



MUGELNOOS

FEBRUARY 18, 1992

Number 691

492

SMS TRAINING 1992

Just when it looked like our early season activities would cancel for lack of snow, the big snow after Christmas arrived. As a result, about 16 enthusiastic skiers turned out for our Mt. Pinos, XC Downhill Clinic on January 11th. Instruction was provided by SMSers, Don Pies, Gerry Holleman, Reiner Stenzel, And Mark Goebel, and was designed to assist Skiers with previous experience. We found the slopes covered with a thick layer of the white stuff, and the road barely wide enough for two vehicles. Although the sky was clear, a stiff, cold wind was present, and certainly contributed to this reporter's laryngitis in the following week. Also, no one overheated climbing the hills, or I doubt any snow melted. All forms of alpine techniques were reviewed with emphasis on the telemark turn. I experimented successfully with a quick telemark learning technique described in the December, 1991 "Cross Country Skier" magazine, and it seems to work well. The student performs wedge turns and traverses while lifting the uphill heel. This teaches independent leg balancing and weight transfer, all so important when pushing that tele ski forward. At the end of the clinic, we descended to the cars via a nice powder run among the trees.

A few weeks later, Jan. 24-26, the annual SMS training camp took place at Keller Hut- Snow Valley, with a turn out of 27. Conditions were excellent and the Hut even had running water this year. Ski instruction was provided by Howard Schultz, Gerry Holleman, Kathy Crandall and Mark Goebel, and ranged from advanced beginner to advanced. The Weather was delightful, and judging from the comments and happy faces, everyone had a good time and improved their skiing. Thanks go also to Rose Lynch and Barbara Kaufman for their management of the commissary department, and to Paul Harris for overall arrangements and taking all those phone calls.

On Sunday, the instructors plus a few others enrolled in "The Craig Dostie School of advanced Tele Skiing" a.k.a. Craig's "Jump Turn Clinic". Again utilizing Snow Valley, Craig convinced us to ski low, face down the fall line and go fast. That was all within the first few warm-up runs. We then moved on to icy steeps of Slide Peak and learned to challenge its slopes, trees, and moguls with confidence. Craig is excellent instructor, gives lots of personal attention, and his class should not be missed the next time around.

Mark Goebel

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MUGELNOOS STAFF

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NEXT MEETING

MARCH 17, 1992 7:30 PM GRIFFITH PARK RANGER STATION AUDITORIUM 4730 CRYSTAL SPRINGS DRIVE, LOS ANGELES, CA.

NEXT ISSUE: MAR 17, 1992

ISSUE DEADLINE MAR. 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:

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

FEB 29-MAR 1 SAT-SUN X-C DOWNHILL PRACTICE AT KELLER. LEADER :NANCY GORDON ASST: PAUL HARRIS*

FEB 29-MAR 1 NORDIC HOLIDAY RACES
LEADERS: GERRY AND PAT HOLLEMAN

MAR 7-8 MT. BALDY LEADER : NANCY GORDON
ASST: MARCIA MALE

MAR 14-15 PATRIARCH GROVE, WHITE MTS.
LEADER: REINER STENZEL ASST: GREG JORDAN

*CHANGE FROM SCHEDULE; COST \$10 PAYABLE TO SMS TO COVER HUT FEES AND HOT BEVERAGES.

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

New Members

The following are new members recently checked out during the January introductory tours:

Ray Smith
25201 Jutland Dr.
Hemet, CA 92541

Tom Marsh
5308 Heather St.
Camarillo, CA 93012

Jim Korb
320 16th St.
Santa Monica, CA 90402

Keith Martin
P.O. Box 864
Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274

Welcome to the Ski Mountaineers. Hope to see you on future tours.

IN MEMORIUM

HOWARD GATES, ONE OF THE ORIGINAL SKI MOUNTAINEERS AND A BUILDER OF THE SAN ANTONIO SKI HUT HAS DIED. MANY OF OUR MEMBERS WILL REMEMBER HOWARD. REPORTER JIM POWERS .

