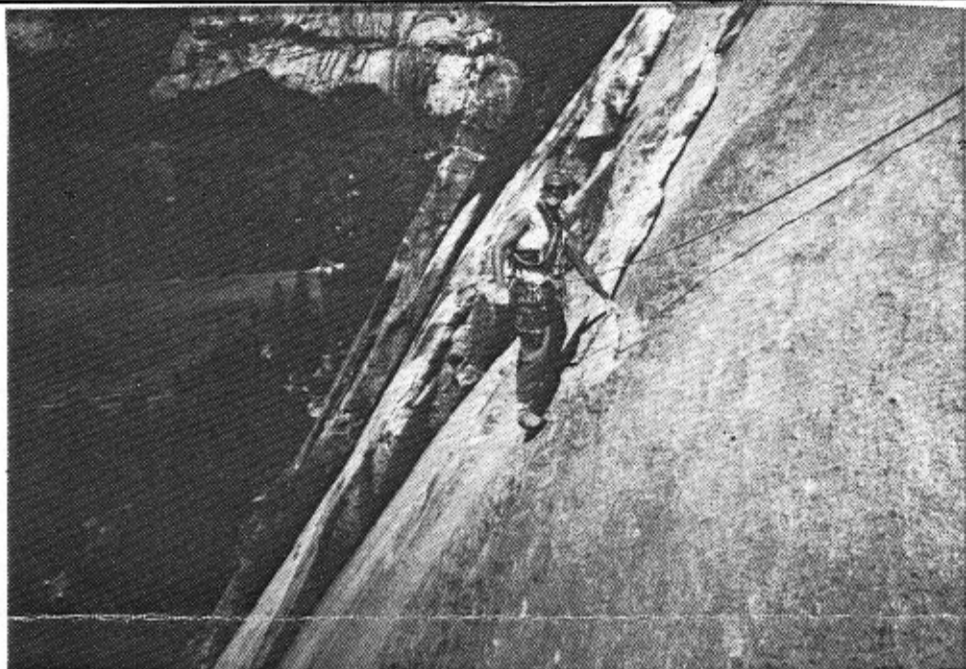


RH

# THE MOUNTAIN NOODS

No. 662 — 21 June 1988. An eight-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. **SUBSCRIPTION PAYMENTS ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE AS CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS.**



**ARCH ROYAL-**  
Gerry Cox beams after leading the first freed traverse on Royal Arches to begin Memorial Day weekend on sunny note. Gerry said the "5.9" 15-20 foot friction traverse felt 5.10ish. John Spaulding, a student in the '88 RCS class who didn't graduate because of forced overtime, took the picture.

## YOSEMITE VALLEY, MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND - WHERE DID ALL THE CLIMBERS GO? or THE RCS DOES YOSEMITE AS A DAY TRIP

So go the best-laid plans, oh well. Mike Jelf had arrived early to secure our Hodgdon Meadows campsite (25 miles one-way to Yosemite Village), and to act as Assistant Leader in order for me to do a provisional trip lead. I arrived late on Wednesday with the intention of having fun warming up to climbing in the Valley on Thursday, and then doing the Royal Arches on Friday (which happened - so far so well). About 12:30 AM Saturday I felt spotlights all around my tent and heard the bustle of nylon on nylon, and lo and behold, by morning 8 tents had sprung in the clearing where I was, and about 40 people milled around camp where only 8 had been the night before.

Since the plan was to meet at the Curry Village Cafeteria at 8:00 AM (not realizing the 45-60 minute drive) to sign-in and find the route sheet, Margo Koss (new Assistant Leader) drove into the Valley and I stayed at camp in order to tell the campground host/ranger that we weren't trying to abuse their 6 car limit, but everyone arrived late and didn't know where the overflow parking was ( and no-one wanted to walk the 1/2 mile back to camp anyway ). At Curry Village 19 people signed-in, 7 members, 5 associates, 4 students, and 2 guests. Of those, 16 signed-out to do climbs on the 5 Open Books, The Church Tower, Glacier Point Apron and Manuë Pile Buttress, which saw Robert Takahashi lead 2 students over an intimidating mantle on the 6-pitch Nutcracker (A Valley classic short climb). On Monday Morning Slab, Elaine Berke and Mary Starkweather tried their hands at swinging leads around Newell Ackerson on the right side of the slab. Everyone was back by 7:30 PM, and found the route sheet in the leisure lounge (not the cocktail lounge) at Curry Village. Some of the RCS not signed-out on anything were last seen on Sacherer Cracker along the base of El Cap after rangers had called the wall climbers down with winter storm warnings.

