

# MUGELNOOS

April 16, 1991 No. 685

A Six Page Issue

A newsheet published by and for the Ski Mountaineers and Rock Climbing Sections of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter since 1938. Issues are currently published Nov, Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May. 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.

## The 1st Annual Jump Turn Clinic - March 9, 1991.

This intensive day of skiing focused on what it takes to handle tough terrain, tough conditions, and do battle with the gnarliest of snow snakes. Renegade Instructor Craig Dostie of the Sierra Chute Corps assembled an amazing group of pin-heads for this memorable day which took each of us to a higher level of skill and the desire to push it to the limit. There might not be enough unskied couloirs at the Baldy Bowl for all the talent that was present to lay claim to; but the gauntlet has been thrown down, and whoever skies an unskied couloir first has the honor of naming it.

Let's start at the beginning. About 15 pin-heads came out of the woodwork at the last minute for this adventure. Amazing what a little snow prompts skiers to do at 7:30 AM on a Saturday morning. There we were in the parking lot at the Snowcrest Lodge jumping rope. Seriously! We got the rhythm going with both feet then jumped to the right using the right foot and then to the left side using the left foot. Dostie has been practicing since he was five, so he was the only one who looked proficient.

After this humbling exercise, we headed for Mt. Baldy Ski Resort and Thunder Mountain. The group was divided into two. Those who had alpine gear and telemark gear and those who had only telemark gear. The former group spent the morning on alpine gear refining essentials and becoming comfortable with air then they switched to telemark gear. The latter group pinned the entire day. Being airborne in jump turns is governed by the forces of gravity, air resistance, and a "do or die" mind set. Even Michael Jordan can only leap just three feet and stay airborne for just .87 seconds. So I was not unduly disappointed when both of my skis failed to be airborne simultaneously except for the few times I biffed it big time. What was truly impressive was my pin-head comrades jumping with amazing confidence by the end of the day. Each of us improved in our ability to ski tough terrain. Each of us gained new insight into advanced telemark skiing. It was exhilarating! My mind was boggled by the possibilities and ready to break the barriers, but alas, by the last run to the cars, my legs were shaking and my ego wimpered out to the safety of a lift down as Dostie led the die hards on that last off piste vertical adventure to the parking lot.

If you missed this outing this year, you'd better sign up early next year. I know of about 15 pin-heads already who are going to jump at the chance for an encore. Thanks, Craig, it was a blast!

-N.G.



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May 21 Meeting: "Rock Skiing" Craig Dostie  
 will share his "chute corps do or die"  
 experiences. 7:30 pm, Griffith Park Ranger  
 Stn.

At: Griffith Park Ranger Station  
 Auditorium  
 4730 Crystal Springs Drive  
 Los Angeles, CA

NEXT ISSUE: May 21, 1991

COPY DEADLINE: May 9, 1991

PHOTO DEADLINE: May 1, 1991

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UPCOMING TRIPS

April 20-21, 1991 Duck Pass  
 Howard Schultz/Marcia Male

April 27-28, Onion Valley  
 Kathy Crandall/Marcia Male

May 4-5, Lamarck Col  
 Eddie Nunez/ Don Pies

May 11-12, Piute Pass  
 Owen Maloy/Mike Layland

May 18-19, Mt. Dana, Mt. Gibbs  
 Eddie Nunez/Pete Matulavich

May 25-28, Mt. Shasta  
 PRIVATE TRIP: contact Howard  
 Schultz or Kathy Crandall.



NOTICE: Duck Pass on April 20-21 is a Provisional Leader Checkoff for  
 Howard Schultz. This snow camp is a 5 mi ski with 1100ft of gain to  
 camp. We'll ski fabulous terrain over the pass above Duck Lake. For  
 intermediate skiers with metal edges, full skins for the steep pass.  
 Marcia Male will assist.

And on that note: CONGRATULATIONS Marcia, our newest SMS official  
 leader; San Jacinto was a blast. (see related article).

HOT NEW MEMBER ALERT

Watch out for the blazing trails of Steve Thaw, Diane Fried, and  
 Barbara Kaufman. Welcome to our crazy fun-loving masochistic forces.  
 They show such promise to carry our duraflame log and other essential  
 group gear.

