



THE MUGELNOOS

No. 574 -- October 21, 1980

A News Sheet 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, Apt D, Fullerton, CA 92632. A 4 page issue.

BALDY HUT VANDALIZED

The Baldy ski hut was broken into last month. They took our chain saw, all the lanterns, and many items from individual members' lockers, as well as the summer receipts in the cash box (probably about \$50 - \$60). Locker holders are urged to check contents before winter. JW

Under the able direction of Jim Powers, a work party which included five Ski Mountaineers gathered, sawed, and chopped enough wood to last the winter and made other repairs and improvements. Betty Powers provided a magnificent dinner featuring chicken curry nectarine, and a hearty breakfast Sunday morning.

Vandalism and theft is increasing; the hut and all lockers were broken into last summer. Even musty, 30 year old blankets and sleeping bags were stolen, and the cash box jimmied. Hut fees should not be left in the cash box but sent directly to the hut treasurer (John Wedberg). Those who have lockers may wish to clear them out now because many of the locks are gone or no longer effective. Most lockers now contain little more than cans of soup and pillows converted to mouse nests.

The hut committee wishes to see the hut used more, especially in summer when the vandalism problem is worst. Mugelnoos readers might consider leading weekend trips for their regional groups or sections. OM

INTREPID MOUNTAINEERS ASSAULT TEMPLE CRAG!

Of the 15 who called, 8 turned out for this climb (Sept. 27,28). The short hike into Third Lake seemed longer with 65 lb packs. Saturday was spent resting at Third Lake and trying to identify the named routes. Sunday saw the Johnsons (Horton and son Jeff), Mike LeBlanc (Dallas RCS), and Andy Fried off on an early crampon hike up to Contact Pass. A low 5th class chimney led to easier ground and ropes were not used again until the summit ridge.

Meanwhile, John Ripley and John Halcomb, after sleeping late, took off to climb some pitches on a buttress near Contact Pass. Guest Bill Krause was so inspired by the mass of the peak that he went home Sunday AM to study. Similarly impressed was John Orange who after hiking around the base of the peak decided to move furniture in L.A. All participants felt that the climb should be scheduled again, but for a three day trip -- say 4th of July? AF

MORE INTREPID MOUNTAINEERS

After a late start Saturday morning and a pleasant lunch at Third Lake with Andy Fried's Temple Craggers, Tom Jeter and I found ourselves on the moraine of the Palisade Glacier. From our campsite, we could see our intended climb, the steep "V" notch couloir. With an alpine start Sunday morning and a nearly full moon to aid us across the glacier, we arrived at the bergschrund around sunrise.

The gully took eight belayed pitches; five were on brittle water ice at an angle that approached 55 degrees. Once at the top of the couloir, some scrambling, (cont. on P.3)

MUGELNOOS STAFF

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NEXT ISSUE: November 18, 1980

NEXT DEADLINE: November 12, 1980

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS: Third Tuesday of each
 month, 7:30 PM, LA Dept of Water and
 Power, 111 North Hope Street, LA. Program,
 refreshments. Climbers, skiers, guests
 welcome.

CALENDAR

Oct 28 Tues, RCS Annual Meeting DWP 7:30

Nov 1-2 Sat-Sun, Tahquitz, (No leader cur-
 rently assigned. Check
 with editor for leader)

Nov 15-16 Sat-Sun Great White Throne
 Andy Fried (213) 993-1891
 Leroy Russ (213) 258-1546

Nov 18 Tues Mugelnoos Meeting DWP 7:30
 Mark Goebel: Trans-Sierra
 Ski Tours, Nordic Style

Nov 28-30 Fri-Sun Joshua Tree National
 Monument (No leader curr-
 ently assigned; check Nov
 Mugelnoos for leader)

SKI MOUNTAINEER'S POTLUCK

Although turnout was not as great as
 hoped for this event, much good food
 was consumed, and many fine trips were
 planned. On the docket in the spring
 will be the Annual Memorial Ski Race in
 the Baldy Bowl (let us hope that the
 vandals leave us a hut by then!), as
 well as trips on the San Joaquin Ridge
 and/or Peak, The Needles, Glass Mountain,
 the Palisades, San Gorgonio, the Evolution
 Basin area, Pear Lake of course, Mineral
 King/Farewell Gap, the White Mountains,
 Dana, another attempt on Shasta or perhaps
 Banner and Davis over Memorial Day, and
 Rock Creek for the finale. See a trip
 you'd like to lead - or want to do a trip
 you don't see here? Contact RJ, Owen, or
 anyone else on the Central Committee - we
 want you and your ideas! We tried for a
 balance between Nordic, Alpine, and mixed
 tours; we also have not finalized the dates
 on the above trips pending further input
 from those who stayed home to watch the
 World Series instead of attending the
 potluck. KC

FOR SALE: Northface Back Magic Pack,
 size medium frame, small pack - \$75;
 also Head AT downhill skis, 170 cm.
 brand new \$100 Kathy Crandall (213)
 794-6491

MUGELNOOS SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE. SEND YOUR
 THREE BUCKS TO DOVE MENKES, 1550 SOUTH HIGH-
 LAND AVENUE, APT. D, FULLERTON, CALIFORNIA,
 92632. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO MUGELNOOS.

