

THE MOUNTAIN DOGS

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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 and address changes to Dove Menkes, 2530 Coventry Cir., Fullerton 92633. \$7 due in October.

PALISADES EXPLOITS, or Grand Theft Bagels

Good weather and soft snow met the RCS and guests who turned out for this fine climb. July 1 saw Vernon and Rzonca climbing the Lichen arete while Mastrianni, Jeter, Jeter (jr), and Ozag climbed E. Arete of Winchell.

7/2 saw the record setting ascent of the Swiss Arete of Mt. Sill by Somoano, Davis, and Smerz (to find out what records are involved, ask one of the above). The same route was also climbed by Vernon and Rozonca. Landry and Vermon also climbed E. Arete of Gayley that day.

7/3 the assault teams turned their attention to T. Bolt. Climbs were done on this impressive peak by Hudson and Jenkins, and by Golden, Ryan, and Orange. The Swiss Arete was again climbed by Jeter and son with Ozag.

That evening saw tall tales and stories around an "alpine campfire", at Sam Mack Mdw. (an alpine campfire is a flashlight under a poly water bottle). A word of warning to anyone camped at Sam Mack. There is a marmot in the area with a fondness for bagels. One climber found all his food had been tasted, but only the bagels were taken. The guilty party was later spotted above camp enjoying his spoils.

RCS AT TAHQUITZ ROCK, July 21, 22, 1984

This weekend we completed our pre-olympic training with two very physical climbing days at Tahquitz. Saturday started eventfully with Jim Erb providing assistance to a climber who fell on a lightly-protected lead of Coffin Nail: probable rib injury: not one of us. El Whampo would have been climbed if a climbing team could find it. Uneventful was climbed by two members and a student--last ones off the rock, but long before dark. Some harder climbs were made, but it was more of a training day.

The Saturday night campfire at the State Park was quieter than usual: the well-known RCS whirling dervishes were mostly missing or being held in reserve for future events. For the first time in my memory, the gang sacked out before all the wine was gone! That's got to be a record for the Modern Games!

Sunday dawned, but not too fair. The high clouds got lower, and before noon we were inside a very wet rain cloud. One climbing team finished their climb before the rain, and all but one of the remaining teams rappelled off safely. The holdout pair were high on Uneventful, and decided to finish on the North Buttress. I went over to the base of the climb to check their progress; the clouds were so low that you couldn't see more than a hundred feet up the rock. But they could be heard OK: "Singing in the rain..." came floating down--then a string of jokes--then three courses of "The Lady in Red...from the Homestead!". Now that's a light-hearted climbing team! (The climbers were said to have claimed that they girth hitched a double sling 'round a lightning bolt and used it for aid on a very wet overhang-Ed.)

My special thanks to Jim Erb and Paul Harris for their leading assistance, and also thanks to the many RCS members who included our students in their climbs. E.Y.

PICNICS PICNICS PICNICS

For your picnicking pleasure, the SMS and RCS have coordinated their annual picnics so that you may attend either or both. Keep these dates open, details later. (Note: the chapter schedule for the RCS picnic is incorrect)

SMS Picnic, Saturday, Oct. 20

RCS Picnic, Sunday, Oct 21

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Contributors are requested to submit articles typed singl spaced and 6 1/2" wide. Items for page 2 should be singl spaced and 3" wide.

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

C A L E N D A R

Aug 24-26 Temple Craig Johnson/Shields
Sep 1-3 Tuolumne Johnson/Erb
Sep 8 Safety Test Safety Comm
Sep 15-16 Needles Russ/Pies
Sep 22-23 Tahquitz Rutherford/Yount
Sep 29-30 Tuttle Crk Shields/Vernon

RCS SAFETY TEST

Individuals interested in taking the safety test for membership and or a proficiency rating must make a reservation with the safety chair.
NEXT SAFETY TEST: September 8.

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS

Third Tuesday of each month, 7:30 PM
Dept of Water and Power, N. Hope, downtown LA. Parking free. Program conversation--climbers, skiers, and guests all welcome!

AUGUST: August 21

SEPTEMBER: September 18, Program will be on climbing Nevado Huascaran, in the Peruvian Andes. Vladimir Lang, Author, Photographer, and Climber will present a 45 min. multi-projector, stereo sound program on this popular climb. Mr. Lang has published articles in Summit (Mar-Apr 83) and Photographic (Jan84).

C O R R E C T I O N

Tony Bird's phone number at his place of work is: 818-340-5147 and not as reported in a previous Mugelnoos.

NEEDLES 9/15 & 9/16

The Needles are accessible from the following campgrounds: Needle Creek, Lower and Upper Peppermint. The campgrounds are on a first come basis. If you get there early, save some sites. Bring firewater(oops) firewood and water (?). This is a good trip for non climbers.

RCS TRAINING COURSE

REMIND interested friends that Oct 15th is the deadline for completed applications.

COHORTS WANTED

Wanted: Climbing cohorts for one-day Monday projects by climber who has to work on Saturdays (ugh!). Tony Bird 818-901-8425 (H); 818-340-5147.