Well storm it did, so a contingency took off for a restaurant in El Portal, and Mike Jelf was on his way to scout out a future trip in King's Canyon. On Sunday morning it was still mixed rain and snow, so while most

(Continued on back page.)

MUGELNOOS STAFF

Mugelprinter.....LeRoy Russ  
Mugelmailer.....Pat Holleman  
Reporters....Gerry Cox, Jim Erb,  
Mike Jelf, Norm Kingsley,  
Marcia Male, Dick Smith, Alois  
Smrz.  
Golden Years Report: Tom Jenkins.

NEXT EDITOR: Dick deRuscha  
1421 Edgecliffe Dr.  
Los Angeles, CA  
90026

NEXT ISSUE: 19 July 1988  
COPY DEADLINE: 12 July 1988  
PHOTOS: 5 July 1988

NEXT MUGELNOOS MEETING

Tuesday, June 19, 1988 at 7:30 PM  
Joint RCS-SMS Meeting. Slide show  
"Aconcagua" - Rich Henke. Griffith  
Park Ranger Station.

RCS SCHEDULE

- Jun 25-26.....Tahquitz  
Dick DeRusha/Karen Patterson  
Call leader for campsite info.
- Jul 2-4 .....Courtright Reservoir  
Greg Vernon/Jim Erb
- Jul 9-10.....Tahquitz/Suicide  
John Gonzales\*\*/Phil Rabichow  
Call leader for campsite info.
- Jul 22-24....Kings Canyon Backpack  
Gorge of Despair  
Mike Jelf/Gerry Cox
- Jul 23-24.....Tahquitz  
Pat Lysgaard\*\*/Claude Lane

Be sure to call the trip leaders  
prior to trip to make sure its  
going. Trips with ??, leader has to  
cancel if no Co-leader volunteers.

\*\*Provisional Chapter O/RCS TO Lead-  
-based on completion of LTC Require-  
-ments; OK by Chapter Safety  
Committee & RCS Safety Committee.

Trip Leaders Home Phone Numbers:

- Gerry Cox.....(213)591-0711
- Dick DeRusha.....(213)661-1004
- Jim Erb.....(714)998-4517
- Mike Jelf.....(213)326-3430
- Claude Lane.....(818)957-3210
- Pat Lysgaard.....(714)827-3977
- Karen Patterson.....(213)514-8493
- Phil Rabichow.....(818)342-0195
- Greg Vernon.....(619)375-2612

ACTIVITY FEE REMINDER

\$10 RCS ACTIVITY FEE DUE AND  
PAYABLE NOW. SEND CHECK, MADE  
OUT TO: RCS, TO THE TREASURER  
MIKE FELDMAN, 3551 EL LADO DR.  
GLENDALE, 91280. See separate  
writeup for details.

EDITORIAL

WHY EVERYONE'S WRONG

Have you ever noticed how  
the prepositions "on" and "off"  
can be virtually indistinguish-  
able at 160 feet around a  
corner with high winds,  
consonants being what they  
are?

Climbing signals were  
devised to eliminate confusion  
under such conditions, but for  
the two critical messages about  
belaying we rely on the diff-  
erence between an "f" and an  
"n."

Perhaps it's time we  
admitted the standard signals  
are wrong for their purpose,  
however appropriate they seem  
in a textbook, and change  
them.

Suggestions (not about  
rope tugs) are welcomed.  
-MJ

RCS MEMBERSHIP CANDIDATES

The following have completed Safety  
Climbs for Regular Membership.  
Please call the Safety Chair, Dick  
DeRusha, if you wish to comment  
regarding their climbing safety or  
leadership.

- Tom Brogan
- Tim Hoover
- Pat Lysgaard



There is a desperate shortage of  
RCS people who've voiced their  
willingness to edit (mostly paste  
up) Mugelnoos issues. If present  
trends continue the newsletter  
chair will be editor half the year,  
and you may get stuck with that job,  
as he'll have to resign. Save your-  
self a lot of potential grief by  
assuming a little grief now.

Call Mike Jelf at (213) 326-  
3430, or write to 1819 W. 254th St.,  
Lomita, CA 90717. This is no joke.

HAVE BOOTS, WILL TRAVEL

for  
Rock Climbing, Backpacking, Kayaking  
Alpine & Nordic Skiing, Yachting, ??  
call/write

Tom Jenkins, PO Box 4830  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
213-439-3780

(NO smoking/drugs/pre-teen kids)  
(Continued, Page Three.)

