



THE MOUNTAIN DOGS

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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, 1838 6th St., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 \$7 per year due in October.

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SKIING ABOVE ONION VALLEY April 4&5, 1987

This year's trip was very much in contrast to last year as far as snow depths are concerned. In 1986, we were there in mid April, and still had to start walking several miles below road's end. The parking lot was buried under 10 feet of snow from an avalanche and all slopes were white. At only 60% of normal in 1987, we drove right up and into the lot where old tree stumps from the avalanche still remained. South facing slopes above the lot were bare. However, our route fortunately went the opposite way to Robinson Basin where powder snow was still waiting to be skied.

The line of skiers included, Tom Duryea, Paul Kenworthy, Eddie Nunez, Jeff Cahodas, Harold McFadden, Paul Hunt, Greg Jordan, Joy Fagert and Mark Goebel. After climbing on skis to about 11,600 feet, we reached the top of a high moraine, just before University Col, where we enjoyed sunshine and lunch. As we started down, what at first appeared crusty, turned out to be reasonably good powder, and sure enough, almost everyone headed back up the bowl for another run thru untracked whiteness. We finally packed up for good and continued the 3 mile, 2400' descent to the cars. Along the way, we experienced all the usual variables of snow types, but also left some nice turns on the hill.

Saturday evening was spent in Upper Greys Meadow Campground, where some continued on to town and all enjoyed a warm campfire. A slightly smaller group toured on Sunday to Gilbert Lake. We were forced to carry skis several times along the way, but good corn snow was found to the east of the lake whereupon we make several runs. Again, as we descended into Onion Valley, careful route finding was required, but all skied within a short distance of the trail head. Both Harold and Paul for their efforts received 4th class sign-off cards, and we look forward to their SMS memberships.

MG

1987 UNIMPAIRED SNOWMELT RUNOFF FORECASTS

These figures are the water runoff forecasts in percent of normal, based on a 50 year average. They do not necessarily represent the amount of snow on the ground, but instead indicate the water levels we can expect to find during stream crossings this coming spring and summer.

Merced, 46%; San Joaquin, 49%; Kings, 51%; Kaweah, 46%; Tule, 37%; Kern, 47%; Owens, 56%; Mono, 51%. The Owens basin breaks down as follows: Long Valley, 53%; Long Valley to Tinemaha Reservoir, 66%; Tinemaha Reservoir to Haiwee Reservoir, 38%.

By way of comparison, it should be noted that the Owens basin was 172% of normal last year.

RJS

MUGELNOOS STAFF

Editor.....Kathy Crandall
Mugelprinter.....Leroy Russ
Mugelnoos Chairman....Dick Smith
Mugelmailer.....Pat Holleman
Reporters: Andy Fried, Mark
Goebel, Paul Harris, Norm Kings-
ley, Owen Maloy, RJ Secor,
Mystery Tipster, John Wedberg

NEXT EDITOR: None Announced
Call Dick Smith: 213-376-4977

SUBSCRIPTIONS: See Front Page

MEETINGS: SMS/SPS: Second Wednesday of
month. RCS: Third Wednesday of month.
Both meetings at 7:30 PM at the
Griffith Park Ranger Auditorium,
4730 Crystal Springs Dr., LA

CALENDAR:

SMS: May 16-17 Thompson Ridge Snow Camp
Gerry Holleman/Mark Goebel
May 16/17 Basin Mountain
Doug Mantle/Randy Danta
May 23/25 Thousand Island Lakes
Snow Camp
Mark Goebel/Paul Harris
May 30/31 Mt. Dana Car Camp
RJ Secor/Craig Dostie

RCS: No information sent

Note: George Wallerstein is a long time
SMS member, having skied and climbed
actively with the group when he lived
in Southern California. JW

SMSNOOS

Notice that:

Larry Cobb
Lisa Freundlich
Anna Zordan

were made members a year ago, but
incompetence finding its own level,
etc... PH

Dave Perkins is looking for some-
one to go peakbagging with in mid-
June (exact dates lost by editor,
but a week in the Great Wester
Divide area. For a good time,
call 818-886-9315.

LOST lost LOST

A blue REI seat harness, size small,
left on the bus taken to Fossil
Falls. If found, please call
Mary at (818) 249-9934.
(Mary Starkweather)

Satellite-assisted measurements
indicate Mt. Everest may lose its
place in the record books as the
highest peak in the world, a moun-
tain-climbing astronomer says.
George Wallerstein of the Univer-
sity of Washington in Seattle cal-
culated that another Himalayan
mountain-K-2-might be more
than 100 feet taller than Everest,
which lies in Nepal on the border
with Tibet. During an American
expedition last summer, Waller-
stein used a device known as a
satellite transit surveyor to place
the height of K-2 at 29,150 feet-
900 feet higher than its official
height. Mt. Everest's official height
is 29,028 feet. K-2 is about 900
miles northwest of Everest.

