

THE

MUGELNOOS

R.K.H.
Apr 89

No. 673 - April 18, 1989

A Twelve 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.

THIS ISSUE DEDICATED

IN MEMORY OF

RUTH DYAR MENDENHALL



THE MENDENHALL LEGACY

I was saddened to hear of the recent death of Ruth Mendenhall, one of the earliest and most ambitious editors of the Mugelnoos. Combining boundless enthusiasm with uncommon journalistic skills, Ruth shaped the form and future of the Mugelnoos for decades to come. If it weren't for Ruth and her tireless contributions, much of our section's 50-year-old history would have never been as well documented.

And what a history we would have missed: the building of Baldy and Keller huts, the great ski races, the war years, the social events, the good years and the bad, all there in the early issues of the Mugelnoos, and written in a style that captured the essence of a bygone era.

I know, not many of us have bothered to read those early issues. Those who have, come away fascinated. We talk about what we read with others. They pass it on. Maybe someone writes about it. We meet an old-timer or two. They tell us more. And before we know it, that history, in some small but important way, becomes part of us, enriching our experience, influencing our attitudes and perspective.

We owe much to those who came before us -- the skiers, builders and pioneers. Afterall, it is through their accomplishments and exploits that we share in such a proud identity today. But perhaps our greatest debt will be to the zealous young editor who recorded it all for posterity.

Ruth Mendenhall may have passed away, but her legacy goes on.

PM



"All goes onward and outward,
Nothing collapses
And to die is different from
What anyone supposes
And luckier."

Walt Whitman

MUGELNOOS STAFF

Editor.....Rosemary Lynch
Mugelprinter.....Leroy Russ
Mugelnoos Chair.....Dick Smith
Mugelmailer.....Pat Holleman
Reporters.....Joan Dyar Clark
Reiner Stenzel, Jim Erb, Rich
Henke, Rosemary Lynch,

John Wedberg, Jeffery Reeb,
Pete Matulevich

UPCOMING TRIPS

Apr. 22-23 Ski Mountaineers Peak
Gerry Holleman & Paul Harris
Apr. 28-30 Pear Lake
Kathy Crandall & Mark Goebel
May 7 Mt. San Jacinto
Mark Goebel & Dick Smith
(Please note the new date!)
May 13-14 San Joaquin Peak
Nancy Gordon & Dave Dykeman

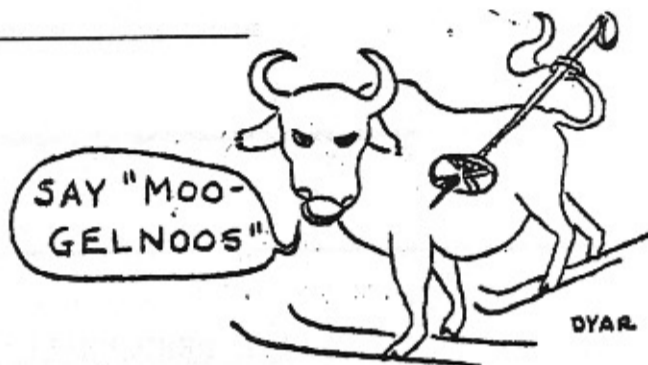
Next Editor: Andy Fried
9218 Jellico Ave.
Northridge, CA 91324
(818)-993-1891
Next Issue: May 16, 1989
Copy Deadline: May 9, 1989

CONGRATULATIONS

To Marcia Male on your new CEN and
MICN(emergency med. certifications)
Such security you lend the Ski
Mountaineers.

NEXT MUGELNOOS MEETING

Tuesday, May 16, 1989, 7:30 p.m.
Griffith Park Ranger Station
4730 Crystal Springs Drive, LA



LOCAL TOUR TO MT. BALDY

On March 11 nine enthusiastic skiers set out for Mt. Baldy Bowl in search of the "steep and deep" but found mainly patches of springtime snow. The group led by Kathy Crandall and Mark Goebel included Pam Wilman, Charles Field, George Holland, Scot Jamison, Dana Pearce, Ken Liao, and Reiner Stenzel.

At 8:30 we hiked up to the San Antonio Hut, had snack and a chat with the Randonne skiers, and then continued our ascent on foot up the West ridge of Baldy Bowl where the snow looked most promising. On the ridge some of us inspected the fresh remains of an airplane which had crashed only three months earlier killing two people. We continued to climb Mt. Baldy, George and Reiner also toured to West Baldy, and to our great delight we were rewarded with large open areas of excellent cornsnow. Telemarking was a pure pleasure, so we did it again and again. The weather was mild and the winds were moderate for Mt. Baldy.

