

THE MUGELNOOS

No. 618 June 19, 1984 A 4 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 Menkas, 2530 Coventry Circle, Fullerton 92633. \$7 per year due in October.

45th REUNION OF OLD-TIME BASECAMP

The 45th reunion of the ski mountaineers' and rock climbers' famous Griffin Avenue Basecamp was held May 5 at Homer and Mary Fuller's condominium in Sherman Oaks.

Old-time members of the two Sierra Club sections fondly remember Basecamp, a cooperative coeducational boarding house for 2½ years between 1939 and 1941. It was possibly the most successful and entertaining commune in history, but also an early example of painless women's lib -- members traded off work and outdoor sports equally. It was also Mugelnoos headquarters, information and outing and social center, and sometimes described as "the kind of place where people say Teehee."

The six charter members were Howard Koster, Olga Schomberg, Glen Warner, John Mendenhall, and Joan and Ruth Dyar. In all, 14 different persons lived there, and almost every ski mountaineer and rock climber of the area enjoyed its hospitality (such as it was at times). The perfect landlady was Grace Shults, a cousin of the Sierra Club's well-known Aurelia Harwood.

Nine former Basecamp members attended the 1984 reunion: Homer and Mary (Bennett) Fuller, hosts; Howard and Ruth (Merrill) Koster; Glen Warner; Lavere (Root) Aulie, from Paradise (Calif.); Bill Voss; Ruth (Dyar) Mendenhall, from Seattle; and Joan (Dyar) Clark -- plus Nate Clark, who lived nearby, married Joan, and later was Sierra Club President.

Though Basecamp itself was long ago disbanded, the spirit lingers on. At the reunion split pea soup was served, in memory of the long-ago May day when the six more or less penniless and homeless outdoor fanatics established their novel residence.

RDM

MAMMOTH CREST May 12, 1984

As originally planned, Lake Mary to Duck Pass, the Mammoth Crest tour was known to be fairly long and moderately strenuous. The pre-tour sign-in meeting therefore started at 7 AM sharp. Mark Goebel, who was familiar with the area, knew the trip could start from Lake George and end at the Lake Mary store with a car shuttle; and that it would be shorter and have a more continuously downhill end run if the descent from the ridge was via the Blue Couloir (a chute un-named on the topo leading to the headwaters of Coldwater Creek). With this change, and knowledge that there would be a clear evening and a large moon up before sunset, there was less time pressure on the trip. This plan was unanimously accepted, and a party of 13 skiers, all suitably experienced and equipped, stepped out of Owen Maloy's condo at 7:30 to encounter a car with a leaking fuel line and another with a flat tire. The tire was changed in less than five minutes, the undamaged cars were dispatched to Lake Mary store to scout and start the shuttle, and the damaged cars went to the Chevron station. The plan to leave the car with the bad fuel line and the flat tire off the other one at the gas station fell through when the gas station manager insisted on fixing the fuel line right away. He had two helpers, so the flat was fixed at the same time without slowing the fuel line work.

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Next Issue: July 17, 1984
 Deadline: July 11, 1984 (Wed)

Mugelnoos Meetings: Third Tuesday of
 the Month, 7:30 PM, Dept. of Water and
 Power, 111 N Hope St. Los Angeles (across
 from Music Center) Parking Free. Climbers
 and Skiers welcome.

C A L E N D E R

Jun 30-Jul 4 Temple Crag V. Shields*
 July 1-4 Palisades Andy Fried*
 July 14-15 Whitney portal.. Mundwiler
 July 17 Mugelnoos ... Ice Climbing in
 the Sierras..

* Few spaces open.. Reservation
 REQUIRED.

Mugelnoos Programs :
 June; El Cap...Nose Rt.
 July; Ice Climbs in Sierras
 Aug; Dark Star RT
 Sept; Peru-Nev. Huascarán

July Whitney Portal Trip will be based
 in group camps 1 & 2, just past the
 regular campground. Everyone welcome.

New Address :

Jim Hoste
 321 Graham St.
 Highland Park, N.J. 08904

You know you had a rough day
 if.....



*You go straight through mud
 puddles instead of around them.*

Temple Crag... Virgil has a permit for 3rd
 lake. Temple Crag has many fine rts. Call
 Virgil for more info. H 818 798-9621
 O 818 354-2607.

