



THE MUCIELINDOS

No. 613 -- January 17, 1984. 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 & address changes to Dove Menkes, 2530 Coventry Circle, Fullerton 92633. \$7 per year due in October.

MENDEL COULOIR (1100 FEET, III, WATER ICE 3)

A steep and remote climb... until the ascent of a thin ribbon of ice called - ICE NINE - which lies on the rock face to the left of the couloir itself, this was considered the hardest gully in the Sierras. It is still - THE CLASSIC.
From the Ice Experience by Jeff Lowe.

OCTOBER 23-24, 1982

The idea was advanced by Andy Fried. We will take advantage of good October weather and in 3 days climb this fine gully. The 4 of us, Andy, Miguel, Pedro (Miguel's brother visiting from Spain) and I set out from North Lake. There was a foot of snow already on the ground so going was slow. A major storm hit us just below Lamarc Col and the attempt ended in epic retreat through 3 feet of fresh snow.

YEAR LATER, OCTOBER 22-23, 1983

Returning from success on - THE NOSE - Miguel had a grand plan. If the weather held we could do it in just two days. When Andy heard of the plan, he wisely decided to stay home and tend his garden, but Miguel and I gallantly tried. We managed to reach Lamarc Col and actually look at the couloir, but the distance to the climb and the steepness of the gully made any two day plans unrealistic. We did climb the Mt. Darwin Glacier on fine 40 degree ice. The gully.. ???... Maybe next ...

NOVEMBER 4, 5, 6, 1983

If the weather would just hold one more week we could do it. Bill Krause was convincing... so off we were again up the familiar trail to Lamarc Col. The camp was set up in the dry lake bed below the East side of the Col. At 5AM we started down the talus field and up toward the large Mendel Bergschrund. The gap was crossed by 8AM and the rock band at the start of the gully was reached at 9AM. The rock band served as a good rope-up spot. I led the 1st pitch into the couloir on 50-55 degree ice covered in places with 4-6 inches of snow. The gully was well iced up but ledges on the sides were covered with snow, making belays from chocks difficult (3-4 knife-blades would help). The 2nd pitch steepens to about 65 degrees. Bill led this pure ice pitch very smoothly with protection from 3 ice screws. The next pitch continues in difficulty up a straight line toward prominent ledge on the right side. I had some difficulties reaching this ledge as I managed to drop my 3rd screw and had to do without protection for about 45 feet. The ledge contains the only fixed piton on the route. Bill's lead up into the narrowing gully proved the most difficult as ice patches were mixed with snow and tool placements were getting delicate. The last 30 feet of this pitch were nothing but thin ice and required very balanced climbing. Next pitch in the narrow gully was half ice and half rock. It proved interesting as I was clearing the snow from summit boulders, then trying to keep my balance while climbing rock with crampons on. We reached the top after Bill led one pure class 5 rock pitch. The late hour (3:30PM) made our lunch very short. After some searching for easy way down, we decided to rappel the top 2 pitches of the South face. Long descent down to Mendel Lakes followed and the lakes were reached just as daylight ran out. The talus field back to Lamarc Col felt like 10,000 feet, we sat talking more then we moved. Finally at 9PM we did reach our tent after 16 hours of effort.

This has been one great climb. The Evolution region is deserted by late fall, one feels really away from it all. Most importantly, I was in good company. It is good climbing and good company, that go hand-in-hand.

ALOIS SMRZ

MUGELNOOS STAFF

EDITOR for January John Ripley
MUGELPRINTER LeRoy Russ
MUGELMAILER. Dove Menkes
REPORTERS: Mark Goebel, Pat Holleman,
Tom Jeter, Glenn Kaplan, Margo Koss,
Dove Menkes, Paul Morrill, Alois Smrz,
Greg Vernon.

\$7 per year -- make checks to Mugelnoos

NEXT EDITOR: Margo Koss
4225 Via Arbolada #557
Los Angeles, CA 90042
213 227-4973

NEXT ISSUE: February 21, 1984
DEADLINE: Wednesday, February 15

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS: Third Tues. of each
month, 7:30 p.m., Dept of Water and Power
Cafeteria (Orange Rm), 111 N. Hope, down-
town LA. Parking free. Program, conver-
sation--climbers, skiers & guests welcome.

