

THE

# MUGELNOOS

No. 573 -- September 16, 1979

A newsheet published by & 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, Apt D, Fullerton, CA 92632. A 4 page issue.

\*\*\*\* NOTICE \*\*\*\* NOTICE \*\*\*\* NOTICE \*\*\*\* NOTICE \*\*\*\* NOTICE \*\*\*\* NOTICE \*\*\*\*  
Subscriptions are due in October. Send your three bucks to Dove Menkes. Make checks payable to MUGELNOOS.

## A LEADER MUST NOT FALL

It is always a pleasure to read the monthly issue of my beloved Mugelnoos. A seemingly frail reed, this little newspaper has weathered the vagaries of time better than many apparently sturdy trees (e.g. Life, The Saturday Evening Post, Colliers, Harpers) I was, however, shocked while reading the last issue to discover that so many of my fellow members of the RCS are getting themselves hurt. What's going on here? This is unacceptable. There shouldn't be any accidents. Yet this one issue chronicles five. It all argues a certain laxness, a lack of mental rigorousness, a want of relentless common sense. For these are the tools that insure a climbing holiday un-

marred by mishaps. I note that in the same issue Kent Withers avers his "faith in the system, the belayer, anchor, rope, etc.", because he took a leader fall and didn't get hurt. Thank God for that, and Ken is right to thank the RCS leaders for showing him the ropes. Only, the tone bothers me. Faith in the system or one's equipment is more likely to lead to danger than lack of faith. I say be suspicious, be critical, and keep your guard up. It is pretty unusual for me to preach about safety (as opposed to style and ethics), but I can't remain silent when members of my club are decimating themselves. So, Wake Up, RCSers. Rockclimbing and the sort of mountaineering involved in the accidents mentioned should be safe activities. The phrase "an almost accident-free weekend was enjoyed..." leads me to worry that accidents are becoming almost routine, and accepted as a normal part of climbing. Allow me to repeat myself: there should be no accidents. You should go into the field with that in mind and make sure you don't have any. It's not your equipment, and it's not your training, and it's not chance. If you get hurt you have only yourself to blame.

When we step from a curb into the street we know we must look both ways. Every step in the mountains is like that step into the street. If we become mentally lazy while strolling across town and step off one curb without looking we have sinned against prudence. In the city that's unwise. And in the mountains too. So, in so far as I like my fellow club members to be whole and healthy, please resolve that "My fate is in my own hands, and as a favor to all of my fellow club members who want me to remain whole and healthy, I hereby resolve to stay that way."

RR

## CONSUMER WARNING

Certain 1979 model Jumar ascenders appear to be potentially hazardous due to defective safety lever springs.

A pair checked because the safety levers failed to remain closed, were sent to the manufacturer for analysis. We were subsequently informed that the problem was with the safety lever closure springs and might effect an unknown quantity of early 1979 (yellow) model Jumars.

This problem might not arise until after they have been in use.

1979 model (yellow) Jumars should not be used until they have been returned to the place of purchase for inspection, correction, replacement parts, exchange or refund depending on how the seller is equipped to handle the problem.

The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission has been made aware of the potential danger, and, in cooperation with that agency, we request your assistance as source of technical mountaineering information in making climbers aware of this potential hazard.

NK



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NEXT ISSUE: October 14, 1980

NEXT DEADLINE: October 8, 1980

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS: Third Tues of each  
month, 7:30 PM, LA Dept of Water and  
Power, 111 N Hope St., LA. Program, re-  
fresh. Climbers, skiers, guests welcome.

C A L E N D A R

- Sept 20 Sat RCS Safety Test:  
Don Pies
- Sept 13-14 Sat-Sun Keller Peak Work  
Party
- Sept 27-28 Sat-Sun Temple Crag: Fried/  
Johnson
- Oct 4-5 Sat-Sun San Antonio Ski Hut  
Work Party
- Oct 4-6 Sat-Sun Yosemite: Nissen/  
Cole
- Oct 12 Sat RCS Picnic: Ron  
Master
- Oct 14 Tues SMS Potluck:  
Kathy Crandall
- Oct 18-19 Sat-Sun Keller Peak Work  
Party
- Oct 18-19 Sat-Sun Domeland: Ripley/  
Cholewe
- Oct 28 Tues RCS Annual Meeting,

SKI MOUNTAINEERS' POTLUCK

Tuesday, October 14 6:30 P.M.

