



# THE MUGELNOOS

No. 624 -- Dec 18, 1984

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 Menkes, 2530 Coventry Cir., Fullerton, Ca 92633. \$7 per year due in October. This is a 6 page issue.

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY A HUGE SUCCESS

The RCS and SMS jointly celebrated the 50th anniversary of their respective foundings with a huge party at Harwood Lodge on Nov 10 & 11. Attendance exceeded the fondest expectations, with 93 members or ex-members and 32 guests, relatives, spouses, etc, for a total of 125 attendees! By midday Saturday the lodge was packed with skiers and climbers of all ages, including many members from the first decade of both sections. The Harwood dining hall was filled with at least 20 photo albums showing 50 years of mountain sports. An early afternoon slide show was highlighted by a set of slides sent to Frank Hoover by Nancy Wilson, widow of the late Don Wilson, showing desert climbs of the 1950's.

Around 4:00 PM a packed house was welcomed by RCS Chair Robert Somoano & SMS Chair Kathy Crandall. John Ripley gave a short talk on the history of each of the sections. Glen Dawson, the only charter member of both sections, introduced the charter members present: Howard Koster (RCS), and Bob Frampton, Wolfgang Lert, and Dick Jones (SMS). The group was saddened to learn that RCS founder Art Johnson had died only 2 weeks before (see obituary in this issue).

The evening featured a fantastic spaghetti dinner (Kathy Crandall, head chef) and old climbing and skiing movies. Bud Halley led the group in old ski songs during intermissions. The movies were all wonderfully evocative and interesting. Most seemed to agree that the most fun for all ages was Wolfgang Lert's "Mugelhupf" skiing movie (1937) with its combination of great skiing and humor.

A hard core of about 35 remained overnight. The stayovers had great fun (after completing the lodge chores) reading excerpts from the bound volumes of Mugelnoos brought down by Nick Clinch. The list of attendees is far too long to print, but some statistics might be of interest. The 125 party-goers were asked to list the year they joined the RCS or SMS, with the following approximate results (listed by successive decades of section existence):

1934-44:	36	1965-74:	7
1945-54:	14	1975-84:	33
1955-64:	3	Guests, spouses, etc:	32

Sage observers concluded that the strong attendance was due to the nude volleyball scheduled by Kathy Crandall (did anyone see finals 5:00 AM Sun.?) A number of people should be thanked for their efforts to make the party a success. Bob & Marylin Somoano, Paul Harris, and Virgil Shields all obtained food and equipment. Paul Harris made the flyer. Howard Koster, along with John Ripley handled the invitations. Don Pies videotaped much of the action. Andy Fried and Mark Goebel joined Ripley, Koster, Harris, and Somoano in committee meetings at Kathy Crandall's house. It was Kathy who not only hosted the meetings but kept the idea going when it nearly died. She reserved the lodge, phoned critical participants, and typed the schedule. To top all that, she supervised (and cooked most of) the great dinner for 125, and it couldn't have happened without her.

Thanks to all who came and all who helped. If you missed it -- don't miss the 60th in 1994 !!  
(JR)

## RCS FOUNDER ART JOHNSON DIES

Arthur B. Johnson, the first RCS Chairman, died October 27, 1984 at the age of 78. Art seized the idea of starting a Southern Calif counterpart to the Bay Chapter RCS and worked tenaciously to make it a reality.

Art came to Los Angeles at the age of 19 (in 1925) from the area of Fresno, his birthplace. He became involved with the Sierra Club when he helped build Harwood Lodge in 1930. His hiking and mountain scrambling

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MUGELNOOS STAFF

EDITOR . . . . . John Wedberg  
MUGELPRINTER . . . . . LeRoy Russ  
MUGELMAILER . . . . . Dove Menkes  
REPORTERS: Barbara Lilley, John Rip-  
ley, Margo Koss, Bob Caswell, Mark  
Goebel, Mike Jelf, Michael Feldman

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NEXT EDITOR: John Ripley  
1080 N Chester Ave  
Pasadena, Ca 91104  
(818) 791-4924  
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Contributors are requested to submit articles typed singlesspaced and 6 1/2" wide. Items for page 2 should be singlesspaced and 3" wide.

