



MUGELNOOS

MARCH 16, 1993

Number 701

ANOTHER MT. WATERMAN TOUR FEBRUARY 13, 1993

by Mark Gobel

I believe the Section should offer additional intro tours a little later in the season when hopefully snow is more plentiful, and to provide an opportunity for those who missed the earlier tours. On this note, Eddie Nunez and I led a group of 7 to Mt Waterman. During this stormy winter, it hasn't been unusual for a chance of rain on Saturdays, but on this occasion only sunshine drenched the area and clouds stayed below us in the basin. Traversing along the peak's east ridge, we soon were rolling up our sleeves and marvelling at the deep snow pack. In less than 2 hours we arrived at the almost buried summit rocks. There was at least 6 to 8 feet of snow with a delightful corn surface extending in most directions. I could almost hear the slopes calling to us, so seizing the opportunity, I suggested we take a sample with a run down the rarely skied south side. So over the edge we went, turning our way down among the trees. The snow surface was smooth and fast, and our skis turned as though they were on automatic pilot.

Watching the group, it was clear they were all proficient skiers and eager for more. This was one of those special days when it all comes together, every turn in a pleasure, and the memories will carry you through endless days of less than perfect conditions. In quick succession we found additional openings leading to more sweet slopes. Each time I would go just a little further to see what was ahead, and then another opening would entice us to make just a few more turns. We finally made a turn around stop and started back up, but it was clear, this group was primed for more. Back at the summit, we retraced our tracks eastward and enjoyed many more turns down the ridge to the trail leading back to the cars. However, at the point where the Buckhorn rope tow crosses the trail, we climbed back on to the ridge and followed it eastward to a special slope I had skied once before under similar conditions. After several small ups and downs we reached a long open slope angling downward to the north. Eagerly anticipating another gravity driven ride, we quickly peeled our skins and one by one slipped away down the hill. Halfway down was an old shack, once a part of this long abandoned ski hill. Well I didn't see any ski ghosts, but I did notice a lot of ear-to-ear grins.

Receiving 4th Class sign offs and eager to ski more of the same were *Carl Theodore, Curtis Carlson, and Dave Miller* from the San Diego area, and *Jim Leist* of Riverside.

Pear Lake Ski Hut February 13-15, 1993 by Greg Jordan

After losing out in the lottery the last three years, we were lucky and were able to get three bunks (out of ten) this year. Actually it was better than that. Since there were no-shows, Lisa sweet talked the Ranger into letting her stay in the hut. She did have an anxious moment around midnight, when somebody came tromping into the hut. Fortunately, the intruder only came in long enough to hang up wet skins. All eight of us were able to cook in the hut, which contributed much to the camaraderie. The weather on the way in was good and we had a strong party, so it was an uneventful trip. There are also frequent trail signs up now, which are much better than in the past. Although we didn't start until 9:45, we arrived in plenty of time to set up camp. The tents included two Magamids, which worked quite

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NEXT MEETING

APRIL 20, 1993 7:30 PM GRIFFITH PARK RANGER STATION AUDITORIUM 4730 CRYSTAL SPRINGS DRIVE, LOS ANGELES, CA.

NEXT ISSUE: APR. 20, 1993

ISSUE DEADLINE APRIL 14, 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	LEADER
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 Turn 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 Geronio 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

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

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 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

FOR SALE: Black Diamond vapor barrier socks large size new, \$5; Bolle ski goggles X-500 with Irex 100 lens, will fit over eyeglasses - \$20; Excel roller skis with Adidas binding - \$30; Kneissl track skis, 210 cm with Adidas bindings and boots size 9-10 - \$40; Patagonia expedition weight top and bottom \$5 each; Camp 7 down sleeping bag, rated to zero degrees - \$85; Day pack - \$3; Rucksack - \$8; downhill ski bibs - \$15; wool hat - \$3; balaklava \$2; For these and more unlisted items, call Tapia at (818) 351-0401.

FOR SALE OLYMPUS XA - One of the best compact 35mm cameras ever made. \$110 firm. **NIKON 75-150 SERIES E LENS.** A classic lens and a favorite of Galen Rowell which he references in his book. Very compact. \$150. Call Eddie Nunez (714) 644-0527.

