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A Six Page Issue

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.

MORAN DIRECT SOUTH BUTTRESS - A SECOND OPINION

by Roy Bishop

(See A TETON ROCK CLIMB by Bill Krause, Mugelnoos, October 1987.)

Although I did this route twenty years ago, it still remains clear in my mind due to its length, remoteness, classic beauty, technical demands and commitment. My plan, based on years of pondering the beautiful sweep of the south ridge above the buttress, was to use the south buttress as a summit route, just as Emerson and his companions had done on the first ascent. However my companion for this trip, Jim Given, a student of medieval history from Yale and a veteran of new routes on St. Elias, Logan and McKinley, made it clear he preferred to rap off after reaching the top of the buttress. His attitude reflected the one shared by other Teton friends, that the South Buttress was a pure rock climb, not a summit route. I didn't see it that way.

Rick Reese presided over sign-out formalities at Jenny Lake ranger station. He told us there were simply no difficulties up to the pitch before the great pendulum. What he didn't say was that there was no need to carry a big rack of hardware for the overhanging aid pitch.

The first pitch is a litmus test, probably the most difficult on the route, 5.7 and rather delicate. My companion gave notice then and there he would do no leading that day. After a long traverse left on a huge ledge and successfully spotting the big flake on the skyline which one must identify in order to stay on route, the climb went on and on up steep, clean, spectacular rock to the other hard spot—a 5.7 crack leading to bolts where the pendulum begins—out across an immense stretch of smooth rock with a good thousand feet of exposure right below.

Thunder began to roll over the Tetons and drops of rain splattered on the rock as I moved out with tension on the rope using small fingernail flakes and all the friction Kronhoffers offered. As I got closer to the ledge below the overhanging aid crack, I looked up at Jim silhouetted against the black sky. I thought he looked quite spectacular and told him so. He replied in a subdued voice that he thought I looked that way too.

The 120-foot hand traverse brought us to the usual bivouac site. A look down the avenue one must go in order to retreat at this point convinced Jim that salvation meant continuing on, as I had hoped, to the summit. It was rather early in the day to bivvy, but the weather was unsettled, both our watches were wrong, and one couldn't ask for a nicer place to spend the night.

Next day's efforts took us up innumerable class 4 pitches, interspersed with easy class 5 moves. Like the day before, the rock was all clean, but now easy and joyful. We made the summit in good time but were not to see our camp in Leigh Canyon that day. A big storm caught us two-thirds of the way down the regular CMC route. We spent the night huddled in wet down jackets inside my leaky Sporthaus Schuster bivouac sack on a large flat boulder as the thunder rolled overhead. When we returned to Jenny Lake to sign in, the ranger told us it hurt to look up at Moran that night, the lightning strikes being both frequent and bright.

The route is unique, I think, in demanding nearly every skill a mountaineer might possess, yet still offering a highly enjoyable experience. What a pity Kronhoffer no longer makes klettershoes!

May be, Roy, but if you'd had Spiders you could have turned those delicate handholds into footholds. (Ed.)

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Next Issue: February 16, 1988
 Copy Deadline: February 9, 1988
 Photo Deadline: February 2, 1988

SMS/RCS MEETINGS ARE NOW THE THIRD
 TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH.

ADDRESS CHANGE:

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RCS BYLAWS CHANGE

Mike Meyer reported that both proposed changes to the RCS Bylaws passed. The required vote was two-thirds of the ballots received (96). Activity fee vote was: 70 for, 26 against. The division of the Secretary-Treasurer position vote was: 92 for, 3 against, and 1 abstained.