C A L E N D A R

Ski Mountaineers

Jan 21 - XC downhill clinic: Goebel
Jan 22 - Local intro. tour: Secor/Gygax
Jan 27-29 - SM Training Camp, Keller Hut:
Crandall/Goebel.

Feb 4-5 - trip cancelled
Feb 11 - Sn Jacinto area tour: Fried
Feb 18-20 - Pear Lake Hut: Duryea/Gygax
Feb 21 - Mugelnoos Meeting: hosts, SMS

Rock Climbing Section

Jan 21 - Stoney Pt: Training Committee
Jan 28 - Big Rock (OT): Tom Jenkins
Feb 5 - Mt Rubidoux: Training Committee
Feb 11-12 - First Aid & Rescue Seminar:
Jeter. See page 6.
Feb 19 - Mt Rubidoux: Training Committee
Feb 21 - Mugelnoos Meeting: hosts, SMS

SMS NOTICES

Pear Lake Hut Tour, Feb 4-5 or 11-12 has
been cancelled as we were unable to
obtain use of the hut either weekend.
SMS XC Downhill Clinic: due to a lack
(alas) of snow, the Jan 7th clinic has
been postponed until Jan 21. Pray f.s.
New SMS Member: Scott Bailey
2320 S. Cutty Way #104
Anaheim, CA 92802 MG

RCS NOTICES

RCS Applicants: Steve Dawson and Robert
Oelsner have applied for RCS member-
ship. As required by the bylaws, any-
one with comments regarding either
applicant's safety in climbing should
contact the Safety Chair, Margo Koss,
by Feb 14, 1984.
New RCS Member: The RCS welcomes Kathy
Moore to membership in the Section. MK

EVERYBODY NOTICES

Mugelnoos is now \$7; if you've sent in
\$5, send another \$2 to Dove Menkes
(see top of p. 1). Mugelmailer Menkes
cannot accept cash--if he takes it he
has to write a check to make a deposit.
No account? Get a money order. DM
Mugelnoos Mtg at Stage end of cafeteria
for Feb 21 only. MG

Reserved for Readers' Notes

FOR SALE

K-2 Skis, 190 cm with Ramer bindings and
2 pairs of strap-on skins. Very cheap.
Mark Goebel, (714) 898-0894.
Asolo Snowfield X-C ski boots--new! Men's
size 9. \$80.00 AND...
Sierra Design down parka, men's large.
New! \$40.00 AND...
Sherpa snowshoes with bindings, \$40. AND..
Wild-X bivvy shelter, like new, \$70.00.
Jim Bryla, (818) 794-0702 (leave msg)
or 794-6491
Sherpa snowshoes, neoprene with pin bind-
ings, older but very good, \$20.00.
John Ripley, (818) 791-4924.

WANTED: Old Mugelnoos copies for RCS files.
1950's especially needed, but all years
needed for backups. Contact John Rip-
ley, 1080 N. Chester Ave, Pasadena
91104, (818) 791-4924.

LETTER FROM THE LOST

Dear Friends,

I never had an opportunity to say so
long (for a while anyway). I enjoyed my
climbing and the companionship while in
the RCS and developed close friendships.
I have moved to Pullman, Wash. to attend
graduate school at WSU to work on my doc-
torate in counseling psychology.

I have a teaching assistantship with
the Outdoor Activities Program, where I
plan climbing, backpacking, and skiing
trips for students. It is a very exten-
sive program with many places to go with-
in close proximity to the campus. (The
campus golf course actually is a great
place for ski touring when there is snow.)

I would like to extend an open invi-
tation to any member who might be passing
through this way (to the Wallows, Banff,
Jasper, Selkirks, or Montana). My new
address is 101 W. 1st, P.O. Box 32,
Albion, WA 99102; phone (509) 332-0639
or 335-2651. Thanks again for some great
years of climbing and fun.

