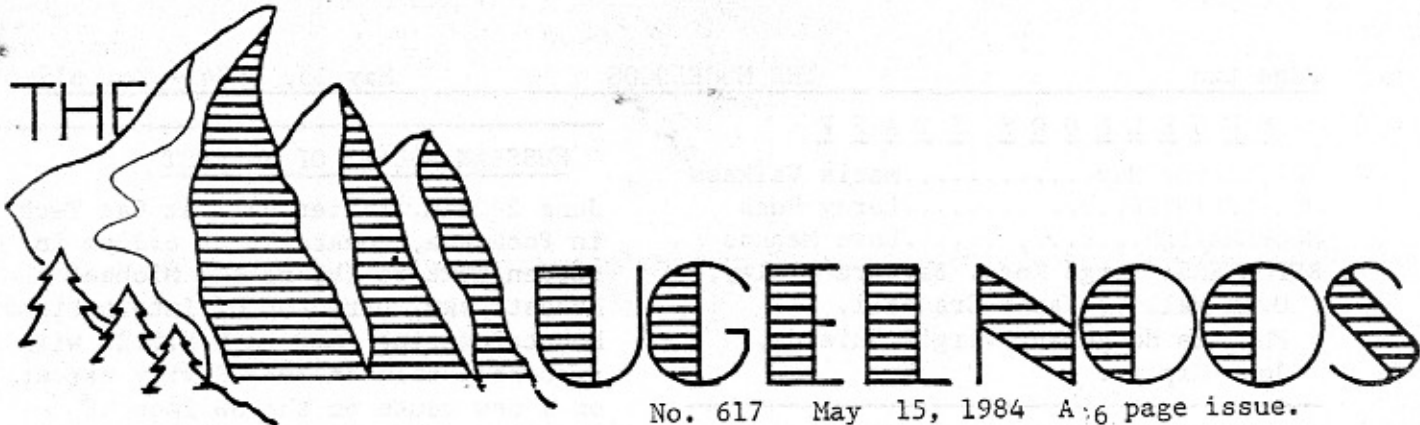


THE



No. 617 May 15, 1984 A 6 page issue.

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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 Manke, 2530 Coventry Circle, Fullerton 92633. \$7 per year due in October.

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### Easter in Mineral King April 21-22, 1984

A large crowd of SMS members and potential members, 16 to be exact, turned out for a weekend trip to Mineral King. A surprise 12" of snow fell the day before the trip, which was both good and bad. The approach march to MK could be done on skis, but most of us couldn't drive as close to the Valley as we would have before the storm. In any event, the weekend weather was clear and warm, and all were in camp for lunch, just some were a little more tired from a longer hike.

On previous trips to MK, the Valley floor was well covered with snow, but this year, only the upper slopes still retained a reasonable snow pack. The new snow fall did allow us to ski the Valley floor, although with careful regard for rocks and bushes. In the afternoon, we set a nice track to the upper end of the Valley, and then slid back to camp while low clouds drifted in and out, which combined with afternoon shadows, created everchanging alpine moods. Our campsite, a picnic area opposite the ranger station, was even more comfortable with the presence of tables and raised fire places, both of which were put to use. A mild, but warm campfire was enjoyed by most, and kept people up long enough to discourage an alpine start on Sunday.

Sunday's objective was Farewell Gap, and with full intentions we set off in that direction. As we moved up the Valley, the sun was doing its job on the crusty snow, which was both good and bad. Good in that it softened the breakable crust which no one wants to ski; and bad because the new snow was instantly transformed in to a sort of deep cream of wheat. Skiable, but not real fun, and unstable on steep slopes when well warmed. Faced with a long return march, and before the lower slopes turned to total moosh, and upper ones started sliding, we turned around about half way to the Gap. It was skiable, carefully, and the group descended in good order leaving an array of tracks.

Since most of the new snow had melted off the roadway, the return hike was eased to some degree by vehicular assistance. Anyway, lots of exercise was had by all, and 5 were checked out for future trips.

Mark Goebel

MUGELNOOS STAFF

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NEXT ISSUE: June 19, 1984  
DEADLINE: June 13, 1984 (Wednesday)

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS: Third Tuesday of  
each month, 7:30pm, Dept. of Water and  
Power Cafeteria (Orange Rm.), 11 N.  
Hope St., downtown LA. Parking free.  
Climbing/Skiers welcome.

