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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.

### SMS TRAINING COURSE - FEBRUARY 12-13

Twelve enthusiastic souls paid their \$15 and arrived to catch an early tram up to Long Valley at San Jacinto. The ski instructors were a somewhat sorry lot, Mark Goebel with a sprained ankle, Kathy Crandall with a strained back, and Owen Maloy just recovering from the flu. The day started sunny but cool as the group trudged up the gully to Lamerack Valley to set up camp. 12 students were on standard three pin set ups, with Bill Atkenson on alpine gear and Kay Havens on a mixed set up, Bonna metal edged skis with Ramer bindings. Those who attempted to ascend the gully on no wax skis discovered the limitations of waxless skis - they are virtually useless on crusty, packed snow (sometimes referred to as ice). The judicious application of wax and spare skines helped get those skis to camp.

After lunch, we packed out a gentle slope near camp and worked on basics - snow plow, side slipping, stable traversing, on up to parallel turns. By 3:30 a cold wind had kicked up and iced up the snow enough that we all agreed it was time to head for camp and some warm tea. Paul Harris, Gerry Holleman, and Owen Maloy had put in some mighty efforts producing a kitchen area large enough for 17, and pretty soon tea and tall tales were being shared around various flaring stoves. The highlight of the evening for all, however, was the privilege of watching Jackie vanDalsem prove that a Peak 1 stove can in fact simmer at 9000' and 32 F. We got to watch Jackie simmer several times over the weekend in fact.

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### WINTER ASCENT - EAST FACE OF MT. WHITNEY

by Alois Smrz

Walking up the Whitney trail in Oct. 1981, Miguel and I made long plans to attempt the East Face in full winter conditions. It remained just another plan until 17 Feb. 83 when the weather held for most of the 4 days, allowing us time to complete this (at least for me) bold climb. Since the Whitney Portal road is closed at the first serious bend, we found ourselves snowshoeing well into the night just to reach Whitney Portal by 2:00 AM on Friday. Four hours of sleep had to do, with a hard day ahead! The snow at the East Face approach route was unconsolidated and deep, testing our ability to control the snowshoes and falls. Half way up to Lower Boy Scout Lake, a furious storm hit us, forcing us to put our tent up, but also gave us two hours of much needed sleep.

Wake up call at 2:00 PM saw us taking down the tent in somewhat improved weather and continuing toward Lower Boy Scout Lake. The weather prediction for a Friday storm was 100% right, and a terrible wind forced us to put our tent up at the Lower Lake. The weather finally cleared by midnight and gave us the needed time to get to the East Face Lake. The slabs above the Boy Scout Lakes are pretty steep when covered by snow, but at least we could switchback our way up without problems. (For our ice climbing friends - there is a nice one or two pitch (practice) frozen waterfall on the north side of the ridge, above Upper Boy Scout Lake). The real test came in the last several hundred feet - crossing the final ridge toward the East Face Lake basin; we found the snow knee to hip deep and almost impossible. Miguel decided to climb the ice coated 4th class rocks to the right of the chute I was taking. I spent 2 hours to get over the ridge and had to stop to brew a cup of tea just

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\$5 per year - make checks to Mugel.

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NEXT ISSUE: April 19, 1983

DEADLINE: Thursday, April 14

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

C A L E N D A R

Ski Mountaineers  
Mar 19-20 Baldy Races: Secor  
Mar 26-29 - Fish Creek: Maloy  
Mar 31-33 - Cathedral: Haas  
Apr 9-10 - Morrison Cyn: Maloy  
Apr 16-17 - San Gorgonio: Goebel  
Apr 23-25 - Pear Lake: Van D

Rock Climbing Section  
Mar 19-20 - Fossil Falls: Koss/Durd.  
Apr 9 - Big Wall Workshop: Pies/Shi.  
Apr 16-17 - Owens Ridge: Shields/Ver.  
Apr 23 - Big Rock: Lees/Yount

AAC MEETING AT JT

The IA chapter of the American Alpine Club will hold its spring meeting at Joshua Tree on April 9 & 10. It is extending an invitation to members to join it for all or part of the weekend. Reservations have been made at campsite 13 in Indian Cove. Climbing will be at Hidden Va.

WE NEED LEADERS! LTC APRIL 16-17

KERN VALLEY ANYONE?

RCS member Greg Vernon is looking for climbers to go with him to Kern Valley on May 7-8. He says there are climbs for people of all abilities, good campgrounds & restaurants plus the raging Kern River. GV

FREE SC LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Long-time Club members are reminded that after completing the 30th year of paying dues, free life memberships can be applied for by writing to Club HQ in SF. This policy may eventually be discontinued so act soon!

