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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 & address changes to Dove Menkes, 2530 Coventry Circle, Fullerton 92633. \$5 per year due in October.

NOOS NOT NEWS

This issue marks the 45th anniversary of Mugelnoos. There were no other newsletters in the entire Sierra Club when Glen Dawson edited Mugelnoos No.1 in January 1938. The strange name comes from the colloquial German "mugel," meaning a small hill or bump in the snow (hence the modern skiers' term "mogel"), plus "news" with a German accent--allegedly a takeoff on the diction of old time SMS chairman George Bauwens. The first issues were devoted entirely to Ski Mountaineers activities. However, most of the Ski Mountaineers of that era were also in the RCS, so the Noos naturally became the official RCS publication (beginning March 15, 1938).

Ruth Dyar (soon to be Mendenhall) took over editing duties in April 1938. Humor, wit, and professional writing quality were the hallmarks of Ruth's style. Her taste, and the space limitations of the format, bred a pithiness that avoided the diffuse rambling common in organization newspapers. Mugelnoos puns and cartoons were especially famous throughout the Sierra Club.

The Mendenhalls were absent from Southern California during World War II, and the Noos was run by a committee whose members rotated the editorship with each issue, beginning the unique arrangement that has lasted down to the present. By 1946, the pattern of operation was very much as it is today. Mugelnoos meetings, which began as parties for everyone willing to help put out the Noos, were being combined with section meetings. Meeting programs had developed and business was discussed, but the original task of preparing the Mugelnoos for mailing survives to this day.

Ruth Mendenhall returned to overseeing the Noos in 1946 and passed that job on to John Ripley when she retired to Seattle in 1978. The style Ruth created has been diluted somewhat over the years by the rotation of editors, but variety and originality have been fostered. Each editor produces an issue with a distinctive flavor. And the Mugelnoos continues to supply a timely, concise, slightly irreverent (but never irrelevant) record of the triumphs and tragedies of section members. JR

YUCKS IN THE YUCCAS

On the RCS Joshua Tree outing over Thanksgiving, 23.3 RCS members, proficiency card holders, and guests enjoyed two climbing days of perfect weather at Indian Cove. Friday at Hidden Valley was spent in cold, windy conditions--still, 17 diehards signed out for routes. Double Dip, Sailaway, Stick to What, and Walk on the Wild Side were among the routes playing host to the RCS at Hidden Valley, while the Feudal Wall at Indian Cove received heavy traffic. It was a good trip. --LeRoy Russ

DELIGHTS ON THE HEIGHTS

Our SMS cross country downhill clinic was scheduled for January 8, 1983. Following the first snowfall in November, I skied Mt Pinos and enjoyed some reasonable powder snow. Since then, the Mt Pinos snow reports had tended toward "thin & icy." My scouts had also reported even less snow in the San Gabriels, but following a chilly New Year's, the Forest Service report for Pinos seemed adequate but icy. Thinking positively: at least we had some snow. And maybe some So. California sunshine would improve the skiing surface.

Although it was blowing at the Sylmar meeting point, and continuous snow didn't begin until road's end at Mt Pinos, we had reasonable spring-type snow, with no rocky obstacles. Ten enthusiastic students progressed rapidly through basic ski maneuvers, turns, and on to christy and telemark turns.

We were fortunate to have two exposures to the practice slope: one with a soft surface for initial practice, and the other fast and icy for advanced skiers. By prior arrangement, 3 were checked out for 4th class skiing ability as clearly prescribed in the SMS safety policy. We also held an unofficial "test" of different skis by exchanging boards between runs. The winner: metal edged downhill nordic skis, for turning ease and control. The final demonstration consisted of the instructors (Kathy Grandall, Mark Goebel, June Lane, & Steve Hansen) together, while holding hands, linking telemark turns down the slope--successfully! I would like to thank my assistants, who helped support this project and the section. One more clinic will be held Feb. 12-13, and space is still available. --Mark Goebel

MUGELNOOS STAFF

EDITOR for January John Ripley
MUGELGRAPHER Kathy Crandall
MUGELMAILER. Dove Menkes
REPORTERS: Kathy Crandall, Mark Goebel,
Tom Jeter, Jim Korb, Margo Koss,
LeRoy Russ, Jackie Van Dalsem, Greg
Vernon.

