

No. 545 May 16, 1978

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 the Mugelmailer: Phil Bruce, 8544 Eucalyptus, Downey, CA 90254. Subscriptions \$2.00 per year, due in October. This is a 4 page issue.

(LITTLE) ONION VALLEY SKI TOUR, April 15, 1978

From the end of the first long north-south switchback on the Onion Valley road at about 7000', a private (foot travel only) mining road leads north on a level gradient for 1 mile into Sardine Canyon and continues switchbacking up canyon to an active mine at nearly 11,000'. At approx. 7200', a side road branches north into Little Onion Valley for 1/2 mile to the mining camp at 7400'.

In spite of the ominous weather forecast, 10 skiers met in Independence Sat. AM and were able to drive right to the start of this mining road, at which point the Onion Valley road was blocked by snow. In warm sunshine at first, they followed the road into Little Onion Valley and as the first snowflakes were falling, they continued on skis another 1000' up canyon before threatening whiteout conditions dictated a retreat. The skiing on the descent proved to be such good spring snow that in spite of the poor visibility, most skiers climbed back up for another run and two were checked out for future tours. Except for 2 or 3 bare spots, they were able to ski most of the way back to the cars, arriving somewhat soaked by the wet snowfall.

At this point the tour was officially cancelled and the skiers dispersed. Three headed north for the warm fireplace and hospitality of the Ossofsky's in Bishop and Sunday their disappointment in not being able to complete what would have been a very good ski tour (Sardine Canyon had been planned for Sunday) was somewhat compensated for by the best cold dry deep powder skiing of the year at June Mountain ski area on their closing day. At least, two good alternate one-day ski tours were proven out for the next time when the Onion Valley road is closed--hopefully, next year!

BJL

RESCUE SEMINAR

On Sunday, April 16, the RCS conducted its latest Rescue Seminar at Mt. Rubidoux. Kathy Quinn very efficiently organized and supervised the activities of ten instructors (most of whom went through a dry run the previous day). Eighteen students attended (including 10 from BMC and 5 from the RCS) and received instruction at six separate stations in the following techniques: lowering an injured climber from a ledge on the back of another climber (using a split rope coil carry); lowering a climber with an arm/hand injury from a ledge and, in the course of it, passing a knot (connecting two lowering ropes) through a friction lowering device; using a pulley hoist system to help a climber with a broken arm walk up a steep slope; prus-siking to an unconscious climber (hanging on a swami belt), fitting him with a sit sling and chest harness and transferring his weight to them (before he is asphyxiated); raising an unconscious climber using a "Z" pulley hoist system; learning one-and-two man carries with slings and poles and with split rope coils; and constructing a rope stretcher in the shape of a ladder. The students' remarks afterwards indicated enthusiastic reception and strong belief in the value of the seminar. FW

NEAR RECORD SNOW YEAR IN THE SIERRA

The Dept. of Water Resources reports that as of April 1, precipitation in the "Lahontan" area, which includes Inyo-Mono, has averaged 185% of normal, with the average snowpack water content 150% of normal (compared to only 30% 1 year ago) and runoff forecast to be 130% of average.

In the southern Sierra (Owens River basin), snowpack water content is now the third highest in 50 years (surpassed only by 1952 and 1969), reaching a high of 218% of average. Mammoth is 168% of normal, Rock Creek 203%, Big Pine 185% and Cottonwood 252%. Projected runoff is about 165% of normal (considerably less than 1969 when some areas had more than 300% of normal!). Runoff from the Cottonwood basin is full of rocks and debris from Horseshoe Meadows road fills and this muddy runoff is being routed over the aqueduct to end up in Owens Lake as it did in past high runoff years. (Inyo Registers, 4/6/78, 4/11/78)

Due to this high water content, the snow should consolidate fairly well for walking on (if it ever stops snowing) but watch out for the stream crossings!

Southern California's rainfall this season is the greatest amount in this century. Most of this did fall as snow above 8000', leaving a tremendous snowpack on Mt. San Antonio, Mt. San Jacinto and San Geronimo. (Touring 'till July 1?)

MUGELNOOS STAFF

EDITOR Barbara Lilley
MUGELMAILER Phil Bruce
MUGELGRAPHER.. . . . Mary Ferguson
REPORTERS: Fred Wing, John Ripley, Ruth Mendenhall, Emory Yount, Mark Goebel, Leroy Russ

NEXT EDITOR: Fred Wing
2264 Roscomare Rd.
Los Angeles, CA 90024
Phone: (213)476-4398

NEXT ISSUE: June 20, 1978
DEADLINE: June 16, 1978

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS: Third Tuesdays of each month, 7:30 PM, Dept. of Water & Pwr. Bldg., 111 N. Hope St., downtown L.A. Free parking. Program, refreshments, announcements, conversation. Climbers, skiers, guests—all welcome.

