

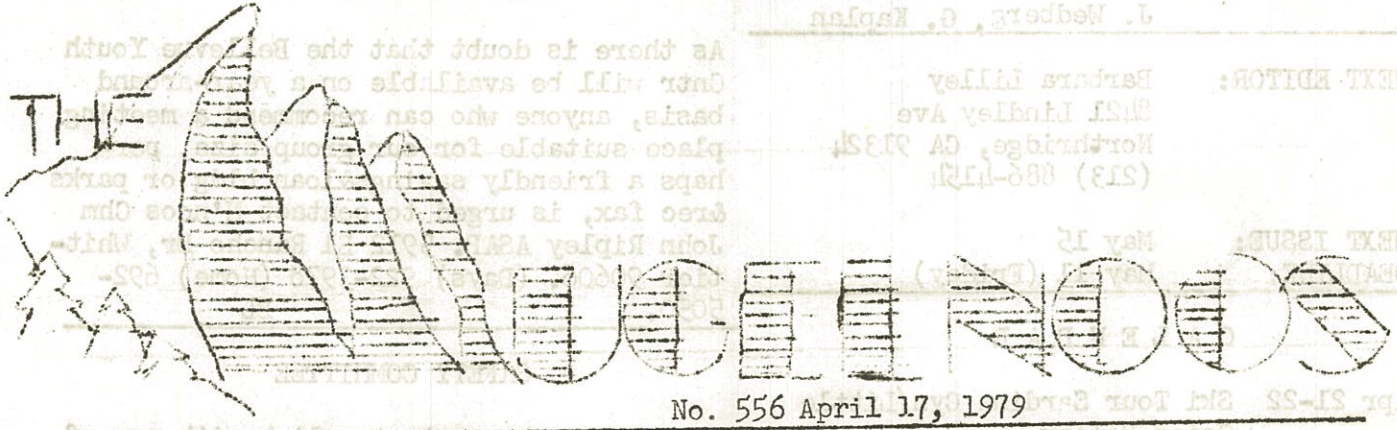
MOUNTAIN MEETING: 7:30 pm (1 hour earlier for ski mountaineering equipment checkout Nov thru Apr), La Brea Tower & Lower Reservoir, 111 W. Hope St., downtown LA. Program, refreshments. Everyone welcome!

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No. 556 April 17, 1979

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BALDY MAKES IT A SWEEP

Old Baldy swept the SMS in '79! All three ski tours were a bummer this season. The successful skiing on this mountain was enjoyed not on the scheduled tours, but rather in between them. Because of the steep slopes, Mt San Antinio affords beautiful skiing on corn snow which would be too heavy on most mountains. To be properly "corned up", Baldy's upper slopes require at least 7-10 days of sunshine -- longer if it's cold or early in the season. Due to early scheduling problems, we have no way of knowing when the above prerequisites will be met and we take a shot in the dark by setting ski tours in February and March six months previous. Unfortunately, all our Baldy dates in '79 fell just subsequent to major storms -- thus, a sweep for San Antonio and zip for the Ski Mountaineers.

Some super great trips were had by a handful of Baldy-watchers, however, and it is recommended that anyone interested in the up-to-date conditions contact John Wedberg (472-6768 before 8 pm), who has his own committee key to the Hut and journies thereto with the slightest excuse.

The final official SMS tour of the season at Baldy was held Mar 24-25, only a couple of days after an 18-inch snowfall. There were four participants on the trip: Leader Wedberg, his 12-year-old son, one ski mountaineer, and one member who it turned out had never been on skis before! What was worse, he showed up with Silvretta bindings without the heel hold-down! He was young, strong and eager: it took him longer to get down the mountain than it did to get up! A couple of extra runs were taken just below the summit at mid-morning Sunday, but then even this area became crusty and a whiteout was Baldy's final shot as the Hut was locked up and everyone homeward bound by 2 pm.

