



# THE MUGELNOOS

No. 627 - March 19, 1985. a 4 page issue.

A newsheet published by and for the Ski Mountaineers and Rock Climbing Sections of the Seirra Club's Angeles Chapter since 1938. Send subscriptions & address changes to Dove Menkes, 2530 Coventry Circle, Fullerton 92633. \$7 per year due in October.

## LOCAL INTRO TOUR - BLUE RIDGE FIRE ROAD TO WRIGHT MT.-Jan 19

The leaders, two other members and three newcomers, arrived at the Big Pines Ranger Station in Wrightwood 7:30 Saturday. We scouted Vincent Gulch as a return route and found insufficient snow, so we left one car on the road below Mtn. High West and started from Angeles Crest Highway up the fire road. Less than 100 yards of walking was required as the road was mostly well covered with snow. An icy crust made 5 of 6 Nordic skiers use klister; while Tom Jenkins went all day on waxless Randonee ARs and Jim Zumberge used skins on his Fischer alpine touring skis with Ramer bindings. The hard snow downhill checkout was done where the fire road coincides with the groomed slopes of Mtn High West (Upper Chisom and Six Gun with moving turns on the first and survival skiing on the second without a tiring number of falls required.) We had a friendly discussion with a ski patrolman and a less friendly one with a lift operator regarding our use of the closed ski run. It appears to be legal to ski those portions coinciding with the fire road. (All skiers were provided with improvised runaway straps before going on the ski runs.) A strong party with an early start could climb Wright and Pine Mts.; and a "hardcore" party with advanced downhill skills might be able to go on to Baldy and down the other side when there is enough stable snow on the south slopes. TJ

### SKI GEAR-WEIGHTS & COST

I also found some of the data presented by the ARI Catalog, reprinted in Dec. Mugelnoos, to be very questionable and slanted. Particularly the table which compared ski, boot and binding weights. The table on equipment efficiency speaks for itself - extremely subjective. In the interest of providing Mugelnoos readers with accurate information to assist in the often difficult decision of what to buy, I gathered almost all the data listed below from Chouinard's "Backcountry Skiing" catalog. This should not be construed as a promotion of one product type or skiing style over another, just a weight and cost comparison of popular high-tech nordic mountain and alpine touring gear. All suitable for skiing up-down-across-your favorite mountain range or ski resort. There are many other brands of both styles which are similar but vary slightly in weight, cost and performance. The best recommendation is try before you buy. MG

	Nordic		Alpine	
	<u>Downhill</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Touring</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Skis	2700 g	\$189.	2985 g	\$265.
Bindings	305	32.	1537	130.
Boots	1814	160.	2800	255.
Skins	400	50.	470	60.
	<u>5219g</u>	<u>\$431.</u>	<u>7792 g</u>	<u>\$710.</u>
	11.51 lbs		17.18 lbs	
Karhu XCD Comp 210 cm			Fisher Tour Extreme Skis 190cm	
Chouinard 3-pin binding			Ramer binding	
Merrell XCD size 8			Dynafit tour Lite	Size 8
Ramer Goat Claw Skins- nylon 50mm			Same 62 mm	MG

MUGELNOOS STAFF

Editor for March ..... Tom Jeter  
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\$7 per year, checks to Mugelnoos

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NEXT ISSUE: April 16, 1985  
 Deadline: Tuesday, April 9

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS: Third Tuesday  
 of each month, 7:30 p.m., Dept.  
 of Water and Power Cafeteria  
 (Orange Rm), 111 N. Hope, downtown  
 L.A. Parking free. Program, con-  
 versation -- skiers, climbers,  
 guests welcome.

CALENDAR

Ski Mountaineers Section:

Mar 23-24-Mammoth Condo:Maloy/Goeb.  
 Mar 23-25-Tahoe Pks:Lane/Crandall  
 Mar 30-31-San Gorgonio:Pies/Goebel  
 Apr 13-14-Mineral King:Jenkins/  
 Holliman  
 Apr 19-21-Pear Lake:Crandall/Goeb.

