



Issue No.587 November 17, 1981 This is a 6 page issue
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. Sub-
scriptions are \$3 per year.

IMPORTANT MUGELNOOS UPDATE

A new payment schedule is now in effect for Mugelnoos sub-
scriptions. Mugelnoos is currently \$4 a year. Renewals are
due October 1 and will be delinquent December 31. My Grand-
mother once told me "No money, no funny". Delinquent sub-
scriptions will stop after the December issue. Payment must
be by check or money order. No cash please. If you only
paid three dollars this year, you still owe one dollar. Please
remit to Dove Menkes. Mugel Monarch John Ripley notes that
further changes in new and return subscription rates may need
to be made to accomodate for computer mailing list costs.

RM

RCS ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

A quorum was formed relatively early and nineteen members
white balloted Virgil Shields as our new Chairman. Repeating
as Vice-Chairperson was Kathy Crandal. Margo Koss assumes the
office as Secretary-Treasurer. Voting on members who did not
make their required four climbs was the highlight of the even-
ing. Retained were: Mindy Bagdon, Nick Clinch, Nathan John,
and Paul Morrel. Dropped from the roster were Jim Campbell,
Bill Bragg, and Frances Cholewa.

Noteworthy comments for the evening included the sections
placement of litters at Tahquitz, a growing treasury, and a
growing membership roster.

RM

BALDY HUT UPDATE

After many delays due to obtaining building permit, purchasing
supplies and getting them to the roadhead, and finally an
illness, the rebuilding of the outhouse at the San Antonio
Ski Hut was attempted again in earnest immediately after Labor
Day. During September and the first half of October the job
of hauling the remaining supplies up the trail to the site
was accomplished. Many participated in this task, with the
Baldy Group being represented by Betsy Chambers, Russ Hansen
and Charles Rhoades. The trophy in the hauling category went
hands-down to Ernie Bell, who carried a whole 95-lb sack of
cement plus 30 lbs of nails: 125 lbs in one load! The final
haul, 6 two-by-fours 8 ft long, was accomplished during an
early sleet storm at 29° on October 11 by J. Wedberg and Bar-
bara Lilley.

Cont. pg.3

MUGELNOOS STAFF

EDITOR Ron Mastrianni
 MUGELGRAPHER Mark Cole
 MUGELMAILER Dove Menkes
 REPORTERS: Tom Jeter, Ron Mastrianni, Don Pies, John Wedberg

NEXT EDITOR: John Wedberg
 1374 Stradella
 L.A. 90024
 (213) 472-6768

NEXT ISSUE: Dec. 15, 1981
 DEADLINE: Dec. 9, 1981

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS: THIRD
 TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH, 7:30
 PM, L.A. DEPT OF WATER AND
 POWER, 111NO. HOPE ST., DOWN-
 TOWN L.A. PROGRAM REFRESH-
 MENTS. CLIMBERS SKIERS, AND
 GUESTS WELCOME.

CALENDAR

NOV 27-29 JOSHUA TREE
 DICK MUNDWILER
 MARK COLE
 DEC 12 STONEY POINT PRACT-
 ICE CLIMB, PLEASE
 SHOW IF POSSIBLE
 LEROY RUSS

FOR SALE

Trappeur "Nanda Devi"
 expedition double boots,
 Excellent Condition-\$100

Rosignol "Classique Two"
 skis (170cm length) with
 silunetta "Model 300" alpine
 touring bindings and Montana
 Coltex skins. All equipment
 in good to excelent condition
 Buy all or part-\$150 or offer

Contact Bill Krause
 (213) 331-8602
 321 S. Charvers Ave.
 West Covona. Ca. 91791

Ski Mountaineering Boots
 9½ (44), San Marco, modified
 for easier walking, hardly
 used, \$75,

Contact Don Pies
 (213) 675-5139

NEW RCS MEMBERS

Mike Baca
 1249 Carobway
 Montabelo, Ca. 90640
 728-8394

Margo Koss
 1773 Oakdale St.
 Pasadena, Ca. 91106
 (213) 796-8832

NEW MEMBERS CONT.

Bill Krause
 321 S. Charvers Ave.
 W. Covina, Ca. 91791
 (213) 331-8602

Maris Valkass
 1728 Van Horne Ln.
 Redondo Beach, Ca. 90278
 (213) 379-8592

NEW NAME ON RCS ROSTER
 WITHOUT TAKING BUCKET DROP

In an unprecedented move
 RCS member Ron Master has
 removed his name from the
 section roster allowing
 Ron Mastrianni to take
 his place. RCS officers
 were unavailable for com-
 ment probably because they
 can't pronouce the name.
 Master was questioned
 about the decadent state
 of change: "A similar
 thing happened when I
 flunked out of USC and
 transfered to UCLA which
 raised the grade point
 average at both institu-
 tions!". Mastrianni can
 be reached at the same
 address and phone number
 as Ron Master. Please
 note the spelling MASTER.

