

No. 623 - April 16, 1985. a 8 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.

STRAWBERRY PEAK - REVISITED

Few are those who venture into the heart of the San Gabriel Mountains with expectations of finding cliffs worthy of scaling. Even fewer are those who when finding climbing of such imaginary quality as on the North Face of Strawberry Peak are apt to return again with even greater expectations in mind. So it was that after a passage of two years, with dimmed memories, that Ben Chapman and myself were headed towards Strawberry Peak with visions of an enjoyable day of climbing.

Not willing to make the mistake of my last trip with Robert Somoano of approaching crosscountry from Colby Methodist Camp to the north, we hiked in via the easy trail from Angeles Crest Highway to the south just past Switzer's Camp. A "slight" delay was encountered on the approach when we tried to outthink the trail designers and avoid a long switchback by cutting crosscountry through the chapparel. Our objective was to start on Mendenhall's Tiptoe Traverse Route and then climb up and right on a new route toward the highest point on the face.

As we roped up for our climb another climbing party of two approached from below. Since they were unfamiliar with the area I gave them a quick synopsis of the established climbs, and also an account of the amount of rock which was dislodged during my last encounter with the face. I think they thought we were klutzes as a result of my comments regarding rockfall since they moved off a ways to the left to attempt an ascent. In contrast with my last visit to this formation no rocks of any significant size were dislodged by our party due to our awareness of the conditions existing on the face. The sounds we heard from the other party though made one feel that they were engrossed in a valiant effort to double the existing talus at the base of the rock.

After several attempts to lead off to the right on imaginary rock I was forced to continue on the Tiptoe Traverse route. Well, I thought, Ben would have some fun anyway leading the virtually unprotected, and extremely loose third pitch of the climb which I had had the honor of leading the last time. Since Ben was a much better climber than I, you can imagine my shock when he yelled back that he didn't feel he was up to it. After exhausting all my reasons why he had to lead the pitch I resigned myself to it. Only my ego kept me from rapping as I found myself "leading" up that same rotten slot, asking how could this have happened again. Well at least one of my fixed rurps was still there since I couldn't get anything else to go in.

After traversing off a tied off bugaboo and a tied off knifeblade I finally reached a ledge and a seam which rejected even a rurp. Before I could gather the courage to finish the lead unprotected Ben yelled up that he wished we had brought a bolt kit. With my memory thus jogged I quickly retrieved my forgotten bolt kit from my pack and gleefully pounded in a bolt. Its sad to think that no one will have my experience again (as long as they reach the bolt). By the way, the 15 by 5 foot block upon which I belayed two years before was no longer there!

Not long thereafter we reached the top. My intent was to continue up the "easy" scramble to the summit so as to have the novelty of signing in for a technical climb in the register of a peak in the San Gabriel Mountains. The result of that desire is that I now know how extensive Strawberry Peak is. Our allotted water had been exhausted on the climb and we still had several miles of second and third class ridge to descend (after reaching the summit) to get back to the trail.

Upon finally reaching the trail we lamented first that we hadn't cached any water next to the cistern located there and second that we hadn't a crowbar to break the cistern's lock. So by the time we were within a half mile of the car I could no longer talk due to dehydration, while Ben was suffering from the effects of a bad can of tuna along with dehydration.

I reached the car shortly before Ben and quickly rehydrated from a container of 90 degree (F) plus water. Ben's rehydration took somewhat longer as the water he consumed didn't stay down long enough to have any effect. So much for the enthusiasm of the morning.

So with another two years to go before fading memories created renewed excitement about areas such as Strawberry Peak, we loaded up the car and headed home; myself, relieved that the climb was over with, and Ben, hanging out the window.

MUGELNOOS STAFF

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\$7 per year; send checks to "Mugelnoos"
Subscriptions due in October.

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NEXT ISSUE: May 21, 1985
DEADLINE: Tuesday, May 14

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS: Third Tuesday of
each month, 7:30 pm, Dept. of Water and
Power Cafeteria (Orange Rm), 111 N. Hope
St., downtown L.A.; parking free, pro-
gram, conversation -- Skiers, climbers,
guests welcome.