AUG 20-23

THU-SUN

RCS

T: Charlotte Dome: This trip is designed for a small number of
RCS members who are currently leading cracks at the 5.8 standard.
The 12-pitch South Face is described by superlatives such as
"easily the best rock that either of us have ever climbed on."
Thu we will backpack to Charlotte Lake; Fri move camp to the base
and scout the route; Sat do the climb; Sun hike out. For
information call Leader JIM ERB (714) 779-3047 during the day.
Asst THERESA RUTHERFORD.

MATTERHORN PEAK APRIL 25-26

AFTER SCOUTING THE CONVICT LAKE AREA THE LAST WEEKEND OF MARCH IT WAS DECIDED
THAT THE TRIP WOULD NEED TO BE RELOCATED. AFTER SOME THOUGHT IT WAS DECIDED
THAT MATTERHORN PEAK MIGHT BE FAR ENOUGH NORTH TO RETAIN SNOW THROUGH APRIL.

AS IT TURNED OUT THIS WAS A GOOD CHOICE. THE TRIP WAS CHANGED FROM A CAR CAMP
TO A BACKPACK, AND AS SUCH THE TURNOUT WAS SMALL. APART FROM THE LEADERS FRIED
AND DURYEA, YVES ERIKSSON AND JEFF REEB MADE THE PARTY COMPLETE.

STARTING FROM THE TWIN LAKES PARKING AREA AROUND 8AM THE GROUP MADE CAMP BY
10AM. THE AFTERNOON WAS SPENT SKIING THE BOWLS BELOW THE PASS. HOT SUN AND CORN
SNOW WAS ENJOYED BY ALL. SUNDAY WE AGAIN RETURNED TO THE PASS WITH THE IDEA OF
CLIMBING TWIN PEAKS. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, WE CLIMBED MATTERHORN PEAK INSTEAD.
THE WEATHER HAD CHANGED BY AFTERNOON AND RAIN AND SNOW WAS FALLING TO THE SOUTH
IN THE YOSEMITE AREA. WE RETURNED TO CAMP BY 3PM AND HIKED DOWN TO THE CARS BY
5PM. AF

BALDY HUT REPORT

With scarcely enough snow to cover the ground, there wasn't much skiing activity on Baldy this season. In fact, there were only three instances during 1987 where organized back country skiing took place. On two of those occasions, however, it was possible to actually ski down to the car. On the third week of March there was scheduled the "50th Anniversary Baldy Ski Race", an invitational event open to all types of skiers and their gear sponsored by the San Antonio Ski Hut Committee. Exactly four people showed up: the two co-leaders (Wedberg and Dostie) plus two from the SMS, Mark Goebel and Paul Harris. None of the four brought their skis, since there was a whiteout and blizzard in progress, and they spent the afternoon telling war stories in the Hut. (Correction: Dostie ventured out into the storm and took one run down the West Bowl on his skis he had stashed previously.) The final trip of the season was April 4th, when R. J. Secor and Wedberg were supposed to lead a ski tour. Instead, they spent the day trimming off and storing branches from one of two trees which had fallen near the Hut during the winter. They were entertained by old-timer Bud Halley, who strummed on the Hut's guitar and led the assemblage in some rousing old SMS songs.

Now reposing on the east wall of the Baldy Hut is a group picture, taken in June 1975 at Halley's place in Whittier, taken at a reunion of some of the original hut builders and their spouses/offspring. Listed here are those in the picture, in the order of their appearance, and all these souls (and all the other old-timers) are hereby invited up to the Hut on the third week of June (see Angeles Chapter Schedule) to personally view this picture during our 50th Anniversary Celebration. If you can't make the hike up to the Hut, you can stay down at Harwood Lodge, which has been reserved for this occasion.