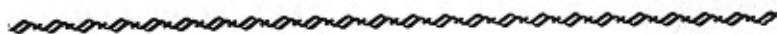
In the afternoon we retraced our route, telemarked down the steep forested slopes adjacent to the Bowl since the snow in the open areas turned mushy, and hiked down from the Hut at 3pm. Except for George's sprained ankle and my second skier's thumb we all had a great day.

RS

Addendum to Mt. Baldy Tour.

We are sorry to report that George Holland's sprained ankle actually was a fracture, and he is now wearing a cast to the knee. George is a sure winner of the "Hard Man Award" for his slow limp down the Baldy Hut Trail. George...we all wish you a speedy & complete recovery.

m.g.



 IN MEMORY OF RUTH DYAR MENDENHALL

by Joan Dyar Clark

Well known rock climber and ski mountaineer Ruth Dyar Mendenhall died unexpectedly on March 22, 1989, in Seattle. She was born in Kiesling, Washington, 11 miles SE of Spokane, a town founded by and named for her grandfather. Our father Ralph Dyer worked on the Spokesman-Review and wrote plays in what spare time a ten acre farm allowed. Ruth was being groomed for Sierra Club life many years before she even heard of the club, bouldering and mountaineering long before she knew the terms. Our home in Kiesling, built by our parents, was set in an apple orchard, within minutes to Rocky Pine Tree, and big boulders for clambering on. We often climbed Horse Heaven beyond- or Silver Hill as it was also called, ("Don't go near the mine shafts!"), returning home in springtime with bunches of buttercups, dogtooth violets, spring beauties, yellow bells, and grass widows. The railroad tracks, which led the way, were ideal for acquiring that vital rock climbers' sense of balance, and also for developing a sense of caution, because of the sudden appearance of trains.

By 1927, the Dyar family was complete, including one boy, Conrad and four girls, Ruth, Joan, Alice, and Margaret. That year we moved to Spokane, and within one block of our home was Wedge Rock, a huge and wondrously shaped volcanic rock. Ruth climbed every pitch of it without a rope. (Who ever heard of ropes?)

After graduating from Lewis and Clark High School in Spokane, Ruth attended the University of Washington in Seattle, and graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. degree in journalism. She became a member of Phi Beta Kappa, as did her daughters later on.

California came next, and Ruth settled in South Pasadena, where her Aunt Alice and daughter Phoebe lived. In September 1938 her sister Joan came, and the two lived at 1721 Huntington Drive nearby, and then at 5813½ Buena Vista Terrace, L.A., 5 blocks uphill from the Figueroa carline. They didn't own an auto, but could count on Mugelstooges for help. Eagle Rock was just across the then-houseless fields, and was a fine climbing area

The Mugelnoos followed along with Ruth wherever she lived. Glen Dawson had been the first editor, and the newsheet was then mimeographed at Dawson's Book Shop on South Grand. The first issue was on January 29, 1938, and the second one 4 days later! The name was probably thought up by Bob Brinton, according to Glen. Ruth became the permanent editor on April 13, 1938. The Mugelnoos was published every two weeks after the novelty wore off. Why puns were so popular is anyone's guess; after all they weren't taught at the U. of W. The Mugelnoos was published every three weeks in 1941, and became a monthly publication in 1942. Ruth continued in a supervisory capacity for many years after she was no longer editor.

Early in 1939, Ruth Dyar, Howard Koster, and John Mendenhall went house-hunting, to locate a "family home". The ideal place was found at 4343 Griffin Avenue in Highland Park. Base Camp, as it was fondly called, was in those days a coeducational innovation, and skeptical people said it would never work; but it did, and wonderfully so. The landlady, Mrs. Grace Shults, was a cousin of Aurelia Harwood, and she loved her six crazy Sierrans. Grace was a meticulous seamstress, and happily kept their outing clothes in good repair.

Base Camp was a fine home for Mugelnoos, having a separate publication room, and the Ski Mountaineers' new mimeograph machine. Some Sierra Club people took it for granted that Base Camp was the official clearing house and meeting place for mountain trips.

Ruth and John became engaged in July, and married on September 22, 1939 (following the hottest day in 56 years), and found their own home in South Pasadena. Base Camp continued to flourish for two more years; it took World War II to break it up.