Members of the SMS, new and old, are invited  
to a potluck supper at Kathy Crandall's spacious  
house in Pasadena--leaders especially, to  
wrap up the spring schedule. Note that Kathy will  
need lots of help since her head is firmly  
bolted to her "halo". Call Kathy (See box 1)  
for reservations and information. Direction:  
North on Lake to Woodbury, right approx 2 blocks  
to house on NE corner.

NEW ADDRESSES

Russ Kirkpatrick  
1159 N. Conwell Ave, Apt 220  
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(213) 967-5626

Ruth Carter  
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NOTICE

Please notify the Mugelmailer directly of  
change of address. Notice in Mugelnoos is  
unreliable (unless you want your friends to  
know - Ed.). Following being returned by  
postoffice: Alfred Sattler, 630 W. Duarte  
Rd, #47, Monrovia, CA 91016; John Davis, P O  
Box 6112, Tahoe City, CA 95730.

FOR SALE

Old style 7' Northland wooden skis and metal  
poles - \$22.00; German-made leather ski boot  
about size 8 - \$20.00...or best reasonable  
offer. Call Eleanor Graff, (213) 246-3724.

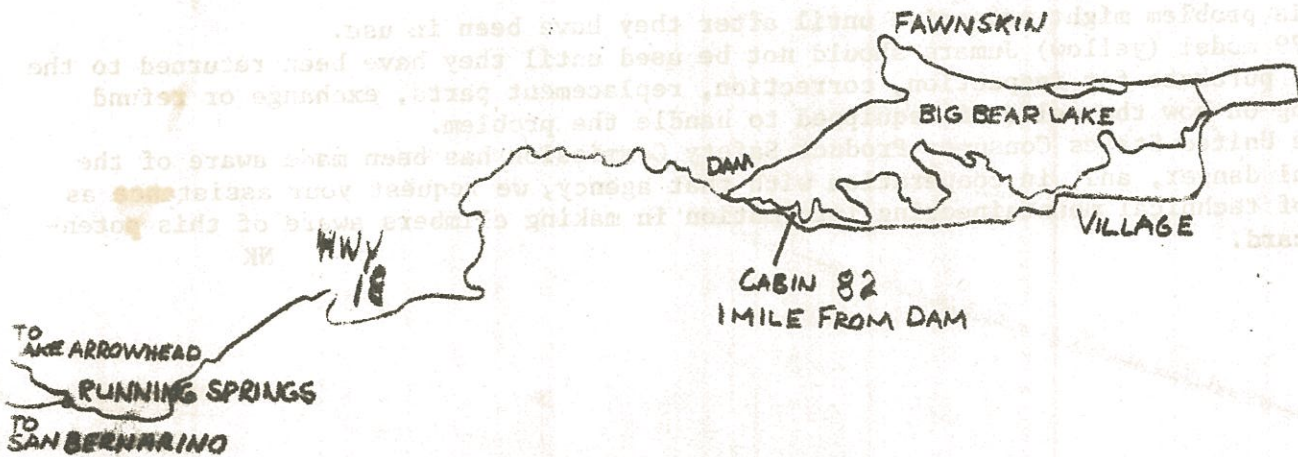
IT'S PICNIC TIME AGAIN!

The RCS Picnic will be held on Saturday, October 12 starting at 10 AM. This year Ed  
Nissen has offered the use of his cabin at Big Bear Lake for the annual event. The  
section will provide beer and soda as usual and also will offer Bar-B-Q chicken as the  
main course. In the tradition of past picnics, those attending with last names start-  
ing with A-L should bring a salad for four. The remaining M-Z should bring dessert for  
four. Those who prefer a different main course should substitute it for four instead  
of a salad or dessert. Bouldering at nearby Castle Rock is a 20-minute hike, so come  
out for some good fun, companionship and consumables.

HOW TO GET TO THE RCS PICNIC

Please follow the map directions. Signs will be placed on the main road to the village  
1 mile after the Big Bear Lake Dam to direct you to the cabin.

To allow us to plan for food & drink, please R.S.V.P. by October 5 to either:  
Ed Nissen (213) 425-6340 or Ron Master (714) 537-4837  
Letting us know you are planning to attend will prevent shortages and will allow car-  
pooling if needed so please R.S.V.P. by October 5th. See you there.





