

# THE MOUNTAIN DOGS

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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.



end on the season. Tioqa road opened May 31st. Warm days, and soft snow.

## FEB 2 1986 SAN GORGONIO

During the past week I had received a call from a Mr. Corrado De Franchesco, a visiting SCHOLAR from Milano university, now at UCLA. A ski Mountaineer, he was looking to find a backcountry ski trip. Tentative plans were made to go to the Sierras, but bad weather forced a change to San Gorgonio.

On Sunday morning after picking up Corrado and Miguel we drove to the gate closing the road to Poop Out Hill. Having seen snow on the north side two weeks earlier we felt that conditions might still permit some kind of tour. After walking some 4 miles to Poopout Hill with only patches of snow we began to wonder if the trip was a good idea. We could see snow higher up and it looked good so we continued on. At about the point where the trails split, one to Dry Lake, the other going to Dollar Lake, we put on our skies. We continued our tour up to about 10,000' on good spring snow of 1-3' depth. Above 10,000' we began to find breakable crust. As it was now about 2:30 we decided to ski down. The trip down was well worth the work involved in getting up. With the exception of some problems with a Ramer binding all went very quickly. We arrived back to the car around 5pm. All together we had traveled some 16 miles but in return we found some of the best local skiing ever. AF

MUGELNOOS STAFF

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NEXT EDITOR: TO BE ANNOUNCED  
NEXT ISSUE: TO BE ANNOUNCED  
DEADLINE 'T' TO BE ANNOUNCED

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS : TO BE ANNOUNCED

CALENDAR: TO BE ANNOUNCED

SKI SEASON OVER  
NO CLIMBING TRIPS ALLOWED

TO BE ANNOUNCED ?

At the May Mugelnoos meeting several options were discussed as to the future of the SMS. At this time the SMS is talking to the SPS about having our meeting together. The Mugelnoos will continue to be a joint publication of the Rock Climbing Section, and the Ski Mountaineers Section as in the past. But as there are no RCS activities, and the ski season is now over, the Meetings and Mugelnoos will be discontinued for a short time. At the May Meeting new editors were chosen, to edit the fall issues. All of the new editors are SMS members. Also Mugelnoos Chairman John Ripley announced that he wishes to be replaced, as does Dove Menkes the current Mugelmailer(see pg 8).

A Special Mailing will be sent out announcing new meeting dates and future editors when such things have been finalized.

Anyone interested in replacing either Dove or John should get in contact with them.

Tom Jenkins' extension request was approved. He now expects to remain in the LA area until at least June 87. Anyone who asked him to lead or do something and got an answer like "Yes if I'm still here" should call to discuss scheduling. H 213-459-3780; W 213-590-2300.

Norman Kingsley started a side-business distributing mountaineering, skiing, kayak/canoeing videotapes to retailers. He'll grant discounts to "Mug" readers. Contact him for info.

**Ski Mountaineers  
Winter 86-87 Schedule Notice**

Are you suffering from ski season withdrawal? Now is the time to submit your plans for next winter's SMS schedule while your ideas are still fresh! We need local tours, trips to Ostrander and Pear Lake Huts, training clinics, etc. Send your plans for the November 86 through February 87 schedule to: Gerry Holleman, 1638 8th St., Manhattan Beach, CA 90288. The deadline is Monday, June 30. Thanks. Have a happy summer.

SPS Election Results

The following new officers were elected by the membership:

- John Blumthal
- Gerry Holleman
- Don Pies
- Owen Maloy
- Kathy Crandall
- Paul Harris

Congratulations to all!

KC

American Alpine Club- So. Calif. Section

FALL BANQUET: THE LAST CANDY STORE

Nick Clinch will be our speaker on October 18 at the Quiet Cannon in Montebello. His talk will be titled "The Last Candy Store: The Xinjiang Chinese--American Expedition to Ulugh Muztagh." Nick was one of the keynote speakers at the annual meeting in New York and his talk there received an enthusiastic response. Mark you calendar for an evening of adventure, humor, modesty, and the four basic Chinese food groups.

For more information contact Dick Sykes, So. Calif. Section A.A.C 245 Princeton Ave. Costa Mesa, Ca. 92626

BISHOP PASS SKI CAMP  
May 24-26, 1986

The Section's 3 day Memorial Weekend outing will be remembered for its fun group of participants (there were 17), warm weather, lots of snow, great skiing, some bad luck and good, and some hardy displays of enduring strength.

