

No. 622, October 16, 1984. A 6-page issue.

A newssheet 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 Circle, Fullerton 92633. \$7 per year, due this month.

TUTTLE CREEK ODYSSEY

September 29-30

Often an area of unusual beauty and charm is one which is seldom visited. Along the headwaters of the south fork of Tuttle Creek is one of these regions. From the southwest the path of Tuttle Creek leaves the striking formation of the Obelisk with its sheer granite walls stretching upwards towards its pointed summit, to past the imposing expanse of the Tuttle Creek Buttress. It was to this place that a group of RCS climbers and guests led by Greg Vernon and myself journeyed in the latter part of September. To have asked for better climbing would have been unreasonable in a setting where a mild sunny day drifted into the coolness of the evening.

Both days' climbing took place on the most monolithic section of the 80 degree wall. Due to the steepness of the formation all routes must be rappelled to descend. Greg and his guest Jim climbed the 5.9 Becky Route (a sheer right facing dihedral) while five other climbers ascended two adjacent 5.8 faces. James Weger is to be remembered for his desperate 60 foot run-out on unprotected 5.8 friction. Meanwhile Maureen and Campy wandered amidst the talus blocks below. The campfire was well involved by the time James Weger, Jim Shirley, and guest Bryan returned to camp.

The next day saw an early awakening as no one made the effort to toss a rock at our alarm provided by the incessant chirping of a bird upset that we had intruded upon her solitude. There were no hangovers though as the backpack limited the available amount of spirits. This day saw Shirley and Bryan ascend the Becky Route while Greg and Jim (Jim #1) climbed a two pitch jam crack several hundred feet to the left.

The most interesting exchange of the trip occurred when Jim Weger, while on a 5.8 stance contemplating the 5.9 crux traverse of the Bush Master Route (the crack just left of the Becky Route) asked Jim (Jim #1) who made the first ascent how to make the move. The exchange went as follows: Weger, "Are there any handholds?", Jim #1, "mumble, mumble", Weger, "Good handholds?", Jim #1, "mumble, mumble", Weger, "Oh, no handholds!"

The Bush Master Route was first ascended by Greg, Jim #1, and Herb Laeger, the latter of which gave the route its name. The crux of this route consists of 5.8 liebacking to walk your feet high on a small vertical flake. Then with the toes of your left foot on a small hold on the edge of the flake (while still in a lieback) the right foot is extended as fully as possible into a flared slot across a blank face. Just when you know you're going to peel you can just manage to grab the quarter inch diameter end branches of a bush. So far with the passing of six climbers the bush has stayed in place. For climbers under 5' 10" the likelihood of completing this climb in the forgoing manner diminishes drastically.

The winds increased in the late afternoon, blowing threatening clouds our way which dropped our first snow of the season as we finished our rappels. The memory of such a place as this will not be forgotten.

VS

ATTENTION ALL CLIMBERS & SKIERS:

PARTY OF HISTORIC PROPORTIONS PLANNED

Harwood Lodge will be the scene of a unique celebration on the weekend of November 10-11 - both the SMS and the RCS will be marking 50 years of existence. The two sections were closely tied from the beginning (Fall 1934), and a great many early members are still in our local area. The sections will bring all generations of climbers and skiers together to celebrate the comradeship fostered through them over the years.

The main bash will be all day Saturday. Old slides, movies, scrapbooks, and
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MUGELNOOS STAFF

MUGELPRINTER.....LeRoy Russ
 MUGELMAILER.....Dove Menkes
 REPORTERS.....Emory Yount,
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 Margo Koss, Bob Frampton, Tony Bird,
 Mike Jelf (Ed.)

Subscriptions \$7 per year, payable
 to Mugelnoos. RENEWALS NOW DUE.

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NEXT ISSUE: November 20, 1984
 DEADLINE: November 13, 1984 (Tue)
 or tomorrow, whichever comes first.

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS: Third Tuesday of
 each month, 7:30 p.m., Department
 of Water & Power cafeteria (Orange
 Room) or auditorium, 111 N. Hope St.,
 downtown Los Angeles. Parking free.
 Program, chitchat, origami —
 climbers, skiers and guests welcome.

