

THE MUGELNOOS

No. 659 - February 16, 1988

An 8-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.

MUGELNOOS TURNS 50!

No, you haven't entered a time warp. The date on the front cover does say February 2, 1938. It was the 2nd issue of the Mugelnoos and has been selected for reprinting to help celebrate our humble newsletter's 50th anniversary. The first issue is nowhere to be found and all we have today is a very faded transcription unsuitable for reproduction (help, anyone?). You'll notice the 2nd issue didn't have the masthead we've come to know -- that didn't appear until a few months later.

If you missed it, a feature article celebrating the anniversary appeared in this month's Southern Sierran. That article mentioned one of our newsletter's first editors, Ruth Dyar Mendenhall, who helped establish the Mugelnoos as one of the most readable newsletters of its day. Ruth was an extraordinary editor, combining a rare blend of professionalism, humor, style and plenty of hard work.

Ruth and her staff were also dedicated. Well, obsessed would be a better word. They produced a jam-packed Mugelnoos on the average of once every two weeks. Some issues were enhanced with color, which meant coloring each and every copy by hand with crayons, and in as many as three colors. (Can you see one of our editors doing that today?!) Other issues had actual photographs neatly glued to the pages!

Plenty of cartoons and illustrations were trademarks of the early Mugelnoos. Among the most popular were ones by Phoebe Russell and May Pridham. You'll find some early cartoons reprinted throughout this issue.

So good were those early issues that other sections and groups were inspired to start up their own copycat newsletters. There were even national publications that regularly perused the Mugelnoos looking for interesting items and leads.

Much of the early success of the Mugelnoos had a lot to do with an involved readership. Some issues had reports from as many as 60 people, each wanting to share some bit of news with the others. Such was the way it was in 1938.

Ruth now lives in Seattle and she took the time to write this month, on a number of matters. You'll find her items elsewhere in this issue, starting with the one below.

Happy birthday, Mugelnoos!

Ed.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF MUGELNOOS IS HERE

It's Feb. 1988. I recently ran across a letter I wrote in February 1968, in which I commented on editing The Mugelnoos that month:-

"I had volunteered to do this Mugelnoos as the 30th Anniversary issue, and hence had a large issue planned. It turned out to be 8 pages, some of which required much research and thought. I cut the last stencil Mon. evening -- it was so dark in my den for the peculiar art of stencil-cutting that I had to use a flashlight to position a few corrections.

"I finally took the stencils to George Shinno's for mimeographing. I told George that I hoped I didn't have to do the 50th Anniversary issue. He asked in surprise when that would be -- he had to laugh when I replied '20 years from now.'"

Well, the 20 years have passed. The least I can do is send Mugelnoos my best wishes for the 50th Anniversary, and congratulations for being still going strong.

Ruth D. Mendenhall

SIERRA SKI PIONEER TO BE HONORED

According to a recent news release in the Los Angeles Times, the Sierra Historic Sites Association has asked the government to name an 11,000 ft. peak at the headwaters of the San Joaquin River in Madera County "Bart's Peak" after Orland ("Bart") Bartholomew who, in the winter of 1928-29, crossed the Sierra alone on skis from Cottonwood Pass to Yosemite. He took the approximate route of the John Muir Trail, climbing Mt. Whitney enroute. He carried a folding Kodak to record his trip.

I knew Bart well when I was living at Florence Lake in 1935-38. He was then with the Forest Service at Huntington Lake. His next-younger brother, Merle, took over my job at Florence Lake when I came out. His youngest brother, Gordon, worked at Shaver Lake. Their father, (also called Bart), was the winter guard in Dinkey Creek. I used to talk with him on our 2 way radio.

I think that except for the legendary "Snowshoe Thompson", Bart was probably the first person to ski across the Sierra. Not only that, but he covered about 400 miles in doing it!

Anyone wanting to read about this fantastic trip should read "High Odyssey" by Eugene A. Rose, Howell-North Books, 1050 Parker St., Berkeley, CA 94710.

RCF

MT WATERMAN SKI TOUR

This local tour generated a great deal of interest and on January 9th twelve skiers, including the leaders, gathered at the La Canada car pooling point. We started the tour from the parking lot at the lower Buckhorn Campground exit and proceeded up the East Ridge of Mt Waterman. Lunch was had at the saddle above the ski lift now said to belong to the Buckhorn Ski Club. It was still early and the weather was nice so we decided to go to the top of Waterman, which we reached about 1 P.M.

