

RJH
Nov 90

MUGELNOOS

NOV. 20, 1990 - NO.681

A TEN 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.

RUWENZORI...MOUNTAINS OF THE MOON

FROM REVISTA DELLA MONTAGNA DEC. 1989.. WRITTEN BY PAOLO OLIARO, TRANSLATED BY TONY BIRD

The mountain gorilla, hanging by a paw, swings majestically from the highest branches of the equatorial forest. The silverback sets off across the dark green of the trees and the grace by which this primate descends to us is truly surprising: in a few seconds, balancing a weight of 300 kilos, swinging from branch to branch, he crosses the 30 meters which separate us and takes to quietly munching young shoots, not in the least perturbed by our presence. A disquieting, majestic, peaceful beast, intent on selecting some tender leaflets with his enormous paws or on carrying to his lips sticks as big as hazelnut trees. Three families of mountain gorillas live in Kausi Biega Park and by following their tracks it is not difficult to approach them and to observe them in their habitat from a few meters away. Tea plantations border this splendid park which faces Lake Kiwu, an hour by car from Bukavu, a town of Zaire. Marvelous places which could become a paradise for tourists if they were a little accommodating, but which are in the hands of officials, for the most part corrupt ones, who think only of the taxes and duties they can inflict on whoever ventures into those places.

At dawn, Giorgio and I are putting the last things into our knapsacks, ready to go by Cessna to Goma, a flight of only 30 minutes. Two knocks at the door:

"Police. Good Morning. Documents."

"Good Morning."

"Did you sleep in this room?"

"Yes."

"Two men who sleep in the same room! It is forbidden."

"What? The hotelier didn't say anything."

"I'm sorry, but the law requires that I arrest you."

"Arrest us?"

Passports and airline tickets glide into the policeman's pocket, where he eyes them skeptically.

"We have an airplane which departs for Goma in two hours!"

"Forget the plane, Today is Sunday, tomorrow you will appear before the judge. You are under arrest."

Giorgio looks at me forlornly: the Ruwenzoris are far away, and if we don't catch the plane, our trip to the Mountains of the Moon will be compromised.

"We know an important person who can vouch for us at Goma. If you will take the airplane with us, you will see that we are not bandits and, if that's the case, you can arrest us at Goma."

"I have many investigations pending, and a person of my importance can't go to Goma."

"Certainly not yourself, but one of your agents."

"Ah! and will you pay for the airline ticket? How much?"

"6,000 Zaires."

"Okay, my agent will travel with you. You'll find him at the airport."

"Perfect."

6,000 zaires go into his pocket as the passports and airline tickets return magically to ours. Content he salutes us and heads for another room: what else but a lucrative Sunday for a shrewd functionary.

In the forest from the mist to the peak

Green, green and more green; the equatorial forest wraps you in heat and humidity: we go climbing and burdened in this luxuriant vegetation which gave so much trouble to the first climbers in 1930. Also the Duke of Abruzzi and the guide Courmayeur who at the beginning of the century were the first to attempt climbing the great mountain, upon another slope, the Ugandan, under similar conditions, for days and days.

Now a well marked trail winds through the intricate forest and joins the huts Kalongi, Mahangu and Kiondo, for to five hours distant from each other.

As we climb in altitude, the vegetation changes: no more of the mangos, papayas and bananas which, with their giant leaves might hide four or five people, but senecios and lobelias. Mosses more than a meter thick, lichens and parasites hanging from the twisted trees. The feet sink into the green moss, deep and soft, sliding down their enormous moist roots, they get stuck in the mud. The aura is unreal, spectacular and probably one of a kind in its beauty.

The file of porters stops in a sacred place to offer rituals to the dead and to the plants which sing. putting down the skis, sacks and tents, the men collect little white flowers which they carry downhill, playing a simple balaphon, dancing in front of a miniature shrine, smoking cigarettes, they invite us to make an offering and resume the march.

The spirits are placated; so too the man who has pushed himself psychologically in harmony with the supernatural. Nothing negative can happen on this trip, since the primordial powers have been given a little tribute. The left boot has been swallowed by the soft moss and, green upon green, is particularly difficult to retrieve. The hand goes down into the moisture, making its way through a thousand tentacles, it grabs the sole and pulls, but loses its grip. Flop. The moss has welded onto the boot, engulfing it, and two pull and finally the boot returns to go on the foot, for a long time completely wet.

The trail becomes more impervious, green and yellow hummingbirds attack the senecios with long beaks, fixed ropes have been placed for exposed passages: the mist spreads its humid and silvery mantle and prevents us from seeing the chasm yawning out below us. As if in a dream, we come upon three moraine lakes, and we travel the total whiteness on crampons. The porters have descended to the Kiondo hut and a nocturnal snowstorm has covered the tents and senecios with a coat of white.