The proposed changes have to be approved by the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee. The changes have been forwarded to Owen Maloy, Chairman of the Bylaws Subcommittee. No further action is required until official approval is received (I hope). - DO

RCS CALENDAR

Jan 24 Sunday 8:30 AM.... RCS Class
 Mt. Rubidoux
 Jan 30-31 Sat 10 AM.....Wagonwheel
 Greg Vernon/Tom Jeter (See
 Greg's Input for details)
 Feb 7 Sunday 8:30 AM.... RCS Class
 Mt. Rubidoux
 Feb 13-15 Sheep PassJ-Tree
 John Moore/Margo Koss
 Campsites 1 & 2, 12th - 14th
 Feb 16 SMS/RCS Meeting.....Griffith
 Park 7:30 PM

Call trip leader (preferably) or RCS
 Chair for info.

CALLING ALL MEMBERS!

Regular and Associate Members: Your help is really needed at the Sunday Training sessions. The Training Committee can't do it alone! Please donate your time to share your climbing knowledge with our future climbing partners.

MEETINGS: Joint SMS and RCS February 16, 1988. "The Ultimate Ski Run": Video features PETE CHRZNOWSKI (1st to ski off Mts. Robson & Waddington), and four other ski crazies as they wail off of Popo, heli-ski, and climb/ski vertical ice. Extreme ski mountaineering and 3 pinning. Griffith Park Ranger Station 7:30 P.M. Refreshments.

SMS SCHEDULE

Jan. 23-24 San Gorgonio. Fried
 / Duryea
 Jan. 29-31 Ski Mtneers Training
 Camp.Holleman/ Lynch
 Feb. 6-7 Mammoth Condo Week-
 end.Goebel/ Malloy
 Feb. 6-7 Baldy Hut. Secor/
 Wedberg
 Feb. 13-15 Pear Lake Hut.Duryea
 / Gyax
 Feb. 20-21 Wilderness Race.
 Matulavich/ Nunez

TWO CLIMBERS INJURED AT CHRISTMAS TREE PASS

Returning to camp from "Surprise Face", two RCS climbers were attacked by the dreaded Yellow Peril Hornet, receiving numerous bites. The antitoxins provided by cold beer were used to ward off shock. Both climbers were rushed to Sam Boyd's Gold River Buffet for follow up treatment. F.P.

FIFTY FIRST CLASSIC CLIMB

In his book "50 Classic Climbs", Steve Roper failed to mention "Wilkinson's Sword" on Dali Dome at Christmas Tree Pass. This 5.7 vertical climb follows a tapering flake that gets so thin you can see through it. The climb can be well protected with #2-3 friends. The hand holds and jams are superb as is the view of Spirit Mountain, Lake Mojave and cold beer. F.P.

CHRISTMAS TREE PASS, Sept. 19-20

Eight climbers (6 RCS, 2 guests) arrived at CTP for a weekend of exploratory climbing.

Climbs ranged from 5.6 to 5.10. A good time was had by all.

This was the second trip to CTP. Another is scheduled Feb 27-28. F.P.

PROS AND CONS OF CTP

CONS

No climbing guide: Unless you can locate a friendly local, the location and difficulty of many of the climbs is a mystery.

Tarantula Hawk Wasp (Bugulus Humungus): The size of a Sparrow, known for their ability to carry off rabbits and small coyotes, they render their prey helpless by dropping small boulders on them.

Yellow Peril Hornet (Bugulus Attackus Unexpectulus): Agitated by high frequency clanking, the size of a Humming Bird, they often attack on the crux moves of difficult climbs.

Golden Peril Cholla (Plantus Attackus Unexpectulus Cactus): The only plant with large spines that are able to move around at night.

4WD Needed: Without a 4WD, one may have to walk as much as 1/4 mile to the best camp sites.

45 Minute Waits: On a Saturday night, be prepared to wait in line for at least 45 minutes at any of Laughlin's numerous buffets. This is unexceptable when armed with the knowledge that a box of macaroni and cheese can be cranked out in 30 minutes at half the price.

Rattle Snakes: None were seen, but we could feel their presence. If you held your ear to the ground, you could hear slithering.

PROS

Not crowded: Ten climbers were at CTP Saturday, eight of them were us.

Ample Camping: Lots of good spots; no charge.

Good Rock: JT type granite. Many domes. Numerous bolt routes. F.P.

