

R. & H



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DON'T DESPAIR, IT'S A GORGEOUS GORGE

Gorge of Despair, 22-24 July

An RCS exploratory jaunt through the thundershowers of a southerly weather pattern turned up these useful facts:

- The Gorge of Despair is appropriately named only for someone who's trying to hike from the Kings River's South Fork to its Middle Fork: Terrain is easy to the areas of likely climbing interest, north of which the gorge drops steeply toward Tehipite Dome. Access is Class 1, with trail (sometimes obscure) most of the way. The leader wore tennies.

- Future trips to this area should follow schedules more familiar to the SPS than to the RCS. The 6,000 foot gain should start as early as possible in the day. Special arrangements should be tried to pick up the permit the day before the trip.

- A wealth of beautiful, neglected crags awaits there. Everyone in Cedar Grove, whenever the Gorge of Despair was mentioned, asked, "Where's that?," including the packer and the rangers.

Although small, our group was out of shape and slow, trying as we were to approximate a typical RCS backpack. Mike Mihalka was the only one in decent condition for SPS-type travel. The rest of the group consisted of the trip leaders.

Beautiful scenery and plenty of wild flora and fauna greeted us, but no other hikers were seen, as we tramped up to Grizzly Lakes on Friday. This 5,100-foot gain took eight hours. Lack of energy and the combination of an electrical storm with a fairly late hour (4:30 p.m.) led us to camp at the lakes.

Saturday another late start (08:30) led to a late arrival (10:30?) at our camp just north of the pass in the Gorge. After camp was set up and gear sorted, Gerry Cox and Mike went off to look for something close and quick to do before the next southerly storm struck, while the leader went off to explore the gorge and take pictures.

Gerry and Mike scratched the 5.6 Tenderfoot Peak route in the guidebook as a typographical error, heading instead for the Silver Spur on the opposite side of the gorge. They were half a pitch into a route of their own devising on Python (Bowling Royal, 5.6) when a lightning storm prompted them to make a fourth-class exit and retreat. Rain and lightning continued for four hours, yielding finally to a beautifully scenic sunset and alpenglow.

Sunday's hie-out was interrupted by a third-class ascent of Mt. Harrington for Mike's SPS credit by him and Gerry, while the leader rested a knee he'd wrenched while clowning in camp. The peak took only an hour and a half round trip from the pass.

Despair finally struck on the trail down. Mike complained of a painful knee and ankle (separate lower extremities), and finally discovered his Nike Lava Dome was falling apart. Gerry gave first aid to the ankle and shoe, and we finished the retreat in a pounding hailstorm with lightning bolts. The trio agreed this gorge is well worth future trips, in better weather. It beats looking at Idyllwild.

-MJ

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Next issue: Sep 20, 1988
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NEXT MUGELNOOS MEETING

Tuesday, Sept 20, 1988 at 7:30 PM
Joint RCS-SMS Meeting. TWO GREAT
PROGRAMS for the price of one: 1)
Conservation Desert Protection Act
presented by the Conservation
Committee; AND 2) Bolivia Ice
Climbing, July 1988 by RCS' own Mark
Maier!

RCS SCHEDULE

Oct 1-2.....Fresno Dome
Leroy Russ/Margo Koss
Sep 3-5.....Tuolumne Meadows
Mike Baca/Margo Koss
Sep 10-11.....Tahquiltz/Suicide
John Gonzales/??
Sep 18.....Bouldering at Horseflat
Cmpgrnd
Tony Bird/Vigril Shields
Sep 24-25.....Xmas Tree Pass, Nev
Bob Havens**/Steve Russell

Be sure to call the trip leaders
prior to trip for meeting location
and time, and campsite info.

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

Trip Leaders' Home Phone Numbers:

*Note correction to Mike Baca's
number from last month's issue:

Mike Baca.....(213)728-8394
Tony Bird.....(818)895-1223
Bob Havens.....(805)296-7662
Margo Koss.....(213)227-4973
Leroy Russ.....(213)227-4973
Steve Russell.....(213)404-1480
Virgil Shields.....(818)798-9621
Greg Vernon.....(619)375-2612

NOTICE FOR RCS STUDENTS

Reminder: Your experience climb
evaluation sheets should be sent to
the NEW Safety Chair, Dick DeRusha.
Dick's address is 1421 Edgecliffe
Drive, Los Angeles 90026; phone
(213) 661-1004. Be sure to change
the address (and add needed postage)
to your pre-addressed envelopes!

NOTICE TO RCS CANDIDATES

If you are still interested in
doing a safety check-off,
please contact Dick DeRusha,
213 661-1004.

ADDRESS UPDATES

A new roster will be mailed soon,
but these didn't make print.

Sharon Briel
590 W. Sierra Madre Bl. #H
Sierra Madre, Ca 91024
818 355-7161

Mary Starkweather
1424 Turner
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
907 452-5899

Tony Bird
9800 Vesper #112
Panarama City, Ca 91402
H 818 895-1223
W 818 340-5147

Tom Wirt
5022 Hemlock
Irvine, Ca 92715
H 714 786-3263
W 714 762-6187

CLIMBING PARTNER WANTED

I'm looking for a climbing partner willing
to climb everyother weekend on a consistent
basis. This individual must currently be
leading atleast 5.9 face and cracks and have
aspirations to climb hard 5.10 and moderate
5.11. Must be serious enough about climbing
to push individual limits and do the necessary
training. If thoughts of THE VAMPIRE make
your pulse quicken, call me.