It is dawn when we leave for Alexandra Peak. The snow is glazed and the skis cant hold on the steep slope. Below us, a sea of clouds covers the forest, and the sky is serene. How long will it last? We climb quickly to Stanly Pass on the border with Uganda, but the mist is faster than us. Little banners mark a ski run approaching with posts in the foreground, while seracs loom suddenly before us, as if come out of nothingness. Strange animal shapes appear in the ice: lions with wide manes roar in the wind, delicate birds with feathers eroded by water surround us. We go through fragile cabbage flowers of ice, being particularly careful of the bridges of snow. Unfortunately, visibility is poor: we left too late, and only a few sunbeams through the mist afford glimpses of the splendid landscape.

Continued on page 3

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UPCOMING TRIPS

DEC 1-2 SAT-SUN SKI MOUNTAINEERS
T: Mammoth Condo Weekend/Leader Training. Relearn safety
techniques for backcountry ski trips. Resort skiing and/or
backcountry tour depending on conditions. SNS members with 0 or
higher leader rating. Reserve with 2 sees to Leader: OWEN HALOY.
Asst: KATHY CRANDALL.

DEC 13 SAT SKI MOUNTAINEERS
T: Local Introductory Tour: Tour in local mtns, conditions
permitting. Intermediate or better skiers. Become acquainted with
the SNS and demonstrate your skiing ability before participating
in future outings. For addl info. see SNS writeup or contact
Leader: MARCIA MALE. Asst: REINER STENZEL.

DEC 29-JAN 1 SAT-TUE SKI MOUNTAINEERS
T: Ostrander Hut, Yosemite: A classic tour with lighter packs 10
mi (1300' gain) to finest hut in Sierra. Ski and tour in
surrounding bowls. Skiers with strong intermediate IC abilities
welcome. Metal-edge skis and climbing skins reqd. Send \$2v (hut
fees \$4/night) and see to reserve spot to Leader: NANCY GORDON.
Asst: TOM DUNYEA.

JAN 3 SAT SKI MOUNTAINEERS
T: Local Introductory Tour: Tour in local mtns, conditions
permitting. Intermediate or better skiers. Become acquainted with
the SNS and demonstrate your skiing ability before participating
in future outings. For addl info. see SNS writeup or contact
Leader: WALT BOGE. Asst: PAUL HARRIS.

JAN 12 SAT SKI MOUNTAINEERS
T: Cross-country Downhill Clinic: We will teach IC-downhill
techniques, telemark and alpine turns. Clinic in local mtns is
designed for skiers with previous experience. Reserve with 2 sees
and skiing ability to Leader: MARK GOEBEL. Asst: DICK SMITH.

JAN 13 SUN SKI MOUNTAINEERS
T: Local Introductory Tour: Tour in local mtns, conditions
permitting. Intermediate or better skiers. Become acquainted with
the SNS and demonstrate your skiing ability before participating
in future outings. For addl info. see SNS writeup or contact
LEADER CHANGE !! LEADER: GREG JORDAN, ASST: PETE MATULAVICH

JAN 19-20 SAT-SUN SKI MOUNTAINEERS
T: Mt San Jacinto: Join an introductory ski tour with snowcamping
experience in the local mtns, conditions permitting. Set ride up
the tram, ski to Mount Mtns, set up camp, and learn to build
igloos. Sun ski tour and return. Send see with experience to
Leader: REINER STENZEL. Asst: PETE MATULAVICH.

JAN 23-27 FRI-SUN SKI MOUNTAINEERS-KELLER
T: Ski Mtnsers Training Camp: Stay at Keller Hut Fri & Sat
nights. Set learn or improve IC downhill skills at nearby Snow
Valley Ski Area. Sun tour or downhill practice. \$70 cost includes
hut fee, all instruction, one lift ticket, Sat dinner. Metal-
edged IC skis and previous skiing experience reqd. Reserve with
check payable to SNS. see to Leader: ANNA ZORDAN. Asst: MARK
GOEBEL.

FEB 2-3 SAT-SUN SKI MOUNTAINEERS
T: Mammoth Condo Weekend: Do you know your 3 pin limits? Find
them on chair 3 (or Corralce) or cruise Stump Alley. Possible
backcountry tour, conditions permitting. Intermediate or better
skiers. become acquainted with the SNS and demonstrate your
skiing ability before participating in future outings. Overnight
lodging. Reserve with see and experience to Leader: KATHY
CRANDALL. Asst: OWEN HALOY.

FEB 9-10 SAT-SUN SKI MOUNTAINEERS
T: Snowshelter Course: Join us for a weekend in the Sierra Nevada
to learn wilderness survival techniques. Set we build igloos and
snowcaves. Sun we ski and practice navigation techniques for
whiteout conditions, and review avalanche rescue. Bring snowsaw
and shovel, no tents, transceivers, metal-edged skis, and skins.
Intermediate or better skiing abilities are reqd. Reserve with
see to Leader: REINER STENZEL. Asst: NANCY GORDON.