A ROYAL APOLOGY

I have learned many things from my recent accident - about rescue teams, and heli-
 copters, and patience; and survival with dirty hair and no showers. There are
 many reasons why I shouldn't have fallen --- pain and expense to myself; worry,
 grief, and pain to family and friends. Never did I dream, however, that my lack
 of mental rigorousness would cause shock and sadness in such faraway and exalted
 circles as those inhabited by fellow club member Royal Robbins. I hope he will
 accept my apology for having exhibited this lack of mental rigorousness and want
 of relentless common sense, and my heartfelt assurances that I intend no further
 sins against prudence. The truth is -- the man was right. It was another acci-
 dent that shouldn't have happened - another instance of a tired climber behaving
 overconfidently at the end of the day - another difficult lesson learned. It is
 certainly nice for me as Editor this month to be putting together a collection
 of trip reports and the usual Ski Mountaineers squabbles rather than a mini-
 version of Accidents in North America. KC

A NOTE OF THANKS

I must also thank my rescuers as well as the many friends who called, wrote, and
 visited and helped keep up my morale when life was looking bleak. My survival of
 a dislocated and fractured cervical vertebra seems remarkable. Even more remarkable,
 I think, was that the seriousness of my injury was not obvious to myself or my compan-
 ions. I was able to walk around, change clothes, eat, etc. - presumably without caus-
 ing myself further damage. The signs I should have payed more attention to were:
 numbness in my hands, weakness in my arm, and extreme pain in one shoulder. The moral
 is: if you or a friend take a tumble, don't assume that a broken back or neck will
 be completely obvious. If there is any numbness or weakness, suspect nerve damage
 and possible injury to the spine. I was incredibly lucky - perhaps this information
 will help someone else be equally fortunate. (Latest bulletin - I expect to be out
 of the latest orthopedic device in three weeks - and on the slopes by the time
 the snow is good). KC

Polemonium Peak Via to "V" Notch, cont.

a short rappel, and a 4th class pitch put us on top of Polemonium. From the top, three rappels deposited us at the "U" Notch. Then we proceeded to tediously downclimb the "U" Notch couloir past streaks and patches of water ice, arriving back at camp (happily exhausted) fourteen hours later. It was a perfect weekend, the climbing was great; the weather was clear, warm, and windless. PM

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS...

On June 11, 1980, 11 year old Chris Fried reached the Austrian Hut (elevation 15,720') on the Pt. Lenana route on Mount Kenya, Africa. New to climbing, he decided that he would like to attempt something more modest on his next expedition.

Mount Kenya is located north of Nairobi and can be reached by means of MPS (Mombasa Peugeot Service) Bus. The main road from Nairobi leads to Nanyuki, but the most commonly used approach is from Naro Moro. There is a climbers camp at the Naro Moro hotel, and they can arrange for porters and supplies. There is also a youth hostel near Naro Moro. Technical Routes require about six day minimum on the mountain. Point Lenana, 16,355', is the only non-technical peak and can be climbed in three days. Although Swahili is the official language, English is widely spoken in Kenya. Tourists are welcome, although backpackers are still rare. AF

BULLETINBULLETIN***BULLETIN***BULLETIN***BULLETIN***BULLETIN***BULLETIN***BULL?

MUGELNOOS SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE. Send your three bucks to Dove Menkes, 1550 South Highland Avenue, Apt. D, Fullerton, California, 92632. Make checks payable to the Mugelnoos.

RCS MEMBERSHIP PENDING

The Safety Committee has received membership applications from:

Bob Sproul
John Peters

Anyone wishing to comment on these applicants' climbing safety should contact Don Pies, 4619 W. 130th Stree, Hawthorne, CA, 90250, (213) 675-5139 by Nov. 4.

SAFETY TEST, MT PACIFICO, SEPT 20

The horrors of the safety test were once again challenged by ten masochists wishing to prove themselves worthy candidates for RCS membership. A full safety committee (plus two members scrounging to make four climbs this year) was able to administer all the phases of physical and mental abuse in near record time. Participants tackled belaying and anchors quite well, but imperfections in prusicking and rappelling tarnished their perfect score.