CALENDAR

Rock Climbing Section:
Apr 20-21; Suicide-- DeRusha/Tidball
May 4-5; Needles(Lower)-- Vernon/Jenkins
May 11; Safety Test-- Koss/Safety Comm.
May 18-19; Tahquitz-- Ripley/Shields
May 25-27; ~~RED ROCK~~ -- Vernon/Fowler
May 25-27; Yose. Valley-- Bagdon/Rabichow

Ski Mountaineers Section:
Apr 19-21; Pear Lk Hut-- Crandall/Goebel
May 3-5; Mt Gardiner-- Danta/Mantle
May 11-12; Basin-- Maloy/Ossofsky
May 18-19; Lamarck Col/Onion Valley--
Goebel/Lane
May 25-27; Tioga Pass/Mt Hoffman--
Jenkins/ Crandall

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Mugelnoos preparation
is at present a "cut and paste" opera-
tion which reduces the amount of time
expended by the editor. Please prepare
your general articles typed, single
spaced on white paper with margins 7"
apart. Articles for page 2 should have
margins 3 1/2" apart. Handwritten articles
may be delayed several months. Remember,
the editor is a skier/climber too!

MISC. RCS NOTES

LOWER NEEDLES(May 4-5): Meet Sat. Morn.
at Needlerock Creek, 45 mi north of
Kernville. Camp at Lower Peppermint Fri
& Sat nites (or across road from camp-
ground if it's closed). To get to camp,
keep right at Johnsondale, go past Camp
Whitsett(B.S.A.), continue several miles
to camp. Climbing will be on the lower
slabs and Voodoo Dome.

STUDENTS: Proficiency cards (completed)
must be returned to LeRoy Russ by 4/30.

MULTIPITCH CARDS: Students, if you do
not have one, send SASE to LeRoy. Make
Bring your card on each climb and have
your rope leader sign it.

RCS CLIMBING SCHEDULE: If you did not re-
ceive a new climbing schedule(11/84-10/85),
send SASE to Bob Caswell.

CARPOOLING: Leaders, try to encourage trip
participants to carpool, as too many cars
at the campsites are a problem.

SAFETY TEST: The Safety Test was mistakenly
scheduled on Mother's Day (again!). It has
been rescheduled for the day before, May 11,
at Rubidoux. Safety Comm and any other mem-
bers who are willing to help are encouraged
to come. There should be time for boulder-
ing after the test. Those who would like
to take the test for membership or profi-
ciency rating, call or send a SASE to Margo
Koss, in order to reserve a place.

OWENS RIDGE: Unofficial trip to the Easter
Wall on April 27-28. Contact Virgil Shields
for info.

TRIP TO WILLIAMSON/TYNDALL: I have a Mem-
orial Day permit for six people for the
Symmes Creek trailhead which provides ac-
cess to tech. climbs on the north face of
Mt Williamson and the east face of Mt Tyn-
dall(May 24-27). Contact Tim Ryan, (818)
715-4866(w), (805) 526-4430(h).

JENKINS STAYS: Tom Jenkins' request for an
extension has been approved. He will be
staying in the Long Beach area till summer
86. Everybody who asked him to lead/teach/
help with something please contact him
again. (213) 439-3780 (h/tape); (213) 590-
2376 (w), 8-8:30 AM is best change to
catch him in the office. TJ

NEW RCS PROFICIENCY RATEE

Dione Didler
356 S. Prospectors Rd. (79)
Diamond Bar, CA 91765
(714) 861-1333 (h), (714) 520-1400 (w)

CORRECTION

Virgil Shields' phone numbers in the Ange-
les Chap. Schedule are incorrect. The
correct numbers are (818) 798-9621 (h),
(818) 354-0989 (w).

AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB PROGRAM: Sylvain
Saudan will present his one hour film on
the ski descent of Hidden Peak in the
Karakoram (longest ski descent ever) on
April 23 at 7:30pm at the Los Angeles
Department of Water and Power auditorium
in downtown LA located at 111 N. Hope St.
Free parking is available by telling the
guard that you will be attending the Ame-
rican Alpine Club meeting. A \$5.00 donation
is requested. RJS

Suicide 30-31 March

It was cold. Even with my fingers wrapped around a mug of coffee it was cold in the cab. I peered down the road looking for a familiar face, a familiar car.... nothing. An ancient red Bug approached, but left. The deadline was only moments away when a tired Cherokee in maroon and white warpaint ascended the hill. The deadline passed. Still I waited. Well after the deadline, a smoking Scout arrived and the Bug returned. Sadly the assembled group, comprised of one RCS member, two proficiency card holders, and one student were told the bad news: there would be no climbing at Suicide - inviting that it was in the morning sun with clear walls and lightly dusted trees.

A salvage operation was started - we retreated to Joshua Tree and assaulted practice wall on an front extending from Tight Shoes to Gotcha Bush. Our feeble forces were joined by a few more members and proficiency card holders - barely enough to qualify as a dirty dozen. Late in the afternoon, acting on a tip from a friendly ranger, we raced to claim the last available camp sites at Black Rock - all three of them. The Monument was completely full. Elated by our good fortune, we charged off to Yucca Valley for a repast of Margaritas and Chinese food - both at the same establishment.

Sunday morning found us with reduced ranks. We coalesced into one long daisy chain and rappel on Intersection Rock save for two more ambitious climbers. At noon, two more RCS members arrived but graciously did not sign out for a distant climb they aspired to do - leaders do not appreciate late returns. Another of our little band faded away. Resolute, the remained tackled Cyclops except for one spectator of the Ranger's rescue demonstration.

Ron Hudson was at Joshua Tree! Unfortunately he was unable to climb because of relapses - good luck Ron. Another RCS member was caught recovering from the ordeal of ascending Queen Mountain. John Bachar was observed climbing in the area - almost right through our little group at one point. Thanks to Don Keeler and John Orange for assisting in making the climbing possible and to Ron Mastrianni for driving out to Idyllwild to reserve camp sites.

AK-W

FOSSIL FALLS, MARCH 16-17

This year's class is remarkable. This first became obvious on the bus ride up to Fossil Falls, when the wine and cheese, but especially the wine, disappeared in record time. Thus fueled, they climbed like crazy on Saturday, almost everyone undertaking almost everything, and a surprising number making hard climbs. Here are both talent and determination. Some determination was also demonstrated by Sheila Szymanski, who had to "clean" one pitch (Pinwheel) of a dead rat before proceeding. Some poor owl is probably still looking for the dinner that he stashed in that hole. The students continued to live up to Virgil's Standards for Climbers by converting a large amount of wine brew into bad jokes on Saturday night. John Orange presided over the wine brew. Other conversion byproducts of the brew were disposed of in the portapotties hauled from Ridgecrest by Al Carlson, with Kathy Moore's help. The traditional Tyrolean traverse was rigged by Kathy and company on Sunday, which saw still more aggressive climbing by everyone, punctuated by the screams of traversees. Tired but apparently not sated, the students polished off all the wine left from Saturday during the first few miles of the bus trip home. We can expect great things from this year's students, including climbing.