C A L E N D A R

SKI MOUNTAINEERS

May 19-20 Thomson Ridge (Haas, Malloy)  
May 26-28 Sawtooth Ridge Tour (Holle-  
man, Goebel)  
Jun 2-3 Mt. Dana & Tioga Pass Area  
(Jenkins, Goebel)

ROCK CLIMBING SECTION

\*May 19-20 Tahquitz (Ripley, Ryan) \*NEW\*  
May 26-28 Granite Mtn., Ariz. (Vernon,  
Fowler)  
May 26-28 Yose. Valley (Valkass, Korbut-  
Weberg)  
Jun 9-10 Tahquitz (Peters, Jeter)  
Jun 16-17 Needles (Vernon, Perkins)  
\*See last page for directions

\*\*\*\*\*  
SEE PAGES 5 & 6  
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RUSSIAN ASCENT OF EVEREST

June 2- 8am, Baxter Hall at Cal Tech  
in Pasadena, cocktails at 6:30pm in  
garden next to the hall. Michael  
Monastyrsky, Director of International  
Mountaineering Camp in U.S.S.R. will  
present a film of 1982 Soviet ascent  
on a new route on the SW face of  
Everest. This presentation is  
donated by MOUNTAIN TRAVEL, proceeds  
to go to Stoney Pt. Park. Allen  
Steck will also present his and Dick  
McGowan's slides of their climbing  
experiences in Russia.

Advanced tickets are \$5, at the door  
\$6. Send SASE to T. Jeter with  
check payable to RCS. Address:  
321 E. Orangewood Ave. #C7, Anaheim,  
92802. Orders received after 5/21  
will be held at the door.

RCS MEMBERSHIP APPLICANT:

Steve Russell has applied for mem-  
bership in the RCS. Anyone with  
comments on the applicants climbing  
safety should contact the safety  
chair: Margo Koss.

NEW RCS PROFICIENCY RATER

The RCS welcomes Judy Rutberg, new  
proficiency rating holder.

Virgil Shields reports that Summer  
Justice Shields has made his first  
rappel on 4-15-84. Congradulations!  
ED.

SKI MOUTAINEERS ELECTION RESULTS

Out of 102 eligible members, the election  
committee found 36 ballots were valid  
and counted.

The committee for 1984-85 will be:  
Kathy Crandall Paul Harris  
Tom Duryea Gerry Holleman  
Mark Goebel Tom Jenkins

A special thanks to all the nominees  
for their interest in the Ski Moun-  
taineers and for agreeing to serve  
on the Central Committee.

Phyllis Hodgman, John Hodgman, Andy Fried

SMS CENTRAL COMMITTEE

At the bequest of the secretary, the SMS Central Committee held an ad hoc  
meeting to consider applications for membership, after the Mugelnoos  
meeting, March 20. Present and voting were: Crandall, Fried, Goebel and  
Harris. Mike Layland was unable to attend but was previously consulted  
by telephone.

Admitted unanimously were: Charles Gonzalez Annalisa Kingsley,  
Randy Danta 2938 Hacienda Blvd. Gabrielle Kingsley,  
1075 Triunfo Cyn. Rd. Hacienda Hts., CA 91745 Norman Kingsley  
Westlake Village, CA 91745 (818) 961-1462 Box 262  
(818) 9611462 La Canada, CA 91011  
(818) 790-4275  
Emmanuel J. Molina George Grover  
1800 W. 45th St. 4321 Ventura Cyn. #9  
L.A., CA 90062 Sherman Oaks, CA 91423 Robert D Tomlinson  
(213) 295-3995 (818) 783-9578 521 Longfellow Ave.  
Hermosa Bch., CA 90254  
(213) 374-7468

WELCOME! PH

A MAGIC CARPET RIDE

There is always plenty of Spring time skiing to be had, but that top prize, Corn Snow, with its smooth, velvet surface, requires a special search with just the right amount of proper timing. A very serendipitous happening. The main ingredients, snow and sun must be mixed just right, but locating this special blend from a distant home is often difficult.