Tom Brogan
(714) 946-7011

NEW EDITORS ANNOUNCED

A gratifying flood of
volunteers answered the call
for RCS season editors, and
an arbitrary assignment is
listed below. If your month
won't do, please let the RCS
Mugelstool know.

Sincere thanks are due to
these volunteers:

June: Alois Smrz
July: Pat Lysgaard
August: Tim Frank
September: Mike Jelf
October: Leonard Hall
November: Bob Carlson
Alternates: Elaine Berke,
Gerry Cox, Leonard Hall,
Mike Mihalka.

"Belay On and Climbing"The Long-Awaited 1988 RCS Roster

The roster has been printed and should be in the mail by the time you read this (It's like that check..). Besides containing Margo's latest rendering of the club procedures, I think it also contains the climbing schedule for the remainder of 1988.

Corrections to the roster should be sent to the RCS Secretary, Barbara Kaufman, 203 Annandale Road, Pasadena, CA 91105. Barbara will publish revisions/corrections/additions to the RCS Roster info monthly in the Mugelnoos from now on starting in September, or even possibly, with this issue.

Because The Mugelnoos reports both the RCS and Ski Mountaineers news and is a separate entity from the RCS, address corrections should also be sent to The Mugelnoos Mailer as well: Pat Holleman, 1638 Sixth St., Manhattan Beach, Ca 90266.

Newly Scheduled Climbs

Of special interest to those Students who haven't completed their four evaluation climbs, there are two new climbs scheduled: one by Leroy Russ and Margo Koss to Fresno Dome on August 27 and 28; and one by John Gonzales (assistant unknown at this typing) to Tahquitz and Sulicide in Idyllwild on September 10 and 11. I believe these are the last two climbs, offering opportunity for multipitch evaluations, open to students before the annual Business Meeting in October (deadline for student evaluations).

Call the leaders for trip particulars if there isn't a separate trip announcement elsewhere in this issue. STUDENTS are reminded to let the leader know if you are going to attend the climb.

Membership Status Letters

For you Regular and Associate Members who haven't fulfilled the RCS membership requirements, you'll be receiving (or have already received) a reminder in the mail that you: 1) haven't paid your Activity Fee, 2) haven't subscribed to the Mugelnoos (and therefore won't be reading this), 3) haven't completed four days of climbing on RCS trips (or teaching class), and/or 4) aren't a Sierra Club member. It's climb and/or pay up time!

A Greek Who's Not Seeking Election ...?!

It's been rumored that the Chair (1/4 Greek) and possibly other officers are not intending to seek reelection for office in the RCS come October. Gerry Cox and Mark Maier were coerced into accepting positions on the Nominating Committee. They'll be seeking candidates (of any nationality, sex, religion, race, and climbing ability) for nomination. Those of you who may seeking political experience at a level where your past dealings with the IRS won't become headline news are invited to apply. Possibly you have ideas on how the club can be run better..here's your opportunity to be heard. Put your two cents worth in. Volunteer!

"Belay off." Donna O

AGAIN!
ACTIVITY FEE REMINDER

\$10 RCS ACTIVITY FEE IS DUE AND
PAYABLE NOW. SEND CHECK MADE
PAYABLE TO "RCS" TO THE TREASURER:
MIKE FELDMAN, 3551 EL LADO DRIVE,
GLENDALE, CA 91280.

ANTI-GRAVITY SHOESMOVE A STEP CLOSER

New data from a hole in Greenland add support to belief in a fifth force of nature which opposes gravity, a report in the Los Angeles Times said recently.

Sensitive gravitometer tests actually suggested the presence of a sixth force which augments gravity at distances of $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 mile.

This sixth force had been postulated in earlier research, which was thought to have detected the fifth force working in ranges less than 600 feet.

Perhaps this explains why the first 600 feet of gain are so easy compared with the subsequent 5,000. -MJ

Climber's Festival

A climber's festival will be held in Calgary on October 28, 29 and 30, 1988 at the University of Calgary.

Guest speakers include Lynn Hill, Gregg Child, Fred Becky, Wojciech Kurtyka from Poland, and Calgary locals Jeff Marshall and Kevin Doyle.

Classic mountain films, panel discussions, climbing demonstrations and social events are planned. The Canadian Mountain Arts competition, intended to promote amateur talent, will include creative writing, paintings, drawings, photo and film.

Proceeds from the festival will be channelled back into the Canadian climbing community.

For further information on festival vents or entries in the Mountain Arts Competition, contact Chic Scott, c/o The Calgary Climbers Festival, 112 woodside Bay S.W., Calgary, Alberta 2W 3K7, phone (403) 238-3818.

Lost: One climbers helmet dropped off the top of Half Dome. Was white. If found please call 1-800-LIGHTHEAD

Notice: The second anual Real Cheap Climbers Gear factory seconds sale begins September 1st. All slightly imperfect gear 50% off.

Join us September 18 for a Sunday of bouldering at Horse Flats Campground (Mt. Hillyer area, North of Chilao) in the San Gabriels. As Far as I know, this is the first RCS trip to this pleasant area of good granite outcroppings among the jackpines. Excellent jam cracks and other boulder problems, and even a half pitch roped climb, 5.9+.

Virgil Shields promises to bring a published guide. Meet at Loyds Restaurant in La Canada (at the Angeles Crest and Foothill Blvd) for breakfast at 8:30 or shove off at 9:30. If you are driving up direct, The Horse Flats rd. is on the left, 2 1/2 miles beyond Chilao on the ACH. Most of the bouldering is west of the camp ground which is 2 1/2 miles down that road.

Tony Bird

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Richard L. Henke
34 Malaga Place East
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
1988 RCS-R