



THE MOUNTAIN DOGS

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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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NEVADO, ILLIMANI, 21,201 FT. - JULY, 1985

On July 10, the LARCS Expedition-Horton Johnson, Mary Gygax, and Andy Fried- left LAX with high hopes of reaching the summit of Illimani in Bolivia. This represented the fourth attempt for Horton, the third for Andy, and the second for Mary. To get in shape, I had recently soloed Bear Creek Spire and Mt. Dade, Mary climbed several peaks in the Tahoe region, and Andy climbed Liberty Ridge/Mt. Rainier and Mt. Agassiz. Two days were spent in La Paz buying supplies, arranging transportation, and trying to figure out the rapidly changing money exchange rate-700,000 to 1,000,000 pesos per \$1.20!! To acclimatize, we went to Nevado Chacaltaya, 18,000 ft., where Andy skied at the highest ski resort in the world while Mary and I bagged the highest local peak. After waiting for the Presidential election to end, we were transported to the Urania mine on the south face of Illimani. From here, porters carried our gear to basecamp at 15,000 ft. The next day we climbed to 16,400 ft and established Camp 1. We met a Brazilian group which had very little climbing experience and was using homemade gear. Nevertheless, 3 of the 7 climbers made the summit, although one woman climber fell while descending the summit ice pitches and severely broke her leg in five places. The next day, we climbed to 18,500 ft and set up Camp 2. Mary decided not to make the final summit push and graciously loaned me her headlamp. Andy and I left at 3:00 am in subzero darkness. After a couple of hours, Andy's headlamp, and our water in insulated bottles, were frozen requiring that we wait until daylight to continue. After climbing the crux near the summit ridge, we arrived on the summit and were greeted with magnificent views of the Amazon, Cordillera Real, the antiplano, and giant Nevado Sajama. There were no signs of the Eastern airliner that crashed near the summit of Illimani several years back. On the steep descent to Camp 2, I sustained a painful knee injury and Mary helped carry part of my gear down to Camp 1. After getting off the mountain, Mary and Andy went on a 50 mile trek into the Upper Amazon. I would like to thank the real hero of this expedition- my wife Rosalie- who knowingly had to have an operation in my absence, but refrained from trying to dissuade me. This may be my last expedition (age-56) and I would like to thank her and Mary and Andy for helping me bring a dream to reality. Horton Johnson

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Next Editor: Anna Houpt  
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Next Issue: September 17, 1985  
 Deadline: September 11, 1985.

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Mugelnoos Meeting: Third Tuesday of each month. 7:30 pm, Griffith Park Ranger Auditorium, 4730 Crystal Springs Drive. Free parking. Program & conversation. Climbers, skiers, & guests are welcome.

CALENDAR

## Rock Climbing Section

Aug 24-25 Suicide: Harris/Valkass  
 Aug 31-Sept 2 Toulumne Meadows: Crandall/  
 Korbut-Weberg  
 Sept 14-15 Suicide: Ryan/Wing  
 Sept 14-15 Temple Crag: Valkass/Vernon  
 Sept 17 Mugelnoos Meeting: Ron Hudson -  
 "Climbing & Hiking in the Alps"  
 Sept 21-22 Tahquitz: Perkins/Wing  
 Sept 29 Sespe Gorge: Wing/Jeter  
 Oct 5-6 Domelands: Vernon/Korbut-Weberg  
 Oct 12-14 Yosemite Koss/Bagdon  
 See Schedule for requirements to attend specific climbs.

WANTED: USED CLIMBING SHOES

I am currently involved with several youth groups teaching rock climbing. We would like to provide climbing shoes for as many of the students as possible. If you have any used shoes that you could spare, they would be much appreciated and enthusiastically used. Please contact Ben Chapman @ (213)-408-0284. Sizes 5-9 most needed.

SOUTHERN SIERRA CLIMBING ARTICLE

Greg Vernon has written an excellent article on climbing areas in the Southern Sierra. It is scheduled to be published in "Climbing" magazine in October. He has made this informative article available to RCS'ers. Those interested in obtaining a copy, send \$0.40 in stamps to LeRoy Russ.

NOTICE!!

The Sespe Gorge trip scheduled for Sept 29 has been canceled. RBS

NEW RCS MEMBERS

The RCS welcomes the following to membership in the Section:  
 Michael Adams, Ray Fong, Judy Glenn,  
 and John Gonzales.

## LIBERTY RIDGE-MT. RAINIER

On June 27, 1985, Alois Smrz, Andy Fried, and Robert Somoano left the trailhead at Ipsut Creek (2300 ft.) for their destination-Liberty Cap (13,400 ft.) of Mt. Rainier via the Liberty Ridge route. Liberty Ridge, the largest "cleaver" on Rainier, splits the enormous North Face of Mt. Rainier, with the Willis Wall to the east and the Liberty Wall to the west. The ridge route is approximately 5600 ft. long and consists of sustained 40°-50° snow and ice. It is one of the longest, most precipitous, and elegant routes on the mountain. This year has been the driest year since 1895 and, hence, the route involved much more ice than normal for this time of year.

