

THE MOUNTAIN DOGS

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SAWTOOTH RIDGE, MEMORIAL WEEKEND, 1984

Ten skiers came out for an end-of-the-season trip to the Matterhorn area over this long weekend. The holiday traffic proved even crazier than usual. On the 405 freeway Pat and I watched a bus backing down the #1 lane, and a little later the driver of the car ahead of us threw a good-sized chunk of concrete at the car next to it.

Saturday morning we met at the private campground at the end of the upper Twin Lake where several of us took the opportunity to have a hot breakfast in the local cafe. A \$4/car fee obtained parking permits for us in the hiker parking lot, and by 9 am we were on our way for a short backpack up the Horse Creek Trail. Spring wild flowers were out, and the only snow was well above us.

We set up camp at about 8200' where the canyon levels out for a way. The skiable snow was still about half a mile farther up, but these stalwarts were more interested in soft, dry campsites. An hour and a half later we decided to try skiing. On the way to the snow we ran into Sue Kraemer and Steve Hansen who had gotten a late start.

We were soon on snow that was pock marked with rock fall from the canyon walls. It got better though. A steep 700 foot slope was followed by a sun cuppy flat area which led to quite good skiing for the last 1000' up to the pass between Matterhorn and Twin. On the 2500' run back to camp some of us climbed the 700' slope a second time for good measure.

Saturday night Paul Kenworthy captured our attention with his Trailhead Game. Mark Goebel, Kathy Johnson, George Grover, and Paul played with help from the rest of us as they threw dice to determine moves through avalanche hazards, wrong routes, and injuries. Soon after Mark finished last we started hearing about the need to get an early start the next morning.

Sunday morning our 700' slope was excellent for crampons, a heavy piece of equipment we all had carefully left home. Fortunately the numerous hikers in the area had provided a pretty good set of stair steps that we ascended with ice axes. From there, Mark led 5 people up Matterhorn via a snow couloir on the north. The other four returned to the saddle on the crest where John Gowans and George set out for Matterhorn up the easier scree. That left Pat and me to climb Twin Peak, which for some reason didn't interest anyone else.

After the peaks everyone was satisfied with one run back to camp where we enjoyed hor d'oeuvres before dinner. Discussion about a starting time for the next morning revealed a definite lack of enthusiasm.

Monday morning Mark announced his intention to pack in his skis and visit Bode and the museum in Bridgeport instead. Several weak excuses followed. "I am riding with him, what can I do?" Paul Harris shrugged, and soon there were only 4 skiers left. Paul K., George, Pat and I skied some more of the upper slopes, and generally did our best to maintain the proud SMS tradition. There is word of an SMS Museum List being generated for the more sedentary members of our group. -Gerry Holleman

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Contributors are requested to submit
 articles typed singlespaced and 6 1/2"
 wide; items for p. 2 should be sin-
 glespaced and 3" wide.

Editors are reminded to check out
 instructions early for deadlines
 for Mugelprinting.

C A L E N D A R

Jul 21-22 Tahquitz E. Yount
 Jul 28-29 Fresno Dome L.Russ/M.Koss
 Aug 4-12 Wind Rivers G.Vernon/T.Jeter
 Aug 18-19 Suicide Mundwiler/Yount
 Aug 21 Mugelnoos Climbing on Temple
 Crag-V. Shields.

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SMS MUGELNOOS PROGRAMS

As SMS program chair, I am now look-
 ing for programs to be presented at
 the Nov 84 thru Apr 85 Mugelnoos
 meetings. If any readers can present
 or suggest a program of interest to
 our skiing and climbing audience (not
 necessarily those subjects), please
 call or write Mark Goebel at 714
 898-0894, 15421 Van Buren St # 112,
 Midway City, CA 92655.

PAY TWICE, GET ONE FREE

Those who paid both the rangers and
 the leader for the privilege (?) of
 camping near the motorcycle gang at
 the State Park on the May 19-20
 Tahquitz trip were too generous. All
 who paid twice should tell the leaders
 at their next camp that RCS owes them
 one.
 John Ripley

FOR SALE !!!!!