SportsClub Warehouse Membership for RCS Memebers

In the mail you will soon be receiving an introductory letter from the SportsClub Warehouse which contains a membership application form. Don't worry--the mailing is being done by the RCS--we haven't started selling our membership list yet! You receive a free membership which entitles you to a discount AND the RCS receives a 2% rebate on all purchases made by RCS members using their SportsClub cards. Read the letter for full details. If you don't like the idea, don't join--you have to fill out the membership application and mail it in. But, if you do join and use the card, you save money and help the RCS treasury. (Thanks Margo Koss for doing the initial coordination.) -- DO

JAN - JULY 4, 1988 RCS CLIMBING SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Asst Leader</u>
Jan 10	Class-Stoney Point	Training Committee	
Jan 16	Big Rock	Emory Yount	Leonard Bayless
Jan 24	Class-Rubidoux	Training Committee	
Jan 30 - 31	Wagonwheel	Greg Vernon	Tom Jeter
Feb 7	Class-Rubidoux	Training Committee	
Feb 13 - 15	Joshua Tree/Sheep's Pass Campsite #1 & 2 12th-14th	John Moore	Margo Koss
Feb 21	Class-Rubidoux	Training Committee	
Feb 27 - 28	Xmas Tree Pass	Dave Perkins	Abe Siemens
Mar 5 - 6	Fossil Falls (Graduation)	**	**
Mar 12 - 13	Exploratory (Where???)	LeRoy Russ	**
Mar 19 - 20	Joshua Tree-Students' Special*	Ron Hudson	Phil Rablchow
Mar 26 - 27	Sulcide	Tim Ryan	Dick DeRusha
Apr 9 - 10 1	Owens Ridge	Greg Vernon	**
Apr 9 - 10 2	Red Rocks, Nev	LeRoy Russ	Margo Koss
Apr 16 - 17	North Domelands (Backpack)	Greg Vernon	**
Apr 23 - 24	Sulcide-Students' Spcl*	John Ripley	Mike Jelf
Apr 30 - 1	Red Rocks, Nev	Greg Vernon	Dave Burdett
May 14 - 15	Tahquitz-Students' Spcl*	Tim Ryan	Claude Lane
May 21 - 22 1	Voodoo Dome	Greg Vernon	**
May 21 - 22 2	Sulcide	Andy Fried	LeRoy Russ
May 28 - 30 1	Yosemite (Memorial Day)	Gerry Cox (Pro- visional Lead)	**
May 28 - 30 2	Bart Dome (Backpack)	Greg Vernon	**
Jun 11 - 12	Needles/Dome Rock	Greg Vernon	**
Jun 25 - 26	Tahquitz	Dick DeRusha	Karen Patterson
Jul 2 - 4 1	Sierra Trip (WHERE???)	**	Mike Jelf
Jul 2 - 4 2	Courtright Reservoir	Greg Vernon	**

*Students' Special--Special emphasis will be placed on getting the 1988 class students out to climb with the RCS. Regular Members are requested to give first priority to Students as climbing partners. Once all of the Students have been teamed up for climbs, combinations of Associate/Regular Member or Regular/Regular Member teams will be formed.

TRIP LEADERS STILL NEEDED!

**THESE CLIMBS NEED LEADERS!

If you want to climb as the Sierra Club RCS, Regular Members with Sierra Club Leader Ratings MUST volunteer to lead trips. If there are not two rated leaders, the trip is cancelled. As of this Mugelnoos deadline, January 12th, there are several climbs (**) without leaders or assistants leaders.

To sign up to lead or assist on a trip (or trips) or change any trips you've signed up for between now and July 4th, call yours truly, Donna O'Shaughnessy, at (213) 320-2891 (the number was incorrect in the letter I sent out, in case you called and got the odd tones and busy signal). Need input for the next Mugelnoos--copy deadline is February 9th, so I need to hear from you by the 6th at the latest.