Ruth authored three books of limited circulation; of course there was **The Base Camp Summer**, telling of the humorous and novel housekeeping experiences of that first summer of 1939. For Christmas in 1963, Ruth gave each of her siblings a copy (she had typed the 160 pages single-spaced) of Ralph E. Dyar's **Shooting Box In The Selkirks**, recounting his adventures at the family cabin in Canada. Here Ruth, and later her daughters became fine fishermen. In December, 1983, Ruth delighted her family and friends with "The Dyar- Kiesling Cookbook,

telling our mother's story as well as giving 140 recipes, favourites of Else Kiesling Dyar and her family. *The Challenge of Rock and Mountain Climbing*, by Ruth and John Mendenhall was published in 1969 by Stackpole Books, and is now enjoying its third printing. Ruth wrote *Backpack Techniques* (1967), and *Backpack Cookery* (1966) which by 1986 had sold 84,829 copies. These were published by La Siesta Press in Glendale. In 1983, The Mountaineers of Seattle published *Corp, Glop & Glue Stew; Favorite Foods From 165 Outdoor Experts*, by Yvonne Prater and Ruth Dyar Mendenhall.

While living on Paula Street in the El Sereno district of Los Angeles, life for Ruth and John was very busy. They had two young children, John had a difficult structural engineering position, and they were building their hilltop home at 335 Sequoia Drive, Pasadena, with its magnificent view of the San Gabriel range. They moved there in 1951.

Then, in 1978 they moved to Seattle, partly in search of a cooler climate. Their home at 9700 Marmount Drive has been visited by many ski mountaineers and rock climbers, all of whom have been dazzled by its' attractions. Through the yard flows a brook; the house is large and has a basement living room with fireplace, ideal for entertaining; the yard is beautifully landscaped, and beyond the brook are primeval woods. On the other side of the woods live Alice and Phil Bier, one of our sisters and her husband, with their own brook. Puget Sound is not far away, and the temperatures are cooler because of it.

Ruth became a member of the American Alpine Club in 1961. She served six years on the Board of Directors, and in the 1970's wrote and edited the newsletter.

In 1976 Ruth and John received an award from the Angeles Chapter for their outstanding contributions.

Shortly after their move to Seattle, the Sierra Club National Mountaineering Committee nominated Ruth and John for a joint Francis Farquhar Mountaineering Award. They attended the San Francisco banquet to accept.

Ruth and John made many contributions to climbing, from Tahquitz Rock near San Jacinto, to the Cascades and the Canadian Rockies, and even in Europe. In 1948 they pioneered what is now the regular route on Lower Cathedral Spire in Yosemite. They made a first ascent of the North face of Mt. Williamson in the Sierra, and climbed all of the 14,000 ft. peaks in California, as well as many others. In 1947 they made the first ascent of Mt. Confederation in Canada (after six attempts by others...), and in 1952 climbed remote Aiguilla Peak. They also made many other Canadian climbs, including in the Bugaboos and the Lake Victoria area. Visiting the Alps, they climbed the Wildspitze, the N.W. ridge of the Eiger, and the Matterhorn (Hornli Ridge).

In 1961 Vivian and Valerie accompanied their parents on a summer long European trip. Other trips followed, including Russia, the Balkans, Portugal, Spain, and Morocco. Ruth frequently visited her daughters in Utah and Alaska. Her last trip was in November 1988, to visit Vivian in Anchorage.

On a trip east for an A.A.C. meeting, Ruth received a standing ovation. She later confided to me that she didn't even notice, and that was too bad because it was the first standing ovation she ever had, and she might never have another.

After John's death following a family outing to the Teton's in 1983, Ruth never seemed to fully regain her vivacity. Embarrassed to be seen with a cane, she would use her ice axe on the trails near the family cabin. She was a quiet person, and suffered her grief in silence. She refused to talk about her health problems; rather she kept busy with her many interests. She was a great reader, master at crossword puzzles, and always an enthusiastic letter writer. She frequently exercised her talent for concise and pointed writing by addressing newspaper editors, etc. If she thought the Sierra Club Board of Directors was wrong- or right- she told them so. Ruth was also an accomplished craftsman, having made many intricate knitted afghans. She loved holidays, Christmas in particular.

Ruth's friends were of all ages. At a recent family party, a young boy was heard to remark with all sincerity, "I bet that Auntie Ruth is the oldest person here...She must be at least 27!".

Let's give Ruth Mendenhall another standing ovation!

The San Gabriel Traverse (A Peakbagger's Delight)

Who would believe doing a three day ski tour in the local L.A. mountains? For several years, Greg Jordan and I had talked about trying to ski the highest route possible between Mt. Waterman and Mt. Baldy during a heavy snow winter. This year we had our chance.

On Friday evening, Feb. 17, 1989, Eddie Nunez, Greg and I drove to the Waterman ski area after leaving a car at the Icehouse Canyon trailhead near Mt. Baldy. After a night in the parking lot, we skied up Mt. Waterman the following morning to 'bag' the first of the ten peaks we would summit on this tour. From Waterman, we skied east to the top of the Kratka Ridge ski area. A good run down the groomed slopes brought us to the lodge where we had a soft drink before skiing along snow covered Highway 2 through the tunnels just before Islip Saddle. Eddie wasn't feeling well and left us at this point. Greg and I stayed on the road until we neared Windy Gap where we skied south to obtain the ridge. We bypassed Mt. Islip, but from this point, we would remain as high as possible until the end of the tour.