Glenn Kaplan

CHAPTER AWARDS BANQUET

The banquet honoring Angeles Chapter
award recipients will be Saturday, Feb
25, at the Luminarias Restaurant in Mon-
terey Park. Tickets are \$14 and include
dinner, tax, tip, and a chance at the
door prizes. Mail check (payable to
Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter) to Simone
DeMiguel, Angeles Chapter Banquet, 17951
Tiara St, Encino 91316. The deadline is
Feb 22.

Old-time Ski Mtneers chairman Nate
Clark will give the program (movies of
a 1951 trip through the Virgin River
Narrows in Zion). Nate will be receiving
the Weldon Heald Award, the chapter's
highest for conservation.

Ski Mtneer Freeman Allen and RCSer
John Ripley (blush--Ed.) will be getting
service awards.

(The editor wishes to remind everyone that
he publicizes the banquet every year,
lest he be accused of self-glorification.)

OFFSET printing of Mugelnoos means contrib-
utors should send material typed (single-
spaced) in the std. format for direct
pasteup.

CELEBRATING THE NEW YEAR AT OSTRANDER

Two Ski Mountaineers, Mark Goebel and Paul Harris, managed to acquire scarce permits to Ostrander Hut for the New Year's holiday weekend. Powder snow was anticipated in the Horse Ridge bowls. However, early Friday in steady rain, the first group of 6 (Mark, Paul, Mary Gygax, Paul Kenworthy, Gerry and Pat Holleman) met at the Badger Pass cafeteria and ate breakfast to the music of Bridge Over Troubled Waters. While optimism about fair weather waned, we waxed our skis and cruised down the Glacier Point road to the Horizon Ridge trail. As we continued up the trail, the rain turned to big wet snowflakes. It did finally stop and clear, and we arrived at the hut wet and tired about 3 p.m. Ostrander had gathered in 36 people with soggy clothes that draped the place. This included 3 Italians who set out for Badger Pass in the storm, got lost, and skied in a circle until they wound up back at the hut.

Saturday the sun was out and we were ready to go for the powder. We skied to the bowls below Horse Ridge and spent the day telemarking and practicing technique on the two sides of a saddle. Two members also set out for a tour to Hart Lake.

Meanwhile another group of 5 (Tom Duryea, Judy Glen, Jane Clark, Steve Hansen and Sue Cramer) skied into Ostrander on Saturday. With 11 Ski Mountaineers and several friends who showed up on their own, our group overwhelmed the other rowdies. Fortunately though, the total population had decreased during the day. On New Year's Eve, most of the skiers decided to celebrate the arrival of 1984 on Eastern Standard Time.

Sunday, 6 set out for Buena Vista Peak while the others continued to ski the bowls below Horse Ridge. The sun was shining brightly and the day was warm, and we all know what happens to snow on south slopes under those conditions. It sticks to the skis and skins in hunks, which caused the tourers some grief. Because the Horse Ridge bowls are on a north slope, they stayed powdery.

Monday, after a few runs on hills closer to the hut, we packed up. With a feeling of satisfaction as we looked at the tracked bowls, we then attempted to ski the rutted, icy trail back to the shock of parking lot civilization.

--Pat Holleman

FROM THE MUGELNOOS FILES

An Excerpt From Mugelnoos No. 177, October 2, 1947

The last Tahquitz climb of the season, Sept. 27-28 [1947], attended by about 20 enthusiasts and led by James Bonner, produced 3 more routes on the rock, which has been fairly criss-crossed by new routes this season. Leaders describe here-with their new ascents:

The Open Book - Between the Horn and the Mechanic's Rt., Tahquitz Rock is split from top to bottom by a prominent right-angled chimney, which resembles a book opened and placed upright. Mendenhall and Sutherland ascended this route Sept. 27 in a climb unusual because the scarcity of piton cracks made the use of wooden stakes, drilled and equipped with slings, advisable.

The first pitch (Class 5 and identical with the start of the Mechanic's) was followed by a very steep Class 6 onto the flake. Next came 2 long Class 5's, the upper one requiring 2 x 4's. This ended in a cave which, unfortunately, lacks a floor. Despite this oversight, the place was cozy by contrast with the pitch just concluded.

