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THE ANGELES NEWS

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THE FOLLOWING ARE PROHIBITED: ALL CLIMBS, HIKES, EXPEDITIONS, INSTRUCTION COURSES, SCHOOLS, AND SIMILAR TRAINING THAT INVOLVE IN ANY MANNER THE USE OF ROPES, ICE AXES, OR ANY FORM OF CLIMBING HARDWARE.

The above is the agreement that the Sierra Club has with its insurance carriers. It effectively destroys the Rock Climbing Section, cuts the heart out of the BMTC (a major source of revenue for the Angeles Chapter), and limits the activities of such groups as the Ski Mountaineers and Sierra Peaks Section. I would want to know a lot more about the liability situation before embarking on a nominally third class trip where, in retrospect, a jury might conclude that a rope or ice axe should have been taken. For more details, see Donna O's report on Page 3. -LH

  **RCS SAYS "GOODBYE" TO**  
CLIMBING AT CHRISTMAS TREE PASS

September 24-25, 1988

Four climbers joined Bob Havens for his 40+ birthday and his provisional lead at Christmas Tree Pass, Nevada. Bob did his obligatory 5.8 lead up MC1 on Dall Dome for the 10th time; Dave Perkins scraped off some unwanted skin on a new 5.10 climb (Luckey Man); Greg Stevens did the first half ascent of a multi named dike; Steve Russell led The Deceiver, in a fashion unmatched by other RCS members who have led this climb, and his wife Robin followed him faithfully.

The weather was excellent the whole weekend and the injuries were so minimal they shouldn't cloud the judgement of the assistant in grading Bob's provisional lead. Bob would like to thank all those who attended, especially Dave, who gave him the gift of the blue climbing rope. He regrets any discomfort suffered by Steve, but hey, he had a head ache. FP

CLIMBER INJURED AT CHRISTMAS TREE PASS

Steve Russell marred the, perhaps, final climb of the RCS by being injured not once, but twice. Steve's nose was apparently bent out-of-joint when struck by the hand of a fellow climber throwing down the rappel rope. Steve's nose was further bent out-of-joint when the same climber stepped on his foot at the start of the rappel. Several biblical terms were heard by boaters in nearby Lake Mojave. Ironically, these injuries spoiled the festive mood Steve was in, after having successfully led The Deceiver (5.10A) for the first time. (However he has seconded this climb twice before, so the lead was no big deal) The contents of the ice chest provided all that was needed for first aid, and the Edgewater \$3.95 buffet provided for all the follow-up treatment. BH

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Next issue: November 15, 1988
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NEXT MUGELNOOS MEETING

Tuesday, November 15, 1988 at 7:30 PM
 at the Griffith Park Ranger Station. Joint
 RCS-SMS Meeting; SMS Hosting.

RCS SCHEDULE

As announced in the September 29th
 Mugelnoos Special Edition, all RCS
 climbs have been cancelled. In recent
 weeks, the SCMA climbing schedule has
 borne an amazing resemblance to the
 former RCS schedule. This will probably
 continue.

RCS ROSTER UPDATES

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**NOTE FROM THE OUTGOING RCS
CHAIR****RCS MEMBERS & MUGELNOOS
SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Current RCS members may want to delay
 subscribing to the Mugelnoos until status
 of the RCS as an organization has been
 finalized. If you are only interested in rock
 climbing, the SCMA's newsletter may be of
 more interest to you. -DO

TIME TO RENEW!

Renew your Mugelnoos subscription
 by sending a \$7.00 check payable
 to "Mugelnoos" to Pat Holleman,
 Mugelmailer, 1638 6th St., Man-
 hattan Beach, CA 90266. Refunds
 are available upon request for
 RCS members who renewed/ sub-
 scribed for 1989 just before the
 insurance snafu.

Overheard at Lambert Dome: "I didn't
 think this could ever happen to us!"

One night about 9:00 PM, on the Labor
 Day Tuolmne Meadows trip, your editor
 and friends strolled up to the standard star
 gazing spot below the Water Cracks, only
 to find another party in conversation with
 two people up on top, who had nothing to
 guide them but a cigarette lighter. Their
 plight was made somewhat worse by the
 lack of a moon. After some discussion, the
 other party went to report the situation to
 the Rangers. The hardest part of the
 subsequent rescue was to get the people
 on top to admit that they were there. They
 were eventually guided down the 4th class
 face route by a member of the rescue
 team. Do you routinely carry a flashlight?
 Or at least a cigarette lighter? (It makes it
 much easier for the Ranger to spot you.)

EARLY START ON THE SKI SEASON

Craig Dostie and a buddy from the midwest
 lugged full packs, ice climbing gear, and
 skis up to lake #2, then took off for the
 Palisade Glacier. They did some ice climb-
 ing around the bergschrund, then took off
 on their skis down the glacier in the late
 evening. Ten inches of snow from two weeks
 previous had crusted over, but they managed
 a line of figure-8's down to the terminal
 moraine, from whence they groped their way
 back to camp by midnight. This outrageous
 trip was done Saturday, October 1st in
 calm, clear, balmy conditions, thus chris-
 tening the 1988-89 ski mountaineering
 season! (JW)

SKI HUT WORK PARTY

All lazy loafers wishing to dispel the
 notion that they allow others to prepare
 the Baldy Hut for their cozy winter
 pleasure, are invited to the annual fall
 work party the weekend of Oct 15-16.
 Come one day or both days. If staying
 overnight reserve a spot on the central
 commissary by calling Bonnie at (818)
 336-3397, or (714) 981-6364 days. Meet
 at the roadhead 8:00 AM Sat with pack
 to help lug materials & food up the hill.
 (JW)

** FROM THE FORMER RCS CHAIR **

WHEN MY GRAND CANYON TRIP was rescheduled for the week of the RCS Annual Picnic and Annual Meeting, I didn't realize I'd be missing all the excitement. I assume that the membership purge and election of officers took place as planned on October 18th, AND that most of the active RCS members will (or have applied to) join the Southern California Mountaineering Association (hope I'm allowed in). I guess I'll find out when I get back on the 30th.