(RM)

TWO-BIT ADVENTURES

After a long day of high
 risk in the desert sun,
 what were the hard core
 climbers of Joshua Tree,
 California, doing for
 relaxation this year?
 They were abandoning the
 big walls and heading
 for the Circle-K drive-in
 to do battle with an elec-
 tronic video game called
 Crazy Climder.

Guided by hand controls,
 a diminutive climber
 scales a seemingly endless
 skyscraper, bypassing
 falling bricks and girders
 as well as malevolent in-
 habitants who toss down
 flower pots and empty gin
 bottles

If he survives the flower
 pots, the crazy climber
 must dodge King Kong, cir-
 cumvent bare wires, and,
 most dangerous of all,
 sidestep yellow and orange
 globs of electronic feces
 dropped from a flapping
 vulture.

ALPINE SKI TOURING COMMITTEE FORMED

The executive Committee of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club has appointed a special "Alpine Ski Touring Committee", as provided for by the Chapter By-laws and as requested by a group of Alpine skiers; purpose: "To promote and preserve Alpine ski touring" The Chairman is John Wedberg and the Committee members include Bill Feldmann, George Shinno, Barbara Lilley, Kurt Wedberg and Cliff Cameron. The Committee will schedule spring (March - June) Alpine ski tours starting in 1982 for those with prior experience, on which only Alpine ski touring equipment will be permitted. The intent is to continue the activity of exclusively Alpine ski touring, managed by a compact committee in the most efficient and safest manner possible.

Instead of membership lists and requirements (not applicable to Committees), a permanent "Qualified Skiers List" will be maintained. Several pre-season "preliminary" tours will be scheduled for newcomers, and once qualified -- always qualified -- as long as the rules regarding equipment and conduct on trips are observed. The safety rules, similiar to those used successfully by the Ski Mountaineers Section for many years, are few in number, based upon experience, common sense and courtesy -but they contain no loopholes and they will be strictly enforced.

Those SMS members who agree with the above philosophy and who would like to continue to enjoy spring corn snow skiing in the backcountry on Alpine ski touring equipment with safety and in the companionship of those with similiar interests and qualifications are welcome to participate. Most members listed on the 1979 SMS Membership List can be included on the "Qualified Skiers List" by postcard request. Others please send a brief resume, including description of Alpine ski touring equipment/experience and "downhill" skiing practice (at a ski resort). Apply to Committee Chairman John Wedberg, 1374 Stradella Rd., L.A. 90077. Those not normally receiving Angeles Chapter publications should include a SASE for copy of ASTC schedule. For further information regarding the formation of this committee, contact John Wedberg (213) 472-6768 (before 8 PM please).

JW

BALDY HUT UPDATE CONT.

The hole was dug and forms for the foundation laid in subsequent weekends by Steve Wilkie, Ray Aldaz, Walt Whisman and Milt McAuley. Representing the Ski Mountaineers was Mike Layland in this phase. Carrying sand and rock, mixing and pouring concrete, and deepening the hole was finally done by November 1. Helping in this phase were Kurt Wedberg, Randy Bernard, Al & Lorraine Rothman, the Bayless brothers Leonard & Virgil, and our Frenchman from Cal Tech Jean-Francois.

By the time you read this the structure will probably be framed, with completion targeted for Thanksgiving. Thus, the Baldy Hut should be reopened in time for the winter season (see invitation to wine tasting reopening celebration elsewhere, Dec. 6). Spearheading the whole task and doing most of the work himself is Jim Powers.

JW

SAN ANTONIO SKI HUT WINE TASTING

Join us for the long delayed re-opening of the San Antonio Ski Hut! The destructive Thunder Peak fire of 1980 wiped out both the outhouses, barely missing the hut itself. Now, with much work by mountaineering - carpenters, the hut has a brand new outhouse. The cabin is located near the summit of Mt Baldy at 8,200 feet. Cont. pg 6

PLEASE - A LITTLE RESPECT !

