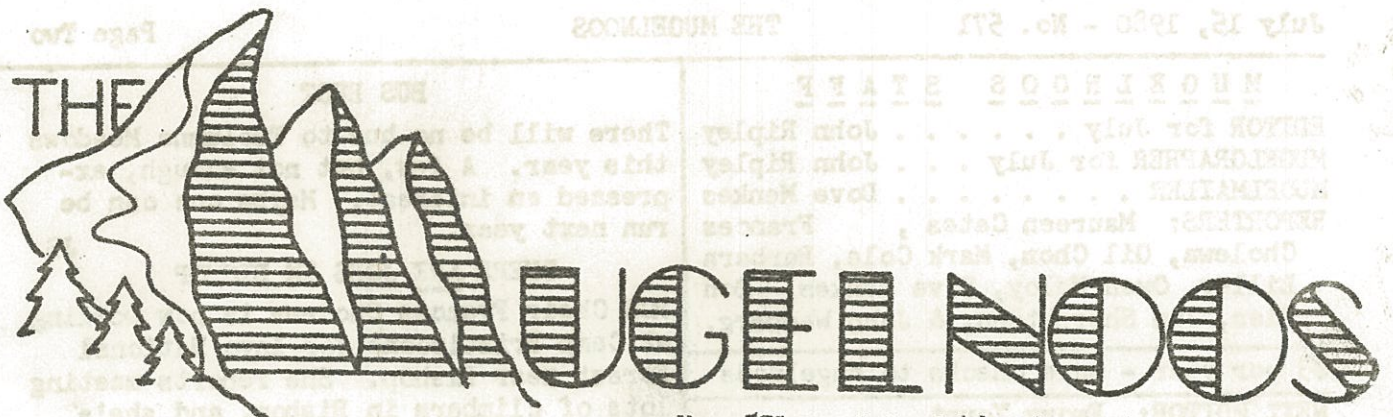


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THE ANGELES



NO. 571

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A newsheet published by and for the Ski Mountaineers and Rock Climbing Sections of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter since 1938. Send subscriptions & address changes to Dove Menkes, 1550 S. Highland Ave. #D, Fullerton 92632. \$3 per yr due in Oct.

BASIN MT SKI TOUR MAY 17-18, 1980

Nine skiers from the Angeles and Mother Lode Chapters piled into the leader's Jeep for a short ride to the trailhead. After packing into Horton Lake on an almost entirely bare road, the group toured to 11,500' on the east ridge of Four Gables. More or less elegant parallel or telemark turns took them back to the mining cabins for supper and story telling by candlelight.

One section officer complained of being awakened by an earthquake, but was ridiculed. (The Mono Herald lists the 5:47am earthquake of May 18 at 4.2 on the Richter Scale. There were several others that day.)

The next morning the group climbed Basin Mtn by skiing across Horton Lake and up the draw to the south. The snow became crusty near the top, so skis were left at various rock outcrops. All made the summit.

RJ Secor wins this month's tiger award for skiing Basin from the top. Others were not so bold, being intimidated by the 30 degree slope, hard crust, and a run-out consisting of a cliff and a blue icefall 1200 feet below. But RJ did not seem to slide to far when he fell, so others were encouraged to put on their skis and enjoy the run of 4000 vertical feet on sticky snow back to the cabins and out along the stream, through pines and willows, to the meadow at 9200', where the snow turned to grass.

This was a mixed Nordic/Alpine tour with everyone on metal-edged mountaineering skis. The only significant separation was caused by the need to grease someone's Alpine bindings. The ascent of a high (13,240'), steep (30 degree) peak is as good a proof as any that skill and conditioning, not equipment per se, are the important factors.

