



THE ANGELES GUIDE

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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, California 92632. \$3 per year, due in October.

HARRIS LEADS!

May 9

The mid-year RCS climbing statistics from the 1980 season are in. The present leader is Paul Harris with 13 days of climbing with the section. Second place is held by LeRoy Russ with 11 days. The next four places are as follows

- Third - Mike Mulry, 10 days
- Fourth - Ruth Carter, Dick Mundwiler, Virgil Shields, 9 days
- Fifth - Bob D'Evelyn, Jim Sharpsteen, 8 days
- Sixth - Mark Cole, Bob Havens, Emory Yount, 7 days

Twenty-seven RCS members out of 56 have the required 4 climbs in at this time. It must be noted that these statistics do not include the April 18-19 Joshua Tree climb. Your secretary has (cont. page 2)

ONION VALLEY

May 9-10

On Saturday morning five skiers left Onion Valley for the slopes above Matlock and Bench Lakes. Because of the lack of snow, we decided our best snow pack would be on these northern exposure slopes.

After packing our skies to just below Matlock Lake, we skied up to the valley S.W. of Bench Lake. After lunch we climbed halfway up the west ridge of University Pk. and then a col on the west end of the valley for two runs on crusty spring snow.

On our way back to Onion Valley, we skied a steep chute down to Bench Lake that had excellent spring snow. In the trees below Matlock Lake we again found excellent spring snow down to the top of a steep chute that was on the south side of the creek and had snow nearly down to the Onion Valley parking lot. In the chute we had to make jump turns to miss rocks melting out of the snow. (cont. page 3)

WALL WARRIORS OF THE DESERT

May 9-10

The miniature Yosemite Valley setting of Fossil Falls was explored with etriers and haul bags at the May 9 Big Wall Workshop. Demonstrations, discussions and a practice session left the thirteen participants in unanimous agreement that the multi-day climbs are a great exercise in perseverance.

The arrogant RCS became bad guys again when we asked a neighboring BMTC experience trip group to stop firing their shotguns near the camping area - Quote "The RCS wants to take over the whole area for themselves." The traditional Fossil Falls campfire was missed because no one brought any wood nor would donate a spare tire for the cause (some pyromania was provided by a BMTC'er shooting off a flare). (cont. page 3)

MUGELNOOS STAFF

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MISSING PERSONS!

The Postal Service is returning the Mugelnoos of

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NEXT ISSUE: JULY 21, 1981
DEADLINE: JULY 15, 1981

If you have information leading to the whereabouts of these fugitives, please pass on the data to Dove Menkes.

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

For Sale

Used only once: size 40 EBs (Donna Mroczkowski 213-289-7970 or 213-689-1000) and size 45 EBs (Neil Montgomery 213-289-7970)

CALENDAR

20-21 JUNE TAHQUITZ, Shields
3-5 JULY PALISADES, Tidball
18-19 JULY TAHQUITZ, DeRusha

IN MEMORIUM

HARRIS LEADS (cont.)

On May 27, 1981 Ed Olcott died at age 72 after a brief illness. Ed was active with the RCS in the 1960's and after he and his wife Cassie moved to Bishop they continued to welcome climbers passing through on their way to the Sierra. His old friends will miss the "Dirty Old Man"'s humor and enthusiasm.

(LM)

patiently awaited the the receipt of the Sign-In sheets from that climb for over three weeks. I do not understand why it is so difficult for some RCS leaders to return the Sign-In sheets after a climb. Maybe the reason is because they are confounded to find that the only effort they need make is to fold the material, place it in the SASE provided, and deposit it in a mailbox. Could it be that those leaders are confused by the complexity of the steps involved? If so, maybe the Section should consider a training session for Leaders so that future delays can be minimized.

RCS MEMBERSHIP PENDING

Thank you and good climbing,
Virgil

The Safety Committee has received application for membership from David Busdeicker and John Hodgman. Anyone wishing to comment on this applicant's safety should contact Don Pies by July 1 (4619 130th St, Hawthorne 90250).

CAMPSITE CHANGE

An update to the above ranking, as of 1 June 1981, still has Paul Harris in the lead with 20 climbs, LeRoy Russ still in second with 18 climbs, Mike Mulry still third with 14 climbs, and Ruth Carter alone in fourth with 13 climbs. Tied for fifth with 11 climbs are Andy Fried and Richard Mundwiler with Mark Cole in sixth with 10 climbs. Only 23 members have not yet completed their four climbs at this time.

For the 20-21 June Tahquitz climb, four sites at the State Park have been reserved. For further data, contact Virgil Shields.

(VS)

ONION VALLEY (cont.)