The road to South Lake above Bishop had been cleared to Parchers Camp of massive piles of avalanche debris which had stopped us 2 weeks before. The final mile to the Lake had been partially cleared and was still wet and icy in places. As we walked up the road on Saturday morning, we encountered a group of fishermen, one of which had slipped on the ice, and suffered a concussion. He was mobile, but missing some short term memory. The victim was checked by both the RN and EMT specialist in our group, and finally his friends were able to escort him down to their car and additional treatment in Bishop. We continued on our way, and a short distance above South Lake, we transferred skis from packs to feet, and slid on up to a campsite along the SW side of Long Lake, arriving in time for lunch.

For the afternoon, all hands headed off to a ridge top which overlooks the Treasure Lakes Basin, and a snowy basin under Mt Goode. From these points many lines of descent were available, and snow conditions varied from soft to firm depending upon the angles. The beauty of this area is the large amount of varied terrain available to different skier's inclinations and abilities. Judging by the tracks glistening in the late afternoon sun, everyone had been red lining their fun meters.

Upon returning to camp, and while most were bundling up as the late afternoon shadows crossed the valley, Lisa Freundlich decided it was time to check out the lake, particularly an open spot of frigid blue between the shore and solid ice. Now Lisa has previously demonstrated acts of strength by carrying one of the largest packs around, quickly-up-hill-and-down, on-skis-and-off, always at the front of the group, if-not-in-front; but plunging into that icy water, on purpose, does put her in a special category of elite persons.

Leisurely on Sunday, the group headed out to the objectives of their choice. Some went over Bishop Pass and explored Dusy Basin, while many at various times headed up the slopes of Mt Goode. About 10 reached the summit, and some skied from the summit. However, the hot sun had done its job, and much of the upper slopes were deep mush resulting in a lot of bomb craters punctuating the turns. This reporter and other then skied over to Bishop Pass and eyed the slopes of Mt Agassiz as they promised firmer snow. Sure enough, we left behind some nice curving lines. A little ways to the west however, all was not smiles. While descending some tricky, late afternoon snow, a ski tip submarined into the soft stuff, and during the resulting fall, a bone snapped, and Kathy Crandall had a broken fibula. But not to worry, Kathy is another one of our tough ladies with the right stuff. With her partner, Paul Harris, her ankle was taped, wrapped, and she was back on her skis and in camp before the soup got cold. The next morning, Kathy was also able to carefully ski back to South Lake where a motor cycle ride was inlisted for the final mile. At the Bishop Hospital, the break was confirmed and pinned before we reached Mojave. The doctor said, "Great" when told that she skied out. No cast is required, and Kathy is now walking without aid, and plans to ski again before the snow melts.

Thanks to all who came on the trip. Thanks to Paul, June, and Ralph for assisting Kathy...and thanks Kathy for doing all the work.

MG

SKIING UP AND DOWN FROM UNION VALLEY  
April 19-20, 1986

Ten skiers, including Pete Yamagata all the way from Sacramento, turned out on a lovely spring weekend in the Eastern Sierra. After such a stormy winter, it was really nice to have warm calm days for a change. The road to Union Valley was blocked several miles from the end by massive avalanche slides and boulders, but nothing as big as what we found at roads end. During the February storm cycle, an avalanche from high in Robinson Basin swept down and over the Union Valley parking area and destroyed what had once been the Union Valley store. Debris was strewn about, including the former building. It was an impressive sight of nature's power.

Continuing on delightful spring snow, most made it to Kearsarge Pass, where we were able to view the otherside of the Pass, and a very white Sierra. The ski down was great, and many stops were made to view curving tracks and take pictures. The total descent was approximately 4000'. Our camp was established for Sat. night down in the high desert, and included fine dining and a cheery fire.

Sunday we again wandered up to Union Valley, but instead went N.W. towards Golden Trout Lks, kicked steps up a steep couloir on to the shoulder of Kearsarge Pk. After a long, hot climb, we were at 12,000' and at the top of Sardine Canyon. Ahead of us lay a 5000' descent, so off we pushed on tired legs. At first there was still some new-old snow which was skiable, but required concentration. But looking back, we were leaving some nice snake lines thru the snow. We were just passing thru on a mad dash, and missing lots of skiable angles. After a rolling start, the canyon took a steep plunge and then angled off again with the Owens Valley still far far below. After negotiating the steeps, the snow turned to spring delight, and we were cranking for what seemed like forever. If only the lungs and legs could keep up! Lower and lower we went, the shadows were closing in, and the canyon steepened and narrowed, and then only a thin river of avalanche snow continued down into the desert. We cut right, zig-zaged thru trees, bushes, and rocks and finally the skiing ended. A few hundred feet below lay the miner's road which shortly returned us to a car on the Union Valley Rd. As we shouldered the skis, I looked up at the curving lines which snaked up to the sky, and thought, "that was a real fine ride."