OSTRANDER HUT : March 25-27

Now that your skis are a dream with last season's snow, and the blooming fields of Lupine and Paintbrush are becoming a reality, I thought this was the time to remember how Yosemite greeted us one sweltering hot California weekend. Thanks to Rose's insight to obtain a permit, 7 skiers had the pleasure of a spring rendezvous to our beloved hut. After the group changed leaders 3 times, before ever leaving LA, we eventually staggered into the Valley for a true mountaineering experience at the Curry Cabins. At the crack of dawn, we crawled out from beneath our comforters, to stagger amidst the towering golden rock walls of the camp in search of crowdless hot showers, only to miss each other for breakfast at the Iwani.

Regrouping, once again, mellow, carbo-loaded, and gleaming with the ecstasy of the Park, having seen deer, coyotes, glorious waterfalls, and even traces of snow, we prepared for the 4 mile haul up Badger Pass Road. Closing the ski area the day before, the rangers were more eager to chat and revealed that George just skied out on good corn snow, and Howard was back, and in fine form. The "88" Games began, as 7 techniques were developed for waxing, and style of kicking, gliding, and walking, as well as feeble attempts at skating, over the sparsely covered road that was coated in very old rotten snow. Of course once the silver and universal klisters started to work, we arrived at the Horizon Ridge Trail which appeared as a dusty summer hillside. We soon entertained a warm and jovial lunch on the first ridge without a speck of snow in sight. Just another summer day, except for the weight of skis on our backs. But in the distance, Horseshoe Ridge glistened white. Our skis were happily replaced after a mile of tramping in the dust. Further development of spring ski technique was accomplished as we progressed through mud, pebbles, water, and sometimes the real stuff. As the ascent began on the open faces of Horizon Ridge, the corn blossomed, and packs were dropped for a few extra runs.

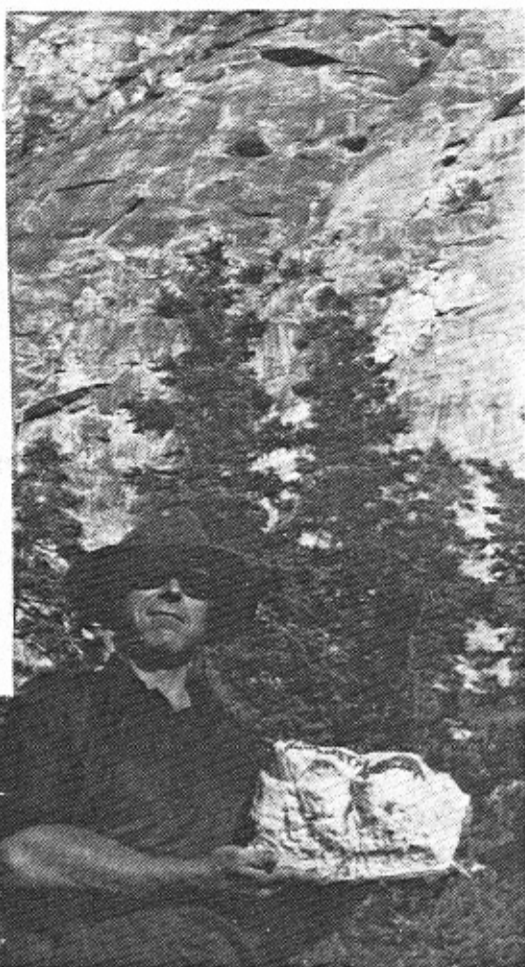
We rolled into the hut, late afternoon, greeted by 3 other smiling skiers. Quite a switch from the 41 snarls at New Year's. Ah, the loft was ours, all ours. Howard decided he liked our delightfully funny and mellow group, and became one of US for the weekend. The morning appeared crystal clear and warm, with Buena Vista Peak being the universal choice of the day. Howard demonstrated the benefits of living at altitude, not to mention technique, by leaving after us and arriving well before us. After boulder hopping the final 100 ft, we quickly nestled onto some warm rocks with all of Yosemite and the Sierras before us. Without a care in the world, except to dive into some of the best corn snow ever, we departed the 9,709 ft peaklet, in seven directions. All claimed to have discovered the best. As we dropped back over the North side of Horseshoe Ridge, the splendid corn quickly became thick crud, making the last lap back to the hut a tiring challenge of linked head plants, in more ways than 7. After more napping, in the very serene hut, the chefs gathered supplies and doled out duties, enticing everyone in the usual Ostrander gourmet style. Having designed the Flying Fish Primavera with Dinosaur Cheesecake the previous, Dick then delighted us with Curried Birds and Chocolate Dinosaur Moose Pie, the second night.