On Sunday six skiers headed for Kearsarge Pass and the slopes on Mt. Gould. However, just above the pass we found the snow had an icy crust so after lunch we skied down to Pothole Lake on spring snow below the pass.

We then skied down to and around the west end of Flower Lake trying to avoid patches of bare ground. We then climbed up to Bench Lake and retraced our route of Saturday down the north side of the valley.

Because of the late and low snows this winter, the best skiing was on the open slopes above 11,000 feet up to 12,000 feet where it had an icy crust. In the trees on north slopes the snow was still good down to 10,000 feet. The skiing around Bench and Matlock Lakes was well worth the climb especially for those who had never skied this area before.

(BF)

WALL WARRIORS OF THE DESERT (cont.)

Warm temperatures continued throughout the weekend outing that concluded Sunday with a Safety Test. Although only about half of the Safety Committee showed, the number of climbers taking the test was small. Each part of the test appears to work well at Fossil Falls provided a little extra effort is put into rigging the bucket drop anchors. A longer drop for the bucket is in order because Cal. Tech. seismic monitors registered no activity during the testing period.

Note that the next safety test is rescheduled from Sept. 19 to Aug. 15. This winter's training class should put this date on their calendars because the next test following Aug. 15 will be in Spring '82.

(DP)

JOSHUA TREE

17-19 April

Easter weekend, April 17-19, saw a flurry of RCS activity in Joshua Tree's Indian Cove campground. This was the first time, to my knowledge, that the RCS has camped at the cove and few of the members have climbed there. This put me in the position of tour guide and the guidebook was in great demand.

Although good routes are sprinkled throughout the cove within easy walking distance of the campsites, most of the climbing that weekend was concentrated in two areas. Some exploring was done on the Billboard Buttress Friday by Al Fowler (out from Tucson) and other brave and early arrivals. Saturday saw 13 parties making ascents all along the Feudal Wall-Billboard Buttress area (how this was handled logistically is a mystery to me). Sunday brought a siege on Moosdog Tower and its surrounding area with 5 parties climbing 8 different routes.

This was my first time leading a RCS climb so it was gratifying to see such a good turnout, especially since most of the people who came were not sure what Indian Cove had to offer. I think the area should be kept in mind, especially when Sheep's Pass is full. My thanks to Andy Fried for assisting me on short notice (and limping interference with the rangers for me).

(GS)

P.S. Lost: An orange parka in a green stuffbag and an Oasis green canteen - I have the owner's names.

Found: a #5 Hex with a carabiner, just mention the sling color and make of carabiner and they're yours.

Page 495 switched

YOSEMITE VALLEY PROVES POPULAR

23-25 May

The Memorial Day weekend trip to Yosemite Valley had the largest attendance in recent years. We had Ticketron reservations for four sites at Lower Pines Campground; Asst. Leader Ed Nissen arrived early Friday and chose four excellent sites in a row paralleling the main road. Clouds built up, and there was drizzle around 5 pm.

Saturday morning saw 44 people sign in, including 16 RCS members. 13 climbing parties signed out for areas on Lower Cathedral Rock, Glacier Point Apron, Ranger Rock, Church Bowl, and Royal Arches. Clouds again built up through the afternoon, and by 4 pm a light rain had started. The Arches party (Nissen, Cole, McPherson) eyed the weather and rappelled down from the base of the first pendulum in time to avoid any problem. The rain ended by about 7 pm.

A group of four doing Overhang Bypass on Lower Cathedral Rock had not returned to camp by 7:30, so the base of the climb was checked revealing that their car was still there. As they had been seen in the exit pitches around 3 pm and were not visible at dusk, it was obvious that they were somewhere on the descent route.

The party still had not returned at 10 pm, so a group of 8 returned to the base to try and see lights or establish voice contact. Finding nothing, the leaders (Ripley and Nissen) conferred with other leaders and decided to report the party as overdue to the Park Service at about 11:30 pm.

Naturally no action could be taken at night, but in the morning the rangers scanned the Gunsight descent route with an 80-power spotter. Seeing nothing, they moved west to scan the upper slopes of Lower Cathedral Rock. They were able to spot the four climbers, all moving and apparently in good shape, at 9 am.

The epic heroes reached the car at 1 am Sunday after a cautious descent to be met by a group of 6 or so RCSers who had been waiting. The four were none the worse for wear but seemed pleased to be down.

The benighted climbers, all nominally students, attributed the problem to slow progress (they climbed as one rope of 4) and to the rain. They also had difficulty finding the descent route. The leader of the party had climbed the route before and they did not have any route finding problems on the climb itself. They had decided to bivouac when darkness caught them and they handled the situation well despite a lack of matches. A space blanket helped. Morals: keep track of your progress versus time of day; watch the weather; review the descent description (even if you've been there and think you know it); and carry a few essentials. Leaders: really probe in evaluating participants' plans.

