



# THE MUGELNOOS

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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 and address changes to Dove Menkes, 1550 S. Highland Ave. #D, Fullerton, Ca 92632. \$3 per year, due in October

## KATHY CRANDALL HURT WHILE SNOW CLIMBING

Kathy slipped and fell while descending the steep snow chute on the west side of Dragon Pass. There was a layer of ice underneath soft snow, and her ice axe would not hold. She was evacuated to Northern Inyo Hospital in Bishop where it was found she had a displaced vertebra. She was placed in traction, and may still be in the hospital when you read this. Give her a call and cheer her up. Hospital phone: (714) 873-5811. (OM)

Late report: The traction has been changed to something called a "halo" which immobilizes the head-spinal column area. She expects to return home in less than a week. More details: they had just climbed down through a rocky area, and carrying packs, were descending the steep chute when the fall occurred. A helicopter was used for the rescue.

## TRIP REPORT - June 21, 22

Approximately 35 students, guests and RCS members gathered at Tahquitz Rock for two days of warm weather climbing, nice campsites and pleasant company- this leader excluded. Routes from White Maiden to Traitor Horn fell victim to the most ambitious class of students that I recall. Students Kent Withers and David Busdeiker climbed the Left Ski Track on their own; another team of newcomers climbed the Swallow and still managed to beat the latecomers in.

## ACCIDENT SUMMARIES

6/21/80. Ruth Carter, following leader Dick DeRusha, fell on the 5th pitch of the North Buttress while traversing. She suffered bruises, abrasions, and a gash on the head. First aid was administered by Dick and by Jim McPherson (welcome back) and Dianne Corte. Ruth completed the climb- looking more like a Hollywood pirate than the stately climber she is. Ian Linn, Stan Klein, Emory Yount and I were at the top to render a top rope and assistance, as word had filtered down that an accident had occurred. Ruth had a checkup at the hospital, but no further medical treatment was required.

6/22/80. Ron Bottorff fell while downclimbing the large boulder (chimney) at the beginning of the descent route. Suffering a gashed lip and forehead and a fractured hip (4 places, requiring a pin) Ron remained conscious at all times, but was immobile due to the injuries. A rescue was necessary, and the Riverside Mountain Rescue team, ably assisted by some excellent 'copter flying, performed the task. The helicopter landed equipment and personnel and then lifted Ron and took him to the Hemet Hospital. Ron returned home in about ten days. He is now back at work. Neither Ron nor his climbing partner, Joe Bernhardt, can offer any explanation for the accident. The leader and Ron thank all the participants offering assistance, but in particular Fred Ziel, a local climber (of some skill) and fourth year medical intern, for his help. Thanks also to the trail runners who went for the rescue team.

## MY REMARKS.

1. No litters are available at Tahquitz or Suicide; this problem must be addressed.
2. First aid kits must go on trips.
3. I am getting tired of climbers returning late at night.
4. Some parties are still at Tahquitz because they haven't signed in.
5. Trips need leaders, and leaders need assistants.
6. The Training Committee would appreciate receiving the student questionnaire from the May Mugelnoos.
7. If you need a rope leader, get to the trailhead on time.
8. And trip leading requires a little touch of tyrant to keep things organized. (LK)

## MT. HUMPHREYS FROM THE NORTH

Glenn Kaplan and Harry Baker climbed the Northeast couloir of Mt. Humphreys (13,986') on Aug 8. The couloir ranged from 45-55 degrees and the snow was generally soft. From the top of the couloir (about 800 ft) we headed up 250 ft of 3rd class gully, then two more roped pitches of easy 5th class rock to the summit ridge. The top is a short scramble. We spent the previous morning searching for a trail to McGee Lake via backcountry roads (a 4-wheel drive vehicle definitely helps). We did manage to locate a trail, about two hours walk from roads end to McGee Lake. The rock on this face is fairly stable. PS. We'd like to give a very special thanks to the Frances Cholewa Youth Hostel in Bishop. (CK)