C A L E N D A R

Oct. 21 Annual Picnic, Big Rock
 Oct. 23 Business Meeting, 7:30, DWP
 Nov. 10-11 50th Anniversary, Harwood
 Nov. 24-25 Joshua Tree, Jeter
 Dec. 8-9 Joshua Tree, RCS/Inner City
 Nov. 18 RCS Safety Test

RCS BUSINESS MEETING

It is again time for the yearly
 "Grand Event," the RCS business
 meeting on Oct. 23 at 7:30 p.m. in
 the Orange Room, DWP, 111 N. Hope
 St., LA.

The annual "Membership Purge" and
 other, less important, business—
 such as establishing the RCS coming
 year's directions and election of
 officers—will be conducted.

I have again "volunteered" to act
 as Elections Committee Represent-
 ative and I hope anyone interested
 in running for the privileged
 position of chair, vice chair or
 secretary-treasurer would contact me
 at (213) 823-8628 after 5 p.m.

As of 10-1-84 the following
 individuals have been nominated:

1. Bob Somoano, for chair
2. Ron Mastrani, vice chair
3. Bob Caswell, secretary-treas.

If you would like to recommend
 anyone else for the above positions,
 please let me know. —Alois Smrz

NEW RCS MEMBER. The RCS welcomes
 Paul Ivanushka to membership in the Section.

NEW PROFICIENCY RATINGS. Mike Clinton,
 Bill Percival, and Paul Shubert have been
 granted RCS proficiency ratings.

RCS FIRST AID KIT. The third RCS first aid
 kit has not yet reappeared. Does anyone have
 a clue? Please call Margo Koss.

ObituaryOUT OF THE PAST

Two oldtime ski mountaineers
 met under unusual circumstances
 recently. It was at the memorial
 service for Claremont architect
 Ted Criley.

Bill Davies spoke in
 appreciation of Ted's helping
 him start a landscaping business
 during the "Big Depression."
 Bob Frampton, brother-in-law of
 the deceased, was operating the
 church's public address system.
 Criley, though not a Ski Moun-
 taineers member, was an active
 early-day skier, trekking to
 McGee Creek, Deadman Summit and
 Mammoth Mountain in the days
 before lifts, with Tyler Van
 Degrift, Leland Curtis, Lester
 Lavelle and others. —BF

RCS to CLIMB, PIG OUT

Members of the RCS, profic-
 iency card players, friends,
 family and gastronomes are
 reminded that the annual pic-
 nic is to be at Big Rock on
Sunday, Oct. 21, not as listed
 in the Chapter Schedule. Those
 whose surnames begin with
 letters A - M should bring
 dessert for four, entrees
 begin with N - Z.

Virgil Shields's new work phone
 number is (818) 354-0989.

FOR SALE

Phoenix "Wilderness" 200 cm.
 skis, brand new, unmounted, \$145.

Also North Face "Scrambler"
 pack, brand new, ideal climber's
 pack, \$55.

Riccardo Cassin ice-climbing
 boots, handmade, near new, full
 grain, only \$75. Other assorted
 hiking and climbing boots, sizes
 7 to 10½.

Call (818) 790-4275 days or
 early evenings. (N. Kingsley)

RCS SAFETY TEST

By popular demand (revealed after the
 September safety test was cancelled), the
 fall RCS safety test is on again, for Sunday,
 November 18, at Mt. Rubidoux. Please come
 out and help. If we finish as quickly as we
 did last spring, there will be time for some
 good bouldering. Call Margo Koss for
 a reservation if you wish to take the test,
 or send a SASE.

STONY POINT UPDATE

As reported at a Mugelnoos meeting several months ago, all is not settled at Stony Point Park. Although the City of Los Angeles purchased the major share of land at the park two years ago, there remains a small triangle at the southwest corner of the park—a triangle which includes Boulder One and Slant Rock, two much-used boulders.

The RCS has been involved in efforts to secure this property for the enjoyment of future climbers. We have found L.A. City Councilman Hal Bernson, in whose district the park lies, to be responsive, but other circumstances have proved frustrating. The property was owned by a Mr. Kelly, who died a few months ago. At that time, the RCS and several other groups interested in the park had been planning to do some fundraising to try to purchase the property from Mr. Kelly's heirs, a fundraising effort for which Councilman Bernson had undertaken the leadership. In addition, the RCS had sold RCS T-shirts for this project and also dedicated the proceeds of the Mountain Travel program earlier this summer on climbing in the Soviet Union.