OM

3 DAYS IN THE "GRANITE CRUCIBLE"

A successful seminar in arctic survival was conducted in Yosemite Valley on May 24-26. Workshops in wine appreciation and/or hypothermia avoidance, getting a camp site when you don't have a reservation, and other life preserving subjects were well attended. The seminar opened at the Curry Cafeteria with the standard leader statement, "Uh, no, I don't have a camp site." Fortunately, John Orange and others managed to wangle one at Lower Pines. It being a perfect RCS day--40° temperature, clouds, rain, and occasional snow--climbing was deferred in favor of lodge huddling (Grin-it Crucible?--Ed.).

Sunday morning was a big improvement. One group--Smrz, Lane, Carter, Clark, Holland, Orange, and Nissen--headed for Manure Pile Buttress and did Jump for Joy, After 7, Nutcracker, etc. Morrill and Jeter did the Grack. The morning was further enlivened by the Convict Lake earthquake, a moving experience for everyone.

On Monday the consensus favored (a) Glacier Point Apron and (b) getting out early. Traffic was heavy on Harry Daley, as well as a couple of other routes whom the writer cannot remember. Part (b) was pretty much completed by 2pm.

An important final note: Jane Clark really likes her stove; so whoever has it, please return it.

MCole

ROCK CREEK SPARKLES, SAY INTREPID EIGHT

The annual scheduled SMS tour into the Little Lakes Valley area June 7-8 was blessed with the best weather of the year and the deepest snow pack of any year. Cars were parked at Rock Creek Lake and skis were carried over virtually continuous snow to the trail fork above Mosquito Flat, where the 8 participants were greeted with the incredible sight of endless snowfields, frozen lakes, and substantial avalanche damage everywhere.

Packs were dropped for a ski ascent of Peak 12,720+' (0.3 mi SW of Mono Pass) via Ruby Lake and Mono Pass. This peak had been scouted the previous weekend in spite of a snowstorm and earthquake, and had proven to be a worthwhile ski run. As the slopes are generally south and east facing, in a "normal" year this is recommended as a one day tour in early May, or as soon as the road is plowed to the locked gate.

(Continued P.2, Column 2)

MUGELNOOS STAFF

EDITOR for July John Ripley
MUGELGRAPHER for July John Ripley
MUGELMAILER Dove Menkes
REPORTERS: Maureen Gates, Frances Cholewa, Gil Chon, Mark Cole, Barbara Lilley, Owen Maloy, Dove Menkes, Don Fies, Jim Sharpsteen, & John Wedberg.

\$3 per year - make checks to Mugelnoos

NEXT EDITOR: Emory Yount
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Fullerton, CA 92632
714 525-5196

NEXT ISSUE: August 19, 1980
DEADLINE: Wednesday, August 13

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS: Third Tues. of each month, 7:30pm, Dept. of Water and Power Bldg., 111 N. Hope, downtown LA. Parking free. Program, refreshments, conversation. Climbers, skiers, guests welcome!

C A L E N D A R

July 19-20 - Sat-Sun. Tahquitz Rock climb: Dick DeRusha, 661-9924.
July 21 - Mon. Deadline for chapter schedule writeups; see schedule p. 27
Aug. 2-3 - Sat-Sun. Fresno Dome rock climb: LeRoy Russ, 258-1546.
Aug. 16-17 - Suicide Rock climb: Dick Mundtiller, (714) 737-7718.
Aug. 19 - Tue. Mugelnoos Meeting: Mystery program!

SHORTAGE OF COLE - CHANCE TO GAIN POWER

Mark Cole, Mugelgrapher, will be out of town until Fall. We need someone to temporarily assume this powerful position. If you can come to the chapter office Mon. or Tues, call John Ripley. The job is easy--help guaranteed!

NEW RCS MEMBERS

George Holland, 230 22nd St, Santa Monica, CA 90402, 394-6552.
Paul Morrill, 7300 8th #26, Buena Park, CA 90621, (714) 522-3423.
Mike Mulry, 1711 Campus Rd, LA, CA 90041 254-4333.
Theresa Rutherford, 1546 San Carlos Pl, Orange, CA 92665, (714) 998-4519.

