



THE MOUNTAIN GUIDE

No. 570, June 17, 1980

A newsheet published by and for the Ski Mountaineers and Rock Climbing sections of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter. Send address changes to Dove Menkes, 1550 S. Highland Avenue, Apt. D, Fullerton CA 92632. Subscription, \$3.00. This is six page issue.

SARDINE CANYON AND LITTLE ONION VALLEY - APRIL 12 AND 13

On Saturday morning, four skiers met at the mine road leading from Onion Valley to Sardine Canyon. After a short hike on the road, we reached the base of Sardine Canyon which had snow to the road.

We climbed up Sardine Canyon on Spring snow that would have been excellent skiing that time of morning. By noon, we reached a steep headwall near an old mine at about the 11,000 foot level. Two skiers climbed and skied the wall on icy snow turning to Spring snow at its base. The descent down the canyon was made on Spring snow which needed a few more days of sun for really good skiing.

On Sunday morning, we again hiked north on the mine road to the base of Little Onion Valley. We found soft Spring snow which made easy climbing on steep slopes up to the lower Parker Lake. In this Valley, we observed some very interesting slopes. One slope ran up a side canyon to Mt. Mary Amtine. Also, there were lots of good slopes around Parker Lake. This Valley would be an excellent candidate for an overnight trip with excellent camping spots just below Parker Lake.

We descended the valley in the afternoon on unconsolidated Spring snow with an icy crust in spots due to a cool wind. When we reached the road, the skiing improved so we skied a short distance below the road.

Both days the snow had turned very soft and unconsolidated due to a storm the weekend before. This area, in early April, needs about two weeks of sun after a storm for good afternoon skiing. (BF)

NAME DROPPING

Would you believe, while climbing at Tahquitz at the last climb (April 19), I met Mark Powell, John Long and Sibylle Hechtel, all on the same historic day. John had some free climbing advice for our students, George Stoll and Clair Beekman. It wasn't totally appreciated (their leader had tricked them onto a 5.6 face, and they weren't too happy about it). (JS)

SAN JACINTO WILDERNESS PLAN

The Forest Service has recently issued a draft San Jacinto Wilderness Plan. The last plan was issued in 1973 and the Wilderness has steadily gained popularity with each passing year. The most heavily used entry point to both the Forest Service and State Park Wilderness is the Devil's Slide Trail at Humber Park. On Memorial Day Weekend, 1978, 275 day-use visitors entered the Wilderness on Saturday, and 279 on Sunday. Over 90% of these visitors gain access to the Wilderness via Devil's Slide Trail. These visitors tend to congregate in the same over-used locations -- adjacent to streams and meadow areas and at designated fire sites. For this reason, the Forest Service has proposed establishing a trailhead quota for the Devil's Slide Trail as follows. On weekends during the peak season (Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day Weekend), limit day-use

MUGELNOOS STAFF

EDITOR.....Dove Menkes
MUGELGRAPHER.....J. Ripley
MUGELMAILER.....Dove Menkes
REPORTERS: Jim Sharpsteen, Mark
Goebel, Bill Feldman, Barbara Lilley,
Don Pies, Owen Maloy

NEXT EDITOR: John Ripley
5912 El Rancho Dr.
Whittier, CA 90606

NEXT ISSUE: July 15, 1980
DEADLINE: July 11, 1980

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS: THIRD TUES. OF
EACH MONTH, 7:30 P.M., L.A. DEPT OF
WATER AND POWER, 111 N. HOPE ST.,
DOWNTOWN L.A. PROGRAM, REFRESHMENTS,
CLIMBERS, SKIERS, GUESTS WELCOME.

C A L E N D A R

JUNE 21-22 TAHQUITZ (RCS) L. RUSS
JULY 4-6 MT.WHITNEY(RCS)D. MUNDWILER
JULY 15 MUGELNOOS MTG.
JULY 19-20 TAHQUITZ (RCS) TBD
AUG. 2-3 TBD (RCS) TBD

NEW SKI MOUNTAINEERS

Kurt Wedberg AT
1374 Stradella Road
Los Angeles, CA 90024
213/472-6768

Jackie Van Dalsem AT/NM
4143 Via Marina, #1120
Marina del Rey, CA 90291
213/822-9668

Pete Yamagata AT
2109 10th St., #3
Sacramento, CA 95818
916/444-6319

INFORMATION

N.P.S. WEATHER (213)688-2902

CALTRANS:
BISHOP (714)873-6366
LA (213)626-7231

JUNE LAKE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
(800)462-5576

FOREST SERVICE PERMITS
LONE PINE (714)876-4660
BISHOP (714)873-4207
MAMMOTH (714)934-2505
KERNVILLE (714)376-2294
PORTERVILLE (209)784-1500

SAN JACINTO WILDERNESS (cont.)

of Devil's Slide to 50 people. Permits will be split between State and Forest Service Offices for issuing. Visitors will be encouraged to use other trailheads, over which travel is currently unlimited. Day-use of the trail will remain unlimited during the remainder of the week.