Agatha Davies
 Adrienne Jones
 Ruth Mendenhall
 Dean and Louise Ashcraft
 Joan Clark
 Helen Hennies
 Bud and Margie Halley
 Howard Koster
 Nate Clark
 Bob and May Frampton
 Nelson Nies
 Glen and Mary Helen Dawson
 Dick Jones
 Eleanor Blundell
 John Mendenhall

Opal Sneed
 Bob Brinton
 Ed Madsen
 Mary Jane Edwards
 Nelda (Christie) Madsen
 Mary Ingwerson
 Bill Davies
 Bill & Ernestine Voss
 George Blundell
 Walter Hennies
 Ray Ingwerson
 Mary Brinton
 Merlin Thayer
 Dean Hennies

(JW)

ALPS, PRIVATE TRIP

HAVING ONLY SKIED IN THE AMERICAS IT WAS QUITE A SURPRISE TO SEE HOW DIFFERENT THE SKI MOUNTAINEERING SPORT IS IN SWITZERLAND. FOR ONE THING IT SEEMS RESPECTABLE, FOR ANOTHER IT SEEM VERY POPULAR. I MADE THIS DISCOVERY DURING THE EASTER WEEK WHEN I WENT TO VISIT A FRIEND WHO LIVES IN NORTHERN ITALY. WE MADE THREE TOURS DURING MY VISIT, THE FIRST OF WHICH WAS OUT OF THE SASS-FEE AREA TO A PEAK CALLED APHUBEL. WE SPENT THE FIRST NIGHT IN A DORM ABOVE THE RESTAURANT AT THE UPPER END OF THE TRAM FROM THE VALLEY. WE WERE AMONG SOME 40 PEOPLE, FROM FRANCE, GERMANY, SWITZERLAND, AND ITALY WHO ALL WERE CLIMBING THE SAME PEAK. THE SECOND TOUR WAS FROM ZERMATT, THIS TIME WE SLEPT ON TABLES IN THE MONTA ROSA HUT ALONG WITH SOME 125 PEOPLE, MOST OF WHOM WERE DESTINED FOR MONTA ROSA PEAK. DUE TO LACK OF SLEEP AND SHORT RATIONS WE DID NOT MAKE THIS PEAK. THE NEXT TOUR WAS MUCH BETTER. FROM SIMPLON PASS WE SKIED UP TO BREITHORN. FROM THIS POINT WE COULD SEE MOST OF THE ALPS AND LOOK DOWN ON THE TOWN OF BRIG. AF

IN SEARCH OF THE ANGELES CHAPTER

The bylaws flap is symptomatic of a much deeper problem, which is that the Angeles Chapter's environmental organization is obsolete and inadequate. The Chapter's membership is the size of an army corps, but this environmental army has only generals and civilians (and a handful of privates), with nobody in between. People who join to work on environmental problems often leave in frustration because there is nothing for them to do.

Tiny ineffectual committees (the Council, SCOPE, Conservation, yes, even the ExComm), amounting to about two-tenths of one percent of the membership, fumble at the problems, but have limited access to the Chapter's 45,000 members and no workable system for gaining access. Chapter volunteers and paid staff keep trying to reach out to the members, most of whom barely know what the Chapter is. All sorts of time is wasted, as with the bylaws issue, fighting or working around unqualified hangers-on who want the prestige and power that they mistakenly think goes with Chapter office.

The active members participate through outings sections and a few enlightened groups, whose generally effective Management (or Central, or Executive) Committees give a very small fraction of their time to Chapter problems, which are mostly viewed as self-inflicted. But even the Management Committees are limited in their ability to influence members, because the most direct access to the members is through the outings leaders -- except for a few protected environments where conservationists can successfully reproduce, like California condors in captivity.

Every group or section chair has received breathless communications from the Chapter urging every member to attend this or that Chapter function two weeks off -- after the local newsletter deadline, not to mention the schedule deadline half a year before. As far as I know, no group or section has the phone trees required to contact members quickly. Every effective environmental organization has a phone tree. But, as the LA Times said recently, the Sierra Club is really only a social club anyway.

As long as Sierra Club environmentalists think that getting 20 people to a meeting at the Chapter Office once a month is a Big Deal, there will be no improvement in the Club's environmental influence. When we get, say, 4000 people to 250 meetings *every month* devoted to actually doing something, there will be improvement.

We get this many on outings, of course, but that is because the officers and leaders of the outings groups and sections know what they are doing, and because the outings program has a system for training leaders and for planning and scheduling events that actually works. The outings program is a perfect example of a grass-roots effort, while the environmental organization is by comparison a centralized hierarchy of meeting-goers who argue over policy and make speeches (oral or written) but cannot take effective action.

To develop a strong environmental presence, the Chapter must forget the meetings and concentrate on developing environmentally-oriented individual leaders in large numbers. It is easy to lead events that make a positive environmental contribution. The principle is to combine work with play -- a few letters written, a public meeting attended, a pizza consumed. People will not walk precincts or stuff mailers when exhorted by the meeting-goers -- but they will if given a time & place to show up with a promise of a party afterwards. Obviously a schedule with a 4 to 8-month delay is of little use for scheduling environmentally-effective action. More specialized organizations like the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force are needed, as long as they are broadly based and not just another committee. Committees don't work because too few people have too much work to do.