The first day involved hiking in pleasant temperatures to a campsite high on the Curtis Ridge (7500 ft.). A heavy fog blocked out all views of the North Face and resulted in the usual cross country routefinding problems. Fortunately (i.e., luckily!), the weather for the remaining four days of the climb was outstanding. On the second day, after a rockfall had smashed 20 ft. off our rope, we attempted a direct crossing of the Carbon glacier/ice fall. However, high temperatures had caused the glacier to prematurely breakup, and after a long day of route finding and crevass jumping, we retreated dejectedly to the lower eastern portion of the glacier for the night. On the third day, we made our way around the eastern periphery of the glacier and reached the Liberty Ridge in two hours!! Andy made a delicate lead on exposed, very rotten rock to the western side of the ridge, and we proceeded up steep snow to Thumb Rock for our campsite. This is the only reasonable place to camp on the entire route. The next day, we spent eighteen hours climbing nonstop over steep snow and ice to reach the west shoulder of Liberty Cap at 10 PM, where we set up a tent in very heavy winds. Running belays were used on about 90% of this portion of the climb. Ice screws, snow pickets, and deadmen were used extensively. Some of the climbing involved front pointing with two ice tools. Alois did an outstanding (and exhausting) job of leading for most of the third and fourth days. We spent 13 1/2 hours on the fifth day descending the Winthrop, Emmons, and Inter glaciers, arriving at the car at 11 PM. The descent was much longer and more difficult than any of us expected, involving routefinding through ice falls, wet and dry glaciers, and over moraine fields. Crevasses were everywhere!! We had seven crevass falls, two involving falls up to one's neck.

REFLECTIONS ON THE CLIMB- This is a serious and beautiful mountain climb. We constantly underestimated the length of the snow and ice pitches. Route finding is not trivial and the slightest bad weather could have serious consequences. There are constant surprises and difficulties-the climb isn't over until you reach the car! Climbing three on a rope, with running belays, is very slow!!! If one's skills are suitable, much of this route should be climbed without belay, especially when there is more snow. We highly recommend this route for any serious mountaineer.

RBS

ATTENTION: LEADERS OF TAHQUITZ/SUICIDE CLIMBS

The San Jacinto State Park Service has formally complained to the Sierra Club that the RCS is not abiding by its policy of paying \$3.00 per night for each car over one per campsite. This is obviously an important issue for the RCS since we desire to maintain a good working relationship with the Park Service. Leaders/assistant leaders of future Tahquitz and Suicide trips must ensure that the following procedures are carried out: (1) early Saturday morning, collect \$3 from each climber staying in the campsite; (2) count the number of RCS cars in the overflow parking lot; (3) Saturday morning, after 8 am (e.g., after breakfast, etc.), go to the Ranger station and pay \$3 for each car in the overflow lot plus \$3 for one of the two cars allowed to park at the campsite (the other car is free); (4) Saturday night/early Sunday morning, repeat (1) & (2); and (5) sometime Sunday afternoon, before the Ranger station closes, repeat (3). Leaders should keep track of the number of dollars collected from climbers (\$3/climber/night) versus the amount paid out for extra cars so that we can determine if the climber fee is enough to cover expenses in the future. I know that this is a hassle for leaders, but "it's the only reasonable game in town" and we need to cooperate with the Rangers. Your efforts are appreciated. RBS

NEEDLES CLIMB- JULY 20-21, 1985

This weekend found a small group of eight RCS and two student climbers at this most impressive climbing area. The Needles have a reputation for demanding climbs. There are two 5.6 and four 5.7 climbs (all short). The remaining climbs are all of higher difficulty. Since this was the first visit for many of our party, we elected to try the easier climbs and explore the area. I highly recommend the Needles for future climbs, but with two qualifiers: (1) no students; and (2) leading ability of 5.8 and higher. Tim Ryan

RETURN TO ST. ELIAS

Over the weekend of June 21-23, George Wallerstein attended the Parks Canada 100th anniversary celebration at the headquarters of Kluane National Park, Haines Junction, Yukon Territory. George, and other invited climbers, received a Pioneers of the St. Elias award for expeditions that made various first ascents in 1957, 59, and 61. Other Southern California climbers who participated in those climbs were Bud Bingham, Don Clarke, Barbara Lilley, Fred Martin, Alex McDermott, Sy Ossosky, Jon Shinno, and Jim Sutherland. The event was attended by many oldtime climbers, explorers, and scientists who had participated in St. Elias climbing as far back as 1925. Norman Reid who reached the summit of Mt. Logan 60 years ago had intended to be present but backed out at the last minute due to his doctor's orders. He had spent the previous winter skiing in Switzerland. Bradford Washburn and Bob Bates described their first ascents of Mt. Lucania and a new route on Mt. Steele, including their famous walk-out across the Donjek River to Burwash Landing. N.E. O'Dell, of 1924 Everest fame, unfortunately heard about the celebration too late; he had already made plans to take a lady friend to Norway.

