



No. 548--Aug. 15, 1978

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SUMMER SKIING ON BALDY

The deep snowpack on Mt. Baldy this year has permitted unbelievable Summer skiing. While the south-facing Baldy Bowl lost most of its cover in early June, the north slopes have held a deep, durable snowpack well into Summer.

On June 17th, descents of up to 1500 feet were made in the bowl north of the Baldy-West Baldy saddle. Reportedly the 4th of July weekend campers on Baldy's summit included many skiers. On July 16th, fine corn snow with 2-3" suncups extended down Baldy's north-east slopes, yielding runs up to 800 feet vertical. By August 6th, plenty of good corn snow was left for die-hards, with three snowfields, separated by short "portages," permitting about 500' vertical of skiing on the east face, from just below the summit almost to the Baldy-Harwood saddle.

These north slope snowfields were particularly accessible for Summer skiing, as the south-facing trail from Baldy Notch was mostly melted off by mid-June.

RM

RCS AT THE ROCK

Twenty members and guests enjoyed a sunny weekend at Tahquitz Rock on July 22, 23. On both days, RCS members demonstrated again the validity of Herman's First Law: "The climbing day will normally be extended to cover all available hours of daylight."

The Saturday night campsites were at Mt. San Jacinto State Park. Cost of each of us was one dollar (plus one dollar for the Kaplan dog).

The San Diego RCS was also at the rock and they did some fine climbing--Human Fright, for example.

EY & JM

ON SAFETY AND WILDERNESS BY GALEN A. HOWELL

Throughout the National Park system, today's visitors include ever-increasing numbers who voluntarily place themselves in high-risk situations. And when injuries or deaths occur in wild areas, today's judges and juries grant ever-increasing awards for what used to be called acts of God. A man wins a settlement for damage from the Forest Service because a tree blew down in a campground during a windstorm. Relatives collect from the National Park Service (NPS) because a man was killed by a bear in Yellowstone. A girl with a permanent spinal injury caused by misuse of mountain climbing equipment collects from the retailer. The same legal climate that has made medical malpractice insurance rates skyrocket threatens to affect everybody's wilderness experience. Nowhere is this more evident than in Alaska's Mount McKinley National Park.

McKinley Park has been the scene of the most expensive and most publicized air rescues of any American wild area. Imagine the dilemma of NPS administrators. Court decisions have forced them to consider visitors as invitees. By legal definition, the NPS invites hundreds of people a year to a place that is unquestionably hazardous to one's health and safety: the subzero-degree, 20,320-foot summit of Mount McKinley. For every hundred climbers who reach the top of McKinley or neighboring 17,400-foot Mount Foraker, three die. In 1976, there were ten fatalities, eighteen frostbite victims involving five amputations, and nine cases of serious high-altitude pulmonary or cerebral edema.

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MUGELNOOS STAFF

EDITOR FOR AUGUST Tom Jeter
 MUGELGRAPHER..... Chapter Office
 MUGELMAILER..... Phil Bruce
 REPORTERS: Ron Milnarik, Emory Yount,
 John Moore, & Ruth Mendenhall

NEXT EDITOR: Frances Cholewa
 420 Whiting St., El Segundo, CA
 90245; Phone: (213) 322-6099

NEXT ISSUE: September 19, 1978
 DEADLINE: Friday, Sept. 15, 1978

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS: 3rd Tuesday of
 each month, 7:30pm, D. of Water &
 Power Aud., 111 N. Hope, L.A. Free
 Parking. Program, refreshments, con-
 versation. Climbers, skiers, and
 guests all welcome!

RUTH AND JOHN MENDENHALL, who have
 said goodbye-forever, are finally
 leaving-moving day is Aug. 16th.
 New address is 9700 Marmount Dr.,
 NW, Seattle WA 98117. They will be
 happy to have visitors from the South

RM

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS: Phil Bruce has requested that a notice be publish-
 ed to the following effect: "The Mugelnoos mailing list is kept by a
 commercial service on a computer. While changes can be processed fairly
 rapidly, they cost money and trouble. The Mugelmailer asks that subscri-
 bers be temperate with address changes--e.g., don't send a summer address
 change that will have to be redone in 3 months."

ON SAFETY AND WILDERNESS BY GALEN A. ROWELL (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

At stake is the most basic of wilderness values: the right to risk life
 and limb in the wilds. It is central to skiing, river running and moun-
 tain climbing--to name a few. It is less obvious, but just as important
 in educational outdoor programs that put new twinkles in childrens' eyes
 by removing them from a dull routine of rote learning and placing them
 instead in situations where they must actively question their surroundings
 and seek answers for themselves. This very process--of questioning, of
 learning--makes activities such as climbing defy statistical analysis.
 Outlaw leather boots on McKinley because a high number of climbers were
 frostbitten last year and along comes someone who wants to try an improved
 leather boot this year. Set a maximum rate of climb to avoid altitude
 illness, and along comes someone acclimatized to 14,000 feet who wants
 to ascend fast...A wilderness experience involves a state of trust in
 oneself and one's abilities. It is diametrically opposed to a state of
 dependence, where trust is transferred either to other people or to
 technology. The level of this trust determines just how far the wilder-
 ness traveler will push. In mountain climbing this is especially true.
 Each individual is regulated by self-trust. Mountain climbing, unlike
 tennis or baseball, has no set rules or regulations because it is depen-
 dent on trust. In most ways, this trust escapes definition. Like love
 or religion, it grows in one's heart over a period of time; many short-
 cuts to happiness are advertised for those unwilling to expend the
 necessary effort of commitment to gain this trusting state.

In the past, only those with sufficient trust in themselves ventured
 onto Mt. McKinley's slopes. Half of today's climbers, however, pay for
 their place in a guided group, and all have access to a chopper ride only
 a radio call away.

After much soul-searching, I personally believe that it is better to
 sacrifice some of the appearance of wilderness in order to regain self-
 sufficiency. Except for McKinley, every frequently climbed mountain in
 the world has some sort of living or rescue facilities at closer hand.
 I would rather see a modest cache of a stretcher, a rescue winch and a
 few oxygen bottles in the rocks at 17,000 feet so that expeditions could
 quietly evacuate their sick, rather than depend on a radio call to bring
 noisy chase planes and helicopters in the mountain fastness.

** This page has been retyped to take care of overtyping.- Mugelgrapher

C A L E N D A R

AUG 19-20 - Sat-Sun. Fresno Dome
 rock climb: L. Russ, 275-9703,
 see below*

SEP 1-4 - Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon.-
 Tuolumne Meadows: Fred Wing,
 476-4398.

SEP 10 - Sun. SAFETY TEST:
 Dick DeRusha, 661-9924.

SEP 19 - Tues. Mugelnoos meeting.

SEP 23-24 - Sat-Sun. Needles Area
 - Sequoia: Andy Fried, 466-0480,
 see below**.

ADDED NOTES ON FUTURE TRIPS

* FRESNO DOME, Aug. 19-20, takes
 the place of Devil's Postpile in
 schedule. Directions: Hwy 41 to
 Bass Lake Rd to Malum Ridge Rd to
 Beasore Rd (#434) to Cold Springs
 Summit; left turn for Fresno
 Dome (signpost). RCS signs will be
 out if ldr gets early LA depart-
 ure.

**NEEDLES AREA, Sep. 23-24. Direc-
 tions: North on Rt. 99 to Tipton;
 East on 190 through Porterville
 to Quaking Aspen campground. Meet
 8:00am, Sat. Climbs 5.7 and up,
 some aid.