



THE MOUNTAINEERS

No. 647 - March, 1987

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. \$7.00 per year due in October.

PEAR LAKE TOUR

Feb. 13-16, 1987

For the third consecutive year, Tom Duryea and Mary Gyax co-led the President's Day Pear Lake Tour. Last year's trip took place amid what amounted to the storm of the season. Of the twenty interested in this year's trip only eight met at the Village cafeteria on S. morning: Millie Bloomban, Fred Costio, Ron De Gryse, Dave Furlong, Charlotte Pick, and Ann Zordan.

The trip began on rain packed cement. The snow finally softened as we gained elevation under sunny skies. We leap-frogged a snow survey group of 19 who slept out at Emerald Lake. By the time we reached the top of the ridge we were skiing on 6 ft. of new snow. Everyone slept in the hut although we had confirmed reservations for only 4; thanks to the Kaweah Rollers ... the hard-drinking, hard-skiing, gambling gourmet eating, kayaking group with whom we shared the hut.

Sunday morning we left for a tour to winter Alta. The trip was aborted, 400 ft. from the summit due to a blustery white out. That afternoon some party members tried to break the 2-1/4 hr. record for piecing together a jig-saw puzzle of Yosemite Valley. The Rollers fought off frost bite by downing some of the 2 gallons of hard liquor they carried in. The hard core skiers made afternoon runs to the lake. The really hard core skiers couldn't resist a night tour under a full moon and 14 degree temperatures.

That evening the Rollers taught the intrepid (or gullible) how to play "Quarters". Millie provided comic relief with her aptitude in mastering the fundamentals. Also, Charlotte amazed the group with her authentic gear - 1930's seal skins that her parents had skied on.

Information and permits for the hut can be obtained by calling the Chief Ranger's Office at (209)-565-3341 or writing:

National Park Service
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
Three Rivers, CA 93271

The Cost is \$4.50 per night per individual (excluding the \$5.00 per vehicle park entrance fee). Permits are selected by a drawing 60 days in advance. Hut users need to carry propane gas cylinders (e.g. Coleman Standard #94230 14.1 oz.) for the 2 burner gas stove and lanterns kept at the hut. White gas is prohibited. Sleeping mattresses, pots & pans, silverware, and a kerosene stove to heat the hut are provided. An in-house compost toilet is also available.

-TD/MGY

MUGELNOOS STAFF

Editor.....Dick Smith
 Mugelprinter.....Leroy Russ
 Mugelnoos Chm.....Dick Smith
 Mugelmailer.....Pat Holleman
 Contributors.....Tom Durven(TD),
 Mary Gyax(MGY), Mark Goebel(MGO),
 Norm Kingsley(NK)

Next Editor: Don Pies
 1606 Haynes Lane
 Redondo Beach, CA 90278
 Next Issue: April 8, 1987
 Deadline: April 1, 1987

CALENDAR

14-15 Mar Mrs. Dana and Gibbs
 Jamison/Danta
 28-29 Mar Mammoth Condo
 Gyax/Crandall
 4-5 Apr Onion Valley Car Camp
 Goebel/Holleman
 4-5 Apr Baldy Hut
 Secor/Wedberg
 8 Apr Mugelnoos Meeting
 25-26 Apr Convict Lake Car Camp
 Fried/Durven

NOMINATIONS!!!!

'87/'88 SMS CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Tom Jenkins is looking for candidates for next year's Central Committee. Candidate nominations include recommendations for others, volunteers, and appointments if Tom gets desperate. Nominations must be made by April 1 in order to get on the April Mugelnoos ballot. Send nominations to: Tom Jenkins, P.O. Box 4830, Long Beach, CA 90804-0830, (213)-439-3780

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS

Second Wednesday of each month, 7:30 p.m.
 Griffith Park Ranger Station Auditorium
 4730 Crystal Springs Drive, L. A.
 Free parking!!! Skiers and guests welcome

NEW SKI SPORT THREATENS S.M.S.!!

Ski Mountaineers! It's time to reassess the SMS' image! Bad enough about doing away with ONLY mandated "real" alpine skis and Ramer-binding - allowing Nordic into the section. No, things have gone too far. Not only are SMS'ers skiing Nordic, they're "skating"! Yes, it's true. A well-known SMS-member couple were seen recently in a Mammoth Nordic race, skating. They even skated uphill! The worst was neither wore baggy knickers, wool Balaclavas, or heavy boots; no, they were turned out in utterly indecent skin tight suits of bright, shiny material. Obscene! They wore tiny little slipper shoes, and skated on skinny Nordic gear, with poles that reached to their noses. Not even decent 3-pin bindings. No dignified diagonal shuffle up to Coldwater Campground, they even skated that part of the 10K race. And their 10K times were much faster than what any of us could have "classic" skied the route. Something MUST be done to stop this. An emergency decree must be issued. Skating must be stifled.

-NK

(Could this be G.&P. II. of anon. gogale fame?)
 -ed.

Mt. San Jacinto

Feb. 28, 1987

SMSers, Gerry and Pat Holleman, Mark Goebel, Lisa Freundlich along with Jee McCoy from San Diego, on a non-scheduled outing, checked out the new snowfall on San Jac. During the previous week new snow was reported all over Southern California with very low temperatures recorded. Everything above 2000' was white and this reporter even observed snow on a car driving thru Costa Mesa on Wednesday morning.