THE FOLLOWING IS A PAID AD:

# le Chronicle du Couloir

To inspire & inform active & aspiring backcountry skiers.

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 6438A Penn St. Moorpark, CA 93021

Your comments are welcome

March 30-31: San Jacinto (changed from San Gorgonio) MM/MG

And then the snows came. So much that an 8ft berm to shovel for parking, altered the original San Gorgonio trip to a tram ride in sunny dry Palm Springs to San Jacinto. For those of you that know this rock garden/manzanita bush wack, there was 5 ft of snow just at the ranger's station. Easter weekend brought out the tourists in all shapes and sizes to be dodged or killed as one so desired. Points accumulated accordingly. Although the snow that fell in great volume one week prior was awesome, the ski conditions left something to be desired. This trip makes for a great short haul of all sorts of camp luxury (2 mi with 900 ft of gain). Camp was made in Tamarack Valley, complete with dining table. Jean Peak was our first destination where we found 8 turns of near gorgeous powder in the trees and 1500ft of remarkably horrid breakable crust and MUCK. But some went back for more. Day two got us out of the sack early, after a 16 degree cozy night into lovely sunshine, to fend off those snow snakes before they hatched with the afternoon sun. The summit of San Jacinto provided us with lofty breathtaking views of the cornice and hopeful San Gorgonio for the following weekend, as well as Mt. Baldy in all its white glory. Conditions were much improved at 10AM from the prior 3PM but the heavy unsettled snow enforced much caution as the slow thick slides tugged at ankles and butts. Caution to new members venturing here for a day trip, the exit can be treacherous, as demonstrated by Nancy who united with a tree that wouldn't let her go without assistance. This is further complicated by the multitude of positions your body will find itself in as the breakable crust and muck take possession of your skis. Finally the tourists surface and we found ourselves dodging questions and cameras. I'm sorry to say Howard was captured by two lovely women for a photo session due to those unresistable tight blue legs. Not to worry he escaped with only lipstick on his cheeks...A good time was had by all and this is what makes the SMS so wonderful: All we need is snow. No matter what shape, size, depth, condition. I must compliment the participants of my final leader checkoff for buddying up automatically when the going got tough. Also to all the strong guys for breaking trail, and Mark for your assistance in organizing while I was off Kayaking. - *Martin*

TOPO MAPS - How to Find Them

Bill Oliver

Peak climbing and topo maps go hand-in-hand. A crux move, however, may be how to get the latter in hand. We will review here some of the available resources. First, if you're mostly interested in research and can settle for a xerox copy, then check out the library.

**UCLA: The Henry Bruman Map Library**

Hours: Mon - Fri, 10 am - 3 pm. (213) 825-3526

Did you know that this collection of over three quarters of a million maps is the largest in academia? It is surpassed, in fact, only by three government collections in Washington, DC. Located in the basement of Bunche Hall and open to the public, the library has a map to every place, both real and imaginable. Of particular interest to us is the fact that it is a depository for all US Geological Survey topo maps for the entire country (yes, folks, every 7.5 and 15 min. topo!). Additional pluses are the facts that the staff is very user-friendly and that the topos are directly accessible for browsing. Maps cannot be checked out, but a large format (up to 11"x17") copying machine is available for only a dime a shot. On the downside, campus parking is \$4 - enter from Hilgard at Wyton or Westholme.

**Angeles Chapter Office: The John Leonard Memorial Map Collection**

3550 W. 6th Street, Suite 321, Los Angeles 90020

Hours: Mon - Fri, 10 am - 6 pm. (213) 387-4287

Established in 1985, this collection particularly focuses on topos of interest to the HPS, DPS and SPS, in all of which John was an active member. This is not a static collection, as it continues to be updated through various gifts and purchases. The maps cannot be checked out but, if you're cool about it, you can probably make reasonable use of the office copying machine. The library is self-service; please return items to their proper geographical and/or alphabetical location in the map drawers - located in the office west of the conference room.

OK, so you want to get your very own original, full-color topo. The best source is The Source.

CONTINUED from page three.

