



MUGELNOOS

JANUARY 19, 1993

Number 699

Skin Care

By Andy Fried

Experienced backcountry skiers know that climbing skins are necessary equipment no less important than metal edged skis. Once made from seal skins, modern skins are made from nylon, polypropylene, or mohair "fur" that allow the ski to glide forward while providing grip when pushed back. This grip allows the skier to climb hills. Where climbing waxes work well for tours on gentle terrain when the hills are steep its the climbing skins that work.

Older skins were strapped on to the skies at tips and tails with straps spaced along the ski to secure the skin. The snow often would build up between the skin and the ski causing the skin to work loose. Modern skins use adhesives to adhere to the ski base, with mechanical attachments at the tips and sometimes the tails.

This system prevents snow from getting between the skin and the ski (most of the time), and allows more edge control on traverses. Modern climbing skins make backcountry travel much easier, and with attention to care and maintenance should function effectively for a few seasons. Here are the basics:

Putting skins on.

Do not attach skins to wet, snowy or frosty ski bases. Once wet the skins will not stick. Scrape snow and off first, then dry the ski base with a clean cloth before attaching skins.

Do not put skins on over climbing wax. Try to remove grip wax and excess glide wax. If you don't, the wax will stick to the glue on your skins when you remove them. This will cause poor adhesion the next time you try to use the skins.

Use of skins

Avoid downhill skiing with skins on. The friction of downhill speeds will eventually tear the fur from the fabric, resulting in bald spots.

Don't ski over rocks, branches, roots, or asphalt with the skins on. Dirt, oil, and tree sap in the fur will not enhance performance.

Use skins only when necessary, less use means less wear. Use waxes when appropriate.

On long tours, clean the fur side with a stiff brush. Then restore water repellency by spraying the fur with silicone or scotchguard (be careful not to get any on the glue). If you are traveling light try rubbing the fur with glider wax. If the fur side gets wet it may ice up, and will reduce your glide.

After Use

Do not dry skins near a hot stove. Excessive heat will change the glue, reducing adhesion. Dry the skins at room temperature, and pack them away when dried to avoid dust and dirt from contaminating the glue.

In huts or lodges, do not hang skins where they will pick up dirt or where people will brush into them. All dirt, lint, and fibers will become part of the glue on the skins.

Do not roll your skins up for storage. Never let the glue come in contact with the fur, or any thing in your pack. The skins should be re-attached to the plastic they came with, or carefully folded glue side to glue side. In the pack they should be stored in a clean nylon sack. Between tours, dry skins should be stored in plastic bags to preserve the glue.

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May 28-31 Mt Shasta via Hotlum-Bolam Glacier Bill Lingle Nancy Gordon
 May 29-31 Mt Ritter, Thousand Island Lake Reiner Stenzel Howard Schultz

Feb 16 Hi traverse & Long walk back. Hazardous traverse of Cirque Crest to Kings Canyon & return via Kearsarge Pass. By Gobel, Smrz & Harris

March 16 Mountaineering in the Karakoram, Peter Green
 April 20 Rich Henke his adventures at home and abroad..

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FINAL RENEWAL NOTICE!

If you have not renewed your Mugelnoos subscription for 1993, this is the last issue you will receive. To renew send a check for \$7.00 payable to "Mugelnoos" to the Mugelmailer: Pat Holleman, 1638 6th St., Manhattan Beach. CA 90266.

NEXT MEETING

FEB. 16, 1993 7:30 PM GRIFFITH PARK RANGER STATION AUDITORIUM 4730 CRYSTAL SPRINGS DRIVE, LOS ANGELES, CA.

NEXT ISSUE: FEB. 16 1993

ISSUE DEADLINE FEBRUARY 10, 1993 ALL PHOTOS, SLIDES, AND ARTICLES (TYPED OR 5 1/4' DISKS WP OR ASCII) 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:

