

MUGELNOOS

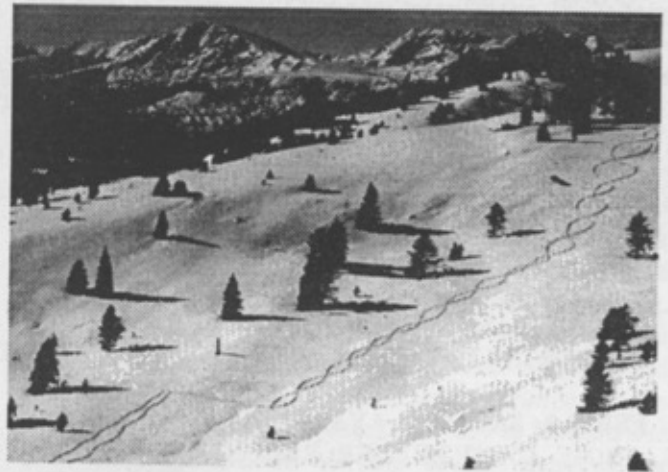
JANUARY 21, 1992

Number 690

Rocky Mountain High

A primal moment on skis was mine already this year (no, not in California). I had the luck of green wax weather in the company of a native Coloradan powder hound, son of native powder hound and 10th Mountaineer Bud Kentz of Glenwood, Colorado. Son Steve, took Sam and myself for an "afternoon tour" which happened to be the untracked slopes on the back of Snowmass Mountain. Can you imagine leaving your house at 2:00 pm, driving a mere 45 minutes along Snowmass Creek, through an exquisitely beautiful boxcanyon, and arriving at calf deep powder?

From the parking spot you skate 1/4 mile along trails maintained for dog sled rides to the Top of a 500 vertical foot run. Of course, the option exists to climb up first, then down, if exercise is on the agenda, or if you're a glutton for 2000 vertical feet - Powderhorn run and several others stretch up and up into the great above. These were the conditions for a test run of my new boots (yes, Rose finally broke down) a pair of Scarpa Neige doublers. Since this was my first experience in Colorado powder I was very fortunate to have a "master" of the stuff giving me pointers. I have gone to the mountain, and I have felt perfection, and I am hooked. I can only hope that I have not been ruined by the experience. This Irish lass was also lucky enough to walk onto the gondola at Aspen without paying, for the last run of the day (tickets now \$41.00), and to be greeted at the top by a crystal rainbow and 5 degree weather (I guess the two go together?). Twas a nice 30 minute run, and that was moving fast cause it was cold!



Rose Lynch

THE MUGELNOOS IS A NEWSHEET PUBLISHED BY AND FOR THE SKI MOUNTAINEERS AND ROCK CLIMBING SECTIONS OF THE SIERRA CLUB'S ANGELES CHAPTER SINCE 1938. A DONATION IS REQUESTED TO DEFRAY EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH MEETINGS, PROGRAMS, PRINTED INFORMATION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE SMS AND IS NOT TAX-DEDUCTABLE AS A CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION. SEND YOUR \$7 PER YEAR DONATION DUE IN OCTOBER AND ADDRESS CHANGES TO PAT HOLLEMAN, 1638 6TH ST., MANHATTAN BEACH, CA. 90266.

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NEXT MEETING

FEBRUARY 18, 1992 7:30 PM GRIFFITH PARK RANGER STATION AUDITORIUM 4730 CRYSTAL SPRINGS DRIVE, LOS ANGELES, CA.

NEXT ISSUE: FEB. 18, 1992

ISSUE DEADLINE FEB. 10, 1992 ALL PHOTOS, SLIDES, AND ARTICLES SHOULD BE SENT TO: ANDY FRIED, MUGELNOOS EDITOR, c/o TEC GROUP 10727 WHITE OAK AVE. SUITE # 205, GRANADA HILLS, CA 91344. IF YOU WISH TO HAVE PHOTOS RETURNED AFTER PUBLICATION INCLUDE A SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE. WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST PHOTOS.

UPCOMING TRIPS:

JAN 24-26 FRI - SUN KELLER HUT SKI MOUNTAINEERS TRAINING CAMP LEADER: PAUL HARRIS, ASST: MARK GOEBEL

FEB 1-2 MAMMOTH CONDO WEEKEND LEADER: KATHY CRANDALL ASST: OWEN MALOY

FEB 8-9 SAT.-SUN. AVALANCH COURSE & SNOW CAMP LEADER: REINER STENZEL, ASST: NANCY GORDON.

