



THE MUGELNOOS

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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 Pat Holleman, 1638 6th St., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266. \$7 per year due in October.

CLIMBING RESTRICTIONS LIFTED!!!

The Sierra Club has been able to obtain insurance, effective October 1, covering mountaineering and rock climbing activities, according to a memo from Sierra Club President Larry Downing. This means that all 4th Class or higher trips and training activities may now be run once again. Restrictions on water sports remain; we can use only common carriers or non-owned boats under 30 feet operated by Club members. No river-rafting, no charters with crew.

As most readers of the 'Noos know, the Rock Climbing Section has had to suspend operations for the past year, although the section itself still exists as part of the Sierra Club with John Orange as Chair. The climbers set up the Southern California Mountaineering Association, a non-profit corporation, outside the Sierra Club to carry on with climbing activities. During the past year the SCMA attracted new members and leaders who were not Sierra Club members. Now the climbers must decide whether to bring their operation back into the Sierra Club. As we go to press, it appears that they will indeed creep back into the tent, so that pages of the Mugelnoos will again be graced by the sage advice of the Underground Grammarian, and debates about "lieback" vs "layback".

The SMS, of course, has just concluded an agreement with the Sierra Peaks Section to share meetings (but not newsletters -- the Mugelnoos continues). The Central Committee must now decide whether to continue this arrangement, which has some problems because of the different meeting format, and lack of time for mailing the 'Noos, not to mention a disconcerting atmosphere of organization and purpose. Meetings for at least the next few months will be joint with the SPS, so that you will be hearing about skiing on the second Wednesday rather than the third Tuesday of the month, starting in January. The place is the same: the luxurious auditorium at Griffith Park.

Write your Congressman and suggest applying the anti-trust laws to insurance companies. Then next time we can sue for triple damages.

A VISIT TO K2

George Wallerstein, long-time SMS member, spent the months of May and June as a member of the support team of the American K2 Expedition to the North Ridge of the Peak. They flew to Kasgar via Beijing and Urumchi and then proceeded to the end of the road on the Yarkand River by bus and truck. A seven-day trek with camels carrying the supplies took them across the Aghil Pass (15,800 ft) to base camp at about 12,800 ft. For a month they carried supplies to advanced base at about 17,000 ft at the base of the North Ridge. In addition the support party had a chance to hike around the area and ascend some small local peaks. The climbers arrived in early June and set up a series of camps on the ridge. They reached 26,000 or a bit higher three times but were stopped by the weather each time. The statistics for K2 this year were 9 expeditions, 20 people reached the top, and 9 people died due to storms and avalanches.

GW

-- THE SMS 1986-87 SCHEDULE IS GIVEN IN FULL ON THE LAST PAGE OF THIS ISSUE --

CONSERVATION CORNER, continued

Your tax-deductible contribution now will be earmarked for the Tecate Cypress preservation effort. Those wishing to contribute should make their check payable to "Sierra Club Foundation/Friends of the Angeles Chapter" with the notation "Tecate Cypress Fund" on the face of the check. Mail all contributions to Friends of the Angeles Chapter, 2418 Beverly Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90057. [If you leave off the words "Sierra Club Foundation", you will also contribute to the IRS - Ed].

GR

MUGELNOOS SKI TEST REPORT

Testing skis has become a Big Deal for ski magazines, and the Mugelnoos musn't be left behind. We present herewith such a report.

After a year or two of self-denial your reporter finally went and plunked down the big bucks for a pair of Duret 8300 Alpine-touring skis from France. They are 200 cm long, but, after all, we have an occasional stream to cross. At least the bindings were on sale. They are Ramers. The skis weigh, bindings mounted, 9.5 pounds per pair. (Rotten, lying bathroom-scale pounds, not traceable to NBS standards -- the skis must be lighter than that). If you believe the advertising, these are supposed to be some of the best mountaineering skis in the world, built by a company that builds nothing else.

The 200-cm length tested has a GS cut, while the shorter lengths have a slalom cut. For those who are curious about cosmetics, the skis are navy with orange lettering. The bases are also orange, and go nicely with Pomoca climbing skins. Instead of saying something like "Sarajevo 1984" or (more typical of what SMSers ski on) "Squaw Valley 1960", they say "Everest 1978". That, along with the holes in the tip or tail and the precut skin notch in the tails, has already been good for some chairlift and liftline conversation. Besides, as Ellen Wilts points out, it is fun to watch the snow squirt through the holes when you ski powder. And you can clip in one of those new purple biners and really get their attention -- there are all sorts of opportunities for the imaginative decorator.