Editors are reminded to check out the instructions early for dead- lines for Mugelprinting.

C A L E N D A R

Dec 29-Jan 1 Ski tour, Ostrander  
Jan 5-6 Ski tour, Mammoth  
Jan 6 Sun Ski tour, local  
Jan 12 Sat Ski tour, XC clinic  
Jan 13 Sun Rock climb, Big Rock  
Jan 13 Sun Ski tour, local  
Jan 15 Wed MUGELNOOS MEETING  
"Trans-Sierra Ski Tours"

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS

Third Tues of each month, 7:30 PM (7:00 PM for ski touring equipment demonstration), Dept of Water and Power, North Hope St in downtown LA. Parking free. Program, conver- sation. Climbers, skiers, guests, all welcome!

ADDRESS CHANGE

Mark Goebel  
1411-D Alabama St  
Huntington Beach, Ca 92648  
(714) 536-3084

FOR SALE

Rossignol Randonnee skis  
Waxable size 180 cm  
Used 3 times. \$125  
( She doesn't say if they come with bindings, and if so, what kind. To find out, contact:)  
Sue Ann Chapman  
5535 Ackerfield #44  
Long Beach 90804  
(213) 408-0284

Hear Ye, Hear Ye\*\*\*\*\*  
**THE SECOND ANNUAL RCS/SMS EQUIPMENT SWAP-SALE MEET II**  
Jan. 6, 1985 at Stoney point (after the training class)  
Great opportunity for students to obtain equipment at bargain prices!!  
Everyone is invited to bring their skis, boots, climbing gear, etc. to the "Stoney Point Bazaar"

(This item should have been included in the CALENDAR above, but it wasn't listed in the Angeles Chapter Schedule.)

-Ed.

RCS APPLICANTS

The following have applied for RCS membership:  
Al Franz Bill Percival  
Jane Clark Michael Feldman  
Jim Martellotti Tom Wirt  
Mike Adams Dale Hanes  
Judy Glenn John Gonzales

Anyone with comments regarding the applicants' safety in climb- ing should contact the Safety Chair, Margo Koss, by Jan 7, 1985 (MK)

A PROPOSAL

We are indebted to the good baron for bequeathing prusiking to us, but the technique leaves us wanting more when it's time to surmount an overhang. In the past a piton hammer was used to separate rock and rope; today it's a biner. An easier method can be to turn outward and wedge with a shoulder. As this allows a clutzy climber to avoid a stiff upper lip by looking away from the problem, perhaps the variation could be called "Jelfing." Yours immodestly MJ

L A S T C H A N C E

Last chance to renew subscription to Mugelnoos for 1985! Renewals received by Mugelmailer after Jan 5th may result in missing first couple of issues. (DM)

CHAPTER COUNCIL REPORT postmarked

As usual, wilderness permits/prior to March 1st will be rejected by the USFS. They have reduced the pro- portion of mail reservations from 70% to 50%. Inyo NF is planning on imposing fees for all organized group trips (which would include all Sierra Club trips). Write your Congressman if you agree this is a bad idea.  
Angeles Chapter needs volunteers to help w/annual fund appeal. Contact Mary Ferguson (213) 387-4289.  
Annual Volunteer Workshop will be held this year Sat, Feb 2nd, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, DWP Bldg. Complete overview of our Chapter's activities and how you can help. Contact Evelyn Levine (213) 653-9589.  
Young Sierrans Section needs adult advisors & leaders. Encourage our teenagers by giving them a hand with hiking, backpacking, rock & snow climbing, bicycling, skiing & beach trips. For details contact Doug Williams (818) 447-4498, or Nancy Taylor (213) 650-3713. (MF)

HATS OFF!

My congratulations to the RCS on their successful existence for 50 years, while at the same time maintaining the high standards of ethics and safety with which they were founded.

Barbara Lilley

ART JOHNSON

Cont'd from P. 1

led him to try climbing when Glen Dawson introduced it to our area in 1933. After the summer of 1934, Art became, with Glen's encouragement, the ring leader of a group pushing the idea of a local climbing section. Art was appointed first Chairman (later elected) when the Chapter Executive Committee authorized formation of a Rock Climbing Section in September, 1934.