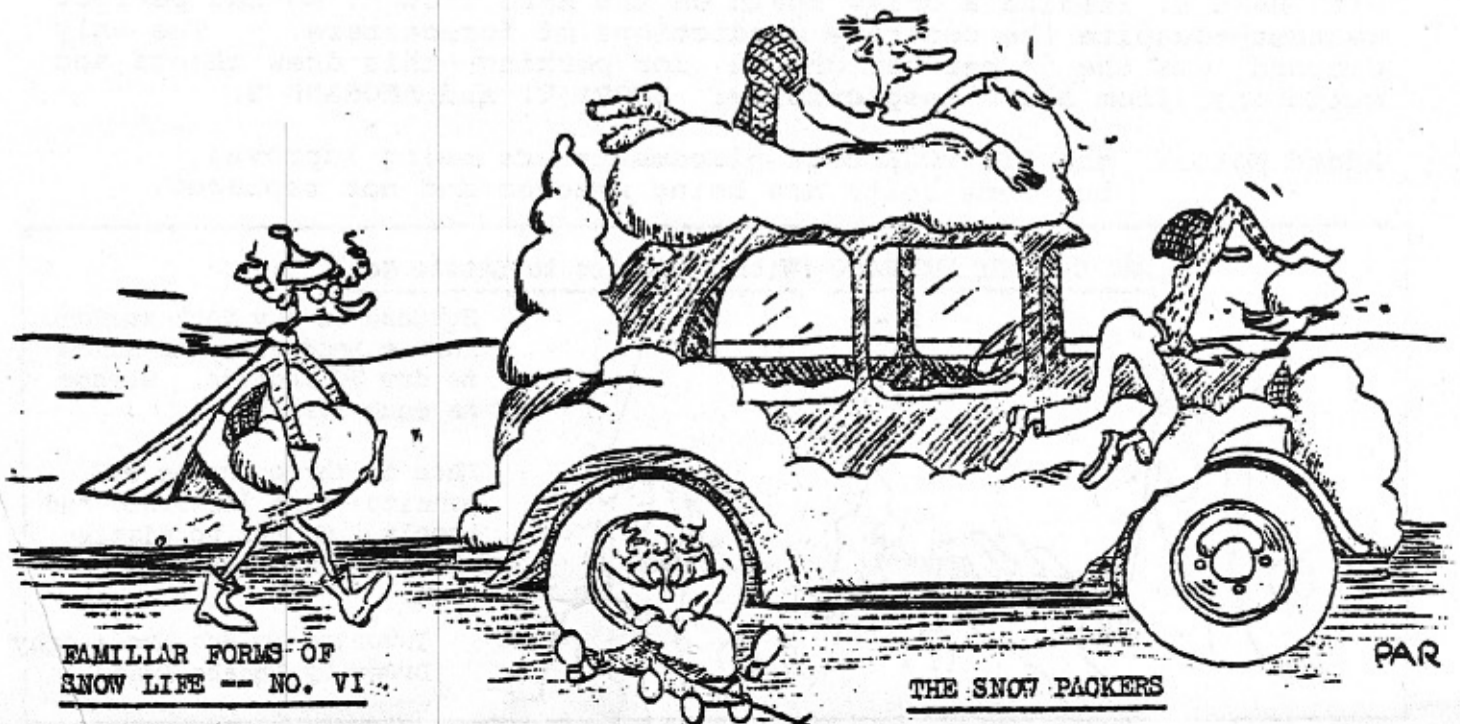
It started to freeze up early so the descent was slow and not on the best snow we have had on this tour. In spite of the snow conditions a couple of strong telemarkers managed to carve some very nice turns down the mountain. The cars were reached about 4 P.M. after a successful tour.

The following skiers were signed off as eligible for section membership and to go on SMS overnight tours: Bill Oliver, Reiner Stenzel, Dennis Belli, Mindy Belli, Jamie McReel, Jim Valensi, Jan Rayman and Tom Sliter.

W.B.