Sierra Designs Aireflex Tent

2-person, 4-season tent. Arch bow
 suspension (4 shock corded aluminum
 poles), integral rainfly, no guy-
 lines. Large entry door, mesh rear
 window. Very stable & roomy. Peak
 height 48". 32 sq ft floor space.
 All seams sealed. Excellent condi-
 tion, rarely used. Weight 5 lb. 12
 oz. Retail price \$320. Your cost
 \$200. T.Casacky, 6214 Enfield Ave
 Reseda, CA 91335.

Hi-Tech hiking boots, size 9, just
 broken in (as are 1/2-size-too-large
 feet). Twenty bucks. Tony Bird..

REI Expedition Parka. (new) \$150.00
 Eldrid dry long life rope
 11mm. 165 ft (new) 85.00
 Scott Bailey 714 750-3485

Jun 24 - North Twin Sister

On June 24 Randy Shaeff and George
 Wallenstein put up a new route on
 North Twin Sister near Bellingham,
 Wash. The North Buttress route in-
 volved only two rock pitches, class
 5.4, plus a long snow ridge. Des-
 cent was via the standard class 3
 West Ridge. At a narrow spot on the
 ridge two key footholds were knocked
 off (we won't say by whom), thereby
 increasing the difficulty and prob-
 ably upgrading the climb. Inflation
 is everywhere! George Wallerstein

Dear Editor: May 3, 1984
 Charles Hood's review of the book
 "Mountain Experience" by R.G. Mitch-
 ell, Jr. in the most recent edition
 of CLIMBING contains the statement,
 "notoriously inept Sierra Club
 climbing sections.
 That's an inept statement in itself,
 and reflects poorly on Mr. Hood. "No-
 toriously inept" Sierra Club sections
 spawned climbers and mountaineers like
 (in alphabetical order) Norman Clyde,
 Jules Eichhorn, Lito Tejada Flores,
 TM Herbert, Thomas Starr King, Joe La
 Conte, Chuck Pratt, Royal Robbins,
 Galen Rowell, Al Steck, Willy Unsoed,
 and hundreds more.
 Sure, we have inept climbers: with
 340,000 membership we can't all mea-
 sure up to Hood's standard. Many of
 those inept climbers work hard to im-
 prove. Most do - and some of our ve-
 teran climbers, skiers and mountain-
 eers are highly proficient. The point
 is, the Sierra Club's climbing sec-
 tions work hard to improve their pro-
 ficiency. Maybe Mr. Hood should do a
 (continued on page three)

(Dear Editor -continued) bit of work improving his judgment.

Norman Kingsley, Chmn, Sierra Club Mountaineering C'ee

Note: The above letter to CLIMBING was written at the suggestion of R.J. Secor - it is self-explanatory. In the book review cited, Hood singles out the Sierra Peaks Section as an example of "the worst there is in climbing". The RCS, SMS et al were spared. Sierrans might want to write voicing opinions on the subject to: CLIMBING, Box E, Aspen, CO 81612.

FLOOD AT TAHQUITZ

The weather was dry and fine for the May 19-20 Tahquitz trip, but the event was flooded with 46 participants on Saturday. It appears that many proficiency card holders had been awaiting the first Tahquitz climb to test themselves against established standards.

Of the 46 on Saturday, 17 were members and 26 were proficiency card holders. (There were also 3 guests.) 21 parties signed out for routes, most of which were the classic 5.1-5.6 trade routes. Weger and Shirley climbed the Right Ski Track; Valkass, Ranchau, and Oelsner did the Long Climb; and Kathy Moore, Rabichow, and "Willie" climbed Fingertrip. The best climbing was done by Lindgren and Smrz (El Grandote), and Friedberg and Asher Waxman (Dave's Deviation first pitch, part of Jam Crack, and Piton Pooper). Waxman unfortunately slipped on a moderate lead and hurt his ankle rather painfully, but he was able to continue and to hobble out on his own. The last parties, semi-lost on the NE side, returned to Lunch Rock at 8:10 and were treated to a descent in the dark. Alois Smrz was kind enough to remain at L.R. with the leader to await the late ones.