The Section's first years were difficult -- we were in the midst of the Great Depression, and there were few experienced climbers or known places to climb. Under Art's leadership, the RCS grew rapidly and by 1937 was well established. Such climbing spots as Stony Point and Tahquitz were discovered and developed, and the pattern of winter practice climbs and summer "real" climbs was set.

An engineer by profession, Art was interested in the technical aspects of equipment and safety. He tested ropes and knots for strength and also made an early sit-harness for practice falls. He established a safety consciousness in the section that has served it well over the years.

During his years in charge, Art carried a tremendous workload; he personally led over 50 days of climbing in the prewar period. He arranged the schedules and kept everything flowing, and in so doing generated a mountain of correspondence (still in RCS files) larger than all the correspondence since. Art was the only person in RCS history to serve three terms as Chairman (September 1934 thru December 1937) -- only person so far, that is. He remained a section member through 1950.

All this club service was sandwiched between many outings. His climbing career included first ascents of the East Buttress of Muir, the Pink Perch route on Thor, and the face of Moro Rock in the Sierra (1935-39); first ascents at Tahquitz Rock of the Fingertip Traverse, Piton Pooper, White Maiden, and Triton Horn (1936-38); and the first ascent of Monument Peak near the Colorado River with the Mendenhalls in 1939. In making the second ascent and first descent of the East Buttress of Whitney in 1937, Art and Bill Rice made the round trip of this route from East Face Lake in 6 hours, including a half hour on top!

After the war, Art became Chair of the Long Beach Group. He and his late wife Mary were married in 1945, and their children are Neil (1946) and Priscilla (1948). In 1949-51, Art was in charge of rebuilding Harwood Lodge, where he lost a finger in a power saw. He was Angeles Chapter Chairman in 1951 and was a Director of the Sierra Club 1951-54. Always a strong conservationist, Art served as Executive Director of the Desert Protective Council. He earned the Angeles Chapter's highest service award in 1961, and the American Motors Conservation Award that same year.

Art's interest in climbing continued right up to his death. He joined the American Alpine Club in 1957 and was AAC Southern Calif Section Chairman 1965-67. He built up an outstanding mountaineering library which he willed to the AAC. Art was elected an Honorary Member of the RCS in 1978 in recognition of his pivotal role in starting this Section.

Art is remembered by those who knew him as a very hard working organizer who believed in doing things "by the book". His strong opinions occasionally led to conflict with others, but (on Art's side, at least) no lasting grudges formed. He was quite short and rather stocky, but Ruth Mendenhall recalls that he climbed with the sureness and grace of a cat.

He died of pneumonia, ironically only 2 weeks before the 50th anniversary celebration of the section he started. The RCS salutes his memory and thanks him for the legacy that we all continue to enjoy. (JR)

NEW CATELOG HITS THE SCENE

Your Editor would like to call your attention to a new catalog of outing equipment. Hold on! Before you cry that this is the last thing we need right now, your Editor would point out that the publisher is Yvon Chouinard. The title of his latest endeavor is, "Backcountry Skiing". In this excellent publication he tells it like it is in the area of waterproof breathable fabrics (there ain't no such thing!), and touring bindings (Ramer is still the best, hands down!). Great Pacific Iron Wks, 235 W. Santa Clara, Ventura. (805) 643-6074.

## RCS ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING - HIGHLIGHTS

The RCS Annual Business Meeting was convened as scheduled on Tuesday, October 23, with an unprecedented (at least in this reporter's experience) 27 members present--6 more than required for a quorum. There have been recent occasions where it has been necessary to resort to telephoning and wait for latecomers to field a quorum.

MEMBERSHIP	This Year	Last Year
Regular Members	81	79
Honorary Members	7	7
Total	88	86
Proficiency Ratees	113	133

## FINANCES

The campsite fee, which was added at the beginning of this year, appears to have been sufficient to balance our budget and avoid the financial squeeze of the preceding year. We finished the year with \$1586.11 in the treasury, although an equipment purchase (none has been made yet this year) could reduce that significantly. Last year's ending balance was \$347.55, and there were more expenses to pay after the September 30 closing date.