The US Geological Survey, Western Distribution Branch  
Building 41, Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225

Ordering by mail is both the easiest and cheapest, though not the fastest, means of procurement. Map coverage for each of the western states, including Hawaii and Alaska, is now available in the new booklet-style State Index and State Catalog. The Index's regional map format makes it very easy to pick out the 7.5 min topos for your area of interest. The companion Catalog indicates when, and if, the map was published. While each State Index is now good for all time, the corresponding Catalog is supposed to be updated every few years as additional 7.5 min topos are published. The latter booklet also contains the proper form for ordering maps from Denver.

The standard 7.5 and 15 min topos are \$2.50 each. There is no sales tax and, for orders over \$10, there is no postage and handling charge. Such a deal! Figure on about three weeks for delivery. Note, on an order over \$500, there is a 50% discount. (Recall, a year or two ago Tom Armbruster magnanimously organized the considerable effort required to get enough individual orders to earn the discount.) How to get a free California Index and Catalog? Stay tuned.

You want cheap but are willing to trade easy for faster? Go to the:

US Geological Survey's Earth Science Information Center

Room 7638, Federal Building; 300 N. Los Angeles Street, LA 90012

Hours: Mon - Fri, 11 am - 4 pm. (213) 894-2850 (Phone calls only from 8:30 am.)

You've got to check this treasure out. It's especially handy if you have jury duty downtown. They stock the complete line of all topos for CA, OR, WA, HI, AZ and NV, plus larger scale maps for AK, UT, WY, MT, ID, CO and NM. A big plus for us is the self-service access to all the topos for CA, NV and AZ. This makes it easy to browse or research. All sales are over the counter - no mail order: \$2.50 each for 7.5 and 15 min topos, no sales tax. However, they will accept phone requests for mailing without charge the various State Indices and State Catalogs. The Center also has a wealth of other kinds of maps, books and pamphlets, many of the latter free.

The crux move here was parking. Not to worry! You can now park free in "Joe's Parking Lot" - on Alameda between 1st and 2nd (about a 5-7 min. walk). Actually, you pay Joe first, get your ticket stub validated at the Center, and then Joe gives the refund. It works!

Note, there are similar Earth Science Information Centers up north:  
San Francisco: 504 Custom House, 555 Battery Street. (415) 705-1010.  
Menlo Park: Bldg. 3, 345 Middlefield Rd. (415) 329-4309.

You really want it already? Go to a local retailer.

The various REI Co-op, Adventure 16 and Sport Chalet outlets are all good sources for the more popular 7.5 and 15 min topos. All still sell them at the \$2.50 each price, plus sales tax. The following specialty retailers generally offer more complete map coverage and a higher price. The list is hardly exhaustive. Such a list, however, is to be found in the front of each State Catalog.

San Fernando Valley: Geographia, 4000 Riverside Drive, Burbank  
(818) 848-1414. Hours: Mon - Sat, 10 am - 6 pm. Cost: \$3.00

San Gabriel Valley: Pasadena Map Co., 1778 E. Colorado Blvd, Pasadena  
(818) 795-3626. Hours: M - F, 9am - 6pm; Sat 10-4. Cost: \$3.25

West L.A.: The Map Shop, 12112 W. Washington Blvd, West L.A.  
(213) 391-1848. Hours: Mon - Fri, 10 am - 6 pm. Cost: \$3.25

Farther East: Riverside Blueprint Co., 4295 Main Street, Riverside  
(714) 686-0530. Hours: M - F, 8am - 5pm; Sat 9-1. Cost: \$3.50

Orange County: Allied Services, 966 N. Main Street, Orange  
(714) 637-8824. Hours: Tu-F, 10am - 6pm; Sat 10-3. Cost: \$3.25  
I understand that they have topos coverage for the whole country.

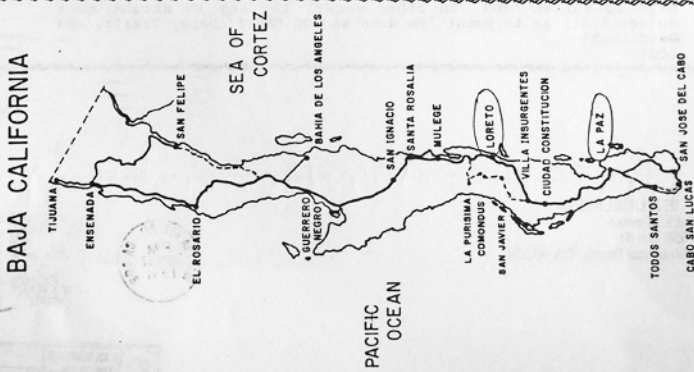
Note: all information is current as of February, 1991. Phone ahead for updates and to check the availability of particular maps.

