

# THE MUGELNOOS

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A newssheet 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.

## JULY FOURTH AT THE PALISADES

This trip had been scheduled for the Minarets to break the monotony of too many trips to the Palisades in recent years. However, the Forest Service has put a small quota on the Minarets Basin and we could not get a permit. So . . . back to Sam Mack Meadow.

I had to turn away several climbers who wanted to attend due to having filled up the 10 man permit. However, 3 proficiency card holders who had made firm reservations failed to show up: Vincent Raindo, Charlie Golden, and Robert Constantini.

After Thursday's hike in, the afternoon was spent lounging in the meadow soaking up the sun. Friday saw everyone out climbing on routes from Gayley to Agassiz. Early returners relaxed in the meadow discussing the forest fire smoke seen from the crest down the Kings Canyon area. The last two parties made it back just before dusk.

Saturday saw just two parties sign out. The late returnees had had enough. Andy Fried had heard a report of ice in the V-notch and talked me into giving it a try. Fortunately the Bergschrund was vertical mush so we turned around and were almost back to camp when it started to rain. The other party out did not turn around until the lightening got close, so they got wet on the way back.

Sunday saw the weather clear in time for the hike out.

— Larry Tidball

## TAHQUITZ -- AUGUST 3 & 4, 1985

Twenty-six climbers occupied eleven routes from Sahara Terror on the northwest to Left Ski Track on the south during Saturday's event. Perfect weather and reasonable return times by all parties made for an ideal climbing day. The closest thing to an incident was a 20-minute rescue on Finger trip to retrieve a stuck friend. Harder climbing was pushed by Sanderson, Gordan and Golden on The Consolation while Crandall and Smith climbed The Step. A contingent of five climbers went to work on Shit for Brains with Carl Byington pushing the lead past the crux. Upon crossing that point of no return, he realized the rack was still on the ground from the last person's attempt!

Sunday was another day of fair weather and expeditious climbing. Even with three parties on long climbs, the latest return time was 3:45 p.m. (Harris & Weger on Whodunnit, two parties of Smrz/Constantini and Carr/Korbut-We\_burg on Sahara Terror plus several short routes).

The weekend did bring forth one concern about the RCS -- its reputation. It may be true that the section as a whole has increased the level of difficult climbing over recent years but the weekend's participants felt the RCS has not projected the proper image of rowdiness. Where have the evenings gone of late drunken campfire parties, bawdy sing alongs interrupted by park rangers, tire fires that stopped cars on the highway, and stoves brewing instant oatmeal at 5 a.m. as hung over climbers staggered off with rope and rack. It even appears that restaurant proprietors are so unintimidated by RCSer's that we are now being seated in the family area. One report of anti-rowdy RCS behavior occurred on a Tahquitz trip when seventy-five Hell's Angels roared Harleys around the campsite throughout the evening. Instead of throwing climbing chalk in their faces and gagging them with prusik loops, Tony Bird pacified them by rational negotiations.

Maybe the answer can be found by reading The Right Stuff six times or by calling up on our resident expert in the area of climber protocol, Tom Jeter. In any case, this weekend's climbers are feeling a void that can only be filled by hard climbing and hard partying.

— Anonymous

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\$7 per year --- make checks to Mugelnoos

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NEXT ISSUE: February 18, 1986  
 DEADLINE: Tuesday, February 11

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS: Third Tues. of each month, 7:30 p.m., Griffith Park Ranger Auditorium, 4730 Crystal Springs Drive, LA. Free parking. Program, conversation --skiers, climbers, and guests welcome.

C A L E N D A R

## Ski Mountaineers Section

Jan 18-19 - Needles Snow Camp: Fried/  
 Gyax.

Jan 25-26 - Mammoth condo weekend:  
 Maloy/Ossofsky.

Feb 1-2 - Baldy Hut weekend: Secor/  
 Wedberg.

Feb 7-9 - Ski Mtneers Training Camp:  
 Goebel/Crandall (Keller Hut).

Feb 9 - Ski Bagging, Big Bear: Danta/  
 Mantle.

Feb 15-17 - Pear Lake Hut: Duryea/  
 Gyax.

Feb 18 - Mugelnoos Mtg: hosts, SMS  
 Feb 22-23 - SMS wilderness ski race:  
 Pies/Goebel. See article this p.

## Rock Climbing Section

All RCS activities are cancelled until further notice pending resolution of the Sierra Club's liability insurance problems.