Meanwhile on Sunday, 36 signed in (13 members). Contrary to expectations, the clouds held off and we got the best weather of the weekend. 11 parties signed out. The most notable climbs made were Braille Book by Harris and Mulry and Royal Arches by Miguel Rodriguez and Alois Smrz. Rodriguez led all but two pitches, avoided all aid, and burned up the route in about 4 hours! They were back in camp by 3 pm.

Rain began Monday morning at 6 am. 25 people (13 members) signed in, but the rain continued through the morning. Everyone left by 11 am.

The leaders would like to thank the participants for their cooperation in the arrangements for car parking (except one, who will remain nameless); Andy Fried for watching camp during "epic"-related activities; and LeRoy Russ, Mark Cole, and Jim Endo for special help and cooperation.

(JR)

SAN GORGONIO

11-12 April

We found the road to Poopout Hill closed by a locked gate at the Jenks Lake intersection so we went in by the old route that we used to use before the road was built to Poopout Hill. From the locked gate we drove 1-1/2 miles east on the Jenks Lake road and then south on a side road to the vicinity of Camp Osceola. That put us a mile closer to Poopout Hill and 300 feet higher than at the locked gate. We had a fairly pleasant one mile hike up through the forest to Poopout Hill and on up to South Fork Meadow where there was enough snow to ski on up to camp at Dry Lake.

Sunday we skied the Big Draw. The upper portion was icy but skiing was good in the lower portion. Skiing down from Dry Lake with heavy packs and heavy snow was more difficult.

Tour participants were Ed Unge, Ray Denz (a resident of Virginia who contrives to combine ski mountaineering with his business trips), and leaders Walt Boge and Steve Wilkie.

(SW)

PEAR LAKE

25-26 April

The substitute Pear Lake leader neglected to send in a timely account of the Pear Lake trip so it may not be newsworthy, but the leader's reaction to a combined alpine/cross-country tour may be worth recording.

The trip was unreasonably successful. Insufficient snow depth, a recent storm, and a threatening front Saturday could well have spoiled the trip, but our skiing around the hut and on the north side of Alta was just about as good as I have even seen it. The south side of Alta was super-good skiing, but to be honest was not as perfect as we have seen it. The passing front actually gave better snow conditions plus the treat of skiing down through breaks in the intermittent clouds from Alta summit to the hut. The less said about the return to the cars the better. This was not a vintage snow year!

This is the first tour where I have been able to observe both alpine and nordic skis used by both expert and novice skiers. The group was evenly divided - six on alpine skis and seven on cross-country skis. In general, skiers are more mobile and faster with cross-country skis, but the difference is slight in the Pear Lake terrain. Expert nordic skiers can do wonders on very steep slopes. The upper bowl of Alta was skied as well by these as by the best of our alpine skiers. I personally don't think they enjoyed it as much as I did, but they clearly didn't agree with me. Even on occasional icy slopes they had no trouble as long as they had metal edges. I've been on some tours where there were slopes they shouldn't be on, but they would be the first to recognize it. I didn't enjoy these slopes either, I was just happy to stay alive.

I have said on earlier occasions that Pear Lake is no place for nordic skis. Not only are the upper slopes too steep but the trip down through the trees would be too dangerous. I was wrong. The cross-country skis went down through the mess (and I mean mess!) just as well as the others. The hut register seems to indicate that cross-country skis outnumber alpine skis by a large factor there - probably like 4 or 5 to one.

My general conclusion is that the problem is not with type of ski, but with type of person. Some novices can have a miserable time, give others a miserable time, and be a hazard to the party no matter what type of ski. I know of no simple way to identify these people. But, I can see no valid reason to restrict tours to alpine skis except for very exceptional trips which I probably wouldn't want to make myself. By the same token it would be a mistake to restrict good skiers on alpine skis from trying to keep up on a cross-country tour if they wanted to.

(CW)

ROCK CREEK ALPINE SKI TOUR (Non-scheduled)

30-31 May

Two Alpine ski tourers backpacked their skies into the usual campsite about 600 feet below Treasure Lakes; fortunately the road was open to Mosquito Flats. Although most of the hike in and the camping area were snow-free, good continuous snow cover was encountered about 200 feet from camp.

Continuous snow and rain for the previous 5 days had made the snow somewhat heavy and sticky on Saturday on the slopes below Bear Creek Spire; however, the sunshine on Saturday and freezing night temperature produced the ultimate of spring skiing conditions on Sunday -- the "shining snow". Under partly cloudy skies but warm temperatures, fantastic skiing was enjoyed below Mt. Abbot in the Dade Couloir and below Bear Creek Spire before they reluctantly returned to camp and packed out, reaching the car at 6:00 PM. Once again, this area has proved to be reliable in a below normal snow year.