FEB 16-18 SAT-MON SKI MOUNTAINEERS
T: Pear Lake - Sequoia NP: If there is a backcountry ski heaven,
this is it: Backpack and ski 6 mi, 2300' gain to stay in hut (or
snowcamp) at Pear Lake. Strong intermediate IC ability and
metal-edged skis with skins reqd. Reserve with see and
experience to Leader: GREG JORDAN. Asst: REINER STENZEL.

FEB 23-24 SAT-SUN SKI MOUNTAINEERS-KELLER
T: Telemark Ski Racing, Keller Hut: Stay at Keller Hut Fri & Sat
nights. Fine tune your telemark turns as we compete on a groomed
race course at Snow Valley Ski Resort on Sat. Videotape and put
luck dinner Sat evening. Sun tour or downhill practice. Metal-
edged skis and previous skiing experience reqd. Reserve with
check payable to SNS for \$43 (hut fee lift ticket) and a see to
Leader: NANCY GORDON. Asst: PAUL HARRIS.

NEXT MEETING

JAN 15 1991 AT GRIFFITH
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NOTE: THERE IS NO
DECEMBER MEETING

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SIERRA CLUB LEADERS ARE
ANNA ZORDAN AND J. REEB.
FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL (213) 427-0681
UTAH SKI TRIP
C/O V.V.
P.O. BOX 244
LAKEWOOD, CA. 90714

RUWENZORI CONT. FROM PAGE 1

More fixed ropes through the last seracs, and Giorgio and I wait for the mist to dissolve on a dizzying slope of white African snows.

The snow warmed by the sun and the mist is perfect, and we climb the last little trail without difficulty. The white of the ice contrasts with the black of the rocks and with the green of the equatorial vegetation a little ways off. The descent on skis is splendid. Our friends have been at the tents a long time when we join them at camp, happy with the run and with the spectacular sunset.

The following morning, the porters arrive punctually. Under a cold rain, tired and smelly we return down the fixed ropes and descend through the exuberant equatorial vegetation: lobelias and senecios poke up through the mist, austere giants at the door of the forest.

Below we see the hamlet of Beni, partly covered by the pale rosy clouds, wallowing in a cap of heat; the sun plays on streams of water and transforms them into stripes of silver which flash through the green of the plain. Again the mists engulf us, the long-tailed monkeys scamper through the trees, Mahangu hut is an indistinguishable spot, the porters have quit singing and we sleep curled up in one place or another under a canopy with the fire lit, the senecios have reabsorbed into the moss, the ice forms have dwindled to nothing, colors and sounds vanish in the mist. Mist, the companion of this voyage, which has rendered the Ruwenzori an unreal science fiction.

For those who wish to go to the Ruwenzoris

The Ruwenzori massif is located on the border between Uganda and Zaire, and the ascent of Margaret Peak (5119m) and Alexandra (5098m) may be done from either approach. Security considerations currently affect the approach from Uganda. To approach from the Zaire side, access is easiest from Kigali, the capital of Rwanda (fly Sabena from Brussels).

From Kigali, hire a mezzo fino ("half fine", a mode of transport) to the border with Zaire (Gisney-Goma; US\$100 for 200km; 4 hrs). From here it is easy to hire another mezzo fino to Mutsora (US\$400 for 460 km; 3 days). From there you can catch the bus which connects Goma and Butembo three times a week and proceed by direct Toyota taxi to Beni. From Goma you may want to devote a day to climbing Nyriragongo volcano (3470m) in order to acclimate yourself and to see its great crater, now active. From Beni, (40 km, 3hrs).

At Mutsora, contact the park ranger, who furnishes guides and porters. The porters cost about US\$2.50 per day and can carry 15-17 kg. You should also secure extra porters to scout potable water and for the baggage of the porters. Entrance to the park is \$40 per person.

The first leg is to Kalongi hut (2138m, 4-5 hour hike). It is important to have rubber boots with you, 800 ASA film and a flash for the dim light of the forest. The following day you proceed to the Mahangu hut (3310m, 4-5 hrs).

You can get water about 30 min below this hut. It is necessary to bring a can to fetch it and filters to purify it. On the third day, you go to Kiondo shelter (4200m, 4-5 hrs). From this shelter you can easily reach the front mountain, Wasuwamesco (4462 m) which affords the best panorama of the whole massif. From Kiondo to Grigio Lake, the base camp for the ascent, it takes about three hours with several passages of high exposure.

Don't forget the tents, necessary at Grigio Lake and to bivouac around Moraine hut (4350 m), which is semicollapsed and practically useless.

To reach the peak, it is best to leave at about 1 or 2 a.m. because of the mists which come at around 9 am. (5-6 hours for the climb and 2-3 for the descent). The best time of year to ski the Ruwenzoris is January, at the end of the rainy season.