While surveying the scene around the RCS campfire at Tuolumne last month, it occurred to me the RCS has an image problem ! My eyes perceived attractive wives, laughing children, well behaved dogs, tableclothes, etc.; all symbols of suburbia transplanted into the wilderness. One RCS'er was walking a pair of dogs about 5 inches high and 6 inches long, undoubtedly named something like Fifi and Tutu. Groaning at this, I noticed that Liz Berger also brought a pair of well behaved dogs, but one, named Virgil, was a suitable enormous German Shepard who did his duty by barking ferociously at anyone who came near his van at night! Just then a Park Ranger came up to our site with the unwelcome request that we remove our RCS arrow signs (What? Polluting the campsite with our signs? All our members hadn't arrived yet!). How annoying, thought I; if the RCS had the proper image, no Ranger who knew what was good for him would come within 100 yards of our campsite for any reason. The only consolation was, the Ranger came in on horseback, leading me to wonder if he hadn't gotten a look at Virgil (the dog-not the climber) and decided it was better that his horse risk Virgil's retribution rather than himself.

That night, after one too many Sierra Cups of wine, I raved on about all these things around the campfire, but that brings up another subject! Kathy Crandall, Fred Wing and I had to philosophize around the coals until 2 AM to avoid the shame of an RCS campfire being abandoned before the wee hours. Old timers like us should be allowed to steel away at a reasonable hour to rest our weary bones, while vigorous "Young Turks" from the previous training class uphold the RCS campfire traditions!! Doesn't everyone know, 'early to bed and early to rise make a climber healthy, wealthy and dull as dishwater'? Carouse all night and climb all day, thats the image we seek!!!

Staring into the last of the dying embers, my mind went back to some conversations I'de had just two weeks earlier while climbing in the Scottish Highlands. As my newfound British companions and I drove up the Glencoe Valley on our way to do a classic waterfall climb (The Chasm) on the Buachaille Etive Mor; they pointed out two small stone cabins, a mile apart at the base of Stob Dearg. One cabin, they said, belonged to the Scottish Womens Mountaineering Club, the other to the infamous Creag Dhu, a climbing club composed of "blue collar" workers from Glasgow. My companions informed me that such was the reputation of the Creag Dhu, that they never bothered to lock up their cabin for the simple reason that no one would dare go in there! In contrast, they suggested the Scottish women mountaineers must have to barricade themselves in each night with two by fours in defence against periodic raids by the Creag Dhu. I was further told that one had only to walk into any climbers pub in Briton and ask to hear some Creag Dhu stories; which stories would then be forthcoming, hour after hour until the pub closed. Example:

"Glen Cunningham was driving his van home from a climb along a narrow Scottish country road and found himself annoyed by some chap following him in a tiny French made automobile, constantly honking (bleat - bleat) wishing to pass. Cunningham's response was to stop the van, whereupon he and a half dozen other burly Creag Dhu men piled out, surrounded the little car (like so many hulking NFL linemen) and lifted it up off the roadbed - driver inside. Cunningham then stuck his head in the window, and asked gently if there was anything the driver wanted to talk to him about? There wasn't, so the car was lowered back to the road, headed in the opposite direction; the Creag Dhu men clambered back into their van and drove leisurely on."

Ah, the Creag Dhu, a climbing club that gets respect! Just think, a whole club full of Don Whillins types, or at least enough of them boozing and brawling that everyone in the club benefits from the reputation. I'de had another conversation with a pair of Scottish climbers I met on the Trilleachan Slabs in Glen Etive, illustrating the significance of image in the climbing world. While giving me a lift to Ben Nevis, my friends told me about walking into climbers pubs in England and finding the English lads clearing space for them at the bar after hearing their Scottish brogue, while whispering among themselves "here come the Scottish hard ice men". My friends confided they themselves had never touched crampon to steep ice, but such is the reputation of Scottish winter climbers!! (Continued on page 5)

PLEASE - A LITTLE RESPECT ! (continued from page 4)

Getting back to the RCS; how are we perceived by others? I've heard that our detractors in other Sierra Club climbing sections describe us as aerobic inadequates, who routinely drive up to the crags and using the front bumper as a belay anchor, ascend a few pitches, wheezing and coughing, then come off and call it a day. Now we know that's poppycock! We RCS'ers are capable of bagging more peaks, in better style, on better routes, and have more fun doing it than any other climbing section; but that's substance, what we're talking about here is image. It's too bad we can't print photos in Mugelnoos; we could stage a shot of RCS'ers in camp eating raw meat with their bare hands and throwing the bones over their shoulders to be devoured by our pack of big vicious dogs in the background. Any children in the photo would be loaded with bandoliers of hardware; no small dogs allowed.