Rock Climbing Section: \*\*

Mar 23-24-Kern Valley:Vernon/Jenk.  
 Mar 30-31-Suicide:Koss/Korbut-Web.  
 Apr 6-7-Tahquitz:Russ/Jeter  
 Apr 13-14-J-Tree\*:Koss/Crandall

NOMINATIONS FOR SMS CENT.COMM.DUE

As this issue of the Mugelnoos goes  
 into the mail, nominations for the  
 Ski Mountaineers Section 1985-86  
 Central Committee will have taken  
 place at the March 19 Mugelnoos  
 meeting. The election committee  
 encourages members who did not  
 attend the meeting or who have had  
 great ideas since the meeting to  
 mail additional nominations to the  
 committee c/o John Blumthal at  
 2444-D Oak Street, Santa Monica,  
 Ca 90405. Nominations should be  
 mailed by April 1 to allow time  
 for the preparation of ballots  
 which will be distributed to all  
 active SMS members with the April  
 16 Mugelnoos. This year's elec-  
 tion committee consists of R.J.  
 Secor and John Blumthal. JB

FOR SALE: KARHU GT 210, brand new  
 1985 model, never mounted. The  
 industry standard ski for combin-  
 ation x country touring & tele-  
 marking. \$145 (\$169 + \$11 tax  
 throughout LA). Don Pies,  
 H (213)318-6251, W(213)616-9692

RCS ICO CLIMB

The RCS and the Inner City Outings  
 Committee (ICO) will be cohosting,  
 for the first time, a climb for  
 approximately half a dozen teenag-  
 ers from the inner city during the  
 April 13-14 Joshua Tree climb.  
 This represents a unique opportu-  
 nity for us to share our knowledge  
 and enthusiasm for climbing with  
 kids who rarely get the chance to  
 experience climbing. We need 4-5  
 RCS'ers to help with instruction  
 and climbing. Interested volun-  
 teers contact Robert Somoano or  
 Virgil Shields. RS

LTC TRAINING SEMINAR

The RCS needs more qualified lead-  
 ers !!! The LTC will be holding  
 their Leadership Training Seminar  
 on April 13-14 at the Griffith  
 Park Ranger Station. One need  
 attend Saturday, April 13 only  
 for an "O" rating. Applications  
 must be requested from, and retur-  
 ned to, Nancy Gordon by April 1.  
 See the Sierra Club Schedule for  
 more details. Take advantage of  
 this opportunity! RS

RED ROCK, LAS VEGAS CLIMB

Greg Vernon will be leading an RCS  
 climb to the Red Rock area near  
 Las Vegas during the Memorial Day  
 weekend, May 25-27. This area has  
 outstanding rock and a large number  
 of climbs of all levels of diffic-  
 ulty. This climb will be in par-  
 allel with the Yosemite climb.  
 Interested climbers should contact  
 the leader for more information  
 and reservations. RS.

NICK CONTRIBUTES

To: Bob Caswell, RCS Treas.

Dear Bob, Enclosed is a contribu-  
 tion to the RCS and the rope fund.  
 You now know why most organizations  
 require an unanimous vote by the  
 board before electing honary mem-  
 bers. The treasurer always votes  
 against it unless the person is a  
 life member. Thus the finances  
 are always protected and the treas-  
 urer is always unpopular. Presid-  
 ents are always nice guys and treas-  
 urers always say "woe is us".  
 All good wishes, Nick

Editors note: personal correspon-  
 dence reveals Nick Clinch has been  
 busily negotiating with the Chin-  
 ese and has gotten permission to  
 climb the mountain he has coveted  
 for 8 years. He left for China on  
 March 17 to plan details.

MOUNTAIN MYSTERY

Since trip reports ran short, we've made special arrangement with a mystery writer to adapt one of his stories as a Mugelnoos Mini-Mystery. As the nuts and bolts of this piece involve ski touring, its solution should pose no difficulty to our readers.

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It was nearing sunset on a February's Sunday when skier Danielle Eshelmann came across the sheriff's deputy outside Mammoth. He looked as forlorn as a cat in a body cast at a bird show. His four-wheel-drive truck was stuck in snow a few yards beyond the end of the road, and a pair of ski tracks led past it to the slope to the west. He told her the bank had been burgled of all its currency. A recent snowfall had made it easy to track the culprit this far, but now he seemed to be escaping. The deputy couldn't follow, and the helicopter wouldn't arrive for half an hour.

A thousand feet above, a lone figure was skiing to the ridgetop and county line. Danielle borrowed the deputy's binoculars. She saw the suspect wore dark trousers and yellow shirt, and had a bright red pack with sleeping bag and pad. A gold-colored cup glinted from the waist band of his pack.

Since she needed to cash a check to get home, Danielle resolved to help the lawmen rescue the bank's funds. Off she strode into the culprit's tracks, and topped the ridge in twenty minutes. Dropping into a bowl, she saw the tracks led down to a westbound creek. Danielle was racing past a ponderosa grove when she noticed something glaring near a rib of rock ahead. She stopped in her quarry's tracks. These tracks passed next to the flat end of the rock, a rib which stood about four feet above the snowpack and curved up to the ridge she'd just crossed.

