



THE NEEDLES

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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 & address changes to Pat Holleman, 1638 6th St., Manhattan Beach, Ca 90266. \$7 per year due in October.

NEEDLES SNOW CAMP 17-18 JAN

THE OFTEN MOVED LOCATION FOR THIS TRIP ENDED UP AT THE NEEDLES AS BOTH SNOW CONDITIONS AND PARTICIPANTS SEEMED TO FAVOR THIS LOCATION. THE INCLUSION OF THIS AREA IN THE CALIF SNOW PARK SYSTEM HAS RESULTED IN INCREASED VISITOR TRAFFIC OVER WHAT WE HAD EXPERIENCED IN PREVIOUS YEARS. SNOWMOBILES USE BOTH THE AREAS SET ASIDE FOR THEM, AND AREAS SET ASIDE FOR CROSS COUNTRY SKIERS. IN PAST YEARS WE CAMPED IN THE WOODS NEAR THE PONDEROSA LODGE AND MADE DAY TOURS TO DOME ROCK AREA ON ONE DAY, AND TOURED OUT TO THE NEEDLES ON THE OTHER. DOME ROCK IS NOW IN AN AREA DESIGNATED FOR SNOWMOBILE USE. THE NEEDLES LOOKOUT TRAIL IS OPEN TO BOTH SKIERS AND SNOWMOBILES. TENT CAMPING NEAR THE PONDEROSA IS NO LONGER ADVISABLE DUE TO THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE AREA. CAUTION IS ADVISED WHEN DRIVING IN THE AREA AS BEER BOTTLES ARE SOMETIMES LEFT ON THE ROAD HIDDEN BY SNOW.

AS A RESULT OF THESE CHANGES WE DECIDED TO SKI OUT TO THE END OF THE NEEDLES ROAD AND ESTABLISH A CAMP IN THE WOODS OUT OF SIGHT OF THE ROAD. AS THE DISTANCE TO THE CAMP WAS ONLY THREE MILES FROM THE PARKING AREA SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS DECIDED TO SKI BACK TO THE CARS AND DRIVE TO THE PONDEROSA LODGE FOR DINNER, RETURNING TO THE CAMP BEFORE MIDNIGHT. OTHERS DAY TOURED NEAR CAMP AND WENT TO BED EARLY. ON SUNDAY ALL PARTICIPANTS TOURED OUT TO THE NEEDLES. AFTER THE TOUR, CAMP WAS STRUCK AND EVERYBODY SKIED DOWN THE ICY ROAD TO THE CARS. A.F.

OLD FRIENDS TO REUNITE

The SMS Central Committee is recommending that the Section reunite with the RCS starting next ski season (beginning in Nov). It is hard to argue with success- the 50 year relationship between the RCS and SMS is a testimonial to the viability of this joint organization. Judging from the rosters and interest expressed by current members, there is continuing support for both activities.

The SMS has enjoyed sharing meetings with the SPS this past season and hopes that ties between the sections have been strengthened for the future. Those who oppose SMS reassociating with the RCS should contact the Central Committee promptly. This proposal will be enacted at the beginning of June. If there is sufficient concern, a special open business meeting will be called to discuss the issues.

DP

MUGELNOOS STAFF

Editor.....Don Pies
 Mugelprinter.....LeRoy Russ
 Mugelnoos Chairman.....Dick Smith
 Mugelmailer.....Pat Holleman
 Reporters: Andy Fried, Don Pies,
 Phantom Skater, Samantha Graspfang
 Yeti, Mystery Tipster. It sounds like
 we are running an underground
 newspaper-Ed.

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NEXT ISSUE: May 13, 1987

DEADLINE: May 6, 1987

SUBSCRIPTIONS: See Front Page

MEETINGS: SMS/SPS-Wed May 13
 next meeting. RCS meets the third
 Wed of each month. Both meetings
 at 7:30 PM at the Griffith Park
 Ranger Auditorium, 4730 Crystal
 Springs Dr., LA

SMS CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Chairman.....Don Pies
 Vice Chair.....Kathy Crandall
 Sec-Treas.....Paul Harris
 Outings-Safety.....Gerry Holleman
 Alternate/Council.....Owen Maloy

RCS OFFICERS

Chairman.....John Orange
 Vice Chair.....Phil Rabichow
 Treas.....Mike Feldman
 Mem/Safety Ch.....Margo Koss

CALENDAR**Ski Mountaineers:**

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

Rock Climbers:

11-12 Apr, J.T., Ron Hudson/
 John Orange

25-26 Apr, Red Rocks-Nevada,
 Greg Vernon/Margo Koss

2-3 May, Suicide Rock, John Orange/?