Feb 5 - Slide lecture: see notice

MUGELNOOS SUBSCRIPTIONS are overdue!  
 Send in your \$7--see address under masthead.

MUGELNOOS ARTICLES should be sent in typed if possible--this will assure immediate publication.

SCMA Sec Claude Lane counts 50 members.

AN OLD TRADITION REVIVED--  
WILDERNESS SKI RACING

Calling all advocates of fun, friends, & back country skiing. Whether you are serious about matching yourself against the mountain or just like to have a good old time on the hill, come join the SMS Wilderness Ski Race, Feb 22-23 at Mount San Jacinto.

Saturday will entail an open ski day & snow camp. The race will start mid-Sunday morning from Round Valley, reach the Mt San Jacinto summit, and return (approx. 1 to 3 hour round trip). Route options will be left to the skier--they range from sweeping traverses in the woods and open slopes, to ridge ascents/descents, to direct approach on the steeper slopes. It sounds like a little friendly competition between the pin-heads and alpine skiers is in order.

Participation requirements: SMS check-out and general winter mountaineering experience. Send 2 SASE and experience to Don Pies, 1606 Haynes Lane, Redondo Bch 90278--(213) 318-6251. (Asst leader Mark Goebel.)  
 --Don Pies

MAP YOUR STRATEGY

Anyone wanting USGS topo maps at half price can order them through Paul Estes if enough orders are placed. The price has gone up to \$2.50 apiece now, but with an order of \$500.00 (200 maps) a 50% reduction is granted.

A large area of the High Sierra has recently been remapped at 1:24,000 scale (7½ minute series), compared to the old 1:62,500 (15 minute) series. These 15' quads have been remapped into 4 7½' quads each: Devils Postpile, Mt Morrison, Casa Diablo Mtn, Kaiser Pk, Mt Abbott, Mt Tom, Bishop, Shaver Lake, Huntington Lake, Blackcap Mtn, Mt Goddard, Big Pine, Mt Pinchot, Independence, Mt Whitney, & Lone Pine.

If interested call Paul at (818) 848-6003, or write him at 1036 E Providencia Ave, Burbank, CA 91501. Send no money until he is sure he has a big enough order.

"WE'VE MOVED"(ADVERTISEMENT)

Remember the quaint little shop on Whittier Blvd? We're now centrally located in Orange at 1180 N. Tustin at Katella off the 55 Fwy.--Fires shoes still only \$64.95. ADVENTURE UNLIMITED--Climbing & Backpacking 714 997-5533 (Now 19 times larger!)

SLIDE LECTURE BY ALAN KEARNEY

Join professional photographer and mountain guide Alan Kearney as he recounts the first alpine style ascent of the North Pillar of Fitz Roy in Patagonia. This climb required 4 days and 45 pitches of belayed climbing. Storms that develop over the 400 mile long Patagonia Icecap can create difficult conditions for the mountaineer. Extreme winds, rime ice, and heavy snowfall can reduce the climber's goal to basic survival.

Also featured in Kearney's presentation is his 1985 ascent of Cerro Torre. Because of its sheer walls and proximity to the icecap, less than 2 dozen climbers have stood on top of the ice mushroom that caps the summit. The ascent required 2½ days and 38 pitches. The descent was accomplished in a severe storm and was a good deal scarier than the ascent.

Over 200 images were selected from over 4300 photographs of Argentine Patagonia. The program utilizes several pieces of music and 2 projectors and is narrated live.

As a photographer, Mr. Kearney's work has appeared in Sierra Club calendars, 1980 Ascent, 50 Classic climbs in North America, Mountain, Cross Country Skier, and Oregon Magazine. He has been a regular contributor to Climbing magazine for the past ten years and recently published his Patagonia work from Chile in the 1984 Ascent.

This special presentation will take place at Griffith Park Ranger Auditorium (the regular place for Mug. Mtgs) on Wednesday, February 5 at 7:30 pm. A \$2 donation to the RCS is suggested. For additional information, call John Orange at (714) 771-5959.

CANADIAN CAPERS

Alois Smrz' article in the November Mugelnoos on climbing in Canada warrants a note from the Old Man of the North (after all, Norman means just that in Scandinavian). Arriving back in B.C. past summer, our favorite Wedge and Armchair Glaciers were a mass of cracks. Normally their mid-summer look is one of a giant snowslope. Early summer and incredible heat opened up all normally covered crevasses. In the North, early, hot summer, usually means no Indian summer and early Winter. While most "Mug" readers drove toward Tuolumne for Labor Day, we snowlogged around Squamish Chief.