MK

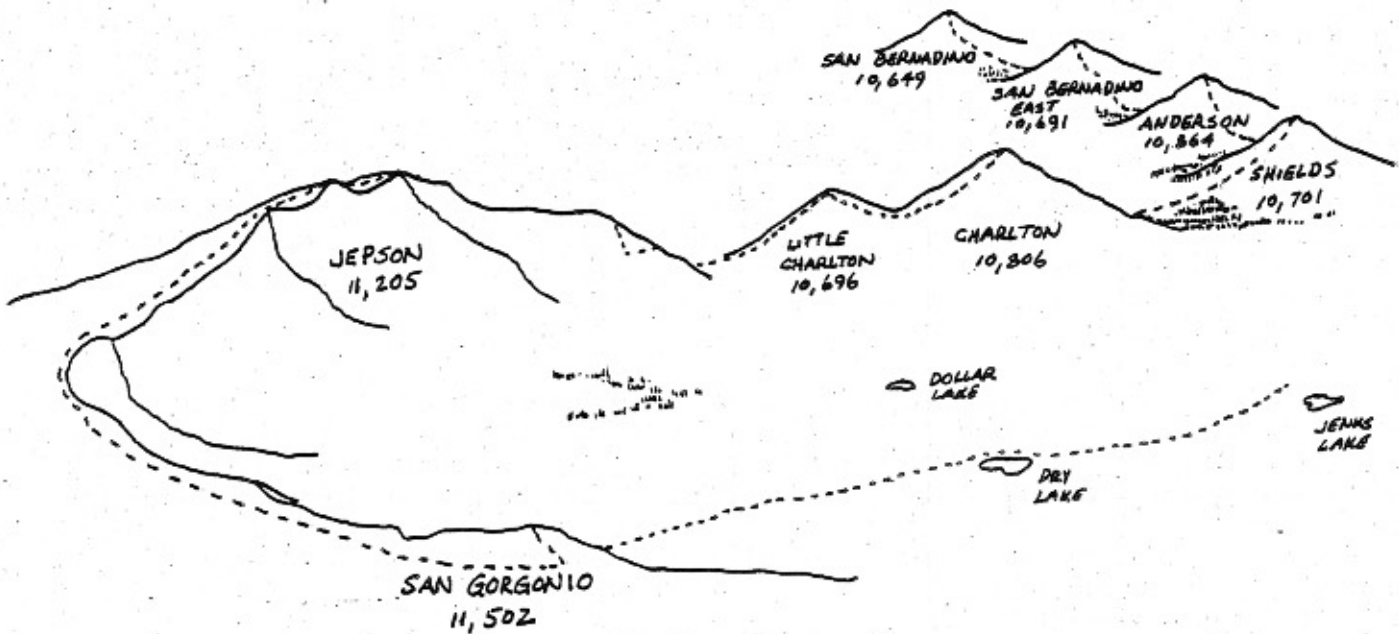
JOSHUA TREE, MARCH 9-10

Approximately 31 students, members, and proficiency ratees enjoyed two sunny days at Indian Cove and Hidden Valley. The Feudal Wall was besieged by various combinations of students and rope leaders. Moosedog Tower took its usual toll of futile attempts and bashed fingers. On Sunday, the group moved to Hidden Valley's cracks and faces. Students getting an early start with the RCS were Pritchett, Cox, Wasserman, Stephenson, and Lyon. Mary Gyax led Water Moccasin behind Feudal Wall in good form but with her usual noises (I was watching from behind the bushes, Mary). Rumor is that Mary plans on burying Jane this year.

Observations for students:

1. Bring your prusiks.
2. Practice your climbs learned in the class; it's multipitch from now on.
3. Take your time and give it a try.

LR



SAN GORGONIO THE LONG WAY

There are certainly more direct ways of reaching San Gorgonio Mountain, but none perhaps is quite as breath-taking (figuratively and literally) as the two-day ski tour we took March 30-31, across the San Bernadino Peak Divide. When it was over, we had traveled 28 miles through the heart of the San Gorgonio Wilderness, gained 7,300 vertical feet, bagged all eight named peaks along the divide, as well as several others, and thanks in part to a recent storm, been treated to some of the most dramatic alpine scenery southern California has to offer.

We departed Angelus Oaks trailhead at 6:15 Saturday morning under clear skies and climbed steadily the entire morning -- nearly 5,000 feet in eight miles. Along the way, we encountered crystal forests, stark and silent, frozen in white rime.

We reached San Bernadino Peak at mid-day and had a brief lunch. Santa Ana's were blowing hard along the divide, and would continue to do so the entire weekend, requiring us to alter our route somewhat, in favor of the steeper but protected lee side of the divide.

The 10-mile long divide consists of southern California's highest alpine peaks, windswept and barren, separated by broad and densely forested benches or flats, as beautiful as you will find anywhere. Struggling against strong winds, we would bag one peak, retreat into the next forested glen, re-emerge on the other side to take on the next peak, and so on. We completed four named peaks by the end of the first day, none of them difficult, but Shields was especially icy and did require ice axes.

We made camp 14 miles into the tour at Red Rock Flat, which provided an exceptional view of city light tapestries nearly two vertical miles beneath us.