9 May, Bucket Drop Test Massacre,
 Safety Committee,
 call Margo for reservations
 213-227-4973 or
 213-222-0319

The Mystery Tipster.....Reports

I am the Mystery Tipster. Each issue I will provide you with a ski mountaineering tip observed from a SMS or private trip. Remember, I don't dream these tips up, they come from you SMSers. I am just a conduit of your good ski mountaineering practices. Feel free to share your ideas and hot tips (Dear MT, I,....). Above all, remember to learn from the smarties and stay away from the dummies!

Here is the tip. One SMSer (many SMSers...Ed.) stores his skins in an air tight plastic bag. This helps prevent the glue from drying out. This is particularly important during the long off season. So bag your skins for stickier glue.

MT

"RESPECT"

by Samantha Graspfang Yeti

When days are short and nights are cold
And winter clouds roll by
Great tales are told of climbers bold
And places steep and high.

Of all the stories ever told
One stands the test of time
A mountain sage wise with age
Has given us this rhyme.

The Sierra range has places strange
Where ghosts and goblins roam
But far and near the place men fear
Is the wall at Demon Dome.

Then came the year one with no fear
Went to the wall to climb
The rock was smooth, and every groove
Would yield a line so prime.

Soon all about there was a route
The climbing filled one's sight
And what was feared became revered
For giving pure delight

As days went past the word spread fast
This place of granite bright
And many took pleasure and shared the treasure
Of the rock in the range of light.

And he who overcame the fear
Of this strange and awesome dome
Became among the best of those
Who call the rock their home.

As time went by his fame grew high
An idol shining bright
And so he thought, the rules had ought
Alone be his to write.

And so he told the young and old
What they could and couldn't do
And tried to force his will on all
For he was right, he knew.

But then one day the sky turned gray
The rock glowed eerie red
The mountain's spirit angered
And whispering it said:

"You have climbed the hardest jamcrack
You have scaled the thinnest face
Many talents have I given you
And pleasures from this place."

"But you have set yourself apart
From all who share this rock
And by your pride and arrogance
You did my kindness mock."

"And so for all your insolence
This fate you must endure
Your handiwork will vanish
As if you never were."

The ground did shake and hard rock break
With loud and thundering sound
And everything the man had done
Went tumbling to the ground.

Now the air was still, and a ghoulish chill
Pierced the land from east to west
And the rock was pure, and the spirit sure
In peace he could now rest.

The Sierra range has places strange
The spirit calls his home
And tales of all his wonderful deeds
Can fill a mighty tome.

For those who climb the mountain peaks
They get their tidings good
And those who come for inner peace
Get solice, as they should.

But woe to those who have chose
Their fellow man to sneer
For they forget who does permit
All creatures to be here.

O, a climber's life is full of strife
From ice and rock and snow
And through his mind strange forces wind
That few men ever know.

Where sun shines bright on granite white
And streams and creeks flow free
Where eagles soar and lions roar
Is where his spirit be.

Now hear the word of one who's heard
Of all things that men do
It matters not what fame they've got
They've accomplished nothing new.

For who can ask the stars to shine
Or tell the sun to rise
Or bid the mighty mountain peaks
Rise up to meet the skies.

So lift your eyes to the starlit skies
Hear the coyotes as they sing
But beware dear friend of the wicked end
Self righteousness will bring.

PHANTOM SKATERS REPLY

Thank goodness for the good fortune of the SMS to have alert watchdogs such as NK to guard the morals of the Section against new-fangled techniques like skating! The SMS would certainly go to hell in a handbasket if NK were not out patrolling the ski trails for wayward members. However, it was reported that even while NK was extolling the virtues of granola-skiers, he allegedly made offers of H A R D C A S H to the accused to be given lessons in the art of skating! Next he will probably be seen trying on obscene tights and trading in those Caribou AR's for new WAXABLE skis, heaven forbid! Corruption is close to home and maybe the SMS needs watchdogs to keep an eye on the watchdogs! (Green goggles, nevermore!) -PS

HERBAL "HIGHLIFE"

PEKING (UPI)—Chinese researchers on the Qinghai-Tibetan plateau have developed an herbal medicine that is effective in preventing and treating altitude sickness, the official New China News Agency reported. Wu Tianyi, deputy director of the Qinghai Altitude Sickness Research Institute, said the medicine "can help the blood circulation carry more oxygen and reduce the pressure on the heart and brain caused by lack of oxygen."

from L.A. Times

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