On Sunday, the second day of the tour, we climbed Mt. Hawkins, Troop Peak, Mt. Burnham, and Mt. Baden-Powell before descending 3000 feet to Vincent Gap. The weather had turned cold and windy and much of the day was spent walking over snow too difficult to ski. A truck at Vincent Gap gave us a ride to the Blue Ridge Road which saved 3 miles of walking. We skied through the Mountain High ski area and camped about 3 miles from Highway 2.

The next morning, we continued along the Blue Ridge Road, climbed Wright Mtn. and then headed south along Devil's Backbone. We summited Pine Mtn. and Dawson Peak and had wonderful ski descents from both of them on corn snow. The north ridge of Mt. Baldy was done on foot, since the snow was too hard to ski even with skins. An ice axe was needed near the windy summit before skiing down to Baldy Saddle. The tenth peak was Mt. Harwood. From the summit, a narrow ridge led to the Baldy ski area and the lodge at Baldy Notch. Fading light and difficult snow convinced us to take a chair ride down rather than descend the icy face late in the day. A ride was obtained to Icehouse Canyon with a departing downhill skier. We had hoped to ski up Thunder Mtn., Telegraph Peak, and Timber Mtn., as well, and descend from Icehouse Saddle but we ran out of time.

The total distance of the tour was 31 miles which included a vertical elevation gain of about 11,000 feet. We skied approximately 75% of the route. The San Gabriel Traverse will never be very popular but multi-day ski mountaineering does exist in L.A.

R.H.

The Zion Ski Traverse

In early March 1989, Bob Dudgeonski, Brian Samualsen, and I did a ski traverse of Zion National Park from the West Rim Trail in the main Zion Canyon to Lee Pass at the far northwest corner of the park. The tour is described in Steve Barnett's book, 'The Best Ski Tours in North America', and according to the Zion rangers we talked to, it has seldom been completed. The rangers were not at all happy to see it attempted; presumably, they have had bad experiences with ill prepared parties. Barnett's book describes the tour as an easy one, which it was, but different weather and snow conditions could require parties to be skilled in ice axe use for some portions of the tour.

(continued - page six)

The scenery is spectacular, starting with the long climb by foot up the West Rim Trail with beautiful views of Zion Canyon. Skiable snow was reached in about 3 miles and we were on our skis most of the time from that point on until the last 13 miles, which we walked. The snow would be better in mid winter (late January, early February) and one would do less walking but it would be colder and there would be a higher probability of needing ice axes. The exposed part of the upper West Rim Trail was almost clear of snow when we reached it but an early winter trip could find this packed with 45 degree ice near a 500 foot cliff.

We followed the trail along the rim of Phantom Canyon which passed through Potato Hollow and finally arrived at Lava Point. From here we skied a snow covered road to Kolab Reservoir and west to where it dropped down into Willis Creek. Kolab Reservoir is outside the park and many cabins are located here. Snowmobiles are common, especially on weekends. The steakhouse mentioned in Barnett's article has been closed for several years. There is also a non-technical escape route at this point. One can return to the town of Virgin by skiing and walking south along the Kolab Reservoir Road. On weekends, one could probably get a ride part of the way below the point where the road is closed due to snow.

After leaving the reservoir, we took a wrong turn on the road which caused us a 3 hour detour through snow covered scrub oak slopes, before we got back on the route. We walked the road down to Willis Creek, but then skied through this narrow canyon with sandstone walls rising on both sides. At LaVerkin Creek, the skiing was essentially over since the many stream crossings made skiing impractical. This was especially true for me, since my ski binding had fractured (metal fatigue - old binding) at Lava Point, and I was skiing the last half of the trip with an improvised cable binding made from leather straps. I could maneuver the ski, but it took me several minutes each time I had to put it on or take it off.

The third night of the trip was spent in LaVerkin Creek, just upstream from the canyon leading to Kolab Arch. The following morning we visited the arch which is the largest free standing arch in the world (largest meaning greatest span.) The remaining hike out was very scenic but there was no snow. We saw mountain lion tracks on the soft sand and earlier had seen some on the snow.

We did the trip in 4 days, starting at 10:30 A.M. on the first day and finishing around noon on the fourth. The total distance was 40 miles including 4 miles along the road from Lee Pass to the visitor's center. We had hoped to catch a ride here but were unsuccessful. We skied approximately 22 miles and walked the rest. Total elevation gain was about 5800 feet. It is very important that one finds the trail and stays on it, especially in the area from the top of the West Rim Trail to past Potato Hollow. The few times we were off route found us expending lots of effort skiing over logs and through scrub oak. One can certainly do the trip without using the trail, but it might take twice as long.