NEW RCS QUALIFIED LEADERS

Kathy Crenshaw (M/T)
Dave Perkins (O/T)
Abe Siemens (O/T)
Virgil Shields (O/T)
Andre Korbut-Wedberg (M/T)

SAFETY TEST ANNOUNCED

The next RCS safety test will be Saturday, Sept. 20, 1980. Reservations are required: Don Fies, (213) 675-5139.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE NOT READING THIS

If you are not getting the Mugelnoos, it is probably because you haven't notified the Mugelmailer of an address change. The Post Office returns several at each mailing. Latest examples: Gisela Kluwin, Duncan McDonald, Ron Milnarik, Randy Sheaff. Where are they? DM

BUS BUST

There will be no bus to Tuolumne Meadows this year. A few, but not enough, expressed an interest. Maybe one can be run next year. JS

THERE ARE JOBS IN BISHOP

RCS Chair Frances Cholewa is now working at Camp Bristlecone for Inyo National Forest near Bishop. She reports meeting lots of climbers in Bishop, and she's scouting new areas. Major complaint: the long drive to meetings.

AMAZE YOUR FRIENDS--SUITABLE FOR FRAMING-- ORDER BEFORE SUPPLY GONE

The beautiful blue, white, and gold SMS patches are being reordered. Designed over 45 years ago, this nationally recognized emblem still has to be the most striking of all the many Angeles Chapter patches. Every member will of course want several, for daypack, backpack, etc. Several of our distinguished members use them to cover the moth (bullet?) holes in their WW II ski clothes, so they are useful as well.

Now the bad news: the section does not have the money to pay for the minimum order, which amounts to several hundred dollars. By buying pins for \$3.00 or by advancing \$2.50 for each patch, you will help build up the treasury.

By actually wearing the patch or pin, you will remind others that the Ski Mountaineers still exist, strong as ever, and you'll help our membership program. Send your money to Mark Goebel--he needs the practice. OM

ROCK CREEK, continued from Page 1.

After the ascent Saturday, packs were carried into camp above Long Lake, where a leisurely afternoon ensued. Gordon MacLeod (the only one not skiing on the trip) finally arrived in camp at 7:30pm after bagging 3 peaks and then returning to the roadhead for his pack! Sunday morning the group got a late start, but still managed spectacular skiing on the slopes below Mt Abbott, the Dade Couloir, and west facing slopes above Treasure Lakes. MacLeod bagged his fourth mountain and beat everyone out to the cars.

The Hodgmans, the Wedbergs (Kurt age 13 and his dad John), Barbara Lilley, Bill Felchmann, and newcomer Jim Desser all agreed that this was one of the better High Sierra tours in recent years, despite occasional ominous earthquake rumblings throughout the weekend, and the miserable whacking through avalanche tracks on the way out.

From the looks of the back country snow pack, it should be another month before most of the passes will be open. Anyone desiring detailed snow information can call Wedberg at 472-6768 before 8pm after June 27, when he will make his annual flying reconnaissance of the Sierra Nevada. JW

CALL FOR FUTURE TRIP LEADERS

The RCS has provided camaraderie among technical climbers for more than forty years. The success of this organization has been attributed partly to the fact that the work of running trips and administering the RCS has been spread over the membership and not left to a small group of select (and overburdened) individuals.

The Sierra Club has been forced by insurance considerations to institute increasingly formal procedures for its sanctioned trips over the last few years. Tighter restrictions on qualifying leaders has limited the number of "technically qualified" leaders to a handful and discouraged many capable individuals from obtaining leader status. To avoid having to cancel future trips because of a leader shortage, we need to nearly double the present number of "Qualified Leaders." (See page 2 for some new QL's--Ed.)