ADDITIONAL TRIP

APRIL 17-19 FRI TO SUNDAY MT. DUBOIS
Ski the high country on the Nevada Side of the White Mts. Snow camp two nights. Room for first 8 to sign up to stay at leaders house Thursday. Send Sase to leader Owen Maloy. Asst: Nancy Gordon.

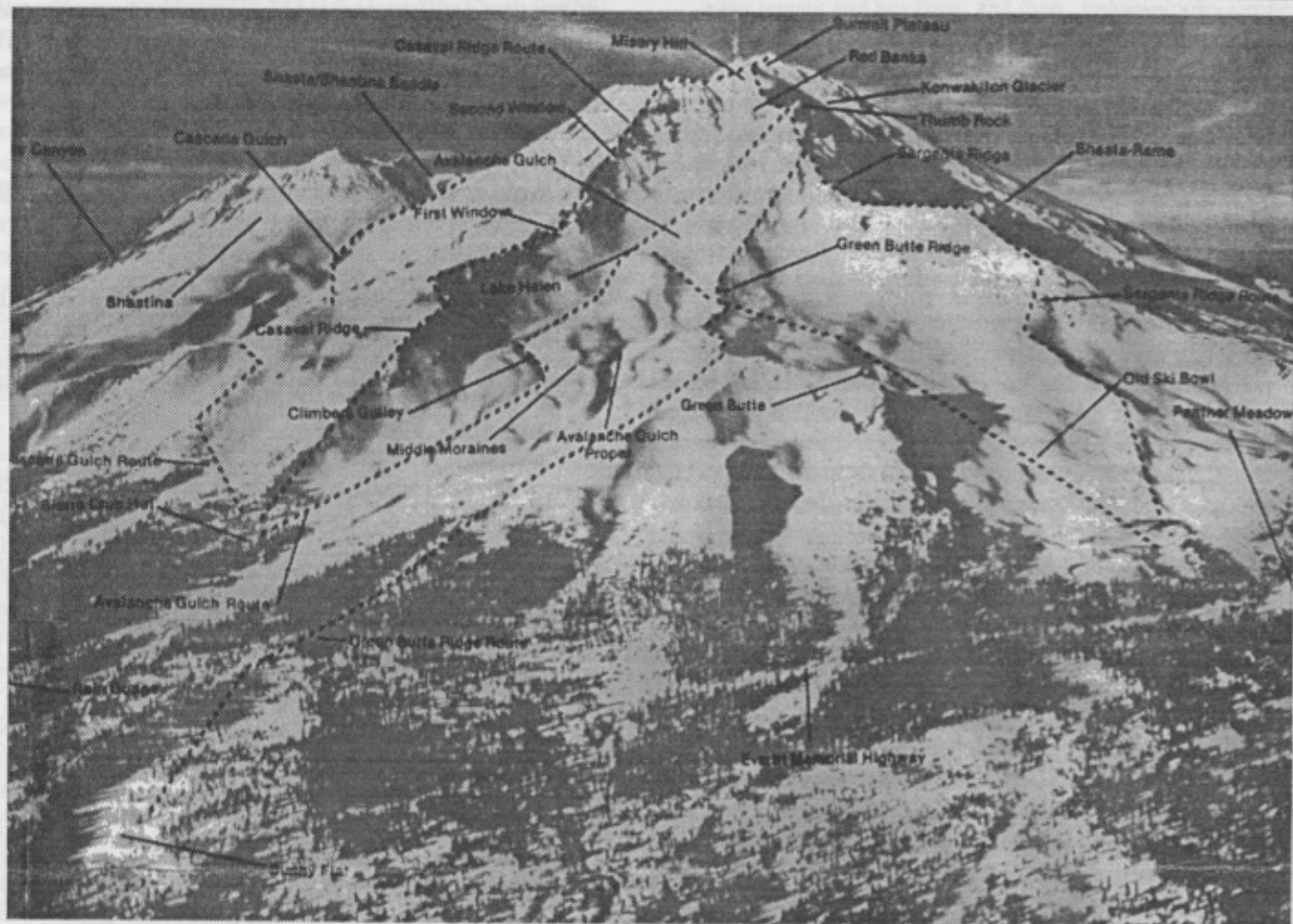
Advt.