Now that you have it in hand - GO FOR IT!

WHAT TO DO WHEN THERE'S NO SNOW

Proposal of a new section. Comments to the editor accepted in the next issue. First article is a non Sierra Club activity and contributed by Rich Henke. (Participants were SMS members). - Rich - The SKALOS - MARCIA

In mid March, before the big snow storm hit, 8 of us drove 7 kayaks, 850 miles south of Loreto to Puerto Escondido. The next 10 days of paddling revealed the most wild and remote coastline of tropical Baja. It seems as if every campsite is special. Camp 1 came complete with a spectacular sunset and a group of dolphins who frolicked in our bay. Camp 2 was at a beach near a hot spring which was covered at high tide and just right for soaking at low tide. Andy Fried went spear fishing for our dinner and appreciated the hot water after a long time in the 68 degree surface temp (colder than expected). At cap 3, I saw the greatest sunrise of my life. The list goes on, as you paddle close in the reefs and see limitless fish and bird life. On day 4 we paddled deep into a sea cave. Camp on day 5 was near a freshwater lagoon where John Otter saw 13 species of shorebirds. Nights 6 and 7 were spent near Rancho Delores where we resupplied water and day hiked to a mission ruin dating to 1720 and a waterfall in the palm canyon behind. By camp 9 we had occasional glimpses of a road along the shore that now extends from La Paz to the village of San Evaristo. This road is yet to be discovered by the 1990 AAA Baja map. On day 10, after fighting southerly winds all morning, we took a break near El Coyote where we met a mexican spear fisherman. We negotiated a ride for 2 people back to our start to bring the cars down, taking advantage of the fisherman's truck and free time since it was too windy to fish. Thus our trip ended at about 100 miles; followed by a 1075 mile adventuresome drive home. Baja was in its glory: flowers, green, mountain vistas, colored rock, turquoise water, and white sand beaches. The next best thing to snow, which managed to fall endlessly while gone from home. Try it.. (R.H.)



A Special thanks to Rose for all her assistance in the creation of this issue.... and your Smith Corona. MM.



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IN PRAISE OF MUCK:

Most of the skiable slopes in the Sierra are a full mile closer to the sun than California's coast. While the air may not be as warm, the intensity of California's relentless sunshine can quickly turn a frozen snow slope into a field of slushy, mushy, Sierra Cement, or Muck.

You can avoid, or at least minimize your cement encounters of the Sierran kind. The early alpinist gets the corn, but the typical skier gets the muck snakes. In other words, early to bed, earlier to rise is the best prescription for avoiding muck.

The other option is to embrace it. After a late night drive to the trailhead an early rise is only for the neurotically motivated ski mountaineer. So let's hoist a toast to the inevitable encounter with the Sierra's sloppy, wet, sticky muck.

Actually there are a few good things to say about muck. 1) Muck provides excellent training for skiing powder. No, really! To ski powder you must be perfectly balanced over your skis. With muck you must also achieve perfect balance. As with powder, to ski muck you must go fast so that you float to the surface and don't get caught in the sticky subsurface. The difference between skiing muck and powder is not so much the technique, but rather, the consequences for improper execution. With powder, the snow snakes are much more forgiving. In muck, an execution error may result in your own execution.

2) Contrary to popular belief, muck is not impossible to ski. Rather it is challenging, er, very challenging. If you are successful though, skiing muck can be very satisfying. Aside from ice, if you can handle this junk, anything else will be easier.

3) And the only redeeming value left, is that your tracks will last "forever" in muck, or at least a couple of weeks. If you can master the enjoyment of muck as a powder trainer and technical challenge you will probably be leaving some nice G.S. turns behind. In corn these tracks follow the maxim of "easy come, easy go". With muck, you earned the right to longevity, and you will receive it, sitzmarks included.

So remember, next time you're stuck with muck, shift your attitude from straining to training and enjoy the ride down. As for the muck snakes you'll find you can't outgun 'em so you'll have to outrun 'em! In other words, the key to skiing muck successfully is to point 'em down and GO FAST! Happy Trails, and Good Luck!

(CD)

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