



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, 1550 So. Highland Ave., Apt. D, Fullerton, CA 92632. A 4 page issue.

#### STONEY POINT SITE ACQUISITION PLANNED BY CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles City Recreation and Park Commissioners have confirmed action to be taken to acquire Stoney Point Park by eminent domain.

Located on Topanga Canyon Boulevard in Chatsworth at the Los Angeles County line, Stoney Point is a 22-acre parcel that is in essence a rock playground. In March, 1978 the board gave its approval to the acquisition of Stoney Point as a park. The property was subsequently appraised by the Real Estate Division of the Bureau of Engineering in the amount of \$96,500 and negotiations began. The property owners have indicated that the minimum amount they would settle for in a negotiated settlement is \$140,000.

Councilman Hal Bernson, who supports acquisition of the landmark, told Department staff that he is prepared to advocate condemnation action to the City Council. The owners of the parcel have indicated willingness to have the matter of compensation settled in court via eminent domain action. The Commissioners have authorized the City Attorney to hire an independent appraiser, if needed, to evaluate the property. (See page 2 story on RCS meeting for more. ed) VALLEY VIEW 9-26-79

#### Ski Mountaineers Section Central Committee Meeting

The SMS Central Committee met during the evening of Nov. 7, chiefly to discuss the Spring schedule, but also to decide on some other matters that have arisen since the membership meeting in late September. These included:

- 1) Don Mantle's vacancy. The unanimous decision was that Mark Goebel replace Don Mantle on the Central Committee. The Central Committee now consists of Cliff Cameron (Chairman), John Hedberg (Vice Chairman), R.J. Secor (Secretary), George Nimmo (Treasurer), Barbara Willey and Mark Goebel.
- 2) Revision of Equipment Requirements for Nordic/Mountaineering gear. Mark Goebel submitted the following requirements for approved Nordic/Mountaineering Touring Equipment:
  - a. Fiberglass, torsionally rigid touring skis, with side-cuts and durable, sharp edges; metal or equivalent.
  - b. Rugged, three pin or cable bindings, with runaway straps (heel locators are recommended).
  - c. Torsionally stiff boots with gaiters.
  - d. Climbing skins must be carried, unless exempted by leader; suitable waxing kit.

These recommendations were approved unanimously.

3) Ski-tour leaders for trips included in the current schedule (November - February) will not be required to allow Nordic/Mountaineering gear on their tours; this decision will be left to the leaders. In the future, leaders will state in the write-up whether Nordic/Mountaineering gear will be allowed; all leaders must discuss this between themselves before the write-up is submitted. Both of these decisions passed unanimously.

4) The complete SMS 1979-80 ski tour schedule will be published in the December Mugelnoos. As of this writing, the following weekends are open. May 17-18, May 31- June 1. This season's schedule promises to be a humdinger, with trips to the Palisades, ski tours on desert peaks, a ski ascent of Whitney, and a Memorial day trip to Mt. Shasta. All qualified skiers are invited to participate; all qualified ski tour leaders are urged to submit write-ups for trips over the open weekends AS SOON AS POSSIBLE; send them to R.J. Secor, 2366 Las Lunas, Pasadena, CA 91107 (213) 795-5520.

#### SAN ANTONIO SKI HUT CELEBRATION

"Howard Gates Day" was held Saturday & Sunday, October 13-14. The work party and celebration at the San Antonio Ski Hut had seventeen persons signed in and was a great success. Kathy Quinn was hostess, Howard Gates was the honoree of a birthday banquet of fried boneless chicken, creamed rice pilaff, sweet baked beans and apple cake. Coffee and fruit juice completed the repast. Kathy was superb as chief cook.

Howard worked on the trail as usual. Others cut limbs off a dead fallen tree which was down the trail "a peice" and hauled the wood up to the hut where others cut

**MUGELNOOS STAFF**

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**TIME TO RENEW!** Yes, faithful readers, it is time to renew your subscription to MUGELNOOS. Please send your check for three dollars (\$3.00) to:

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**NEXT ISSUE:** December 18, 1979  
**DEADLINE:** December 14, 1979

**MUGELNOOS MEETING**

December 13: DMP Building 7:30 PM  
California Alpine Ski Tours is the program. Come at 7 PM for info on alpine ski touring and equipment.