BJL

Snow Summit Ski Area in Southern California has purchased the China Peak Ski Area (east of Fresno) and renamed it Sierra Summit.

BJL

MURPHY WAS A BIG WALL CLIMBER

(If the Gordian Knot is ever retied it will inadvertently happen high on a Yosemite wall.)

The finer points of thrashing around in direct aid slings and slogging great loads of climbing gear up big rock faces will be demonstrated at Stoney Point, Sat. April 9. All RCS members and signed off Prof. Card holders are welcome. Meet at the Jesus Face at 9:00 AM (above parking lot). A practice session is not planned but there will be plenty of daylight following the demo., should you care to venture on your own. (If you don't know what gear to bring, you are probably not quite ready to practice the techniques anyway). Recommended reading: Houdini's GREAT ROPE ESCAPES DP

JUDGMENT AT BIG ROCK

Should anyone ask, RCSers unanimously exhibited excellent judgment on 26 February: not a single climber showed up at Big Rock in the rain Saturday morning. This is not to imply that the hard men and women have vanished, as there is a difference between foolhardiness and objective risk assessment! AKW

RCS PROF. CARD RENEWAL/NEW ROSTER

Proficiency cards expire March 31. Have you got your 4 climbs, Mugelnoos subscription and Sierra Club membership? For the new roster, please send changes of name, address, etc. to Margo before April 1 "New" Prof. rating holders who have gotten a rating since fall 1982 will automatically have their ratings renewed for the 1983-84 season. STUDENTS: send your signed off Prof. Cards to Margo Koss, with your current address info etc. so she can add you on the new roster. (Address 5830 Benner St. #207, L.A. 90042)

MK

ROPE SALE

Larry Ladd of Adventure Unlimited is having a special on climbing ropes (ends April 30). Following 11 mm x 165' ropes: edilrid (6 fall '89, Climb High (5 fall) '85, Maximum (10 fall) '94, 'New' Chouinard '89. Also Edilrid 11mm x 75' '45. Larry's store is in La Habra, Tue-Fri 5:00-6:00 PM; Sat 9:00-5:00 PM Call 213-691-1161. (will ship)

BEEPER SAVES LIFE

A skier was hurled more than 1000 ft. over a cliff & down a mount. by an avalanche & buried for 20 min. but was rescued unhurt by his cross country skiing companions. He was wearing a tiny radio transmitter... (LA Times 3/7/83).

(Brighton, Utah)



## SMS CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETS AGAIN

The Central Committee of the Ski Mountaineers Section met on 8 Mar 1983, at the home of Andy Fried. Present were: Goebel, Crandall, Balsam, VanDalsem, and Fried; absent: Roberts.

The Treasurer reported liquid assets at \$635.05, all in the SMS' bank acc. The following applicants for membership in the SMS, all properly sponsored and qualified/certified, were voted and welcomed into regular Member status; Secretary to send welcoming letters. Their names/addresses will appear in the new 1982-83 Membership Roster for SMS, to be issued soon: Harvey Leshnick, Michael Donovan, Deanna Holleman, Gerald Holleman, Paul Stolorz, Carol Steinberg, Steven Matthews, Barbara Matthews, Greg Fisher, William Kemp, Nils Eddy, Paul Kenworthy, Michael Wider, Gregory Jordan, Andrew Lovell, Martha Solman, Thomas Jenkins, and John Blumthal, and Patti Boyer.

The Secretary informed the SMSCC that about 1/3 of the persons on the 1981-82 Membership Roster have not renewed their Mugelnoos subscription as of mid February, 1983, and are therefore being placed into inactive status; their names will not be included in the new 1982-83 Membership Roster (subject to a final check with Dove Menkes). Generally, those not renewing are longer-term members who are no longer active and/or who have moved out of the Los Angeles area.

The qualifications of several nominees to SMS leadership ratings were reviewed in depth. John Francois Haas was determined to be fully qualified to be (and was voted in as) a provisional T-rated SMS leader, thus enabling him to complete Section 3.3.5 of the SMS Safety Policy requirements for full T-rating.

The CC noted the absence of SMSCC member Roberts, this being the third consecutive one. The Secretary was instructed to contact Mr. Roberts in writing, pursuant to the provisions of the By-laws, Paragraph IV-B.

Revisions to the SMS By-laws, engendered mainly by new (1982) Sierra Club administrative requirements--reviewed in the July and Nov. '82 Mugelnoos have been drafted by a small committee working with the Secretary, and were distributed to SMSCC members in early February. This draft was discussed in depth by the SMSCC at this meeting, modified slightly, and approved. The resulting revised draft will be forwarded by the Secretary to the Angeles Chapter By-laws Committee. After return and any necessary "tune-up" and reapproval by the SMSCC, the final draft will be resubmitted to the Chapter and to the SMS members for formal vote in April or May. It has been the intent of the SMSCC in this revision process to minimize changes for reasons other than "Sierra Club requirement".