DATE	LOCATION	LEADERS
Jan 23	Mt San Jacinto	Pete Matulavich / Reiner Stenzel
Jan 30-31	Ski Mtneers Training Camp	Paul Harris / Mark Goebel
Jan 31	Jump Tum Clinic	cancelled
Feb 6-7	Mt Baldy, San Antonio Hut	Marcia Male Nancy Gordon
Feb 13	Local Introductory Tour	Mark Goebel Eddie Nunez
Feb 13-14	Mammoth Condo Weekend	Owen Maloy Kathy Crandall
Feb 13-15	Pear Lake, Sequoia N. P.	Greg Jordan Reiner Stenzel
Feb 20-21	Snowshelter Course	Reiner Stenzel Howard Schultz
Feb 27-28	XCD downhill Pract. KellerHut	Nancy Gordon Paul Harris
Mar 6	Mt Pinos-Mt Abel Traverse	Reiner Stenzel Nancy Gordon
Mar 6-7	Nordic Holiday Races, Yosemite	Gerry & Pat Holleman
Mar 12-14	Patriarch Grove, White Mtns	Eddie Nunez/Howard Schultz
Mar 12-14	Bodie and Buckeye Hot Springs	Reiner Stenzel/Greg Jordan
Mar 13-14	Mt Baldy, San Antonio Hut	Marcia Male / Pete Matulavich
Mar 20-21	Introductory Tour, Mammoth	Owen Maloy / Kathy Crandall
Mar 20-21	Jump Tum Clinic, Mt Baldy	Craig Dostie / Howard Schultz
Mar 27-28	SMS Wilderness Ski Race	Don Pies / Nancy Gordon
Mar 27-28	Convict Canyon	Ken McElvany / Scot Jamison
Apr 3-4	San Gorgonio Wilderness Area	Mark Goebel / Howard Schultz
Apr 17-18	Blue Couloir and Mammoth Tour	Gerry & Pat Holleman
Apr 24-25	Onion Valley	Howard Schultz Reiner Stenzel
May 1-2	Hilton Lakes Ski Camp	Scot Jamison / Ken McElvany
May 8-9	Ski Mountaineers Peak	Gerry Holleman / Paul Harris
May 15-16	Basin Mtn Ski and Ice Fishing	Reiner Stenzel/ Owen Maloy
May 22-23	Mt Conness and Mt Dana	Reiner Stenzel Scot Jamison

FOR SALE:

Chouinard Self Arrest Grips \$20,
 Karhu XCD GT Skies, waxable, never used, 205cm \$100
 Ski bag (for Airplane) \$12
 Misc. Downhill Skis, boots poles for kids or beginners cheap.
 Leather Hiking boots-for winter, 8 1/2- 9 Mens \$15
 Nike Lava Domes, 8 Mens, Good Condition \$15
 Rich Henke (310) 545-6491

1992-1993 Ski Mountaineer Leaders

Walt Boge 13260 Cumston St Van Nuys 91401 818 781-4576	Bill Lingle 23660 Baltar St West Hills 91304 818 884-3269
Kathy Crandall 1864 Foothill Blvd La Cahada 91011 818 790-9252	Marcia Male 1459 Westgate Ave, #1 Los Angeles 90025 310 479-0758
Craig Dostie 6438A Penn St Moorpark 93021 805 523-0413	Owen Maloy P O Box 2083 Mammoth Lakes 93546 H 619 934-9511 W 619 934-4553
Mark Goebel 9522 Innsbruck Dr Huntington Beach 92646 714 963-9384	Pete Matulavich 126 Calle Candida San Dimas 91773 714 599-6148
Nancy Gordon 6550 Ellenview Ave West Hills 91307 818 884-8065	Ken McEivany 2058 Shorewood Upland 91786 714 982-4780
Paul Harris PO Box 70765 Pasadena 91107 818 577-4800	Eddie Nunez 296 Chesterfield Newport Beach 92660 714 644-0527
Gerry and Pat Holleman 1638 6th St Manhattan Beach 90266 310 374-4654	Don Pies 1606 Haynes Lane Redondo Beach 90278 310 318-6251
Scot Jamison 2517 King Way Claremont 91711-1720 H 714 626-1712 W 818 963-41 01	Howard Schultz 17045 Burton St Van Nuys 91406 818 344-8313
Greg Jordan 22633 Ticonderoga Rd Calabasas 91302 818 222-7466	Reiner Stenzel 519 Almar Ave Pacific Palisades 90272 310 454-9787

Boldface indicates correction from prior list.

SKIN CARE CONT.

The dirty glue blues

Eventually the glue will show its age and use (or misuse). If failure occurs on a tour you can use duct tape to hold the skins on. If you can find time and space you can add new glue to bad spots. This may help, but it will not last long. You must allow 12-24 hours for the glue to dry before use or storage of skins.

