



New AAC Branch Library in Southern California

Mrs. Arnel Erb has donated her husband's extensive collection of mountaineering literature to the American Alpine Club in his memory. (He was killed in 1976 while returning from a summit attempt on Dunagiri in India.) The collection is housed at the Malibu County Library, located in the County Courthouse complex across from the Malibu Colony. Library hours are 10 A.M. to 8 P.M. Tuesdays thru Thursdays, 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. on Friday and 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. on Saturdays.

The collection includes approximately twelve shelves of North American mountaineering literature, eight shelves devoted to climbing literature from the Alps, three shelves on Great Britain, six on the Himalayas, one shelf for the Andes, one for Japan and New Zealand, and one for Norway and Africa.

Also included are two shelves of instructional books on climbing, one shelf of fiction, four on caving, four on canoeing and wilderness travel and two shelves of volumes of mountaineering and alpine photos (such as the Sierra Club series). In addition there are nearly-complete sets of The Alpine Journal (since 1963), the American Alpine Club Journal, Canadian Alpine Club Journal, Sierra Club Bulletin, Mountain World, Mazama Bulletin, Appalachia, The Mountaineers Journal, Rock & Fell, Summit and other publications. There is also a large topographic map collection of North American ranges. (from AAC News, Mr. 1979)

BIG ROCK CLIMB

Eight RCS members and 26 students braved the smog during the Lake Perris celebration of Clean Air Week. Our climbers laid siege to the rock and established continuous rope chains on the easier routes of the main face. Other routes were done by smaller parties, and in spite of the congestion and some waiting, most people seemed to do enough climbing. The day ended with a housewarming party put on by student Bob Coswell. (BL)

SAFETY TEST - May 6

The small turnout for this test at Stoney Point was probably due to the gas shortage. Kathy Crandall and Bill Kelleghan both passed the test. Those not passed generally had problems with rappel and prussik. One person, became so entangled that it was necessary to cut a new perlon rope to avoid a possible fatality. It is expected that he will become an expert on this aspect of climbing safety before the next test, having now become highly motivated.

The next safety test will be in September.

NEW RULES FOR HOT CREEK TO BEGIN JUNE 1

Hot Creek will be managed under new rules and emphasis by the Forest Service starting June 1. Incidences of deaths, injuries and site damage prompted the assessment and selection of a course of action.

Daytime use, including bathing in the warm pools, will be allowed to continue, but under closer supervision of the Forest Service. The restrictions being newly imposed or given renewed emphasis include: Night time use, between sunset and sunrise, will be prohibited. -inter time uses, generally from December 1 to April 1, will not be permitted. When the area is closed, no one will be permitted within the area. -Camping anywhere in the area will not be allowed. There are a variety of campgrounds within a few miles. -Fires, except stoves in vehicles, will not be allowed.

Suggestions for changes that will allow greater use of Hot Creek but with protection of users will be welcomed. The Forest Service contacts are the District Ranger at Mammoth Ranger Station or Information Officer, Inyo National Forest, Bishop. (excerpts for article in Inyo Register, May 10, 1979)

"GAS HOTLINE" 1-800-462-5576

Call this toll free number to find out firsthand information about gasoline availability along U.S. 395 in the Inyo and Mono Counties.

MUGELNOOS STAFF

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DEADLINE: July 13, 1979

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.

CALENDARRCS Scheduled Trips

June 30-July 4 - Palisades
 M.Cole/F. Wing
 (M.C.-(213)391-5555)
 July 9-10 - Tahquitz
 L.Russ/D. Burdett
 (213) 295-9703
 July 17 - Mugelnoos Meeting
 Movie - Fitzroy Mtn. (in Patagonia starring Chouinard, Jones, Tompkins and Dorworth)
 July 21-22-Mt. Goode
 D. Mundwiler/T. Ryan

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Safety Committee has received and reviewed membership applications from the following persons: Paul Harris, Ruth Carter, Nathan John and Russell Kirkpatrick.