How often have you journeyed afar for some well planned skiing, climbing, fishing, etc, arrived in deteriorating weather, or the wrong cycle of the moon, and the locals gleefully proclaim, "You should have been here last week, it was great." Well, the right place and time for special "corn" was Pear Lake, April 14-16, and the SMS trio of Crandall, Harris, and Goebel, arrived with a severe case of corn fever. Now besides having proper amounts of sun and snow, a reliable place also helps, and Pear is that old ace-in-the-hole, the most cornreliable spot in the Sierra. In retrospect, the trip's timing was just right, new snow from the previous week had melted in, and the next big dump was only 3 days away.

After walking half way to Heather Gap, the trio skied the beaten path to a delightful tent site along the noisy creek, just above the Hut. Although the Hut was full, the upper slopes were mostly free of tracks, and so we felt a duty and obligation to inscribe our presence upon the the slopes. Of course only a small portion could be marked with those delightful lines in the waning afternoon, but it was a beginning.

Sunday was another brilliant day, and just as the little crystals were starting their daily melt cycle, we commenced skinning our way up the long open slopes. On the final few 100 feet to the crest line, the north slope was still frozen and boot steps replaced the faint line of skis. Then the last easy steps to the top, and like a rising curtain, a wonderland of Sierra peaks unfolded. On top we absorbed a few solar rays, a few calories, and gathered strength for our first ride. The payoff for energy expended and altitude gained. With a magnificent backdrop of snowy peaks and ridges, we cranked quick turns down the short headwall, gathered our breath, shot across the basin below, and thus commenced countless turns on an ever slanting carpet of corn. Seemingly endless turns and endless tracks, disappearing in opposite directions. Finally bottoms end, and reality returns as we reverse direction and plod forever upward in the midday heat. Only Kathy is immune, her Walkman tranquilizes her mind with a rhymical fantasy.

Finally a refueling stop on top and then its time to carve up the front side, only now we have help as others have joined us on the summit. Each takes a line and in their own way creates a signature upon the slope. The right side has now been done, but a blank spot remains. The trio, still delirious with fever, march upward again, the job must be completed. The shadows have started to lengthen, but the snow still remains fast and firm in the sun. From the heights, the tips turn downward, a few wide turns thru afternoon crust, and then into the sun again, and onto acres of silky whiteness. Quick and fast, the edges carve their lines upon the snow, heart and lungs pound, and the little box sends Linda R. pulsating electrically to the brain.

The job is now complete, the lines have been written, the story told. But still there is more, the fever never really ends, summits and ridges continue to beckon, endless tracks must be carved, and new panoramas discovered. The search is endless with only brief interludes of magical discovery.

Mark Goebel

## INCONSOLABLE PEAK MARCH 24-25

Six skiers showed up Saturday morning in Glacier Lodge for a exploration of the Baker Creek drainage and some easy skiing in the Inconsolable Range. The four on Nordic equipment (Bill and Gisella Kluwin, Robert Tomlinsen and John Blumthal) were luckier than the two Alpine skiers (Jean Francis Haas and Jack Eriksmen) because we had to carry our gear most of the time, due to lack of snow. This route from the East is longer than the usual approach from the South Fork of the Bishop Creek and it took us 8 hours to reach camp (a lovely spot on the shore of Hidden Lake) after having enjoyed some nice views of the Palisade Range. The view was much better from the top of Inconsolable Peak (13,500 ft.) which we reached by ascending the East ridge. The only decent skiing conditions were encountered on the way back to camp. The return from the campsite to Glacier Lodge was almost as long as the way in and included rude experiences as swamp cross-country skiing and hours of navigation by night. We reached the cars at the time when most people finish the long drive home. Paul Kenworthy, who had to give up because his car broke down on the way up, might consider himself lucky. The trip could have been more enjoyable with more snow.

Jean Francois Haas

THANK YOU LETTER

This letter is a thank you to everyone in the RCS and the SMS who sent me a card since my accident at the RCS Picnic last October. It's also a thank you to everyone who was involved in my rescue that day. I've finally left the hospital for home and I'm now undergoing out-patient therapy treatments that continue the rehabilitation work provided while I was still in the hospital.