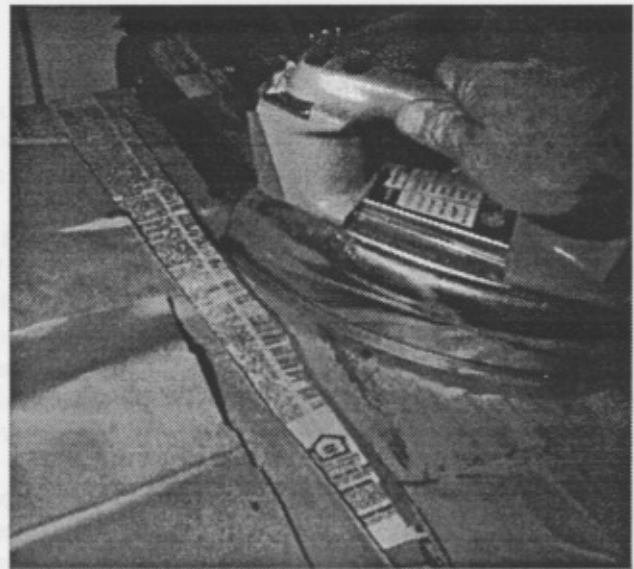
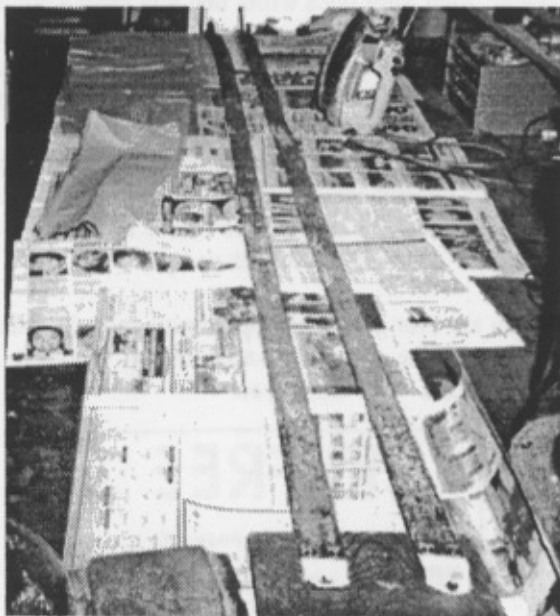
Strip and reglue

Over the years I have tried many methods of removing old glue from skins. So I can tell you exactly what not to use. Don't use paint thinner. Nothing will ever stick to your skins again. White gas, it will soften the glue, but you will end up with glue on everything. Montanyl recommends using trichlorethylene. My local hardware store didn't have any, and I don't think the EPA would allow me to use it if I could find it.

The answer is to use an iron. I have an old one that I use to apply wax. In addition you will need some old sheets cut into strips, or shopping bags cut into strips. A scraper may be of use.

The Steps are as follows:

- 1: Lay out skins glue side up, anchor the at each end.
- 2: Cover glue side of skins with paper or cloth strips.
- 3: With Iron set on wool setting, iron over paper or cloth strips. You will see the glue soak into the strips.
- 4: Peel away the strips and discard. Much of the old glue



will come off.

- 5: Scrape problem areas with thumb nails or scraper. Take care not to cut skins or move glue onto edges or fur side. Warm glue will come off quite easily.
- 6: Repeat as required. Not all of the glue will come off, and they won't look new, but they should be clean enough to hold new glue.
- 7: Using Montanyl or Cassin glue for skins spread a THIN layer on the skins. You can use a clean scraper to spread the glue, I prefer to use my index finger so the glue can spread more evenly. Allow to dry for 12 hours between applications. you will need two or three applications. Lava soap and warm water should take the glue off your hands.
- 8: After final application fold skins and store as mentioned above.



THE GOOD OLD DAYS ARE NOW

by Jim Valensi

The good old days are now. Deep powder, ideal weather, perfect temperatures, skiing gobs of wilderness downhill with friends and the luxury of a bunk in a warm hut. Yes, these are the good old days.

This is how the recent New Years trip to Ostrander Hut in Yosemite went this past January. Our trip was led by Ed Nunez and the assistant leader was Nancy Gordon. Other members were Barbara Cohen, Pete Matulavich, Marcia Male, Wai Lee, Diann and Andy Fried, Angela from Australia and her friend Mark, who flew in from Guatemala. Rose Lynch was greatly missed only because her car didn't co-operate with skiing.

New Years Eve found me skiing into the hut alone this year, only because of legal B.S. (I had to give a court deposition). However it got me a little time skiing in the dark with a half moon. That's kind of neat with four feet of snow to reflect the moon beams. While skiing to the hut there were the usual track skiers on Glacier Point Road which only got me more excited thinking about the down hill turns I wanted. Practicing at the resorts always makes me eager to lather in wilderness skiing and all its delights.

After leaving the road and heading up the hill I was passed by two strong skiers, Mark and Angela who were happy and full of energy. They were great inspiration, and gave me a needed second wind. Incidentally, the wind was picking up now that the sun was down and the hours of sleepless driving combined with the up hill pull was starting to make me real tired and pissed. Like I said, the good old days are now.