## MEMBERSHIP PURGE

Thirty-four members had received warning letters; of those, all but eleven met requirements by meeting time. Of those, Bob Sproul, David Busdecker, Jim Friedberg, Paul Morrill, Nathan John, and Jim McPherson were dropped from membership. Traditional pleading letters were received from Pat Wallen, Stan Klein, Kathy Crandall, and one other member; he also met the membership requirements, however, and so had no need for clemency. The sympathetic(?) members present voted to retain John Peters (who appeared on his own behalf), Mike Mulry, Stan Klein, Pat Wallen, and Kathy Crandall.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The nominating committee nominated Bob Somoano for Chair, Ron Mastrianni for Vice-Chair, and Bob Caswell for Secretary-Treasurer. There were no nominations from the floor, and this slate was elected without objection. There was something which could have been interpreted as an objection, but Andy Fried (presiding), did not recognize it, saying instead "No, Bob, you're going to be the next chair".

## AWARDS

Hell On High Mountain Award Winner	Greg Vernon	42 Climbs
Runners Up	Bob Landry	30
	Jim Weger	30
	Kathy Moore	28
	Anna Houpt	25
	Andy Fried	24
	Tony Bird	22
	Don Havens	21
	John Orange	21
	Andre Korbut-Weberg	19
	Phil Thomas	19

(BC)

# RAMER

## ALPINE TOURING EQUIPMENT

*Skíing is the most aesthetic form of winter travel. The word "aesthetic" is defined as "characterized by a love of beauty". Whether it is in the form of gliding silently through a serene meadow or in the form of a savage battle with gravity and difficult snow, skíing is beautiful.*

### WHO IS ALPINE RESEARCH, INC.?

Alpine Research, Inc. (ARI) is the primary manufacturer and distributor of Alpine Touring equipment in North America. Ten years ago we began as a basement "cottage" industry, machining and assembling our new Alpine Touring bindings by hand. As interest in Alpine Touring grew we developed new products and began importing scarce items from Europe. Today we can offer you the best and most complete selection of Alpine Touring equipment in the world.

ARI is a Colorado corporation, privately owned by Paul and Cindy Ramer. Our address is 1930 Central Avenue, Suite F, Boulder, Colorado 80301, located in the Flatiron Industrial Park just east of 55th Street and north of Arapahoe Avenue east of Boulder. Our business hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, and we are sometimes open on weekends during the Fall and Winter. You can reach us by phone at (303)444-0660, or by Telex at 508541 RAMER.

### WHAT IS ALPINE TOURING?

Alpine Touring is one of the five basic styles or disciplines of skiing. These styles can be categorized as Trail Touring, Backcountry Touring, Alpine Touring, Nordic Downhill and Alpine Downhill. Each style is defined more by equipment type than by the attitude and skill of the skier. There are two fundamental sources of power in skiing: gravity and your muscles. The degree to which you can efficiently take advantage of these power sources is controlled by your equipment. For instance, Trail Touring equipment optimizes the efficient use of muscle power, whereas Alpine Downhill equipment takes maximum advantage of gravity.

### IS ALPINE TOURING FOR YOU?

We feel that Alpine Touring is the optimum blend of Touring and Downhill styles. Correctly designed Alpine Touring equipment will allow you to travel efficiently for long distances, climb virtually any snow-covered peak and easily descend any slope that is skiable. There is nothing to prove in Alpine Touring, no one to impress but yourself. Alpine Touring is for skiers who love to ski.

You do not have to be an expert or a professional to enjoy Alpine Touring. You can use your Alpine Touring equipment to learn on, and you need only be an intermediate skier to safely enjoy backcountry skiing. Alpine Touring is not just for the fanatical hard-core mountaineer as the magazines would have you believe. In Europe it is a family sport, equal in popularity to Downhill and Nordic skiing.

The following table provides an equipment weight comparison for the five disciplines of skiing for an average skier weighing 160 lbs with size 9 1/2 foot. The weights selected are for equipment that is currently most popular.

