



THE MUGELNOOS

No. 631 - July 16, 1985. A 4 page issue.

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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 & address changes to Dove Menkes, 2530 Coventry Circle, Fullerton, CA 92633. \$7 per year due in October.

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SUICIDE, JUNE 8-9, 1985

I am pleased that climbing standards on RCS trips still appear to be rising. On this trip, the ratings of the 32 climbs logged on two days of "Climbing Route Sheets" were: 5.10c (1 climb), 5.10b (1), 5.10a (2), 5.9 (6), 5.8 (10), 5.7 (6), 5.6 (4), 5.3 (1), and 5.1 (1). Four parties climbed Serpentine (5.9); not many years ago people gathered to watch an ascent. On Saturday, at least two students did their first multi-pitch climb on Surprise (5.8).

C. Byington and Rutherford did Mushy Peaches (5.10c); Chapman and Mellinger did Sun Dance (5.10b); Rutherford, Erb, and Nolte did Skigliack (5.10a); Vernon and Rutherford "worked on" Ten Karat Gold (5.10a). Beside the four ascents of Serpentine (Byington/Patterson, Vernon/Powers, Fried/Adams, and Erb/Rutherford), Thomas and Nolte did Clam Chowder (5.9), and Vernon led an unsuspecting Erb on the Crysanthemum variation of Flower of High Rank (5.9).

I wish I had the data to study the trend toward harder climbing on RCS trips. I suspect we would see a real jump around 1983 when Fires were widely introduced. Just for fun I read the Suicide trip writeups in the last 12 years of Mugelnoos. (Suicide's total climbing history goes back only 19 years.) The earliest writeup I found was for April 30, 1977, which mentions only that someone climbed Graham Crackers. In October of that year, someone did the first pitch of Serpentine; another climbed Captain Hook. In March 1978 six climbers ascended David; others did Captain Hook, Buttress Gully, and Mickey Mantle. In August 1981 Little Murders, Breakout, and Graham Crackers were climbed.

The September 1982 trip seems to have been a bellwether. Bob Lindgren reported that Koss/Russ and Harvey/Baca did Revelation (5.10a); Koss and Harvey swung leads on Ten Karat Gold (5.10a); Bryla and Mastriani climbed Guillotine (5.8), Thin Man (5.9), and Serpentine. Agutch and Lindgren climbed Flower of High Rank. Later, in 1983 and 1984, the Jackal, Shadow, Valhalla, and "Duck Chowder" show up.

Most (but clearly not all) of the 5.9 and 5.10 material being climbed by RCS'ers is face climbing on bolted routes, which in some ways is less physically demanding than cracks. But more members are working out in gyms or bouldering at Stoney Point and Corona del Mar. I look forward to the day when more of us (myself included) can begin to enjoy some of the aesthetic 5.10 cracks like Bird of Fire (5.10b at Joshua).

Today's "average" serious climber is said to climb at about the 5.10b level. Perhaps we need to improve our crack climbing a notch or two, but our face climbing in the RCS is hopefully closing the gap toward 5.10b.

JE

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\$7.00 per year. Send checks to "Mugelnoos". Subscriptions due Oct.

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Next Issue: August 20, 1985  
Deadline: August 14, 1985

Mugelnoos Meeting: Third Tues of each month. 7:30 pm. Free parking. Program, conversation, guests welcome. Climbers &skiers both.

REMINDER! Starting tonight, and hereafter, all Mugelnoos meetings will be held at the Griffith Park Ranger Auditorium,,4730 Crystal Springs Drive. See map enclosed with June Mugelnoos. There is no street sign for Crystal Springs Drive. If traveling East on Los Felix, turn left (North) on Riverside Drive.

C A L E N D A R

Rock Climbing Section:

- Jul 20-21 Needles (upper) Vernon/Ryan
- Jul 25-27 Charlotte Dome Erb/  
Rutherford
- Jul 27-29 E.Face Whitney Somoano/  
Fried
- Aug 3-4 Tahquitz Pies/Russ
- Aug 10-11 Suicide Houpt/Crandall
- Aug 17-18 Exporatory Trip Russ/  
Koss

SMS ROSTER

If you find the SMS Roster too hard to read, send an SASE by Sept. 1st to:

Paul Harris  
1115 1/2 Maple St.  
Santa Monica, CA 90405

FIRST AID

If you have an RCS first aid kit, please call Margo Koss.