CALENDAR

RCS SCHEDULED TRIPS

May 21 - Safety Tests, Mt. Pacifico
Dick DeRusha 661-9924
May 27-29 - Kings Canyon (car camp) **
Leroy Russ 295-9703
May 30-31 - Candelight, Whitney Portal
Jim McPherson (714)631-1018

SMS SKI TOURS

May 20 - San Joaquin Fk./Mammoth skiing
Mary Onberg 798-2548
May 27-29 - Ritter Range
Mark Goebel 820-1962
June 3-4 - Rock Creek
John Wedberg (before 8 PM) 472-6768
JUNE 10-11 - To be determined by snow conditions & interest. Contact Barbara Lilley 386-4154

MUGELNOOS MEETING - June 20, 1978

SMS DIRECTORY TO APPEAR

A Ski Mountaineers Membership List will be published with the June Mugelnoos. Anyone with a new phone number (since July 1977) or who has failed to notify the Mugel-mailer of change of address or who has re-subscribed to Mugelnoos and wishes to be reinstated as a member of the SMS should notify B. Lilley, 8421 Lindley Ave., Northridge, CA 91325, by June 12, 1978.

Skiers who have qualified on tours and met the other qualifications (Mugelnoos subscriptions & Sierra Club membership) are urged to send their application cards to B. Lilley by that date also. (Those on the WdoDavie tour on 2/12 can just apply in writing.)

IF 55 MPH IS TOO SLOW - - -

A world speed record on skis of 121 MPH was set by Steve McKinney of So. Lake Tahoe in Sept. 1977 at Portillo, Chile on a 1/2 mile track with a slope of up to 45° and under a threat of avalanches.

SKI, Nov. 1977

FREE SKIING

Complementary ski passes are now issued by Mammoth and June Mountain ski areas for Senior Citizens over 65. A certain ski mountaineer was seen at Mammoth this past winter taking advantage of this.

THE END - Mammoth's official closing date this year is July 4th. (\$7/day as of 5/1)

OLD TIMERS TO TRY NEW TIMES

John and Ruth Mendenhall will leave Southern California in a few weeks. They have bought a house in Seattle (at 9700 Marmount Dr., NW, Seattle, WA 98117, for future reference). The date of departure is not settled but will probably be sometime in June. They will miss all their good friends and hope to have many visitors from the Southland in their new home.

RDM

RENEW THAT FIRST AID CARD!

Refresher First Aid Course May 20-21 at Harwood. Aimed for climbers. Contact Louise French, 1690 N. 2nd Ave., Upland, CA 91786, (714) 225-1063.

FW

CHANGING WITH THE TIMES

In 1960 the Wilderness Society inaugurated its Wilderness Experience trips, which were designed to enable more people to use the wilderness and appreciate the importance of its preservation. This program is being discontinued as of 1978 due to the tremendous increase in backcountry use by both individuals and commercial outfitters, which in many areas has led to permits, strict regulations and access limitations. (Living Wilderness, Nov-Dec. '77)

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

To correct what may have been a wrong impression in the April Mugelnoos, Jim Hoste, who is looking for a climbing partner, was a member of the Angeles Chapter RCS until he moved to northern California and is an excellent climber.

EY

**Kings Canyon, additional notes

Meeting place, May 27th, Moraine campground sites @ 8 AM. Bring firewood, wine and/or your personal pleasure. Check with leader or asst. on May 24 for flood conditions, possibly cancelling trip. See April Mugelnoos for additional info. LR

NEW SKI MOUNTAINEERS - WELCOME!

Sam Roberts J. Owen Maloy
22716 Madison St. 4591 Green Tree Ln.
Torrance, CA 90505 Irvine, CA 92715
Ph. 326-9308 (714)551-5495
Mike Layland
23665 Palomino
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

A WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE?..Mammoth's Future

From MAMMOTH SIERRA, Sierra Pacific's in-flight magazine, comes the following report on future expansion plans for Mammoth Mtn.

"The MonoPlan called for the mountain to handle 18,000 skiers on an optimum day. The peak period this year saw 18,000 skiing the mountain in one day."

"By 1983, we will be serving 24,000 daily. We're going to see some major new people centers built to help spread out the crowds so they can still get the wilderness experience they come for. There will be a year round recreational vehicle park at Chair 2 with tennis courts, sauna, jacuzzi, grocery store, etc. And new base lodges at Chairs 4, 12 and 15."

MG

MORRISON CANYON, THE SUNSHINE TOUR, April 23, 1978

After long admiring the beautiful canyon on the south side of Mt. Morrison from Hwy. 395, the SMS scheduled a ski tour there in 1977 only to see it cancelled by the drought. However, in 1978 all the weather gods smiled and after a day of winter-type packed powder "yo'yo" skiing at Mammoth, the 5 skiers (including both leaders) who met Sunday at Convict Lake (7500') and completed the traverse of this valley to its head at 10,500' were rewarded by spectacular scenery and--a rare item this year--warm sunshine! Four also climbed on skis to the Mt. Aggie ridge (11,300').

