

No. 633 -- September 17, 1985. A 6 page issue.

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 92633. \$7 (not cash) due in October.

BIVOUC AND A NEW ROUTE IN THE PALISADES, AND RON'S RETURN TO THE MOUNTAINS

In the perfect weather of the week August 24-30 Ron Hudson, Michael Feldman, Steve Niemi, and Jim Shirley entered Dusy Basin, west of the northern Palisades group, via South Lake and Bishop Pass. Ron, still feeling some lingering effects of his previous trip to South America, hiked in slowly with a light pack. By the week's end however he had scaled two minor peaks and was moving about the talus with his usual enviable rapidity.

The climbing itinerary was as follows:

August 25: Mt. Agassiz (13,891) from Bishop Pass (S. Niemi, J. Shirley, M. Feldman).

August 26: A west to east traverse of Columbine Peak (12,652) on the Dusy/Palisade Basins divide (M. Feldman, S. Niemi, J. Shirley). Roper's guide incorrectly lists both ridges as class 2; in fact some exposed 4th or 5th class climbing was found on the upper 500 feet of the east ridge, where spectacularly tilted giant blocks protrude in every direction. Easier climbing could be found by departing from the ridge proper for most of this distance.

August 28: Peaks 12,652 and 12,916 (south of Mt. Goode) were ascended by R. Hudson, S. Niemi, and Ed Haynes of Davis, Ca. (a fellow inhabitant of Dusy Basin during our stay).

August 28-29: A traverse of Thunderbolt (14,000+) and Starlight (14,000+) peaks by J. Shirley and M. Feldman. The crest near Thunderbolt was attained at 10:20 am, following a 5:30 am start from Dusy Basin, via Thunderbolt Pass and the southwest chute #1 (class 3). Some awkward hard snow was found low in this chute. The summit pitch was done in a strong cold wind which continued all day. After some fooling about attempting to lasso the summit monolith in a high wind, the traverse was resumed. The T-bolt/Starlight notch was reached behind schedule at about 1:30. After some discussion Michael and I decided not to descend the class 4 S.W. chute #2, but to continue along the ridge. In Roper's guide this N.W. ridge is rated class 4 and termed a "highly enjoyable and spectacular traverse." This is indeed an extraordinary route, but an accurate rating would be more like 5.6 (unless one spends much time off of the ridge proper). The 5 long pitches feature a diversity of interesting problems, in an exhilarating and at times very exposed setting. Cont. Page 6

MUGELNOOS STAFF
 EDITOR for September....Anna Houpt
 MUGELGRAPHER.....LeRoy Russ
 MUGELMAILER.....Dove Menkes
 REPORTERS: Jim Shirley, Tony Bird,
 Robert Somoano, Rich Henke,
 Margo Koss, Greg Vernon

\$7.00 per year - Make checks payable (no cash) to "Mugelnoos" *****Subscriptions due in October.

NEXT EDITOR: Mike Jelf
 1819 W. 254th St.
 Lomita, CA 90717
 (213) 326-3430

NEXT ISSUE: October 15, 1985
 DEADLINE: October 9, 1985

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS: Third Tues. of each month, 7:30pm, Griffith Park Ranger Auditorium, 4730 Crystal Springs Dr. Free parking. Program & conversation -- Climbers, skiers, & guests all welcome!

C A L E N D A R

Rock Climbing Section
 Sept 21-22 Tahquitz Perkins/Wing
 Oct 5-6 Domelands Vernon/Korbut-Weg
 Oct 12-14 Yosemite Koss/Bagdon
 Oct 15 Mugelnoos Meeting
 Oct 19-20 Owens Ridge Vernon/Shield

RCS Annual Business Meeting!!!
 Monday, October 28, 1985.
 See Page Three for details.

OCTOBER MUGELNOOS PROGRAM

Andy Fried will present a slide show of his recent ascent of the Liberty Ridge on Mt. Rainier. Come and enjoy some truly outstanding photos.