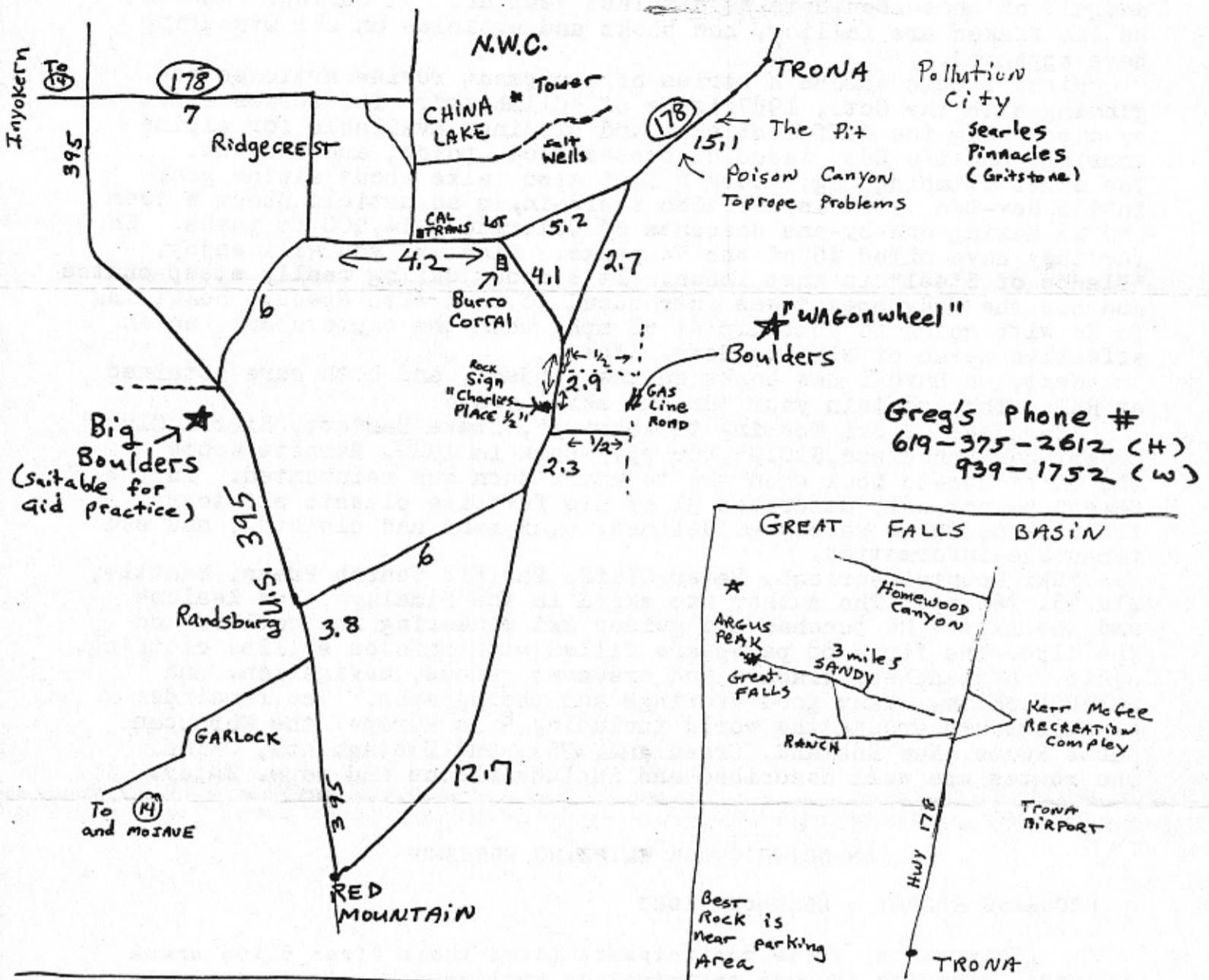
A close look at the schedule reveals that Greg Vernon has signed up to lead SEVERAL trips in the not-so-usual places. If he doesn't have Assistants AND PARTICIPANTS, he'll probably stop volunteering!