As it turned out, however, Mr. Kelly had given this property to a friend shortly before he died, and the new owner has been extremely difficult to work with, according to Bernson's office.

As it now stands, the city is contemplating eminent domain proceedings to acquire the property — I think we can feel assured that it will ultimately be an integral part of the park. But Bernson will probably be calling on us to do some more fundraising, unless he can succeed in striking a reasonable deal with the new owner. So if you're contemplating a donation to a worthy cause, you might keep this one in mind. We'll keep you posted on developments.

—TB (Conservation Rep.)

MUGELNOOS RENEWALS DUE

October is the month we send our offerings of \$7 to the Mugelmailer so we'll have a Mugelnoos to be thankful for in November.

Checks payable to Mugelnoos should go to Dove Menkes
2530 Coventry Circle
Fullerton, CA 92633

THE WITCHES WERE RESTLESS

Blue skies and pleasant temperatures led us to believe a weekend of excellent climbing was in store at The Needles, Sept. 15 and 16. Proficiency card holder Charlie Golden, recruited assistant leader Tom Jenkins and I had the entire eastern approach to ourselves, while a second set of RCSers converged on the western approach (details of RCS - West activities were not available for this trip report).

The various needle formations were given mystical names such as Magician, Sorcerer, Wizard, Witch, Warlock, Merlin Dome and Voodoo Dome.

Hand and footholds on Merlin Dome were found to be covered with crusty lichen and flaky rock, and with no specific route descriptions we experienced the ambiance of first ascent climbing.

Typical afternoon Sierra clouds came several hours early. Thundershowers and lightning hovered over the surrounding peaks, but the powers of King Arthur's sorcerer, Merlin, kept us dry.

Sunday morning's clear skies brought another promising day. It was time to tempt fate and try our luck on Voodoo Dome. As we reached the climb dark clouds, thunder and lightning moved in. A nearby knoll was set on fire by the discharging sky. The caldron of Needles mysticism was being stirred, warning intruders to leave or sacrifice a virgin for the price of staying.

Finding a candidate meeting these sacrificial requirements was an impossible task for the RCS (a result of comprehensive screening of training course applicants by LeRoy) so we departed. (I'm glad I wasn't there. —Ed.)

In the safer environs below we were able to salvage the day with a climb at Kern Slabs. More storms and local flooding accompanied us on the drive home.

Footnote: Site 13 at Lower Peppermint Campground has a resident rock formation for those who like to boulder around the campfire.

—DP

VIEWS SOUGHT ON CLIMBING BAN

Sierra Club Service Trips, the summer outings with volunteer trail maintenance, wilderness restoration and cleanup, operate under a ban on any climbing over third class. This rule has been interpreted in some cases to bar even top-roped bouldering by RCS-rated climbers. This ban, in its sweep, might discourage climbers from taking part in service trips, which would be unfortunate.

Service trips offer unique opportunity to combine healthful exercise, altruism and Sierra Club camaraderie in a wilderness setting.

Interested readers might wish to scribble a few friendly words on the hazard level in top-roped bouldering by trained persons, and send them on to:

Mike Jelf; 1819 W. 254th St.; Lomita, CA 90717.

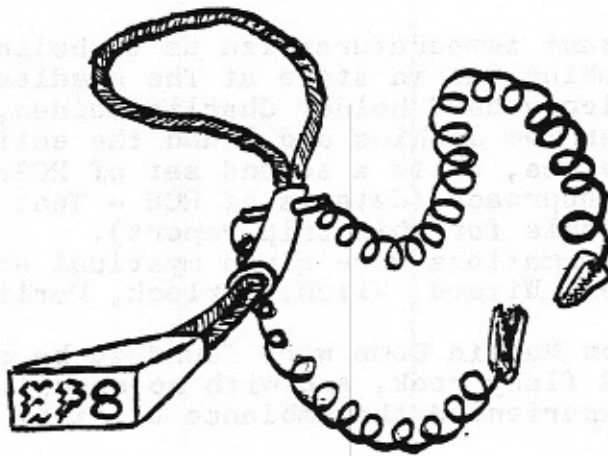
All comments will be forwarded to the trips' subcommittee chairman c/o the outings office in San Francisco. -Ed.