Equipment

Skis: two Excalibur Magnums and Steep and Deeps; bindings: Tour and Rottefella Telemarks; boots for alpine skiing: San Marco Condor 101; telemark/climbing boots: Scarpa; packs and tents: Invicta; attire: Fila Magic Line.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Sebina for travel arrangements and to the abovementioned Fila, Invicta, Salewa Italia, Scarpa and Tua Ski for freebies quid pro quo publicity. The Ruwenzori expedition was an enterprise of World Adventures, Via Cino de Pistoria 7-00152 Roma, tel 06/5891400.

The above article was given to me by Corrado de Francesco, and translated by Tony Bird. The article also contained 9 photos but due to costs of printing these were left out of this reprint. Perhaps we will see a follow up article sometime in the future from someone in our club. AF



AVALANCHE BEACONS SAVE LIVES

Advanced Tele Tips

By Paul Parker

When I think of a series of good tele turns, I think of a horse. I liked horses before I discovered skis. When I really wanted to get my horse—his name was John—to perform, I would first get him collected. I would rein him in, signaling him to prepare for anything: a quick turn, a jump, a skid-stop. John knew the sign; he would bring his body into a "ready" posture, collected, rather than trotting along, too spread out. His big body perked up as though he had just seen a snake (his shadow, in John's case) and was preparing to bolt.

Tucking Your Rear Leg

Making teles, you can collect yourself by tucking your rear leg under you, bringing your body into its most athletic position. Don't leave your back leg flapping in the breeze like a wounded dog (doggie leg); keep it under you where you can use it. You should feel like your body is "together", ready to pounce. Refer to illustration at top right.

Be sure to avoid a wide, bowlegged stance. With your knees closer together as you tuck your rear leg under you, you will gain that feeling of control afforded by the telemark's "long single ski" effect. Try pinching your buttocks together as though you are holding a c-note between your cheeks. Your knees will come closer together, unifying your two wandering skis into one, long, stable tele board. You'll feel ready for anything.

Timing your edging:

Let's look at the timing of your edging. If you initiate your teles by stemming a front ski, then transferring weight to the rear ski, it's a two-step type of turn. Technicians call this "sequential turn initiation" because the skis are edged in sequence. The well-used "step-telemark" is one of these sequential turns. Very useful for moguls and hairy terrain, its quick direction change allows you to "walk" down otherwise

formidable slopes. But to effectively employ this turn you must have a firm base to make a platform; otherwise you can't step off the first ski and onto the second.

In deep snow avoid stepping as much as possible; my reflexes aren't always quick enough to keep up with skis that are doing different things at different times. Here I prefer to edge my skis at the same time: simultaneous turn initiation. It's a bit more difficult, but much more fluid and effective in working the skis—carving them, as opposed to turning with one-two moves that employ stepping, steering, and skidding.

Try this fluid movement the next time you link teles. As you rise between turns, keep both skis flat during your lead change. Once the correct foot is forward for the next turn, edge both skis at the same time, simultaneously, for your new turn. Pressure the skis under the big toe side of your front foot and the little toe side of your rear foot—at exactly the same time. Refer to illustration at center right.

Of course it's tempting to "feel" your way into a turn, stepping and edging with that front ski. Stepping can be an effective technique in unpredictable snow. But feeling your way along can be deadly in the soft stuff. Unequally edged skis often want to go off in different directions, making for some very uncomfortable positions.

Simultaneous edging will result in a smoother, more advanced style of skiing. You won't need to feel your way into nearly as many soft snow conditions—you'll just jump in there and go for it.

Doing More With Your Hips

An expert tele skier—from the waist up—will look very similar to an Alpine skier. His quiet upper body is always facing the next turn, "anticipating" it. But the radical differences between the leads of the two turns result in two very dissimilar postures from the waist down.

In Alpine skiing, the pelvis faces much more down the hill, with your uphill ski slightly ahead of the downhill one. A tele skier, however, must use his hips to effectively tip the skis onto their edges. The hips rotate with the turn, rather than facing downhill. I think of it as "punching my hips around."

See how in the illustration, the tele skier's hips punch through the turn, setting the skis on their edges, and using big hip muscles to keep them there. Refer to illustration at bottom right. His upper body is "separated" from the lower body, facing quietly downhill as the skis arc back and forth.

If you use your hips to turn, you must concentrate even more on facing your torso down the hill. When you make a turn, hips go one way, your torso twists the other way, opposite your hips.

With skis and hips turning, nipples and navel always facing the fall line, your body acts like a coiled spring, ready to be released. When you release your edges, those stretched back muscles and contracted stomach muscles whip your skis into the next arc. Your turns become effortless.

This is tele-anticipation, upper body and hands always facing the new turn. In this position I often feel my hip bone digging into my ribs, or vice versa. It feels as though I could carry a pencil pinched between the lower rib cage and the crest of the hip bone.

A final thought: do as much work as you can with your stomach. The more you anticipate, especially with the tele's advanced outside hip, the more your stomach will be working for you. If you feel that your abdomen is really getting a workout, then you are probably doing it right.