Anyone wishing to comment on the climbing safety of any of the above should send their letters to Andy Fried, 538 N. Bronson Ave., L.A., CA. 90004.

(AF)

A NEW STRAKA IS BORN

Born to former RCS members, Bill and Barbara Straka, in Washington, D.C. on May 18.--William Charles III. (LM)

NEW SKI MOUNTAINEER - WELCOME

Tom Duryea
 11141 Asher, #62
 El Monte, CA 91732
 Phone: (213) 448-5373

SMS Memorial Day Activities

Although the scheduled tour was cancelled by the leaders, would-be participants found skiing in Robinson Basin (continuous snow but mushy due to recent rains) and the north side of Mt. Baldy (a ski decent that required 1 1/2 hrs. of hard work kicking steps to return to the Devil's Backbone).

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

As chairman of the training committee, I would like to thank all of the RCS instructors for their hard work, diligence, and patience. What with howling sand storms, continuous bad weather and a leader who deserted you on the last session (of course, for fame and fortune!), there was always a group of instructors who showed up in good spirits and a willingness to work.

The night before each session, as my anxiety grew to new proportions, I wondered---would any instructors show and why do they do it? The first question you answered (you showed!) and the latter---you can only answer for yourselves.

It appears from the recent trips that we have a fine group of student climbers. I greatly enjoyed working with the students and hopefully, I'll have a chance to work with them as a fellow RCS member.
 FC

SMS DIRECTORY

The 1979 Ski Mountaineers Directory will be mailed to current members with this issue of Mugelnoos. Former members who resubscribe to Mugelnoos are reminded they must apply to the Secretary for reinstatement. It will apply in the new "Alpine Ski Touring Committee" (of which all 1979 SMS'ers will automatically become members.)

NFS info line (all of Calif.)
 (415) 982-2222

BASE CAMP REUNION IS SUMMIT ELSE

Base Camp wasn't a chilly shelter on a mountain slope. It was a wonderful furnished family home in northeast L.A., and its monthly rental was \$75. The owner was Aurelia Harwood's cousin, who was delighted to have six "Sierrans" move in that first Saturday in May, 1939: Howard Koster, John Mendenhall, Glen Warner, the Dyar Girls Ruth and Joan, and Olga Schomberg. Base Camp became Mugelnoos headquarters, a meeting location for trips, an information center, a place for good food and for parties and for laughter. When World War II came it was disbanded, but every five years there has been a reunion of Base Campers and their friends.

A "Great Assemblage of Old Ski Mountaineers" was held May 5 at the Pasadena home of Howard and Ruth Koster, to celebrate Base Camp's fortieth anniversary. Their son, Oliver and daughter Charlyn and her husband, Frank, Moltane and Chad Moltane were co-hosts, and Frank took numerous pictures of the 54 celebrities. One and all were from the olden days except for the famous modern historian, John Ripley, who wasn't even born way back then. Guests came from as far away as Montana and Colorado and even Paradise (CA 95969). A few had not met for decades, and had to peer at name tags to recognize friends who seemed to have been made up by TV experts to appear more mature. (continued on page 4)

AN OBJECTION

At the risk of losing a good friend, I would like to explain why I am opposed to the creation of an "Alpine Ski Touring Committee" in place of the Ski Mountaineers Section.

Next year the SMS will celebrate its 45th anniversary; when the SMS joined the Southern California chapter in 1935 it was the chapter's first section. The person responsible for the above proposal is throwing 44 years of tradition out of the window.

To the best of my knowledge, there has been no discussion of this proposal with the members of the Central Committee of the SMS, and little discussion among the membership in general. Indeed, when I first heard of the matter, I was not asked for my opinion, but told that the SMS would become an "Alpine Ski Touring Committee". Furthermore, the matter has yet to be brought up at a Mugelnoos meeting. Before the SMS loses its "section" status, I think that majority of the membership should be polled to gather an opinion on this action.