**CALENDAR**

- NOV 24-25 RCS JOSHUA-TREE CLIMB  
8AM at the Hidden Valley parking lot  
Leader: JOHN MOORE
- Dec 1-2 SAN ANTONIO SKI HUT  
MEMBER IN CHARGE: JOHN WEDBERG
- DEC 1-2 RCS TAHOUITZ CLIMB  
Check with DERUSHA or MASTER re possible changes due to weather
- DEC 7 and 8 ANGELES CHAPTER FUND RAISER  
TWO CONTINENTS OF CLIMBING: ELDORADO TO THE KARAKORAM Tickets \$6.00 in advance or \$7.00 at door. A NO-HOST wine bar starts at 6 PM at the EBELL CLUB. 4400 Wilshire Bl. (at Lucerne)
- Dec 15-16 SAN ANTONIO SKI HUT  
MEMBER IN CHARGE: VIRGIL BAYLESS

JOSHUA TREE NOV. 24-25 (AN EXTRA NOTE)  
John Moore has reserved Group Campsite # 3 at the Sheep Pass CG. Parking at the JT Nat. Monument is restricted; please contact John so that carpool arrangements can be made.

\*\*\*\*\*  
NEW RCS ROSTER ANNOUNCED  
The Secretary/Treasurer promises to get the new roster out on time next year. Please help him by sending changes of address and/or telephone to Jim Sharpsteen 1916 Bluebird, Glendora 91740 or call (213) 335 8875. Your cooperation appreciated.  
\*\*\*\*\*

NEW Ski Mountaineer:  
June D. Lane AT/NM  
16109 Sunset Blvd. #8  
Pacific Palisades, CA 90274 (213)459 4275  
AL FOWLER-- Address  
c/o KPNO, P.O. Box 26732  
Tucson, AZ 85726 phone (602) 296 9103  
Robert Somoano is looking for climbers to join him Dec 7-16 to climb the Mexican volcanoes. Call 790 2123

**ROCK CLIMBING SECTION BUSINESS MEETING**

On October 25, 1979 the RCS held its annual business meeting. Undoubtedly the highlight of the meeting was the election of Frances Cholewa as the RCS first female chair. Even the reputedly male chauvinistic, macho rock climbers can change. Frances will be assisted this year by Ron Master as Vice Chair, and by Jim Sharpsteen as Secretary-Treasurer. This experienced slate was elected by acclamation. Congratulations, and good luck.

Fifteen RCS members were dropped from the rolls for a lack of participation during the 1978-79 season. Dropped were: Azbill, Baker, Bruce, Carlson, Chon, Davis, Erskine, Hinegardner, Jeter, Lash, Masters, McKellop, McPherson, Neuner, and Williams. In a separate action by the Safety Committee Al Fowler was reinstated. Dropped climbers are reminded that they may apply for reinstatement after having made four climbs during a climbing season with the section.

A discussion of an RCS policy on Stoney Point was held(see page 1 lead story). It was decided that it would be helpful if the new chair would write Councilman Hal Bernson in order to express the appreciation of the RCS for his efforts to make Stoney Point a park. The opinion that there should be no permits required for entry into the park was expressed and seemed to have unanimous agreement. It was also felt that the park should be kept in as natural a state as possible. Your expression of opinion on this matter can be sent to:

Hal Bernson,  
Councilman, 12th District  
18917 Nordhoff St., Suite 18  
Northridge, CA. 91324  
ATTN: Nanci Diva

The 1979-80 Training Committee is co-chaired by LeRoy Russ and Andy Fried. A new Safety Committee is being formed.

Anyone wishing to edit Mugelnoos during 1980 should contact John Ripley by Dec 10

**MAMMOTH AVALANCHE DEATH.**  
Steven Ryan, 28, a Mammoth ski instructor for the past 5 years was killed in an avalanche that hit Mammoth Mt. Sunday morning, Nov. 4. Ryan, in company with Bryant Wells, another ski instructor, were hit by the avalanche below the Cornice. Wells was found at 11:45 AM in good health by the Ski Patrol.

Several hundred volunteers, including two avalanche search dogs, probed the region. Ryan's body was "marked" about 5PM by the search dogs under some four feet of snow in the avalanche path just above Chair 4 below the Cornice. INYO REGISTER

\*\*\*\*\*  
RCS CACTUS CAPER- continued  
The climb was successfully made and was followed by a beautiful 80 foot rappel. The area is recommended for future trips for there are indian pictographs to see and other pinnacles to climb. EY

### ARE BY-LAWS CHANGES REALLY NECESSARY?

In his eagerness to push his one-man by-laws amendments into the Ski Mountaineers Section, the author (who has only been a member two years) has resorted to use of a number of false and misleading statements regarding Central Committee members and activities.