SKI TOURING UPDATE

The Pear Lake Ski Hut will be available for use on the SMS scheduled tour on April 28-29. Food is no longer available for purchase at the Hut. Bring all your own plus some white gasoline in case that is in short supply also. (Contact C. Cameron. As Cliff is moving, after April 17 he can be contacted only through his day phone (213) 688-3813.) Note: All drivers should carry tire chains on this tour (as on all trips to the snow country through May). It has stormed on at least 1/3 of the "Spring" Pear Lake trips. One of the participants on the Jan. Pear Lake tour found out just how costly not having tire chains could be -- to say nothing of the inconvenience to all concerned. (Ask BL how much at the meeting -- Ed)

The snowpack in both Southern California and the Sierras appears to be sufficient now to assure that all SMS tours should pretty much go as scheduled, weather conditions permitting. Participants are urged to bring "downhill" equipment, swim suits and hiking boots for possible alternate activities in event of bad weather. THINK SUNSHINE!

Helpful Hint: An inexpensive, lightweight but extremely useful item to carry on a ski tour, even for just one day, is a spare ski pole basket. All participants are urged to bring same, so that there will be several in the party. BL

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NEXT ISSUE: May 15
 DEADLINE: May 11 (Friday)

C A L E N D A R

Apr 21-22 Ski Tour Sardine Cyn/Little Onion Valley

Apr 28-29 Ski Tour Pear Lake See p.1 item
 Cliff & Betty Cameron

May 5 Big Rock Climb
 B. Lindgren

May 6 Safety Test
 A. Fried

May 12-13 Ski Tour/Pk Climbs Inconsonable Range, The Hunchback SMS/SPS
 M. Omberg, G. MacLeod

May 15 Mugelnoos Mtg

May 19-20 Ski Tour Mt Dana
 G. Shinno

**May 26-28 Domeland Climb
 J. Ripley

* The Safety Test earlier scheduled for April 21 will be held May 6. All persons wishing to take the test should contact Andy Fried (466-0480). AF

** DOMELAND TO REPLACE TRONO BLANCO

The Memorial Day weekend trip to Trono Blanco in Baja has been cancelled because Sierra Club insurance no longer covers trips to Mexico. However, the substitute promises to be just as good (better?). RCS will go to Domeland of the Sierra instead. The region contains countless domes of high quality, including climbing within easy hiking distance of the roads. The area has never been visited by RCS, but there are established rts (see 1973 AAJ p.419). More details will be forthcoming. Contact leader John Ripley prior to trip. Andy Fried will assist. JR

RCS' ROSTER FOR 1979

It's finally out. Members should be receiving theirs with this issue of M'noos. Others can get copy by sending SASE to J. Sharpsteen, 1996 Bluebird Rd, Glendora 91740. JS

MUGELNOOS meetings: 3d Tuesday of each month 7:30 pm (1/2 hour earlier for ski mountaineering equipment checkout Nov thru Apr), La Dept Water & Power Auditorium, 111 N. Hope St, downtown LA. Program, Refreshments. Everyone welcome!

NEW MUGELNOOS MEETINGPLACE SOUGHT

As there is doubt that the Bellevue Youth Cntr will be available on a year-around basis, anyone who can recommend a meeting place suitable for our group size, perhaps a friendly savings&loan bldg or parks & rec fax, is urged to contact M'noos Chm John Ripley ASAP. 5912 El Rancho Dr, Whittier 90606. (Days) 922-3978 (Home) 692-5050. BL

SAFETY COMMITTEE

For anyone who wants to climb with one of them, the members of the RCS Safety Committee are: Andy Fried (Chm), Dick Derusha, Ron Master, Ed Nissen, Don Pies, John Ripley, Leroy Russ and Fred Wing. AF

MUGELNOOS NEEDS HELP AGAIN

Phil Bruce has decided that he must abdicate his Mugelmailer job by June 1. We need a volunteer to gradually pick up the tasks of handling subscriptions, money, and mailing. Ski Mountaineers should especially consider coming forward to uphold the honor or the SMS--the RCS presently supplies most of the editors, as well as the Mugelgrapher, Mugelmailer and Mugelnoos chairman. If you are able to help, contact John Ripley or Phil Bruce. JR

