



No. 665 — September 20, 1988

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.

SAFETY NOTICE

RECALL NOTICES

During my last trip to REI, I noticed three climbing gear **RECALL NOTICES**: a Stubai Seat Harness, Wild Country Friends and Flexible Friends, and Lowe Tri Cams. Details are provided below. DO

FROM REI:

SAFETY NOTICE

For your safety, please return any **STUBAI SEAT HARNESS** purchased at the REI Good Buy to Summer Sale in August 1988.

Tests show it is possible for a carabiner to slip under the edge of the buckle, causing the belt to loosen.

Do not use this seat harness under any condition. You may return to to REI for a refund or credit toward a different seat harness.

FROM WILD COUNTRY:

RECALL NOTICE

All **WILD COUNTRY FRIENDS** and **FLEXIBLE FRIENDS** purchased after **JANUARY 1, 1988**

Due to a slight manufacturing inconsistency, a secondary strength component present on both Friends and Flexible Friends may be below specified strength. We are recalling all units purchased after January 1, 1988 for evaluation and if necessary, repair or replacement.

We have discovered a certain percentage of the axle ends produced after January 1, 1988 may not be correct. Odd placements which load along the axle (ie, vertical, bottoming cracks) can result in the unit failing. Therefore, any unit purchased after January 1, 1988 should be returned for evaluation.

When returning your Friends or Flexible Friends please print or type your name, address, phone number, size & type of unit, date purchased (if possible) and store purchased from (if possible) on a manilla tag or index card. Attach that securely with a cord or a wire twist-tie to the bottom tie-in hole on the stem. Please mark each device if returning more than one.

Wild Country will evaluate each one, repair or replace as necessary and return them to you as quickly as possible. Enclose a note with your shipping costs and we will refund them to you.

If you have any problems or questions as your dealer or feel free to call us toll-free at: 1 800-543-7264

Returns to: WILD COUNTRY USA
P.O. BOX 589
SEAVEY STREET
NORTH CONWAY, NH 03860
ATTN. RETURNS

(CONTINUED, BACK PAGE.)

MUGELNOOS STAFF

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NEXT MUGELNOOS MEETING

Tuesday, Oct 18, 1988 at 7:30 PM at
the Griffith Park Ranger Station.
Joint RCS-SMS Meeting. Annual RCS
Membership Purge and Election of
Officers.

If you received one of those member-
ship letters advising that you
didn't meet the RCS membership
requirements this year and are about
to be PURGED, write your letter
begging forgiveness and send it to
the Secretary before the Oct 18th
meeting. Better yet, bring it to
the meeting and read it yourself.
You, too, can be forgiven!



RCS SCHEDULE

- Sep 24-25.....Xmas Tree Pass, Nev
Bob Havens**/Steve Russell
- Oct 1-2.....Fresno Dome
Leroy Russ/Margo Koss
- Oct 1-2Ice Climb V-Notch
Palisades--Maximum 6 climbers
Alois Smrz/?????
- Oct 8-10.....Yosemite Valley
Scott Bailey/Gerry Cox
- Oct 16...RCS Annual Picnic, Big Rock
Claude Lane/Phil Rabichow
- Oct 23-23.....Joshua Tree
Blind Kids Climb
Mike Jelf/Mike Baca

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:

- Mike Baca.....(213)728-8394
- Scott Bailey.....(714)539-5094
- Gerry Cox.....(213)591-0711
- Bob Havens.....(805)296-7662
- Mike Jelf.....(213)326-3430
- Margo Koss.....(213)227-4973
- Claude Lane.....(818)957-3210
- Phil Rabichow.....(818)342-0195
- Leroy Russ.....(213)227-4973
- Alois Smrz.....(213)823-8628

CLIMBING KIDS NEEDED

Climbing kids (sighted) are
needed for the Braille-RCS climb
Oct. 22-23 at Joshua Tree.
Rides/shelter/feeding/hero
certificates can be provided.
High-caliber climbing skill
isn't needed — rudimentary
climbing knowledge will suffice.
Please contact Mike Jelf to
volunteer at (213) 326-3430 or
1819 W. 254th St., Lomita 90717.