The leader qualifications for most RCS trips are actually somewhat minimal, since the majority of trips are only rated O/T. Rock climbs with back country camps and mountaineering skills are M/T trips, uprated to E/T if crampons are needed. O/T leader qualifications include the following:

- Become an RCS member (next safety test is September 20).
- Take the LTC lecture for the Angeles Chapter "O" rating (one day seminar, see chapter schedule or contact LTC).
- Become the holder of a First Aid card and a CPR card (through the club or American National Red Cross).
- Be active on RCS trips and understand the system.
- Once proficiency in technical climbing and group organization have been demonstrated, the RCS Safety Committee solicits the member for an O/T rating. No application to the committee is necessary.
- The prospective leader has the option of accepting or rejecting the position. A common (but not mandatory) practice is for a member with a chapter "O" to first assist on RCS trips and then be granted the O/T rating by the RCS.

--Don Pies, Safety Committee Chairman

KOREAN CLIMBING: LETTER FROM GIL CHON

(Editor's note: the following is excerpted from a letter to Jim Sharpsteen from Gil Chon, RCS member 1978-79, now living in Seoul.)

Rock climbing here is similar to Tahquitz and Yosemite, but only a half hour from downtown Seoul! We typically go climbing for one day--leave home at 8am, start climbing at 9am (half-hour driving and half hour walking). Most of the climbs are 5.4 to 5.10 and five to ten pitches. Once in a while we go to the Sorak Mtns, 5 hours by car, where the climbs are similar in size to those near Seoul.

The hardest pitch (route) is 5.10c-5.11 so far. I would like to send some of the best climbers to Yosemite to experience 5.12+. I believe they can master 5.12 within a few months if they can visit California. Or, I would like to invite climbers from California to show how hard 5.12's are. I have not seen any solid 5.11+ climbers here yet, although there are B-1 problems which some of them can handle.

As for me, I am having one minor injury after another (sprains and such), so I can't really work hard on climbing. I plan to go to Europe to climb the North Face of the Grandes Jorasses (Walker Spur) (Ed. note: one of the great classic north walls of the Alps) and the Matterhorn this summer with five other Koreans. I'm leaving on July 15 for three to four weeks; the others are staying for up to two months or until they complete the climbing. The weather in Europe is pretty bad these days, and I'm worrying that it may be a bad summer like 1977 and 1978.

We're also planning to scale Peak 6960m (Baintha Brakk II) in the Karakoram next year. The peak is similar to Latok and has never been climbed. It'll be hard, sustained rock climbing all the way.

The Women's Climbing Club of Korea, of which Catherine (Jim's daughter--Ed.) is a member, plans to send four or five climbers to Yosemite from August 10 to September 10. They're 5.7-5.10 climbers and plan to climb the Northwest Face of Half Dome and learn the Yosemite climbing method. Can you find some female RCS members who can climb with them? They would like to have some help, especially for the first several days, to find out where to go, what to do, etc. They may contact you or Frances Cholewa. Say hello to our RCS friends.

Sincerely, Kilnam (Gil) Chon

STONE POINT PURCHASE HITS SNAO

The LA City Council's Recreation, Library and Cultural Arts Committee was unable to decide in late May whether to recommend acquisition to the full Council. Councilman Hal Bernson has proposed the purchase of 22 acres of our favorite practice rocks, now privately owned. The owners want \$ 140,000, while the city has only \$ 100,000 (the appraised value) available through state bond funds.

--LA Times via M. Cates

LETTER TO THE MUGELNOOS

Dear Editor:

24 June 1980

In reference to RJ Secor's letter in the April issue, it is of course not worth the bother to contest an illegal SMS election! The intent was to point out that the present Central Committee was acting illegally, just as previous ones have been falsely accused of doing; no response was expected! However, both the Chapter ExCom Chair and the Council chair had confirmed that approval of new bylaws by the Council is required before implementation. And, contrary to what was reported in the SMS CC meeting minutes in the June Mugelnoos, the new bylaws had not been submitted to the Council before the ballots were mailed out, and as of the June 23 Council meeting, they had still not been approved. (This is a club/chapter requirement and would not necessarily appear in the section's bylaws.)

