



THE MUGELNOOS

No. 600 -- December 21, 1982

A newsheet published by and for the Ski Mountaineers & Rock Climbing Sections of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter since 1937. Send subscriptions & address changes to Dove Penkes, 2530 Coventry Circle, Fullerton Calif 92633. \$5.00 per year, due in October. This is a 4 page issue.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL  
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO MUGELNOOS !!

Mugelnoos is finishing its 46th consecutive year of publication. With rotating editors and all volunteer labor, this is quite an accomplishment. Up-to-date news, sparkling humor, prompt delivery -- and all this for only five bucks! You can't even park your car downtown for that anymore. Wotta bargain! But hark: if your fin aint in our hands by Jan 3rd next, you stand to miss AT LEAST one issue. So if you haven't paid up for '83 yet, do so toot sweet. (and please pronounce our name, "foo-gull-nooz". Thanks!)

SKI HUT REPORT

Our own Southern Calif ski huts are in good shape and ready for the winter and spring seasons. Keller, in the Big Bear area, sports a brand new biffie (at a cost of \$8,710), and is convenient for both cross-country and alpine skiing activities. It's right across the street from the Snow Valley lifts.

The Baldy hut is reached after a 3-mile, 2,500' climb and is situated 1,500' under the summit of Mt. San Antonio (Mt Baldy), at about 8,500'. Steep slopes, generally south-facing makes this area ideal for downhill skiers using both alpine equipment and "mountaineering-downhill-nordic" for experts only. Skiers wishing to try Baldy during Jan-Feb-Mar contact John Wedberg at (213) 820-4911 days or 472-6768 before 8:00 PM.

NEWS FROM THE EASTERN SIERRA

Inyo Natl Forest ranger stations now provide an after-hours Wilderness Permit self-registration system outside the bldg when offices are closed, during the non-quota periods (pbly til June 15). Area codes in Inyo/ Mono have changed to 619; USFS recorded number is now (619) 934-6611.

The Outdoorsman in Bishop plans to run a 29-passenger bus daily from Bishop to Mammoth in the winter months. Call (619) 873-3015 for into on schedules, etc. As of press time Mammoth had 61" of snow. Final figures for 1981-82 indicate a snowfall of 516 inches which exceeds the famous winter of 1968-69 by over 2 feet, and is thus the all-time record. The snowpack (snow on the ground at 9600') at Mammoth was still far greater in 1969; torrential rains in mid-April 1982 reduced the snowpack considerably. Two new chairlifts are operating at Mammoth: #22 to the top of Lincoln Mtn (above Chair #8), and #23 to the top of Cornice Bowl from the top of #19. Mammoth info numbers are (619) 934-2571 & 934-6166. (BJL)

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS NEED YOUR BODS !!

The Sierra Madre Search & Rescue Team is looking for a few good mountaineers who are interested in mountain rescue. If you live in the general area of Sierra Madre (roughly between Pasadena & Glendora), can leave work to participate in operations, and are interested in doing so call one of the following people: Bob Howery (332-8931 nite) John Reinhart (355-4619). (VS)

The American Alpine Club does have a southern Calif chapter! Anyone with a sustained interest in climbing is invited to join. Two sponsors are needed, and these may be readily obtained by contacting any AAC member. Here are few: Mark Goebel 820-1962, Kathy Crandall 794-6491, Andy Fried 993-1891, Pete White 452-1234, John Wedberg 472-6768. (Ed.)

MUGELNOOS STAFF

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NEXT ISSUE: January 18, 1983

DEADLINE : Thursday, Jan 13th

C A L E N D A R

Jan 8 Ski Clinic Goebel  
Jan 9 Stony Pt climb RCS  
Jan 15-16 Joshua Tree climb  
Shields/Valkass  
Jan 16 Local ski tour Boge  
Jan 15-16 Mammoth ski tour Maloy  
Jan 18 (Tue) MUGELNOOS MEETING  
Jan 22 Stony Pt climb RCS  
Jan 23 Local ski tour Goebel  
Jan 29-30 Tahquitz rock climb  
Tidball/Shields  
Jan 29-30 Ski tour: Pear Lk Hut  
Crandall

NEW MEMBER, SMS:  
Eivor Nilsson  
11204 Peach Grove St  
No. Hollywood 91601 769-4619

REINSTATED MEMBER, SMS:  
Tom Duryea  
5122 N. Muscatel Av  
San Gabriel 91776 286-8378  
(JVD)

FOR SALE Bonna 2000 fiberglass  
touring skis  
210cm P-Tex waxable base  
w/bindings & waxing kit  
65  
Snow chains, hardly  
used, for 14" wheels  
25  
Glenn Kaplan  
1463 Westerly Terr, LA 90026  
(213) 664-5071