The leader then hammered a 2 x 3 into a crack in the roof, used the sling to reach some wrinkles, and traversed on a Class 6 piton. The next pitch was a lengthy layback, and the final lead involved only a delicate friction traverse. As the climbers lacked the foresight to use Wolmanized lumber, future parties are warned to beware of termites. (JDM)*

The Ski Run - Chuck Wilts and Ray (Yar) Van Aken dubbed their Sept. 28 climb the Ski Run because it follows the two parallel cracks about 100 yds. right (E) of the Mechanic's Rt. But what a ski run! From a short distance above the start to the halfway point, the average angle seems to be at least 80 degrees, but the rock is so eroded and dissolved away that there are excellent handholds and footholds to the halfway point. Above this a definite choice must be made between the two cracks, this being left as a problem for the next climbers. Beyond where the two cracks end are two wonderful maximum friction spots. At the second one, another alternative straight up seems more logical, but ends on equally difficult friction with no protection, so the other route (right) is suggested as the safest course. About 10 to 14 pitons are needed -- classification, magnificent 5th Class with exposure exceeded by no other climbs on the rock. Belay spots are few but excellent. (CW)*

(The article went on to describe the "Devil's Fright," a moderate route between Angel's Fright and the Trough and now listed as a variation of the Frightful Variation of the Trough.)

*1984 Editor's Note: JDM = John D. Mendenhall, CW = Chuck Wilts. The Ski Run is, of course, the left Ski Track.

DESERT PEEKS

The great December Ridgecrest bouldering weekend came and went without much interest from RCSers, although myself and a couple friends had a great day Sunday, spending 6 hours on the rocks.

Saturday was a bit windy and wet and I thought that just maybe a few of the females from the Fossil Falls climb might accept my invitation to visit China Lake. I've been dreaming a lot lately.

Well, I'll try another bouldering weekend again January 21,22. Y'all come and visit Ridgecrest.

The February 11,12 rescue seminar is being held in this area and both local rescue groups are scheduled to give presentations. We're also trying to set up a Saturday evening Bar-B-Q , party, and discussion.

The June Lake Rescue Group puts on an ice climbing seminar every year. The RCS is invited this year. Probable date is February 25,26. Climbing will be at Rush creek and Lee Vining canyon. Free lodging will be at the June Lake Community Center. Please send me an SASE if interested.

Campy has got the new neoprene gloves and socks in stock. These will make skiing, ice climbing, and winter mountaineering much more enjoyable. He also has a bunch of "Fire" rock boots in stock. Prices for "Fires" and "EB's" are around \$60. His garage is now loaded to the rafters with stuff that climbers love to fondle. Send for his price sheet or give him a call (824 W. Graff, Ridgecrest, 93555; 619-446-5643). A special RCS discount is a definite possibility if enough interest is shown by the RCSers and students. Since his prices are already about 30% below retail, any further discounting will have to be offset by volume.

This year the Joshua Tree "police", i.e. ethics enforcers, have been seen cruising the area with small crow bars pulling bolts. Most of the "chopping" has been on routes where it was deemed that the bolts were put in on rappel, and on routes of their "friends" for one-upmanship (to show that the bolt really didn't have to be placed by a "good" climber). The rappel bolts were allegedly removed one night when the "locals" got bored, a bit high, and went night climbing with their crow bars. The crow bar has become the status symbol for the "in" group this year.

--Greg Vernon

(2006 Mitscher, Ridgecrest 93555)