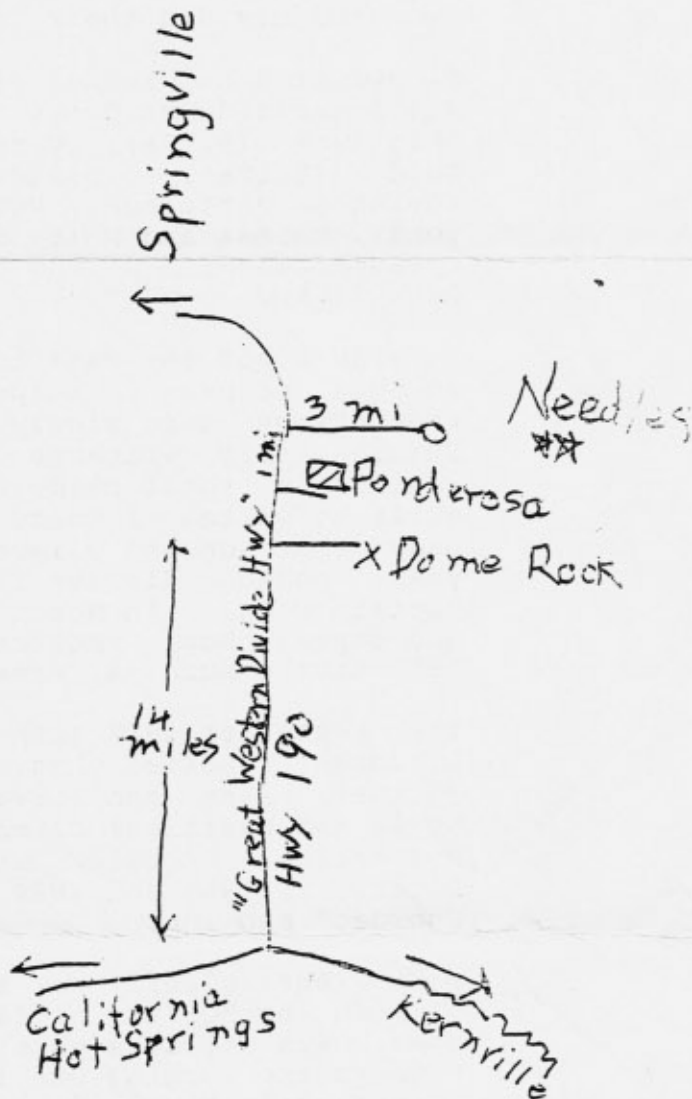
JULY 20-21 NEEDLES TRIP

We'll meet at the Ponderosa Lodge at 7:30 am or at the parking area for Needles at 8:30 am. Camp will probably be at Dome Rock.

See map below.

Don't call me before the trip. I'll be in Albuquerque.

Greg Vernon



## AN ACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTE

I had looked forward to taking part in the traditional RCS outing to Yosemite Valley over Memorial Day weekend, but alas, the RCS was without a group campsite (also becoming a tradition in recent years). Not being one to let a climbing weekend go to waste I searched for an acceptable substitute ( a subs. for the Valley, fat chance!).

Well, by quitting time Friday an alternative had been found and with the car packed we joined the rest of Los Angeles in the exodus to points elsewhere. Pysched for weeks for the seven hour drive to Yosemite Valley, the somewhat shorter drive to my alternate location was a welcome relief. Arriving late Friday night or Saturday morning you can imagine my shock to find available campsites and an uncrowded campground! Looking over at my climbing partner for this trip (S.A.M.C.) I inquired if we hadn't pasted through a time warp or maybe made a wrong turn at Katmandu.

As the early morning sun threw light on us we delighted at the sight of magnificent rock spires silhouetted against the suns hue and golden rays of light burning across nearby sheer rock faces. What a sight! After a late breakfast and friendly chat with the park ranger we were off for a pleasant morning of climbing. We found fine, well trodden trails and a few of the usual signs of climbers past; chalk and weathering slings, but the climbing proved to be anything but typical. Numerous faces, pinnacles, and overgrown boulders provided delightful, aesthetic climbing on shiny knobs of varying sizes, welded to the steep rock walls from fifty to 500 feet high. The difficulty of each climb dependent on the size of the knobs and the space between these protrusions. We soon found our typical Tahquitz rack of hexs, nuts, and friends to be unnecessary, as most protection was provided by bolts and an occasional nut or tied-off knob. Just a few slings, a dozen carabiners, and a handful of nuts was sufficient for our day of climbing.