As the map shows, there is an overnight limit for each zone of the Wilderness. The figure is derived from a realistically campable acreage figure and a proposed spacing between campsites of 500 feet. This represents an increase in spacing from the present 200 feet between campsites and is proposed due to the currently inadequate solitude opportunities in the relatively flat plateau/meadows area. A limit on the number of large groups (11-15 people) permitted at one time overnight in the Wilderness is proposed at four. This number is based on that acreage capable of best sustaining concentrated use (one group in each of four zones) and an attempt to reduce noise and disruptions historically associated with large groups. The proposed capacity also includes a reduction in acreage consisting of abused areas in need of rehabilitation. A "no camping" restriction will be strictly enforced in these areas and they are marked as temporary day-use areas on the map.

One very interesting idea is the proposed creation of a self-issue day-use permit which will be obtained at the Idyllwild Ranger Station. District Ranger Danny Britt is not sure the Regional Office will approve of this idea. Presently all permits may be reserved up to 90 days in advance by mail or in person. The hours of the Idyllwild Ranger Station are 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. every day and arrangements may be made for your permit to be left on the bulletin board if you need it when the Station is closed. One difficult problem the Forest Service is wrestling with is the need for a permit system for the climbers of Lily (Tahquitz) Rock. The Rock is located just inside the wilderness boundary. The majority of climbers leave the Humber parking area and head virtually straight uphill via an unmaintained though historically travelled trail which crosses private land before entering the Wilderness. In order to satisfy

**** NEXT MEETING: MOVIE "EL CAPITAN"

SAN JACINTO WILDERNESS (cont.)

the conditions of legal access and minimal soil movement, a right-of-way needs to be obtained and occasional water bars installed. Up till now, the Forest Service has been quite lax in requiring a permit of all climbers and thus has no figures on how many people are using this, the finest climbing area in Southern California. They hoped to counter the resistance of climbers by having a self-issue day-use permit that would be available 24 hours a day. What do climbers feel about this idea? Is the Rock being overused?

The Sierra Club has been asked to comment on this Wilderness Plan. I have summarized the major changes. If you would like more information or would like to give suggestions for the Plan, please write or call Joyce Burk, 1129 Elizabeth St., Barstow, CA 92311, 714/256-9561.

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Someone on the Memorial Day Yosemite climb left behind a gallon water container and a pair of light brown wool mittens. Contact Jane Clark, 213/662-1327.
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THOMPSON RIDGE, MAY 3-4 (SCHEDULED SMS/SPS TRIP)

With an optimistic weather forecast, 6 participants (3 each skiers and snowshoers) met at snowline at Parcher's Camp on the South Lake Road, Saturday morning. However, clouds were even then gathering as they packed into their camp below Treasure Lakes, where open water and a convenient rock were found. Lunch was interrupted by a dash to put up tents, as intermittent rain and snow squalls began and continued until dusk. In spite of this, the skiers managed a 1000' run, 2 climbers bagged Pk. 12, 120' south of Mt. Hurd (encountering "buzzing" summit rocks) and a pleasant evening campfire with "MacLeod specials" was enjoyed.

Sunday was clear and beautiful with only some afternoon clouds and five (3 on skis) reached the summit of Pk. 13,323' (unofficially named in memory of ski mountaineering). Unfortunately, the snow had not yet consolidated from the latest storms and snowplow turns were the basic method of ski descent (foot travelers descended more efficiently via sitting glissade). Still, the scenery and view of the snow-covered Sierra from a remote, seldom-climbed peak made the trip worthwhile.