OLD-TIME MEMBERS GONE: Several old-time members of the Rock Climbing and Ski Mountaineering Sections died in 1987. Among them were Mary Fuller (July 4); Howard Koster (July 10); Merlin Thayer (Sept. 5); and Luella MacConaghy (Oct. 30). Bob MacConaghy, Baldy Ski Hut Manager in the early days, now lives at 5733 Dynasty Oaks Circle, Salt Lake City, Utah 84118.

RDM



ON-GOING CRACK CLIMBING WORKSHOP

PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY 1988

With a no-falls lead of Room To Shroom, Pat Lysgaard became the 11th participant to reach Level 1. Room To Shroom is a slanting hand crack on a vertical face, perhaps the finest 5.9 crack in the Monument. Six people have now reached Level 2. Additionally, another participant accomplished his first 5.10 crack lead.

At Level 3, Tom Brogan, Claude Lane, and Greg Rzonca each led Roller Ball, a strenuous 5.10 roof. At Level 4, Greg led Foreign Legion, an RP crack rated 5.10d.

The stated objective of our workshop is "to raise participant's crack climbing ability by two or more grades." In reaching for this goal a few leader falls are inevitable. We have successfully minimized the injury potential of such falls through a variety of risk management techniques, including:

1. Selection of routes that offer relatively clean fall lines, so that the potential for hitting a ledge or protuberance is minimized. (Most routes are nearly vertical.)
2. Avoidance of routes which are difficult to protect.
3. Employment of active belaying techniques, whereby the belayer works with the climber and the rope to minimize fall distance. (Belayers stand close to the rock to minimize rope droop and to avoid outward pulls on the lower pro. Belayers are alert to pull in slack or drop down if a leader falls.)
4. Always spotting leaders where protection is poor at the start of a climb. (An effective technique is to push the falling climber into the rock.)
5. Participation by the group to point out potentially hazardous situations prior to and during a lead.
6. Use of specialized protection tools, including TCU's, RP's, and Air Voyagers. (Two pieces are typically used at crux moves or where placement is marginal. Active camming devices are used where an outward pull may occur, such as at a lieback.)
7. Last but not least, we do not overly rely on the rope. Rather, we emphasize training, technique, and strength. Further, we are working to acquire that mental discipline which sees one through difficult situations.

Jim Erb and Theresa Rutherford

MUGELNOOS REPORT--RCS EXPEDITION TO BIG ROCK

On Saturday, January 16, 1988, seven RCS climbers made a roundtrip to BIG ROCK. This rock face rises directly from the south shore of Lake Perris as an outcrop of the desert-like Bernasconi Hills. The group put up a network of rope and spent the day on fifth-class friction. At the noon break, there was a light potluck of sausage and cheese, crackers, donuts, coffee, M&Ms and pistachios. The latter by JOHN S.

Observations--

ELAINE B. led a twenty-foot traverse to retrieve a glove; MARY S. climbs with spirit; DOVE M. joined the climb. The afternoon ended with HANS L. leading a daisy chain on the Hard Trough. We had perfect weather--despite the contrary predictions of forecasters. The only discord was the \$4 per car charge for parking--this drew chants and mutterings from all. Respectfully: EMORY Y. and LEONARD B.

Added Notes: the BIG ROCK bolt placements are being improved, but some bolts are being removed and not replaced.

MAC CONAGHY MUGELGOO (With apologies to Little Gem)

Squeeze on any rock surface, form a handhold, and allow to dry 30 seconds. Strong as rock itself.

Made in three shades of granite; also limestone and basalt. Cannot be distinguished from the natural rock.

Invented by Bob McConaghy
Drawn by Phoebe Russell

MUGELNOOS 2000

From time to time, as we've done with this issue, our readers have been treated to nostalgic glimpses back to the early days of the Mugelnoos, as one editor or another has reprinted articles and cartoons from the past. I thought it would be fun to do it the other way, in a sense pre-printing short pieces from future Mugelnoos issues. The following clips are all from the year 2000.