Use these ideas to refine your tele. In powder and crud, you'll be gracefully making arcs while others auger.



Keep your back leg under you where you can use it.



Edge both skis at the same time, simultaneously, for your new turn.



With skis and hips turning, nipples and navel always facing the fall line, your body acts like a coiled spring, ready to be released.

AN ULTIMATE EFFICIENT-SNOW TRENCH

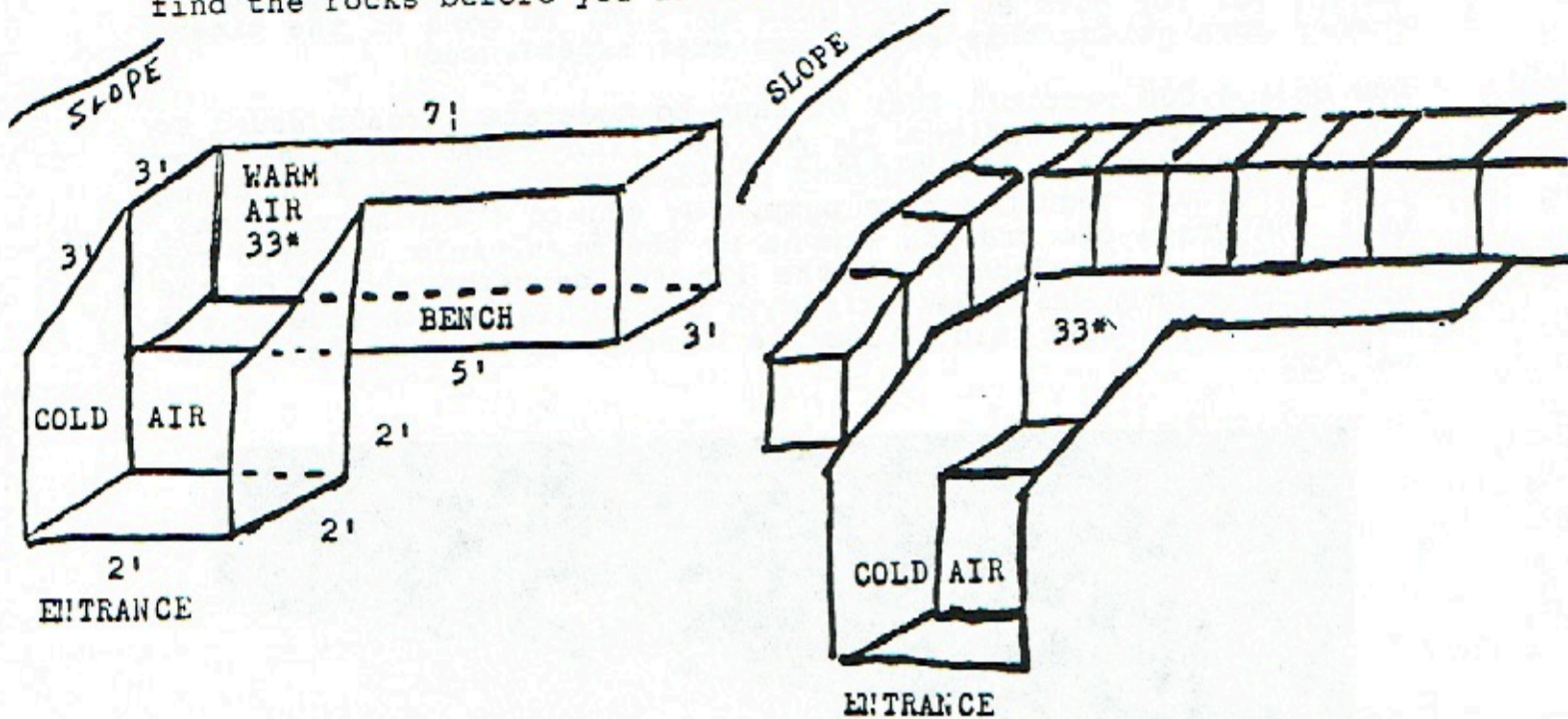
Becoming part of the Wilderness Ecology will enhance ones experience. A snow trench helps bring us closer to Nature's winter scene.

Pack snow on a moderate slope for trench walls and blocks. Determine doorway with fall line for cross wind direction. A tarp will act as condensation fly on the slope angle. Measure dimensions of trench with ski poles. Dig cold air space entrance first. Place snow blocks dug from the trench along the sides. Dig right or left for sleeping bench.

Cont. p 5

Size of bench is determined by sleeping needs, equipment storage needs and required cooking area. The trench and entrance area is then covered by a 8' x 10' tarp, secured with snow filled stuff bags buried in the snow and attached by cord to the tarp. Seal edges of the tarp with additional snow to retain heat in sleeping area. This shelter should offer some protection from the wind and offer some of the benefit of the insulation of the snow. SRT

Editors note: probe the area well prior to starting, its better to find the rocks before you do most of the work.