And after careful searching, a number of people had confirmed that nowhere in the January Mugelnoos was there any mention of a "February SMS meeting" being called to "permit nominations from the floor," either in conjunction with the February Mugelnoos meeting or at any other time. Mr. Secor assumed the duties of Secretary in November 1979, and the new bylaws were approved in December--ample time to take care of both matters. Of course, the author of the new bylaws should have assumed at least some of the responsibility.

Lack of harmony among SMS members in the recent past has resulted from failure to observe the SMS regulations regarding equipment, qualification, and skiing skills; even under the modified rules that provide for "Nordic Mtneering" equipment, this practice still continues, while the new signup sheet gives the impression that the few safety rules are held in contempt. Those who dared protest were subjected to the same type of criticism as contained in Mr. Secor's letter. The SMS Safety Policy as stated in the meeting minutes not only contains the usual erroneous assumptions about past practices, but also is ambiguous at the very least. It is strongly urged that a clarification regarding "non-skiing tours" be issued by a member of the Central Committee who is more experienced than the new Secretary, with concurrence by a member of the chapter Safety Committee, and printed in the Mugelnoos immediately, not only to minimize future misunderstandings but in the interests of safety as well.

To refute still another false accusation made by the author of the new bylaws, the following (from Oct. 1977 Mugelnoos) is an example of a notice which was published nearly every year for years, with little if any response: "SKI MPNEERS OFFICERS TO MEET....The Central Committee of the SMS will meet on Oct. 26, 1977, to plan the spring schedule. SMS members are welcome to attend and/or send in ideas for Alpine ski tours and Mugelnoos programs. Contact Secretary Barbara Lilley...or any other Central Committee member listed in the Angeles Chapter schedule."

And it may be interesting to note that in spite of the "new" policy of "accepting all proposed trips," the only Introductory (checkout) tour submitted to the Central Committee for the 1980 spring schedule (by Walt Boge) did not appear in the chapter schedule, thus potentially eliminating any chance for skiers not personally knowing a SMS leader to qualify for membership and future tours. Such a restrictive policy would hardly appear to stimulate growth of the section by attracting all possible members (supposedly one of the reasons for the turnover to Nordic interests), nor does the practice of discouraging, or even of denying participation in SMS activities of some of the more experienced leaders. Of course, although the 4th class ski test remains a requirement for membership, in practice new members can always be recruited by certifying them as having passed the test or equivalent, regardless of their skiing skills!

Although this letter may generate more criticism and personal attack by those who feel that the SMS must be preserved at all costs, that the end justifies the means, it is my intent to make this my final contribution to the Mugelnoos, both for the sake of long-suffering uninvolved Mugelnoos readers and because I have no desire to be associated with what the SMS has now become. Besides, now that the Central Committee is starting to impose censorship on contributions to the Mugelnoos, it is doubtful that anything I sent in would be published.

-- Barbara Lilley

Editorial Note: censorship is not practised by the SMS or RCS, and the responsibility for what is (or is not) printed rests with each editor. Editors are supposed to print everything sent in, unless there is an overriding reason for omission. Anyone feeling that an item is being suppressed should contact the Mugelnoos chairman. Contributors should be concise and reasonable--don't present an editor with a difficult decision as to whether an item is relevant and factual or merely the inflammatory kicking of a dead horse.

BUS SERVICES UNDERWAY--the Outdoorsman in Bishop is running a Bishop Creek shuttle bus which visits the trailheads 3 times per day; round trip from Bishop, \$5. Contact that shop or the Visitor's Center. The USFS and NPS are running a shuttle from Mammoth Mtn over Minaret Summit to Red's Mdw and the Postpile. The road over the Summit is to be closed to cars 7am to 8pm. Shuttle cost is \$1; information can be obtained from the Forest Service at (714) 934-2505.