MUGELNOOS STAFF

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NEXT ISSUE: Sept 16, 1980  
 DEADLINE: Sept 10, 1980

CALENDAR

Aug 30-Sept 1 SAT-MON Tuolumne Mtns, Fred  
 King (213)476-4398, Ed Nissen(213)425-6340  
 Sept 13-14 SAT-SUN Tahquitz, Emory Yount  
 (714)525-5196. Camp at State Park. Safety  
 Committee will climb with membership candi-  
 dates (by reservation)  
 Sept 16 TUE Mugelnoos meeting: ORANGE ROOM  
 Sept 20 SAT RCS Safety Test. Reservations  
 are required: Don Pies (213)675-5139

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

MAYBE The Mugelnoos meeting program in Sept  
 will be Andy Fried's trip to Africa.

RCS MEMBERSHIP PENDING The Safety Committee  
 has received membership applications from  
 Bob Havens and Ian Linn. Anyone wishing to  
 comment on these applicants' climbing safety  
 should contact Don Pies, 4619 W.130th St.,  
 Hawthorne, Ca 90250, (213)675-5139 by Sept 2

INFORMATION For campsite reservations in  
 Riverside County Park, Idyllwild, phone  
 (714)787-2553.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Dick Mundwiler  
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ANCEL FRESNO DOME The scheduled RCS trip  
 to Fresno Dome was cancelled because the  
 leaders could not make the trip. Anyone  
 interested in rescheduling this trip  
 could contact LeRoy Russ.

FOR SALE Kelty Serac Backpack  
 Size: large; color: green; price: \$50  
 Call: Glenn Kaplan 664-5071.

GRAMPS Born to Roger and Rebecca Yount,  
 a daughter, Laura Ellen, on May 18, 1980.  
 Mary and Emory Yount are now grandparents.

STONE POINT BUCKET The large oak tree in  
 the Stoney Point parking lot recently lost  
 two of its remaining three limbs. The RCS  
 Training Committee will need to find a new  
 location for the bucket drop test.

SKI MOUNTAINEERING SAFETY AND TRAINING

To answer the request for clarification of  
 the SMS safety policy: the June Mugelnoos  
 said that the COIME system applied to non-  
 skiing events, not non-skiing tours. A non-  
 skiing event does not involve skiing. For  
 non-skiing tours, see your travel agent.  
 The Central Committee is currently rewrit-  
 ing the safety policy at the request of the  
 Chapter Safety Committee, who felt that the  
 version on file is inadequate. The likely  
 result will be that SMS leaders will be  
 qualified using the Ski Mountaineer's Test,  
 as was formerly the practice. Some element  
 of the test will be satisfied by LTC train-  
 ing (navigation, in particular). The pos-  
 session of a prior chapter rating will  
 probably not be a requirement; the Central  
 Committee has taken the position that to  
 require rock climbing would constitute a  
 membership requirement in conflict with  
 the bylaws.  
 The effect of all this will be to restore  
 the original practices of the section, and  
 the significance of the Big-Badge member-  
 ship, as it relates to proficiency in Ski  
 Mountaineering. (OM)

PARACHUTING OFF EL CAP As reported in the  
 Los Angeles Times on Aug 2, the National  
 Park Service in Yosemite now permits sky  
 divers to do the Nose Route in reverse-  
 from the top down. This is a 3000 ft de-  
 scent which is made with a free fall of  
 about eight seconds before pulling the  
 ripcord. It is reliably reported that the  
 most popular parachutes for this event are  
 provided by the Little Gem Co., May  
 Pridham, President. Their latest catalog  
 of climbing and skiing equipment illustrates  
 the product as follows:



**LITTLE GEM PARACHUTE**  
 Never a dissatisfied  
 user. Use the Little  
 Gem Parachute once and  
 you will never use any  
 other. It is easily  
 fitted to any rucksack.