We dragged our tushes from the sack on departure day, only to be entertained by yet another guest, Martin, an Olympic Nordic Ski Team member. We gawked at the stamina of youth, as he sprinted across the lake, straight up Horseshoe Ridge, turning to perform linked jump turns without ever stopping for a breathe. Having exhausted all our faculties witnessing this show, we lightened our packs, leaving Howard most of our food, and sprinted away from this backcountry hotel, with a twinge of Martin in our souls. Following Horizon Ridge completely, we managed to stay on perfect corn snow for 90% of the trip back to the road, dropping our packs for primo reruns, several times over. Everyone skied well under packs, including our newcomers, Perry, a strong Nordic skier, and Steve, being only his 4th day ever on Tele's. Despite the lengthy slog along the sparse road home, we exited in great spirits, having delighted in the wonderful changing wilderness, bringing a bit of the Ostrander spirit home with us.

This 'show' was produced by Dick S., Nancy G., Dave D., John R., Perry, Steve C., and myself, Marcia. ☺

BOOTS (Continued from Page Two.)

Tom is retiring from the Coast Guard. Work phone number 213-499-5542 will not be valid after June 30, 1988. This is NOT a guide service--just an open offer for cost-shared trips. Hope to see many of you more often, on both club and private trips. THJ



### CAKEWALK —

Every route on Tahquitz was a piece of cake May 14 when a trip participant brought a rock-shaped cake to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that person's introduction to rock climbing with the RCS. The celebrating climber sliced out bits of baked Tahquitz, and returning climbers ate their routes. The cake-hauler requested anonymity to preserve the delusion of having a youthful image.

