

No. 560--August 21, 1979 A 6 page issue

A newsheet published by and for the Ski Mountaineers and Rock Climbing Sections of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter since 1938. Send subscriptions and address changes to Dove Menkes, 2286 Loma Alta Dr., Fullerton, CA 92633. \$2 for balance of 1979. 1980 subscriptions not yet accepted.

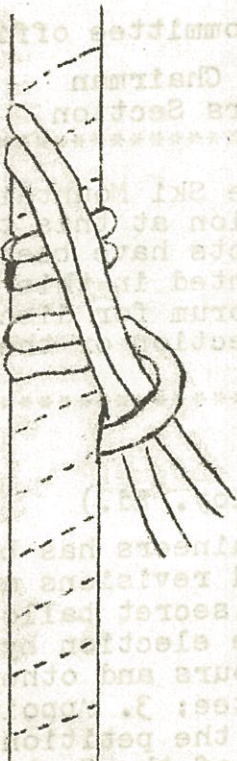
MT. GOODE, JULY 21 & 22 ***RAIN *** RAIN *** RAIN

After raining all night it was still raining Saturday morning, no let up in sight and a 50/50 forecast for Sunday. Eleven climbers signed in and six of them went down the hill in Andy's van for breakfast, returning about 4 PM (long breakfast?). Dick Mundwiler and John Moore went up the trail to pick up their climbing gear left on Friday at the base of Goode. Late Saturday afternoon with the weather still bad, the leaders declared the trip over and all but four left for home. Glen Kaplan and Anson Moore went into Mt. Gilbert, spent the night in bivy sacks under a tube tent and when the rain finally stopped Sunday morning, climbed the North East Couloir, Grade III, 5,6. Stan Klein and Bob Harvey hiked into Long Lake, spent the night in their tent and on Sunday climbed a 10 pitch, 4th class -5.3 route on the northeast side of Hurd Peak. All of us that had a good look at the north face of Mt. Goode agreed we should schedule another trip to this area. NOTE: This trip will be rescheduled on approximately Sept 29-30, 1979. Those interested contact Dick Mundwiler by Sept. 10 (tel - 714-737-7718. DM

GLACIER WANDERING WITH WANDS

July 12, R.J. Secor and John Mendenhall climbed Mt. Olympus, highest of Washington's Olympic Mts. 16.6 mile backpack. Started climb under cloudy skies. Visibility good across Blue Glacier and up the Dome, then about 200 feet thereafter. R.J. guided us across the Dome by compass, placing 33 wands. Groped along and over the False Summit. Made the true summit about 4 PM, and enjoyed a splendid, 360-degree view of 100 feet distance. JDM

A USEFUL KNOT



It is possible to prussik with 1 inch tubular webbing tied directly to a 7/16 inch climbing rope if you use a Hedden Knot illustrated below. Knowledge of this could be extremely useful in a situation where you lacked prussik loops, but did have webbing slings with you. (From Douglas Hansen in June 79 OFF BELAY.) TJ

MUGELNOOS STAFF

NEW ADDRESS

EDITOR for August...Tom Jeter
MUGELGRAPHERMark Cole
MUGELMAILER.....Dove Menkes
REPORTERS: Dick Mundwiler, John Mendenhall, LeRoy Russ, Tom Jeter, Bill Feldman, Owen Maloy, Barbara Lilley, Chuck Wilts, John Wedberg, Mark Goebel, Bob Frampton

Andy Fried (as of Sept 8)
9218 Jellico Ave
Northridge, CA 91324

MUCHOS GRACIAS

Ruth and John Mendenhall greatly appreciate their going-away gift certificate from the RCS last year. It financed two items: a new rucksack (the old one was on its last legs -- it had even served as a mini-bivy sack, so pun intended) and the comprehensive guide to the Am. Alpine Journal, which will greatly aid research for Ruth's continuing editorship of the A.A. News. JDM

\$2 per year-make checks to Mugeln

NEXT EDITOR: Owen Maloy
4591 Green Tree Lane
Irvine, CA 92715
(714) 551-5495

NEXT ISSUE: September 18, 1979
DEADLINE: Friday, September 14

CALENDAR

AUG. 25-26 - Suicide Climb;
Dick DeRusha (213) 661-9924.
Sept. 1-4 - Toulumne Meadows climb
Jim Campbell (213) 286-9751
Leslie Masters (213) 322-6099
Sept 16 - RCS Safety Test
Andy Fried

Sept 18 - Tue. Mugelnoos Meeting;
program by Jim Endo on Valley.