Need I remind you that in this age of media, image is everything; or to paraphrase Vince Lombardi - Image is not the main thing, it is the only thing! One of the few among us to realize this and do something about it is Virgil (the climber-not the dog). As recent Mugelnoos readers know, Virgil has been plotting and scheming on a grand, even outrageous scale, leaving our detractors agast! It pains me to confess that I myself in recent months turned more than one of Virgil's approaches to accompany him on his projects. Scrutinizing his proposals with an engineering mentality, they seemed zany - far-fetched - doomed to failure; but in reality I can see them now as beautiful, magnificent, sublime like the mountains themselves. That these schemes fail only adds to the nobility of the attempts.

Yes, Virgil is following in the footsteps of men like Charlie Porter, the legendary Yosemite climber known for (among other things) pioneering gigantic rurp aid ladders up incipient vertical cracks (no bolts or chinks, just rurps; if the top one pulled loose the resulting fall would zipper them all out clear to the bottom). Charlie was thought dead for several years; lost at sea while attempting to paddle a kayak, solo, from the Atlantic to Pacific Ocean, around Cape Horn. Early this year, Charlie was discovered alive and well, living with a tribe of Patagonian Indians (and a common law Indian wife) on Tierra Del Fuego. Yes - people like Cunningham, Whillins, Shields and Porter; climbers with heart! Our two Virgils stand out as Defenders Of The Faith, one with barred fangs, the other with a brilliant conceptual mind. But the latter stands virtually alone, trying to save us from ourselves; a Don Quixote like figure, dreaming the impossible dream. With his ambitious marathon fell running and jumaring up his 'Towers to Nowhere' he is truly a 'Conquistador of the Ridiculous' in the finest tradition. Carry on Virg, you deserve our support, for without members like you we're all to likely to become the 'Rodney Dangerfield Climbing Section' of the Sierra Club!!!

TJ

Addendum: The above article was composed before the annual RCS business meeting. Now we find, lo and behold, Virgil Shields is our new Chairman! Looking forward to the coming year with eager anticipation, I would offer two 'modest proposals' for Virgil's consideration as Head Cheese.

1. Quadruple the annual RCS subsidized rum ration.
2. Acquire a climbing hut at Tahquitz (a la Creag Dhu).

TJ

SESPE GORGE : OCTOBER 24

Thirteen climbers signed in at this clear, beautifully warm day, and it wasn't long before five parties were spread out on the rock on almost all the routes. The amount of rockfall from the face indicated to me that not much climbing has been done at Sespe for some time, for sandstone needs the constant hand polishing that the rocks at Stony Point get in order to be really clean. Jim Sharpsteen and Tom Jenkins climbed the tree route, and at the top of that route moved right and continued upward toward the top of the face. On the last pitch Jim took a 40 foot fall injuring his left ankle and ribs. Jim said that the pitch was difficult to protect, not often climbed (sand and moss present), and got thinner and thinner until he fell. He slid from his high point about 20 feet then dropped into a wide gully where his uppermost point of protection was placed, going head first down the gully another twenty feet where he was stopped by some small oaks before being stopped by the rope. Jim was very glad he wore his helmet. Fred Wing and I came to Jim's aid, used slings to immobilize his ankle, and with Tom's help set up a system to lower Jim to the ground. We used a figure eight descender to lower Jim who sat on the rock and used his good foot and hands to ease himself down. I rappelled down beside Jim to help with belays and problems. Leroy Russ and Paul Harris fixed ropes for the third and lowest rappel point which sped us up somewhat. We seemed to put a good show for those trafficking Highway 33 if the number of vehicles stopping is an indication. My thanks to all those who were able to wait for us, carry Jim across the creek and up that rubbled slippery bank to the cars, and to those who helped in other ways. We might have guessed that the 13 signs meant something.

DP

SAN ANTONIO SKI HUT WINE TASTING CONT.

If you have never hiked the trail to Mt. Baldy before, here is your chance to explore and enjoy a pristine area. Surprise! You will be treated to a fascinating selection of wines at the journey's end.

The San Antonio Ski Hut will be featuring San Antonio wines from Los Angeles' oldest winery. (They win many medals at the L.A. County Fair.) Get acquainted with a fabulous week-end retreat above the smog and just one hour's drive from Los Angeles. Typically, it is wonderful to enjoy special comradery as a tasty meal is prepared on the wood stove.

However, on Sunday, December 6, 1981 between noon and three p.m., there will be a Wine Tasting at this very hut! Advance reservations required. No reservations at the door. Send \$3.00 and a SASE by November 30th to Jim and Betty Powers, 175 Wilson St., Sierra Madre, CA 91024.

JW

es
Highland Ave. #D
, Ca. 92632

DON PIES
4619 W 130TH ST
HAWTHORNE CA

90250