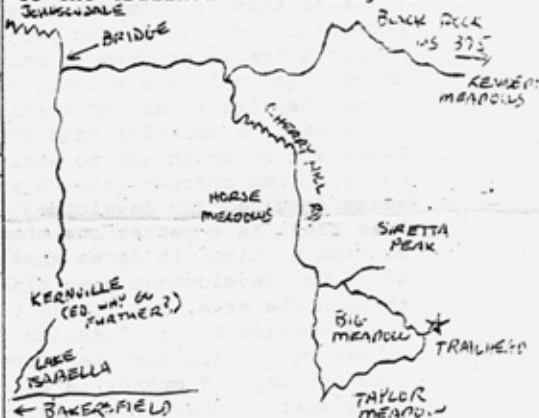
American Alpine Club Banquet

The Southern California Section of the AAC is having a banquet on Sept. 21 at the Quiet Cannon, 901 N. Via San Clemente, in Montebello. Frank Wells will speak on his and Dick Bass' Seven Summits Expedition, describing their quest to climb the high points of the seven continents. Everyone is welcome. Tickets are \$15 each. Call John Wedberg at (213) 472-6768 and he will hold tickets at the door for you.

The Quiet Cannon is located near the junction of the Pomona and Long Beach Freeways at the Montebello Country Club. From the Pomona Fwy., go south on Garfield to Via San Clemente. Go right on Via San Clemente to the country club. RBS

LEFT AT THE RCS TUOLUMNE MEADOWS GROUP CAMPSITE: An old pair of brown hiking boots; a white frisbee; and a white, one liter water bottle. Owners should contact Robert Somoano.

Domelands October 5-6 -- RCS/SPS Meet at the Domelands trailhead in Big Meadow Saturday A.M. There is no limit to the size of the group and no reservations required. I'll probably be spending the weekend doing a new route on Bart Dome and may stay an extra day if someone else is interested. There is a 4 mile backpack to camp. To get to Big Meadow, take the Sherman Pass Road for about 6 miles from the Kern River to Cherry Hill Rd. (22512) follow this road for about 12 miles. Turn left at the northern end of Big Meadow and drive ar around the east side of the meadow to the trailhead. Greg Vernon



NEW RCS PROFICIENCY RATES

Robert Dabney Eastham
 335 N. Baldwin Ave., Apt. C
 Sierra Madre, CA 91024
 (818) 355-5369
 (213) 489-1600

Susan Hanna, Stephen Hanna
 3420 Bahia Pl.
 Riverside, CA 92507
 (714) 683-7682

Chris Mitchell
 2312 Bayview Dr.
 Manhattan Beach, CA 9026-
 (213) 545-1497

"J" Holshuh
 P.O. Box 3851
 Downey, CA 90242
 (213) 421-8433 H
 (213) 922-8801 W

Louise Ravatt
 821 El Centro
 South Pasadena, CA 91030
 (818) 799-3401
 (213) 226-7134

Tony Migler
 5922 W. 77th Pl.
 Los Angeles, CA 90045
 (213) 645-2868 H
 (213) 829-8101 W

Rogina, Laura (7), Theresa (3)

SMS Potluck & Hike - 8am October 26
 Call Kathy Crandall (818) 794-0595.

The Nordic Ski Patrol is looking for a lot of good people.

The Southern California Nordic Ski Patrol is seeking qualified candidates for the up coming season. Part of the National Ski Patrol System, the Southern California Nordic Ski Patrol is a volunteer organization funded by the patrollers and by donations. The Nordic Ski Patrol provides first aid and rescue services for nordic (cross country) skiers throughout Southern California. Currently Mount Pinos, located west of Interstate 5 about 75 miles from Los Angeles, is the primary patrol area. The Nordic Patrol would like to expand to better support all the cross country skiing areas in Southern California, to do so requires more patrollers.

The goal of the Nordic Ski Patrol is to make the mountains a safer and more enjoyable place for everyone. In addition to patrolling the local nordic ski areas, members of the Patrol often join together for year round hiking, camping, rock climbing and ski trips.