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS: Third Tuesday
of each month, 7:30 PM, Dept. of
Water & Power Aud., 111 N. Hope,
downtown LA. Parking free. Program
refreshments, conversation, climber
skiers; guests all welcome!

RCS TRAINING CLASS

Registration for the 1980 RCS Rock
climbing training class is start-
ing now. Those interested should
request an application form from
LeRoy Russ (RCS), 4587 Dan Tomaso
Dr., Los Angeles 9008 by October
15 (include large self addressed
stamped envelope) LR

Climbing Movie

The West L.A. Section is showing
the climbing movies "The Eiger" &
"Climb" on August 22 at 7:30 PM at
2551 Motor Ave (Cheviot Hills Rec.
Center) LR

IMPORTANT SKI MOUNTAINEERS MEETING NOTICE

A special Ski Mountaineers Section meeting for all members will
be held on Monday, Sept. 24, 1979, at 7:00 PM at the home of John
Wedberg, 1374 Stradella, L.A. 90049. The purpose will be:

- To discuss the future of the Ski Mountaineers Section
-- To act upon any proposed by-law changes
-- To conduct the annual election of Central Committee officers

Cliff Cameron, Chairman
Ski Mountaineers Section

EDITORS NOTE: Longstanding controversies within the Ski Mountaineer-
ing Section seem to be coming to a head for resolution at this time.
A number of long and serious letters on these subjects have been
received by this Editor, all of which have been printed in this issue.
Thus Mugelnoos continues to serve as an important forum for discussion
of matters of concern to either the Rock Climbing Section or the Ski
Mountaineering Section.

SKI MOUNTAINEERS BYLAW REVISION

(Following is a letter to Mugelnoos sent by Owen Maloy. Ed.)

A petition to revise the bylaws of the Ski Mountaineers has been
sponsored by 48 members of the Section. The proposed revisions are:
1. change of the method of election to use a mailed, secret ballot,
with nomination of candidates and supervision of the election by a
temporary Elections Committee; 2. scheduling of ski tours and other
events by the Leaders instead of the Central Committee; 3. Appointment
of a Membership Chairman. It was planned to publish the petition in
this issue of Mugelnoos. However, a special meeting of the Section has
been called, and some additional revisions may be proposed at that time.
In the interests of efficiency, the complete set of amendments will
(cont. on page 3)

SKI MOUNTAINEERS BYLAW REVISION (cont. from page 2)

...be submitted to the membership for approval after the meeting. SMS members who have sponsored the petition so far are: Lloyd Balsam, Rosemary Balsam, Walt Boge, Maynard Brandsma, Joan Clark, Nathan Clark, George Coleman, Shirley Coleman, Kathy Crandall, Evie Davie, Walt Davie, Muir Dawson, Worthie Doyle, Tom Duryea, Fred Eaton, Bob Frampton, Andy Fried, Charles Gerckens, Mark Goebel, Eleanor Graff, Bud Halley, George Harr, Howard Koster, Elmer Kutila, Mike Layland, Owen Maloy, Alberta McArthur, Jane McMahan, John Mendenhall, Ruth Mendenhall, Ron Milnarik, Duane Nakano, Mary Omberg, Sy Ossosky, Elgin Pierce, Don Pies, Frank Rhylick, John Ribarich, Tom Ross, R.J. Secor, Carleton Shay, Opal Sneed, Barbara Stott, Ed Unge, George Wallerstein, Steve Wilkie, Gail Wilts, Janet Wilts. OM

As the author of the proposed SMS bylaw revisions, perhaps I should explain the reasons for drafting them. It should be apparent that the current methods of managing the SMS do not work. The fundamental reason for this problem, in my view, is a management failure. Past Central Committees have attempted to dictate the Section's activities and plan all the tours, even to the equipment used. Instead of managing the Section, they have managed the tours-- a quite different thing. This is a classic example of one of the primary causes of business failure, unwillingness or inability to delegate technical tasks.