It will be some time before I'll be strong enough to attend a monthly meeting, but I'm working on that as a goal, until then, I would greatly appreciate a minimal number of phone calls, but I am thankful for having so many friends showing their support.

Finally, I do want to single out John and Birdie Peters and Leroy Russ and Margo Koss for their visits while I was incarcerated, they were quite welcome.

Stan Klein

SAFETY CORNER

When rock climbers talk about safety in climbing, both subjects seem incongruous. Climbing, being one of the most dangerous sports can be anything but safe. The paradox is further increased by our continuing quest for bigger and better climbs. The danger was confirmed about a year ago when there were numerous broken or twisted ankles and various other injuries, at which time many were saying that RCS'ers are not safe. I don't know if those statements were true, but I can report now that in my experience, RCS'ers are safety conscious. On several recent climbs with different members or students, climbers were checking each others' tie-ins and anchors to make sure that everything was OK. Another good sign is that climbers are not reluctant to say to others, when, to them, unsafe condition seems to exist. I think that two other good practices should be continuously encouraged; wearing of helmets and training in first aid.

1984 UNIMPAIRED SNOWMELT RUNOFF FORECASTS

These figures are the water runoff forecasts in percent of normal, based on a 50 year average. These figures are not a measure of snow on the ground. Tuolumne, 100%; Merced, 94%; San Joaquin, 95%; Kings, 92%; Kaweah, 83%; Kern, 83%; Owens, 105%; Mono, 110%. Breaking down the Owens basin even further, Cottonwood Lakes, 31%; South Lake, 95%; Mammoth Pass, 125%.

Seasonal precipitation (1 Oct 83--31 Mar 84) was 100% to 120% normal for most of the central and southern Sierra Nevada. For the record, seasonal precipitation for most of Los Angeles and Orange counties was 60%. Precipitation is based on a 45 year average.

R.J. Secor

YOSEMITE MAY 26-28

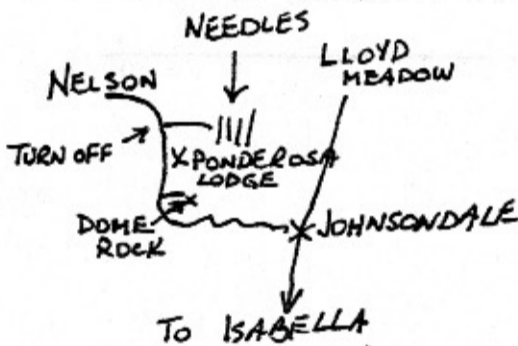
We have not been able to get a campsite. However, the climb will go on. Sign-in sheet will be in the Curry Cafeteria at 8:00am Saturday morning.

GRANITE MOUNTAIN MAY 26-28

Meet Saturday morning 8:00am at the trailhead and stay in or around the campground. See maps.

NEEDLES JUNE 16-17

Meet Saturday morning, 8:00am in the parking area for the Needles. Turnoff is well marked, one mile north of Ponderosa Lodge on the Great Western Divide Hwy., about 44mi. north of Kernville. Three miles of dirt road lead to parking area. If gate to Needles is locked, meet at Dome Rock parking area, two miles south of Ponderosa Lodge.