W A N T E D Ramer bindings,  
alpine style w/pedestal  
George Harr  
744 Obispo Av  
Long Beach 90804 438-0153

ADVENTURE UNLIMITED SPECIALS

Good thru Jan 21, 1983:  
Climbing shoes (EB, PA, RR, etc) 72  
Maxim rope, 10 fall, 11mm X 165' 94.50  
Edelride rope 11mm X 165' 89.00  
Any biners: 10% off  
Ski mtrg gear - X3 eqpmt  
Phone Larry Ladd in La Habra  
(213) 691-1161

FOR SALE: Rossignol skis, alpine  
170's, Silvretta 300  
bindings, exlnt cond. \$110  
Bill Krause (213) 331-  
8602

CLIMBING LESSONS

I wish to testify to the truth of Margo Koss's allegation that Randy Vogel really enjoys teaching motivated RCS climbers, having received a free climbing lesson from Randy out at Joshua Tree a few weekends ago. You see, after I fed my offering to the video gods, I was trying to figure out how to make the game CRAZY CLIMBER work. Not being the nimblest of mind & hand at these things, I was getting precisely nowhere when Randy materialized and took pity on me. He demonstrated the controls & disappeared (the climber tries to ascend a bldg, dodging flower pots & bird droppings, not to mention windows closing on his hands, all for only a quarter). You too can have lessons from Randy, though probably not free like mine, by dialing (714) 992-5787. (KMC)

LEARN THE ROPES

The Basic Mountaineering Training Course (BMTC) is given by the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club each year starting in Jan for both members & non-members in the LA area. BMTC is designed to introduce students to the basic knowledge & skills needed for safe, enjoyable mountaineering and wilderness travel. Applications may be obtained by sending an SASE business-size to Sierra Club HQ, 2410 Beverly Blvd, LA 90057. (VS)

RCS at JOSHUA TREE  
NOV 13-14

Twenty plus RCS members and guests signed in each day for autumn climbing at its best at Joshua Tree Natl Monument. In bright, sunny weather they climbed Sat at Indian Cove and Sun at Hidden Valley. They enjoyed the campfire stories of climbing Mt McKinley told by Don Havens and his bride of two weeks, Kay Anderson Havens. (EY and RM)

CUDO'S FOR POWERS

Thanks to Jim Powers and his San Antonio Ski Hut Management Committee, two big fallen trees blocking the Baldy Hut trail were cut and the trail reopened twice since (Ed.)

FOR SALE: EB's, size 38 (women's size 8).  
Paragot's (similar to Asolo canyons) Size 39 (women's size 8 1/2).  
Kathy Crandall (213) 794-6491

FOR SALE: Kids stuff -- 331 down-  
bags. leads 120's skis. John ed-  
berg 472-6768

FOR SALE: Ski touring boots  
\$60.00 Kastinger, size 6 1/2-7  
Plastic shell plus inner  
leather boot, made for alpine  
touring. Brand new, never use  
Mike Stephenson (714) 548-9637 eve.

WINGS OF STEEL

At a recent foray to Big Rock, we ran into hemet/Riverside climbers Richard Jensen and Mark Smith, wearing t-shirts announcing, "WINGS OF STEEL -- THE MAD BOLTER". Intrigued, we drew this story from them. They spent some 36 days on El Capitan, putting up a new route in one push, after fixing the first two pitches. The route Wings of Steel (VI, A5, 5.10) lies between Aquarian Wall and Lorse Chute, ending at A.W. after 13 pitches. They placed some 39 bolts for belay anchors and another 106 for protection, typically leading out some 30-40 feet on sky hooks before placing a bolt. What was particularly astounding about their feat was the hostility it drew from the resident rock gurus of the Valley. It seems that Richard and Mark (whom we have encountered several times, and who are among my nominees for Mr Nice Guy awards) were newcomers to the Valley scene and as such were unknown quantities to the locals. It was assumed that they wouldn't know a good line from an orangutang and that their route would simply be a bolt ladder up El Cap. They had excrement rubbed into their ropes when on the ground and dropped on them while on the route, mostly by the self-appointed protectors of El Cap, the "Valley Christians". They were even threatened by the rangers that they would not be allowed to do their route (after fixing the first pitches) since it was causing such a fuss! Richard feels the route was very aesthetic and will stand up when repeated. However, he points out, even if it turns out that future ascent parties consider the route worthless, Richard and Mark did nothing to draw this outrageous behavior upon themselves. El Cap is after all just a rock, and one which has already seen quite a few bolt placements on it. There are certainly other routes in the Valley which go 95 on aid -- and as readers of the Mugelnoos are aware, some people like that sort of thing.