MUGELNOOS EDITORS--1984

JAN -- John Ripley 613 1080 N. Chester Ave Pasadena, CA 91104 818 791-4924	JUL -- Fred Wing 619 2264 Roscomare Rd Los Angeles, CA 90077 213 476-4398
FEB -- Margo Koss 614 4225 Via Arbolada #557 Los Angeles, CA 90042 213 227-4973	AUG -- Kent Withers 620 1355 Berkeley St Anaheim, CA 92804 714 828-1059
MAR -- Tom Jeter 615 321 E. Orangewood Ave #C-7 Anaheim, CA 92802 714 750-2590	SEP -- Andy Fried 621 9218 Jellico Ave Northridge, CA 91324 818 993-1891
APR -- Virgil Shields 616 3066 Olive Ave Altadena, CA 91001 818 798-9621	OCT -- Jim Korb 622 320 16th St Santa Monica, CA 90402 213 394-5692
MAY -- Kathy Crandall 617 1025 E. Woodbury Rd Pasadena, CA 91104 818 794-6491	NOV -- Dave Perkins 623 20006 Superior St Chatsworth, CA 91311 818 886-9315
JUN -- Andre Korbut-Weberg 618 P. O. Box 959 Sun Valley, CA 91352 818 933-0639	DEC -- John Wedberg 624 1374 Stradella Rd Los Angeles, CA 90077 213 472-6768

Editors are reminded that it is the outgoing editor's responsibility to get Mugelnoos materials 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 masters (camera ready copy) should be at 1200 N. Harbor Blvd, Anaheim, by 9 a.m. Monday morning before the meeting (or make arrangements with LeRoy Russ, Dove Menkes, or Bob Caswell to get the masters delivered). If questions arise, contact John Ripley. Thanks to all, and good luck!

--Mugelnoos Committee

A REBUTTAL

by Paul Morrill

I'm responding to the article in the December Mugelnoos written by Tony Bird, "The Bird Speaks Out." First of all, there used to be a very thin bridge between the RCS and reality (the "other climbers"). Well, that bridge has just been nuked by the Bird's letter--alienating just about everyone, insulting me, my friends, inside the RCS and outside, mainly through ignorance. I am going to try to open up some minds to the other side of the story, and hopefully this touchy subject will end with this letter.

I find myself qualified to write this, having climbed with the majority of the social spectrum, from "stable" family types with degrees upon degrees, to drugheads, wineheads, mercenaries, and just about everyone in between; also having experienced most of the things Tony talks about. Half of Tony's statements are correct, but the other half are false, with ignorance, negativity, and a general copout attitude toward climbing, climbers, and life injected into his statements.

When people say that the "RCS isn't hard enough," does it really bother you? It doesn't me, and if it does you, don't just sit around and cry about it, use it as a driving force to better yourself, a catalyst, fuel for the fire, and if you can't do that, then pick up a #11 hex and beat on the sucker! Tony speaks of a friend who was climbing every weekend and thinking of giving it up; Tony dug into his friend's mind and found out it wasn't climbing his friend was tired of, but the people he climbed with. Well that's the #1 biggest copout I've ever heard. What's wrong with this friend, did someone force him to climb with these people? (Tony called those people "cliquey, inconsiderate, mono-minded egomaniacs.")

I have climbed with some pretty strange climbers in my life and got burned out on some, too. I don't just give up and cry about it, I move on, find new partners, and continue what I enjoy best in life, climbing. This "I don't like climbers so I'm not going to climb" trip is a classic copout. Here in Idyllwild, I know about 12 people in the "climbers category"; 4 of those people sit around and bitch about other climbers, too many people on the rock, etc., etc. Those are not the real reasons for not wanting to climb--the real reasons are the mental and physical anguish that one puts to oneself while climbing. The average person cannot handle this anguish for a very long time; this is known as the "burnout syndrome." Mental and physical anguish do not enter an interested and active climber's mind, yet the "burnout's" mind is laced with it and they'll try to hide it with other excuses, like Tony's friend.

Look at an interested and active climber in the section who has avoided excuses for not climbing: Virgil Shields. I can tell that although he really doesn't care for the competitive scene that predominates at places like J-T, Tahquitz, and the Valley, he doesn't just give up--you see, he's not burned out and looking for excuses. He'll go off to "God only knows where" and climb something that nobody's been on or seen in a hundred years. This is my point, either you want to climb or you don't. Tony's friend should "pack it in"--it sounds like he's "burned out on climbing" and using other excuses to hide it. I like the phrase "mountaineering used to be," I love it! It's like staring at your car, expecting gasoline prices to be like they were 40 years ago; now that's asinine! The Romance in mountaineering went down the tubes 100 years ago when the first buck was made in the name of mountaineering. This is the 80's and nothing is going to be what it "used to be."