We broke camp the next morning at 6:30 and headed for Charlton, switchbacking up the west side. From its summit, we were first able to obtain a complete view of the inspiring San Gorgonio-Jepson massif, a dramatic, glaciated escarpment, two miles wide and a half-mile high, resplendent in its blanket of snow and ice.

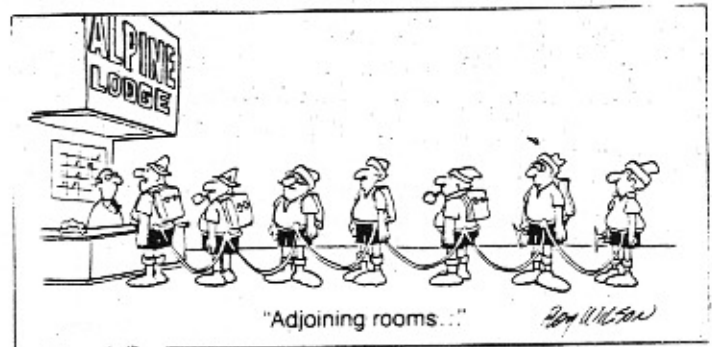
We dropped down to Little Charlton, another drop to a saddle, and then ascended steep, icy slopes to Jepson's summit. From here, it was an easy walk across the boulder-strewn ridge to San Gorgonio. We had lunch and then descended the Big Cirque, plunge-stepping most of the way, but occasionally turning to kick steps. We telemarked the lower section, encountering better and better snow on the way to Dry Lake. We reached Jenks Loop Road a little after 4 p.m.

No other tour in southern California remains this high for so long, nor provides such striking scenery. Since ice is a frequent problem along the divide, this tour should be taken following a fresh storm of moderate proportion.

Rich Henke, Greg Jordan and Pete Matulavich

(JUNE 1-2, Cont.)

HARD MAN COMICS



RVA



| AREA | ELEVATION | CLIMBING SEASON |
|------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 Sugarloaf | 4900' | all year |
| 2 Phantom Spire | 5200'-5800' | all year |
| 3 Lover's Leap | 5944' | April-December |
| 4 Lower Buttress | approx. 6300' | April-December |
| 5 Hogback | approx. 6200' | April-December |
| 6 Echo Lakes | 7700'-8363' | May-November |
| 7 Luther Rock | approx. 6400' | March-December |
| 8 Pishop | approx. 6700' | all year |
| 9 Indian Rock | 5540' | May-November |
| 10 Smoke Rock | approx. 6600' | April-December |
| 11 Navy Foot Wall | approx. 6700' | April-December |
| 12 Emerald Point | 9155' | May-November |
| 13 Eagle Lake Cliff | 7200' | May-December |
| 14 Eagle Lake Buttress | 6640' | May-November |
| 15 D.L. Blinn | approx. 6400' | April-December |
| 16 Criss Peak | | June-November |
| 17 Speedboat | 6320' | March-December |
| 18 Crystal Bay Boulder | 6400' | March-December |
| 19 Tripp's Rock | approx. 7100' | April-December |
| 20a. Vann Harbor | 5250' | all year |
| 21 Sailbuster | approx. 7000' | March-December |
| 22 Shakespeare Rock | approx. 6900' | April-December |
| 23 Glenbrook-Cave Rock | 6250' | all year |
| 24 Kingsbury | 6600'-7200' | April-December |

BIG ROCK

After a two week respite, the RCS returned to Big Rock in unchanged conditions: sun, cold mornings, tolerable afternoons and congenial (i.e. hassle free) rangers. For the ambitious early morning climbers, we should consider commissioning Jelf Innovative Products and Services (JIPS) to devise a rock warmer — perhaps something along the line of a helmet mounted flame thrower. Such a device would 1) encourage leaders to always look up where they are going, 2) hasten development of asbestos climbing ropes, 3) facilitate removal of lichen and other organic impediments, and 4) invalidate rain as an excuse to abort a climb.