The trip did not require any difficult skiing. Brian, who is a former ski racer and jumper, did the tour with lightweight touring boots, Soloman bindings, and no metal edges, and I skied part of the trip with a broken ski. However, different weather and snow conditions could change all this. It is doubtful you will get much help from most of the Zion rangers - only a few are familiar with the trip and they are concerned that you will find it too difficult. One should treat this tour with the same seriousness that one treats a Trans-Sierra tour in California.

R. H.

RUTH DYAR MENDENHALL

When Ellen Wilts called me two weeks ago to inform me of the death of our good friend Ruth Mendenhall, I recalled my first meeting with this remarkable woman mountaineer. It was the middle of May, 1953, at Mt Pacifico, a practice climbing area in the Angeles Forest just north of Los Angeles. We had been top-roping on the smooth, white granite all morning and were gathered under the pines for lunch at the base of a route we called The Fallaway (so named for its configuration: a twenty-foot widening crack overhang). A young climber seated next to our group heard us describing the various attempts and failures on The Fallaway, and, leaping up, proceeded to climb the thing holding a sandwich in one hand! "My, but this new generation of climbers have a way of getting your attention!", said a slight, bespectacled woman of around 40; "..who is he?" Chuck Wilts answered, "A new kid named Royal Robbins." The woman with the grandma glasses was Ruth Mendenhall, and she had already become an institution with the RCS and the Ski Mountaineers of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter.

The climbers and skiers of the 1930's in the Southern California area will recall the "Base Camp", an enormous old woodframe house in Pasadena where there lived a group of single girls. Ruth Dyar and her sister Joan were two occupants of the Base Camp, and the old house became the meeting place where climbers and skiers gathered. It was here in January, 1937 that the first issue of the publication The Mugelnoos came to life under Ruth Dyar's direction (and has been published continuously to this day, with revolving monthly editors). Her wit and sense of humor set the early tone for the little newsheet which still prevails.

Ruth and John were married, and the Mendenhalls were active in the construction of the San Antonio Ski Hut on Mt Baldy in 1937, which the Ski Mountaineers still use today. John Mendenhall was not considered a particularly speedy climber, but his dogged courage would not let him quit, which often resulted in impromptu bivouacs; the local joke was that if you went with the Mendenhalls you took a calendar instead of a watch. When I climbed to the summit of Mt Sill (a 14,000 foot peak in the Sierra Nevada) via the classic Northeast Buttress I found Ruth Mendenhall's name signed in 1938 as the first ascent by this route. Other firsts were on Temple Crag, the Palisades, and Mt Williamson in the Sierra. Ruth and John did the first ascent of Mt Confederation and Mt Aiguille in the Canadian Rockies.

John suffered a stroke and died while preparing to climb in the Tetons in July, 1983. Ruth and John wrote several books and have received many honors through the years from the Sierra Club, American Alpine Club, and the Mountaineers in Seattle. Ruth served on the AAC Board of Directors in the 1970's, and attended every Annual Meeting throughout the country. She died on March 22, 1989 at her home in Seattle. She leaves her daughters Vivian Mendenhall of Seattle and Valerie Cohen of Cedar City, Utah. We will all miss Ruth Dyar Mendenhall, a good friend and a remarkable lady.

John Wedberg

4-7-89



"Death is just a change in lifestyles."

Anon.

TO: MUGELNEWS. 3/22/89
 FROM: J. REEB *JR*

REPORT ON THE 1989/90 SKI INDUSTRIES AND SPORT
 EXHIBITION SHOW.

THE SKI INDUSTRIES OF AMERICA AND SPORT EXHIBITION SHOW IS THE TRADE SHOW OF THE YEAR FOR THOSE OF US WHO ARE INTERESTED IN SKIING AND MOUNTAINEERING. IT IS A TRUE TRADE SHOW, DESIGNED TO SHOWCASE THE FALL AND WINTER LINES FOR THE RETAIL STORE BUYERS.

ATTENDING THE SHOW IS LIKE BEING SET LOOSE IN THE WORLD'S LARGEST CANDY STORE. VIRTUALLY EVERY MANUFACTURE INVOLVED IN THE SKIING, CLIMBING, BACKPACKING AND CAMPING INDUSTRY IS THERE SHOWCASING THEIR LATEST OFFERINGS. THE SHOW COMPLETELY FILLS THE ENTIRE LAS VEGAS CONVENTION CENTER AND SPILLS OVER IN TO THE ADJUNCT HILTON GRAND BALLROOM, ITS THAT BIG. MY PARTNER AND I TRAMPLED THE SHOW FOR A DAY AND HALF AND NEVER SAW EVERYTHING. WE COULD NOT EVEN COME CLOSE. NEXT YEAR I'LL PLAN TO ATTEND FOR THREE FULL DAYS.