MG

OSTRANDER VIDEO EXPEDITION

12/30/85-1/1/86

Private trip

Monday morning was rainy, but Paul Kenworthy, Kathy Moore, Al Carlson and Tom Jenkins set out for Ostrander Hut via Bridalveil Trail on nordic skis. Paul had a miniature video camera and kindly offered a copy of any tape made to anyone who would help pack in camera, cassettes or batteries and serve as cameraperson or actor/actress. Due to the low light level among the trees, no taping was done until almost to the hut Monday, where we found Paul Harris, Mark Goebel and several others already in residence.

The social life within the hut, primarily dinner preparation, was the focal point of Act One. Tuesday was sunny and warm, but the rain had left a nasty crust on the snow. Paul and Tom ventured out with the camera and soon found the climb to Horse Ridge, with steep uphill switchbacks in deep soft snow worth recording. Better telemarking snow was finally found on the sunny south slopes of the ridge. Tom and Paul taped each other's turns in hopes of seeing why they both turn right much better than they turn left. The descent from Horse Ridge was also recorded, as was the limited night life New Years Eve.

wednesday Paul and Tom filmed each others' technique for descending hard ice crust on the Horizon Trail until Tom managed to bump the eject button while holding the camera closed, unknowingly stripping a gear. The camera shop was able to obtain a special tool to extract the cassette, and Paul will be bringing the results, with HIS falls edited out, to a future meeting of the Ski Mountaineers. THJ

MUGEL ROOTS

Dear Mugelnoos,

I hope a little history will encourage the Ski Mountaineers Section to keep Mugelnoos going in this period of transition caused by the Sierra Club's insurance problems. Mugelnoos #1 appeared on Jan. 29, 1938 as a newsheet for Ski Mountaineers only. It was the brain child of Glen Dawson, known as the Agent for Progress and Propaganda. It was an instant hit. Number 2 came out Feb.2; #3 Feb.9; #4, 5, and 6 very shortly. On March 15 a new member, Ruth Dyar (me) became editor with an enthusiastic staff. On that date too with #7, Mugelnoos also became the official newsheet of the RCS. The addition was a natural, as the two sections had much the same membership. The sections' seasonal activities interlocked, but the Ski Mountaineers were busy in the summer too, building and financing ski huts, running work parties, and staging social events.

However, the early popularity of the Mugelnoos rested on other factors besides the news. Its cartoons, puns, and other forms of wit were attractions then as now. It was also unique, as being one of very earliest Club newsheets devoted to skiing and climbing in the entire country. For years the Ski Mountaineers treasurer handled the financial aspects. The publication was edited at two-week intervals by Ruth (she became a Mendenhall in 1939), until she and John left the L.A. area in the early 1940's. After that the paper came out monthly, with a different editor each month. When the Mendenhalls returned from John's war work as a structural and aircraft engineer, Ruth resumed her position as head of the Mugelnoos committee, but kept the system of revolving editors. She managed the Mugelnoos for 40 years, until she became editor of the American Alpine News in early 1978, and not long after moved to Seattle.

Partly due to the good example set by Mugelnoos, Sierra Club section newsheets, in L.A. and elsewhere, proliferated. If necessary, reorganization, new committees, new alliances, better scheduling, etc. may well solve the current problems. But surely a newsheet nearly 50 years old, which has done so much for two sections, can survive, as in many past crises.

Long life and Ski Heil!! Ruth D. Mendenhall

NEWS OF OLDEN TYPES OF SKI MOUNTAINEERS

George Shochat died in September 1983. He leaves his wife Fern, Glen Dawson's sister.

Frank "Tug" Richardson, one of the earliest SMS members, died in October 1983. He was an Associate Professor Emeritus in the University of Washington Zoology Dept. His wife Dorothy lives near Seattle.

Dean and Louise Ashcraft celebrated their Golden (50th) Wedding Anniversary May 25, 1986. Among those present at the celebration were old-time SMS members Joan and Nate Clark, Ruth and Howard Koster, DeDe Gorin, Bill and Agatha Davies, Agnes Dawson, Glen and Mary Helen Dawson, Bob and Mary Brinton, and Karl and Marita Bodenhofer. Also present were the Ashcraft son and daughter Kent and Gayle and their families, plus many other friends.