Unfortunately, thanks to persistent storms, most of the snow in the upper portion had not yet consolidated so was wet and heavy to ski, altho one participant skied it aggressively right down the fall line with locked-down Silvretta bindings (gulp)--that is real confidence! They were resigned to enjoying only the scenery and sunshine (as if that weren't enough) when suddenly, as the slopes became westerly, good spring corn snow was encountered and with shouts of delight they skied the remaining 1000' down to the cars and cold beverages--a perfect ending to a fantastic day.

Thus yet another area was proven to be a worthwhile tour, for a 1 day trip or possibly a backpack. In addition to the canyon itself and the west slopes of the Aggie ridge, there are at least 3 beautiful east-facing bowls climbing to the Morrison Ridge that would offer excellent skiing on consolidated snow. BJJ

T-SHIRTS TO THE SUMMIT

In 1978, post-monsoon, the American Women's Himalayan Expedition will attempt Annapurna I, (26,545'), the first American all-woman expedition to a major Himalayan Peak. Eight of the ten members are from the western USA-- Arlene Blum, leader, Irene Miller, Vera Komarkova, Vera Watson, Joan Firey, Margi Rusmore, Ann Whitehouse and Piro Dramar (expedition physician). The expedition has the endorsement of the American Alpine Club. To help raise money, expedition T-shirts are being sold, which feature a schematic mountain emblazoned on the front labeled "Annapurna" with a slogan which reads, "A woman's place is on top." Colors are blue, rust or yellow in polyester-cotton, sizes S-M-L-XL for men (round neck, \$8.00) and for women (U-neck, \$10.00), and can be ordered from ANNIE, 846 Lathrop Drive, Stanford, CA 94305. Include some extra for postage. (A "missionary version" without the slogan is also available.) From AAC News, 3/58; Up-Rope, 3/58

RCS ELECTS HONORARY MEMBERS

Five new honorary RCS members were elected by Section members in voting that ended April 18. Four of the electees are also currently regular members--John and Ruth Mendenhall and Chuck and Ellen Wilts. This dual status was made legal last year by bylaw amendment. The fifth new honorary member is Arthur B. Johnson, hardworking RCS founder and first chairman.

Around 2/3 of all regular members cast ballots, making this the best RCS election turnout for any issue in recent memory. All candidates were elected by margins so lopsided that the 'Yes' votes amounted to a majority of all members, not simply a majority of ballots cast.

Certificates will be presented to the new honorary members at the June 20 Mugelnoos meeting. It is hoped that a good contingent of both new and old time RCS members will be at the

Even Nordic touring has its dangers....

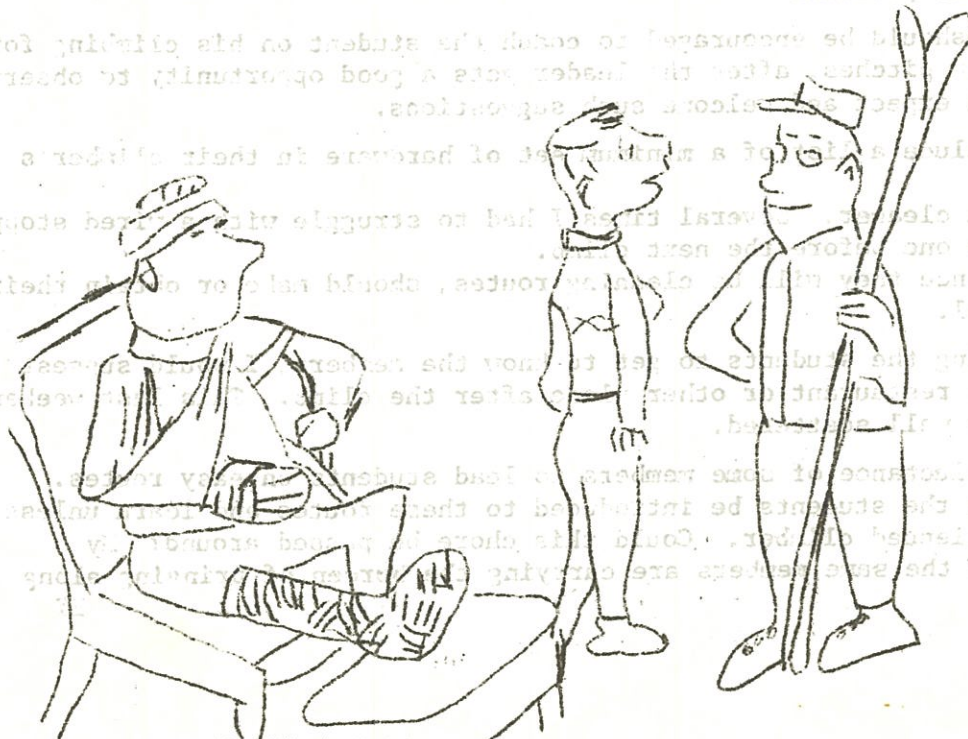
meeting to join us in congratulating these outstanding climbers. JR

PALISADES, ANYONE?