Tony talks about individuality, yet he condemns soloing, one cannot get more individual than that. Who's having to apologize for safety? Safety is a state of mind; what's unsafe for one is safe for another and vice-versa. There should not be set rules for safety, but rather, safety recommendations. Dare-devil-macho soloer? A subject Tony's obviously ignorant about. Tony's armchair psychology sounds like it's coming out of a nonclimber's mouth who just read his first climbing article in the LA Times. Is climbing Mt Whitney by oneself, by the trail, considered dare-devil-macho? Well it would be in my mother's eyes, but is it in our eyes? Of course not, it's all relative to one's mental and physical climbing experience.

I have personally soloed the Maiden 10 times this past summer and 8 of those times have been after 5 pm, during weekdays, by myself, without a person to be seen for miles. It's not a macho trip. I don't do it so people can watch me, nor do I do it to attract friends (male or female) or to make enemies. Now the good part: I shall give you all the secret, unknown reasons for soloing the Maiden instead of bringing a beginner up the route. A) It's a beautiful route in 20 minutes, but would lose its appeal in any time over that. B) It's a course in mind control that helps me with those long runouts when I use a rope on harder climbs, improving my overall climbing. C) Most experienced climbers are climbing far below their standards on the route, so soloing it gives it that special "punch" (challenge) that we feel when we lead hard climbs with ropes. D) The Maiden is a safe (non-committing) solo. E) To clean up trash and protection left behind by beginners.

Tony sounds like he's made up a whole series of excuses why one should not climb; it sounds like the "burnout syndrome" to me. I personally am having a hard enough time pushing my standards to hear about why certain people do not like to climb. Remember, climbing, as a sport, caters to all of society, not just the people you would prefer it to. If it's too hot in the kitchen, then get out.

SEMINAR ON IMPROVISED TECHNIQUES IN MOUNTAIN RESCUE -

TO INCLUDE MOUNTAINEERING FIRST AID

WHEN: 8:30 AM - February 11 & 12, 1984

WHERE: Fossil Falls - Owens Valley

WHO: Leader Tom Jeter - Participation open to qualified active members of Sierra Club Climbing Sections. "Qualified" means you are thoroughly familiar and comfortable with rope work (knots, belaying, rappelling, anchors). RCS members, current RCS Proficiency card holders, and Angeles Chapter 'M' and 'E' rated leaders automatically qualify. Otherwise, LTC 'M' level rock signoff or equivalent skills required.

HOW: Advance reservations required. Send a letter to Tom Jeter, 321 E. Orangewood C-7, Anaheim Ca 92802 requesting a reservation (to be received by him no later than 1 Feb). Include in the envelope \$1.20 in uncanceled stamps to cover cost of materials and return mailing to you. Also include a resume of climbing experience if you do not automatically qualify as per above.



The above 2 day seminar is an expanded version of the highly successful 1 day RCS seminar held at Mt. Rubidoux on 16 October 1983. This time in the two days we will cover the complete scenario of how to deal with an accident in the wilderness, to include: how to prepare for a possible accident situation, First Aid, how to identify all injuries, and how to decide what to do after the victim's condition is stabilized. You will get 'hands on' practice in all phases of the above. You will also learn and practice how to transport an injured person in the wilderness using only equipment normally available to mountaineers (ropes, slings, carabiners). You will practice raising and lowering victims on steep cliffs using improvised methods, and also how to secure a victim in a Stokes litter and accomplish a simple lower. We will also practice simulated river crossing techniques.

This is the most comprehensive and ambitious project of it's kind ever offered by the RCS. Come and partake !!

FIRST ANNUAL EQUIPMENT SWAP, Stoney Point, Saturday, January 21, 1984 at 3 p.m.
Bring those EB's that are too small, the gear the kids have outgrown, etc.
SKIING AND MOUNTAINEERING EQUIPMENT --- SPONSORED BY THE SKI MTNEERS & RCS

THE MUGELNOOS
Dove Menkes
2530 Coventry Circle
Fullerton, CA 92633

