

# THE MUGELNOOS

No. 638 - February 18, 1986

A newsheet published by and for the Ski Mountaineers and Rock Climbing sections of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter since 1938. Send subscriptions and address changes to Dove Menkes, 2530 Coventry Circle, Fullerton, CA 92633. Seven dollars yearly.

## THE MUGELNOOS NEEDS YOU!

The Mugelnoos is in trouble. Originated by the SMS nearly half of a century ago, this publication has, in recent years, been edited and written by a preponderance of RCS members. Now that the RCS splinter group has come out with its own newsletter, greater responsibility for the Mugelnoos will fall on Ski Mountaineers. You can and must help by sending in some articles.

First and foremost, readers would like to hear about the trips other members have been taking. Section trips as well as private ones. The tours don't have to be extraordinary, simple local tour reports are fine, maybe with no other point than to tell us of the conditions you found, which can be helpful. Leaders have been especially bad in this regard. A lot of SMS trips went unreported last season. I, for one, would have enjoyed reading about them.

Other than trip reports, just about anything relating to skiing, ski equipment, snow and the mountains are possible topics. If you see or hear anything that interests you, chances are others will find it interesting as well. Send it in! If you absolutely can't write, or won't, then phone in short pieces to the editor for that month. Granted, not every editor will want to hear from you by phone, but a few would.

More editors will also be needed. It is doubtful that many of the non-skiing RCS editors will want to continue with the Mugelnoos if the insurance problem is not quickly remedied. As vacancies occur, they will have to be filled by Ski Mountaineers. If you think you might enjoy this, and it can be fun, please contact John Ripley.

With all its flaws, the Mugelnoos is eagerly received by most SMS members. If you want the Mugelnoos to go on, you'll have to help.

Ed.

## THE BIG RACE

There's plenty of snow on San Jacinto and it still may not be too late to join us this weekend for the first annual SMS Wilderness Ski Race. Starting at Round Valley at an elevation of just over 9,000 feet, skiers will gasp their way to San Jacinto Peak at over 10,800, only to turn and descend back to the start. Three miles up and three miles down, the race is the sadistic brainchild of Don Pies and sounds like a lot of fun, combining two distinct tests for ski mountaineers --

stamina and downhill ability. While some may regard the race as "traditional," there hasn't been anything quite like it in the 52-year history of the section.

Ski racing was a frequent and popular activity in the early days of the SMS; a half dozen or so were conducted each season. Two of the most important ones were the San Antonio Downhill and the San Gorgonio Downhill. The former was an exhilarating two-mile descent from Baldy summit



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DEADLINE: March 11, 1986

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS:

Third Tuesday of each month, 7:30 PM, Griffith Park Ranger Auditorium, 4730 Crystal Springs Drive. Free parking, program, fellowship. Skiers, climbers, guests are all welcome.

CALENDAR

- Feb 22,23 Wilderness Ski Race  
Pies/Goebel
- Feb 28 - Ski Mountaineers Races
- Mar 2 Crandall/Goebel/Harris
- Mar 8,9 Thor Peak  
Danta/Mantel
- Mar 8 Night Skiing  
Nilsson/Holleman
- Mar 9 Mt. Pinos  
Matulavich/Fried
- Mar 15,16 Baldy Hut  
Secor/Wedberg

NOOS BRIEFS

SMSer R.J. Secor and companion Jack Miller made a successful ascent of Aconcagua, Feb 2, via the Polish Glacier. The 22,834-foot Argentinian peak is the highest in the Western Hemisphere. Details later.

\* \* \*

The Little Stone Wilderness shop in Northridge, specializing in back-packing and skiing equipment, is going out of business. Everything is being sold at discount until gone.

\* \* \*

A-16 is selling maps showing marked ski trails in the Mt. Pino area. Maps were drawn by, and proceeds go to, The Nordic Ski Patrol.

\* \* \*

Don't forget the SMS Ski Races coming up Feb 28 - Mar 2 at Keller Hut. A great time will be had by all.

NOOS BRIEFS  
(continuing)

The new Baldy ski lodge is ready for the new season as soon as the new season is ready for it. The 6,000 square foot facility, built at a cost of \$500,000 replaces the old lodge which was destroyed by fire last March. Hundreds of skiers some still waiting for their cheese-burgers, had to vacate the premises as a fire which began in the kitchen quickly consumed the old lodge. The new version is more "alpine" in its design and has fewer windows to cut down on fuel bills. The old lodge was built in 1952.

\* \* \*

SMSer and alleged freelance writer George Holland will join writers from Powder and Cross-Country Skier magazines this month on an expense-paid junket to Montana's Tobacco Ranch, courtesy of the Montana Tourist Bureau. In exchange for the freebie, Montana hopes to gain valuable exposure.

\* \* \*

A 19-year-old Southern California man froze to death earlier this month while spending a sub-zero night near Mt. Pinos. The victim and a male companion had gone to Frazier Park for a day of snow play, decided to spend the night, and started off on an early evening walk south from the parking lot. They became disoriented and decided to wait out the night where they were. The companion awoke the next morning to find his friend dead.

\* \* \*

Just in. The San Gabriel Mountains are growing. Not all the time, only with earthquakes. Best guesses put the average amount of growth at about a foot every hundred years. Combine this with the effects of continental drift and in just a few million years, Mt. Baldy will have the best skiing anywhere in the U.S.