TWIN LAKES-VIRGINIA PEAK
SKI TOUR
APRIL 28-30

We had planned to do the Trans Sierra High Route, but because of reports of poor snow conditions we canceled and decided to try a base camp farther north. Five of us, Reiner Stensel, Don Pies, Tom Jenkins, Marcia Male and the undersigned left LA on Friday and spent the night at a friend's in Tom's Place. After some debate between the merits of Mt. Conness out of Saddlebag Lake and the Matterhorn area out of Twin Lakes the latter was chosen. There was very little snow along the trail and we carried skis until the trail petered out. After some boulder/willow hopping we made it to skiable snow. Camp was made along Horse Creek at 9200' just north of the direct approach to Matterhorn Peak. That afternoon some of us skied the bowls and chutes of Matterhorn, and Reiner built a very credible igloo. Next morning conditions remained icy and we left late for the pass southeast of Matterhorn. Next there was a good ski down into the valley south of the pass. Three of us climbed Virginia Peak and the others toured the valley. Returning to camp we encountered very hard, icy snow which made the steeper, higher areas quite challenging. By the time we reached camp we were in fog and it had started snowing. We awoke to 4-6 inches of new snow, the fog was still with us, and one of our group had a swollen knee, so we decided to pack out. On the way home we noticed the Lee Vining road was closed 4 miles from the junction with 395, although it was open to Tioga Pass on Saturday morning, which made us wonder if we had gone to the Saddlebag area whether we would have been snow bound. A good trip, enjoyed by all but a poor substitute for the high route under good snow conditions. G.W.J.

SUMMER SKIING IN THE CASCADES

Mt. Hood's Timberline Ski Area is the center of summer snow skiing in the U.S.. Uniquely situated on the south side of the mountain, its Miracle Mile and Palmer Lifts provide easy access to the permanent snowfields of Palmer Glacier. Alpine Racing Camps, The U.S. Olympic Ski Team and visiting foreign national teams practice on training lanes groomed upon the snow. With this popularity and ease of access comes all the ills of lift served skiing; long lift lines (20 min on a week day!), heavily salted snow, and crowded runs. Coupled with the limited, moderate terrain open to the public, its enough to drive a ski mountaineer off the mountain. As it should, for just an easy "skin up" away is some of the finest summer corn skiing this author has ever experienced.

How does 4,000 vertical feet of easy to moderate terrain sound to the G.S. teleturn addict? If you can link wedge turns at Snow Valley, you can ski the Zig-Zag Glacier on Mt. Hood. If getting your rocks off requires more pump, (or should I say more pitch), then the grade one crampon ascent on the mountain's cratered rim followed by a ski decent off the lip (60 degrees) should do the trick. This only describes skiing on the popular south side of the mountain, the east side Langille Glacier also provides great skiing.



Free, unauthorized camping is available on a small, tree covered knoll at the edge of lower Timberline Lodge parking lot. Although this camping site is often noisy, dusty, windy, and crowded it is the "in" place to stay if you wish to be part of the summer scene. Those desiring more sedate surroundings can stay one mile down the resort access road at Alpine National Forest campground.

Lift tickets for the timberline lifts were \$18 this summer, with hours of operation from 7:00 am to 1:30 pm. The lift served skiing may not justify this price, but when coupled with an afternoon climb to, and descent from, the 10,500 ft. mark, a full day of skiing may be had.

Three Southern California skiers, Louis Rodriguez, Joanne Dalsass (now of Florence, Oregon) and myself visited the Cascades this July. We found uncommonly friendly locals, crystal clear skies full of sunshine, summer like temperatures, and fine even, consistent snow. If Utah has powder then Oregon has the corn. At times I observed nuggets as big as hominy grits.

Continued next page

CASCADES CONT.

A technical climb of the south side, is the "Trade Route" of the mountain. Listed as grade one, it does involve steep snow and ice, roped climbing, crampons, and ice ax use. We choose to combine this standard climb with a unique ski descent which took us away from the crowded lift served portion of the lower mountain.

Starting from the parking lot at 2:00 am, we avoided the dreary slog up the downhill ski trails and chartered a snow cat to the top of Palmer chair. From this 8,500' point of elevation, we cramponed to the base of Crater Rock at 10,500' and stashed our skis for the later decent.

Roping up a short time later, we crossed the steep portion of the route and reached the top (11,233 ft.) at 7:00 am. Our trio grabbed the obligatory summit photos in a dash, but not before we jazzed on the 150 mile visibility from our perch. Regardless of the view we had to be moving. Rock fall is a hazard on this route and we wanted to be down and off, before a large party below us, got above us and started knocking stuff down. As it was, one of our party was hit twice by climber-generated rock fall.