A manila rope recalled the uncertainty of early climbing equipment by snapping in two as the "flying" bucket was hoisted. An additional shocking fact was revealed after subjecting one of our trustworthy perlon ropes (recently donated by Leroy Russ) to 30 bucket drops. The rope's sheath, in contact with the climber's back during the belaying, melted and then fused smooth and stiff. Melting rope began to build up, welding the rope to one climber's shirt. This rapid rope degradation was probably due to the fact that the bucket at Mt. Pacifico is about half again as heavy as the one used in training - or else it is characteristic of Mammut ropes in severe falls (I have personally had a Mammut abrade and sever easily.) The moral: ropes become delicate if abused.

Dick Derusha demonstrated that his ability as a dog trainer is equal to his skill on the rock. Throughout the day his 4-month old Doberman retrieved goods from climbers' packs and presented to Dick the following: a big bag of peanuts, a bag of cookies, a chunk of salami, and one-and-a-half sandwiches (the other half is still missing). This special training must have something to do with the dog's name "BEAR" cont. on page 4

Safety Test, Cont.

Tom Jeter tested dynamic belaying the bucket with the Munter Hitch, for use in ice climbing. He found that grasping the rope with little more than a child's touch will lock the rope even for a severe fall. I question what damage the rope may be subjected to since the friction is distributed over such a short section in contrast to the amount of contact in a body belay.

The day concluded with indulging in beer, war stories, and burning out numerous pairs of arms from attempts on a particularly disagreeable crack. The next test will be in May. Found: 3 - single slings, white; 1 - triple sling, white; 1 - carabiner, REI; 2 - locking carabiners, Bonati. Call Don Pies (213) 675-5139. DP

YOSEMITE

Leaderless, but intrepid (even more intrepid mountaineers, ed.), fourteen of the hard-core (including hardcore children, guests, and miscellaneous tourists, ed) gathered in the valley of the Yosemite to dare the unthinkable (plain-wrap bear and climbing before noon, ed. note) on Oct. 4-6. No fair-weather climbers these, braving the flames, smoke, and choking fumes of raging forest fires (ten Park Service prescribed burns), they carried the attack to the sheer rock cliffs, rather than passively awaiting the advance of the monoliths as had been done upon a previous occasion (a reference to earthquakes, ed?).

Many and bold were the routes done by these hardy venturers in their conquest of the polished granite...All the classics on Manure Pile were climbed; the hard variation of Harry Daley and other good stuff on the Apron; Royal Arches, West Buttress of Middle Cathedral, and Snake Dike were done (I don't know the outcome of this last). Adam Paal was off on whatever 5.10's and 11's were momentarily free. A note for anyone thinking about Royal Arches. Bob Sproul and John Peters, having mislaid the down route at dusk, sat down and waited for dawn - how many of us are this smart? (After an epic journey, they gat back at 2:30 p.m. - John has surely retired the trophy for destruction of pants on one climb.)

Special thanks to C. Lane and others for the camp sites and fire wood; and especially to the Committee for the Determination of the Alcohol Content of Plain-Wrap Beer. PH

(SIC)

The names of the following SMS members were not included in the recently mailed 1980 Ski Mountaineers Directory, even though the Mugelmailer's records indicate that they are paid up Mugelnoos subscribers:

Roy Arnold
Roger Harmon
Gordon MacLeod

All have been SMS members for 14 to 30 years and one, who was not mailed a ballot for either the SMS by-laws or the 1980 "election" of SMS officers, is a lifetime Sierra Club member. Whether these omissions were intentional will be determined by whether they receive a ballot for the 1981 election of officers. Mugelnoos subscriptions are due now; (and you all certainly know by now where to send your three bucks, ed.) all SMS members are urged to remit promptly to be assured of receiving their ballot in order to exercise their right to now vote by mail -- and hope that the 1981 election will not only be legal but honest as well. (The new SMS by-laws, mailed with the Directory, were not approved until Sept. 22! This fact, plus the contents of the by-laws themselves, do confirm that the 1980 election of SMS officers was illegal -- and indeed the names of the 1979 SMS officers are still listed in the latest Angeles Chapter schedule!) BJL
(Ed. note: this notice was received too late for me to check with the Mugelmailer or with the current SMS Secretary, be he legal or illegal, as to whether these folks are indeed paid up members and as to whether they have called the oversight to the attention of the secretary. I must note, however, that as current Vice-Chair of the SMS I resent the clearly intended innuendo and implications of dishonesty on my part and on the part of my colleagues on the Central Committee. I would like to call on Ms. Lilley et al. to cease hostilities and to join us in planning and implementing an enjoyable year. I'm in this to have fun - not to have fights; I think that's true of the vast majority of us. C'mon. Barbara)