



THE MUGELNOOS

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A newsheet published 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.

Where Have all the Mugelnoos's Gone?

If anyone needs convincing that there is a crisis within the SMS precipitated by the departure of the climbers to their new climbing organization, let them review the saga of the April and May Mugelnoos's. And also let them reflect on the fact that all the people involved, as well as next month's editors, are involved with the Mugelnoos only by virtue of their association with the former Rock Climbing Section. April's editor professes not to have realized until a few days before the Mugelnoos was to come out that he was the editor. Then he found himself not only too busy to edit the paper, but also too busy to let anyone know that he was too busy. Subsequently, he stated that he would be able to get it out and then several weeks later found that he was still too busy. May's editor, when contacted, stated that he would be able to handle both April and May's materials, but then made plans to go away for the weekend, and found himself too busy. The Mugelprinter found himself in the Bahamas, with no instructions as to what to do about getting the paper printed in his absence. The head of the Mugelnoos committee still has not returned my phone calls. As the only person around in the SMS who was going to be in town for the weekend, I became the emergency last minute editor, printer, and financier of the printing. Many thanks to Dove Menkes who personally mailed the SMS flyer out in April after discovering there was no Mugelnoos to go with it.

The above is not meant to rail against the people who did not fulfill their commitments - it is to underscore the fact that the Mugelnoos is now wholly an SMS publication. We shall have to assume full responsibility from now on for its editing, reproduction, and dissemination. When one considers the size of the active membership and its interest in attending meetings, it becomes clear that it is extremely important for the SMS to consider alternatives. Among those which will come up for discussion at the May meeting are: affiliation with other Sierra Club groups, such as the Ski Touring Section or the SPS, and affiliation with groups outside the Sierra Club, such as the new rock climbing group, the SCMA. This writer has suggested affiliation with the Alpine Touring Committee and been gently rebuffed - it is not clear whether the other groups mentioned will be any more enthusiastic if and when officially approached. There is some reason to believe that, unofficially, we might be able to work out some sort of stock merger that could be mutually beneficial. Anyone having strong feelings about this is urged to attend the June Mugelnoos meeting, which will in all probability be the last Mugelnoos meeting of the season (meetings to resume in October?). Hopefully, a consensus of acceptable alternatives will emerge from the May meeting and be explored in order to be voted on at the June meeting. Please send all comments and concerns to any of the current officers.

Insurance Notes

A recent report from an independent auditing agency showed that from 1978-1985, insurance companies collected \$113 million in premiums from cities and towns in California and paid out about \$65 million. If they're losing money, it may be due more to the deep pockets of the executives of the companies!

MUGELNOOS STAFF

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Mugelmailer.....Dove Menkes
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\$7 per year - make checks to Mugelnoos

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Next Issue: June 17, 1986
Deadline: Wednesday, June 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, guests welcome.

C A L E N D A R

24-26 May - Bishop Pass Ski Camp: Goebel
Harris
31 May -1 June - Tioga Pass/Saddlebag Lake
Holleman/Nilsson
Later? Call officers for newly scheduled
trips

Rock Climbing Trips - all cancelled

AD American Alpine Institute p one
week ice climbing course on Mt. Hood:
Would like to have partner from LA area
for June, July, or August. Please call
Mahani Breakwell - office 213-239-1695.

Snow keeps falling in the Sierra, and
we can expect good snow well into July
it now seems. Don't put those boards
away yet. Mammoth Mountain will be
open at elast until 4th of July!

ATTENTION TRIP LEADERS

Ticketron no longer handles res-
ervations for Calif. State Parks,
ie., San Jacinto. For in-person res-
ervations, the new contractor is
MISTIX, of which there are only 6
locations in So. Calif. The toll-
free number to to charge reservat-
ions on VISA or MC is
1-800-446-PARK,
or you may write for a brochure
regarding mail-in reservations to:
CALIF. DEPT. PARKS & RECREATION
1416 Ninth St., Room 1150-10
Sacramento, CA 95814.

BH

LONG-TIME MEMBER DIES: Dorothy Strand, a Sierra Club member and
Ski Mountaineer since the late 1930's, died in Seattle on March 17
after a ten-year battle with cancer. She was always cheerful and
courageous, and kept in close touch with her many Southern California
friends.

Dottie came to Los Angeles in 1937, to be with her sister Elsie.
Her last job here was with Tom Reddin at KTLA, and in 1972 she returned
to Seattle to rejoin Elsie, who had gone back several years earlier.
Elsie died suddenly in 1973.

In California, both sisters helped build the ski huts, in addition
to their many other activities in the Sierra Club.