**CAUTION:** In using  
 the Little Gem Para-  
 chute the climber  
 must not raise his  
 arms. However in  
 case he does make this  
 mistake, the rucksack  
 is lowered in perfect  
 safety. Reference:

BELAYING THE LEADER  
 The Sierra Club, 1956



## MT. WHITNEY July 4, 5, 6

Fourteen members and guests hiked in. Three went left to Day Needle, and eleven went right to East Face Lake. The Day Needle group- Larry Tidball, Donna and Neal Montgomery had route finding problems and were unable to complete the climb. Of the group at East Face Lake, eight on Sat and two on Sun went to the top of Whitney.

On Saturday, climbing in ropes of two, Paul Morrill, Virgil Shields, Bob Harvey and Joe Orange climbed the East Face while Dick Mundwiler, John Moore, Jim Sharpsteen and George Holland climbed the East Buttress. Six climbers arrived on top about 4:30 pm and started down at 5:00. "Too late"! The Mountaineer's Route was freezing fast. The descent took five hours- ending with a 300 ft rappel onto the steep, frozen snow around East Face Lake. The remaining two climbers arrived on top at 7:30 pm and rested on the covered floor of the hut all night, descending via the Whitney-Russell Pass the next day. It was not so steep and more sun in morning than the Mountaineer's Route.

The three who stayed in camp on Sat also had a busy day: they provided food, first aid and shelter (all night) for seven BMTC students and a leader who came down the M Route so late they couldn't get down to their camp at Upper Boy Scout Lake.

On Sunday, Fred Wing and Jim McPherson started very early and cramponed up and down the Mountaineer's Route.

The only problem on the trip occurred late Sunday when Fred Wing fell through a collapsing snow bridge into the stream just above Lower Boy Scout Lake. He dumped his pack and was able to scramble back up onto the snow. With temperatures near freezing and Fred soaked to the skin, hypothermia was an instant and severe problem. Jim McPherson and Jim Sharpsteen got him down to LBS Lake and into a sleeping bag with another warm body and the hypothermia was soon warded off. The pack was washed downstream under snow and was lost; Fred suffered cracked ribs, but he should be climbing again soon.

An observation: having now climbed both the East Face Route and the East Buttress, it is my opinion that the buttress is significantly harder than the face. On the buttress there are at least four 5th class pitches and several moves are 5.5 or harder. (DM)

## JULY 4TH WEEKEND IN THE PALISADES

The Forest Service is definitely cracking down on wilderness permits, and as we were checked on our way to the Palisades we realized we had better write away well in advance for the next trip. After a good day's hike up the Big Pine Creek trail, past snowbound Sam Mack Mdw to a campsite high in the glacial moraine, one tends to work up a good appetite. As we set up our tents Harry McKellop turned to me and said, "Did someone take the foodbag out of my pack?" I ask you, are those the words a hungry climber wants to hear? Fortunately, after Harry and I and our two faithful female companions pooled what food we had, we weren't too bad off. Of course, there were always those cans of Damian's dog food.

At 5:00 AM the next morning Harry and I left camp, and by 6:30 had crossed the bergschrund onto Clyde's Couloir. After several pitches on steep snow we moved right to the 4th class rocks for several more pitches, then back across the couloir to the broken face between the couloir and the snowfield. Several more pitches of mixed snow and 5th class rock lead us to the upper ridge, about fifty feet below the summit. It was 4 PM. We descended the ridge (still covered with patches of snow and rotten ice) and rappelled into the U-notch.

All in all we had perfect, clear weather, no other climbers (we saw two on Mt. Sill), lots of snow, and we didn't even have to eat Damian's food, so he lucked out too. (GK)

## RCS AT TAHQUITZ July 19, 20

An almost accident-free climbing weekend was enjoyed at Tahquitz Rock on July 19 and 20. Fifteen members and guests joined leaders Dick DeRusha and Emory Yount in two full days of climbing in excellent weather. On Saturday Herb Null fell at an overhang; when a point of protection failed, he pendulumed into a wall. The result was an ankle injury which led to a tardy, tedious trek to Humber Park (arrived 10:30 PM). At last report Herb is recovering nicely.