FEB 15-17 SAT-MON. PEAR LAKE LEADER: GREG JORDAN, ASST: PETE MATULVICH

FEB 22-23 SAT-SUN SNOW SHELTER COURSE LEADER: REINER STENZEL, ASST: HOWARD SCHULTZ

MUGELNOOS NOTICE !

TO REMAIN ON THE SMS MAILING LIST FOR 1992, PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR \$7.00 DONATION PAYABLE TO " SKI MOUNTAINEERS" TO: PAT HOLLEMAN, 1638 6TH ST., MANHATTAN BEACH, CA 90266.

BECAUSE OF THE CHANGE IN STATE LAW REGARDING SALES TAX ON NEWSLETTERS, THE SMS IS NO LONGER CHARGING FOR MUGELNOOS SUBSCRIPTIONS. SIERRA CLUB RULES DO NOT ALLOW US TO CHARGE MEMBERSHIP DUES. HOWEVER, THE SMS MAY ASK THAT MEMBERS DONATE \$7 ANNUALLY (NOT TAX-DEDUCTABLE) TO DEFRAY EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH THE MEETINGS, PROGRAMS, PRINTED INFORMATION, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH ITS OPERATION. IF YOU HAVE ALREADY SUBMITTED YOUR ANNUAL RENEWAL, YOU ARE CONSIDERED CURRENT FOR 1992. PLEASE UPDATE YOUR AREA CODE FROM 213 TO 310 IF IT HAS CHANGED SO THE ROSTER WILL BE CORRECT.

WANTED STORIES FOR MUGELNOOS, THIS IS YOUR CHANCE AT FAME AND FORTUNE (AT LEAST A LITTLE).

FEB 15-17 SAT-MON SKI MOUNTAINEERS

T: Devil's Postpile - Rainbow Falls: Don't be a summer tourist - photograph the falls in winter. Two nights' snow camping. Lose 2000' Saturday, ski the area Sunday, gain 2000' Monday. Snow camp at Falls (elevation 7280'). Skiing ability in weird snow conditions a must (elegance not required). Optional skiing on Mammoth Mtn if tour must be cancelled because of weather. Room for first 8 to sign up to stay at leader's house. Send sase to leader: OWEN MALOY. Asst: NANCY GORDON. Owen Maloy Message recorder (619) 934-9511/4553

MUGELNOOS NOTICE!

This is the last issue of the Mugelnoos you will receive if you have not donated your \$7.00 for 1992 to help defray expenses in the operation of the Ski Mountaineers Section. Please submit your non-tax deductible donation made payable to "Ski Mountaineers" to: Pat Holleman, 1638 6th St., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.

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Ostrander Hut, Yosemite

December 29, 1991 to January 1, 1992

Leader: Eddie Nunez Assistant: Nancy Gordon

The snow fell and fell making Yosemite a most spectacular winter wonderland. Frustrated, eager skiers waited at the bottom of the road to Badger Pass as park budget cutbacks caused a delay in the road being plowed until all the park entrances/exits had been cleared. The park service even removed the fuel depot at the Badger Pass turn off; and now, plows have to return to the valley or the closest towns to refuel. As this minor glitch in the schedule occurred, I was having breakfast with the few Badger Pass workers who drove up the hill before park service put the road barrier up. Then park service deemed that only buses would be allowed up to Badger Pass due to limited plowed parking. A few park employees and our Ostrander skiers were the only private vehicles allowed to drive up the hill. The group and I had telephone contact at about 9:30 AM via the ranger stations at either end. And it kept snowing. Finally, the group arrived about 11 AM, elated about all the snow, but slightly confused about what to do with such a late start under storm conditions. The only safe approach required being prepared to snow camp in the event that we couldn't reach the hut. Howard Schultz had a 3-4 person tent. So those "Homo animalius"—Howard, Pete Matulavich, Mike Wolfe, and Robert Bland—jumped at the chance to proceed toward the hut that day in the storm. First, of course, we all had a little breakfast, then shuffled community gear, and the four-some actually did not start skiing down the Glacier Point Road until 2PM. Several "Homo comfortablis"—Eddie Nunez, Diann and Andy Fried—headed down the hill to the Wawona Hotel for a warm and comfortable evening. Diann had the foresight to call Marcia Male and Rose Lynch, who had planned to ski in a day late, to let them know most of us were also heading for Ostrander a day late, and we