\$5 per year - make checks to Mugelnoos

NEXT EDITOR: Jackie Van Dalsem
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NEXT ISSUE: February 15, 1983
DEADLINE: Thursday, February 10

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS: Third Tues. of each
month, 7:30pm, Dept of Water and Power
Cafeteria (Orange Rm) or Auditorium, 111
N. Hope, downtown LA. Parking free. Pro-
gram, conversation--Climbers, skiers, &
guests all welcome!

C A L E N D A R

Ski Mountaineers

- Jan 23 - Local clinic: Goebel.
- Jan 29-30 - Pear Lake: Crandall.
- Feb 12-13 - Training Camp: Goebel.
- Feb 15 - Mugelnoos meeting: Antarctica.

Rock Climbing Section

- Jan 22 - Stony Pt: Training Committee.
- Jan 29-30 - Tahquitz (O/T): Tidball &
Shields. Call ldr--restricted.
- Feb 6 - Rubidoux: Training Committee.
- Feb 12-13 - Joshua Tree (IC-HV): Ripley.
- Feb 15 - Mugelnoos meeting: Antarctica.

SMS TRIP ADDITION

The Ski Mtneers welcome Rick Campbell,
who will be leading his experience trip
Mar 5-6 from Twin Lakes to Red's Mdw Hot.
Sprgs via Mammoth Pass. It involves a
1700' gain and 14 miles round trip on nor-
dic or alpine skis. This trip was not in-
cluded in the schedule. Send 2 large SASE
to Rick Campbell, 19772 Coventry Lane,
Huntington Bch, CA 92646. JVD

RCS SAFETY TEST

Proficiency card holders interested in
taking the bucket drop portion of the
Safety Test on Jan 22 should contact LeRoy
Russ (213-258-1546) for approval and res-
ervation. The Safety Test originally
scheduled for May 8 will be given during
March; see February Mugelnoos for info. LR

RCS PROFICIENCY CARD RENEWAL

Proficiency cards expire March 31. Renew-
al cards will be issued automatically to
those who meet the following requirements:
(1) participated actively in 4 climbing
days with the RCS since last April 1
(practice climbs and safety test count as
1 day each); (2) current subscriber to the
Mugelnoos; and (3) current member of the
Sierra Club. If you aren't sure whether
you are eligible for renewal, call Margo
Koss, RCS Secy, (213) 258-1546. MK

DID YOU KNOW DEPT: Kathy Crandall is now
the So. Calif. representative for Advent-
ure Center, specialists in adventure
travel, running safaris, treks, etc. Call
her for further info. (213) 791-3320 or
794-6491.

F O R S A L E

Hiking Boots: Galibier women's size 8 1/2-9,
\$35.00 used. Jackie Van Dalsem, (213)
822-9668.

Alpine climbing skins, used. \$35.00.
Jackie Van Dalsem, (213) 822-9668.

Skis, Head Masters 205 cm - good cond;
Marker cable bindings with toe release
and toe plates, good cond.; Vinevsu/
Montana Mohair skins, 205 cm, new.
All for \$100. Roy Keenan, (213)
377-8536.

WANTED: Waxless cross country skis and
bindings, 200 cm. Tom Jeter, (714)
750-2590.

WATCH FOR word on a joint AAC-Sierra Club
climbing outing to Joshua Tree this Spring.
A group campsite is planned.

LACK OF PRACTICE MAKES IMPERFECT

by Jim Korb

On New Year's weekend, my wife and I
went skiing above Palm Sprgs. Equipped
with an ice axe, I decided to climb Cor-
nell Pk. After descending the summit
block, I began a "controlled glissade"
(last having practiced this in BMTC 5 or
6 years ago) which became a headfirst,
backward fiasco when I tried to self ar-
rest on an icy patch.

Despite a wrist loop, I parted company
with my Laprade ice axe. After a short
fall, I was stopped by a convenient boul-
der, resulting in scalp lacerations, rib
fractures, and a collapsed lung. My wife
and two passing skiers aided a difficult
descent to the tram. I spent New Year's
Eve and the next several days in the Sina-
tra wing of Desert Hospital with a chest
tube--a nice place with choice of wines
for dinner.

