



MUGELNOOS

FEBRUARY 16, 1993

Number 700

MT. BALDY SKI HUT A BIG SUCCESS

BY MARCIA MALE

On February 6-7, Nancy Gordon assisted a trip with me, bringing 19 spirited skiers to the Baldy Bowl. This was probably the largest turnout we've had at the hut, and the sun-gods blessed us with fantastic well consolidated spring corn. Thanks to Craig Dostie, most of the participants were turned on to this trip via his great rag, *The Chronicle du Coloir*. I even had 2 calls related to his February '93 article in *Powder Magazine*, about the hut bowl.

We all met on Saturday morning, an already enthusiastic and strong group, charged up by warm sunshine. By 2:30 pm Finners, Randoneers, and anonymous snow boarders were almost simultaneously pouring out of every chute and angle of the bowl. It was quite the site. The corn was so good that Lisa Freundlich and Nancy decided to be the first women to ski the infamously steep *Dare*. I didn't get to see the show, but Nancy told me how disappointed she was at her side-slip performance. I was impressed they even tried the 45+ degree narrow chute. Well, how bad can you feel when you think you just blew the *Dare*, when it turned out to be only the *Zen*. For those unfamiliar with these chutes, *Zen* is by far the easiest with a clean run out. *Dare* to ski *Zen*, again? But I know how they felt. My first ride through *Zen* last season was a humiliating side-slip performance also. OK girls, we have some work to do. But you have to admit the depth perception is truly tweaked. When standing at the top of these chutes, peering off to the vertical snow all around you, it feels like you'd fall all the way to the road, 3000 feet below. Steepness may be a relative term depending on your experience and fear factor, but that bowl is damn steep, and was the most frequented description I heard all weekend.

Some of you may cringe at the thought of cramming 21 people into the Hut, but with group meals and an easy going, fun & cordial group, it was truly delightful. The hut's typical magic & full moon rise over Harwood Peak may have had a little influence. *Alex Ketches* came up to demo ski packs along with *Robert Bland & Todd Burrill*. *Ray Hayes* brought his family, *Marilyn, Wayne, & Larry*, a group of strong randonee skiers. There were rumblings of jealousy toward his teenage sons who got exposed to backcountry skiing so young. How old were you on your first experience? *Peter Kornbluth* and *Bill Cote* drove down from Santa Barbara. I met Peter last year at one of huts on the 10th Mountain Trail. He was taken with the incredible snow conditions and terrain here in Southern California as compared to Colorado. Baldy Hut also the San Diego foursome out again. *Lisa Freundlich, Reed Moore, Alvin Walter, and Robert Bland*. I stood in awe watching Robert make the most perfect fall-line Tele-Turns from the top of *Zen* to the hut. He truly wins the most awesome pin-head award. *Wim Burmeister* is new to our mountains, having skied in the French alps for the last 5 years. He'll be seen again, as well as *Christian Perron* who's here from Montreal. We're seeing *Barbee Hoffman* and *Larry Tidball* skiing more & getting stronger each trip! *Scott Van Fassan* has a silk screen business and made a T-Shirt "Ski Baldy- San Antonio Hut". He's finally gotten to experience the area he's only dreamt about and was amazed the club doesn't charge a guide service fee... I found that to be the best compliment of all. *Mike Madden* expounded on his Keller Hut skills; and Sunday rains made *Rich Geist* from the northwest feel right at home. I gotta tell you leaders, if anyone on this list calls for future trips, welcome them with open arms. They all know their limits, and are at least intermediate level, and of great sharing hearts.

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NEXT MEETING

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

NEXT ISSUE: MAR. 16 1993

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UPCOMING TRIPS:

DATE	LOCATION	LEADERS
Feb 20-21	Snowshelter Course	Reiner Stenzel Howard Schultz
Feb 27-28	XCDwnhill 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 BuckeyeHotSprings	ReinerStenzel/GregJordan
Mar 13-14	MtBaldy, 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
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

PROGRAMS

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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Kathy Crandall 1864 Foothill Blvd La Canada 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 Ellenvue Ave West Hills 91307 818 884-8065	Ken McElvany 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

Nordic downhill lessons are now available at the Mt Waterman Ski School, with PSIA nordic certified instructors. Reservations required, call Nordic Pro at (310) 866-8286.

Baldy cont. from page 1.

We celebrated the full moon rise over Harwood peak with traditional coyote howls. Sadly though, Sunday concluded with a typical high wind Baldy storm. But to really break your heart, it was raining to at least 9000ft. The morale of this story is "Ski like hell when the sun shines cause you never know what tomorrow brings." Everyone left wanting more...So we're doing it again March 13-14. A word to the wise: Reserve early.

P.S. 1. There's been terrible damage to the kitchen floor at the hut. Walt Davie and Jerry Held are discussing a water by-pass system & then repair the floor. Help will be needed for this big job.

2. The hut does have exactly 21 mattresses.
3. For T-shirts call Scott at (714) 969-7656.

DEAR EDITOR: I'M PISSED !

By Pete Matulavich

That's right, pissed. It wasn't long ago your purient values prompted you to censor one of my articles, causing one word to appear as —it. There are many words that end in i-t and I'm not sure that many of our readers knew my intended meaning. For those who don't know the word I'm referring to, be forewarned, I'm about to say it. Close your eyes or look away. The word was. . . shit. That's right, shit. It's out, I said it, there's no going back. Shit was the word the editor felt would have offended your sensibilities.