\* \* \*

Making up for lost time, storms have been sweeping through the southland in recent weeks. That's the good news. The bad news is that snow levels have not dropped much below 8,000 feet. Abundant snow can be found on San Jacinto, from Round Valley on up, and on San Gorgonio, from Dry Lake on up. So far it's pretty sparse in Baldy Bowl, but the western slopes are skiable. As this issue goes to press, more storms are approaching and we're all hoping for some colder temps.



THE BIG RACE (Continued from page one)

at 10,000 to the hut at 8,400. The early skiers were no slouches, in fact many were expert, completing the challenging route, regardless of conditions, in slightly more than three minutes! Mere mortals took an hour or longer. Wolfgang Lert, who now lives in the Bay Area, won the first four races on San Antonio.

The San Geronio Downhill was a mile longer with a greater drop, starting from the top of the Little Draw and ending near Dry Lake. Best times were slightly over five minutes.

The races were major events, drawing as many as 50 racers from various ski clubs and colleges in Southern California and more than 200 spectators. During the war years, spectators often had to fill in as race officials.

With the advent of lift-served resorts, the races were doomed, and along with hickory skis and cable bindings, passed quietly into history.

Ed.

"SNO-PARK" UNDERWAY

The State of California has launched its "Sno-Park" program that requires you to pay \$2 a night to park your car at selected trailheads throughout the Sierra this season. The fee, so the state says in its information flyer, will be used to offset the cost of snow removal and "to increase the opportunities for winter recreation."

What a bunch of nice guys, wanting to increase our opportunities like this. I mean just when you figure those people in Sacramento to be nothing but a bunch of money-grubbing eunuchs, they come along and do something like this. I am moved, genuinely moved. To think we will now be able to park our cars and have our opportunities increased at the same time, and at such a modest fee to boot!

Let me tell you more about this wonderful program. More than 18 trailheads are included, most of them are near Lake Tahoe, four are in the Southern Sierra, and two are on the eastside: Rock Creek and Bishop Creek. Talk about coincidence. Just last season, skiing out of Rock Creek, I said to myself, "What this area really needs is some kind of new state program." Now the best part about it is that even more trailheads will be added in coming years.

The permits have to be purchased ahead of time and, for all practical purposes, are only available at selected retail outlets. Granted, this may be a little inconvenient, having to stop off at some backpacking shop to get your parking permit before you stop off at the ranger station to get your wilderness permit before you can drive to the trailhead, but the way I look at it, it's the very least we can do when the state is doing so much for us.

Ed.

SKI AREA ACCESS CLARIFIED

In the last couple of seasons, a few cross-country skiers have encountered problems while crossing some local lift-served ski areas. At Mountain High in Wrightwood, cross-country skiers were told by a ski area patrolman that they couldn't cross the downhill runs. At Baldy, one backcountry skier was told he couldn't ride the "tourist" lift up to the top because the area hadn't opened for skiing.

In my new capacity as an SMS officer (of which the precise title and function presently elude me although I know it has something to do with this sort of thing), I decided to look into this matter. I spoke to both Dick Rea and Larry Marlow who are the Recreation Officers for the U.S. Forest Service, Angeles Forest. They were both concerned and responsive. They agreed that this was a matter that needed some clarification and sent off a memo to all district rangers alerting them to it. Further, they are presently considering a policy statement that will spell out the rights of both ski area operators and cross-country skiers.

In the meantime, cross-country skiers are advised that they have every right to cross these areas providing they do not interfere with their operation or create a safety hazard. It has been suggested that we cross one at a time, as you might an avalanche-prone slope. This is a good idea, and having observed some of the downhill skiers at Mountain High, I would also suggest you bring along your beeper.

Ed.

SONG OF THE SKI MOUNTAINEERS

By Bud Halley

(Running a little short of copy this month, what better time then to run a few stanzas from our beloved Song of the Ski Mountaineers. Believe it or not, there are 21 stanzas in all; they'd fill four of these pages! Maybe some other editor will be kind enough, not to mention desperate enough, to run a few more. Seriously, you'll love it. Oh yes, sung to the tune of "Zwoa Bretle."

1.

The snows of the mountains they call us;  
We go to the ski-fields on high,  
And ski with a rhythmic motion  
As nature's bright beauty glides by.  
We have not a care nor a sorrow;  
We swoop like the birds in a breeze,  
And on wooden wings we go sailing  
To our little ski hut in the trees.

2.

We tramp or we ski to our ski huts,  
And pick out a bunk for the night.  
Then cooking our grub on a woodstove,  
We eat by the dim candle's light.  
Then with puns, songs, and laughter, and music,  
We climb in the bunk we like best,  
And after a thousand wise comments,  
We finally drop off to rest.

3.

The clonk, clonk of ski boots awakes us  
With pots and pans banging below,  
So into long undies and parkas,  
And down to the kitchen we go.  
We put down a good hearty breakfast;  
Pack for a trip overnight;  
With greased faces we put on dark glasses  
Step into a world white and bright.

4.

We could ride up the slope on a ski-lift,  
And do twenty miles downhill a day  
But the climb makes the downhill much better  
So away from temptation we stay.  
We love open slopes and high mountains  
Ten to twenty feet deep the snows lie,  
So we strap on our rucksacks and sealskins,  
And bid ski lifts and "yo yo's" goodbye.

That's about it for this month. I don't know who Bud Halley was, or when this thing was written. If anyone can fill us in, please do so. Do you suppose the old-timers sang this on their way up to Baldy?

\* \* \*

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