By Joan Clark

PEAR LAKE AND FRIENDS

April 11-13, 1986

This years SMS trip to Pear Lake and surrounding bowls delighted all
10 of us who were able to go, led by the infamous Mark Goebel and
Paul Harris. Our skis were donned right at the trailhead (Karhu
Comps the popular favorite) and off we went, uphill all six miles,
trying to remember how nice it would be on the way down. Deep blue
skies were the playground for the sun, glorious and warm, yet mis-
chievously surprising all who didn't think to put sunscreen up
their noses. (the author is still replacing her nasal mucosa)

Evenings were a delight, watching the alpenglow on winter Alta until
as late as 7:30, from the comfortable benches around our dining
snow table. We were warm as toast with temperatures in the teens,
as we lounged around the colorful fire of a dura flame log-(thank
you again Eddie Nunez), munching jiffy pop-corn, and anticipating
yet another day of near perfect skiing. A moderate white-out
interrupted Saturday's tour of the Tablelands, serving us a few
inches of fresh powder, as if we hadn't had enough already. Sunday
morning, most skied to winter Alta, and sampled some nice developing
corn on the south side. By afternoon, we were all turning perfect
8's on our way back down to the cars. Other participants included:
Don Pies, LisaFreundlich, Marcia Male, Eddie Nunez, Larry Cobb,
Rose Lynch, Tom Duryea, and Judy Glen.

RL

FEB 9 PRIVATE TRIP

A group of novice skiers (Diann Fried and several members of the Mission Peak evening hikers group) followed their fearless leader on a tour of the San Joaquin Ridge out of the Mammoth Ski Area on Sunday Feb 9. For most of the group this was their first backcountry tour. Snow conditions were very good, this was fortunate as not all members of the group had skins or metal edges. From conversations overheard during the tour it would seem that all of them will be using both skins & metal edges on future trips.

The trip started out well, with an air temp of some 20 deg. and a brisk wind. For those whom are unfamiliar with this tour it offers some great vistas. To the west is Mt. Ritter, Mt. Banner and The Minarets. East is the Long Valley Caldera, and the White Mts. North is the Mono Basin, and South is the Mammoth Ski Area. All of this was visible during the tour. There are few trees on the ridge so one can often encounter wind packed snow. This is especially common near the end of the tour overlooking Deadman Pass from 10,255'. As we arrived near the end of the tour we encountered windpacked snow, and a -18 deg windchill factor.

Seeking shelter from wind, fearless leader decided to ski off the west side to a small protected area below the cornice. Almost as soon as I started, I fell. As I was sliding down the slope I soon became aware that the slope was also moving. I could feel the slab undulating beneath me, and could see that it was beginning to break up as it slid. The feeling was like riding the hood of a slow moving car and knowing that there was no driver. Remembering that it is a good idea to stay on top of these things I rolled back and to one side in an attempt to free my ski tails which had been over ridden by the slab. I had freed only my left ski when the slab came to rest. I then took a deep breath and invited the others to join me out of the wind. I pointed out that the slope had now been stabilized and that this seemed to be a good place to have lunch. Finding another way down they soon arrived. We set up a Mountain Lounger and opened the beer, and had lunch. After which we enjoyed a nice ski back to the car. AF.

BALDY HUT REPORT:

End of the Ski Season -- Unfulfilled Promises

All sorts of standard cliches can be used to describe the unlamented ski season just past at the San Antonio Ski Hut: "In like a lion, out like a lamb", "Unrequited love", "Bear market in snow on Mt Baldy"; these are a few which come to mind. But hackneyed phrases are not adequate descriptions of what actually took place, to wit:

November 16, 1985: Ah, last November! Skied all the way down to the car on that early storm's snowfall. Give this stuff a little sunshine now, and we should have delicious corn snow; and, sure enough, December 7 this reporter, Chuck Wilts, and two new recruits Jacques Blanc and Bernard Gantes took a couple enjoyable runs down the west bowl on what turned out to be the best corn snow of the season. Chute Corps stalwarts Craig Dostie and Neil Gilham savored that same nice stuff on December 22. By the 28th there was still 12" remaining in the bowl, but the rest of the mountain was streaked with gravel bars and chaperell.