People who have written in have suggested that the SMS sponsor all the following activities: winter multipitch climbing, winter tours, more challenging ski tours, easier ski tours, hut-based tours, social events, and improved training programs. Why not? Central Committee members hypnotized by the self-serving idea that they have to do all the work say it would be impossible to do such things. Impossible for whom? It is up to the people who want to do these things to staff and schedule them, turning Chapter Schedule writeups into the Central Committee for the next Schedule deadline. Events (especially social events) can also be announced only in Mugelnoos. If somebody wants, for example, to schedule a Nordic tour based on Keller Ski Hut, go ahead; such an event is not technical skiing, is rated I not T, and is not prohibited by the SMS Safety Policy, which defines the requirements for technical downhill skiing (Alpine touring) only. The Chapter Safety Policy covers ordinary activities. Many members are already leaders rated to lead such outings. It is up to the Central Committee to support such activities, not to impede them-- in particular, by modifying the Section Safety Policy to reflect the general outing safety requirements imposed by the Chapter Safety Policy. The proposed bylaw revisions only make all of this explicit. OM

LETTER TO ALL SMS MEMBERS

(Following is a letter to Mugelnoos sent by Barbara Lilley. EN.)

With only 1/3 of Mugelnoos subscribers being SMS members, letters and comments regarding strictly SMS business are more appropriately directed to the SMS Central Committee. A more complete explanation of the need for a committee rather than a section, along with a poll, is being mailed to all SMS members to provide for future input directly to the SMS Central Committee. Voting on whether the SMS Section should become inactive or not can have no meaning if there are not enough members willing to serve as officers and do the work. The motive for forming a Committee is to provide a means for continuing the present activities of the SMS rather than having the Section simply become inactive by default. Attempts in the past to join with the Snow Touring Committee to form a "Wilderness Skiing Section" for scheduling separate or joint Alpine and Nordic tours, with each group retaining its own identity and its own leaders (the only practical way) were rejected by the Snow Touring Committee, apparently in part due to reluctance to continue the association with the RCS, Mugelnoos meetings and Mugelnoos newsheet.

"Practice" for Alpine ski touring is best acquired at a ski resort by deliberately skiing off the packed slopes; potential SMS's and members can and have done this as a group. Banquets, formal ski tests and ski mountaineering (Big Badge) tests have been discontinued due to lack of interest on the part of both new and long-time members. (The 4th Class Ski Test, which has always been a requirement for membership, is given informally on the "Introductory" tours.) Elections for SMS Central Committee members have been informal for quite a few years; members in attendance being satisfied to find 6 people willing to serve. Even this was not possible at the April 1979 election meeting; thus the

(cont. on page 4)

LETTER TO ALL SMS MEMBERS (Cont. from page 3)

decision of the remaining Central Committee members to form a Committee rather than end activities entirely. Election time is when members who wish to effect a change should show up with a list of candidates willing to do the work and supporters to vote them in, not through the passage of more complex, bureaucratic and unrealistic bylaw changes. (The author of these proposed bylaws was one of those who did not bother to attend the April 1979 election meeting.). Incidentally, for those who signed a recent petition regarding same, the current (1972) bylaw provision concerning petitions reads: "Upon petition by ten Members, the Central Committee shall bring any matter up for a vote at the next Ski Mountaineers Section Meeting". (not by mailed, secret ballot!) A SM Section Meeting will be held on Sept 24, and it will be interesting to see how many petition signers and letter writers will actually attend and volunteer to do some of the work necessary to keep the Ski Mountaineers active as a Section. BJJ

ANOTHER VIEW

(Following is a letter sent to Chairman SMS, SMS Central Committee members, and Mugelnoos by Chuck Wilts. Ed.)

I can understand the Central Committee's feeling of discouragement regarding the future of the Ski Mountaineers, but I'm not sure their proposal to disband is a good idea, and I'm convinced that it isn't legal. On the other hand there is something wrong when we have well over a hundred persons who faithfully retain membership in the organization and only a mere handful that participate in the only significant SMS activity - alpine tours. There is something wrong when we cannot merge two activities as closely related as cross-country skiing and alpine ski-touring. And something very wrong when the few active members squabble among themselves and break up the small remaining active group over truly inconsequential matters.

I have heard that when merger of the CCS and AST was finally accepted in principle by the AST'ers, the CCS'ers would no longer consider it. This may be a partial truth, but there must be a lot more to it than simply this. With attitudes I've seen in some of the past leadership of the SMS, I can readily imagine that the CCS group might be suspicious and shun a merger.