MUGELPEOPLE TO GET CHAPTER AWARDS

The Angeles Chapter has announced the
recipients of its annual awards. Long-
time Skier Chuck Gerckens (also an RCS
member 1947-53) is co-recipient (along
with Marge Malm) of the Phil Bernays Ser-
vice award. Tom Jeter, RCSer who led the
Stony Pt preservation fight, has been
honored with a Conservation Service award.
Outings Service Awards went to Andy Fried
(RCS/SMS) and LeRoy Russ (RCS). Finally,
Special Service awards went to old-time
skier/climbers Howard Koster and Harry
Sutherland. Howard, by the way, was one
of the 5 charter members of the RCS in
1934!

The annual Awards Banquet honoring the
recipients is set for Saturday, Feb 26,
at the Luminarias restaurant in Monterey
Park. Tickets include dinner, tax, tip,
and a chance at the door prize for \$13.
Send check and SASE to Simone DeMiguel,
Angeles Chapter Banquet, 17951 Tiara St,
Encino 91316. Ticket deadline is Feb 23.
See the January So. Sierran and the Sched-
ule for more details. JR

FRED CAMPHAUSEN sells hiking & climbing
gear at discount. He has a few loss ldrs,
like EB's for \$58. Price list from Fred
at 524 W. Graff, Ridgecrest 93555. GV

MUGELNOOS WANTED: Aug-Sep 49; Sep 50;
Nov 53; all 57-58-59; Oct 62; Jul-Nov 64;
Mar 68; for RCS files. Call J. Ripley.

DEUTSCHE ALPEIN VEREIN 1982 CALIFORNIA TOUR

by Greg Vernon

After our friends from the German Alpine Club had a short stay in Los Angeles and some climbing around Shepherd Pass, I picked them up in Bishop for a trip to the Palisades and a 3 day stay in China Lake. I knew that none of them were technical climbers and that they were interested in some moderate climbing and trail hiking. I chose North Palisade, Thunderbolt, and Winchell for a moderate (? Ed.) four day trip.

Roper's guide indicates that the NW ridge of North Pal is class 4, so it seemed to fit the bill as a moderate climb in spectacular scenery. Myself and 2 of the Germans attempted the climb while the other 2 took an extra day to hike in.

We approached the ridge via the right Underhill Couloir. The snow was steep and slushy, so we exited onto the left wall and climbed $2\frac{1}{2}$ pitches to the Thunderbolt-Starlight notch (5.0). After this, mostly third class climbing led to the base of Starlight, where one pitch (5.4) and another (cl 4) led to the summit, a collection of granite blocks turned on end. From here we downclimbed to the notch between Starlight and North Palisade (cl 4) and climbed a pitch on the right side of the crest to another notch (cl 4). It was here that things started to become interesting--a 200' drop with a 4' gap between us and a big ledge 30' below. By putting a sling around a horn, I got a belay down a chimney, took a little tension, and swung across to the ledge. One could call it a pendulum or a tension step-across. A good belay ledge was on the other side and everyone was top-roped across. This seemed to be a good place for a Tyrolean if a large group ever did the route.

From here we traversed to the left of the ridge and climbed a chimney to the summit. This pitch contained some knee deep powder and the most difficult moves of the climb. There were several options here; one of them may be easier. With all due respect to Roper's class 4 rating, I'd call it II, 5.5, A1 with the possibility of 9 roped pitches.

The Sierra weather being what it was this year, it was fitting that hail, thunder, rain, and whiteout moved in as we reached the summit. We carefully downclimbed to the south, rappelled the U-Notch with water pouring into our faces, and slushed down the couloir. Back in camp, the 2 other Germans were snug inside their tent and had hot tea waiting for us.

The third day (Monday) saw 3 of us climb Thunderbolt via the standard route up T-bolt glacier. The peak lived up to its name, with hail falling as we climbed up to the summit block. On the final day, 2 of us blitzed Winchell and beat the hail storm only to get drenched on the way out. The Bavarians were prepared, however, with back-packing umbrellas as standard equipment. (The folks up north swear by their umbrellas--maybe they should become a 13th essential.)