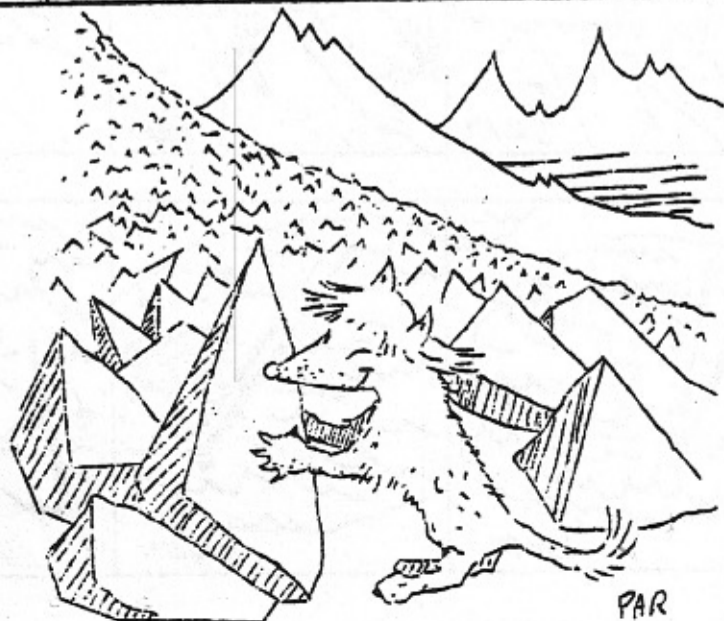
- * JOHN WEDBERG completes his 500th ascent of Mt. Baldy. Along the way he meets a Swede, two Polacks and a Romanian gypsy. They enjoy a good run down to the hut, even though the gypsy has no skis. All are invited to join the Alpine Ski Touring Committee. The Polacks accept.
- * GEORGE HOLLAND informs us that he has finally placed his article on Montana ski areas. Way to go, George, we're sure the readers of Pork Belly Digest will find it interesting.
- * Light-Is-Right guru, RICH HENKE, completes another of his many trans-Sierra tours, breaking all previous records. Recruiting a team of midgets from the Screen Actors Guild, Rich's group was able to sleep 8 to a tent and make drastic cuts in daily rations. Adds Rich, "These guys were loads of fun, and I can't tell you how good it felt to be the tallest guy in our party."
- * Reliable sources report that MARK GOEBEL was seen at a recent SMS meeting, folding and stapling Mugelnoos issues.
- * Fulfilling a lifelong ambition, OWEN "The Wheeze" MALOY, successfully ascends Potatoe Mtn. (3,000') The astonishing feat is accomplished with only limited use of oxygen, but Owen does go through three jars of Vap-O-Rub.
- * The Mugelnoos is informed that it has wasted a small fortune in excess first-class postage costs over the years. It could've been sent junk mail all along.
- * Mr. Excitement, DON PIES, claims to have successfully stared down a marmot on a recent tour to the Rock Creek area. "You gotta have a lot of patience," says Don, "but it can be done." Witnessing the encounter was GREG JORDAN, who found the experience "stimulating."
- * Our gay counterparts, the newly-formed Ski Musketeers Section, has issued its schedule for the upcoming ski season. Emphasizing hut, yurt and condo weekends, the new group disdains butch trips that "just get everyone sweaty."
- * MARY "Sitzmark" GYGAX says she is sick and tired of blaming her boots and will actually try to learn how to ski this year.
- * It is revealed that GERRY and PAT "Togetherness" HOLLEMAN are not, as we have long assumed, husband and wife, but are actually the product of a bizarre cloning experiment from the early 60's.

That's all we have room for this time. In cases such as this, where articles have been pre-printed from the future, the current Mugelnoos editor assumes no responsibility for libel.

SIERRANIMALS — III

By Phoebe Russell

This is the Talus Tender, who keeps all the rocks on the talus slopes laid at the wrong angles. Whenever he sees a rock that looks too easy to walk on, he tends to it.



SIERRA CLUB SAFETY COMMITTEE APPROVES RCS ICE CLIMBING

Larry Tidball, RCS Safety Committee Rep, reported that during the November 1987 Angeles Chapter Safety Committee, the following RCS Ice Climbing procedure was approved. No RCS Ice trips can be scheduled without T-ICE leaders. Those T-ROCK leaders who want to apply for a T-ICE designation, send written request to the RCS Safety Chair (still Margo Koss as of this writing).