NEW OFFERINGS FOR EQUIPMENT FREAKS

Three decades ago inventor May Pridham and illustrator David Brower amazed readers of Belaying the Leader with the ingenious products of the Little Gem Co. Following in the tradition of Little Gem's rubber pitons and inflatable ice axe cushion, Kitchen Sink Mountaineering has formed to prove than any climbing obstacle can be overcome by using an expensive gadget. Examples:

Frigid love handles are only a memory when the DOWN CUMBERBUND joins your winter tours. Though you jackknife all night in the sack, this smart silk garment with its five pounds of Strassbourg goose down is bound to warm your waist and end waste of warmth. In midnight blue, pearl, anthracite.

CAUTION: Worn loosely, this product may slide into the armpits. Worn snugly, it may restrict breathing and circulation.

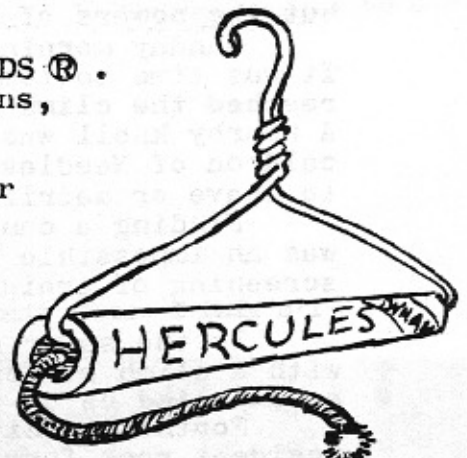


Summerize protection of winter climbs with Electric Pro® WIRED HARDWARE. Heating elements in each piece warm the metal enough to melt quickly through several inches of water ice. Cracks are rendered as accessible as on Labor Day! Powered by readily available, safe, 12-volt car battery.

CAUTION: Don't use near nylon or combustible fibers.

If the protection won't fit to the crack, fit the crack to the pro with FIENDS®. The most ingenious gizmos since safety pins, Fiends have been used for years by trail crews and road builders. Attach one to the crack, engage the expansion instigator and traverse a safe distance. In a few seconds the disparity between crack and pro is eliminated. You may even find a new chockstone waiting for your sling! Cheaper than camming devices. (Not reusable.) Weight 8 oz., matches included.

CAUTION: Might prompt criticism from purists, belayers.



TAHQUITZ ROCK, SEPTEMBER 22, 23, 1984

In terms of participants, energy, weather and climbs, this was a superb weekend. Forty-one climbers signed in on Saturday. The Maiden, Finger Tip, Trough, Swallow, Long Climb, Coffin Nail, Finger Trip, and Mechanic's Route were climbed. An all women's team climbed Sahara Terror (Jane and Anna). Two people backed off of the Trough. It was reported that the Long Climb has poor pro at the crux and that there is a 5.12d variation on the Error. A top-rope was placed above chimney below Angel's Fright and several people climbed the face and cracks.

While we sat on Lunch Rock sending levitating energy to all, a verbal interaction drifted down to us:

"How much rope do I have?"

"I don't know. It's all knotted up. I can't tell."

Silence.

All climbers returned by six in time for a shower, supper and whatever. So many climbers converged upon the Red Rooster that they ran out of food and wine before the last few could be fed. As I camped at the Blue Bird Motel, I was only in camp long enough to extract Ranger Whitehead's first name from him. Any other information will have to be elicited from Emory.

On Sunday, thirty-three climbers signed in. Some of them warmed up by jumping rope and then headed up the hill. Again, many of the usual routes were climbed. The Open Book, Shit For Brains and Toe Tip were also climbed. All returned by four and were on their way home by five.

This was my first opportunity to lead a trip for the RCS and it was a pleasure. It was a Joy for me to give in a small way to a group, the nature of which has enhanced the quality of my life. Many thanks to all of the participants, proficiency card holders, students and guests whose energy made this a perfect trip. Thank you for graciously paying the campsite fee, for climbing safely, for climbing with students, for getting off of the rock and down the hill before dark, and for just being there.