YOSEMITE VALLEY Group Campsite B
is reserved for the RCS Oct. 8-10.

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!

UPCOMING RCS ELECTION OF OFFICERS

THE RCS WANTS YOU! **VOTE**

Our Nominating Committee is hard at
work seeking nominations for at
least two Management Committee
Offices which will be vacated come
October. Would YOU like to run for
office, or do you know someone else
who is seeking fame and notoriety?
CONTACT EITHER GERRY COX (213)591-
0711 OR MARK MAIER (213) before the
October 18th Meeting.

RCS ROSTER UPDATES

- Mike & Stephanie Adams
3638 Lemon Avenue
Long Beach 90807
Home Phone (213) 426-9175
- Scott Bailey
12635 Main Street #105
Garden Grove 92640
Home Phone (714) 539-5094
- Sue Kafesjian
15511 Earlham Road
Pacific Palisades 90272
Work Phone (818) 501-2880
- Phil Rabichow
Work Phone 818 901-3650



There are two listings in the new
roster for Chris Mitchell. The
correct one is listed as Margaret C
Mitchell in Newport Beach. Let us
know if this is wrong, Chris.

FRESNO DOME, OCT. 1-2

Fresno Dome has many short and
medium-length routes, on great
rock. Good trip for family--lovely
campground and an easy walk to the
top of the dome for sunbathing
while awaiting climbers. Take the
Bass Lake turnoff from Hwy. 41 south
of Yosemite. Take Malum Ridge Rd.
(#274/434) bearing left at a fork,
then turn left on Beasore Rd.
(#434) about 100 yards past the
Pines Village Bass Lake sign. Turn
left at Cold Springs Summit and
follow signs to Fresno Dome
campground. For alternate route:
climbers' guide Southern Yosemite.

BLIND KIDS FRY IF YOU DON'T HELP

Remember the first time you climbed? Now imagine you're waiting for your first crack at climbing, and you're a blind kid:

You had to get up early for your ride to a meeting spot. Then you rode in the van for several hours, with more pickup stops en route. Finally you got to Joshua Tree, piled out of the van, and waited while harnesses were donned and knots checked.

Now it's midday, and you're baking in the sun. But you still have to wait an hour to climb, because there aren't enough belayers to get all the kids off the ground. Maybe you'd lose interest, or regret sticking your neck out at all.

This sad development can be prevented only if we get enough climbers to the Braille Institute climb Oct. 22-23 to give every kid who shows up something to do besides wait around baking in the sun.

-MJ

IN MEMORIAM

Ray Van Aken

Ray Van Aken, was a long time member of the RCS, and Life member of the Sierra Club and Canadian Alpine clubs. He died of cancer on sept 5, 1988 in Ridgecrest, CA. He had a strong and enduring love for the mountains and high places which was first evident when he began climbing with the L.A. Chapt. of the Sierra Club, as a teenager. He became one of the principal climbers of the RCS for a period of about 15 years, starting as a beginner in the late 1940's and retiring as one of the senior climbers in the early 1960s. Tahquitz Rock was certainly his favorite climbing area as attested by his record of more than one hundred ascents of the Fingertip. He pioneered at least four first ascents, including the Fingergrip and ski Tracks (1947), which are two of the finest routes at the rock. Other areas in which he climbed were the Canadian Rockies, where he made another first ascent, and the Alps in Europe. In later years his interest centered in the Sierra Nevada where he established at least three new routes in the Minarets about 1960. During the 70s he even founded the Mountain Rescue Group in Ridgecrest, which he was an active member for several years.

Ray was an Aeronautical Engineer at the Naval Weapons Center at China Lake since 1951. At the time of his death he was head of the Air Frame Special Projects. He worked in Community Services, became a Commercial pilot, taught classes, and one of his later accomplishments was to become a member of the Academy of Magical Arts, Inc., and a haunt of the Magic Castle in Hollywood.