—Staff Photos

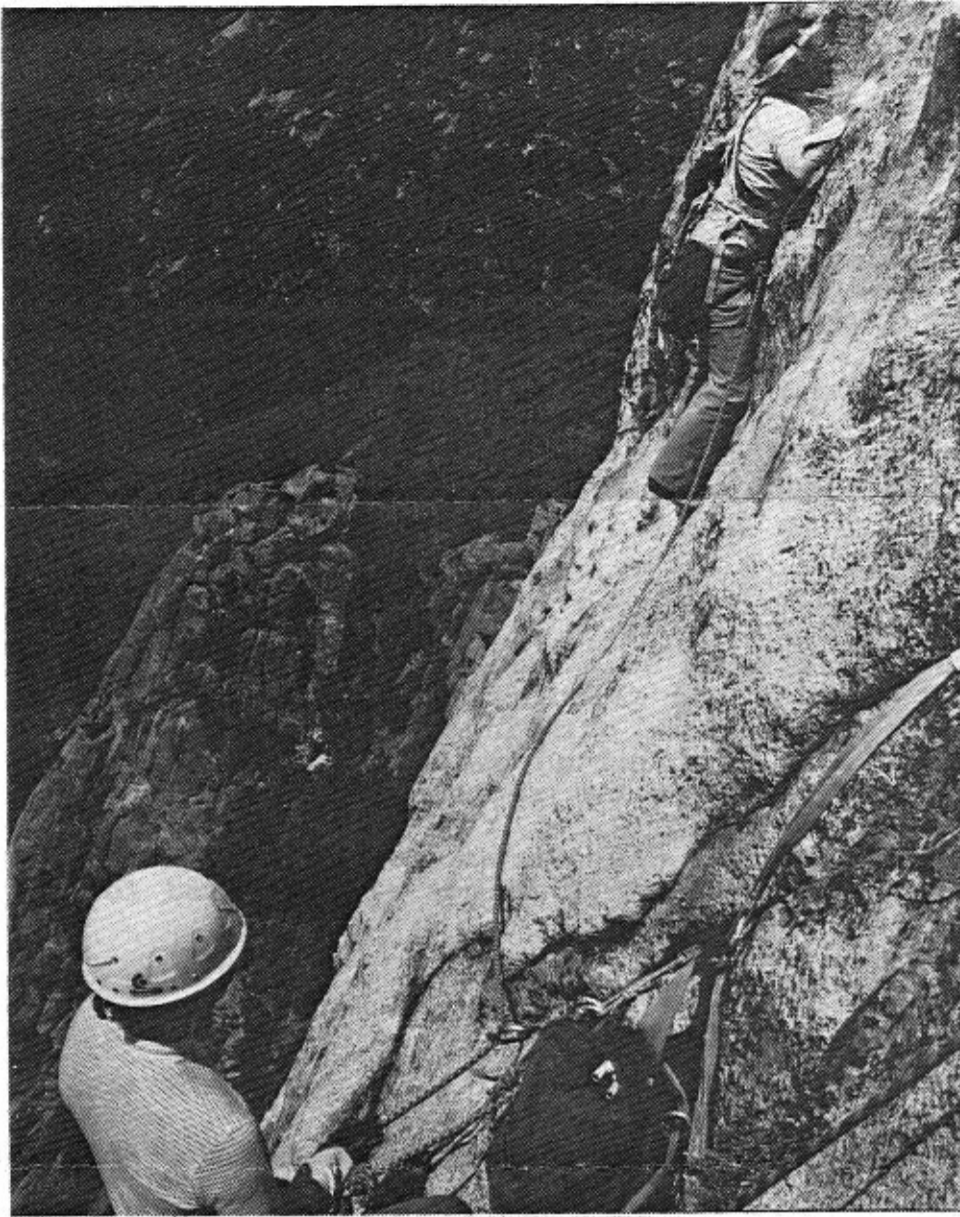
### ROCK CREEK POWDER

7-8 May

A storm was brewing as the nine of us mounted skis on our packs and began the hike up Little Lakes Valley. Pete Matulavich, dressed for sunny Spring skiing, took the lead with Greg Jordan and Bob Dudginski in hot pursuit. Bob's enthusiasm was an inspiration to us all, and his skiing has shown great improvement since the Mt. Pinos lessons in January. The snow was patchy until we approached Long Lake where we detoured to the scenic route past Chickenfoot, Gem, and Dade Lakes to finish with an exciting and steep descent to our camp at Treasure Lakes. After a brief visit with the people at the 'Spring Corn Camp' from Rock Creek Winter Lodge, we set up our tents at the south end of the lakes. Snow fell during much of the afternoon and into the evening, inspiring a run down the gully back to Long Lake on 5-12 inches of fresh powder!! Enthusiasts repeated the descent while I retired to camp for dinner. For Howard Shultz this resulted in a broken binding and great disappointment at being unable to ski more.

In spite of the snow storm, most of us gathered around a snow table for the evening meal. Anna Zordan and Chris Mebane combined their efforts to create a delicious looking tortellini dish; clearly the winner of the gourmet food competition. Howard was a runner up with . . . hmmm, what was that Howard?? Bob was the grateful recipient of leftovers, and took his chili home with him uncooked. Don Keenan, Trudy Bergen, Greg, and Pete all sought the shelter of their tents during dinner. I did the same as soon as I'd finished eating. But I know it couldn't have been very cold because Anna was sitting outside with no gloves on!! Chris's thermometer read 17°, but maybe it was broken - or perhaps Anna is the bionic woman in disguise.

Sunday morning was crystal clear with several inches of new powder blanketing the ground. Trudy was suffering from a headache and Howard had to rig some device for attaching his boot to his ski. The rest of us left on a tour at 8:30 to get a view of Spire Lake and beyond from the pass between Spire and Dade Lakes. After climbing to the pass and a snack we ripped off the skins and began the best ski run I've had all year!! Everyone skied well as we tried to follow Chris's tight turns down the fall line. Returning to camp around noon we sadly packed up and headed down. The run to Long Lake was so good the Greg, Chris, and Bob had to drop their packs and do it again. Warmer temperatures in the afternoon caused the snow to begin melting and consolidating, so we concluded we'd had the best of the fresh snow, but coverage is good above Long Lake and should provide excellent skiing for several more weeks.



SILVER LINING  
BEFORE CLOUDS —

Jim Weger leads the sixth pitch of nine on "The Fin," a 5.9+, grade IV route on the Castle Rock Spire in Sequoia National Park. This May, 1987 try was quelled by a thunderstorm. Belayer Miguel Carmona and photographer Alois Smrz made the third ascent of the route in May, 1988.

CASTLE ROCKS MASSIF

"Castle Rocks Massif is nestled in Sequoia National Park and offers superb climbing in a most spectacular setting. Difficult access adds to the feeling of remote climbing and protects the area from human intrusion. Castle Rocks includes not only the impressive 1000 foot high Castle Rock Spire, but also the upper towers which have faces nearly as tall. But for the rock climber, perhaps the most inspiring feature of the area is the awesome and beautiful face of the "Fin" which stretches up for about 1,100 feet to its narrow summit ridge. It's hard to find better wilderness climbing anywhere and a successful trip to the area will linger in climbers' minds for a lifetime."

From Herb Laeger's Home Guide to Castle Rocks.

In 1984, Bill Krause told me about a large, unclimbed wall in Southern Sequoia. Bill was sure that the West Face of Fin was Grade IV or V climb and urged me to explore the area.