There will be a joint meeting on July
 12th (Thurs.) of the Safety Comm. and
 the Training Comm. to discuss the training
 programme for the next year, as well as
 changes in the requirements for prof. rating.
 This meeting will be open to all members
 and Prof. card holders. Call Margo for info.
 387-4287 Days , T-F prior to 3PM.

If you are interested in working with next
 years training comm. please contact Margo
 or Andy, and let them know of your interest.

CLUB EQUIPMENT

TO ALL MEMBERS, LEADERS ET AL:
 Please check to see if you have any of the
 club gear. Advise Andy Fried if you have
 any.

RCS Membership applicants

Jose Gomez has applied for membership.
 Anyone with comments on the applicants climbing
 safety should contact Margo Koss.

New Member: Steve Russell
 1900 Fullerton Rd.#121
 Rowland Hights, 91748
 818-964-0210

For Sale !!!!!

Karhu G-T Skiis (snow) metal edged, 190cm
 with Troll bindings. \$85. Kathy Crandall
 818 794-6491

Phoenix "Wilderness" 200cm skies, brand new
 unmounted, \$180. or trade vs Atomic CCS
 Leaders 180cm.

North Face "Scrambler" pack, New, \$60.

Riccardo Cassin ice climbing boots, hand
 made, near new, \$75, also assorted hiking
 climbing boots size 7-10 1/2. Kingsley
 818 790-4275

REI LR2 Gortex backpacking tent, 4 season,
 2 person, 4 lbs, new. \$200. Jim Bryla
 818 794-0702

Climbers with small feet. Fires size 3. \$64.
 Campy-619-446-5643, 824 W. Graff, Ridgecrest
 93555.6% Disc. to RCS on Will Call or thru Greg.

Greg Vernon offers the following;
 Size 10 Vasque Ascenders, new. \$45
 Beginning Rack, 10 camp/interalp stoppers,
 10 biners, locking biner,
 belay plate. \$65.

REI XL Harness \$10. Crampons size 8 \$20.
 Msr Helmet L. \$20. Mini tent, Sierra west
 goretex \$70. (bivy). Urethane coated bivy \$35.
 619 446-5643 2006 Mitscher, Ridgecrest .

Congratulations to Paul Morrill, rumor has
 it Paul has been working on tying knots
lately.

The SMS Comm. is in the process of
 making up the winter schedule. Anyone
 interested in leading any sort of trip
 should contact Gerry Holleman.374-4654

Mammoth Crest Cont.

Skiing commenced at the end of unplowed pavement near Lake George at 10:15. The party climbed a gully, a spur ridge and a bowl to reach the main Mammoth Crest about 11:30. The front of the party skied the bowl or snacked while waiting for the end of the group to reach the ridge. There was bright warm sun and almost no wind, great views to the geographic limit of visibility, and mostly good snow for climbing for the first half of the ridge run. Later, as the ridge became knobby and began its slow turn to the east, the route was west of the crest on a series of steep, windrowed drifts. Lunch was held in this area, in a spot with a good view west and northwest, and an open slope for those who wanted to ski non-stop all day. After some loss of altitude to avoid the "washboard" area, some bare scree, talus and tops of bushes had to be hiked with skis carried or backpacked.

In mid-afternoon, we reached the place on the topo we had believed to be the way to the Blue Couloir. This was a very steep and narrow chute, and was immediately rejected. A short walking descent and a long descending traverse on the west side led to the next potential chute, which was steep and full of loose rocks. Another direct descent to avoid crossing a potential avalanche slope, a southward traverse above middle Deer Lake, and a climb to the next saddle brought us to a spot with northward access to the Blue Couloir and southward access to a higher saddle on the way to Duck Pass. Future parties should traverse lower, coming down closer to the Deer Lakes basin before climbing to the saddle.

Blue Couloir was impressively steep, but the late afternoon snow was both soft and slow. People who would have had to traverse and kick turn on most slopes that steep were able to try telemarks, stems and other forms of continuous skiing because the resulting falls were neither dangerous nor tiring. Mark Goebel and Kathy Johnson showed that this condition COULD be continuously telemarked. The rest of the descent, down Coldwater Creek to Lake Mary store, was occasionally made challenging by unexpected "holes" or very soft spots in the snow stopping one or both skis dead unexpectedly. The shuttle was completed before dark.