Tibet Overland- Travel from Katmandu to Lhasa by road, return by air. 8 days weekly Sat. departures March thru Nov. \$995. Contact Rich Henke (310) 453-8827

For Sale

1. Chouinard self arrest grips- for use with Chouinard skipoles- removable- never used. \$25.
 2. Misc kids downhill skis & boots \$5-\$12
 3. Heavy leather hiking boots size 8 1/2- 9 \$20.
- Contact: Rich Henke (310) 453-8827

SCMA meeting March 10th 7:30pm Griffith Park Ranger Station A Sherpa will be giving a Program about Trekking in Nepal.



MOUNT SHASTA REACHED BY SKI MOUNTAINEERS ON MEMORIAL DAY

After many unsuccessful attempts of Mount Shasta, a party of five Ski Mountaineers finally reached the summit at approximately 12:01 p.m., May 27, 1991, after battling long, butt wrenching hours in the saddles of their automobiles, many hours of hot, unimpeded sunshine, a sleepless evening with millions of hungry mosquitoes, 7,100 feet of icy snow, a few brief periods of complete whiteout, and over one hundred other skiers, hikers, and thrill seekers! We, Greg Jordan, Reiner Stenzel, Lisa Freundlich, Ken Deemer, and myself, Howard Schultz, began this oddity after work one Friday afternoon. For Years, members of our Ski Mountaineers Section had attempted this peak on the Memorial day weekend, only to be blown off by high winds, blizzard conditions, and a variety of other reasons, but this year I knew beyond a doubt we would make it to the top. After driving well beyond our bodies' limits to remain sitting, Lisa and I finally found a side road, which led us to a bridge under construction, under which we spent the night. It was very windy, and the noise from the toad kept us from sleeping too soundly. The other group, Greg, Reiner, and Ken found a similar spot near a river and were nearly devoured by

mosquitoes as they tried to sleep. As the road noises and the early morning light prevented sleeping further, we arose and continued on to Mt. Shasta City, then to our appointed meeting place at the trail head at Bunhy Flat. We were all pleasantly surprised to find good snow all the way down to the trail head, and the prospect of a 7,000 foot ski descent causes my salivary glands to go into overdrive. Greg, Reiner, and Ken were already nearly packed when Lisa and I drove up, so we hurriedly finished packing, locked up the truck and began skiing up the trail, which we promptly lost and ended up wandering around a hillside, which was really quite pleasant. Finally, someone suggested we were off course, and we began making course corrections to get us going toward Helen Lake. Originally, we had thought of going all the way to Helen Lake to make camp, but the prospect of carrying all that weight all the way up to 10,400 feet made us start thinking coherently and we made camp at about the 7900 foot level at the bottom of some very skiable hills, which we set out immediately to enjoy. The afternoon sun was very warm, and we enjoyed skiing in shorts and t-shirts. The snow was delicious soft corn and we enjoyed it for

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AFTER RIDING A SLAB AVALAN... DOWN SAN JACIN RIDGE... YOUR EDITION STOPS TO SURVEY RESULTS

SHASTA CONT.