She realized that now the criminal could be stalking her. He could have doubled back to lie in wait behind the rock. That glare could be from sunglasses, or a knife, or gun. She left the burglar's tracks and circled wide to the left to check the far side of the rock from a safe distance. No tracks doubled back to the rock. There was no culprit to be seen. Moving up to inspect more closely, she saw the glare came from a miniscule puddle of water on the flat, bare top of the end of the rock rib.

Cursing her caution, Danielle sprinted on into the burglar's tracks, faster than ever. She sped downhill so furiously she barely escaped falling down a defile when the tracks swooped past a snowclad brush thicket and dropped precipitously into a creek fifty feet below.

After a couple of minutes to recover her breath and her heart, Danielle surveyed the surrounding scene. The creekbed was filled with jagged rocks. A few yards downstream from the fall line of the ski tracks, a fallen snag log dammed the streamtop. Floating against the upstream side were two skis and two poles. The burglar and his pack were gone.

Now put yourself in Danielle's bindings. What happened to the burglar and Danielle's gasoline money?

Solution on page 4 .

## CHAPTER COUNCIL REPORT - FEBRUARY 25, 1985

Leaders of RCS scheduled trips in Inyo National Forest this summer can avoid the paperwork associated with U.S.F.S.'s new "Outfitter/Guide Permit" regulations by submitting their wilderness permit applications under the group name of "Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club." The Chapter has arranged for one blanket outfitter/Guide permit to cover all "official" Angeles Chapter trips this year. Wilderness Permit reservations started March 1, 1985. Only 50% of the openings are subject to advance reservation, so if you don't get the permit reservation you want, try camping out on the Ranger Station doorstep to get one of the unreserved permits on a first come - first served basis.

SAN JACINTO VIA TRAM

FEB 9-10, 1985

Three SMS members and one guest caught the 8:15 tram from Palm Springs to Long Valley, obtained a permit from the rangers and skied through a cold wet snowfall to Tamarack Valley by the direct gully route. The weather reduced everyone's desire to peakbag, so lunch and a long siesta in tents was substituted. About 2:30, Tom Jenkins and Greg Jordan decided the weather was good enough for a short tour, and went most of the way to the saddle between San Jac and Jean Peak. Andy Fried and Steve Dawson literally "held down the fort" by remaining in the tents and preventing them from being blown away. The evening, night and next day were clear, and all hands reached the summit of San Jac Sunday morning. There we encountered another SMS party (Goebel and Pies plus 2) and at least two other parties. The area was especially heavily populated that weekend due to a Mountain Rescue exercise. The descent was marred by breakable crust and problems with Steve Dawson's new bindings. After hiking half way back up to ski down again and retrieving the camping gear, the party returned to the tram station. There is no reservation system any more, so we took turns standing in line for an hour and a half before getting down. Andy said Tom passed his second check lead & snow camp, so Tom is now an official SMS T leader. THJ

MOUNTAIN MYSTERY SOLUTION

(From page ). DON'T READ THIS YET if you wish to solve the mini-mystery. Otherwise, stand on your head and read on:

the case. a yellow shirt, black trousers and a red pack and, aided by his clue, solved "on the rocks." Danielle noticed he was drinking from a gold-colored cup, wore In a local bar, he toasted the burglar's caper, which, like their gin, was That evening after Danielle described her exploits to a climbing instructor creek. Levity, however, led to his downfall. to the ridge, gravity took him back down to Mammoth and his skis down into the onto the rock, rib quickly melted into a miniscule puddle. The rib took him up feet and swam up onto the rib. The small amount of snow his boots tracked together. He then clung to the rock rib, pushed the sled on its way with his sled, and lashed the lake to keep the rectangular sled from parallellogramming and placed the lake on them. He tied the pole crossbar to the skis to form a rock lake off the top. He then released his bindings, stepped back on the skis, before he crossed the ridge, stopped alongside the end of the rib and pulled a covered it. This occurred when the burglar, who had spotted Danielle following end was bare of all but a miniscule puddle, the rib must have lost the snow which Since there had been a recent snowfall and the flat top of the rock rib's nesting Mammoth. man crawled into it well enough to hide. No, the burglar and the loot were the brush. 2. The brush was snowed, which it wouldn't have remained had a Danielle "surveyed the surrounding scene," and didn't see his footprints around He might have been hiding in the brush thicker, except for two facts: 1. an escape from the water. He didn't fall into the creek. he wouldn't likely have floated west, forsaking his skis, when the snag offered pack would float, and be snagged along with his skis. Had he survived the fall, The burglar couldn't have died falling into the creek. His body and belted

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