George Wallerstein

MT. WHITNEY CLIMB - JUL 27-28, 1985

Ten climbers notified the leader of their intention to participate in this climb. Two of them, Tom Jenkins and Steve Dawson, went in a couple of days early. The remaining eight climbers, plus a ninth who had his own permit, left the trailhead in spectacular weather for East Face Lake. Six climbers were at the lake by 2:00 pm and a seventh climber arrived at dusk. Tom and Steve decided to climb the East Face on Saturday in order to avoid the "crowd" on Sunday. Unfortunately, there were 16 climbers on that route Sat.!! Tom and Steve, and several other climbers, were caught in an afternoon lightning/hail/snow storm and forced to spend the night in the summit shelter along with several backpackers. This was the same lightning storm that killed two climbers (hikers?), and critically injured a third, on Half Dome. Upon their arrival at basecamp Sunday morning, it was learned that Steve had strained his shoulder in the vicinity of the Fresh Air Traverse. Andre Korbut-Weberg, Bob Constantini, and Bob Oelsner volunteered to carry down Steve's gear and accompanied him and Tom down to the car. Andy Fried and Al Franz climbed the East Face Sun. morning in beautiful weather, sharing the Face with only one other party of two! Upon their return to East Face Lake, we packed up and made it back to the cars in 3 1/4 hours, thus ending a pleasant two day trip.. The leader and Steve Dawson wish to thank Andre and the two Bobs for their assistance.

RBS

DOMELANDS - June, 1985

In spite of a change in destination, and the leader's confusion whether the place was Domelands or Dome Rock, 17 climbers showed up for the climb. According to Greg Vernon, this was the largest turnout for a climb in the Southern Sierra. The area is four hours away from LA and is quite pretty. You can drive to the top of the dome (road blocked off, and tickets given), walk down, and then climb back up to the cars. I think that all climbs should be arranged like this. The rock reminds me of Suicide although the climbs are longer, and on the average, a little harder. Some of the face routes have long runouts. On Sat., all but two climbed various routes on Dome Rock. The other two went to the nearby Needles. Dick DeRusha earned the distinction of being the first to take a leader fall. This occurred as he was soloing down the trail to the start of his first climb. Fortunately, we were able to put him back together without any permanent scars. Sat. night we had a pleasant campfire while most people were occupied with food preparation. Sun., all the hard men and one hard woman ( I guess that is correct?) went to climb at the Needles. It takes about an hour to walk in and an hour back out. The rest of us (wimps?) continued at Dome Rock. I am happy to report that Bonnie Katayama did her first lead, the 5.6 pitch on the Tree Route. Congratulations. On the whole, the climb was a success, and I recommend that other trips be scheduled to this area.

Maris Valkass

SUICIDE-JULY 13-14, 1985

Another beautiful, summer weekend at Suicide Rock!! Sixteen climbers on Saturday and fifteen on Sunday climbed a variety of routes. These included Graham Crackers (five parties), Yours (four parties), Guillotine (two parties), Serpentine, Revelation, and several others. Saturday night found a small, but cheerful, group of climbers in the County campground. My special thanks to Bob Lindgren who assisted in my first experience as trip leader, to Alois Smrz who kept me entertained, and to John Orange and Abe Siemens who helped as rope leaders.

Ruth Carter

## CHARLOTTE DOME JULY 25-27, 1985

Four RCS members met at Onion Valley Thursday morning but decided not to attempt Charlotte Dome because of threatening weather at dawn. The 20 mile round trip demands a high probability of success going into the climb, and moist unstable air was forecast for several more days.

Our substitute itinerary became: Thursday- Buttermilk Country; Friday, Saturday- Tuolumne Meadows; Sunday- Deadman's Summit. None of us had been to either bouldering area. I was disappointed with Buttermilk, but thoroughly enjoyed Deadman's Summit. It is reached by exiting west from 395 1.2 mi north of the maintenance station (between Mammoth and June Lake), then driving north about 1/8 mi. Good bouldering with or without a top rope is available. At Tuolumne, we climbed Truck and Drive, Werner's Wiggle, and West Crack between rain showers.

Abe Siemens was slightly disappointed with the substitution, but Tom Wirt, Theresa Rutherford, and I were just as happy- we actually got in more climbing that way!

For information, Wheeler & Wilson resoles Fire rubber on Fires (only) for: \$33 full soles, \$45 full soles and rands. Send check for repair charge plus \$4.50 shipping and handling (will cover at least three pair) to them at 206 No. Main, Bishop, CA 93514. Include your phone number and street address (for UPS).

Jim Erb

## NEW RCS PROFICIENCY RATEES

RCS proficiency ratings have been granted to the following: Tom Brogan, Robert Carnall, George Carr, Ken Cline, Gerry Cox, Claude Grandmaire, Joseph Knill, James Patrick Mace, Glenn Messersmith, Timothy O'Malley, Tom Pritchett, Vincent Rinando, Pete Saggau, Rick Taylor, Bill Thomas, Joe Wheeler, and Laura Yoklavich.

(Enclosed with this issue is a roster of the addresses and phone numbers of the above new members and new proficiency ratees.)

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