They conservatively went around South Lake, although this route has its own hazards in the form of crevasses caused by the draining of the lake while frozen. (BL)

HOW DO THEY COMPARE -- SNOWPACKS, THAT IS

1978 and 1980 turned out to be very similar snowfall years; 1980 with 165-170% of normal and 1978 averaging 185%. (The #1 chairlift ramp at Mammoth was buried both years.) Again water content is quite high (Owens Valley residents have been urged to buy flood insurance!) and, as in 1978, a tremendous snowpack has built up on Mt. San Antonio, San Jacinto and San Gorgonio above 8500'. On May 11, 1980, continuous snow was encountered from the summit of San Jacinto to within 1/2 mile of the tram; the summit hut was still buried. The skiing was on packed powder! (For anyone interested, the tram opens at 8:00 A.M. on weekends and Nordic rentals are offered in Long Valley in season.) (BL)

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TAKE THE BUS TO TUOLOMNE, LABOR DAY WEEKEND

There was some interest shown to the announcement in MUGELNOOS last month. Although still quite a way off, all interested persons (non-climbers too) should contact LeRoy Russ or Jim Sharpsteen, even if your plans are tentative. A decision will be made by mid-July. (JS)

ANNOUNCEMENT--NOTICE--IMPORTANT

Under the new SMS bylaws, the leaders plan the tour schedule. Send your trip write-up to Owen Maloy, 4591 GreenTree Lane, Irvine, CA 92715, by July 15. Do not worry about conflicts. (OM)

A FOOTNOTE TO VIRGIL'S REPORT (A LOVELY DAY AT THE ROCK)

Two others, not mentioned by Virgil (because he didn't know we were there) also made the scene. Shortly after 8:00 A.M. on Saturday, Jim Sharpsteen was walking up the ice covered pavement towards Humber Park, when he met John Orange. John was putting chains on his car after an uncontrolled turn-around. The two proceeded to the water tanks, then hiked through snow to Suicide (the advertised site of the climb). No one else in sight except a couple who disappeared to the north.

Most routes north of Weeping Wall (the sunny part of the rock) had ice, but a likely crack and face route was found that was ice free, so we climbed it, starting from a snow bank with John leading. Cold fingers made it a special challenge. On returning to our snow bank, a careful study of the guide revealed that we had done the Shadow.

Being thoroughly chilled by now, we decided to call it a day, and after some refreshment, John left for a warmer climate (Joshua Tree). (JS)

* * * A ROCK AND ROLL ADVENTURE IN THE SIERRA * * *

MAY 24-26, 1980

The Memorial Weekend bus trip to Shasta was cancelled due to a large price increase by Greyhound. However, 8 SPS climbers did carpool up, and 5 skiing-climbers tried an attempt on Mts. Haeckel and Wallace east of Bishop.

As we drove north on 395, Mother Nature was showing an un-Spring like display of weather. Several trailers were blown off the road, the air was full of dust, and later up in the mountains, the temperature dropped well into the freezing zone. However, her most unexpected display of natural force was yet to come.

The group included Bill and Gisela Kluwin, June Lane, Bill Spina and Mark Goebel. With heavy packs including skis, axes, and rope, considerable time was spent clawing and skidding our way over frozen snow to Blue Lake, but it was worth the effort. This is usually a very popular and crowded area, and we were the only ones there. In addition, the snowy scenery was outstanding. From Blue Lake we continued on skis towards Dingleberry Lake and finally located camp at 1,800', just as the first snowflakes arrived.

Late in the day, the clouds lifted slightly, the temperature was in the low 20's, and with 2 inches of new powder, June said, "Let's go skiing!" Although no one else stirred, I needed little persuasion and we were off to explore the neighborhood. Trying to stay warm, we skied quickly up the canyon and soon arrived at Midnight Lake, and there looming through the mist was the great wall of Mt. Darwin. As the sun set, low clouds again returned up the valley swirling about the few twisted pines, creating a very austere black and white scene. This sure was strange for late May; freezing temperatures by day and delightful powder skiing.

The sun returned the next morning after a low of 4 degrees, and eventually we were off for the peaks. We skied over a ridge, past a frozen lake, and headed towards Echo Lake while admiring the view and taking pictures. Suddenly, a sharp rumbling sound broke the still air, but wait a minute, that's no jet ...the ground is shaking! EARTHQUAKE!!! Another rattling sound, Avalanche? No, just some ice breaking off a nearby cliff. Just as quickly, all was calm again and the only thing shaking was my knees. So on we pushed, and following some steep traversing around a cliff, the basin between Wallace and Haeckel was reached by Noon.

We settled down among some large boulders for lunch and to await the two Bill's, who were still coming up. Both peaks were very iced up and

A ROCK AND ROLL ADVENTURE IN THE SIERRA (cont.)

covered with new snow, and the afternoon was creeping along. Bill and Bill were still a ways down below when the Sierra began rumbling again, and those great boulders around us started shaking. This one was bigger, and to prove it, an avalanche of rock and snow poured down Picture Peak and out across our tracks. Fortunately, our companions below were out of range, but now nothing looked really very solid, and a retreat decision was made.