Returning to our skis, we took a siesta to await the suns softening effects on the snow. In an hour the snow was right, we donned our skis and began the descent to tree line. Our route on the Zig-Zag Glacier took us west, well away from the yapping junior racers and the snowboarders which crowd the downhill training lanes. As we descended down the huge, expansive snowfields, we were the only skiers in sight. Following the most aesthetic line of decent, we skied from the open snow fields above to the narrow glacier tongues below. Careful route finding allowed us to squeeze every last vertical foot from the mountain. After 4,200 vertical feet, and two and one half miles of climax corn skiing, we arrived at the Paradise Park trail area of Mt. Hood National Forest. At this interface of hemlock forest and snow, we lashed our skis to the packs and regretfully bid the glacier good bye. An easy, six mile downward hike to our car, on the Paradise Park trail, completed the day.



Summer skiers visiting this region may wish to add additional Cascade peaks to their trip. Mt. Adams (12,276 ft.), has a non-technical climbing route on the south side which provides for a ski decent from the summit. Although this is climb is just a "walk up", it's a longer haul than Mt. Hood, and the ski decent tends to be steeper and not as clean. The route receives heavy solar loading, which results in more developed sun cups, and frequent use on the slopes by climbers results in numerous footprints.

Continued page 8

CASCADES CONT.

We found the snow to have high moisture content, commonly referred to as "mush". Skiing back country "mush" can be difficult. Choose wide, soft flexing skis which tend to stay on top of this soft snow. Initiate turns with a stem-tele, and keep your speed up. Skiing too slowly will cause the ski to "stall" at the finish of the turn, producing a fall. Corn snow devotees often have their skis stone ground with a coarse finish for optimum performance in wet snow.

The Cascades are a ski mountaineers paradise, offering easy to extreme skiing on a variety of peaks, glaciers and snow fields. Summer skiing in this enticing area provides a delightful ski experience, unique to the Cascades. Try it for yourself.

J. Reeb

May 18, 1990

LESTER GROSSMAN
1918 - 1990

Les Grossman was an active member of the Ski Mountaineers and the R.C.S. in 1940 to 1949. Many old timers will remember him as an enthusiastic rock climber, skier and mountaineer. During the second World War he was in the Mountain Troops stationed at Camp Hale. He eventually saw duty in the Aleutian Islands and Italy. He married Selma who was a very active folk dancer and skier, and they had one son and two daughters. After the war, Les became an army career officer, and he and his family were stationed in Germany for several years. When Les retired from the army, he took on new careers in business and real estate. He also enjoyed supporting Selma in her field of art. After his second retirement, he and Selma continued their enjoyment of mountains and deserts of the western U.S. in their RV. They rejoined the Sierra Club and continued to support conservation.

After a long and complicated illness, Les died on May 12 of double Pneumonia. His memorial service was held on Sunday May 20, 1990 in the family home in Pleasant Hill, California. The family asked that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the Sierra Club in his behalf.

Sierra Club National Office
730 Polk St.
San Francisco, CA 94109

As a matter of interest, Lester introduced both Ellen and Chuck Wilts to the Sierra Club and then to the Rock Climbers and Ski Mountaineers Sections in the fall of 1945. We are indebted to him for the course of our lives.
submitted by E.Wilts

Dear Pat,

I believe I did update you on our new location, but once more won't hurt-here goes 6311 DeBarr Rd. #417, Anchorage, Alaska 99504-1799. (907)-274-8281. We will be moving to our new home late this year or early next. We do plan to keep up on SMS tours with "Mugelnoos". Say hello to Gerry and SKI HEIL!

Scott Bailey/Kris Hitchin

OUR ADIEUS to THE MUGELNOOS

During the last seven years we've enjoyed sharing the skinup slopes, Keller clinics and at least one one telemark race. The Mt. Waterman trip #2 in 1989 from powder to mashed potatoes remains most memorable. Hope the "Snow Gods" will favor the local mountains and the Sierra Nevada this winter. We will update SMS on mtn. skiing here as the season develops. The local active outdoor group is the Mountaineering Club of Alaska known as the MCA. They combine the SCMA/SMS/SPS in one group.

ELECTION RESULTS !!!

SMS CHAIR: KATHY CRANDALL, OUTINGS: REINER STENZEL, SECY-TREAS: GREG JORDAN, V. CHAIR: ED NUNEZ, PROGRAMS & SAFETY: NANCY GORDON

**CANADA'S DURRAND GLACIER: A SELKIRK MOUNTAIN EXPERIENCE
APRIL 6-15, 1990**

Participants: Larry Biegler, Kathy Crandall, Mark Goebel, Pat & Gerry Hollerman, Marcia Male, & Owen Malloy.

It was a perfectly crystal clear day to be flying over the glaciers of the Selkirk Mountain range in a helicopter. The white giants surrounded us, as we grazed the summits on our 40 mile journey from Revelstoke, B.C. In disbelief and complete excitement, we finally saw the tiny red roof perched on an insignificant ridge at 6350 ft. that was to be our home base for the next 8 days. The Bell swooped and landed on the helipad, our front porch. We were standing amongst ice falls and towering summits.