I ALMOST STARTED THE SHOW OFF ON THE WRONG FOOT WHEN I PRACTICALLY RAN OVER STEIN ERICKSON IN THE CONVENTION CENTER LOBBY. HE WAS THERE GREETING SOME FRIENDS, LOOKING A FULL 20 YEARS YOUNGER THEN HIS TRUE AGE. WHILE STANDING IN THE REGISTRATION LINE WITH MY PARTNER, WHO ALREADY HAD HER SHOW PASS, SHE INTRODUCED ME TO THE MAN STANDING BEHIND US. IT WAS DICK BASS, THE DICK BASS OF SEVEN SUMMITS FAME! WHAT A NICE GUY, REALLY FRIENDLY.

THE SHOW IS, VERY MUCH, THE PEOPLE WHO ARE THERE, SEE AND BE SEEN, BUT THAT'S ONLY HALF THE STORY. THE EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING ARE THE REST.

IN NORDIC SKIING, THE "NEW" NNS NORDIC BINDING IS LOOKING TO BE THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE. THEY NOW MAKE A BACKCOUNTRY MODEL THAT IS HEFTIER IN DESIGN THEN THE ORIGINAL TRACK MODEL. EVEN SO ITS MORE OF A TOURING BINDING, NOT INTENDED FOR MOUNTING ON STEEL EDGED SKIS. THIS BINDING SYSTEM CONSISTS OF A BOOT THAT CONTAINS A STEEL ROD WHICH IS CAPTURED BY TWO PAWS IN THE BINDING. IT IS A SECURE SYSTEM WHICH APPEARS TO BE AN IMPROVEMENT OVER THE SALOMON SSN DESIGN. PERHAPS THIS DESIGN WAS BEHIND THE RECENT RUMORS OF A "NEW" INTEGRATED BOOT AND BINDING COMBO FOR TELE SKIING. NOT TO BE. IT APPEARS FOR NOW THAT THREE PINS ARE HERE TO STAY FOR SERIOUS DOWN SKIING.

THE MERRELL TOP OF THE LINE SUPER COMP BOOT CONTINUES TO BLUR THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN NORDIC DOWNHILL AND ALPINE GEAR. THIS LEATHER AND PLASTIC BOOT WILL BE AVAILABLE WITH A LOCKABLE FORWARD CANT ADJUSTMENT, VELCRO SHIN POWER STRAP AND SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE OF \$460.00 DOLLARS. WOW!

RICK RIDGEWAY WAS SHAKING HANDS AT THE KELTY BOOTH, HIS INPUT TO THE KELTY DESIGN TEAM HAS RESULTED IN THEM PRODUCING THE SHARPEST MOUNTAINEERING TENTS DISPLAYED AT THE SHOW. KELTY'S TENTS FEATURED STOVE HOLES, MESH DRYING RACKS, AND A NOVEL "SILL" WHICH POPS UP TO KEEP SNOW AND STOVE FILTH OUT OF THE LIVING AREA OF THE TENT. CHECK KELTY OUT, THEY'RE ON THE MOVE.

ALPINE RESEARCH INC. (PAUL RAMER) DEMONSTRATED HIS NEW AVALANCHE BEACON, AS WELL AS A IMPROVED ADHESIVE ON THEIR "GOAT" CLIMBING SKINS. AS EXPENSIVE AS CLIMBING SKINS ARE GETTING, PAUL RAMER HAS MANAGED TO IMPROVE HIS ALREADY FINE PRODUCT AND KEEP HIS COST REASONABLE.

KAZAMA SKIS, THESE ARE THE SKIS THE RACERS SKI. THEY MAKE FINE SKIS WHICH HAVE NOT RECEIVED WIDE DISTRIBUTION BUT ARE THE SKI OF CHOICE FOR THE THREE PIN GATE BASHING BUNCH. LOOK FOR THESE SKIS TO BE IN HEAVY USE AT THE NORTH AMERICAN TELEMARK CHAMPIONSHIPS AT HEAVENLY VALLEY THIS APRIL 1ST AND 2ND.

WHEN IT COMES TO CLOTHING, NEON COLORS ARE EVERYWHERE. IF ITS MADE OF FABRIC, THEN IT HAS AT LEAST SOME NEON COLORING. WE'RE TALKING GLOVES, TENTS, BACKPACKS, SKI WEAR TOPS, SKI WEAR BOTTOMS, HATS, YOU NAME IT, ITS NEON. JANSPOUT IS GOING BIG INTO SOFT GOODS. THERE DESIGNS LOOKED GREAT AND WILL BE A SERIOUS THREAT TO MARMOTS "STATE OF THE SPORT CLAIM".