DO

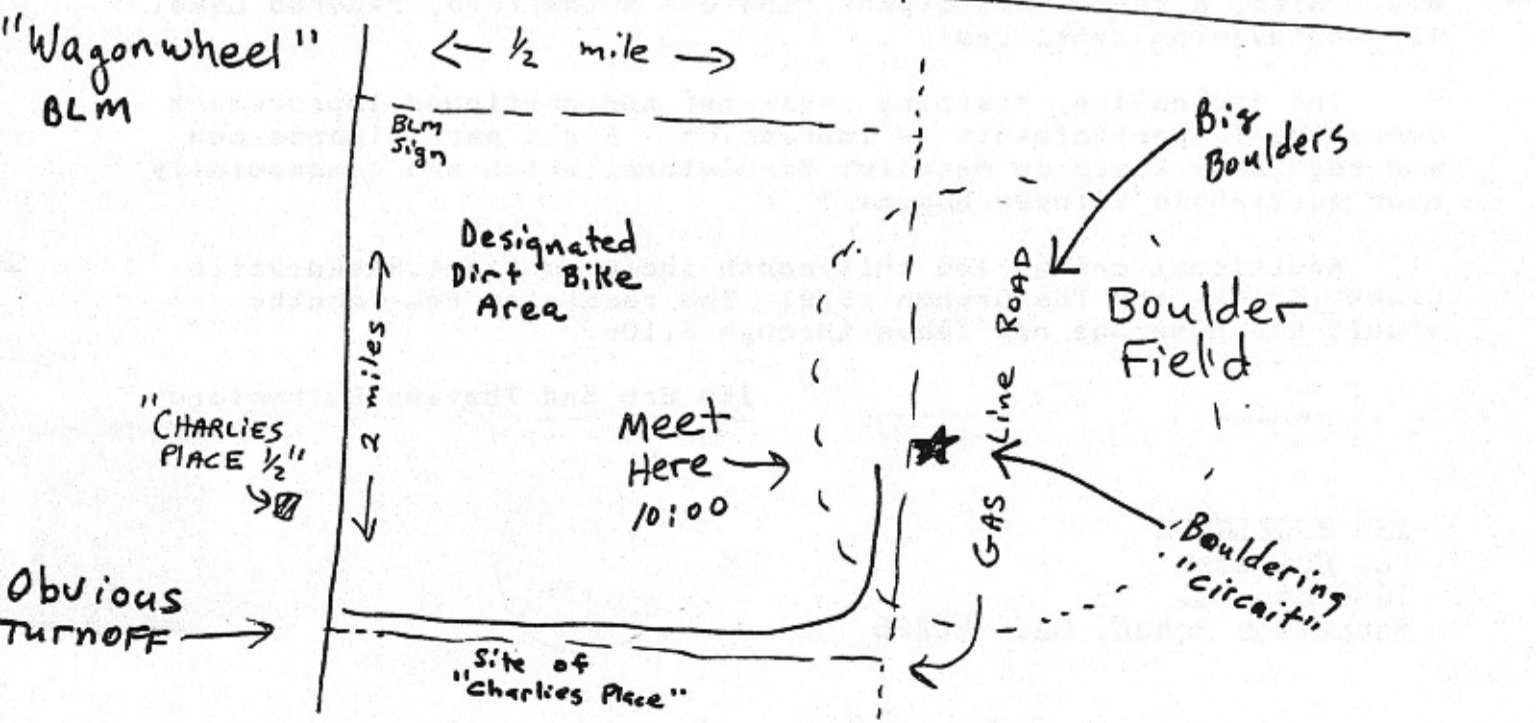
SKI ALASKA

FLY INTO ANCHORAGE AND TAKE THE SCENIC DELANI OVERLAND EXPRESS INTO TALKEETNA FOR A NIGHT. WE THEN TAKE A SKI-PLANE TO THE SHELDON AMPHITHEATRE ON THE RUTH GLACIER IN DENALI PARK. DON SHELDON'S FAMOUS MTN HOUSE IS OUR "LODGE"--EQUIPPED WITH WOOD-BURNING STOVE, A KITCHEN, AND A GREAT VIEW OF MT MCKINLEY--JUST 10 MILES AWAY! WE CAN SKI BOWLS AND SLOPES WITH ALL THE POWDER YOU CAN HANDLE, AND TRAVEL THE GLACIER TO THE BASES OF THE MOOSE'S TOOTH, MT HUNTINGTON, EXPLORER'S PEAK AND OTHERS. THE MTN HOUSE IS AT THE BASE OF MT DICKEY, AND JUST ABOVE THE "AIRPORT". WE WILL COOK AND RELAX INSIDE, AND SLEEP IN TENTS-(LOTS WARMER!). THIS PRIVATE TRIP IS FROM APRIL 8-16, 1988.

CONTACT SCOT JAMISON: 412 W. CARTER DR, GLENDORA 91740. W=(818)963-4101
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Greg's Phone #
 619-375-2612 (H)
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JANUARY 30 & 31 WAGONWHEEL

Above is a map to the boulder field. Meet Saturday at 10 A.M.
 Driving time from L.A. is About 3 hours. TRIP IS OPEN TO
 EVERYONE. G.V.

THE HOWS AND WHERE'S OF SKI MOUNTAINEERING

After a slow start, the 1988 ski season is now well on its way and all of those boulders we hit last year are buried. As fast as the flakes are falling, new books and articles on ski mtneering have appeared.

First I came across a series of equipment review articles beginning with the Oct., 1987 issue of "Climbing". The series start by discussing the different skis and bindings available for alpine touring, and the Dec. issue discusses boot, poles, and shovels. The other climbing mag, "Rock & Ice" also talks about alpine gear in its Nov-Dec, 1987 issue. Also there-in, is an article about a team who is making one-by-one descents of Colorado's 14,000 ft peaks. So far they have skied 46 of the 54 peaks. Finally, you will enjoy, "Blades of Steel" in that issue. It's about skiing really steep chutes and how the "body smear" was introduced to deal with speed. Something to do with going to your hip at 50 mph, when the chute opens, as an effective means of slowing down. Wow!