After a morning like that, we were speechless, in awe, and thankful for a good guide. There was a lot of tough terrain to maneuver our Tele and Alpine mountaineering skis through. Reudi Beglinger, an International Swiss Mountain Guide and creator of SME, Ltd, took advantage of each day despite the weather conditions, to ski us up many peaks and down even more, for the most linked turns ever imaginable in wonderful powder. And this was mid-April when the Sierras were barren. This range still had over 8ft of snow on top of all those wide mouth glaciers. I found heaven.

Reudi managed to lease a 10 x 10 mile area to establish this operation, his home. Building was completed in 1988, and the thoroughness and elegance of the Swiss nature abounds this mountaineers retreat. Not a draft is felt as the wind blows snow that buries this hut hourly in January/February. There's so much snow fall here that shoveling can't keep up, so they've dug out tunnels between the main Durrand hut, the sauna, the outhouse, and the guide's den, creating a castle.

The sauna, as you can imagine, was a highlight. Scooping buckets of snow to melt for bath water on the pot belly stove, rubbing down with snow balls, and when the steam was too much, you head out the tunnel to roll in several inches of new snow, with those mammoth walls of rock and snow staring at you. Oh my, my, my. The meals were yet another highlight. We got lucky and had Lucy Perusse, a French Canadian woman who usually cooks for the logging camps. She tantalized us with pastries, meusli, pollitin, shish kabobs, cheese fondue, and even cream puffs. If you made the usual midnight trip to the outhouse, you'd be greeted by the aura borealis. That show often started by 2200 and lasted all night. We had not a care in the world except to get dressed and put on avalanche beacons.

Avalanches here, as you can imagine, are rather awesome. Although the snow is well packed in the spring, that can change by the minute, especially with 16 people skirting across the slopes. We hadn't been at the hut but an hour when Reudi had us up on the once helipad, reviewing how to use the avalanche beacons that they provide, and practicing retrieval of a victim. no one was ever let form the porch without having checked the function of their beacon. We got the picture.

And pictures we got, as well as a whole slew of new jokes. those Canooks are wonderfully, lighthearted, and so cordial. Seven Canadians and nine americans; 11 Telemarkers and 5 Alpine ski mountaineers; all lived in joy, happiness, and exhaustion. Although many photos were just more white outs, and we were probably really no where at all, when the fog lifted we were often glad to not see the approaches we made. The seracs and hanging ice falls were under and over us. Each day brought at least one other 9150 ft. peak (easier for the guides to remember). So we climbed 4000-6000 ft. each day and skied as much. Mind you, this territory has seen little use, so there are unlimited new climbing routes to put up. Including the mammoth Mt. Moloch.

Cont. page 10

Selkirks cont.

There is another, smaller hut at the base of Mt. Moloch. The group of 16 split up and took separate days to approach this one. Although the storm chased us on our 8 hour trek over Mt. Ruth, we still caught glimpses of the rough terrain. Mt. Ruth was the second summit we needed to carry our skis up the last 100 feet. Always makes one wonder what you're getting into. Well, how about 3000 ft of turns. Due to some icy, steep approaches, wide full length skins are a must, as well as a day pack with side straps to hold skis on for the summits.

Once at the Mt. Moloch hut, 7200 ft, the storm had completely encompassed us and raged for another 24 hours. But that didn't stop us from heading back. The hut is actually too isolated to "wait out the storm", so you keep moving. Thanks to our incredible guide Eriks Suchovs, he led us in a full white out up over Fang Col, Fang Peak, down Dismal Icefall (for real), and back to safety below the Needle Icefall, all with map/compass/altimeter. His comment was "I'd only done that route once before, in the same conditions".

So we must go back to see where we were. Ruedi promises you'll never ski the same stuff twice. And if you want a true ski mountaineering experience, this is the place. The flight to Calgary was around \$200. The 7 SMS rented a caravan that was very comfortable for the 5 hour neck craning drive through the most gorgeous roads in the Canadian Rockies to Revelstoke B.C.

Interested?????

Write or Call: Reudi Beglinger (604) 837-2381
Selkirk Mountain Experience
Box 2998
Revelstoke, B.C.
VOE 2SO CANADA

P.S. There's lots of Kokanee Beer at the hut. I personally want to thank Larry Bigler for all his efforts in making arrangements. You ought to be in the business. Slide show date to be announced. There's mumblings of Reudi guiding the European Haute Route, May '91. He requests Alpine Ski Mountaineering gear.

Marcia

Banff, a Town with its own history of mountaineering museum, also has lots of gear for all your needs at good prices. Monod Sports carries a whole line of Alpine Mountaineering boots and every type of skin imaginable. I purchased the Han Wag for \$225 Canadian. Great fit for those with narrow heels. And Tom Duryea will be happy to hear I also found a no tears full grain leather mountaineering boot, Galibier, for \$100 Canadian. The rare perfect no mole skin save your big toe nail, fit. **TIME TO RENEW!!!!**

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