



# THE ANGELES NEWS

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## A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

After over five years of effort, the first major step in saving Stony Point for climbing has been accomplished with its dedication as a Los Angeles City Park. No enough can be expressed regarding the tremendous amount of time and effort expended by our fellow member Tom Jeter as he virtually single handedly handled all facets of this task from its unheralded early days to the limelight of the present. If it were not for Tom's dedication and concern, the likelihood that Stony Point would have continued as a de facto public park would have been considerably greater. On behalf of the officers and members of the Rock Climbing Section, we give Tom our deep appreciation for a job well done.

V

## TAHQUITZ: MAY 15-16

The second Tahquitz trip of the year got off to a great start with virtually all trip participants appearing at the trail head at 8:00 am sharp. Over the course of the weekend some 15 members showed up along with some 30 students (about half continuing students and about half new students). Some students drifting in at 8:30 or so unfortunately were unable to obtain a rope leader.

Saturday saw a number of people on the old faithfuls such as the Trough, Frightful Variation, Angel's Fright, Finger Tip Traverse, and the Maiden; with Sahara Terror, the Larks, Northeast Face and Jensen's Jaunt getting their share. The prize for the slowest ascent went to David Busdecker who clocked in at Lunch Rock from the Maiden at 9:00 pm, beating Stan Klein out of the prize by two hours!

The bad news report for the weekend was the fall off Lunch Rock by Bob Sproul, who unfortunately broke his heel bone. He rappelled off with Mary Gygax, who helped him to his car with the assistance of some kind RCS guests.

Sunday saw more lovely weather and good climbing on many of Saturday's routes. A highlight of the weekend was the performance of 18 year French climber Bruno Doherty. Fresh from a year off spent traveling, hang gliding, rock climbing, and "tanning," and just back from a month in the valley, Bruno clambered Jensen's Jaunt, Shit for Brail (5.10b), Blankety Blank (5.10c), and a new climb Gred (5.11+), belayed enthusiastically by Becky Levine or Kathy Crandall and followed on some of those by the same.

Special thanks to LeRoy Russ for taking over as climb leader at 3:00 pm on Sunday so that the leader could get back in time to take the RCS's youngest climber (Betsey) to the ballet. Thanks also to those climbers who ponied up their \$2.00 for the campsite fees - and a reminder to anyone who forgot to kick in double next time they're out.

K

## YOSEMITE VALLEY: MAY 29-31, Part II

After Fred Wing departed for LA because of vandal problems (Bel-Air, mind you), I was nominated trip leader. Parties on the Arches (2), Snake Dike (2), El Capo's East Buttress and Washington's Column enjoyed sunny skies and long days, which were needed by some. From the size of the turnout (75, including 54 climbers) individuals must have confused the trip with Toulumne Meadows. With possibly the exception of Birds Peters, Bill Atkinson and George Holland everyone enjoyed the trip.

L

MUGELNOOS STAFF

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FOR SALE

Size 6 1/2 hiking boots, Joan  
 Degenkolb, (213) 790-4842 or (213)  
 628-6733.

RCS NOTICE

New Rosters: With the August Mugelnoos there will be updated RCS Member and Proficiency Card rosters. They will have two innovations: for those who wish people to know the names of spouses/roommates who often answer the phone or come on trips, the names will be given on the roster; for those who want to let others know they have children, for child care arrangements or playmates on trips, sex and age of children will be included. Some have already sent this information. Anyone else who wants to add spouse/roommate or childrens name(s) to the roster, or change address or phone, please write or call Margo Koss before August 1. 5830 Benner St. #207, Los Angeles 90042, (213) 258-1546.

MK

CALENDAR

Jun 19-20 - Tahquitz Rock, Andre  
 Korbut-Weberg/Larry Tidball  
 Jul 3-5 - Palisades, S. Fork,  
 Crandall/Ripley  
 Jul 16-18 - Great S.W. Sierra Pinnacle  
 Foray, Shields/Morrill  
 Jul 20 - Mugelnoos meeting, RCS  
 Jul 24-25 - Tahquitz, Jeter and  
 McPherson

JULY MUGELNOOS PROGRAM

A slide show will be presented showing climbs by Jim Friedburg and Virgil Shields of the Direct South Face route (Grade V, 5.7, A2) on Lone Pine Peak and the Dark Star route (Grade V, 5.7, A3) on Temple Crag. VS

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TAHQUITZ JUN 19-20

Kathy Crandall has tried in vain to get the state park to preassign campsites so if you are early, look for reservations in the names Rachel C. Smith and Robert C. Smith. Thanks Kathy.