RCS ICE CLIMBING

Technical ice climbing involving two tool climbing and leader belays (as opposed to snow climbing) is an integral part of the heritage of the RCS.

Scheduled trips sponsored by the RCS involving technical ice climbing are only to be led by leaders certified by the RCS Safety Committee as Technical Ice Leaders.

"T-Ice" Leaders will be drawn from the ranks of the "T-Rock" Leaders who have demonstrated to the RCS Safety Committee experience in the area of technical ice climbing. This demonstration may take the form of a checkout with a T-Ice member of the Safety Committee or, where the Safety Committee is aware of the experience level of the proposed leader, by that leader applying to the Safety Committee for the T-Ice rating.

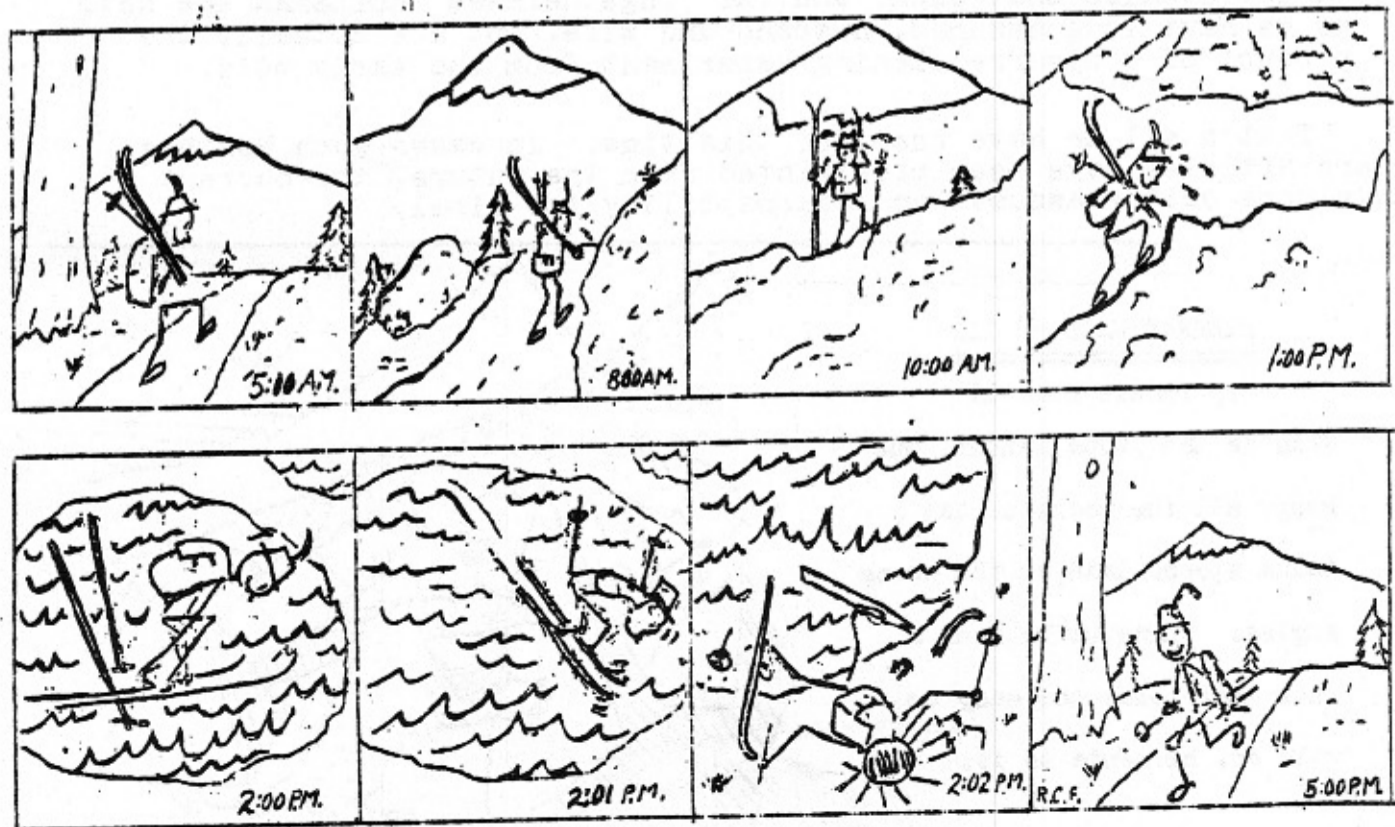
Technical Ice Leaders will have:

- * Chapter Leader rating of "M" or higher.
- * Substantial experience in climbing technical ice.
- * Knowledge of the variety of ice conditions and hazards thereof.
- * Completed a first aid course including cold weather injuries.