Patrolling begins in September with in town first aid refreshers. "On the hill" refreshers are held for both Nordic Ski Patrol procedures and Alpine (or downhill) Ski Patrol procedures. The actual season varies with weather conditions, but averages 20 to 30 weekends per year. Each patroller is expected to patrol at least 8 days a season.

Advanced First Aid, CPR and good nordic skiing skills are necessary to become a patroller, but the Patrol can and will teach you in any area you may be deficient in. All that is really required is a desire to make the mountains safer and more enjoyable. If you want more information, please contact our Candidate Training Officer Rick Stein at (818) 888-0042 or send your name, address and phone number to:

Southern California Nordic Ski Patrol
P.O. Box 335
Sun Valley, California 91353-0335

RCS ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Hear Yel Hear Yel The Annual RCS Business Meeting will be held:

Monday, October 28, at 7:30 PM at the Griffith
Park Ranger Auditorium

Come and participate in the rowdy festivities. Elect your best friends (worst enemies?) for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary-Treasurer. Raise your favorite issues, continue your old, worn out arguments, and nominate RCS'ers for our yearly awards: (a) C.Y. Rocksoff Memorial Award for the RCS'er making the most noteworthy rock climb during the year; (b) Hell on High Mountain Award for the climber who attends the most climbs during the year; and (c) E.B. Twinkletoes Award for the climber who had the most humorous (embarrassing?) climbing experience this year. Finally, experience the feeling of true, unbridled power and communal nastiness as we participate in the membership purge of the infidels!!

If for some Earth-shattering reason you cannot be present at this raucous affair: Send a SASE to the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Alois Smrz, to obtain an absentee ballot for election of officers; Similarly, send your nominations for awards to Virgil Shields. RBS

PHOTOGRAPHS NEEDED

"I am a member of the Loma Prieta Peak Climbing Section who has recently completed a book that describes the history of Sierra Mountaineering. It utilizes as the main selections first hand accounts by the mountaineers who first explored and climbed in the Range.

My publisher and I have decided to include as part of the book a section of photographs of the major Sierra peaks included in my anthology. I am presently looking for good quality photographs of the following mountains:

'Mounts Dana, Lyell, Silliman, Brewer, Tyndall, Goddard, Clark, Gibbs, Ritter, Starr King, Langley, Young, Hale, Kaweah, Conness, Darwin, Wallace, Huxley, Haeckel, Spencer, Fiske, Gabb, cont. Page 4

THE TRAIL TO TAHQUITZ ROCK

The trail up to Tahquitz Rock being what it is, your conservation committee person recently suggested at an RCS directors' meeting that the section consider upgrading it as a sort of public service project. This met with the approval of the directors, so I broached the idea with C. Douglas Pumphrey, district ranger of the U.S. Forest Service, the next time I was in Idyllwild. I seem to have walked in at the right time. The ranger said he has been feeling it is getting to be high time to "do something" about the climbing use of the rock, and he outlined a number of his concerns: not only trail erosion and the other effects of heavy use, but also the fact that there's an endemic plant growing up there (an endemic is a species that evolves in an isolated environment and can be found nowhere else) which could become endangered, especially if climbers begin using new areas of the Tahquitz vicinity.

Mr. Pumphrey told me about one "bad experience" he had with an arrogant rock climber who seemed to think he had an unlimited right to do what he wanted in the area. He also reminded me that, technically, every climber needs to take out a wilderness permit to climb on Tahquitz. I suggested that it might be worthwhile to circumvent that technicality, since few climbers are aware of the fact.

Mr. Pumphrey welcomed the idea of building a decent trail to the rock, and said that if climbers come forward to undertake it, he would personally administer the project. He said the Forest Service has an "Adopt a Trail" program in which an organization can volunteer to develop and maintain a trail - presumably in perpetuity. Since Forest Service funds for trail maintenance are severely limited, we might want to consider this commitment.