CHOUINARD. NOTHING RADICAL FROM THESE GUYS. AT A TRADE SHOW ITS USUALLY PRETTY OBVIOUS WHO'S GOT THE HOT STUFF. IF YOUR GEAR IS MOVING THERE'S JUST A BUZZ AROUND YOUR EXHIBIT, SO THE QUIET CALM AT THE CHOUINARD BOOTH INDICATED STEADY STATE FOR THEM. I DID GET A CHANCE TO DEMO THEIR TELE SKIS AT A MID-SEASON DEALER DEMO DAY AT SNOW SUMMIT. YOU SIMPLY CAN'T GO WRONG WITH THE TOUTE NEIGH AS A ALL-ROUND BACKCOUNTRY SKI, ITS PARTICULAR GOOD FOR A SKIER BUYING HER/HIS FIRST PAIR OF STEEL EDGES. THE EXPRESSO IS AN EXCELLENT HARD PACK SKI, IT EXHIBITS THE NICEST TURN INITIATION CHARACTERISTICS OF ANY SKI I'VE BEEN ON. GREAT FOR GS STYLE TURNS. THE TELE SAVAGE, BE CAREFUL WITH THIS ONE, TRY IT BEFORE YOU BUY IT TO INSURE YOU'LL BE HAPPY WITH THIS SKIS HEAVY SIDE CUT DESIGN.

YOU'VE PROBABLY SEEN THE ADS FOR DANA DESIGN PACKS. AFTER HAVING DANA GLEASON SPEND FORTY-FIVE MINUTES EXPLAINING THE FEATURES ON JUST ONE OF HIS PACKS I WAS SUITABLE IMPRESSED. PACKS TEND TO ALL LOOK THE SAME YET HAVE WIDELY RANGING PRICES. USUALLY THE LOWER PRICED MODELS ARE IMITATIONS OF SOMEONE ELSE'S DESIGNS. HIS PACKS TRULY ARE STATE OF THE ART AND CONTAIN FEATURES THAT ARE ORIGINAL IN DESIGN. WORTH A LOOK IF YOUR IN THE MARKET.

YOU KNOW THOSE SOFT EYE GLASS STRAPS CALLED "CHUMS"? IF THE COMPANY IS PUBLIC, BUY STOCK IMMEDIATELY. THEY WERE DOING VERY WELL AT THE SHOW. I LOVE "EM, THE COLORFUL STRAPS ARE JUST PLAIN FUN.

THAT'S IT FOR THIS YEARS SHOW. KEEP SKIING.

J.REEB

2



BALDY HUT BIFFY BELIEVED BOGUS

Attention San Antonio Ski Hut lovers: The outhouse is leaning! A falling tree struck it a glancing blow a few months ago, and this apparently started a process of foundation shifting and sinking. The little structure resembles the Leaning Tower right now, and getting worse.

Since the present biffy is on unstable ground, we have decided to move it to a new location. Ergo, we need to dig a new hole. For this we need a few strong backs up there to each put in a little work. If you can spare a wee bit of muscle for the cause, go on up anytime; the host will show you where we are relocating. If you want to know any of the details of this project, call John Wedberg (213) 472-6768 before 8 PM, or Gary Johnson (213) 425-3263 anytime. (JW)

THIS SPACE AVAILABLE

SIERRA CLUB



730 Polk Street San Francisco, California 94109 415·776·2211

Office of the President

3 March 1989

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chapter Chairs
Chapter Outing Chairs

Group Chairs
Group Outing Chairs

FROM: Richard Cellarius, President

SUBJECT: Clarification of Mountaineering Insurance Restrictions

My Urgent Notice of September 29, 1988, informed you that, because of new insurance restrictions, the Sierra Club may no longer conduct rock-climbing and mountaineering activities or training that can be expected to involve the use of ropes, ice axes, or technical climbing hardware.

Many leaders and other members have expressed concern that trip safety can be compromised if these restrictions must be interpreted to prohibit trip leaders from having ropes and ice axes available for use if required for the safety of an outing.

Please be assured that we do not intend to compromise safety in any manner. Accordingly, the restriction stated in my September 29th Notice is hereby amplified to read as follows:

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 form of climbing hardware.

However, ropes and ice axes MAY be carried BY THE LEADER AND ASSISTANT LEADER ONLY to ensure the safety of an outing in unexpected situations; examples are stream crossings and rescues. Ropes or ice axes may NOT be used as climbing aids or on any outing where their use is recommended by the opinion of experienced local climbers and leaders; the insurance restrictions require that such outings NOT be conducted by the Sierra Club.