DO

HISTORICAL: The October 1987 issue of CLIMBING contained an article entitled "Tahquitz and Suicide" by Randy Vogel. The early history of climbing in the area, and of the early RCS, were particularly well done. Amidst more modern photography, were photos of early climbers Dick Jones, Glen Dawson, Mary Jane Edwards, Bill Rice, Muir Dawson, and John Mendenhall. RDM

THE SUMMER "SKIER"



PATCHES & PINS GOING FAST

If you've been thinking about ordering an SMS patch or pin, now is the time, especially for the pins. The pins were made years ago and there is some doubt whether we'll make a new batch because of the high costs involved. They're only a few left, so you better get your order in fast. Our supply of patches is better and we will probably make more of them, but last time we had to wait a year.

Both depict the 50-year-old SMS logo in four wintry colors: avalanche white, two shades of hypothermic blue, and urine gold. The patches, generally regarded as the most attractive of all Angeles Chapter section patches, are 3" across and look great on packs and parkas. You might want to order several for different packs. The pins are beautifully enameled on brass and are 1" across. They look good on ski caps, sweaters, and lapels. They also make great keepsakes.

Patches are now \$4.00 and pins are \$5.00. You must be an SMS member or recent sign-off to order. Help support and promote the SMS and send your check (made out to S.M.S.) to Pete Matulavich, 1414 Paseo Manzana, San Dimas, CA 91773. Include your mailing address but do not send SASE.

Order now or you may not have another opportunity. Pins will be sold on a first come, first served basis until gone.

SMS WILDERNESS RACE

The 3rd annual SMS Wilderness Race will be conducted this weekend, Feb 20-21, conditions permitting. As this issue goes to the photocopier, there is two feet of snow on San Jacinto and we're all optimistic about having great corn snow for the race.

The race will be a little different this year, in that we'll have both an uphill part and a downhill part, the latter for those with non-masochistic tendencies.

It's still not too late to join us and you can come up for the entire weekend or just Sunday for the race. You can come even if you don't want to race as there will be plenty of open skiing, including an introductory tour Saturday.

No one takes this race too seriously, so come on up and have a good time. Call me for further details. Pete Matulavich, (714) 592-2814 (day), (714) 599-0047 (eve.).

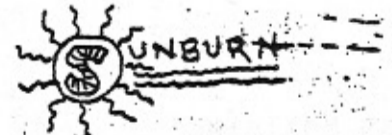
--RCS TRIP LEADERS--

A REMINDER TO RCS TRIP LEADERS: Trip write-ups should be submitted to the Mugelnoos Editor in time to be published before the trip date (the Mugelnoos deadline is usually the 2nd Tuesday, one week before the monthly meeting, 3rd Tuesday). AND trip reports should be submitted ASAP after the trip--to inform all those who didn't show up what a good time they missed!

DO



"NO! NO! NO! You dope! The Fourth Class Tests require three linked stem turns -- not kick turns!"



"HELLO! HAVEN'T WE MET SOMEWHERE BEFORE?"



Chuck Shaw.

"THAT'S THE MC TAVISH CLAN TAKING THEIR FOURTH CLASS TEST!"



SKIER • WAITING • FOR • SNOW



DYAR

LTC CHANGES DATE

The Angeles Chapter Leadership Training Lectures will take place on the weekend of April 16 & 17, not on the 9th and 10th as mentioned in the schedule. The program is open to any Sierra Club member who has participated on five hikes or weekend trips with the Sierra Club.

The cost of the program is \$15 and includes two days of lectures which cover navigation, snow and rock climbing, one copy of the Leader's Reference Book, and a patch. Program will be held in Griffith Park. For more information, send SASE to LTC Registrar, Wynne Benti. Deadline for receipt of all applications is April 1, 1988.

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1988 RCS-R