He is survived by his wife, Jane, two sons, David and Glen, and two sisters. He has passed on his love of climbing to his son Glenn, who was working and climbing in Yosemite Valley this summer. Glenn found time to climb the lost Arrow, one of Ray's favorite climbs in the Valley, in August.

Older climbers will remember him as a warm and loving friend and will miss his remarkable wry humor.

*C.F.E. Wilts*KELLER HUT CELEBRATION

There will be a 50th anniversary celebration and reunion, commemorating the construction of Keller Hut in October. Appropriately enough, Keller Hut will be the site of the celebration. All SMS members are encouraged to attend, especially hut builders, friends of hut builders, and anyone who always wanted to build a hut but never had the opportunity and probably never will.

The celebration is chapter-wide and is being organized by the Keller Hut Committee.

The date is October 8, between 10 and 4. Lunch and beverages will be provided. Send \$5 per adult and SASE to: Susan LaPrade, 2408 England, Apt. B, Huntington Beach, CA 92648.

Please bring snapshots and whatever from the early days.

PM

NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETS

The 1988 SMS Central Committee met July 8th at Eddie Nunez' cliff-hanging duplex in the quaintly seedy Los Feliz district. We made bets on what size quake it would take to send Eddie's place into Hollywood and then we got around to assigning committee jobs for the upcoming season. The suckers are:

- Eddie Nunez.Chairman
- Rose Lynch. Vice-Chair/co-Outings
- Pete Matulavich.Secretary/Treasurer
- Paul Kenworthy. Co-Outings
- Joy Fagert. Programs

Readers may recall that Gerry Holleman was supposed to be on the committee but he recently underwent bypass surgery and many of us suspect he did so merely to shirk further SMS responsibilities.

T-Shirts

Eddie's hot on the idea of coming out with SMS T-shirts and has managed to convert others to his cause. The committee agreed to put a \$400 cap on a limited run. Hopefully, the section may be able to make a little money on the venture. A design will be submitted to the committee for its approval. We're gonna keep it simple and have totally rejected Eddie's skull-and-crossbone, ski-to-die concept.

Pot Luck Dinner

Yep. We're gonna have another one, sometime in October. Details to follow. All members are encouraged to attend, especially those leaders wishing to lead some trips this season.

SMS fliers

We agreed to distribute SMS schedules to area backpacking shops again this year. We felt last year's efforts brought in many new members.

New Members

The following individuals were formally approved for SMS membership. Each was checked out last season.

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| Jim Valensi | James McReel | Ron Degryse |
| Nancy Gordon | Thomas Sliter | Bill Oliver |
| Mindy Belli | Bill Lingle | Kent Santelman |
| Dennis Belli | Paul Hunt | Reiner Stenzel |
| Jan Rayman | David Furlong | Bob Meador |
| Ron Hudson | | |

A couple of the above members were checked out several seasons ago, but their names somehow didn't get on the official roster. We welcome the new members and hope to see them on many tours this coming season.

PM

SMS TREASURER'S REPORT

Financially speaking, the 87-88 season was one of the best in history. We began the year with a wimpy \$600 in our treasury and finished with over \$1,900. Infusions, in round numbers, were as follows:

- \$500 disbursement from the overflowing Mugelnoos account.
- \$600 net income from the very successful SMS training camp and clinic conducted by Mark Goebel and others. We all owe Mark a "thank you."
- \$200 from sales of SMS patches and pins. A lot of them!

Incidentally, members wishing a handsome SMS patch or pin should send \$4.50 or \$5.50, respectively, to Pete Matulavich, 1414 Paseo Manzanera, San Dimas, CA 91773. Make check out to S.M.S. There are only a couple of pins left, so please, no complaints if we run out.