In order to provide an objective measure of an RCS climb, both quantity and quality, a new unit, the TJ (named in honour of an RCS member), has been devised. It was a 128.721+ TJ weekend. TJs are computed from the simple formula

$$TJ = \ln(X) \cdot D(p) \cdot L / 165$$

where X is the difficulty of a pitch in the new British rating system and D(p) has the following value for a pitch

- 1 for leading the pitch
- 1/2 for following a normal lead
- 3/4 for following a normal lead with an extended traverse
- 1 for following a pitch in which the leader has attempted to place fixed nuts and friends
- 1 1/2 for following a pitch with near irremovable protection while on an extended traverse

and L is the length of the pitch in feet, summed over all pitches and all climbers. TJs can also be used to measure the performance of a single climber. Anna Houpt had the most with 15.658252 as she led the Bugaloo variation, Mad Dog, African Flake Direct, Puppy Dog,

**THE LATEST ITEM FROM
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Comes with helium flask good for up to half a dozen fills to average rack-lifting capacity, or one average body weight lift (for places where aid is needed but can't be placed). Yellow, weight 17 oz. to minus 200 lbs.

CAUTION: (1) Overinflation may result in rupture after elevation gain. (2) Overinflation may result in involuntary ascent before rupture. (3) Never raise arm opposite rack overhead (except in case 2).



BALDY SKI HUT REPORT: THE 1985 SEASON

The ski season started on Mt San Antonio with the first snow, Dec 15th. 6-8" of heavy powder was enough to cover everything, but it was the following weekend, Dec 22 that really got things going. Almost 3' of snow at the Hut and about 2' at the roadhead meant the most delightful of sports: skiing down to the car. The temperature stayed cold so that skiing to the car was possible on continuous snow through the first week in Feb., eight weekends in all. Two skiers on Dec 29 and four on Jan 5 sampled the mountain.

Jan 12 six skiers braved incredible winds (50-60 MPH, felling many trees) for only one short run above the Hut; temperature 13° -- you figure the wind-chill. Only a week later, Jan 19 it was 50° and sunny. Three skiers took runs dressed in shorts & T-shirts. Jan 26 it was snowing lightly, temperature in the twenties and 2" of new powder. It snowed all week, and on Feb 1 there was a foot of light powder. A photo now graces the south wall of the Hut showing a skier almost enveloped in a cloud of powder experienced in the West Bowl on Feb 1 this year. Feb 7 three skiers went up, two of them taking runs at night under the full moon Friday. Feb 8 there was 10" of new snow, but Baldy's wind crusted it over, making skiing difficult.

Fri Feb 15 the early gang went up and installed the Hut's brand new coffee pot (the first in 32 years). Feb 16 a couple old-timers, Chuck Wilts and Dick Hawthorne joined four other skiers going to the summit and taking runs in the West Bowl. Feb 23 three skiers took runs in the West Bowl. March 1 the thermometer in the Hut recorded a daytime temperature of 8° fahrenheit. Winds of 30 MPH drove the wind chill down below zero, as six skiers tried two runs between warming in the Hut. A pair of skiers showed up March 9, and six on March 15 (together with 57 BMTS ice ax students & instructors). Six more came up on March 22 and skied in shorts & T-shirts. March 29 there were strong winds

(Continued on page 8)

(BALDY SKI HUT; cont'd)

which crusted over the 3-4" of new snow, making skiing treacherous, but six more skiers gave it a try anyway. April 5 two went to the summit and carried skis between great bare patches, and April 6 a single skier kept to the trees near the West Bowl on 3-pins, finishing off Baldy's 1985 ski season.

Craig Dostie skied "Troy's Chute", the prominent coulior between the rock pinnacles at the east end of the Bowl, on Jan 5. At the extreme west end of these pinnacles is another, steeper, narrower chute, dubbed "Dostie's Dare". Craig skied that one three times in '83 and nine times this year (the final run down the Dare on ice March 29 was renamed the Scare). The next chute to the east is steeper yet (about 55°) and measures exactly 230 centimeters in width at its midpoint. Dostie skied this one on March 15, calling it The Funnel with The Hourglass. The BMTC was startled to see this lone skier S-turning down the bowl from out of the rocks. His equipment: Kastle Slalom 195's, Ramer bindings, Raichle ski mountaineering boots, Ramer self-arrest grips, Ramer Goat-claw climbing skins. (J.J)

B4

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