ADVENTURE UNLIMITED MOUNTAINEERING SHOP

My prices are still low!

Fires . . . \$64.95

11 Fall 11x165 ft rope . . . \$99.95

To name a few. Look here for my Sierra Club monthly specials.

No specials this month, however I'm having a big sale the first week in Sept. on almost everything.

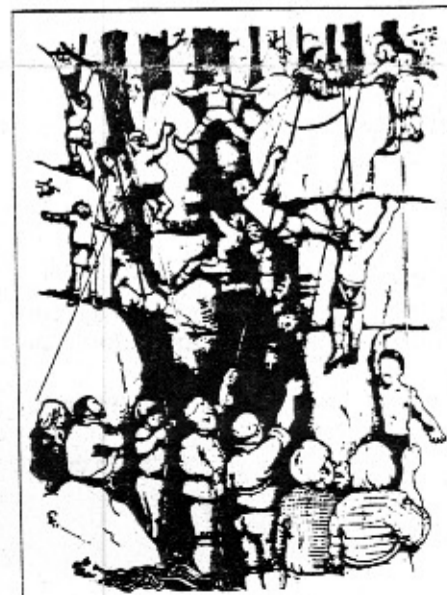
Call for details and directions.

Larry Ladd 213-691-1161

NAME THE KNOT CONTEST RESULTS

Although a year has passed since the "Name the Knot" contest was published in this newsletter, there have been no entries. The contest editor does not know if this is from ignorance or lack of interest. In any case, he has absconded with the prize and was last heard, singing in the rain uneventfully.

F O S S I L F A L L S



FALL INTO CREVASSE, INADEQUATE COMMUNICATION, INEXPERIENCE (reprinted from the 1984 American Alpine Club Accident Report) Alaska, Mount McKinley

On June 19 and 20, 1983, the 16 members of the Sierra Denali Expedition flew into the Southeast Fork of the Kahiltna Glacier. The expedition planned on climbing the West Buttress on Mount McKinley. The 16 members left Kahiltna base camp about 1930 on May 20 with four rope teams of four. They were going to cache their gear and then return to camp early the next morning. Around 2200 meters on the Kahiltna Glacier, at 2230, Dale Van Dalsem was leading his four-person rope team consisting of himself, his wife Jacqueline Van Dalsem (49), Sue Wyman, and Jeff Koepke.

Dale Van Dalsem stepped over a small crevasse and thought about warning the others in his rope team but felt it was obvious enough. As he continued up the glacier, he felt a strong tug and went into a self-arrest position. Wyman was roped behind Jacqueline Van Dalsem and watched her fall into the crevasse that her husband had previously stepped over. Wyman went into a self-arrest and saw Jacqueline Van Dalsem go out of sight, followed by her sled. She fell about four meters. She was wearing a seat harness, a one-inch tubular webbing chest harness and a forty-pound pack and was pulling a seventy-pound sled. The sled was fastened around her waist and clipped through a carabiner on the side of her seat harness. Neither the pack nor the sled was tied into the rope at the time of the fall. About two minutes after the fall, Don Weiss (from one of the three rope teams on the scene) was belayed to the crevasse and yelled in. He heard Jacqueline Van Dalsem say "Help me," faintly. Weiss turned after making verbal contact but did not actually see her.

About five minutes later, Jerry Blackwell went over to Dale Van Dalsem to get a rescue rope. He stepped over the crevasse and yelled down, but did not receive a response. The expedition immediately started setting up a Z pulley system and began hauling Van Dalsem up. After hauling a couple of minutes, it became apparent that she was hung up on the crevasse lip. Larry Genreau was then belayed to the edge of the crevasse (about twenty minutes after the initial fall). He saw Van Dalsem arched backward and upside down "like over a barrel." She had some facial blood and was unconscious. As Genreau reached down, the edge of the crevasse broke causing him to fall about two meters. He removed her pack and cut the sled free. He then tied another rope to her seat harness before climbing out. The group tried shoveling the edge of the crevasse and then started hauling on the Z pulley system, which caused considerable tension on the rope tied to Van Dalsem. A large number of people were hauling on the rope when suddenly it went slack as Van Dalsem's seat harness or tie-in pulled off and she fell about ten meters. As she fell, two members from the Light Is Right expedition arrived on the scene. One of them was lowered down and guided Van Dalsem up and over the crevasse lip while other members pulled her up using the Z pulley system.

By 0030 on June 21, she was out of the crevasse, and members of the Sierra Denali Expedition started CPR. The two-member Karriki expedition from Spain arrived just after 0300 and were asked to go to Kahiltna Base Camp to get help. They did not speak English very well.

At 0245 Mountaineering Ranger Scott Gill was informed that there was a lady who had fallen into a crevasse and was being given CPR around the 2300-meter level on the Kahiltna Glacier. Jim Porter of Evergreen Helicopters was contacted and dispatched to Talkeetna. Mountaineering Ranger Roger Robinson and SCA volunteer John Watson flew to the accident site in a fixed wing aircraft from Talkeetna Air Taxi to survey the situation on the mountain.