hoped they would arrive in time to ski in with us, which they did. Monday dawned clear and sunny. The pristine white-powder-adorned terrain was spectacular to behold. Our rendezvous at the Badger Pass restaurant was filled with much anticipation of a glorious tour to Ostrander. Rose and Marcia radiated good cheer. Eddie, Diann, and Andy looked somewhat smug, showered, and well rested. Joining us for the Monday 9AM departure were Tom Sliter, Isabelle Gat, and her son Joel who attends UC Davis. Isabelle and Joel had obtained their own Ostrander reservations. We had one unfilled reservation. Pity. Eddie gracefully took over as leader and got things rolling. The group swiftly covered the 4 miles on Glacier Point Road grateful for the tracks set in the new fallen snow. At the Horizon Ridge Trail turn off, Rose went through both Isabelle's and Joel's packs and removed an unnecessary 15 or so pounds, which we stored next to Nancy's Epoke 900 track skis. Joel and Isabelle were on rented gear, and over the telephone to the park, they were assured that rental climbing skins were available. Wrong. After struggling up the first 500 feet, Rose and Nancy made rope "skins" out of nylon cord and shoe laces which worked fine. We all managed the 9-10 mile ski in on Horizon Ridge Trail quite well. A special thanks are due to Howard and Robert, who skied down to help several members by relieving them of some of their burdens and much gratitude is felt for Pete and Mike who patiently paced the last weary skiers to our warm, cozy hut. When I think of the strength, skill, caring, sharing, and helpfulness of our Ski Mountaineers, I am always amazed and deeply touched. Although there were some weary souls, every one was happy to be in one of the loveliest places in the Sierra. As we skied in, we heard rumors along the way from a few skiers we encountered that a Sierra Club group had arrived at the hut shortly before 8:30 PM Sunday evening. Could it be? But,



of course! The Ski Mountaineers Power Squad foresome had skied into the hut in less than 6-1/2 hours (including 3 hours of darkness), quite a remarkable feat considering very limited visibility, heavier packs, and the blizzard snow conditions they had. The skiing conditions Tuesday were grand. Our chorus rang out across the Clark Range as we shouted, "Nothing could be finer than telemarking, pushing powder up to the knees!" The skiers were rewarded handsomely for their well earned runs. It was ski until your legs just couldn't handle any more as we yo-yo'd the bowls right below Horse Ridge. What an auspicious way to end 1991! We had much to celebrate that evening!

Rose had organized our gourmet New Year's Eve dinner. We snacked on many hors d'oeuvres as we cooperatively prepared our feast of salad, salmon linguini with delicious salmon from Gelson's Market, french style green beans with slivered almonds, and, finally, chocolate and pistachio pudding pies with whipped cream. The exuberance of our group dominated the hut and inspired several other visitors to plan a little more elegance for their future trips. Rose, thank you for providing and organizing such a memorable New Year's Eve dinner. Our starlite ski quest has apparently become a ritual. This year as we formed a large circle on one of our favorite look-out spots, we all touched ski tips (or as Marcia said, "Let's kiss our tips."), held hands, and for

several moments of silence, sought some cosmic consciousness before greeting 1992 in with a joyous "Happy New Year!" Two bottles of the finest of champagne was provided by Howard Schultz, who undoubtedly had the heaviest pack. I can't think of any better way to celebrate the close of one year and the beginning of another. There is plenty of time to reflect and to become inspired as you ski along the most amazing and awesome terrain Yosemite has to offer. For those of you who are unaware of Ostrander Hut. Reservations can be made through the Yosemite Association, (209) 379-2317, 9AM to 4 PM Mon-Fri. The fee is \$10 a night, per person The two-story hut is charming. On the main floor, there is a long room with a long table and benches running down the middle which is flanked by a series of three tiered bunks. The top bunks require a 4th class move. At the end of the room is a wood burning stove. There is a small kitchen area with a two-burner Coleman stove and various cooking pots and pans and miscellaneous. The upstairs is a long room with about twelve mattresses on the floor and a small room which serves as the ranger's quarters. Water is hauled in large plastic buckets from Ostrander Lake and stored in a large plastic-lined barrel with a filter pump attached. —P.S. Remember Rose knows where you live. For those who are delinquent, here's some vital info: Rose Lynch, 4075 LaSalle, C, Culver City 90230.

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