RDM

WHERE HAVE ALL THE MUGELNOO'S GONE

The Mugelprinter did not go to the Bahamas--he went to Jamaica and enjoyed his seven-day vacation. The trip is highly recommended for those who can spare the time from writing letters to the editor. Instructions for getting the Mugelnoos to the Mugelprinter are in the Mugelnoos folder. The instructions are very simple--the Mugelnoos is delivered to my home Thursday night or to my job Friday morning. My AA takes care of the printing when I am not there. I departed for Jamaica Friday, May 9, at 11:30 p.m.; no one had contacted me about the printing.

LR

## TIOGA PASS

30 May - 1 June 1986

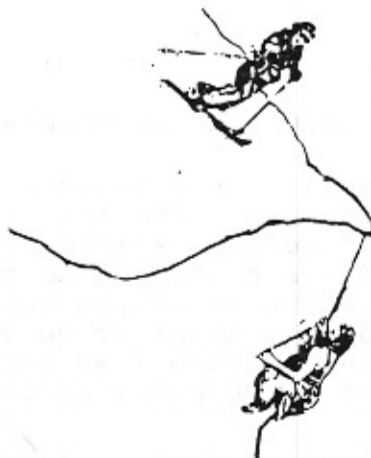
Gerry Holleman, Mark Goebel

After eating a hot breakfast at Nicely's Restaurant in Lee Vining, we drove up the recently opened Tioga Pass Road and studied evidence of numerous avalanches that had probably taken place in February. The weather forecast was thundershowers but the day started out sunny and warm with a few clouds. Eight people met at 8:30 a.m. just outside the Tioga Pass entrance station. Joan Jones, Don Holtz, Anna Zordan, Mark Goebel and Pat and Gerry Holleman had driven up from L.A., while Joel Axelrad came from Mammoth and George Grover from Carson City. At the cars, we could already see several groups of people heading up the snow slopes of Mt. Dana. By 9:00, we started through the woods for a direct route to the peak. Eight hundred feet below the summit, the snow ended and we left the skis and hiked to the top. The Alpine Ski Touring Committee trip also summited at about the same time so both groups had a quick lunch as we contemplated the fast approaching dark thunderclouds. On the descent, the developing sun cups made the snow quite rough and somewhat difficult to ski. In particular, the snow in flat areas near rocks was very soft and rotten. With concentration and technique adjustment however, it became only another challenge of backcountry skiing.

Saturday night we camped in Lee Vining Canyon. After enjoying happy hour and most of dinner, rain showers chased us under various shelters for the rest of the evening. The rain mostly quit on cue when Mark gave up and pitched his tent.

Sunday morning we met on the Saddlebag Lake road at 9:00 a.m. minus Joan and Don who left because of equipment problems. Thoughts of wading the rushing stream left us cold so we searched and found a sturdy snow bridge formed by an old avalanche that came off Tioga Peak. Following tracks, we headed for the broad snow slopes of peak 12,002' that looked very enticing from Tioga Road. Since the main slope was too south-facing, we angled slightly left away from the summit to find better snow and arrived at the top about 11:30. We postponed lunch to ski before the slope softened even more. As we telemarked down, big snow rollers came with us. After lunch we skinned up and climbed a more north-facing slope. This snow was rough and unpredictable but still fun. Thunderclouds were again moving in and we decided it was time to vacate the area. As we skied back to the cars we finally found snow that put us into a state of ecstasy as we telemarked turn after turn to end the ski season with delightful memories of perfect snow.

When we stopped at the store below Tioga Pass for a beer, the owner said that it had been flooded with 8 feet of water in February as the result of an avalanche that backed up Ellery Lake. He arrived in April to find a foot of water and all of the coolers turned over. His granddad had skied in from June Lake in 1910. --PH



## Thompson Ridge

May 10-11, 1986

Gerry Holleman, Don Pies

As we drove the remaining few miles from Four Jeffrey Campground towards South Lake, we saw evidence of several avalanches that had come down from either side of the valley, probably last February. Soon we came upon a vehicle stuck in frozen avalanche debris; we decided to park and walk. About a quarter mile below Pargers Camp the snow was continuous, so we put on skis and skins and proceeded up to South Lake; our destination was the draw and ridge readily visible at the southern tip of the lake.

The lake level was very low in preparation for the big runoff that will occur later this spring. We worked down over big cracks in the ice remaining from when the level had been higher, skied the length of the lake, and went up a steep drainage toward a small level area at 10,400' just below Treasure Lakes. All seven of us pitched our tents in the highest clump of trees.