Around 0500 it was reported from base camp that Jacqueline Van Dalsem was dead and that her body was being sledged to base camp in order to be flown out. (Source: Scott Gill, Mountaineering Ranger, Denali National Park)

ANALYSIS: No member of the Sierra Denali Expedition had their packs or sleds tied into the rope. If Van Dalsem's pack and sled had been tied off, they could have been discarded and might have absorbed some of the initial impact of her fall. In cases like this, someone should go into the crevasse to evaluate the situation. Using a Z pulley system before evaluating the scene can result in the kinds of problems seen here--most especially trying to haul a victim with all the extra weight involved, imposing a direct strain on her system. A person in a crevasse with a victim could cut a pack and sled loose and monitor vital signs and responses.

The lower sections of the Kahiltna Glacier are particularly hazardous in late June due to crevasse fields opening, soft snow bridges, and wet, slushy conditions. The expedition was traveling during a time of day when the snow is very soft and bridges quite weak. Travel later in the day or in the early morning hours is safer due to the snow setting up and becoming stronger. (Source: Scott Gill, Mountaineering Ranger, Denali National Park)

LONE PINE PEAK, DIRECT SOUTH FACE--July 27 & 28

On July 27, Alois Smrz and Robert Somoano left the south side of Tuttle Creek to climb the South Face of Lone Pine Peak. Out plan was to complete the climb in two days. We each carried a quart of water, candy bars, a little extra clothing, and a bivy sack. We used Craig Peer's guide to the climb. The write-up is fairly good

Lone Pine, Cont.

and picketsized versions are available in some stores (ask LeRoy Russ for locations). We arrived at the Stonehouse in less than an hour, took a break, and continued on to the large Class 3 gully which separates the Tower To Nowhere from the South Face. The start of the rockclimbing is at the top of this gully. The approach from the Stonehouse to the gully is no longer as difficult as the guide suggests. It took us four hours from the car to reach the start of the climb. Four hours later (3 PM) we were at our goal for the day--the large sandy bivy ledge at the top of the fourth pitch (we said this was a leisure climb). The first four pitches were easy with one awkward move (with pack'n rack) around a chockstone and the "tunnel" which Alois bypassed by freeing the A2 move at 5.6! It started raining, hailing, and lightning an hour after we reached the ledge. Nevertheless, our bivy was dry and comfortable (eat your heart out, Al Fowler). There is plenty of wood along this climb, so bring matches. The next day we continued the climb in heavy fog. Much of the climb above the bivy ledge is on rotten, lousy rock with very loose holds. We finished the climb 6½ hours after leaving the bivy. Total climbing time was 10½ hours, 12 rope pitches. The descent took 3½ hours including time spent climbing back up and over to the correct gully (always bear left-northeast). We agree with Bill Krause that the climb is not a classic, but nevertheless, it is an adventurous, moderately easy, Grade V climb that many RCS'ers will enjoy. RBS

P I N E M O U N T A I N

Pretty faces can inspire epics, either by launching a thousand ships, or, in this case, a couple of idiots (Jim Shirley says I should speak for myself) to work their way up Grundge Gully, past Crumble Crag, into Sitting Duck Couloir. Like Achilles, we'll never ask ourselves if it was worth it. To the readers we must report a quick route on that pretty face, due to the constraints of the day, and no friction, really much harder than 5.7. But oh what friction it was!

This quest is a four-pitch face on the north side of Pine Mountain in the San Gabriels, just north of Mounts Baldy and Dawson. I first saw this face two years ago and thought, "Wow--what a climb, if it isn't crumbly."

It isn't crumbly, once you get there, and getting there is half the, er, fun. Take the Blue Ridge unimproved road off the Angeles Crest Highway just east of Vincent Gap, go about 5½ miles down to Gruffy Campground and take the dirt road DOWN on the right to the base of Pine Mountain. You'll have views of the face and the obvious approach wash. The first half mile of this wash is easygoing, until you come to a fork, the left tine of which leads to a waterfall which split our party, half eventually finding good handholds along the right wall RIGHT NEXT TO THE WATER, the other half venturing onto the Path of Destruction on Crumble Crag. We did get out of this fix. Skills learned by stemming on good granite are quite useful.

Finally, the base of the face. Unlike much gneiss, this stuff is fairly firm and the face, which is flat as a pancake, becomes downright delectable, although in most places it is too easy for someone used to Fires. The grainy texture of the rock gives it much more friction than granite. The rock has a number of quartz dikes and is crisscrossed by tne faults which chip away in interesting ways, offering new applications of "potato chip" technique. Something of a change-of-pace treat to Idliwild climbing, in an equally pleasant summer setting (around 9,000 ft).

We climbed a line which began in the middle of the base and worked its way to the upper right-hand corner, onto steeper rock as we went along and lost some of our initial trepidation. I think the lower right corner of the face might offer some harder climbing. I recommend bringing some knife-blade pitons for permanent placement, as well as the regular rack, to anyone interested in further "development". There are lots of incipient cracks, about three good belay ledges, but not too much else for protection.

If you find an easy way of getting there, let me know! TB