### SKI MOUNTAINEERS WINTER SCHEDULE

A substantial training program has been scheduled for next year. There will be five local tours for the 4th class test; any member who wishes can come just to ski, of course. One of the checkouts will be held on a Keller weekend. We are scheduling a professional avalanche seminar with Dave Beck, and there will be a snowcamp at Round Valley. Mark Goebel promises a gourmet dinner. The idea is to cover the material in the Ski Mountaineers Test, although not in a formal test environment. We will not duplicate BMTC or LTC training.

There will not be any scheduled tours to the Baldy Hut, except for the races, because of the unpredictability of snow conditions. Instead, John Wedberg has offered to serve as a contact for those who wish to ski the Baldy Bowl. Call John before 8 PM if you want to ski Baldy.

The schedule is as follows:

Dec. 28	Local tour	RJ Secor, Walt Boge
Jan. 3	Local tour	RJ Secor, Owen Maloy
Jan. 2-4	Avalanche seminar, Mammoth	Dave Beck, Kathy Crandall
Jan. 10-11	Ostrander Hut	Tom Duryea, Mark Goebel
Jan. 17-18	Mammoth checkout, downhill	RJ Secor, Owen Maloy
Jan. 24-25	Keller weekend	Owen Maloy, Walt Boge
Jan. 31- Feb 1	Round Valley Gourmet Snowcamp	Mark Goebel, Kathy Crandall
Feb. 8	Local tour	RJ Secor, Bill Feldmann
Feb. 7-9	Ostrander Hut	Tom Duryea, Mark Goebel
Feb. 14-15	Buttermilk Country Day Tour	Sy Osssofsky, Owen Maloy
Feb. 22	Local tour (race setup)	RJ Secor, Owen Maloy
Feb. 28-	Walter Mosauer Memorial	RJ Secor, Owen Maloy
Mar. 1	Race	
Mar. 14-15	Sierra training tour	Andy Fried, Walt Boge

(RJ offered to lead all the local tours to keep in shape; we accepted his offer.) OM

### SMS CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING--September 9, 1980

This meeting was held at Kathy Crandall's house. (Kathy is recovering nicely from her accident, but her skull will remain bolted to her "halo" for 2' more months.) All members were present.

New Members: Sean Butler, Rick Campbell, Jackie VanDalsem, and Dave Vandershaf were elected. (We will omit addresses for now since the new SMS membership list will be mailed soon.)

Snow Touring Committee Merger: Some members of STC have suggested that this question be reopened. After discussion the Central Committee decided unanimously that the real problem (failure of the SMS to allow Nordic skis) had been corrected and that a merger would be inappropriate. The Ski Mountaineers invite good skiers in the STC (those who can ski downhill) to join our section. But the Central Committee does not wish to compromise the section's original charter as an advanced skiing/mountaineering group, and it was felt that getting involved with lodge-based bus trips would inevitably deflect us from our main purpose. The Central Committee wishes to maintain friendly relations with the Snow Touring Committee, and will refer inquiries to them from people who seem interested in conventional cross-country skiing. (Members may wish to comment on this decision).

Safety Policy: As noted in the last issue, the SMS was asked to rewrite its safety policy to incorporate some of the chapter's rules. The committee reviewed a draft policy which provides that new ski tour leaders shall have passed the Ski Mountaineers Test. In practice the map and compass checkout will be given by LTC. Standard First Aid/Personal Safety and CPR cards will be needed to qualify. The two-day LTC lectures will be required. Those who qualify as SMS leaders will also get a chapter "I" rating, which is good for leading such things as Rabbit Peak and Mt. Sally (pray for snow). After approval of the final draft the new policy will be submitted to the chapter Safety Committee. OM

### SMS BYLAWS, WHERE ARE YOU?

Having been retyped, they are again in the Chapter Council's in-basket. (The Council reviewers, meaning well, started to change some things which have been section policy since 1940 or earlier, but they did catch some errors.) The approval may seem slow, but the changes made by the Central Committee in early '39 were not approved by the members till October '39 and by the Ex Com until March '40. We are on the customary schedule. These things take time. OM



SKI TOURS FROM LAST SPRING-1980

OK all you skiers out there wake up! It's September, and Winter and those snowy slopes are just over the horizon and around the corner. What? You don't believe me, the signs are all around. Open your eyes and look, the newspapers are full of ski sale ads, ski magazines have their first issue on the stands, new skis have arrived in the stores, and there was a snow flurry in northern Montana last week.