While skiing back to camp, we were amazed at the amount of debris which had come down and the distance it traveled. Aftershocks continued through the night and into the next day. However, the sun was out again on Monday, creating some super skiable corn, and both the skiing and scenery were outrageous! (MG)

From the Inyo Register 4/24/80

"BACKPACKER TRANSPORTATION SERVICE BEGINS IN SIERRA

A new transportation service for backpackers will be available this spring serving trail heads on both sides of the Sierra.

High Sierra Stage, a Visalia-based company, has been exclusively franchised by the California Public Utilities Commission to make connections between Visalia and many recreation destinations throughout the area.

Local areas served will include Whitney Portal, Onion Valley, Glacier Lodge, Lake Sabrina and Bishop. Other areas served include Mineral King, Kings Canyon and Sequoia Park.

For details, contact the company at 1043 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia, CA 93277 or call (209) 732-4404."

RCS MEMBERSHIPS PENDING

The Safety Committee has received RCS membership applications from George Holland, Paul Morrill, Mike Mulry, and Theresa Rutherford. Anyone wishing to comment on these applicant's climbing safety should contact Don Pies, 4619 W. 130th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250, (213) 675-5139, by July 1. (DP)

MINUTES OF SMS CENTRAL COMMITTEE, ANGELES CHAPTER HEADQUARTERS - MAY 29, 1980

The meeting time had to be moved at the last minute because of a conflict. It is hoped that this did not inconvenience anyone. From now on, contact the chairman if you plan to come, so that he can advise you of a change in plans.

A motion of thanks was voted to Cliff Cameron, Barbara Lilley, George Shinno, and John Wedberg.

The 1980-81 officers are: R.J. Secor, Ch; Kathy Crandall, V.Ch; Owen Maloy, Sec. and Outings Ch; Mark Goebel, Treas. Other members are: Andy Fried, Jane McMahon.

Safety Policy: After an extensive review of ski tour safety and planning policies, the Central Committee decided that, as always, all ski tours will be rated T and non-skiing events, if any, will be rated C, O, I, M, or E, according to chapter practice. This is not a revision but a clarification of the safety policy. If a tour is a non-technical day tour on flat terrain, the leader has the option, as always, of relaxing equipment and skill restrictions. The tour leader is responsible for screening all participants. Since 1938, all new members have had to pass the 4th class test (required by the bylaws). This requirement is favored by all Central Committee members.

The new members already listed in the Mugelnoos were confirmed. Kathy Crandall and Andy Fried were appointed as T-rated leaders. (Both are M-rated and RCS members with extensive wilderness skiing experience.)

Nordic Mountaineering: The year's experience with Nordic ski mountaineering was reviewed. No problems have occurred (see trip reports), and a number of new members, who are good skiers, have joined. The current policy will be continued.

Bylaws: The bylaws were approved by the Chapter Council Review Committee, subject to correction of some typos, before the SMS election. After retyping, the full council will vote on the Committee's report.

Training: The SMS will not offer beginner's tours as a general rule, but any leader who wishes can lead one. The SMS will offer advanced training in wilderness skiing for prospective leaders and others, open to all qualified skiers.

MINUTES (cont.)

Schedule Policy: Conflicts between events are allowed. In this manner, events of different kinds (Sierra tours, local tours, etc.) which appeal to different people may be scheduled at the same time. Leaders should submit trip writeups, in chapter schedule format, by July 1, to Owen Maloy, 4591 Green Tree Lane, Irvine, CA 92715.

A tentative winter schedule was adopted. Completed details will be published later, after input from other leaders. Training tours will be led on 1/31-2/1 by Goebel and Crandall, and on 3/15-16 by Fried. This will be called the "Ski Mountaineering Training Course" or SMTC. NOTE: As a part of this training, Owen Maloy will lead a Keller weekend for 4th class testing and downhill practice, probably January 24/25.

MUGELNOOS SCHEDULE

Month	Program	By	Refreshments
Nov.	Trans Sierra Tour	M. Goebel	Maloy
Dec.	RCS Orientation	RCS	Fried
Jan.	Ski Tour	RK McDonald	Crandall
Feb.	Aconcagua	D. VanDalsem	Secor

Next Meeting: The next formal meeting of the Central Committee will be in October. A leader's potluck will be held to plan the spring schedule. (OM)