In February 1985, Miguel Carmona and I skied around Watchtower and Moro Rock and photographed the "Patagonia" like towers of the Castle Rocks Massif.

In May 1985, unknown to us, Herb Laeger, Patrick Paul and Ron Carson climbed "Silver Lining" IV, 5.9+ on West Face of the Fin.

In June 1986, Bob Lindgren, Miguel and I explored the area from Mineral King. We found the 1000 foot gully between the Fin and the Spire too technical for descent and had to abandon all hopes. We climbed two short new climbs (2 pitch, 5.8) on the upper

(Continued on Page Six.)

CASTLE ROCKS

(Continued from Page Five.)

Castle Rocks. Miguel found Herb Laeger's Summit register on the Fin and a note about first ascent of Silver Lining.

In May 1987, James Weger, Miguel and I set out from Buckeye Flat on Generals Highway in attempt to reach Castle Rocks from the West. We followed the Climber's Guide To The High Sierra (by Roper). Six hours of poison oak, thunderstorms and steep, grassy hills brought us to the Fin. Next day, another thunderstorm forced us to rappel from 6th pitch of Silver Lining.

May 11-16, 1988. Miguel and I set out again from Buckeye Flat armed with 5 days off. Thanks to stable weather and our knowledge of the area, we were able to complete the 3rd ascent of "Silver Lining" and 15th ascent of Castle Rock Spire.

THE FINSILVER LINING IV, 5.9+

Isolated and beautiful, this route is a must for the High Sierra rock climber. In our opinion the climbing is much better than that found on Charlotte Dome. Face climbing predominates. The granite is excellent and 5.9 is found on every pitch of this 9 pitch route. Several moderate and two serious runouts are the norm. A rappel route requiring 2-165 foot ropes has been established by 1st ascent party. An average rack with Friends (less #4) is all that is needed. 10-12 slings are required for the rappels.

CASTLE ROCK SPIRE III, 5.8 A2  
(NE FACE, REGULAR ROUTE)

This incredible blade of rock, clearly visible from Generals Highway is the highest spire in California outside of Yosemite Valley. In the 38 years since its first ascent (Al Steck party in 1950) the Spire has only been climbed 15 times. The first ascent route is predominately a crack climb with several aid sections. Although only 8 pitches long, it requires long approach in snow gully and a full day of climbing. The Spire was sought after climb in the 60s (12 ascents 1950-1974). The climbing is very steep, exposure is terrific and the ratings are conservative. The Steck route is the only route on the spire that has been repeated. Summit register reads like "Who's Who" in American Climbing. Honorary RCS member Chuck Wilts did the 5th(?) ascent and ex-RCS'r Mike Sherrick also did early ascent. In fact Miguel and I are the only "no name" weekend climbers to have ever reached the summit.

No pitons are needed on this climb. Set of Friends and two complete sets of wired stoppers are required. A hammer for easier removal of aid placements and to test some of the old rappel pitons would be handy. 10-12 slings are needed for rappels as well as 2-165 foot ropes. To avoid difficult scrambling to the top of the approach gully, Miguel and I climbed directly toward the large flake (see Ropers Guide). This variation avoids the Class 4 horizontal pitches and makes the start of the climb more direct (2 pitches - 5.8 and 5.9+). Topos of both climbs as well as pages of general information are available.

The approach to Castle Rocks is difficult. Poison oak is prevalent during the 4000 foot elevation gain and minimum of 3 days is needed to attempt any climbs. Water is only available till mid summer (end of July). But for backcountry climbers seeking adventure, solitude and challenge, this area is yet another gem in Western High Sierra. If you can, stay an extra day and enjoy both Silver Lining and Castle Rock Spire. The place is definitely worth it!!

AS

## CANADIAN ALPINE CLUB SEEKS YOUR HELP

Many of us take advantage of the ACC's hut system throughout the Canadian Rockies and parts of B.C. Without those huts, much Canadian climbing would become a matter of blind leading blind: for instance the Bugaboos - without the Kain Hut and its extensive route guides, we'd wind up in crevasses instead of on Howser Spire.

Now's our chance for a partial pay-back. The Alpine Club of Canada is building a "Canadian Centre for Mountaineering" near Lake Louise. It'll house a hostel and a resource center. Most of the ACC's Canmore Clubhouse library and much of the Banff library will be moved there. The ACC main office will lodge there. There'll be lodging for up to 300 climbers.