To help get you in the mood, return now with me to the days of yore (last season) and that best of times, Spring skiing in California. Although those long and warm Spring days with consolidated ego snow were late in arriving to the Sierra, once all the ingredients came together it was the best ever. For example:

May 4-10: Trans-Sierra II, With Dave and Susan Beck, Paul Rudder and Sam King, I skied past North Lake and on over Lamark Col. The endless turns down from the Col into Darwin Canyon can only be described as breathtaking, and most of it on good corn. (A condition which just continued & continued.) We skied down and around to Evolution Lake (lots of ski tracks on the Muir Trail) and then south to Muir Pass. We spent several hours skiing the local slopes at the Pass, and then pushed on over Black Giant Pass and into the Ionian Basin, a most marvelous and enchanting place to ski. After pausing for a day (of super skiing), we slipped around Mt. Goddard and experienced a dream run down to Martha Lake and on into Goddard Canyon. The remainder of the trip was more of the same and finally ended at Courtwright Reservoir after a crossing near Hell-for-Sure Pass.

May 18: San Geronio, Continuous snow from Slushy Meadows and almost to the very summit. Skied perfect corn down the south slope for 500 feet, and then June Lane and I dropped off the lip of the Big Draw, past a giant crevasse, and then just endless turns.

June 1: Wonder if there still is any snow on Baldy? Sure enough, for 2000' from the summit in all directions. I chose N.E. towards Lytle Creek. On the hike out I counted the turns, 138.

June 7-8: Fishermen migrate to Crowley Lake for opening day, for skiers (including J. Lane and Steve Hanson) it's Tioga Pass. We were half a day late, and the slopes were already tracked up! At the top of Mt. Dana the Yosemite locals said it was the first clear day in a month, and it looked like it. The views were similar to mid-winter but after the first 500' the snow was strictly super-Springtime corn all the way down. The next day was on nearby Mammoth Peak, and it can only be described as even better. Steep slopes, unbelievable snow, super views, and fine company.

June 29: The end is in sight, sun cups cover the slopes and only a few turns were possible below Bear Creek Spire. However, at Mammoth Mountain modern technology allowed fast and uncrowded skiing from the summit down to the main lodge. MG

TUOLUMNE MEADOWS

Approximately 50 RCSers, students, family and friends enjoyed 3 days of the enjoyable weather and climbing that only Tuolumne Meadows can offer. Familiar faces were missing including the original leader and assistant. Ron Masters and I filled in. Thanks to Frances and company, campgrounds were reserved for our use.

Climbs: (S) = student

Great White Book: Linn, Peters (S), Banister (S), Houpt (S), Pool, John, Somarro, Irvin Glenn (S), Adams (S) and Jacobson. It is rumored that the last three climbed the dome by way of Yosemite Valley. Student Anna Houpt led 3 pitches of the Great White Book (5.6)...a notable achievement for a beginning climber.

Hobbit Book: Mulry, Havens (S), Jacobson (S), and Clark.

Euphoria & Penny Royal Arches: DeRusha, Havens (S), and Masters.

Cathedral Peak: Johnson, Johnson, Shields and Clark. Virgil maintained his streak, only this venture was overnight and Jane Clark was his accomplice.

Lambert Dome: Havens (S), Havens (S), Korbut-Wedberg, Degenkolb, Adams (S), Glenn (S), Sproul (S), Peters (S). Routes Werners, Wiggle & the Water Cracks were notables.

Pywiack Dome: Somarro, Riberich (S), Riberich (S), Houpt (S), Bermeister (S), Riberick Korbut-Wedberg, Havens (S), Havens (S), and Degenkolb.

Far West Country & Hermaphrodite Flake: Peters (S) and Sproul (S).

Dog Dome: Masters and Mulry.

Patsy's Safari: DeRusha and Masters.

Medlicott Dome: Clinch, Menkes and Carter.

Fairview Dome: Mulry and Russ enjoyed the North Face route. Russ allowed Mulry to lead the hard pitches (he's younger) finishing in good time. LR

NEW RCS MEMBERS

Bob Havens  
16661 Donmetz Street  
Granada Hills, CA 91344  
(213) 360-9543

Iain Linn  
333 First St., #K104  
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DP