It may also be true that there is no longer a place for a SM Section of the Sierra Club in Southern California of today. Perhaps the new image and mission of the Sierra Club is inconsistent with the SMS activities. But I think it more likely that our present dilemma stems from lack of vision and poor leadership in recent years- perhaps both in the SMS and the snow-touring group - and even the Sierra Club itself. Unfortunately I have no solution to offer, so the net result of this letter may only be to damage my relationship with the remaining active members who may see this as an unwarranted criticism directed at them. But I do feel that this problem deserves a more thoughtful discussion and exposure among the entire membership before we finally do something legal through a proper election or ballot. CW

SMS A GHOST SECTION

(Following is a letter sent to Mugelnoos by Bill Feldman. Ed.)

When I first learned of the end of the SMS I was very shocked, but after talking to some of the Central Committee members I agree with their decision. Over the nine years I had been active in the SMS, I observed the section go from a small but active section to a ghost section struggling to keep a tradition alive. Although the last membership list contains over 100 members, very few are active, maybe 15 at most. It is a fact we had many different activities in the past, but these died due to the failure of the inactive members to support the Section.

Normally a section has new people entering and assuming leadership of the section. However, our section requires a skill in downhill skiing, and due to the shortsighted policies of the Sierra Club, good skiers will not enter a group sponsored by a club that is trying to stamp out downhill skiing. The SMS could have included nordic skiers to increase its membership; there are many nordic skiers in the Sierra Club. In 1979 a merger of the Ski Touring Committee and the SMS was attempted, but failed due to a lack of interest by the nordic skiers. Additionally, when I resigned the chairmanship of the SMS in 1977, the vice-chairman, who felt I was trying to keep nordic skiing out of the

(continued on page 5)

SMS A GHOST SECTION

(Cont. from page 4)

SMS, could have tried to amend the bylaws to include nordic skiing in the section. For some reason he didn't; he also resigned. If the inactive members of the SMS really want to keep the section going, I suggest they ask the Central Committee to hold a general membership meeting to decide the future of the section. At this meeting they could see if at least a sufficient number of members are willing to become active and not just go on trips, but help organize and lead activities, serve on committees, and support changes in the bylaws that would bring new members into the SMS. If the members of the section will not support their section they have no right to criticize the members of the Central Committee who have the unpleasant task of desolving a ghost section.

BF

ONE MORE VIEW

(Following is a letter sent to Chairman SMS and Mugelnoos by Robert Frampton. Ed.)

In the July Mugelnoos, Barbara Lilley asked for "input from members" on the Ski Mountaineers Section vs. Committee controversy. Being one of the original 14 skiers who banded together under Walter Mosauer back in 1934, I'd hate like everything to see our "Section" abandoned. Our latest membership roster carries 127 names of members and spouse members. If that isn't proof of interest in the Section, what is it?

The "active" members, of which I assume you are one, have progressed far beyond the abilities of most of the rest of us. I, for one, get out on skis about once or twice a year! Of course I am not equal to Kearsarge Pass with you folks; but I do love to ski. In our local "Mt. Baldy Group" of the Angeles Chapter we have several others in my same boat. We couldn't keep up on your scheduled tours, and don't have the required modern equipment. As a result, we go out together in an informal group of friends and have a ball at such places as Barton Flats and Onyx Summit. Some of us use hickory skis and cable bindings left from the 1930's. Others are renting Nordic gear. We all stay together and enjoy the fellowship just as in the "good old days." If the leaders in the Ski Mountaineers would lower themselves to leading and teaching such people, I'm sure some would eventually progress to the Ramer enthusiasts.

I see no reason to conclude the Nordic vs Alpine controversy by wiping out our wonderful Section. Equipment used is a technicality. It's what is accomplished that counts. I skied for three years in the High Sierra back country on my job with the Southern California Edison Company in 1935-1938 without accident. I wore ridgetop hickory skis with metal toe irons and leather straps. Often I traveled alone from shelter cabin to cabin with a heavy Trapper Nelson pack full of company gear and papers. "Bart" Bartholomew, whom I came to know up there, skied alone across the Sierra, starting at Cottonwood Creek and ending at Yosemite Valley, climbing Mt. Langley, Whitney and Tyndall enroute. He also wore similar equipment with safety. John Hodgkin, with whom I have kept contact since, came through our camp at Florence Lake on an unsuccessful attempt to cross the Sierra solo from Huntington Lake to Bishop. He had reached French Canyon before turning back. The next year he came through again on a successful East West crossing with a friend after a successful west-east crossing farther north. Bart's trip was the winter of '28-'29. Hodgkin's 1936 and again in 1937. There were no safety bindings in those days!