	TRAIL TOURING	BACKCOUNTRY TOURING	ALPINE TOURING	NORDIC DOWNHILL	ALPINE DOWNHILL
Ski Width (Waist)	50mm	55mm	68mm	58mm	68mm
Ski Length	215cm	215cm	195cm	210cm	205cm
Ski Weight (pr)	3.3 lbs	6.0 lbs	6.0 lbs	6.5 lbs	8.0 lbs
Binding Weight (pr)	.5 lbs	1.0 lbs	3.3 lbs	1.7 lbs	5.0 lbs
Boot Weight (pr)	3.0 lbs	5.0 lbs	6.5 lbs	6.5 lbs	8.0 lbs
Total Weight (pr)	6.8 lbs	12.0 lbs	15.8 lbs	14.7 lbs	21.0 lbs

(From ARI Catalog, 1985)

(3L)

(Excerpt from ARI Catalog, Continued)

This table illustrates the relative efficiency of each type of equipment for a particular element of skiing, as would be experienced by a skier reasonably competent in all five disciplines. Although this table is extremely subjective, we feel that it supports our claim that Alpine Touring is the ideal choice for skiers with multiple interests.

	TRAIL TOURING	BACKCOUNTRY TOURING	ALPINE TOURING	NORDIC DOWNHILL	ALPINE DOWNHILL
<b>On Skis</b>					
Level Packed Trails	excellent	excellent	good	good	poor
Unpacked Trails	good	excellent	excellent	excellent	poor
Trailbreaking in Deep Snow	fair	good	excellent	good	poor
Touring with a Heavy Pack	fair	good	excellent	good	poor
Moderate Climbing	excellent	excellent	excellent	excellent	poor
Steep Climbing	fair	good	excellent	good	poor
Downhill, Packed Snow	poor	good	excellent	excellent	excellent
Downhill, Unpacked Snow	fair	good	excellent	good	excellent
Downhill, Difficult Snow	poor	poor	excellent	fair	good
Downhill, Extreme	poor	poor	excellent	fair	excellent
Downhill with Heavy Pack	poor	fair	excellent	good	excellent
<b>On Foot</b>					
Hiking on trails	fair	good	good	excellent	poor
Climbing rough terrain	poor	poor	good	good	poor
Ice Climbing	poor	poor	excellent	fair	fair

## MODERN ALPINE TOURING BINDING COMPARISON TABLES

### RELEASE COMPARISON

NOTE: this is strictly a subjective comparison based on many sources of input and years of experience. It does not claim to be exact, nor does it claim to be totally unbiased. Ratings are based on a comparison with modern alpine downhill bindings.

#### WEIGHT COMPARISON

RAMER UNIVERSAL	1460 g (3 lbs 3 oz)
CAMP-INTERALP	1666 g (3 lbs 10 oz)
PETZEL	1860 g (4 lbs 1 oz)
TYROLIA TRB	1884 g (4 lbs 2 oz)
EMERY ALTITUDE	1980 g (4 lbs 5 oz)
SALEWA	2000 g (4 lbs 6 oz)
ISER	2026 g (4 lbs 7 oz)
SILVRETTA TOUR 400	2218 g (4 lbs 14 oz)
SUMATIC TOUR 2	2252 g (4 lbs 15 oz)
FRITSCHI FT 88	2370 g (5 lbs 3 oz)
ZERMATT C75-FUR	2408 g (5 lbs 4 oz)
MARKER M TOUR	2726 g (5 lbs 15 oz)

	Lateral Release	Vertical Release	Combined Release	Lugsole Release	Touring Release	Independent Adjustment
RAMER UNIVERSAL	excellent	excellent	good	excellent	excellent	yes
SILVRETTA TOUR 400	excellent	excellent	good	good	good	yes
MARKER M TOUR	excellent	excellent	good	fair	good	yes
TYROLIA TRB	good	excellent	good	fair	NONE	yes
Downhill Binding	excellent	excellent	excellent	poor	NONE	yes
PETZEL	excellent	excellent	good	poor	NONE	yes
SUMATIC TOUR TX	good	good	good	excellent	poor	no
FRITSCHI FT 88	good	good	good	excellent	poor	no
SALEWA	good	good	poor	excellent	poor	no
EMERY ALTITUDE	fair	excellent	poor	poor	poor	yes
ZERMATT C75-FUR	excellent	good	poor	poor	poor	yes
CAMP-INTERALP	fair	good	poor	poor	poor	yes
ISER	poor	good	poor	poor	poor	yes

OVE MENKES  
530 COVENTRY CIR  
ULLERTON, CA 92633