Kathy Crandall organized a spaghetti supper with her famous sauce containing a vegetarian stew; and Tom Jenkins shocked some members of the party by following it with a junk food dessert. Discussion Saturday evening regarding what to tour Sunday ended with the lift-served slopes of Mammoth Mountain winning by a combination of acclamation and default. Both Kathys, Toni Dawson, Mark, Tom, Paul Harris and Don Pies explored much of Mammoth Mtn. by the time the lifts closed. Pete Yamagata headed north in search of touring snow, while Ed Unge, Walt Boge, Steve Wilkie, Dave Vandershat and Pat McGaughy left Sunday morning. Don decided Tom passed his first of two check leads to become an SMS leader.

THJ

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.

Fossil Falls, March 17-18, 1984

The RCS, in its second consecutive year of ecological enlightenment, again provided portapotty facilities (same leaky one) at the campsite. This year Andy Fried served as transporter, and paid the price through a severe flesh wound (fortunately uninfected) to his van. The return must have passed disaster free. because I couldn't find any slick spots on the highway on the way back.

Climbs that have become the well-beloved old favorites (to spring on innocent, unsuspecting students) were set up again. Much climbing was done on the falls the first day, while climbing was concentrated more in the amphitheater on the second. Climbs such as Pinweel and the Nose, characterized by the potential for spectacular falls, provided the usual challenge and entertainment. I handed out some copies of a partial guide to climbs. Perhaps by next year there will be more to it.

Tradition was maintained, of course, through the gluhwein fest ("the glue") Saturday night. Andy's van suffered its second insult of the weekend as the site of preparation. DeRusha again entertained star gazers with his telescope.

BL

AdventureQuest Sees Ski Mountaineering Market on Rise

For a little more than six months now, AdventureQuest has been selling mountaineering gear in the U.S. market and results have been quite encouraging, according to Tarcisio Pedrotti, company president. About 2,000 pairs of Tva skis and Saumarco mountaineering boots have been sold by the company, but perhaps more important, the company has been selling the sport of mountaineering.

"The main purpose of our business is to promote ski mountaineering," Pedrotti said. "It's a sport that's completely new to America, but that has been popular for 15 years in Europe.

"We've already had good sales in Colorado in 1983-84 and we are looking forward to the 1984-85 season."

Pedrotti was a pioneer in Europe in "ski mountaineering," the term used to describe hut to hut skiing and ski tours off the beaten track. Pedrotti sees this as an emerging sport for both the alpine and cross-country crowd looking for something new.

"Our skis are similar to downhill skis except that they're a little bit shorter and a little bit wider for better floatation, and the skis have holes at the tip and tail so that they can be connected to make a sled and a tail notch for climbing skins," Pedrotti said.

The skis also have a unique sidecut which features a beveled 45° angle on the top edge. This enables the ski to cut through crud more easily because of the reduced sidewall resistance.

The Saumarco boots offered by the company have an adjustment so that it can be canted forward for skiing, or leveled off for climbing uphill or hiking. The outer boot has a tough rubber, non-skid sole so that it can double as a hut or after-ski boot.

Blue Seal skins and Zermatt bindings round out the line of products, all of which are made in Italy. —T.E.

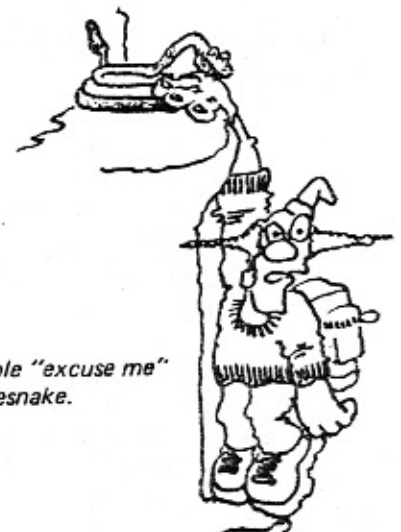
AdventureQuest, 7221 Bark Lane #8, San Jose, CA 95129; (408) 996-0529.

Ski Business— Mar 1984
p 117— Vol 24, #3

JW

You know you had a rough day if....

You mumble "excuse me"
—to a rattlesnake.



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