The waters receded on Sunday, with 10 members, 15 card holders, and 1 guest showing up. Nelson Willis and Claude Lane climbed Traitor Horn; Valkass and Edwards, then Rzoma and Golden, did Fingertrip, while Landry and Powers paralleled on Fingertrip. Jim Bryla and James Weger climbed El Camino and then Human Fright. The last parties were down by 3:30.

Leader Ripley thanks assistant Tim Ryan and the participants for their extraordinary cooperation. Some 21 people went along with the leader's insistence that all pay the \$3.00 RCS reservation reimbursement fee, despite the fact that most had also paid car fees to the rangers. It turned out that those who paid the rangers should not have had to pay the Section. The leader apologizes to those he gypped. Those who paid twice should ask for a freebie at their next RCS camp.

--John Ripley

YOSEMITE CLIMB MEMORIAL DAY 1984

In spite of the lack of reserved campsites, 32 climbers plus a number of their guests participated this great climbing weekend. Thanks to Maureen Powers, who was able to ~~the~~ park earlier, we did get a group campsite at Hodgeson Meadow where many of us camped. This campground was about 30 minutes from the Valley and worked out quite well.

The most popular climbing area turned out to be Glacier Point Apron. RCSers could be seen crawling all over the area. Few notable climbs were also made this weekend.

Tom Jeter and Bob Landry thrashed a new route to the North Dome. They were hoping to conquer the South Face, but were outsmarted by the rock. Fortunately both climbers survived and lived to tell the tale at the campfire.

It is believed that some kind of record was set by the human wave assault of the Half Dome via Snake Dike. By last count 13 people were goosestepping up the route enjoying the spectacular scenery. (Only 9 were RCSers) The last group returned to the campsite at 11 pm. Participants included Greg Rzonca, Linda D'Evelyn, Kathy Moore, Tony Bird and Mariko, James Weger, Ruth Mizumoto, Anna Houpt, and the writer.

Andy Fried with John Orange, and Tom Jenkins with Stephen Dawson climbed the Royal Arches.

On Sunday morning Orange, Fried, Katayama, Houpt and one or two others put up a new route called Raft Rip. It was quite a feat considering the tremendous amount of water that was down it. Contact one of the participants to find out where it should be inserted in your guide book.

(Continued on page four)

(Yosemite Climb Memorial Day 1984 - continued)

It was a memorable weekend with good climbs, beautiful weather (but warm) and super people for company.

My thanks to Andre for letting me disappear for one whole day.

Maris Valkass *Maris*

LONE PINE PEAK, Beckey Route
June 23, 1984

Miguel Rodriguez and I arrived at the Tuttle Creek roadhead tired and eager for sleep late Friday night, June 22. Our plan was to get a few hours of sleep and then hike to the base of the route in the early morning hours. While I was organizing my gear, Miguel kept complaining of "things" crawling in his hair and on his face as he was trying to fall asleep. After I had finished, I rolled out my sleeping bag and started to undress...and then I saw it! Miguel saw it too. Without a word, we both packed our gear back up and headed for the Stonehouse. Of all things, we never expected to get run out by scorpions!

We arrived at the Stonehouse around one in the morning. We quickly fell asleep only to wake up again at three for a quick breakfast. We left the Stonehouse a little after 3:30 A.M. and followed a non-existent trail for the next couple of hours to the base of the route. The approach can be summed up in a few words: HELL ON EARTH.

About 7:30 A.M., we started climbing in a dihedral system which led up for about six pitches to the first bivouac ledge. We were a little confused as we climbed pitches generally harder than those on the topo. We met some other climbers here who were also doing the route and they told us that we had climbed another dihedral system which runs parallel to the normal route. It had taken them only two hours to get to the ledge and us about twice that long.

The rest of the climb went rather uneventfully. The summit plateau was reached around 3:30 P.M. After packing up our gear, we headed down the east gullies five thousand feet to the car which we reached about 5:30. A few cold beers helped revive us and we looked forward to an endless night of sleep in the Stonehouse.

(For those interested in doing this route, a topo is available. I would be glad to send a copy if it is requested. However, this is not a route that I would call "classic." Also, Roper's guidebook overrates the route. There are approximately fifteen pitches in all, IV 5.7 with one aid placement (tension traverse).)

Bill Krause



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