several hours until the sun set behind the ridge. After enjoying a nice dinner and conversation, we all hit our respective sacks to rest for the mornings' ascent. Monday started very early, hours before any sane person would consider getting up. A hurried breakfast, a little last minute scurrying to get packed, and we were off to the summit. Before an hour had passed, we were eating Greg's and Reiner's dust. We caught sight of them as the day dawned a couple of hours later, then didn't see them until they passed us on their way down in the afternoon. When we got to Helen Lake, we descended into a tent city! We counted over 48 tents, all within a 150 foot radius. It seemed the only thing missing was the golden arches. At the Red Banks, Ken and I decided to ascend directly up the Avalanche Gully, while Lisa opted for the slightly less direct route up around the Red Banks, which was the route of choice for most. Ken and I left our skis at the 12,900 foot level, as the snow became very icy and crusty, and we figured it would be too difficult to descend. Near the top, Ken took off up one of the chutes, and popped out on top of the Red Banks, at the saddle just below the very aptly named Misery Hill. I finally got over the top of the gully and joined up with him. As we ascended Misery Hill, we passed Greg and Reiner, and found Lisa climbing with several others. We stopped for a short break with them, then continued on. At the base of the summit pinnacles, a few clouds drifted over and obliterated the view sporadically, but the masses of climbers acted like wands and we just followed everyone else to the top. We got good views of Lassen and the Salmon Mountains to the west, as well as the Hotlum, Bolam, and Whitnes Glaciers. Since there was almost no standing room on the summit, we stayed only briefly to acknowledge our accomplishment, then split for warmer climes. Regaining our SSkis, Ken and I began skiing at the 12,900 foot level, on icy, breakable crust, which made turning just less than possible. We Flailed for about two hundred feet, then the snow began to soften, and soon we were skiing on good corn snow, which got better all the way down the mountain. We did turns and turns and turns and turns all the way down to camp. Giant slalom turns, quick turns, Figure 11's; it was almost impossible to make a mistake, although we found a few ways. We had a very exhilarating run down to camp, and were having so much fun we even ended up on someone's home video! We made camp and found Reiner and Greg soaking up some rays, so we joined them for a short nap and some lunch. After we snoozed for awhile, we broke camp and started back to the cars, about two miles downhill. Aside from a few patches of bottomless rotten snow, the skiing was excellent, and we reached out autos around 4 p.m. We Set out for Shasta City for a victory dinner and to visit the local outdoor shop, then headed for home, only 12 hours away. We found a deserted road to sleep near, and continued on toward home, arriving there in the midafternoon on the next day. A great trip was had by all. We drove for about 25 hours total, climbed and descended 14,200 feet, skied about 6000

feet on some superb snow, and generally had a really good time. I hope that future Ski Mountaineer parties will have as good a time as we did on that Memorial Day weekend. Ski you later!

H. SCHULTZ

Mammoth Condo Weekend, February, 1-2, 1992

These weekends usually involve one day of touring and one day of skiing on Mammoth or June Mountain, although, as always in the SMS, everything is negotiable. This time the snow had been on the ground three weeks since the last dump at the beginning of January, and it consisted of breakable crust with random amounts of soft snow underneath, sometimes mixed with rocks. I decided to ski into the Glass Meadow area on a more-or-less flat tour, not expecting to find any good downhill skiing. This decision was duly negotiated with the participants, Nancy Gordon, Don Pies, and Mark Robbins. It was snowing, a little when we left Mammoth, but soon cleared. Two-mile-long Glass Meadow, is found at the top of the 15' Devil's Postpile quad. I have been there in the summer but never in winter. This lovely place is very remote, perfect for a weekend backpack, and is protected in all of the various plans for ski area development. It is just south of June mountain, and serves as a catch-basin for errant downhillers. To the south of the meadow there is a large pumice mountain (10,014') which is bare on top. It is no doubt part of the rim of the Long Valley Caldera, like Mammoth and Glass Mountains. The locals call this peak "White Wing", and I wanted to see how one might ski it on a spring tour, because it holds what appears to be perfect corn i in huge open snowfields easily seen from the top of June. One can also ski the south side of June, in the trees; there are some fairly open paths. The area also permits access to San Joaquin Peak through some interesting chutes, but it is too far for a day tour. Glass Creek arises on the southwest side of June Mountain and flows east-north-east into Deadman Creek near the Crestview highway station. On the way it passes first through Glass Meadow and then between two of the several large obsidian domes. One of these domes was the subject of a geologic study a few years ago after the Mammoth volcano scare, and the drill holes and access roads are still there. The drillers found that the youngest rocks were only, 600 years old. Hmm. The rocks along,, the stream in the meadow are pumice, and float. Some years ago this astounded my poodle, who liked to fetch rocks thrown into deep pools. She almost got hypothermia swimming after eight-inch rocks floating down Glass Creek. On US 395 just north of Deadman Summit there is a sign, "Glass Flow Road". We parked there and skied in on the track that the Nordic skiers made (this is a USFS Nordic touring area; the black trail "Most Difficult" must involve a vertical gain of at least 20 feet, maybe even more). On the east side of the north dome there is a more interesting, area were the locals go to practice telemarking. This area is more