Next, we have 2 new books on the subject, and both were obtained at REI. They contain your "dream" ski tours.

"The Best of Ski Touring in America", Steve Barnett, Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, \$10.95, 266 pp. Back in 1978, Barnett wrote the first how-to book when the telemark turn was reinvented. In the "Best" he not only describes 31 of his favorite classic ski tours, the book contains safety guidelines, equipment and clothing, and ski technique information.

"Ski Mountaineering", Peter Cliff, Pacific Search Press, Seattle, \$16.95, 160 pp. The author has skied in the Himalaya, New Zealand and the Alps. He teaches and guides ski mtneering in Scotland and the Alps. The first 88 pages are filled with info on skills, clothing, equip., avalanches, glacier and crevasse rescue, navigation, and extreme skiing. Many good drawings and photographs. The remainder details tours around the world including 9 in Europe, the Moroccan Haute Route, New Zealand, Greenland, USA, and Mustagh Ata, China. The routes are well described and include photos and maps. Enjoy.

MG

ON-GOING CRACK CLIMBING WORKSHOP

PROGRESS REPORT - DECEMBER 1987

This month, three participants fired their first 5.10a crack leads, breaking through technical as well as psychological barriers. Also, a tenth participant, Theresa Rutherford, reached Level 1. Achievement continues!

The dedication, training regimens, and continued improvement among the 12 participants is impressive. Eight participants own and regularly train on Metolius Simulators, which are commercially made multi-hold "finger boards."

Additional cracks led this month included Right Baskerville Crack (5.10a) and The Orphan (5.9). The remaining four months should see numerous new leads through 5.10d.

Jim Erb and Theresa Rutherford

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