(BJL)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

May 13, 1981

Mugelnoos Editor:

I feel there are lessons for the RCS in Jane Clark's mishap and the other difficulties experienced by applicants in the rappel and prusik part of the RCS safety test September 20. Jane, like all of the applicants, used a prusik safety loop for self-belay of her rappel. Ed Nissan was watching the applicants from the top of the drop and I (Frank Meyers) was watching from below. Like the others, she attempted to walk backwards off the nearly level top of the rock and found herself in difficulty because of the immediate overhang at the point she chose to go off (not quite where she had picked up the rope, but similar). After some false starts, she backed off enough to slip and fall. She upended and lost her dulfersitz; unfortunately, she had a solid grip on her prusik knot, which then slid down the rope for several feet as she fell head first. Her first two fingers were gripping the rappel rope just above the prusik and she received second degree burns with separation of large pieces of skin on the inside of the fingers. Since the extent of her injury was not evident, she attempted to complete the test. After much effort she finally got back into the rappel and came down to the stopping point to prusik up. Here her injury was examined and she abandoned the test. Even great courage does not always win out.

The purpose of the test was to demonstrate skills, so no advice was given until after she gave up on it. We knew she was likely to slip as she backed over the lip, but those who slipped and recovered via the prusik self-belay or otherwise, were passed. We expected her to do likewise. Other applicants (after rappelling) had been cautioned about gripping their prusik belay; few used it well. I doubt that they had been taught to let go of it when in a trouble spot. Some were able to back off the rock into the rappel but none looked stable doing that. At least one other slipped and hung from the prusik but the more common problem was in getting their prusik knot over the lip of the dropoff and/or bloodying their knuckles on the lip.

The main problem here may well be the "walk backwards" training. If even easy rappels were done from a sitting start, the dangerous habit of walking off the lip would not develop. A sitting start almost always gives a better load to the anchor(s), so why not make that basic? The life we save may be that of a pretty girl!

Sincerely yours,

Frank Meyers

COMMENT ON SMS ELECTION RESULTS

It was indeed gratifying to observe the large number of SMS members who, while understandably concerned about the continued existence of the Section, were nevertheless equally concerned enough to express their disapproval by an overwhelming majority, via the election process, of the methods employed as the means to achieve this.

It is certainly hoped that the new SMS Central Committee will honor this "mandate" and take whatever action may be necessary on its part to assure that the use of such methods is discontinued once and for all without the need for involvement by outside authorities. The recruitment of Nordic members and the transition of the Ski Mountaineers Section into a Nordic group should at least be done openly, honestly, legally and above all, with safety. (Note: It does take a by-laws change to officially remove the "Fourth Class" skiing ability test as a SMS membership requirement).

(BJL)

SIZE 3 SHOES!

Dear Claire,

Have I found my Cinderella, at last? I couldn't keep my eyes off of you at Tahquitz. If you can fit into the size 3 EB that you lost on the last climb, the shoe is yours and you are mine. We will live happily ever after.

Love and Kisses,

The Prince

Ed. note: Can happiness really be found in EB's that are too tight?

31 May

Dear Andre--

I've always heard that rock climbers wear their shoes really tight-- And, I'm willing to try just about anything to improve my rock climbing ability.....Well, almost anything....

I think my advertisement, as misprinted in the last Mugelnoos, for size 3 shoes, is carrying things a little too far.

I still need the shoes, but the size is 39, so I'd like to try another advertisement, as below.

Wanted: Pair of used EB's, size 39. Claire Beekman, H 423-4016,
W: 922-7061.

Thanks,

Claire

Ed. note: In recent conversation with Claire, she mentioned that a svelt, sweet young thing had offered to sell her a pair of size 3 EBs so the Prince does not have to give up hope.

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SIZE SUGGEST

... I found my Cindarella, at last! I couldn't keep my eyes off of you at the dance. If you can fit into the size 3 1/2 that you love, the last climb, the shoe is yours and you are mine. We will give happily ever after.

Love and Kisses,
The Prince

PS. Note: Can happiness really be found in a shoe that fits too tight?

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I think my advertisement, as misplaced in the last Mountain Club newsletter, is carrying things a little too far. I really need the shoes, but the size is 3 1/2, so I'd like to try another advertisement, as below.

John and Donna Ripley
5912 El Rancho Dr.
Whittier, Calif. 90606



DON PIES
4619 W 130TH ST
HAWTHORNE CA 90250