I think that Joan Clark (again in the July Mugelnoos) has made the perfect suggestion to resolve the present controversy. Let the present "active" members (Barbara Lilley and friends) form an Alpine Touring Committee within the Ski Mountaineering Section. That way they can have their freedom or what ever they want. But please, Cliff, don't wipe out our Ski Mountaineers Section.

BF

IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE:

(Following is a letter sent to Mugelnoos by Mark Goebel. Ed.)

It certainly was heartening to read in July Mugelnoos the objections voiced against deactivating the Ski Mountaineers Section. I have been an active Section member, past Chairman, and tour leader, and I also wish to cry out "Long Live the Ski Mountaineers Section." However, some changes are in order if the Section is to prosper and grow. Ruth Mendenhall's suggestions are most appropriate and hopefully will be acted

(continued on page 6)

IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE: (cont. from page 5)

upon. I also wish to respond to points raised by Barbara Lilley in her rebuttal to R.J. Secor. To state that R.J. isn't qualified to have an understanding of the situation is ridiculous and without substance. R.J. has been skiing for years, and continued to do so while residing in Washington State, where skiing goes on almost year round. In addition, he maintained his Section membership and read Mugelnoos. The situation really isn't a difficult one to figure out. For too long, a few individuals (to enhance their own personal enjoyment) have been maintaining restrictive requirements without general membership approval. Of course this is done in the name of safety. However, equipment and techniques have changed, i.e. lightweight, narrow skis, which allow just as much safety, if not more, than wide skis. It is now a recognized fact that alpine oriented, nordic equipment, when combined with downhill techniques, is safe and entirely suitable in mountainous terrain. Ski patrolmen at major downhill areas are patrolling on the gear; it was used to circumnavigate Mt. McKinley, and even the "Haute Route" of the Alps has been done more than once on nordic gear. To state otherwise can only denote ignorance.

In addition to almost totalitarian politics, newcomers on tours (and even some longtime members) are frequently subjected to verbal abuse and/or snide remarks, with an elitist attitude prevailing both on tours and in Section writeups. With these sort of goings-on, it is little wonder that potential members are turned off to Section activities. Trying to put the blame on the Sierra Club's opposition to downhill resorts also misses the boat. It is the Wilderness Skier who will be attracted to the SMS. That person (not resort only skiers) is seeking backcountry challenge and solitude and wants to get away from mechanical devices, packed and bumpy slopes, etc. The wilderness skier is more likely to be directing his efforts towards saving the wilderness along with the Sierra Club. Backcountry skiing is a growing sport; unfortunately, many eager skiers are only progressing slowly due to a lack of sources for education, training and experience. This is an ideal time for the SMS to reestablish its position as a training leader for backcountry skiers.

There is no reason for the Section to "end a 44 year tradition", nor for long-time members to end their opportunities to enjoy this exciting activity. Qualified skiers, regardless of their choice of skis, can ski together safely and thus fortify the SMS. All it takes is a little internal change, "directed towards traditional lines", as so appropriately suggested by Ruth D. Mendenhall. If everyone will put forth a little positive effort, it can be done. MG

SKI MOUNTAINEERS SECTION -- A DILEMMA

(Following is a letter to Mugelnoos sent by John Wedberg. Ed.)

It was suggested in the July Mugelnoos by one contributor that the SMS expand its activities, and five specific suggestions were advanced to widen the interests of the Section..... Our problem is, we need people to do some work ! The present Central Committee is tired. Barbara Lilley has done the schedule writeups, called the meetings, dug up the trip leaders, edited the Mugelnoos, led trips, and generally held the internal structure of the SMS together for at least ten years that I know of. George Shinno has been a Central Committee member for at least 10 or 12 years, and faithfully carried the Mugelnoos to the meetings for stuffing since about 1969. He has been Treasurer for many of those years or usually held some office, as well as led trips and represented the SMS at Chapter Executive Committee meetings. Cliff Cameron and Doug Mantle are active in the SPS as well as alternating the jobs of Chairman & Vice Chairman of the SMS the past few years. Doug has been serving on the Chapter Executive Committee. I believe I've been on the SMS Central Committee most of the time since I joined the Section around 1963, was Chairman a few times.....

The present Central Committee members do not wish to see 40 years of nostalgia and tradition go down the drain. Neither does the present committee wish to throw up their hands and walk out. Far from it ! We are willing to continue working for the Section -- we are simply tired of doing it all ! JW

(Editors Note: The Editor would like to apologize to Mr. Wedberg for being forced to edit out the latter half of his letter. I am unfortunately out of room for this issue.)