directly accessed from US 395 at the top of the Crestview hill. The track follows the road that goes to the domes, where there is an obsidian viewing area. The road then goes farther on and wraps around the west side of the north dome. To reach the meadow, we left the road at the high point and contoured south and then west, climbing gradually from 8400 to just under 8800 feet at the entrance to the meadow. We saw, the tracks of a running bear, probably startled by skiers on the nearby road. After contouring over one gentle ridge and a large forested bowl we emerged on a flat and skied through powder to the entrance of the meadow. It is important to contour rather than follow the creek; the creek is very steep and narrow. It is better to ski on the north side of the stream, which is flat and has fewer small trees. Near the entrance to the meadow we found two snow-white ptarmigans who sat and watched us while being photographed from ten feet away. It sure is hard to scare a ptarmigan. We discovered that Glass Meadow, is a poor place to be in a windstorm. As soon as we gained the level of the meadow, skiing over sastrugi, impenetrable wind slab, and breakable crust, we were met by an icy blast coming from San Joaquin Ridge a few miles upwind. We admired the meadow for at least a full minute and beat a retreat behind a ridge, where we had noticed some powder blown in. We were able to cut some nice turns in this. The high winds on the meadow side indicate that White Wing may not hold snow on the northwest face very well, although there was plenty there in June '78 (everywhere else, too). With enough snow one can ski the entire peak. There are steep slopes on the north side below the east summit, and easier slopes to the west. We hope to ski these in the spring. The south slopes end in cliffs and rock chutes, and the chutes are presently without snow. Although dubious, I was amazed to discover that the double-cambered waxless skis I used for this flat tour turn well in powder (1982 Karhu XCD/GTS). My previous experiences with these skis in other conditions have been less favorable (that is, prone to faceplants). Some Nordic-oriented instructors are now advising people to start with edgeless, waxless, double-cambered light-touring skis for

easy terrain and bus trips, and then to buy single-cambered (essentially, downhill) skis for steep slopes and resort telemarking or parallel skiing. This advice reflects an interesting trend, because it omits track or skating skis, and also shows that double-cambered mountaineering skis are going out of style. Few Sierra-Club skiers in Southern California are into true Nordic skiing, whether striding or skating, and not many own skinny skis that go fast in groomed tracks on the flat. They prefer to tour in the backcountry, which means they all need downhill skills in varying degrees. Some of them are technically capable of passing the 4th class test. Many people are interested in telemarking, but few outside the SMS and ASMC are much good at it. As we all know, one doesn't learn by going on a few bus trips a year.

Edgeless skis may be fine for the bus-trip folks who ski mainly at lower altitudes in sheltered places, but on this tour I needed my metal edges on the wind slab, and I needed a ski that knows what a turn is. For this kind of high-altitude flat touring, the metal-edged double-cambered waxless skis are still quite useful, because they kick and glide and climb well, and if they won't hold in steep places one can put self-adhesive skins on without contaminating the skins with wax. I used my skins on the uphill part of this tour because the older waxless karhus don't hold on anything steeper than a parking lot.

For most SMS activities, of course, only single-cambered mountain-schussing skis, Nordic or Alpine, will do. Nancy and Don used their telemark skis on the tour, using skins because they didn't want to ruin their hot wax. A true Ski Mountaineer hates anything that might slow the skis down. Mark used a later version of the same ski I was on, without need for skins.

Saturday evening Susan Beck of Anything Goes supplied an excellent dinner that we shared with Pat and Gerry Holleman, here to train for a Nordic race, and Bryce and Wilma Wheeler. We then watched the original Telemark movie.

Sunday we trashed our legs telemarking on Mammoth Mountain. We need either more snow, or to take up ice skating. As this is written, the DWP is quoting snow levels at 40% of normal.



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