Following the Palisades trip, our friends were introduced to Mexican food, Margaritas, and barbeques in Ridgecrest, with Fred Camphausen playing host for a day. After another day of swimming and climbing in the Lake Isabella area, the visitors were given a beer and pizza party by the China Lake Mtn Rescue Group. The Germans then borrowed my truck for a 2 week tour of California, including Bodie, Yosemite, Lake Tahoe, Lassen, Napa Valley, San Francisco, Monterey, and Bakersfield. After a send-off party in Ridgecrest, they went on a week long trip with the Loma Prieta group and spent a few days in San Francisco before returning to Germany.

(Editor's apologies to Greg for the big cuts I had to make because of space limits.)

ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA TRIES BRASS NUTS

The ACC submitted the following report to the American Alpine Club for the American Alpine News. The report deals with RPs, which have become quite popular for a number of reasons. The nuts themselves are fabricated out of brass and have a double taper. The cables are manufactured from stainless steel and are attached to the nut by a silver soldered connection which completely eliminates the usual swaging. This nut is manufactured in Australia and distributed in both the US and Canada.

In all cases of nut failure, the cable failed at the carabiner loop by a complete rupture. The tests were carried out on Keene Valley granite in New York state. The air temperature was 19°C (66°F). All placements were considered to be "bomb-proof" and were inspected by two persons. The average loading rate as applied by the test apparatus was 143 ± 28 pounds force per second.

RP Nut Size	Mfr's Rating Lb force	Test Load ± 56 Lb per trial	Avg Test Load Lb force	Remarks
0	500	718; 718 773; 552	690 ± 96	Cable failed (2 trials) Pulled out of rock (2 trials)
1	800	1104; 1104 828	1012 ± 159	Cable failed (2 trials) Pulled out of rock
2	1200	1601 1104; 1546	1417 ± 272	Cable failed Pulled out of rock (2 trials)
3	1200	1491 1380; 1766	1546 ± 199	Pulled out of rock Cable failed (2 trials)
4	1800	2042; 2318	2180 ± 195	Cable failed (2 trials)
5	1800	2153 2208	2181 ± 39	Cable failed Pulled out of rock

--submitted by Kathy Crandall

OVERHEARD AT LUNCH ROCK: The men of the RCS exchanging recipes (LR, LB, JP).

MUGELNOOS EDITORS--1983

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Editors are reminded that it is the outgoing editor's responsibility to get the materials and equipment to the next editor; call to arrange the transfer (Mugelnoos meetings are a handy place, but call to make sure the next editor is coming!). Completed stencils should be at the Chapter office by Monday noon prior to the meeting (or make special arrangements with the Mugelgrapher). If questions arise, contact John Ripley. Thanks to all, and good luck! --Mugelnoos Committee

CONFESSIONS OF AN EDITOR

Egad! Skewered by the Underground Grammarian in my Achilles heel (spelling and punctuation). I suspect that UG is the reincarnation of one of my past English teachers, seeking revenge after turning over in his (or her--Ed.) grave with the knowledge that I ever became the editor of anything. I suppose Tom Jeter as editor is a perfect example of the Peter Principle in action: "IN EVERY HIERARCHY, A PERSON TENDS TO RISE TO HIS (OR HER--Ed.) LEVEL OF INCOMPETENCE, AND STAY THERE." Some of those misspellings might be attributed to bloodshot eyes and lateness of hour (fellow Mugelnoos editors may sympathize) (who, us?--Ed.), but I must admit, UG caught me with my pants completely down on grisly vs grizzly.

I confess that this is not the first time this sort of thing has happened to me. Several years ago, when I was editor of the BMTC Student Handbook (Peter Principle again), I used the word gators instead of gaiters. After thousands of copies had rolled off the press, I was presented with a 2-ft by 2-ft cartoon of me ramming my legs down the throats of two live alligators, with the caption "Tom slipping on his gators." With eagle eyed UG now riding herd on Mugelnoos, I suppose the honorable thing to do would be to step down as editor, but this solution would violate the Peter Principle, now an iron law of modern life. Accordingly, I have done the next best thing--procured a copy of the Random House Speller/Divider, \$2.50. Wish me luck!

--Tom Jeter

THE MUGELNOOS

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