1)

**Elections:** The contention that no attempt was made to call an SMS elections meeting in April was simply untrue. The SMS by-laws require that a meeting notice be published in the Mugelnoos or in the Chapter Schedule, and a notice does indeed appear on pg. 48 of the Angeles Chapter Sched. (# 220). It was really not possible to hold a meaningful election. Only 5 or 6 members were present (the author of the proposed by-laws changes not among them); neither the Chair nor the Vice Chair were there and only 4 of the current Cent. Committee members were eligible to run for office, should they have cared to do so; two had failed to renew their Mugelnoos subscriptions. Without candidates willing to serve on the Cent. Committee by-laws are meaningless, and the obvious conclusion reached at that time was that the SMS had indeed become inactive by default due to lack of interest on the part of its members. Rather than merely letting this information appear in the next Angeles Chapter schedule, the majority of the remaining Central Committee members made an attempt to carry on at least some of the Section's activities through formation of a committee, which would be easier to operate by those few willing to do any work. If enough members had cared enough to show up at the meeting and elect a new Central Committee, none of what has happened during the past few months would have been necessary!

The by-law change calling for elections by mail could mean that inactive members in far-away places could elect candidates who might make changes actually opposed by the currently active minority, such as the elimination of the skiing test requirement for participation on regular tours (the author of the by-laws amendments is already proposing that this be done!). The RCS holds its elections at the annual business meeting; the SMS has done this for 45 years and since 80 members still do live within driving distance of L.A., there is no need to change this procedure, providing members make it a point to attend the April meeting with as much interest as they did the special SMS meeting in September. The new by-laws would call for a February meeting to "nominate candidates from the floor" but few people would attend for just that reason; thus election-by-mail candidates would basically be selected by a 3-person Election Committee.

2)

**Scheduling of Trips:** The author of the proposed by-laws changes has claimed that the current by-laws prohibit leaders from scheduling in their own trips! This is completely untrue; the by-laws merely state that the Central Committee is responsible for "preparing a schedule of Ski Mountaineering activities" without any restrictions on from where or how input originates. Although Cent. Comm. scheduling meetings were announced from time to time in Mugelnoos (not a requirement), few leaders other than those on the Cent. Comm. ever responded. So in practice tours were generally planned by the Cent. Comm. This has had some advantages-- familiarity with the best areas to go at the best time of year based on safety from avalanche danger, access, weather and snow conditions most likely to provide for good skiing; avoidance of schedule conflicts, and more willingness on the part of most potential leaders if they didn't have to plan or write-up the trip themselves. If leaders did want to submit their own write-up and/or proposed a tour, it would not necessarily be turned down unless there was a very good reason. And in spite of the statement in the Oct. Mugelnoos that "a leader need only send in a write-up for a proposed trip to have it scheduled," all trips should certainly continue to be reviewed by responsible Cent. Comm. members not only on the basis of adherence to equipment and safety requirements, but for practicality and reasonableness as well, in order to maintain the excellent safety record enjoyed by the SMS as a result of this policy in the past.

The accusation that leaders were contacted so late they had already planned trips for other Sections is not true. Scheduling meetings were held a month or so in advance of scheduling deadlines and all write-ups submitted on time to the Angeles Chapter Schedule Chairman. The small number of available leaders is due to attrition (which will be accelerated as the Alpine leaders drop out), and the LTC requirements of the Angeles Chapter made it difficult to replace them with otherwise qualified skiers. The Cent. Comm. has also been accused of not having a safety policy. Again, untrue-- safety rules for leaders and participants are on file with the Angeles Chapter. These include the requirement that participants must qualify on an "introductory" tour before going on a regular tour and also use only approved equipment. Unfortunately, it takes cooperation from leaders and participants who at times chose to ignore or defy the safety rules, while those who dared protest were themselves subject to criticism. It seems unlikely that a by-laws change can have any effect on this situation especially with the introduction of Nordic equipment.