As I pushed open the door of the hut I was greeted with happy screams, warm hellos, and plates of hot food kept coming my way. I still, had frost on my eyebrows, and my nose was frozen but someone poured me a glass of their Chianti defroster, and the rest of the night continued with fun and fire works as the weather blew and blew round us.

The next day started out as one butt kickin' storm and it only got stronger as the day went by. A few members of our group ventured out as well as some members of a Santa Cruz group who were also at the hut. Even though the conditions were full on we did find several pockets of creamy turns. The storm lasted all that day and the rest Of the night.

Sun-up on Jan. 2 gave us a day which satisfies any snow lovers dreams. Clear skies, two feet of powder, we were well fed and hydrated, so our group headed first to the look-out right near the hut. Within seconds skins were flying off and snow was flying off the backs of our tracks. Everyone happy with "first fix" of getting turns decided to beat it up the hill towards Horse Ridge. Two of the many iron women on the trip, Nancy and Diann, were the first to get tracks through endless powder. They left two beautiful squiggly lines over open slopes, but the rest of the party soon found their own bodies red-lining their fun meters. The rest of the day was an instant repeat of that session. Pete and Wai headed ever higher to squiggle up the flakes above us and had the day of their lives.

Ending the day was another joyus meal at the hut with plenty of laughs. Sunday the 3rd was, ideal and the ski-out was a floating, board ride that was as fun as Saturday.

Once back at the cars my knee was bebeginning, to stiffen up and the rest of the group headed to the top of Badger Pass resort to ski down to Chinquapin by way of a long ago closed road. Andy had skied it before and the word was they got more "fun tele powder rip-it up red line the fun meter" time. Yep, the good old days are now. So. come on, sign up for a SMS trip and get your good old days. This was the first time Barbara was in wilderness on skis and she did as well as anyone else. This is going to be a full-on ass kick-em' mega snow year. Just think about what the corn snow is going to be like this spring. Man, I Almost piss my pants just thinking about it. Like Alan Bard says, "Just get out and do it". This is the year.

Ostrander Addendum: The Chinquapin Cha-Cha by Nancy Gordon

When skiers return to the Badger Pass parking lot after skiing 10 miles out from Ostrander, most of them hang it up. But when conditions warrant it (lots of great snow), there are those who prefer to hang it out: their powder alarms chime "carpe diem lettus skium" and their endorphins and enkephalins perpetuate enviable ski adventures. Andy Fried led these kindred souls on a most exquisite, quintessential, treecommuning ski descent of all time. Word, dudes!

After arranging transportation back up to Badger Pass to retrieve our cars, four SMS skiers shouldered their skis and day packs. Pete Matulavich, Marcia Male, and I followed Andy over to the "Bruin" run at Badger Pass and hiked about 300 meters up to a sign indicating the start of the Chinquapin trail which is part of the Old Glacier Point Road. Amid the recent heavy snow fall, we bent over in supplication as we put on our skis. Our quantum metaphysical experience was about to begin! John Muir once wrote that you enter a whole new world just by walking between two pine trees. Well, skiers, on this descent, you closely rub elbows with the tree people for 2.7 miles, 1300', and approximately 40 minutes; and it is totally righteous! The euphoria that follows this adventure which drops you to Highway 41 at the Badger Pass turnoff is potent. Our radiant, blissful, smiling faces after a six-and-a-half-hour ski day perplexed our ski buddies Diann Fried and Barbara Cohen who drove down to pick us up.

If you are ever given the opportunity and adequate snow conditions, make the Chinquapin run a priority. Your catecholamines will thank you.

SKI FREE

Find out how in the pages of..

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in Couloir de

The backcountry skiers magazine

Available at Sport Chalet and R.E.I.

Skiing Lake Louise - November 24-29, 1992

by Nancy Gordon

Flying to Calgary, Alberta, Canada, created such excitement that I forgot my inherent weariness caused by an oppressive and demanding teaching semester. Banff is a 90-minute ride on the four-lane TransCanada Highway. Noting the abundance of Japanese signs and restaurants, I assume there is a large Japanese population in Banff. There was definitely a large Japanese contingent skiing Lake Louise. The advantage of staying in Banff is the variety of activities, shopping, and restaurants available there. The disadvantage is the 38-mile drive to and from Lake Louise to ski every day. In actuality, I only saw Banff the last three hours of my stay before heading for the airport Sunday afternoon. My daily schedule was: rise at 5, read for an hour or so, eat breakfast, drive to Lake Louise to be there when the lifts open, sssssskkkkkkkkkiiiiiiiiiii, be at the top of the mountain on the last lift of the day, drive back to our chalet in Banff, shower, eat dinner, and sleep. My friends, however, pursued an active night life and praised the amenities of Banff most profusely. My lack of reserve "party" energy may be the only disadvantage to a hard day of free-heeling I acknowledge. Taking only telemark gear, my alpine ski buddies gave me a most challenging workout.