Upon arriving at the Palm Springs Tram, skiing was not on our minds only; people with skis were all over the lot, and the early tram could have been at any ski area. Almost everyone had skis in hand. It was during the tram ride that Joe's true identity was revealed. He is the skiing gorilla observed at last year's Mammoth nordic carnival.

Once up on top, we found brilliant sunshine and soft powder still in the trees. About 2-1/2 to 3 feet was the average, but it was changing fast out on the open slopes. We made our way towards the summit via Tamarack Meadows and fortunately Gerry, eager for conditioning, broke trail thru the wet snow. From the summit, snowy peaks abounded and even the mountains over at Joshua Tree were white. By descending to the San Jac-Jean Pk. saddle and then through the trees to Round Valley, we were able to delight in the powder which was actually knee deep in places. However, so was the snow pack and sometimes the boulders would caress our ski bottoms. But for the most part, it was real nice. As usual, what with foot travel, the trail down from Round Valley was challenging, but even more so for the skiing gorilla with foggy glasses in a black and red lycra one-piece suit. The wilderness experience is never without surprises.

-MGO

SNOWCAT SKIING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA - 1987

About 250 miles north of Spokane, Wash. in the Selkirk Range of B.C., Canada, is Meadow Mountain, an 8000' massif just up the valley from 60+ mile long Kooteney Lake. Meadow Mountain is the home of Selkirk Wilderness Skiing Ltd., and my destination on Feb 15th for five days of powder skiing by snowcat.

Snowcat skiing was pioneered on Meadow Mountain over a decade ago as an alternative to heli-skiing. Some advantages being lower cost, snowcats are never grounded by bad weather, and smaller groups mean more untracked snow. Every morning from their new 9000 square foot lodge at 4000', 24 skiers, in two groups with guides, climb into warm, twelve passenger snowcats for transport to the peaks and bowls of Meadow Mountain. The ski terrain covers 20 square miles with runs of 1000 to 4000 vertical feet - gentle ego runs, spectacular open bowls, challenging chutes, and treed slopes. Many times, each run included a combination of steep, ego, and trees, and always untracked powder snow in a wilderness setting. While we often times repeated a run, the runs were wide enough so that new snow could be enjoyed. Each day we averaged 12,000 to 16,000 vertical feet with time to enjoy views and take pictures. The last run each day was always a long one right to the door of the lodge.

The lodge is a real delight featuring spacious living and recreation rooms, fireplaces, sauna, and open air jacuzzi. Since individuals in each group came equipped with video cameras, we were able to nightly re-enjoy the daily events of figure-eight turns, spectacular jumps and crashes. Of the two groups, one was made up of hot-skiing Canadians, who were into major air time. That is they liked to jump, and we saw it all on the video. What a show! I should also mention that the food was superb. Each meal was created with a gourmet touch and with deep powder appetites in mind.

Everyone skied on alpine gear, but tele gear is welcome all or part-time if you wish. However, what with the steep sand trees, one tele skier better be real good. Otherwise, they advise skiers to be in good physical condition (powder skiing is not as easy as it looks), and skiers should be of strong intermediate ability and able to handle the expert runs of a standard ski area. I was fortunate to experience powder snow all week which was very consistent, but with mild temperatures (20-30F). Their season runs from Christmas to early April and powder prevails throughout the period. From Southern California, the best access is by flying to Spokane and then by rental car. Although I did it all in one day going up, 2 days are better on your nervous system, what with airline delays, weather, and winding roads in Canada. For additional information and reservations, their address is Selkirk Wilderness Skiing Ltd., Meadow Creek, B.C., Canada V0G 1N0, phone: 604-366-4424. Reserve early if you want to go; they have lots of repeat customers, and I will probably be one of them.

-MGO

CLIMBING SHOE "RACE" ESCALATES

With introduction of Tony Yaniro's Kamet model "Joshua Tree", the climbing footwear state of the art has upped a big notch.

Rock-jock Yaniro, dissatisfied with current rock climbing footwear, designed model "Joshua Tree" with Liberty's Ed Bannister. Their major concern was a shoe that won't fail on steep, flaring cracks.

Yaniro and Bannister think "Joshua Tree" is the answer. This shoe's most striking feature is the rubber on the upper forefoot portion that extends all the way to the eyelets. That takes care of flaring cracks. Next came rubber outsoles, and an all-round rand of very sticky rubber. Said Yaniro, "the Joshua Tree is stickier than Fire, by far".



Yaniro and Bannister solved the heat-problem generated upon the foot on longer climbs by adding panels of breathable Cordura on the uppers. Insides are fully lined with Cambrelle, a cool, silky, breathable material that maintains its shape and comfort.

Unlike Fire and newer "knock-offs", this shoe did not deform after extended use. There are numerous other unique features built into this shoe that set it apart from the other "new" climbing shoes - no need to get into more detail. Made by hand in Spain, each shoe is signed off on the outside by Kamet's owner. The "Joshua Tree" retails for \$89.95 and was found to be a significant "leap upward" by climbers that tested it at Joshua Tree all Winter.

-NK

THE MUGELNOOS
Pat Holleman
1638 6th St.
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