PM

Highlights of the July 23 & 24 Tahquitz Trip

A dozen or so people showed up for the July 23 climb in Tahquitz. Among them were three students. Certainly the highlight of the day -- from a leader standpoint -- was that everyone got back before 5 pm. Whether this strange occurrence was due to the iron discipline provided by the leader Pat Lysgaard or the 2 pm heavy showers is still up for debate. The storm did give students the opportunity to rappel during a storm. It rained quite hard and everyone was soaked. Of course the fearless leader was well-prepared in a light t-shirt and shorts. The fearless assistant leader, Bob Somoano must be a better weather predictor because he came down at about 1 pm to allow the leader to climb. Of course she fell for this and was at the top of a pitch when the downpour occurred.

Everyone returned safely and decided that wine and food were in order. More people --15 to be exact-- met at Michelli's for dinner than climbed that day.

The next day an unanimous decision was made to climb at Suicide instead of Tahquitz. The weather was fine although a little hot. Thanks to Mike Baca several students climbed "Yours." Two groups climbed "Flower of a Higher Rank" and everyone enjoyed a great day of climbing.
-PL

The Obelisk, Aug. 6-8

Only five trippers tramped to the second Western Sierra exploratory site, a journey of eight or nine miles with a tad more than 2,000 feet gain.

Greg Vernon and Mike Baca put up a 5.9-A1 on Sunday, while the leader took pictures for a program. They started on what apparently was the 5.7 (?) north rib to west ridge route in the Roper guide, but neglected to turn right at the ledge traverse. A direct north face route of seven hours round-trip duration resulted. Greg dubbed it "Bacanal."

Roy Bishop and R.J. Secor began the E face route but backed off due to lack of protection.
-MJ

CLASSIC CLIMBS SOUTH

RCS MEMBERS ROBERT SOMOANO, ANDY FRIED AND A FRIEND MARK ROPELL, DECIDED TO TRY GETTING AWAY FROM THE CROWDS AND DO SOME SNOW AND ICE CLIMBING IN PERU DURING JUNE AND JULY THIS YEAR. WHAT THEY DISCOVERED COULD BECOME A SEQUEL TO "50 CROWNED CLIMBS IN NORTH AMERICA". THE CORDILLERA BLANCA MAY WELL BE THE MOST POPULAR CLIMBING AREA IN SOUTH AMERICA. THIS IS QUITE A CHANGE FROM WHAT IT WAS WHEN I WAS LAST THERE IN 1978. THE MAIN STREET IN HUARAZ NOW HAS SEVERAL TREKKING STORES THAT RENT EQUIPMENT. THERE IS A GUIDE HOUSE THAT CAN PUT YOU IN TOUCH WITH PORTERS AND GUIDES. THERE ARE SEVERAL HOTELS RANGING IN PRICE FROM \$38. PER NIGHT DOWN TO \$1.76 FOR ONE.

ALL THESE CHANGES, WHILE MAKING LOGISTICS EASIER, HAVE ALSO MADE FOR CROWDS ON THE POPULAR CLIMBS. YET EVEN WITH THE CROWDS, THE CLIMBS ARE WELL WORTH THE TRIP. THE SCHEDULE FOR THE FIRST THREE WEEKS WAS ABOUT RIGHT, AND THE WEATHER HELD. WE STARTED WITH PISCO A 19000'+ WARM UP PEAK. AFTER THAT WE RETURNED TO HUARAZ FOR REST AND TO BUY SUPPLIES FOR OUR SECOND CLIMB, HUASCARAN. AT 22,205' THIS IS PROBABLY THE MOST POPULAR CLIMB IN PERU. THE ROUTE CHANGES ON THIS CLIMB EVERY YEAR, HOWEVER MOST OF IT IS NON-TECHNICAL. THERE ARE SOME CREVASSE PROBLEMS, AND WE HAD ONE PITCH OF ABOUT 50 DEGREES. WE MADE THREE CAMPS ON THE WAY UP AND SPENT TWO NIGHTS ON THE WAY DOWN.