So, then, how does the same editor justify a certain article written by Jim Valensi in last month's Mugelnoos, which contained the following profanitiest

- (1) "B.S." (I think we all know what this means)
- (2) "tired and Pissed"
- (3) "butt-kickin' storm"
- (4) "ass kick-em mega snow year"
- (5) "piss my pants"

In addition to these out-and out profanities, Mr. Valensi's article contained the following obvious eroticisms: "squiggley," "squiggle," "creamy" of "lather," and "delights."

Just what sort of double standard is the Mugelnoos using these days? Further, while everyone knows where Jim Valensi's head is at, we don't need the Mugelnoos to encourage him.

On another topic, in your "Skin Care" article, which by the way I found to be one of the most stimulating pieces I've seen in the Mugelnoos recently and can certainly understand why you saw fit to put it on page one, you mention your inability to find trichlorethylene.

useful for skin glue removal, and presumed it had been banned by the EPA. Well, I don't know if it's been banned, but I was able to obtain some from my local chemical processing plant, and aside from causing a recurring body rash, I thought the stuff worked real good.

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SAN JACINTO DOUBLE BAGGER

By Pete Matulavich

Seventeen skiers, including 4 on randonee gear, showed up for the San Jacinto Peak Bag, January 23. Leading the mob was this writer and Reiner Stenzel. SMSers on the trip were Richard Contreras, Seth Clark, Joy Goeble, Ken Deemer, Mark Reed and Howard Shultz.

The day was sunny and calm and conditions ranged from crust and cardboard to occasional patches of powder.

We were stunned by the amount of snow left by the two weeks of continuous storms in early January; none of us having seen trees in the local mountains clad with so much ice and snow. San Jacinto has never looked so beautiful. Snow depths went something like this: 5' in Long Valley. Up to 7' in Round Valley (the ranger station there was nearly buried and several of us took the opportunity to ski off the eve of the roof). Eight to 10' for Tamarack Valley and above. Many of you are familiar with the peak itself and how you normally have to scramble up large boulders to reach the summit. No scrambling was necessary this trip. We skied right to the top, the boulders buried somewhere beneath our feet.

For an introductory tour, the group was surprisingly strong and able, and after bagging the 10,800' San Jac, half of us bagged the 10,560' Jean as well. We enjoyed a fast and crusty ski back to the tram.

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AN SMS FIRST

By Pete Matulavich

Add to our many first ascents, traverses, and other accomplishments, the following noteworthy achievement: the first successful reception of a television signal in Ostrander Hut. The feat was accomplished during our Dec 31 - Jan 3 trip on a b&w Sony Watchman with a 1 3/4" screen packed in by this scribe.

The hutmeister informed us that while others have tried this in the past, the reception was scrambled and unviewable. We attribute our success to advances in electronic micro-circuitry, the installation of a powerful repeater station at the end of Glacier Point Rd., and good ol' SMS know how.

We were able to pick up the full range of stations and pictures were razor sharp. Eddie Nunez and I enjoyed tuning in on various bowl games during the weekend and considered the-set a veritable godsend.

Unfortunately, we can't say that our northern neighbors from the Bay Area agreed, and bringing the set did nothing to enhance the image many have of La-la land skiers. We understand that while we were setting off fireworks outside the hut, a particularly large explosion prompted one Bay Area skier to inquire, "What was that?!" Another one was said to reply, "I hope it was the T.V."

I do want to point out that the SMS displayed its customary courtesy, using the set only with ear phones and not once did we complain about their incessant folk-singing with spoon accompaniment. If it means anything, the next day we creamed their buns on the steeps.

Anyway, chalk up another first for the SMS! Who says the Golden Age of the SMS is behind us?!

SKIING BALDY GLACIER

by Pete Matulavich

Geologists tell us the last glaciation on Mt. Baldy occurred some 15,000 years ago. They apparently haven't visited the

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1993

SMS RCS-R

area recently.

Seduced by the early season storms passing through the Southland in early December, this writer made some last minute calls to arrange a private trip in the local mountains. Suckers accepting the offer were Eddie Nunez, Reiner Stenzel and Jim Valensi. Reiner brought along an associate from Russia by the name of Guermon, who spoke little English. Also on the trip was Reiner's German Shepherd pup who spoke even less English.

On the ride up to Baldy, we passed numerous cars coming back down the mountain. Several drivers appeared to be signaling us, waving their hands and shaking their heads. We assumed correctly they were telling us the lifts were closed, but we couldn't figure out why they would be as there was plenty of snow. Jim Valensi, who is fast building a solid reputation for yelling out of car windows, screamed "Happy Holidays" to the well-intentioned people we passed along the way.

When we got to the trailhead we finally figured why the lifts were closed. Strong winds were blasting through the canyon. Undaunted, we proceeded up Baldy trail at a fast clip, passing other skiers along the way.

I don't know why we were rushing. When we got to the hut and had a chance to explore the bowl, we discovered that the powerful winds had created conditions reminiscent of the last Ice Age. We retreated to the hut and discussed why other locations would have been better choices for this day.

We had to wait for Guermon, who, in spite of the conditions followed a trail of frozen steps to the summit, ski poles his only protection.

Back at the cars, we bade farewell to Reiner, his dog and Guermon. While Guermon didn't understand a word we were saying, he nonetheless smiled broadly, nodding his head politely.

While driving down the mountain, we wondered how Guermon enjoyed his first day of skiing in America, "Hell," said Jim adopting a heavy Russian accent, "you Americans spoiled. You call Ice?! In Motherland, is Russian corn snow."