AKW

LOST

Coleman lantern at Yosemite, Claude Lane (213) 957-3210.

NEW SKI MOUNTAINEERS

B. J. Kling  
 27600 Mulholland Hwy.  
 Calabasas, CA 91302  
 (213) 826-6473

Stephen Kilmer  
 555 Paularino B105

SEMINARS

David and Susan Beck of Sierra Ski Touring together with another friend have formed a new company called Sierra Seminars. Located in Mammoth, their plan is to bring interesting and topical seminars to the Mammoth area. Of particular interest to climbers is their BACKCOUNTRY MEDICINE Seminar (July 28 & 29) that will feature lectures on traumatic injuries to climbers. Discussions will cover head injuries and injuries to arms, legs, neck, etc. from falling. How to determine an injury and how to treat it will be covered. There will be notes, the text Medicine for Mountaineering plus workshops demonstrating how to splint an injury, move the victim, medication applicable to a traumatic injury and care of an injured person while waiting for rescue. Three emergency room doctors, all whom have spent extensive time in the backcountry, will give the lectures. Course Director, Roger Almklov, M.D. is an avid climber. Course cost is \$100 and includes continental breakfast, lunches, texts, and lecture notes.

Also of interest would be their seminars on SIERRA NEVADA NATURAL HISTORY with Doug Powell from U.C. Berkeley as the chief lecturer; BACKCOUNTRY COOKING, MAP AND COMPASS/ORIENTEERING, TRAVELING IN THE BACKCOUNTRY/WOMEN.

For more details please write: Susan Beck, Sierra Seminars, P.O. Box 8474, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

## LONE PINE - ONE MORE TIME!

Do you remember those times when as kids in search for as yet unknown experiences, you insisted upon grasping a flame or likewise damaging yourself in other ways and then coming back for more? Well I guess we never grow up. So there we were once again in the middle of May hauling loads up the aptly described "manzanita fill hell" of Tuttle Creek to the south face of Lone Pine Pk. Jim Friedburg and I had once more returned to complete the Direct South Face route (V, 5.7, A2). Having found that if we stayed up high on the south side of the canyon numerous game trails could be followed, we made rapid progress to the obvious fork in the creek where an easy tail field from a distance proved to be a time consuming obstacle. I must add that a timely grab by Jim kept your chairman's daring from providing him with a 60' fall.

After about two hours of thrashing and apprehensively ascending the 1000' moat filled snow gully and ice coated 4th class ledges unroped with heavy packs, we reached a precarious bivy cave at the saddle between Tower to Nowhere and the main wall shortly after the snow began to fall; a total of 6 1/2 hours for the approach. The heavily overcast sky cast an awesome pale over the giant 700' right facing book which the route began. As we melted snow for the next day's endeavor and prepared our bivy cave, our concern about the weather dampened our hopes. There was a good sign though; the snow finally stopped and it started to hail. We knew then that summer was coming.

Since the sky was partly cloudy the next morning, we no longer had an excuse for not climbing. So with mountaineering boots on our feet and EB's in our packs for emergencies, we started up the book. The book consisted of five pitches (one 4th, one 5.2, two 5.7, one 5.6, and a bit of 3rd) to a hotel sized bivy ledge. Since 5.7 proved overly challenging with heavy packs, we switched to hauling and jumaring beginning with the third pitch. Our concern regarding the friable nature of the rock cracks was aptly expressed by the placement of one pin followed by a second, then a third, etc; thirteen in all. This was an amazing number seeing as how this was on the second climb on which I had ever placed a pin. Leading on a rump though gives one an amazingly false sense of confidence. Having time to fix only one 5.6 pitch above our bivy site, we rappelled back into darkness (no lights) to conclude the first 17 hour day.