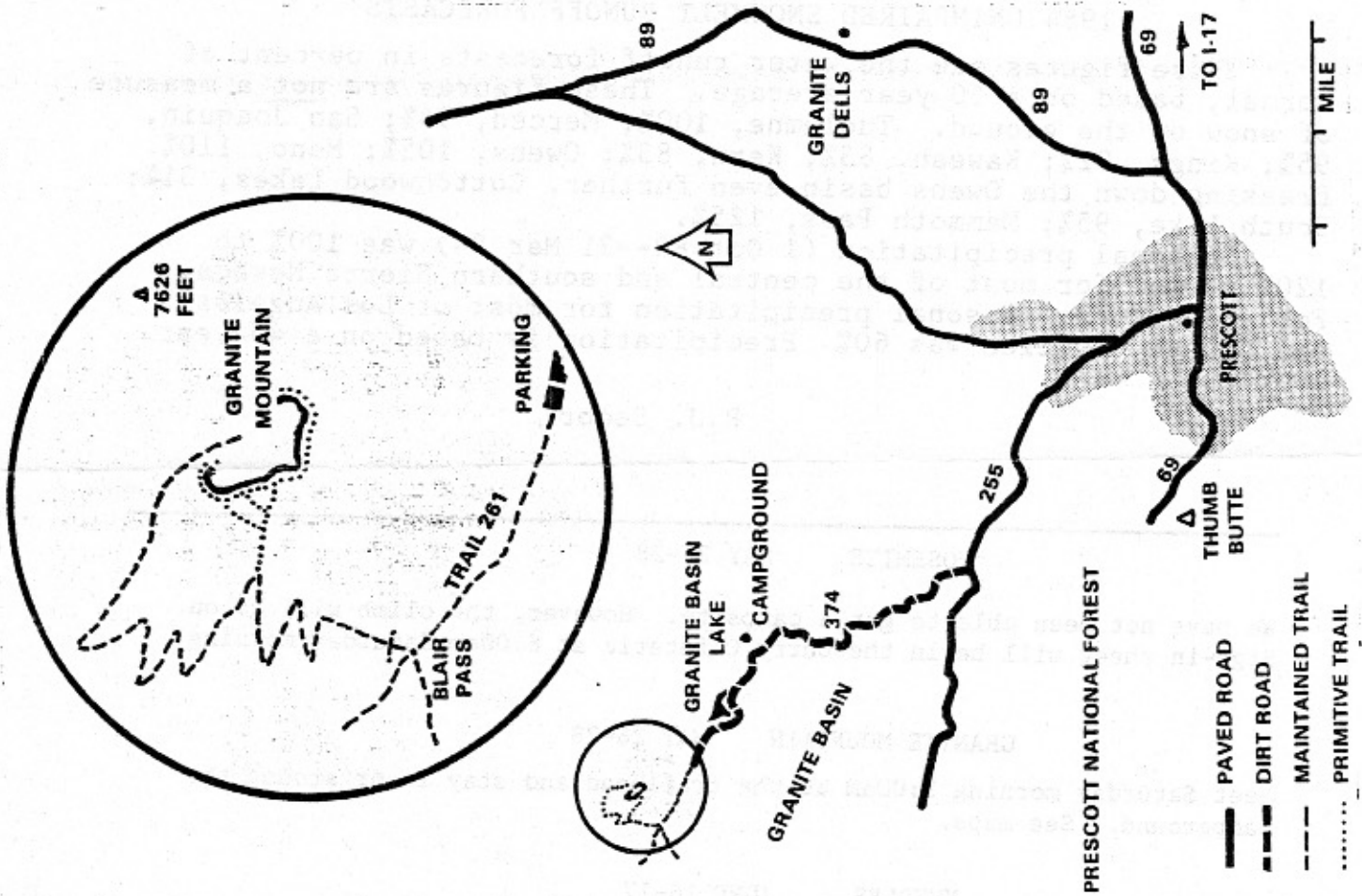
ROAD DIRECTIONS:

From the center (town square) of Prescott, drive west on Gurley Street and turn right onto Grove Avenue. Follow Grove, which turns into Miller Valley Road, and turn left onto Iron Springs Road. Follow Iron Springs Road approximately three miles and turn right onto unpaved road just after Granite Basin Recreation Area sign. At this point follow unpaved roads three to four miles to Trail 261 trail-head.

TRAIL DIRECTIONS:

From Trail 261 trail-head, follow trail (underneath Granite Mountain) to Blair Pass (approximately one and a quarter mile); continue on Trail 261 up the left side of Granite Mountain. At the end (right) of the second switch back, look for a rough unmarked trail that leads right toward the wall and ultimately the Right Section. At specific points, smaller trails will head up toward the Swamp Slabs and Middle Section. It is unadvisable as well as undesirable to bushwhack through the dense terrain so stay on trails as best as you can.





TUOLUMNE GUIDE AVAILABLE

TUOLUMNE ROCK-An Underground Climber's Guide, by Alan Nelson, Second Edition, 1982, has been reprinted by the RCS, and copies are available for the cost of reproduction and distribution. You can get yours for \$3.00 from Bob Caswell at the next Muglenoos meeting, or for \$4.50 by mail from Bob Caswell, 207 Laurelwood Avenue, Placentia, CA 92670. Make checks payable to RCS.



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