There are other things to worry about in Idyllwild. The trail to Suicide Rock crosses private property, property which, Pumphrey said, seems destined for development into very exclusive estates. Although that trail is a better one than the Tahquitz trail, without nearly the erosion problem, it faces another kind of jeopardy: it could be fenced off. One development plan placed an easement for public access through the area, but it was turned down (along with development) by the Riverside County Planning Commission. Technically, the only legal access to Suicide Rock is currently via Deer Springs Trail, a 3½ mile hike one way. Pumphrey is also concerned about the parking situation where most climbers leave for Suicide.

So where do we go from here? Perhaps I've put the cart before the horse, for which I apologize. We need to discuss and decide first whether we want to do this as a section. Since I work weekday evenings and can't make Mugelnoos meetings, I ask that others undertake the discussion. If we want to build and "adopt" this trail it would be a real service, both to the forest and to the climbing community, ourselves included. It would also take advantage of a ripe moment to establish good rapport with the Forest Service and ensure responsible use of our premier climbing area at a time when our sport seems to be growing so rapidly in popularity.

Tony Bird

PHOTOGRAPHS CONT. FROM PAGE 3

Humphreys, Wallace, Clarence King, Woodworth, Williamson, Ericsson, Stanford, Gardiner, Keith, Bradley, Tallac, and Sill. Unicorn, Cathedral, University, Red Slate, Arrow, Junction, Matterhorn, Red-and-White, Eagle Scout, Norman Clyde, and Banner Peaks. Goat, Table, Milestone, and Laurel Mountains. Half Dome, Seven Gables, and Black Kaweah.'

I would need 5x7 black and white glossy prints (color can be printed as black and white). If you have good quality photographs of any of the preceding peaks and would be interested in having them published (full credit will be given) in an anthology entitled "Sierra Mountaineering," please let me know as soon as you can: Leonard Daughenbaugh; P.O. Box 3587; San Jose, CA 95116."

SKIING THE MONARCH DIVIDE

The Monarch Divide provides a continuous high-altitude ski route extending 47 miles from Taboose Pass on the east to Cedar Grove on the west. Sixteen people were initially interested when I first planned this tour, but after the inevitable cancellations the final group consisted of two six-person parties -- one traveling east and one traveling west. Both groups used Fresno as a hub for switching cars and as a central meeting place for people from Los Angeles, Berkeley, San Jose, Lake Tahoe, Colorado and Wyoming. The logistics were interesting, to say the least.

On the morning of May 3, 1985, George Lowe, Maggie Filmore, Chas McQuirey, Chuck Shaft, John Carr and I left the Taboose Pass trailhead and started the long climb to the Pass. The major disadvantage of this tour was that both the eastern and western trailheads required a 6,000+ foot climb on the first day. (A detailed elevation/mileage chart is contained at the end of this article.) However, the route was relatively straightforward, and the late Spring snow conditions allowed us to travel very light (my pack was 28 pounds at the start including 7 pounds of food) and we completed the 50-mile trip in four days.

From the trailhead we hiked through beautiful desert terrain. As we reached the stream created by the snow melt above, the sagebrush and cactus gave way to alpine scenery. At about 9,500 feet we reached snow suitable for skiing and by mid-afternoon we arrived at the Pass. We had a spectacular vista of the Cirque Crest to the west which would eventually lead into the Monarch Divide. Our objective throughout the tour was to stay as high as possible. The first of many great downhill runs was before us as we skied toward the Muir Trail. We climbed toward Vennacher Needle and camped that night below a Pass just south of the peak. The next morning we skied to the Pass and encountered our first major obstacle on the tour, a steep, rocky cliff just west of the Pass. A short stretch of third-class climbing got us over the cliff to a great stretch of telemarking in corn snow to Lake Marion. The rest of the day we stayed high on the Cirque Crest and found a route past State Peak. As we descended south of State Peak, I pulled the three-pin binding out of one of my skis and we made good use of our emergency repair kit (5-minute epoxy, extra screws, steel wool, and a screwdriver). We spent our second night in Glacier Valley at the west end of the Cirque Crest, in good position to ski the Monarch Divide in our remaining two days.