I believe there are lessons in this for all of us. It is a reminder that our seemingly anachronistic climbing community has the capacity to become fanatical and narrow-minded as any religious group at its worst -- Valley Christians does not seem to be a misnomer. It also can be a reminder of the number of things that come to be considered "right" or "wrong" which have absolutely no intrinsic moral value whatsoever. Perhaps whenever we find ourselves about to rise up in righteous indignation about something, we should ask ourselves whether we really should appoint ourselves the arbiters of rightness and wrongness. (KMC)

FOR THE RECORDS

The record turnout on an SMS scheduled ski tour in recent memory was 30 (all on alpine equipment), to the Pear Lake hut in Feb 1970. Two participants did not make it to the hut and were forced to spend the night out; shortly thereafter, the requirement for passing the 4th Class Ski Test or equivalent on a 1-day checkout tour first was made a written part of the SMS Safety Rules. This proved highly successful as long as it was adhered to and remained in effect (in theory, at least) until a completely new SMS Safety Policy was written a couple of years ago which contains so many loopholes that this requirement has basically been eliminated on all SMS tours. Past experience has shown that inexperienced participants on ski tours have, at the very least, inconvenienced the rest of the group, while at the very worst potential disaster was barely avoided (such as on that Pear Lake tour). Provision had always been made for a qualified leader to bring someone whom he had checked out privately but unknown would-be participants have been known to misrepresent their qualifications. Members and leaders -- especially those with experience -- who would like to see a demonstrated minimum competency requirement enforced once again for all SMS tours (except for those specifically designated as "training" or "checkout") are urged to make their views known to Jackie Van Dalsem, SMS Safety/Outings Chair. (BJL)

COMMENTS ON SMS BY-LAW CHANGES

Along with the by-law changes required by the Angeles Chapter, other changes will no doubt be proposed for efficiency or to reflect what is actually being practiced. Reducing the number of officers to 5 and making the Outings/Safety Chairman one of the elected members of the Central Committee are certainly appropriate. (And prior to the 1979 by-laws revision, elections were held in April!) It is also highly recommended that at the same time adequate safeguards be incorporated in the new by-laws to circumvent violations and abuses of power in the future.

Anyone wishing to read and comment on the draft by-laws before they are mailed out to be voted upon can probably get a copy by sending a SASE to Lloyd Balsam, 913 Kenter Way, LA 90049.

(BJL)

WASHINGTON STATE WRAP-UP

Enjoyed fine climbing with ex-RCSers Randy Sheaff and George Wallerstein. The season started with Randy leading the most difficult pitch of the Saber Route on Castle Rock. The next pitch was mine, and George assured me that it was only Class 4. I soon swallowed my pride, and placed a chock, then a sling, convinced that my 70 years had caught up with me. George came up, and said, "Sorry, it's the next pitch that's a four." Who can you trust these days, when a best friend tries to do you in..?

George and I enjoyed the N. Peak of Three Fingers, via the 3 Fingers Glacier and the rather loose rock face above.

We three stopped at the bergschrund below the West Ridge of Forbidden as minor but unfriendly snow slides came out of the mists. A month later the peak was in fine condition, and we enjoyed a good day, with a 360° view of glaciers and peaks. (JDM)

OWENS RIDGE: OCTOBER 30-31, 1982

Owens Ridge is located west of Hwy 14 a bit north of the intersection of 14 and 395. It can be approached either from the south over a road that turns bad for the last couple of miles or from the north through private property. The longest climbs are on the north side of the ridge and are described in a privately circulated guide that was originally published by Carl Heller and some of his China Lake cronies. Our far sighted chairman, Virgil Shields, made friends with one of the property owners on the north side, and secured access to that area through its many gates.

Five members and three guests assembled at the private property meeting place for the Owens Ridge climb on a blustery and rainy Saturday morning. We watched the clouds, drank coffee, and talked until about eleven when the weather cleared. We climbed up the steep sandy hill to the base of rock two, an approach that is rather like that to Lilly Rock, but without trails. As our climbing got underway the rains started again in earnest, and the rocks and the climbers got wet. We retreated to the roadhead and then to Greg Vernon's house on the China Lake Naval Weapons Center. There we dried out, barbecued steaks, dined, talked, and watched Greg's slides.

Sunday morning found three members and two guests at the climb under clear skies. Vernon, Perkins, and Hudson climbed a six-pitch climb called Hand Jive (5.5) that involved some lovely lie/lay backing (grammarians take note!). The rock was fine, the line asthetic, and the weather invigorating. Shields and Chapman did a six-pitch climb on Rock Zero which was about 5.7 in difficulty. They too looked properly invigorated by day's end. (DP)

## Overheard at Lunch Rock:

"Got my RP nuts, my curved stoppers, and my Friends -- everything you need to be a modern climber." Mark Powell

"Question? How many real men does it take to change a light bulb?  
Answer: None, real men aren't afraid of the dark." Dave Beck

"Do real women have brass nuts?"

A. Non.

(Above by way of KMC -Ed.)

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c/o Dove Menkes  
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