3)

**Voting:** The proposed by-laws change requiring a vote by mail on any subject that 10 people might care to bring up is perhaps the most potentially disastrous of

## SMS BY-LAWS CHANGES-- Continued.

all. By this method, inactive members could, by mail, directly effect changes opposed or impossible to implement by the current active minority, without any chance for discussion or vote at an SMS meeting-- perhaps even a by-laws change eliminating the skiing test requirement for membership. A good example is the recently proposed by-laws changes. They would have been unworkable in their original form; it was only by discussion at an SMS meeting that a somewhat more reasonable set were proposed. A much more suitable amendment would be: "Special SMS meetings shall be called by the Central Committee upon petition by 10 members." If this is done, then to avoid future misunderstandings as to how by-laws can be amended or future attempts at one-man-by-laws changes by mail, an additional sentence should be added to the Amendments and Conflicts article: "All proposed by-laws amendments must be approved by the Central Committee or by a majority of members in attendance at a Ski Mountaineers Section meeting before a ballot can be mailed to all members for a vote."

## Conclusion:

Conclusion: Therefore all members are urged to look long and hard at just what the proposed amendments might mean to the future of the Section before making their voting decision. After all, the real purpose was to turn the Section over to Nordic skiers and now this has been accomplished (which, of course, they could have done by showing up at the April elections meeting and voting their preference). In a small section like the Ski Mountaineers, needed by-laws changes should be made in the interest of simplicity and clarity, not to create more bureaucracy.

HOWARD GATES Barbara Lilley, Former SMS Secretary; Member since 1953

## HOWARD GATES DAY-- Continued from page 1

them to stove lengths and stacked them under the hut. New, longer hoses were installed in the sinks, the overflow pipe in front of the hut was re-buried under the rock pile where the vandals had unearthed it. Broken window panes were replaced. The rock wall out front was repaired and more dirt fill brought in to replace the erosion of the past season. The final piece of new decorative wall panel was installed at the base of the stairs. After dinner, everyone sat around the tables to listen to Howard read from an account of an English expedition's first ascent of Chomolhari.

The party-goers, ranging in age from 6 to 78 were: Kathy, Kerry and Kelty Quinn, Howard Gates, Jim Powers, Rus Hansen, Bob Frampton, Ted Pletsch, Rod Schaerer, Steve Wilkie, Milt McCauley, Shirley Raymond, Randy, Joyce, Glen and Julie Bernard, and John Wedberg.

## MT. GOODE RERUN \*\* SEPT. 29 &amp; 30

"HAIL \*\*\* RAIN \*\*\* SNOW \*\*\* LIGHTNING \*\*\*"

Three members and two guests returned to Mt. Goode and tried again. On Saturday the guests (Bob Wendall and Wes Warwick) climbed up to the base of Goode, but couldn't find the North Buttress because of blowing snow and 20 foot visibility. Emory Yount made a solo ascent of Bishop Pass in a white out. Saturday afternoon the guests went home and Dick Mundwiler, Emory Yount and John Moore found a good campsite for Saturday night. At 7 PM the rain put out the campfire and everyone climbed into their tents for a long noisy night. For 10 hours it rained, sleeted and snowed with lightning striking as close as 600 feet from camp. Sunday morning Dick and John fixed breakfast while Emory poured the slush from his tube tent. With snow and slush falling lightly, our climbers retreated to Buttermilk County, sunshine and good bouldering near Bishop. The sunshine and bouldering lasted only a few hours as the Great God Thor descended from the mountain and rained on us some more. (Anyone interested in a dissertation on the merits of a tube tent in a downpour should contact E. Yount).

## RCS CACTUS CAPER

The first scheduled RCS ascent of Old Woman Statue occurred on the weekend of November 3-4. We met at noon, Saturday, at the Essex townsite east of Barstow. Our caravan to the climbing area was delayed due to a leaking water hose in the Campbell camper, but the trip leaders Erb and Yount (accompanied by T. Rutherford) reached the camping area with enough time remaining to do one climb on Painted Rock. By dark the entire group was on hand-- Chuck and Ellen Wilts, Jim and Mary Jean Campbell, Jim Erb, Theresa Rutherford and E.Y. Camp was made in the valley due east of the statue and half a mile from Painted Rock. We had a clear view of OWS. The low clouds that had built up during the day evaporated and we had a full moon for the campfire.

Sunday was clear and windy. Five of us hiked in to climb the statue-- west up the canyon, skirt along a northern ridge-- through a grove of piñon pines and out onto the statue ridge. At OWS we did the first pitch by three different routes-- a friction route, a chimney and the standard crack. The second pitch is a bolt ladder.

(Continued on Pg 2 col 2 at bottom)