Special thanks to Emory Yount for totally being with me on this trip, to Jim Erb for willingly participating on an unscheduled Safety Committee climb, to Michael Feldman for giving more than his share to the campsite fund, and to Jim Weger for several things. TR

YOSEMITE VALLEY, OCTOBER 6-8

The 20 climbers who came to Yosemite enjoyed good weather and even better music. The high point of the weekend was achieved by Jim Bryla and Bob Landry, who emerged into the moonlight atop Half Dome on Sunday night after two days on the Northwest Face (VI, 5.9, A3). Proceeding horizontally, but suffering spectacular exposure, Maureen Powers (a new rope and rack for a birthday present!) and Mike Feldman did the Leaning Tower Traverse, also enjoying the moonlight during their descent. Glacier Point Apron (Tony Bird and Dan Dunkel on 5.10d!), Overhang Bypass, Sunnyside Bench, and Manure Pile Buttress were, as usual, popular, and some less commonly climbed routes were also done, including Jim Weger and Jane Clark's ascent of Arrowhead Spire. No one had the courage to find out for sure whether the Rotten Log is gone from Royal Arches. With three guitars, a banjo, and a harmonica, Tony Bird, Greg Stevens and his guest, and Jim Shirley made Sunday night's campfire a memorable one, with songs and instrumental improvisation.

—MK

SUICIDE ROCK, August 18-19

Saturday dawned cloudy and damp after a rainy night. Five climbers made it as far as the weeping wall by waiting out some drizzles on the way. Before long the sun was out. While the rock was drying off, two climbers ascended The Escalator and set up a top rope. We climbed The Shadow — a lieback with handholds — and then The Jackal — a lieback without handholds.

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LATE BULLETIN — WHITNEY PORTAL, July 14-15

(Our Bastille Day reporter was out of town in August and September.)

Rain — Rain: On Saturday wet rock from the early morning rain kept climbers in camp until midmorning. As the rock dried the climbers made ready and soon there were parties on El Segundo Buttress and Premiere Buttress to the north and a threesome on Candlelight to the south.

The highlight of the day occurred not on the rock but in camp—a surprise birthday party for Margo Koss. Unknown to all but one, LeRoy smuggled a birthday cake, candles, champagne and ice cream into camp. A complete surprise to Margo and a welcome treat for the weary climbers as they returned to camp at dusk.

Sunday morning arrived with a steady rain and by 10:30 every one had left for home or gone for a hike in the rain.

The general consensus of those present was that we should schedule another trip to this area, possibly three days. This would allow time for Lone Pine Peak or one of the larger peaks in the area.

—RM

SUICIDE ROCK (Continued from Page Five)

After that Percival and Russell did Delilah while Moore and Yount top roped some friction. Mundwiler went off to help start a bicycle race (3,000 miles).

Meanwhile, back at the WW, a squirrel chewed through the side of my pack and helped himself to my lunch. A really successful day! (We hear from some local backpackers that this sort of mishap can be minimized by leaving untended packs unclosed. —Ed.)

Sunday started off clear and sunny with a few clouds poking up over the ridges. We hurried to get in a climb before you know what, but we got back to the road about noon, and wet to the skin. Rained as far west as Hemet on the way home. Had to dry out the first aid kit as well as all the pitons, drills and hammers (no, that was the good old days). (They really weren't. —Ed.) Nine of us climbed Sunday.

Anyway, we had a great time. —EY

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY BASH SET FOR HARWOOD
(from page one)

vintage Mugelnooses will evoke the spirit of past days. Old Time members can renew old friendships and meet the inheritors of their devotion and enthusiasm. Newer members will be able to meet the leaders of early tours and the pioneers of classic Tahquitz routes. An opportunity such as this comes only once in most of our lives — a chance to share the good times, hard-won wisdom, and humor of a succession of eras in two noble sports.

The sections will provide transportation for those who need it. Spaghetti dinner will be provided on Saturday night, and hikes of various lengths will leave the lodge on Sunday for those wishing to stay over. All the details will be provided in a flyer to Mugelnoos subscribers, and invitations are being sent to a long list of past members. It will all be very easy for everyone, so no excuses will be accepted!

The place of our sections in the history of mountain sports is noteworthy, and people made the history. No one, old member or new, should miss this chance to mix and mingle with the people who did it (and are doing it now).

REMEMBER: Harwood Lodge, November 10 (and 11 optional).

Watch for the flyer with all the details. RSVP: Robert Somoano, (818) 790-2123, 835 Old Landmark Lane, LaCanada, 91011. Questions, program ideas, etc.: John Ripley, (818) 791-4924, 1080 N. Chester Ave., Pasadena, 91104.

—JR

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