By mid-morning of the next day we had reached a small crest to the east of Volcanic Lakes. While trying to pick out a route to the west we saw skiers descending in our direction. The west-to-east group, consisting of Jerry Bock, Armando Menaca, Les Wilson, Valery Doyle, David Mastbaum and Chris Jones, had left one day later so we were right on schedule. After many photographs, lavish descriptions of phenomenal telemarking and much advice concerning the route, our party continued another 8 miles along the north side of the Divide and camped just below Mt. Harrington. We had reached the far west end of the Monarch Divide and we had only to descend 6,500 feet to finish the tour.

The next morning we decided to let the icy snow turn to corn so we skied and climbed toward the rocky summit of Mt. Harrington. From the north, we followed a narrow third-class ridge to the peak, a spectacular route that gave us a beautiful view of the Monarch Divide to the east, the Middle Fork of the Kings to the north, and the South Fork of the Kings to the south. After descending the summit, we telemarked the final 2,000 vertical feet until we ran out of snow. With some difficulty we finally located the summer trail to Frypan Meadows, plodded down to the car and headed back to Fresno.

Place	Elevation	Elevations E-W	Distance	Cumulative E-W
Taboose Pass (Trailhead)	5,300		0	0
Taboose Pass	11,400	6,100	7	7
John Muir Trail	10,400		2	9
Camp 1	11,500	1,100	1½	10½
Pass South of Vennacher Needle	12,400	900	1½	12
Marion Lake	10,400		4	16
Pass between Redpoint and Marion Pk.	11,600	1,200	1½	17½
Pass North of State Pk.	12,000	1,000	3	20½
Glacier Valley	10,000		3½	24
Camp 2	10,450	450	2	26
Goat Crest Pass	11,500	1,050	1½	27½
Granite Pass	10,673		2	29½
Kennedy Lake	10,200	850	4	33½
Pass NE of Mt. Harrington (Camp 3)	10,800	2,000	7	40½
Frypan Meadows	7,800		4	44½
Cedar Grove (Trailhead)	4,635		6	50½
		14,650		

Rich Henke

BIVOUAC CONT. FROM PAGE 1

The summit of Starlight was reached at about 5:30 pm. The original plan called for an ascent of North Pal and a descent via the class 3 southwest side. Facing about 5 pitches of roped climbing to reach the descent route with less than 2 hours of daylight remaining, we decided to gamble on a descent of the uncharted "Starlight Chute" which begins at the notch separating Starlight and North Pal. In so doing we hoped to reach the west side talus before dark and avoid a bivouac.

Unfortunately however the extreme looseness of the chute contents and the high angle of this gully forced a cautious descent with 3 rappels. Night found us at about 13,200 feet, preparing for a bivouac for which we had come minimally prepared with several layers of clothing and a space blanket. Following a long night tied into anchors, wherein icicles formed on the mini-waterfall above us, Michael and I prepared to complete the descent at first light. Following 3 belayed pitches of 3rd-4th class we encountered a major drop off requiring 3 vertical rappels into the unknown. To ascend this section would require a variety of chimney techniques of at least 5.8 difficulty. One additional 3rd class section led us to the last drop off; with some relief we finally spied the talus below.

This may possibly be a "first descent," as we saw no sign of any previous parties. As an ascent route, the "Starlight Chute" offers 2-3 pitches of interesting 4th class and 2-3 pitches of hard chimneying. On the down side there is perhaps 1200 feet of sometimes dangerously steep loose rubble broken occasionally by polished slabs. The chute shoots directly to the notch, without dividing or meandering, and ends in a stimulating location. Should anyone be interested in climbing this less than classic (but very direct) line, the somewhat inobvious start may be identified on the west side of the North Pal massif by a 40 foot wide black streak about 90 feet high, which is the chute outfall. This is some hundreds of feet left of the taller black streaks of the west face route, and is immediately opposite the largest of the Barrett Lakes.

As we trekked back toward Dusy basin we met Ron Hudson and the others, perched in 12,320' Thunderbolt Pass, waiting with a frame pack full of delicacies and cool water. Jim Shirley

THE MUGELNOOS
Dove Menkes
2530 Coventry Circle
Fullerton, CA 92633



Stamp