The skis were tested at Mammoth, which is where all reputable ski magazines test skis. The Official Mugelnoos Test Program involved skiing the Face of Five and Upper Dry Creek with alternating glittering icy moguls and patches of powder, some deepish powder, a lot of flattish stuff like Upper Stump Alley, and a lot of ordinary moguls and similar Mammoth terrain.

Conclusion - The Duret is the best quick ski your Mugeltester has ever skied. Skiing from icy mogul to icy mogul with intervening powder patches feels almost the same as skiing hardpack. Not only do the Durets track like the Union Pacific, but you can change your mind and go somewhere else, which on ice or in powder often leads to Unpredictable Results.

The only criticism is that in cruising terrain the skis are a bit squirrely, being so light. But because of a shortfall in the test budget, your Mugeltester was wearing ski-mountaineering boots, which fit like a Muu-Muu. It must be pretty simple being a shoe salesman in Europe, where nobody has half-size feet (Hitler took care of those who did -- it was too inconvenient to stock their size). So all in all, your Mugeltester has concluded that the Duret is an excellent ski, well worth the money. The GS skis were so quick that it's hard to imagine how the slalom skis could be quicker.

We must compare these skis with another French masterpiece, the Rossignol SM. SM's are almost as quick, but being much heavier they are more positive. When one sets the edges of a pair of SM's between gates, it is for the Honor of France, no matter how many machine-gun nests Les Boches have placed between you and the next gate.

The Durets, on the other hand, convey that be-ready-for-anything feeling so characteristic of mountaineering. The only handhold proved to be portable, you say? C'est dommage.

OM

1986/87 SMS TOUR SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Leaders</u>
6-8 Dec	Mammoth Condo Weekend/ Leader Training	Kathy Crandall/Owen Maloy
3 Jan	Local Introductory Tour	Walt Boge/Ed Unge
10 Jan	Cross Country Downhill Clinic	Mark Goebel/Gerry Holleman
11 Jan	Local Introductory Tour	Walt Boge/Ed Unge
17-18 Jan	San Gorgonio Snow Camp	Andy Fried/Mary Gygax
24 Jan	Alternate X-Country Downhill Clinic	Mark Goebel/Gerry Holleman
25 Jan	Local Introductory Tour	Pete Matulavich/Dick Smith
30 Jan-1 Feb	Ski Mountaineers Training Camp Keller Hut	Paul Harris/Kathy Crandall/ Mark Goebel
7-8 Feb	Mammoth Condo Weekend	Paul Harris/Kathy Crandall/ Pat Holleman
14 Feb	Local Introductory Tour	Tom Jenkins/Need a volunteer.
14-16 Feb	Pear Lake Hut	Tom Duryea/Mary Gygax
21-22 Feb	SMS Wilderness Ski Race & Introductory Tour	Don Pies/Gerry Holleman/ Mark Goebel
27 Feb-1 Mar	Ski Mountaineers Races Keller Hut	Kathy Crandall/Mark Goebel/ John Blumthal
7-8 Mar	San Gorgonio Snowcamp	Pete Matulavich/Mark Goebel
14-15 Mar	Mts. Dana and Gibbs	Scot Jamison/Randy Danta
28-29 Mar	Mammoth Condo Weekend	Mary Gygax/Kathy Crandall
4-5 Apr	Onion Valley Car Camp	Mark Goebel/Gerry Holleman
4-5 Apr	Baldy Hut Weekend	R.J. Secor/John Wedberg
25-26 Apr	Convict Lake Car Camp	Andy Fried/Tom Duryea
2-3 May	Mammoth Cabin Weekend	June Lane/Pat Holleman/Mike Layland
9-10 May	Lamarck Col	Don Pies/Paul Harris
16-17 May	Thompson Ridge Snow Camp	Gerry Holleman/Mark Goebel
16-17 May	Basin Mountain	Doug Mantle/Randy Danta
23-25 May	Thousand Island Lakes Snow Camp	Mark Goebel/Paul Harris
30-31 May	Mt. Dana Car Camp	R.J. Secor/Craig Dostie

PEANUTS By Schulz