Our Thanksgiving is not a holiday in Canada. Canadians gave thanks October 12. This gives a clear advantage of negligible lift lines for midweek skiing compared to the more crowded ski areas stateside this time of year. The base of Lake Louise Ski Resort is 5,450' with the top of Mt Whitehorn 8,765'. Louise is the best powder skiing in Canada with gasping views of the precipitous Canadian Rockies and their spectacular glaciers, relics of the Ice Age. I don't know how much it cost to ski there because I bought a two-day pass off some foreign person in the parking lot for \$20 (Canadian), and it didn't get punched until the weekend after skiing on it four days. I was able to give this special lift ticket with one more ski day on it to my friend Michael for his fortieth birthday. (I had decided to ski the backcountry to avoid the horrendous weekend ski crowd that invaded Lake Louise.)

The few local tele skiers I saw were excellent high speed snow striders. The one tele skier I actually got to talk with was skiing Karhu XCD Ultimates effortlessly going Mach 1. The Arctic Snow Snakes are rare in the Canadian Rockies near Lake Louise. However, several impeded my path emerging at the end of the day in the off piste crud areas of the mountain while I was scouting the terrain that would get me to the Skoki Trail and the Skoki Lodge for a future backcountry Spring ski tour.

On the other side of the Trans-Canada Highway from the ski resort is the Chateau Lake Louise. My brief

encounter with the Chateau left an indelible impression of a 1924 monstrosity surrounded by the most glorious, sheer mountains and vast glaciers of Mt Victoria (11,402'). This area was used frequently in the 1920's to suggest exotic European locations. It's not certain whether Lake Louise was named in honor of the governor's wife or after the fourth daughter of Queen Victoria. The interior gave me a similar feeling to the one I get from Yosemite's Ahwahnee Lodge—genteel, indulgent, and decorous. Despite the plethora of ski trails at Lake Louise, I headed for Yoho National Park, British Columbia. Stopping at Field to get recommendations, I settled for a lovely ski tour following the Yoho River through a spectacular canyon below a series of avalanche paths to Takakkaw Falls at the edge of Waputik Icefield (26 km). I had rented new Karhu Falcon Kinetic waxless skis with strange bar bindings and Merrell SNS Profil Quest boots from the ski resort for \$10/day the day



should be re-attached to the plastic they came with, or carefully folded/glass side to glass side. In the pack they should be stored in a clean nylon sack. Between tours, dry skins should be stored in plastic bags to preserve the wax.

before, and there was no extra charge when I returned them at 6PM, a hour and a half after the ski rental ski had been officially closed. These chaps know how be very accommodating, ay?

The one unusual experience of this trip was dining at the Banff Springs Hotel to celebrate Thanksgiving. This Gothic superstructure was built in 1888 with suites going for \$880 a night. My voyeuristic evening gazing at the Victorian hotel architecture, the hotel guests, and the band was tainted only by the ludicrous dinner prices and my incessant yawning.

Although I haven't quite finished it yet, if anyone would like to borrow an excellent book about Lake Louise, I have one to loan called Brown Cows, Sacred Cows (1 990) by Rodney Touche, who was general manager of the Lake Louise ski area from 1972 to 1984. The brown cows came to Lake Louise because of a rich, eccentric English skier who wanted to create "St Moritz in the Rockies." His efforts led to the Lake Louise Ski Resort. The sacred cows are the National Parks Act and the environmental movement.



On a recent trip to the Carson Pass area we stayed in Gardnerville and found a good Basque restaurant. J.T. Bar and Dining Room, 1426 South Main, Gardnerville, Nevada, serves French Basque food family style. There is no menu. You'll get the traditional cabbage soup, salad, bread and beans. The middle course could be lamb stew, tongue, or what ever the cook is preparing that day. The main course when we dined there was steak, but this varies too. Red wine (one glass, but seconds cost

THE MUGELNOOS

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1993 SMS RCS-R

May 1-3 Hilton Lakeside Camp Nov Jackson / Ken McHenry
May 5-9 Ski Mountaineer Park Gary Holleman / Paul Harris
May 15-16 Basin Mt Ski and Ice Milling John Benson / Owen Whay