Weather hits coastal B.C. first, drifts across the central portion, and hits again in the Rockies. Once weather patterns change, the normal 1-2 week high-pressure periods last only 4 days. By mid-September, skies can beladen for weeks. I remember Sept. 7 '75: most ski areas around Banff opened with a bang, as did Whistler BC.

For "climbing" info reasons, we stay at Canadian Youth Hostels. Experienced Austrian, Scottish, and New Zealand, et al, climbers frequent these all summer long and have a wealth of weather/route information. They might be foreigners, but they grew up in areas very similar in all respects. Canadians don't usually know too much, as most are not "mountain people." Californians know least of all. They're used to throwing gear into a car, and blasting off. They expect to find warm sunshine at the end of any journey, even though they're thousands miles farther north.

Banff and Jasper aren't really such hopeless places to repair/replace equipment. Shops might be "sold out," but local guides will be happy to help out. Most maintain key spare parts; most can perform actual repairs; they have access to welding gear and all else needed to fix axes, hardware, etc. If one doesn't have the necessary parts, he'll certainly refer you to a colleague that can help. It pays to befriend the pro guides in Jasper, Banff, Canmore, etc. You can then call ahead to learn if your trip might pay off, or be doomed to failure. No criticism intended, Alois.

- Norman Kingsley

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If questions arise, contact John Ripley. Thanks to all, and good luck!

--Ed.



EDITORIAL  
INNOVATING TO PRESERVE TRADITION

By the time you read this, the Southern California Mountaineering Association (SCMA) will have held its first meeting -- and will be off, I hope, to a fine start. This organization is the result of the thoughts and work of a group of RCS members who were unwilling to shrug and let club climbing die away in Southern California.

Essentially, the Sierra Club has always been a strong conservation organization with a tradition of club outings. Our local chapter, founded in 1911, has always carried on the most active outings program within the club. The Rock Climbing Section came into being in 1934; it has provided a certain climbing environment for over fifty years. The minutes of the chapter Executive Committee for October 1, 1934 contain the following entry:

"A special section to be known as the Rock Climbing Section of the Sierra Club is being started. Mr. Arthur Johnson spoke for this new group. At least four climbs must be attended before a person is eligible for membership. The question of supplying rope for such trips and the liability of the club in case of accidents was discussed. In the Bay Chapter, each person signs a pledge or waiver that they go at their own risk. A motion was made, seconded, and carried that the Rock Climbing Section be officially recognized."

Unfortunately, the problem of liability has risen again, but this time the Club doesn't feel it can risk its assets on waivers. The refusal of the Club's insurance carriers to insure "mountain climbing" has resulted in the cancellation of all RCS climbs "until further notice." The club is making sincere efforts to correct the situation, but it now appears the status quo will last until the insurance renewal next Fall.

A group of RCS members took on the task of continuing the club climbing tradition. They concluded that the solution would be to form a new, separate club outside the Sierra Club to continue the types of activities enjoyed by several generations of RCS members. Michael Feldman polished the bylaws, handled the incorporation, and became the first President of the new organization pending elections.

The SCMA is not anti-Sierra Club, but rather is an innovative approach to continuing the kinds of activities halted by the insurance industry crisis. It is not associated with or endorsed by the Sierra Club, but the editor's personal opinion is that it deserves the support of RCS climbers (contrary to rumors, the initials do not stand for Sierra Club My Ass).

Actually, the editor is a romantic who wishes the name of the new group were a little less prosaic -- why not San Jacinto Club, or Tahquitz Club, or Pacific Outings Club? But perhaps I'm out of touch with the times -- the name does express the purpose, and it is a laudable purpose.

— John Ripley

CHALLENGE TO SKI MOUNTAINEERS

We need support for the Mugelnoos from SMS people. RCS trip writeups occupy the front page of this issue. Not a single SMS trip writeup was received--in January!

Also, only 3 of 11 named editors for 1986 are SMS, and we're lacking an editor for November. Let's have some volunteers from the Ski Mountaineers! With RCS activities curtailed by the insurance crisis, we need more SMS participation in Mugelnoos.

--Editor

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