Send your pledge, or donation to "Canadian Centre for Mountaineering" c/o Alpine Club of Canada, Box 1026, Banff Alta TOL OCO, CANADA. Give more than \$50 and you will be honored with a plaque in the main hallway. Want more info before you donate, ask for the brochure at above address. So far we have \$170,476 in pledges! Of note: ACC will resume stewardship over all huts now managed by Parks, BC Parks Branch, et al. (NK)

## — A BETTER APPROACH —

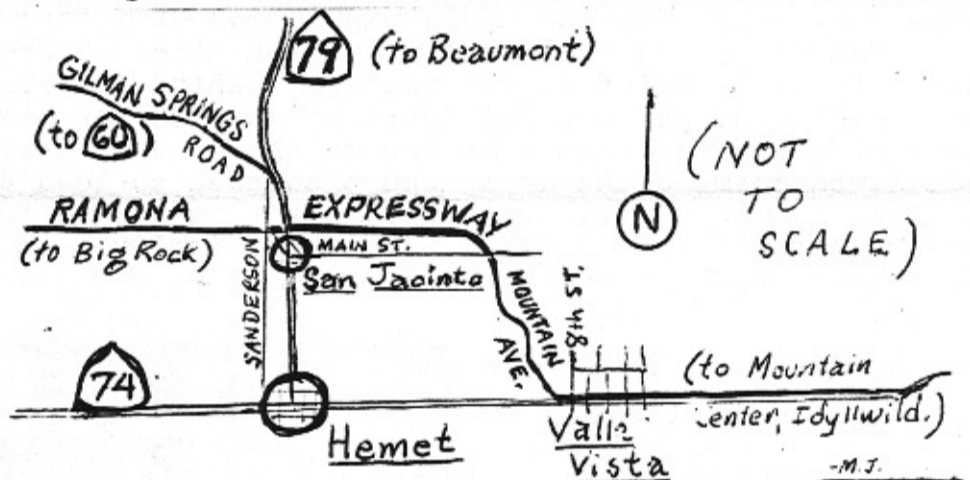
Motorists bound for Tahquitz-Suicide can now use a bypass which shunts them east of San Jacinto and Hemet directly to State Highway 74.

The southern approach to Idyllwild (route 74) was shorter even for northerly traffic than the Banning approach (State Highway 243) using roads previously available. With the new bypass the southern approach is shorter still. Highway 74 also has about 10 miles less exposure and acceleration stress than 243.

Ramona Expressway (the Big Rock road) now continues southeast past State Highway 79, turning into Mountain Avenue east of San Jacinto.

Detours are only memories, as is Old Mountain Road.

To find the bypass when returning from Idyllwild, check the street signs in Valle Vista. Just west of the traffic light is Eighth Street. Just past Eighth Street on the right is Mountain Avenue, with a Texaco station on the far corner. Turn right.



## NEW FROM K.S.M.

Kitchen Sink Mountaineering takes the guesswork out of leading with its latest innovation, the Digital Ropometer. ®

Leads from the ends of K.S.M.'s exclusive Electric Rope ® plug into each climber's harness-mounted instrument to give an accurate reading of the length of rope which has left the belay station.

Each Ropometer is encased in a high-impact nylon case which fits the form of the waist snugly and comfortably.

**DON'T BE CONFUSED BY CHEAP**

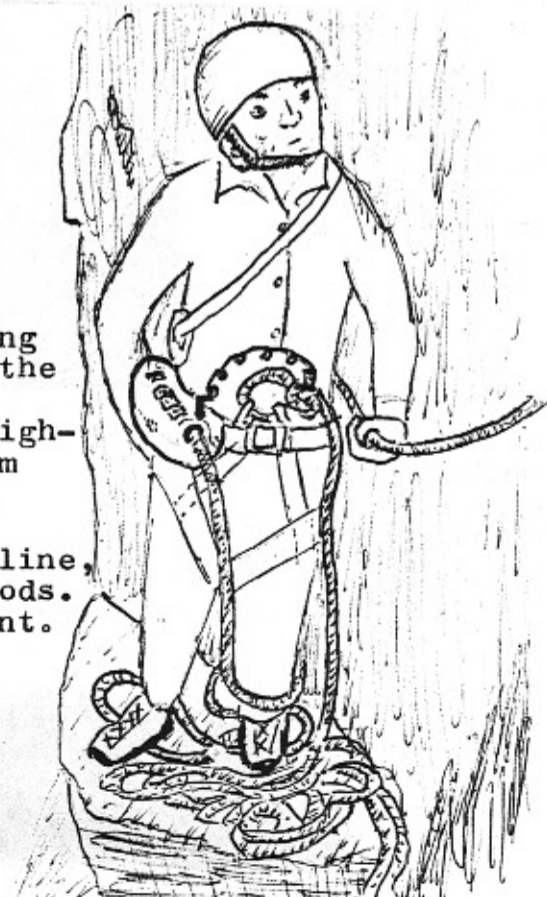
**IMITATIONS!** Be confused only by top-line, state-of-the-art-of-marketing KSM goods.