On Sunday there were outstanding displays of climbing by some of the local tigers- the most electric was the free climb of the Hangover which is rated 5.12 "dyno". Although inspiring, that was just the second most interesting view at Lunch Rock that day. (EY)



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

I am writing to express my thanks and appreciation to all RCS members and students who aided and assisted me after my fall on the south side of Tahquitz on June 22. I do not know all of those involved and so will not attempt to name them individually. I have sent a contribution and letter of thanks to the Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit, the volunteer group which performed the helicopter rescue in a very timely and professional manner.

I would like to express my appreciation to Emory Yount and Dick Mundwiler who were kind enough to visit me in the Hemet Hospital a few days after the accident.

My main injury is a fractured hip, which is now held together with a rather substantial steel bar. I do hope that I will get a chance to try it out at Tahquitz again next summer. I have no memory of the fall itself, but can only say that I had a very enjoyable weekend of climbing- prior to that one unfortunate "move" during the descent on Sunday afternoon.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank the trip leader, LeRoy Russ, both for his help at Tahquitz and for his several phone calls since to inquire as to my recovery. I know that I livened up his trip in a way he will not want one livened up very soon again. Ron Bottorff.

Dear Sir:

As a student in the '80 RCS class, I would like to express my thanks to all who participated in the organization and activities of the classes. Special thanks to LeRoy and Andy, and to all the instructors.

These people volunteered their time, on days when I'm sure they would much rather have been climbing a 5.9 route, they nursed the assembled fumbling students.

For the paltry fee of \$30, I learned and practiced rock climbing, with the emphasis on safety. This is just a guess, but on my own, it would probably have taken five years to learn what I learned in the class.

Now, when I climb, I have faith in the system, the belayer, anchor, rope, etc.. Some of you know that I took a leader fall off the bolt ladder at Rubidoux, and I can tell you that the system works.

I suggest that those students among you who also feel the way I do, should volunteer our time for next year's class. That's the best way I can think of to help repay.

Kent Withers

## NEW TAHQUITZ-SUICIDE TOPO BOOK

Randy Vogel has compiled and published a book of "topo" diagrams for the Idylwild rocks. He was selling it at Humber Park in July for \$7 per copy; it will reputedly be about \$8 in the stores.

Overall the book is well done and should be very useful. A large percentage of the existing routes are diagrammed. At Tahquitz, only 6 existing routes are left out, while 9 are listed that are not in the new edition of Wilts' guide. Three of the omitted routes ought to be added--Angle Iron Traverse, Fitchen's Folly, and the Offshoot. At Suicide, about 5 of the guidebook routes were omitted, while about 24 additional ones were listed. Each formation has an index by rating, and recommended and classic climbs are noted throughout.

Users have noted a few errors (bound to creep into the first edition of so large an undertaking). Those noted so far include:

Tahquitz

Plate 4.....(C) is NE Face (left out of key)

Plate 6.....(B) is Uneventful, (C) is North Buttress. The traverse exit on North Buttress seems to be overrated at 5.6, while the chimney on Uneventful above the crooked tree seems underrated at 5.0.

Plate 7.....Uneventful is labeled North Buttress in lower view.

Plate 9.....(C) is Wong Climb, (D) is Long Climb.

Plate 17....Fingergrip should be 5.7; no way it's 5.8.

Plate 20....(C) is Left Ski Track, (D) is Right Ski Track, (E) is Sling Swing Traverse.

suicide

late 20....(D) is the Breeze, (E) is the Shadow.

Readers are urged to send in corrections as errors are found. To pass them on to Randy Vogel, we need his address--does anyone out there know his address? (JR)