AFTER HUASCARAN WE HAD A COUPLE DAYS OF R & R IN HUARAZ AND THEN DEPARTED FOR NEV. ALPAMAYO, THIS WAS BY FAR THE BEST OF THE THREE CLIMBS. WE WENT UP THE FERRARI ROUTE WHICH INVOLVED 7+ PITCHES OF 60 DEGREE CLIMBING. SOME OF THE CLIMBING WAS FIRM SNOW AND SOME WAS ICE.

AFTER THREE WEEKS ROBERT RETURNED HOME, AND MARK WENT ON TO BOLIVIA TO EXPLORE THE CORDILLERA REAL. ANDY REMAINED IN HUARAZ AND WAS JOINED BY DAVE MROCKOWSKI OF BIG BEAR FOR AN ATTEMPT ON AN OUT OF THE WAY CLIMB, NEV. CHINCHAY.

(Continued, back page.)

● **SAFETY (From Page One.)** FROM LOWE ALPINE SYSTEMS:

RECALL!
TRI-CAM #'s 5, 6 & 7

It has come to our attention that some of the number 5, 6 and 7 Tri-Cams may have an assembly flaw that could cause a failure in certain situations.

It is important to stop using these three sizes of Tri-Cams immediately. These are the three largest sizes and can be identified by having separate side plates connected by cylindrical or hourglass shaped cross members.

The large sizes (#5, #6 & #7 with separate side plates) are assembled using a different method than the smaller sizes (#0.5-#4). The smaller sizes are forged from a single piece of aluminum and you can continue to use these with confidence.

If you have any of the #5, #6 or #7 Tri-Cams, send them back to Lowe Alpine Systems, 620 Compton St., Broomfield, CO 80020. Be sure to include your name and a shipping address (Not a P.O. box). We will replace them with the new design and return them to you free of charge. Replacement Tri-Cams of the new design will be shipped in November.

Thank you Lowe Alpine Systems

BANFF CLIMBING COMPETITION IS A "GO"

The first Alpine Club of Canada Climbing Competition will be held in Banff, Alberta on November 2, 3, and 4, 1988 in the Eric Harvie Theatre at The Banff Centre. From Canmore's Grotto Canyon in January, to the Steel Bros. Quarrie in May, Snowbird in June, to the Eric Harvie Theatre at The Banff Centre - it has been an interesting few months but the decision has been made and things are starting to take shape.

This will be an "on site" difficulty competition for both men and women and will be held on a pre-fabricated climbing wall, similar to Snowbird's. Attractive prizes as well as trophies will be awarded to winners in each category.

The dates of Nov. 2, 3, and 4 were chosen to provide a link between the 'Climbers Festival' being held in Calgary on October 28, 29, 30, and the Banff Festival of Mountain Films to be held in Banff on November 4, 5, 6.

To enter or for further information concerning the competition, contact the Alpine Club of Canada, Box 1026, Banff, Alta TOL OCO, CANADA. (403) 762-4481

For Banff Festival of Mountain Films tickets, call The Banff Centre, Box 1020, Banff, Alta TOL OCO at (403)762-6349 or write festival director Bernadette McDonald at above address.

For Climber's Festival events, entries, competition, contact Chic Scott (403)238-3818, c/o Calgary Climber's Festival, 112 Woodside Bay SW, Calgary, Alta T2W 3K7 CANADA (Norman Kingsley)

● **CORDILLERA (From Page Five.)**

UNFORTUNATELY ALL THINGS CHANGE SOONER OR LATER AND WEATHER IS NO EXCEPTION. PRIOR TO DAVE'S ARRIVAL THE CLOUDS HAD BEGUN TO COVER THE PEAKS, AND THERE WERE OCCASIONAL SNOW STORMS. THIS PATTERN WAS TO CONTINUE FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS, FRUSTRATING BOTH OUR ATTEMPTS TO CROSS THE -BURGSCHRUND AND REACH THE SUMMIT. AFTER SEVERAL DAYS AT 18000' COL CAMP, AND TWO ATTEMPTS TO PUSH PAST THE SCHRUND WE RETURNED TO L.A.

A.F.

THE MUGELNOOS
Pat Holleman
1638 6th St.
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