The main precipitant behind this proposal has been a lack of interest in the ski tours the SMS schedules. This surprises me, for if there were any time in the SMS' history when demand would exceed supply, it would be now. A popular magazine has described ski mountaineering to be the next big skiing boom. One ski tour this season I have encountered many more people skiing the backcountry than ever before. Equipment and technique have changed over the years, and the SMS must change as well, otherwise it will deserve to fade away into obscurity. (RJS)

WINTER OF '79 - FINAL REPORT

After checking with L.A. DWP engineer Mike Sellheim, R.J. Secor submits the following: The runoff average this year for the Owens Valley is 107% of normal (compared to 160% of normal last year); however, Mono runoff is 114%, San Joaquin is 118% and Kings is 127% of normal (watch those stream crossing!). For those who may wonder how "normal" is determined, the DWP's averages are based on a 40-year average, 1934-35 through 1973-74. This is usually updated every 5 years. Other years when the April-Sept. runoff was between 90-110% were 1938, 1940 and 1975. (Runoff average is not to be confused with snowpack average.)

Another measurement used is the snowpack water content. This average is based on 45 years of data, 1931-1975. However, this is not as much of a "constant" as the runoff averages, since this varies with the type of snow that is falling and with how long it has been on the ground. The runoff average is derived from it. An example would be two types of snow found in the mountains; powder snow may have a water content of 1%, ice may have a water content of 99%. During the period from April to July some of this water may evaporate, some may enter the ground water system and some may metamorphose into permanent snowfields or glaciers before it reaches the Owen Valley and subsequently L.A. (RJS & BJJ)

ALPINE SKI TOUR, INCONSOLABLE RANGE, May 12-13, 1979

From the top of the Sherwin Grade on Hwy. 395 north of Bishop, a long, intriguing snowslope is viewed which leads southwestward toward the higher peaks of the Inconsolable Range. This provided an incentive for a joint SMS-SPS trip; a trip which indeed turned out to be worthwhile for both hikers and skiers and resulted in the discovery of yet another area for Alpine ski touring.

From Parcher's Camp on the South Lake road, 12 (6 each skiers and hikers) climbed on firm snow to a camp between Bluff and Brown Lakes where bare spots and abundant firewood were found. Sat. PM, while hikers did the Hunchback and Pk. 12,307', 5 skiers ascended the snowslopes of Pk. 12,674'. The snow on the upper 1000' of the ski descent was already crusty but the sunny west-facing slopes provided some fantastic spring corn skiing right back to camp for the "happy hour", followed by a cheery campfire. Although both days were clear and mild, temperature dropped to 20° F at night.

After a bit too leisurely a start Sun. AM, They traversed under "The Hunchback" and onto the long, mostly gentle snowslope which they ascended to just under Pk. 13,356', where skis were left. Nine climbed "Inconsolable Pk" (13,501), 5 climbed 13,356' and 1 climbed Pk. 12,674'. Although the snow was generally firm enough for walking, the skiers had a definite advantage on the descent. Due to the recent 8" snowfall, the snow above 12,000' was quite sticky but the lower portion, especially below "The Hunchback" was again super spring corn snow skiing right to camp. For the skiers, the first few hundred feet below camp provided some good skiing; this was followed by some willow-bashing, rotten snow and spectacular falls (some attributable to "MacLeod specials"). The foot travelers made some deep holes and one person fell into Bluff Lake, but all finally reached the cars by 5:30 PM.

An interesting development on this trip was that SPS'ers brought a skiing guest completely unknown to the SMS leaders! Fortunately, he turned out to be competent and had the right equipment (though theoretically he could have always walked down) but --just another thing for ski tour leaders of joint trips to watch out for! (BJL)

With perfect timing--Tioga Pass had just opened the day before--six SPS'ers headed for Mt. Dana (13,053') Sat. on the first scheduled tour there in a number of years. Snow was continuous from the cars to the summit and two made the entire 3000' descent on skis. Three others climbed the peak also, leaving skis a few hundred feet below. A cold wind that was keeping a snow frozen was suddenly replaced with warm sunshine, and the ski descent was a bit later than ideal but still provided plenty of good turns. Two other skiing groups were also on the mountain.