John Ripley and John Halcomb are planning a private trip to the east side of the Palisades for eight days during the week of July 4th. The trip will be fairly leisurely but will include attempts on some fine routes. Experienced technical mountaineers can contact Ripley at 5912 El Rancho Dr., Whittier, CA 90606. 213-692-5050. JR

MISSING

Write-up on April 22-23 Tahquitz rock climb, requested but never received from Leader Dick Derusha.



No, it happened in our room. He slipped on his ski wax.

ATTENTION OLD (AND NEW) TIMERS

Make special plans to attend the June 20 Mugelnoos meeting to meet "famous" climbers and skiers and enjoy Chuck Wilts' program. The RCS History Committee is sponsoring a repeat of last year's highly successful "old timers' meeting," at which a large turnout of veterans mingled with an even larger turnout of newer climbers.

In addition to Chuck's program, a brief presentation of certificates will be made to the newly elected honorary members. This will be a fine chance to meet Art Johnson, first RCS chairman (1934-37) and first-ascender of the Fingertip, Maiden, Traitor Horn, etc.

Please pass the word and mark your calendar--you'll be sorry if you miss this one!

FW

PEAR LAKE, THE "SECOND WINTER TOUR", April 29-30

A record 19 Alpine ski tourers gathered at Wolverton parking lot on Saturday; the weather was even forecast to be good. After surmounting the 6-foot snowbanks, most found it convenient to use firm snowshoe tracks to carry skis to Heather Gap, then continue on skis to the Hut, which was half buried in snow. Meantime clouds were gathering but occasional periods of sunshine permitted most skiers to get 3 or 4 runs on fair spring snow on the west facing slopes above the Hut and a reasonably good "backside" run on winter Alta was anticipated on Sunday.

Three others were also using the Hut so eating was done in shifts, followed by the usual popcorn festivities. Unfortunately, during the night an unpredicted "upper level low" cold front moved in and as happened on the Feb. tour, the skiers awoke to a snowfall! Visibility was poor, and most hurried to start out in spite of Chuck Wilt's advice, based on 30 years experience, to wait until some powder had accumulated. And those who did so enjoyed even better skiing down from Heather Gap then in Feb.; some early starters who were delayed (perhaps fortunately) by equipment problems also found the powder skiing great. An early Chinese dinner was enjoyed at Gang Su's and all crossed the Ridge Route before I-5's southbound lanes were again closed by a mudslide.

Even though all skiers (for once) has been on previous tours, equipment problems in the modern, more complicated touring bindings still occurred and again one skier showed up on different equipment than he had used on his "checkout" tour--which sort of defeats the purpose!

BJL

IMPRESSIONS OF A (RCS) STUDENT - by Bob D'Evelyn

With reference to the last Tahquitz climb, thought you might like some student feedback. On Sat., Francis led John Clarke and me up the Frightful Variation of the Trough. Took us 7 hours! There was some snow and wet rocks along the way. On Sunday, 3 members--Fred Wing, Michele Ferrand and Ed Nisson--led 3 students--Steve Hutchens, John and me--up the White Maiden. There were 2 to a rope and it took us about 5 hours. Ed was my leader. Comments are:

- 1) A student attempting a climb on these routes should be proficient in jams. Every pitch requires a jam of some kind or other.
--This suggests that the subject of jams should be addressed during at least one of the training sessions.
- 2) The fear factor is real on these routes. The students should be conditioned on how to deal with this problem.
- 3) The member leaders should be encouraged to coach the student on his climbing form during his first few pitches, after the leader gets a good opportunity to observe. The students should expect and welcome such suggestions.
- 4) The RCS should include a list of a minimum set of hardware in their climber's handbook.
--I needed a chock cleaner. Several times I had to struggle with a wired stopper.
--I expect to make one before the next climb.
--Each student, since they will be cleaning routes, should make or obtain their own cleaning tool.
- 5) As a means of aiding the students to get to know the members, I would suggest that all meet at a restaurant or other place after the climb. This last weekend people were pretty well scattered.
- 6) I understand the reluctance of some members to lead students on easy routes. Problem is, how can the students be introduced to these routes and learn unless led by a more experienced climber. Could this chore be passed around? My observation is that the same members are carrying the burden of bringing along the students.

EY