I'm glad to be 'off lead' and I want to officially express my appreciation to my belayers: Claude Lane--Vice Chair, Mike Feldman--Treasurer, Mike Meyer & Barbara Kaufman--Secretaries, Margo Koss & Dick DeRusha--Safety Chairs, Mike Jelf--Editor & Council Rep, Larry Tidball--Chapter Safety Rep, John Ripley--Historian, Tom Jeter & Tim Frank--Conservation Reps, John Gonzales--Training Chair, LeRoy Russ--Mugelnoos Printer, and Alois Smrz--Programs (for next year). These are the other elected officers, appointees, and volunteers who kept the RCS climbing this year. Thank you all.

No thanks go to the Sierra Club National Board of Directors. Because of them, we won't be climbing as the RCS anymore. Evidently the Board doesn't value the goodwill and membership that climbing activities bring to the Sierra Club. The Mugelnoos Special Edition (Sept 29th) reported that the insurance carrier restrictions were for 4th & 5th class climbing and instruction involving rope, climbing gear & ice axe. That's what the Board proposed. What the insurance carrier demanded and the Board certified to was:

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For those RCS members who wish to express their displeasure about this turn of events by writing to the Sierra Club National Board of Directors, rest assured you won't be alone. The Mountaineering Training Committee and the Sierra Peaks Section (which will be greatly impacted/inactivated by the loss of insurance) are sponsoring a letter writing campaign and have provided some names and addresses and recommendations for content (see John Cheslick's letter). He recommends writing to the President and/or copy the others.

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Other input from John was: The Club reduced the insurance coverage purely for a financial reason, (to save less than \$325K a year out a budget of millions, I've been told). They don't want to pay the additional premium to retain the insurance. Letters must stress that the \$ value that climbing outings bring to the Club such as: attracting new members directly; the outdoor image of the Club; retaining membership (30% of the Sierra Club membership rotates out of the Club each year); many persons interested in Outings/Climbing renew membership because of climbing and the friendship; goodwill received from teaching climbing and wilderness safety through the BMTC, AMTC and RCS classes.

Whether you decide to join the letter campaign or not, I sure hope you all KEEP ON CLIMBIN'. See you on the rocks. Donna O

The following is a sample letter as proposed by John Cheslick, Chairman of the Mountaineering Training Committee:

Richard Cellarius
2439 Crestline Dr. NW
Olympia, WA 98502

Dear Mr. Cellarius,

As a member of the Sierra Club, I am proud to be a part of the unique work done to preserve and protect our environment. I also participate in outings sponsored by the Club. I am angered by the Board of Directors' recent action to cancel insurance for mountaineering. This Action will severely limit my activities with the Sierra Club. I urge you to reconsider your action and to provide insurance for these activities.

The Sierra Club is the only organization which stresses conservation and strives to get its members outdoors. The activities section draws many new Sierra Club members. Many of these people would not have otherwise joined the Club. Please do not end this vital component of the Sierra Club.

I am aware that, although costly, insurance for mountaineering activities is available. I urge you to take the necessary action to reinstate mountaineering insurance. I would be willing to pay a small surcharge on my membership dues to cover the costs.

If measures are not taken to reinsure mountaineering activities, I will cancel my membership in the Sierra Club. I would hate to do so, as I have been a member for many years. I could not, however, continue my membership in an organization which is not sensitive to my needs.

Sincerely,

Sierra Club Member

<TO OUR TRIP LEADERS OF 1988>

Without these regular members who hold Sierra Club Leader Ratings, we wouldn't be the RCS. Those leaders listed below were scheduled or substitute leaders for the following 1988 RCS trips January thru November 88 (includes cancelled RCS trips):

- 9 Trips: Greg Vernon.
- 8 Trips: Mike Jelf.
- 6 Trips: Margo Koss.
- 5 Trips: Mike Baca and Gerry Cox.
- 4 Trips: Claude Lane.
- 3 Trips: Phil Rabichow, LeRoy Russ, and Virgil Shields.
- 2 Trips: Tony Bird, Dick DeRusha, John Gonzales, Bob Somoano, and Emory Yount.
- 1 Trip: Scott Bailey, Leonard Bayless, Dave Burdett, Jim Erb, Andy Fried, Bob Haven, Ron Hudson, Tom Jeter, Bob Lindgren, Pat Lysgaard, Kathy Moore, Dick Mundwiler, Karen Patterson, Dave Perkins, John Ripley, Steve Russell, Tim Ryan, Abe Siemens, and Alois Smrz.

Three Cheers for John Gonzales, Ben & Sue Chapman, Phil Rabichow and Gerry Cox who were our Class "leaders". And a pat on the back to all you members and associates who came out to teach class sessions.

Although these two officially didn't lead a lot of trips, they were the "leaders" for the six-month long crack class in Joshua Tree and probably led more than anyone else--Jim Erb and Theresa Rutherford. Great Work!

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