Respectfully submitted, Lloyd Balsam, SMS Secretary

NOTE: Included with this issue of Mugelnoos for SMS Members (paid-up) is the new, 1982-83 SMS Membership Roster.

## SMS TO ELECT NEW 83-84 CENTRAL COMMITTEE

With this issue of Mugelnoos, SMS active members (paid-up) will receive ballots to elect the next SMS Central Committee to take office June 1. The following agreed to run; they were nominated from the floor at the Feb. Mugelnoos meeting or by the SMS Nominating Committee, Phyllis and John Hodgman; they are Mike Layland, Paul Harris, Jackie Van Dalsem, Andy Fried, Mark Goebel, Kathy Crandall. Ballots are to be returned by mail to Hodgmans at 5005 New York Ave, La Crescenta, Ca 91214 by April 5 (postmark) in order to be counted. Phyllis Hodgman

## SPENCER AUSTIN DIES

Old timers in the RCS & SMS will be saddened to hear that Spencer Austin died January 8, 1983 of heart failure. He was one of the most active people in the Section during the 1940's, and helped pave the way for the modern generation of climbing. He had a number of first free ascents to his credit, including Sahara Terror and Peton Pooper at Tahquitz, and Upper Cathedral Spire in Yosemite. He also foresaw the start of Big Wall climbing with a 3 day attempt of Lost Arrow Spire in 1947. Spencer gave up mountaineering many years ago with the onset of Parkinsons Disease, but kept up his interest in outdoor activities, and was able to continue other favorite sports, including sailing until shortly before his death. He leaves a wife, 3 children and several grandchildren.

Chuck Wilts



WINTER ASCENT - EAST FACE OF MT. WHITNEY

(cont. from page 1)

to lift my spirits. Completely exhausted, we finally made the camp at the lake at about 4:00 PM. Evening was spent discussing the gear selection. Next morning, the face, through binoculars looked out of condition (whose face? Miguel's or Alois'? - Ed.) with much snow, no ice; so the idea of sleeping bags wasn't out of the question (i.e. crawl back into them? Ed.). But Miguel finally put some sense into me and we decided to go light. It was very cold, and the deep snow at the washboard set up the climb for us. (loosely protected, deep snow, nowhere near it's summer rating.) The problem area actually was the Staircase where the steps covered by deep snow caused an hour long prusicking epic, while Miguel fought to get the pack up. The chimney at the top of the Staircase and the 4th class pitches above it were ok and we finally reached the top at 4:30 PM. The late hour made us go down right away, as we worried about available light and the ice coated Mountaineers route. Miguel elected to descend without crampons and gave me the unwanted opportunity to watch his attempts at "serious" ice axe arrests. The rest of the descent was uneventful although much slower, and we reached our tent at 6:00 PM.

This climb proved to be a difficult undertaking both technically and in endurance. (Really? Sounds like a piece of cake by this writeup Ed.) It has been a real introduction into winter mountaineering for me. Considering the struggle, taking any more equipment would have probably implanted us on that face for awhile. Also, taking 6 pitons proved wise as we used them on every pitch --- Bob Lindgren, thanks for the loan! Monday we took 3 1/2 hours to reach our car. Upon arriving, hikers asked us about available (summer??) trails up ahead, offered us a basket of fresh strawberries, so the trip ended surprisingly happily..... and with new long plans, etc., etc.

Alois

SMS TRAINING COURSE - FEBRUARY 12-13

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A miniature storm came in overnight, with a fair amount of wind and a small amount of precipitation - a sort of fast drizzle. A discussion of avalanche avoidance and a demonstration of beacons, probe poles, etc., was held while we waited for the weather to clear, and by 9:00 AM we were ready to put on skis under clear sunny skies. However, it remained cool and windy, so that we had to pack out slopes again in order to practice telemarks. Before long, everyone on three pin bindings was cranking themselves some telemarks; while those on the Ramer type bindings found themselves more comfortable working on standard alpine downhill technique. A vast amount of progress was demonstrated by those new to nordic downhill techniques, warming the cockles of the instructors' hearts. Some so-called students were too good to improve much, such as John Blumenthal, Gerry Holleman, and Greg Fisher. As the weather continued cold, we were unable to see how well the new skills transferred to steeper slopes - it was all we could do to get down the gully from Round Valley to catch the tram. Our alpinist was heard to remark that he'd had a lot of fun and that he'd learned what he came to find out - that he couldn't ski! All concurred with him in the fun part of the statement!

Mark Gobel

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