I trust that this clarification will eliminate any possible doubt or confusion on the part of our leaders.

In addition, the Mountaineering Program/Insurance Review Task Force is hard at work to determine if there are ways that any or all of the prohibited activities may again be conducted. They are still aiming for a final report in time for Board review in May 1989.

cc: Directors, candidates, Michael Fischer, Andrea Bonnette
Dolph Amster, Jackie Stroud, Council Outing Committee
Vicki Thorpe, Bob Howell, George Winsley
Mountaineering Insurance Review Task Force

TOWARD HIGHER CLIMBING STANDARDS - A PERSPECTIVE

Several years ago I began a low-key initiative to nudge the RCS toward higher climbing standards, but without perhaps adequately explaining my motives and objectives. Some have perceived an intention to push everyone toward harder climbs. Others think I'm embarrassed with the RCS. So it's probably time to briefly explain my position, and talk a bit about the crack workshops that Theresa Rutherford and I have begun.

During its first 25 years, the RCS practically defined the sport of rock climbing, but subsequently fell far behind the cutting edge and was eventually discounted by better climbers. Randy Vogel wrote in the October 1987 issue of *Climbing*: "(By 1972) the RCS was considered a joke; the top climbers in the RCS rarely ventured onto routes harder than 5.6." Yes, I'm a little embarrassed by comments like this. But that's not my primary concern.

Today, when the average local climber is leading at the 5.10 standard, I'm concerned that our RCS membership is badly skewed on the downside. For those who say "So what", here are some personal observations: For years, my climbing at Tahquitz was typified by a 9-hour battle on Angels Fright. Then one day, following a 5.12 climber, I did five great routes in 6 hours, an event which totally changed my perspective of rock climbing. Oh, how I wish I had been introduced to the psychology of the possible when I joined the RCS in 1974. How I wish I could have discovered, in 1974, the exquisite joys of Tuolumne Meadow domes. How I long to recover the priceless years of opportunity, now lost forever.

A few years ago, I argued for membership drives as a means to fill out the high end of the RCS through acquisition of a few top level climbers, but found little enthusiasm. An alternate course was to build from within the RCS, which led to the workshop concept implemented in 1987. I am not trying to turn everyone into a 5.11 climber. What I am trying to do is balance the RCS with a fair share of better climbers, so they in turn might lead and inspire the rest of us to seek our own potential.

Some argue that people should only climb to the level of their immediately-available natural ability, without striving for goals. I argue that sports are inherently goal-oriented, and those who find evil in this deny the self-expression and accomplishment that give sports their real thrill and real value. Besides, pursuit of higher standards is provided for in our bylaws. One of the two purposes of the RCS, per Article II, is "To help those interested prepare themselves for serious climbing."

As evidence that the RCS membership is eager for a new dimension, I draw upon my experience from three workshops over the past 12 months. Over 60 RCS affiliates sent inquiries or applications. Most expressed a real eagerness to participate, and were willing to commit the time and work necessary to pursue higher climbing standards. I believe we should capitalize on this momentum, and offer even more such opportunities, especially at the 5.7 through 5.9 level. The payoff could be great, now and for the future.

I certainly like to believe the RCS is expansive enough to enfranchise all levels of climber, including those striving for 5.12 as well as those who are content with lower standards. I hope the RCS management committee as well as the membership will actively support this vision.

Jim Erb



The geese have no intention to cast their reflections.

The lake has no mind to receive their image.

Fortune Cookie



photo by M.Male

YOSEMITE UNION

St. Patty's day was truly cause for celebration this year, with the long anticipated wedding of Joy and Mark Goebel. Twenty teary eyed friends and family sat in the pews of Yosemite Chapel, witnesses to a lovely ceremony in which the word "joy" was mentioned at least 50 times. Outside, the clouds saw fit to honor the day with a light sprinkle of rain (thought by Hawaiians to signify great good fortune: "The sky weeps, the earth lives.") The party was planning to stop at Badger Pass for a quick downhill run replete with lace and cummerbund, but Mark failed to bring his skiis!!

The Wawona Hotel was almost all ours, what with a strike against the Curry Co. looming in the near future. (Salaries, benefits, and cohabitation foremost on the agenda) We wined and dined 'til we could hardly move, and then stretched out in the spacious parlour sipping aperitifs, gaining enough energy to wander the grounds, petting deer, catching frogs and counting stars. Mark Goebel was in rare form with an ear to ear grin that just wouldn't quit.

The newly weds honeymooned in Park City, trashing the slopes, and sleeping in on occasion.

-RL

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

Richard L. Henke
 652 Marine Ave.
 Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
 1989 RCS-R