After appropriate beverages, an expensive dinner at Mammoth and a "farewell to Hot Creek" dip ("Big Brother" USFS intends to break a 30-year after ski tradition) they enjoyed the luxurious accommodations of Owen Malloy's condominium. Sunday, all six, joined by John Wedberg doing his best to keep ahead of his two skiing sons, skied themselves into exhaustion on the typically good spring snow and uncrowded slopes found at Mammoth this time of year (reduced rates too.) At this time, Mammoth still had 7 ft. of snow and expected to operate thru July 4th. Although runoff is expected to be above normal (see article elsewhere), actual precipitation in the Owens-Mono-Sierra area is slightly below 95%. (If this what is considered a "normal" year, we'll take it!). Although Southern California precipitation was 140% of normal, the north coast received as little as 50% and according to the Water Resources Control Board classification, 1979 is listed as a "dry" water year.

WANT TO GO ON TO BIGGER THINGS?

Two years ago, the Go for Broke Climbing Club (Frances Cholewa, Jim Endo, Ron Overholtz, Randy Mc Donald and Don Wilson) left for Yosemite to make our mark on the rocks. Don and Ron, ex-students of the RCS (never becoming official RCS members, though they climbed as guest with the section) went on to become 5'10 (or is it 5'11 climbers?). Ron tried once to come back to L.A. He bought a van and as a final goodbye tribute, drove Tuolumne to say farewell to friends; he had landed his old job at Pat's Ski Shop in Huntington Bch. As fate would have it, the van broke down in Tuolumne and J. Endo pushed him to the top of Tioga Pass. Ron coasted to Lee Vining--never to return to L.A.

Jim Endo, ex-chairman of the training committee, commutes between Joshua Tree, Tahquitz, Yosemite and Bishop in a beige VW Van. Jim is now a seasonal employee of the Forest Service in Mono County.

Randy McDonald often is seen in J.T. or Tahquitz cruising in his green machine. He resides in Palm Springs. As the temperature reaches 115°F in the shade, Randy looks toward the cooler weather (90°F) in Bishop, working as an electrician.

I have sought salvation in downtown Venice. I display a great agility at warding off muggers etc. I am doing an in-depth studies of the birds and the bees at UCLA, trying to fight off my desire to burn everything and once again flee to the mountains.

But the real purpose of this article is Don Wilson. Don is presently residing in Idyllwild. Don has created a business called "California Mountaineering and Technical Rock Climbing School." He has some of the finest climbers in the country working for him.

Ron Master, Dave Perkins and I did a TV spot for Dave Horowitz's Consumer Advocate on Safe Climbing practices. Don Wilson called me twice in regard to this TV show due to his concern of the poor climbing habits that are being taught by the colleges, boy scouts, etc. He felt the RCS was one of the most responsible groups teaching beginning climbing.

Don teaches classes in all aspects of climbing: direct aid (big wall techniques), technical ice and basic to advanced rockclimbing. If anyone is interested in more advanced training in climbing, I would highly recommend his school. (FC)
Sept 20th to May 20th May 20th to Sept. 20th
6121 Prescott Ave. P.O. Box 1576
Yucca Valley, CA. 92284 Idyllwild, CA 92349
(714) 365-1152 (714) 659-4801

BASE CAMP REUNION (Continued from page 2)

In addition to the hosts, all other former occupants of Base Camp living in California were there: LaVere (Root) Aulie, Joan (Dyar) Clark, Homer Fuller, Mary (Bennett) Fuller, Dot (Barlow) Taylor, Bill Voss, and Glen Warner. John and Ruth (Dyar) Mendenhall and Dottie Strand sent regrets from Seattle.

A superb dinner was served outdoors, and "Koster", who had really been Base Camp's leader, proved that he had lost none of his organizational skills. The party was a personal triumph for Ruth Koster, who a year ago suffered a mysterious paralyzing illness and has since learned to walk again.

We're looking forward to 1984! (JC)