Although it was sunny and clear, the wind was cold and the plentiful snow didn't soften much that afternoon. There was a low rumble of complaints from the group as the leader attempted to decide on the lesser of several evils. First we went up towards Mt. Gilbert where we found a thin breakable crust of newer snow over a firm base. A northeasterly slope was skiable, but not great. A west facing slope on Hurd Peak was getting a lot of sun so we tried it. Partial success. The wind kept this surface hard and icy above Treasure Lakes, but the short descent from lake level down to camp had softened nicely, so we headed toward happy hour with enthusiasm.

Sunday morning we climbed the nose of a ridge that extends north from Mt. Gilbert and dropped into the drainage that leads southwest to Thompson Ridge and Ski Mountaineers Peak. The snow slopes looked beautiful, but at 11,600' it was hard ice with that cold wind yet. We turned around and went back to the ridge that would take us back to camp. It was great!

We went up and down twice, had lunch and broke camp, took time for another half a trip, skated across South Lake, and down the road. After dinner at the Sizzler in Bishop, it was an easy trip home except for a 40 minute traffic jam over Sepulveda Pass. There will be another trip to get SMP next year.

Participants were Don Pies, Mark Goebel, Lisa Freundlich, Harold McFadden, Gerry and Pat Holleman, and Niels Jorgensen. GH

## Upcoming Southern California AAC events . . .

Reinhold Messner will decide in the near future to come to the United States for a speaking tour. He will probably come after completing the remaining two of the 8000 meter peaks.

We have taken steps to obtain the right to sponsor Reinhold locally. This venture will require work on the section's part. If we properly publicize, promote, etc., we could even make money. My own feeling is that the reason we do it is as a service for the climbing community and as a means of obtaining favorable publicity for the AAC.

Many of you have volunteered your help to me privately. NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE YOURSELVES HEARD!!!! WE NEED HELP.

We urgently need a chairperson for this event. I would guess that we will also need:

- Mailers
- Ticket sellers
- Sign Makers
- Publicity\*
- Representatives for the local mountaineering stores

You probably do not know that Ted Vaill, John Wedberg, Pete White, and R.J.Secor work with me as an ad hoc advisory group. We have started the ball rolling, the rest is up to you. Dick Sykes (714-751-2954).

ASHLAND IS NOT FOR WIMPS

After viewing a video-tape on Telemarking, my family noticed that the video's locale on Mt. Ashland's Ski Area was devoid of skiers. No harassing hordes hurtling down the slopes - empty runs. So, during Gabrielle's 'spring break', we drove to Ashland, Oregon, for three days of lift-served skiing on Mt. Ashland's empty slopes.

Not only are Mt. Ashland's slopes empty, but lift tickets are only \$14: all lifts, all day. Add to that the package deal sold by the "Ashland Hostel", all-lifts plus lodging at the AYHA Hostel for \$18 per person, and you can see why our eagerness. The Ashland Hostel is a charming, comfortable place - one of the best youth hostels in all North America. And Ashland, the West's Shakespeare Festival headquarters, is an oasis of culture and fine dining in red-neck land.

Mt. Ashland has numerous intermediate and advanced runs, but only one beginner run. The intermediate would be considered black ball at Mammoth. The advanced runs are terror. There's nothing at Mammoth except the drop off the cornice to compare. One advanced run takes you down a bowl comparable to Paranoia on Mammoth. The cornice on top of the bowl and part of the 45° slope had avalanched, and my wild daughter "telied" her way past huge blocks of snow & ice littering the lower part of the bowl. Mom and Dad skid the more conservative intermediate runs, and found them more than challenging.

Ashland is an 11 hour drive. It's more than worth it to be able to ski precisely where and how you want, not once looking over your shoulder. On our last day, we had the whole top of the mountain completely to ourselves - just us three plus two lift monitors. What more can one ask from life? (NK)

Mugelmailer Wanted.

I have been asked to outline the responsibilities of the Mugelmailer. They include: Accepts subscriptions, renewals and change of address notifications to Mugelnoos. Provides this information monthly to the Mugel-labeller in time to have the labels available for collating the paper at the meetings. Compensates individuals for costs relating to Mugelnoos production; such as stamps, paper, copying service, etc. With Mugelnoos Chairperson and others assure that all elements required for mailing the paper are at the meetings - and that there is a back up plan. Maintain bank account under "Mugelnoos - John or Mary Doe." Review all finances with Mugelnoos Chairperson every year - or upon request. D.M.

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