 90025 (213) 478-3139
APR -- Dave Perkins 4975 Doman Ave Tarzana, CA 91356 (213) 343-7096	OCT -- Ed Nissen 4618 Palo Verde Ave Lakewood, CA 90713 (213) 425-6340
MAY -- Barbara Lilley 8421 Lindley Ave Northridge, CA 91324 (213) 886-4154	NOV -- Norman Kingsley 629 Groveview Lane La Canada, CA 91011 (213) 790-4275
JUN -- Fred Wing 2264 Roscomare Rd LA 90024 (213) 476-4398	DEC -- John Wedberg 1374 Stradella Rd LA 90024 (213) 472-6768

IMPORTANT NOTE:

ALL EDITORS -- Since the Mugelnoos meeting night has been changed to the third TUESDAY of each month, it is of the utmost importance to get the stencils to the Sierra Club Headquarters early the previous Monday morning. Thanks. (JR)

CLIMBING DOWN UNDER

Four outstanding climbing areas in Australia will be discussed:

- Mt Piddington. In the Blue Mountains, close to Sydney and hence very popular. The "Ewbank" system is used for grading in Australia. Free climbs on the Mt Piddington cliffline range from 1 to 22, and M-0 to M-7 for aid. To convert the Ewbank system to U.S. grades generally divide the Aussie grade by 2, e.g., a grade 20 climb would be a 5.10. The rock is coarse sandstone offering excellent friction. The climbs done on this cliff ranged from grade 8 to 19, with the longest climb being only about 150'.
- Warrumbungles. In New South Wales, within a national park. Long routes with scant protection. Most inspiring cliff is the Breadknife, now off limits to climbing due to rock fall hazard. Beloungery Spire, Crater Bluff and Bluff Mountains offer an extensive diversified area with new routes abounding. A number of huts here, together with kangaroos, emus, wombats and kookaburras.
- Booroomba Rocks. Near Canberra. Crack climbs steep and strenuous, slab climbs require balance on very small holds. Some long routes, of higher technical standards.
- Wolgan Valley. An hour's drive further than the Blue Mountains. Strenuous routes, much jamming on coarse rock, grades 18-19.

All these areas have very detailed guidebooks. A hard core group of climbers in Australia are constantly putting up newer, harder routes. Top grade now achieved is 24. The best climbing seems to be in Tasmania and Victoria which were not discussed here, but hopefully will be visited next year.

--Donna Mroczkowski

--Ed, note: Donna was a student with the RCS season before last. She has climbed some with the RCS but left LA before becoming a member. Upon leaving LA she went to Tahiti, then New Zealand, Australia, then Britain via Hong Kong. While in Britain she travelled to Wales and Scotland. She caved and climbed on the continent and in Spain. She's planning to leave Britain soon, to travel to the Himalayas and New Guinea, then back to Australia. Her current mailing address is: 12 Clarke Rd, Wataro, New South Wales 2077, Australia.

...and a Merry Christmas to all -- the weatherman just reported the "Pacific Gate" has just opened, promising wintry type weather for Calif shortly!