NEW SKI MOUNTAINEERS WELCOME

Joan Jones, 11826 The Wye, El Monte 91732 443-0706

Dan Kibler, 5330 Zelzah, #3, Encino 91316 996-0980

Jane McMahon, 1516 W. 1st St, #213, San Pedro 90732, 831-5069

Don Pies, 2451 Myrtle Ave, Hermosa Beach 90254, 374-5745

John Ribarich, 2500 Pesquera Dr, Los Angeles 90049

KELTY NORTHRIDGE STORE SOLD

Kelty Pack announces it sold its Northridge store last month. The original Glendale store will stay in business and will honor any Northridge open credit memos and gift certificates. BL

DWP SAYS WATER LEVELS ARE UP

Its April 1 snowpack survey of Eastern Sierra shows average of 107% of normal for all measuring stations. BL

NPS WEATHER FORECAST (213) 688-2902

NOTICE FOR STUDENTS

Students with completed proficiency cards have now completed the first phase of their RCS training. With the beginning of scheduled trips (Mar 10&11), the second phase begins. This phase consists of attending scheduled RCS trips and climbing with qualified rope leaders on multipitch climbs. Qualified leaders are RCS members and qualified guests. During this phase, students will polish their rope handling and climbing skills learned at practice climbs. If students are serious about rock-climbing, they will make every effort to attend as many climbs with the RCS for a season (Nov-Oct) before taking the Safety Test for eventual RCS membership. The exception to this step is the well-qualified student, who had valid climbing experience prior to RCS training. The Safety Committee will contact eligible students, before the first 1980 scheduled Safety Test.

Trip Requirements:

1. Telephone the trip leader or assistant and make a reservation; this allows the trip leader to arrange for rope leaders. Written requests are not necessary for RCS trips.
2. Bring your proficiency card and minor release form, if you are under 18 yrs -- on each trip. Leaders will check.

Students without a completed proficiency card should contact the training chairperson -- Frances Clolewa.

Trip Attendance Sheet:

This is the club record of your attendance at climbs. Each day of the trip is considered a climbing day. SIGN EACH DAY.

Route Sheet:

You must sign out on this sheet when you are departing for your climb, and in when you return. **IMPORTANT:** This sheet tells the leader when you left, where you are, and whether or not you have returned. PREVENT FALSE ALARMS. SIGN OUT & IN! If you change climbs or do a second climb, get word to the leader, via another climber, or return and sign in and out. LR

RCS KERN SLABS

Mar 24-25. Twenty-plus students and members enjoyed 70° weather on the first club trip to the Kern Slabs. Climbers covered the slabs, doing Initiation, Clouds, Lie-back, Claustrophobia Crack and make-it-yourself variations (nameless) of the above and other rated climbs. The students did very well, considering the climb was their first contact with multipitch climbing. It was actually a weekend of female excellence. Cathy Crandall led Carol Cooper up Initiation, making her first 5.7 lead (she claims). Carol has already the 5.10 climbers' dress code (a message?). Cathy Connor and Ruth Carter forced the trip leader to make a questionable ⁹⁸⁸ variation climb, remarking after following, that it was easy x?o!***x!. Ruth Carter, suppressing her usual belittling attitude, displayed the good climbing skill she has, by leading Andy and Cathy up Claustrophobia Crack in a fine display of protection placement and rock movement (whatever that means -- Ed). In fact, she didn't even let a pile of _____ (we always delete those nasty expletives the naughty reporters use) faze her lead. Paul Harris, perennial student, put on a fine display of leading in taking the leader up his version of Initiation, finally completing his membership requirements. Saturday night was spent at a pizza parlor of very questionable quality (a Fried selection). The area and campgrounds are compatible for non-climbers. One guest went cross-country skiing a short distance away. March is probably the best time for this trip because the campgrounds don't require reservations. The climbing is at a higher level than normal for beginners, but no problems developed. The campfire lacked the usual participants, so the leaders were required to provide the usual banter. The leaders thank the climb participants and assume they all had a good time, or were courteous enough not to say otherwise. Student G.H. can probably give some pointers on walking barefoot. Last but not least, Diana Dee "flew" over the slabs, and dropped a note that landed on the "Van". Sorry Diana, but notes don't count for climb credit. You have to touch the rock. LR

SHUTTLE BUS TO RED'S MEADOW-DEVIL'S POSTPILE

A shuttle bus system between Minaret Summit and Red's Meadow/Devil's Postpile will begin this summer. Starting June 28, the National Park Service and the National Forest Service will run 10 busses a day over this route. Private cars will be restricted during summer months. BL

"WE SKIED THE HECK OUTA THAT MOUNTAIN!"