Into 1986, the log shows sleet and 29° on Jan 4th. Then a week later Andy Frank sampled the west bowl in 50° sunny weather. Too thin for any further skiing until the big Feb storm. Wilts and Wedberg tried a run on Feb 8th, which is best described as abortive in 3-4' of new snow, temperature 13°, gusty winds of 40 MPH in a whiteout! On the 14th (midweek) Bill Cutler and Andy Frank gave it a try, but the snow was still too heavy and the weather was crumby. Same thing on the 17th: overcast, 33° and windy, 6" of new snow. Then on the weekend of the 22nd we

had the best skiing since December; great corn snow and beautiful weather. Unfortunately the festivities were marred by a tragic accident. Hut host Neil Gilham was skiing back to the Hut for lunch, when the BMTC ice ax practice group frantically shouted to him for assistance. One of the students (a married man in his mid-thirties with 5 children, it turns out) had ripped open his chest and throat with his ice ax while attempting a head-first self arrest. A young registered nurse performed a tracheotomy at the scene, probably saving his life. He was placed in the Hut's litter and helicoptered down to the hospital in Upland. The last word we had was that he survived, but his speech ability from this point forward was in doubt.

The great heat wave then set in, rendering the mountain unskiable until the biggest storm of the season hit in mid-March. This reporter, R.J.Secor and Jack Ericksmoen skied down to the cars on March 15th, temperature 9° at the Hut. March 22nd saw R.J. again, plus Wedberg and his son Troy and Mike Sirota try for the summit on a 1-day trip. Snow too heavy for really good skiing. Apparently too much sun too quickly after the storm: 65° and 24" new snow. Skied halfway down to the car.

The season's swan song was ultimately anticlimactic. On April 5th R.J.Secor, Chuck Wilts and this reporter trudged up the mountain, leaving their skis at the car after having viewed the bowl devoid of snow from below. What a forlorn sight: skiers without skis! Wedberg gave it up and went home, but Wilts and R.J. stayed the night and hiked down to the car Sunday morning on a foot of new snow left by the Sat night storm, thus underscoring further the story of the season at Baldy this year: too little and too late! Next year! Meanwhile, on to the Sierra.

(JW)

MT. WILLIAMSON

ON APRIL 12-14 A GROUP OF ALPINE SKI MTNRS MADE A SUCCESSFUL ASCENT OF MT. WILLIAMSON VIA GEORGE CREEK. STARTING IN THE DESERT BEHIND MANZINAR THE GROUP LOOKED LIKE PILGRIMS ON HAJJ AS THEY BOWED REPEATEDLY IN EFFORTS TO AVOID TANGLING SKIS IN LOW TREE BRANCHES. AFTER SEVERAL MILES OF OAKS, ASPEN, PINE, AND WILLOWS, THE GROUP REACHED THE BURNED AREA AND FOUND EASIER GOING, SLOWED ONLY BY STREAM CROSSINGS, AND THORN BUSHES. A SHORT WAY INTO THE BURN AREA THE GROUP CLIMBED UP ONTO A AVALANCHE CONE AND FOUND THE GOING MUCH FASTER. CAMP WAS ESTABLISHED AROUND 10,000' IN THE TREES IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID THE WIND GUSTS THAT HAD MADE THE GOING SO DIFFICULT UP TO THAT POINT. A COOL, WINDY NIGHT OF -10 DEG WAS FOLLOWED BY CLEAR SUNNY DAY FOR THE SUMMIT ATTEMPT. DEPARTING ABOUT 7AM THE GROUP SLOWLY CLIMBED UP THE FIRST 2000' HEAD WALL, ONE GROUP MEMBER DECIDED THAT HE WOULD STOP PART WAY UP AND EXPLORE THE SKI RUNS FROM THAT POINT DOWN TO CAMP. AT THE TOP OF THE HEAD WALL, ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE GROUP DECIDED TO TEST THE ANGLE OF THE SLOPE BY LAUNCHING A SKI BY ITSELF. AFTER SOME AIR TRAVEL THE SKI COMPLETED THE RUN IN FINE SHAPE AND CAME TO REST AT THE BOTTOM OF THE RUN. THE REMAINING TWO MEMBERS COMPLETED THE CLIMB TO THE SUMMIT AND WERE REWARDED WITH ONE OF THE FINEST VIEWS IN THE SIERRA. AFTER THE CLIMB WE SKIED FROM 14,000' FOOT RIGHT TO CAMP. THE NEXT DAY WE SKIED, THEN HIKED BACK TO THE CAR. ONLY AFTER THE THE CLIMB DID THE GROUP EXPERIENCE ANY DANGER, AND THAT OCCURRED WHEN THEY MADE THE MISTAKE OF EATING IN A MEXICAN RESTAURANT IN LONE PINE, THE RESULT OF WHICH WAS A DAY OR SO OF ILLNESS. ANON.

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Stamp