After ascending our fixed lines the next morning, the climb continued up a slightly to the right for four pitches to a massive overhang above us (5.7, 5.6, 5.5, then 5.6). At one point, a little known hazard to a clean climber was encountered when my hammer glanced off the head of a pin onto my thumb. The control displayed at that moment which prevented a resultant fall was worthy of note. We then carried our packs on the last four pitches of the day; up and left toward a tunnel through the rock known as the eye. Although normally 3rd-4th class, the steep rotten snow on the ramp-gully (over 60 degrees near the top) kept the climbing interesting. From the top of the ramp we received our first complete view of the massive roof which was above us for most of the day. The awesome sight which nature provided was of a massive block (approx 200' across) perched precariously on the edge of a rib of rock and held there by the friction of its mass. The final lead of the day, up and through the eye, was completed in twilight. We were quite happy to be provided with a second hotel size bivy ledge even larger than the last to conclude the second 17 hour day.

After walking east for about 200' along this massive ledge the next morning, the climb proceeded up a series of cracks on the face just left of the obvious deep gully and right of the 60' pinnacle. The climbing starts with a 5.7 pitch up any of the cracks to a belay platform. This is followed by climbing up and right (5.4) to a point where an easy 15' tension traverse (A2) can be made across a face into the upper part of the gully. This face can be climbed free and is probably 5.9. Not wanting to waste time by changing into our EB's, we did not free climb it although it had probably been done. Not willing to leave the aid placement for the traverse, I climbed nearly halfway across the face in mountaineering boots and pack until the inevitable disintegration of foot and hand holds occurred providing me with a 15' pendulum across the gully into the opposite wall. Needless to say it was quite thrilling. Easy climbing followed to an exhilarating belay at the top of a knife-edge ridge perched on the edge of a magnificent 2500' chasm. The remainder of the ascent consisted of a mixed 4th class-5.5 pitch over slabs to the right containing intricate vertical to horizontal hauling, and a short 4th class pitch up and left over broke rock to the summit plateau. This placed us on top at 1 pm.

Having completed the ascent, the climb was still far from over; our car was parked over 5000' below, and our only descent description was to descend gullies to the east. An hour of slogging due east over the far ridge through soft snow placed us at the top of two parallel moat filled descent gullies. By staying primarily in the center of the gully (both merged after several hundred feet) and briefly on the right side near the end, you can survive the three hour march down this trailless, seemingly endless maze. A final obstacle was encountered when a swarm of thousands of gnats descended upon us as we crossed Tuttle Creek in thick brush, and then ascended the final steep slope to the road where we collapsed in two uncoordinated heaps.

If the scenery wasn't so beautiful and the climbing so exhilarating, we probably would have gotten more pleasure out of going home at night and beating ourselves with

## DE AMICI

There has been lively discussion recently among RCS members about the appropriateness of using friends. Bob Caswell, Becky Levine, and myself kicked it around on the way back from Yosemite Valley on Memorial Day and decided that it's okay to depend on friends, although there's always a risk involved. A good rule of thumb is never USE a friend unless your life depends on it. And try to have reliable ones.

The subject has been given remarkably prescient treatment in literature when you consider that friends were invented only a couple of years ago. To quote Lord Byron "Let no man grumble when his friends fall off." (Don Juan, Canto XIV)

Friends are a necessary part of every climber's accoutrement but remember that even though friends can be bought, they are usually unreliable when acquired in that manner. The best friends will come into your life by serendipity and remain for years.

I personally prefer to depend on my own friends rather than someone else's, although there are times when I have acquired new friends in this way. This is a natural process, and it is unfortunate that hard feelings occasionally result. I've lost some of my best friends because I've wound up with their friends. One has to make choices.

We also noted friends become irretrievably lost when one goes too far with them. One friend will become stuck on something because of your own lack of skill and tact, and the friend won't come out. When this happens, remember the advice of Seneca "To lose a friend is the greatest of all evils, but endeavor rather to rejoice that you possessed him than to mourn his loss."

Remember too the advice of H.G. Bohn, who wrote in his Book of Proverbs, "Friends are like fiddle strings; they must not be screwed too tight."

And some of our more evangelistic friend proponents have none other than Francis Bacon for adamant company, who declared, "A man dies as often as he loses his friends."

But it was that best of philosophers, Aristotle, who laid the matter to rest, once and for all, in the Nicomachean Ethics: "Friends are an aid to the young, to guard them from error; to the elderly, to attend to their wants and to supplement their failing power of action; and to those in the prime of life, to assist them in noble deeds."

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