Outings (and social) leadership is the only thing the Angeles Chapter does well, and it does that very well indeed. *If we did conservation as well as we do outings, there would be no smog in Los Angeles.*

SAN GORGONIO AREA SKI TOUR

March 7&8, 1987

Participants of this SMS outing included Pete Matulavich, George Holland, Eddie Nunez, Anna Zordan, and Mark Goebel. Driving up out of the low clouds which covered the basin, we found sunshine and a few inches of new snow. The usual winter gate added 3 more long miles to our march, but the new snow enabled us to ski a portion of that distance. We might have skied more of the road, however, seeking a shortcut, I led the group thru some nice knee deep and snow covered bushes. For some reason, no one seemed to appreciate distance we saved.

From Poopout Hill, we were once again on skis, and although the sky was clear, we were in almost a continuous down pour until reaching Southfork Meadows. This was brought about by melting new snow caught up in the trees under which we travelled. After S.F. Meadows, the precipitation decreased, and the snow pack increased with 3 feet on the ground at Dry Lake, our campsite. Low clouds arrived while we lounged about camp, but in the late afternoon a warm up tour was organized to San G's north slopes. We were enveloped by fog as we climbed past low and weathered trees, and only occasionally did the peaks and ridges appear high over head. The run down, over a thin crust, was challenging both from a snow and visability standpoint. The evening highlight was a campfire provided by Eddie and carried in by all of us. At the roadhead, Eddie issued us each a baggy containing a Duraflame log slice. An aluminum tray contained the fire and reduced its melting in to the snow. Combined, those 5 slices put off an amazing amount of heat, and really brought the group together.

The sun was out again on Sunday as we climbed Mt Charlton, however, a strong wind chased us quickly from the summit. On the way down, transitional snow conditions resulted in many close encounters between skiers and snow crystals. Apparently it's also a prime ares for snow snakes.(they prefer the early AM sun.) No one was interested in further snow study, so we hoisted our packs and slipped and turned our way down the hill, and eventually reached the cars.

MG

THE MYSTERY TIPSTER . . . REPORTS

It was the worst weather I'd ever climbed in — a unrelenting wet sleet. Our SMS group had hiked for an hour, and now it was time to skin up. I wiped my ski dry but it became instantly wet again. I tried to attach one of the skins but it wouldn't stick to the cold slick skis. I didn't want skin problems in this slop, so I decided to duct tape it on. Usually duct tape works, but not in this weather. The duct tape just wouldn't stick to itself.

The SMSer next to me had also resorted to taping on her skins, but her tape went right on. I borrowed it and sure enough, it stuck securely to itself despite the sloppy conditions. The tape was Waterproof Tape made by Johnson and Johnson. This is standard tape available at any drug store and it comes in wider rolls ideal for taping on skins. You can even pop the tape out of the container to save space.

I still carry duct tape, but J&J's waterproof tape is my choice for those desperate times when you have to tape on your skins.

M.T.

BRIAN HEAD HAS IT ALL!

During last year's school "Spring Break", we took daughter Gabrielle skiing and touring at Mt. Ashland, which was duly reported in Mugelnoos. The plan was to return to Mt. Ashland this year, until our UPS deliveryman returned from a week at Brian Head trumpeting its praises.

"Over 100 inches snow, the top foot powder, no melt off yet; just a handful of skiers on the runs - you'll have the mountain to yourself! And there's a hostel cabin where lodging is inexpensive".

All true. Brian Head is a 7½ hour drive, the mountain's base is 9,600 ft. and tops out at 11,300 ft. Our favorite run came to be Giant Steps with an 1,161 vertical foot drop. There's no such thing as lift lines, and on no day between April 5 to 9 where there more than total 50 skiers on the mountain. That few skiers scattered over 15 runs allows for "total freedom of movement". We carved leisurely Tele's never once looking over one's shoulder to see if a Schusser's shooting at us. Other days, working on Tele racing turns, we'd make total fools of ourselves tumbling about - but no one saw. The hills are empty.

Some of the patrollers (NSP) ski Nordic with racing cuffs on their Asolo's, and so do the locals and instructors(on their off-duty hours). When tired of Telemarking, the locals enjoy a vast network of Nordic trails that wind throughout the scenic Cedar Breaks area overlooking Bryce and Zion. While temperatures in the L.A. Basin reached 90°, we skiid in intermittent snowfall. Snow depth now has climbed to 110". We lodged at the Bristlecone Hostel - had a roomy cabin with kitchen, 2 baths, jacuzzi, et al, for total \$30/day for three (\$10 p/head). We liked Ashland, but Brian Head is IT! No more Mammoth for us. Hey Phantom Skaters; free skating trails at BH!

(NK)

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