Weight five pounds each instrument.

Must be used with KSM Electric Rope and KSM Hi-Tek Harness ®.

Batteries not included.

Warning: This disclaimer limits our liability. Read it.—  
Any electrical cord subjected to repeated flexion may develop shorts which melt nylon.  
Electric Rope contains electric cord.



1988-89 CRACK WORKSHOP ANNOUNCED

A sequel to last year's successful crack climbing workshop is planned for the 1988-89 season. As before, the workshop will be conducted at Joshua Tree National Monument with the specific goal of helping RCS members improve their leading ability on moderate to difficult cracks. This year, we plan two independent successive workshops. Level 1 will focus on cracks in the 5.8-5.9 range and extend from early October through January, excluding the Christmas season. Level 2 will focus on cracks in the 5.10a-5.10b range and extend from early February through April. Attendance in the first workshop is not a prerequisite, nor a guarantee, for enrollment in the second. If you can commit every other weekend to climbing, are willing to train hard and shed fat, are currently leading cracks at the 5.7 standard or better, and are at least an Associate Member of the RCS, you are invited to send an SASE, not later than August 1, for a workshop description and application for the Level 1 phase. Tentative dates for Level 1 are the weekends of Oct 8, 29; Nov 12, 26; Dec 10; and Jan 14, 28. Information about the Level 2 workshop will be announced by November. Leader/Facilitators will be Jim Erb and Theresa Rutherford, assisted with participants from the 1987-88 workshop.

Jim Erb, 1546 San Carlos Pl, Orange, CA 92665 (714) 779-3047 (W)

YOSEMITE

(Continued from Page One.)

people were breaking camp and abandoning ship, the hard-core RCS folks were at the Curry Village Cafeteria cancelling the rest of the trip, at which point the Assistant Leader and all other prospective Assistant Leaders departed. The campsite had a population of 5 that night.

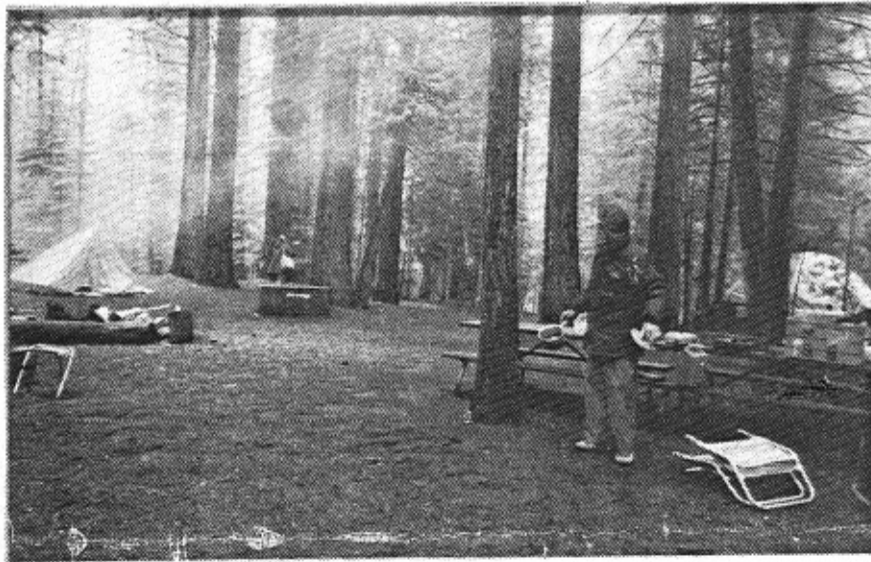
Monday dawned cool and sunny, and after coffee and s'mores for breakfast (I couldn't let all of the left-behind firewood go to waste), I went to the Glacier point Apron (part of an ulterior plan to find RCSers still in the Valley) and had some fun on the Monday Morning Slab. James Weger was found roaming the area, and proceeded to lead Son of Sam and another 1-pitch 5.9 or 5.10 that we couldn't find a name for. It was great fun but required a lot of small wires. I finally left the Valley at 7:00 PM, I was not bound to be there as a day trip, and was glad that I stuck around.

GC

**ORANGE in a SNOWSTORM**

Elder statesman John Orange seems to be asking, "Hey, where's everybody going?" in this Sunday morning snap from Hodgdon Meadow Campground in Yosemite (barely) on Memorial Day weekend.

—Staff Photo by GERRY COX.



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