How exhilarating! Magnificent climbing on uncrowded rock, without the clatter and clang (or the weight) of a full rack of gear. It's not surprising that this area has seen the touch of such noted climbers as; John Salathe, Anton Nelson, Dick Leonard, Allen Steck, Chuck & Ellen Wilts, Steve Roper, Jim Bridwell, Mark Powell, Glen Denny, Chris Vandiver, and Tom Higgins, to name a few. And where is this mysterious and wonderous place you ask? Well, it's more or less in the same general direction as Yosemite Valley and positioned between the Garlic & Artichoke capitals of the world. Now that I've given it away I'm sure you all know that I've been describing the one and only: Pinnacles National Monument, near Monterrey, California.

This fine climbing area has been ignored or overlooked for too long by the Los Angeles section of the Rock Climbing Section. Could be a good location for the often talked about joint outing with the Bay area rock climbing section? This area has something for everyone with an abundance of easy to moderate routes.

BLC

## FOSSIL FALLS NEWS

The draft management plan for the area encompassing Fossil Falls has been issued by the Bureau of Land Management. Comments are being solicited with a 24 July deadline; comments should be addressed to Bureau of Land Management, 112 East Dolphin Street, Ridgecrest, CA 93555 to the attention of Joan Oxendine. The draft in its present form, would proscribe overnight camping in the Fossil Falls area.

AK-W



The May Tahquitz outing is always popular, and this year's trip (May 18-19) was no exception. Saturday saw 55 people signing out in 24 parties. This group included 29 students and proficiency card holders, all of whom found partners and/or leaders from among the 22 members. Most of the easy and moderate classics were climbed.

Notable harder climbs included Hoodenett by Tom Wirt and Jim Erb, and Zigzag by James Weger and Dan Dunkle. Greg Vernon and Pete Saggau climbed Coffin Nail to Traitor Horn, then Dave's Deviation (1st pitch), Jam Crack (upper portion) to Piton Pooper, then out via Upper Royal's Arch. Greg thought Coffin Nail is probably 5.8, not 5.7.

The last Saturday parties did not return to Lunch Rock until 8 pm, but the late sunset allowed all to make Humber Park without using flashlights. We had no campsite reservations because of a slipup in the RCS system, and Idyllwild was brim full. Andy Fried went down about 3 pm on Saturday and reported State Park, County Park, Herkey Creek, and the Fern Basin - Marion Mtn area all full. A few found sites in scattered locations, while many slept at Humber, where no rangers were encountered.

Sunday saw 27 climbers, including 11 card holders and 12 members. The weather, just as on Saturday, was extremely fine--clear, 70's, gentle breeze. 11 parties signed out. Notable routes were the Slab plus Fingergrasp by Tony Bird, James Weger, and Phil Rabichow; and Grace Slick by Greg Vernon and Dan Dunkle. Scott Bailey took a very visible leader fall on Frightful Variation, providing entertainment at Lunch Rock.

The group was cooperative and self sufficient. The leaders (Ripley and Shields) especially wish to thank the many members who took students. Thanks also to Andy Fried for looking for campsites.

--John Ripley

#### ORGANIZED AT LAST

The recently elected Central Committee of the Ski Mountaineers met June 19, after a non-traditional StoneyPoint warm-up, at the home of Andy Fried.

We organized ourselves as follows: Andy Fried, Chair; Dick Smith, Vice Chair; Gerry Holleman, Outings; Paul Harris Sec./Treas; Don Pies (absent and lucky not to be Chair), Safety; Kathy Crandall, Chef de Cuisine. Conservation is yet to be determined. And a special note of thanks to Mark Goebel, who has agreed to continue chasing down programs for us.

Reports: Outings; This year we had 43 ski-days, with 185 skiers and 0 accidents (the last four years, for which records are easily available, we had 112 ski days with 502 skiers and 0 accidents). Treasurer; our current balance is \$ 538.36, up from 409.98 last year, despite the unusual expenses of the 50th Anniversary Party (thanks to the generosity of those attending) and despite the intentional negative profit of the Race this year.

A tentative Schedule for the first part of the ski-season was worked out, including the Potluck, Oct. 26: a day tour for leaders Dec. 14, to discuss safety and outings ideas (and even have fun); and a genuine Mountaineers Race which will probably live in infamy.

Members are STRONGLY URGED to attend work parties at Keller and Baldy Huts.

Paul Harris, SMS Sec/Treas

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