Two Ski Mountaineers, who shall remain nameless, snuck away to the Baldy Hut on Apr 7-8 while the scheduled tour journeyed to San Geronio. The Baldy pair had it on good authority that Mt San Antonio's snow conditions would be superb. They were not disappointed! Forsaking the usual area around the west summit, they concentrated instead on the territory east of the main summit; the fields below the Devil's Backbone, and the west facing gullies running down from Mt Harwood. "We skied the heck outa that mountain," said one. "A total of six runs from the top for the weekend. Best skiing I've ever had, anywhere," said the other. There should be at least another month of great spring skiing on Baldy. Stay in touch, you all! JW

NEWS FROM RUTH AND JOHN

Several mini-reunions of former RCS and Ski Mountaineers personnel have occurred recently in Seattle. The Mendenhalls have gotten together with Dan Eaton (a former RCS chairman), George Wallerstein, and Dottie Strand. Ruth and John plan to be in Yosemite April 28 for an AAC Board Meeting. RM
 (Anyone interested in a trip there then -- to see them &/or climb? Ed)

GIL CHON IN KOREA

We will be missing Gil at RCS climbs for two years, maybe longer, depending on how things work out for him at the University in Seoul where he is teaching computer science. He says there is great climbing there, just minutes away from the city. In fact, Chouinard is said to have made good use of his time when he was there in the Army. Gil's new address is:

277-93 Hong-Eun-Dong
 Sudaemunker, Seoul, Korea

Mail can also be forwarded through his sister at:
 10206 Regent St #11
 Los Angeles 90713

HOW TO ACHIEVE A HIGH WHEN YOU'RE DOWNTOWN

"I, Rex Underwood, being of sound body and crazy mind, and having this day made the ascent of the Union Bank (to my knowledge), thereby claim a special relationship (somewhat like a persevering suitor to a former virgin). This climb was done solo, using the NW corner, starting at 1 a.m. 3-4-79. The summit was reached at 4:50 a.m. without mishap (no broken bones, frostbite or pulmonary edema). I would like to express my deepest thanks to the people at the Union Bank, without whose knowledge and cooperation this climb was made possible." (signed Rex Underwood) first

Rex, 20, a student in the RCS Training Program this year, made this amazing climb to the 39th floor unbeknownst to all but one friend. The bare, holdless first 20 feet required a continuous and strenuous lieback, with Rex taking a fall (no serious injury) on his first attempt. From here on, he was able to grasp and stand on a regular series of 3/2 foot wide ledges, horizontal cables and steel sunscreens (which he'd scouted earlier from one of the windows) from one floor to another. The last move to each floor required a "thank God" lunge for a secure handhold on the next cable, and kept him in a controlled state of near-terror. He self-belayed by looping his rope over each sunscreen, limiting any possible fall to 30ft. Luckily, there were none - except on the lieback. At the top he pinned his note to boxer shorts which he fastened as a flag to the cable. After resting for about an hour, he rapped down - in 5-floor lengths, reaching the street at 8 a.m.

His feat went unheralded until first, Easy Reader - a South Bay paper, then, the Los Angeles Reader - free weekly paper, published identical articles by writer Kevin Cody, and 2 weeks later the Herald Examiner printed its own account. RU

TROUGH OF FOOLS

April Fools Day found 4 RCS'ers on the Trough at Tahquitz. To celebrate the day, Glenn Kaplan, Eric Callow, Harry Baker and Stan Klein completed the iced couloir under perfect conditions. Plenty of snow, after a recent storm, consolidated enough for an easy approach on hard steep snow right to the base of the Trough itself. Kaplan lead the 1st & 3d pitches, Callow the 2d, Baker & Klein coming up the rear. Climbing was mixed water ice & frozen snow, up to 80°. A tricky traverse & mantle from ice to a snowy ledge at the overhang with crampons was a highlite. Above the tree was verglas which soon flaked off once the sun warmed the rock. Final 80-90 ft was steep snow consolidated for good purchase. Query how long the ice will stay in the gully, but the snow shd last a long time. All in all, fun & not foolhardy! GK