For Sale Gregory Cassin pack \$125, Gregory ultralite snowcreek pack \$75, Katadyn water filter \$120, Quallofil overbag \$50 Scott Nelson (818) 308-3775

Wanted: Pair of Ramer Classic Bindings to fit size 9 boots on or off skis. call Don (310) 545-0576

E. Agate, Jr.

Pear Lake cont.

well in the sheltered camp site. Sunday, started as a beautiful day and we toured to the top of the Tablelands. Unfortunately, low clouds came in during lunch and we had white out conditions on the way back to Pear Lake. The snow was great, however, eight to ten feet with powder at the higher elevations, which became more consolidated as we neared the hut. Sunday evening brought a lot of good conversation, not only among our group, but with others from the Bay Area and Three Rivers. We also all had an opportunity to try Reiner's fondue pot - cheese fondue, and, for dessert, chocolate dipped fresh strawberries. There was talk of an early morning ski tour for Monday, but by the time we got up and about we decided to just ski to Wolverton. The weather was nice on the way back, although the snow was not as good as on the way in. We made it back to the cars about 1 P.M. Some of us stopped at Merle's "American Graffiti" drive-in in Visalia, where we gorged on hamburgers, shakes and french fries. All in all, it was a great trip and a well matched group of Ski Mountaineers. Other participants included Reiner Stenzel, Ruth Von Hotz, Lisa Freudenlich, Reed Moore, Don Button, Mike Rector and Steve Hessen.

SMS X-C Downhill Practice Weekend Feb 27-28, 1993

Leaders: Nancy Gordon and Paul Harris

Snow! It's here, and there is plenty of it in our local mountains. In fact, there is more snow than I have ever seen at Keller Hut, which is located near Running Springs in the San Bernardino Mountains. Arriving just a little before 6PM Friday with a slight sprinkling of snowflakes falling, we hauled our gear up to the snowbound hut from the driveway entrance at the main road. Later that evening, the snowflakes grew larger and fell more abundantly, enhancing the already beautiful scenery and wonderful skiing conditions in the area. SMS skiers drifted into the hut throughout the evening; weary spirits were lifted by the awesome winter wonderland. Saturday morning, twenty-two telemarkers assembled at Snow Valley Ski Resort across the street from the Keller Hut. Although instruction was not part of the original plan, Joe McCoy and Todd Yuen (both PSIA certified ski instructors) were gracious enough to offer their expertise in telemark technique to skiers in our group who were eager for lessons. Some of these skiers were unable to attend our January telemark clinic, and others just wanted to reinforce the skills they had learned during that clinic. Owen Maloy also offered guidance and moral support to several determined, fledgling telemarkers. Paul Harris took charge of the gung ho skiers who just wanted to ski as much vertical as possible; these zealous ski souls headed for steep mogul pitches and the off-piste skiing between the trees of Slide Mountain. It was a situation

to please everyone. Saturday was blessed with glorious weather, splendid snow, superb skiing, and a grand group of people: Dane Cawthon, Barbara Cohen, Nonie DeSurra, Diann Fried, Don Holtz, Maya Hyams, Marian Lockwood, Kathy and Lynn Lynn, Tom Marsh, Keith Martin, Pete Matulavich and his daughter Sarah, Ellen Miller, Reed Moore, Ray Smith, and Judy Ware. Saturday's ski day ended after 4 PM, as the first skiers shouldered their skis for the short walk back to the hut. The last hearty "ski-until-you're-ready-to-drop" group sauntered into the hut at 6:30 PM, just as salad and hot, garlic bread were served, followed by mounds of spaghetti. Dessert deserves abundant accolades: Barbara Cohen's famous chocolate mousse (to die for), cream cheese cake, Diann Fried's home-made chocolate chip cookies (heavenly sustenance), and a myriad of other fine, high caloric goodies. With phenylethylamine levels rising in our bloodstream (the divine

chocolate rush) and the incredible satisfaction of sensational skiing, we settled down for a slide show of some SMS trips to Ostrander, Baldy, Sherwin Bowl (our avalanche clinic), Ski Mountaineers Peak, and day trips out of Mammoth, along with some private trips such as the Sierra High Route, Mt Goddard, and Mt Baker, Washington. Afterward, we relaxed around the fire discussing skiing, (censored), music, movies, books, contemporary issues, and how to interrogate one's father who comes home later than expected. The group dwindled slowly as people drifted upstairs to their steeping bags, their eyelids heavy and their yawning unbearable. To add to the enchantment, it snowed on and off throughout the evening. Sunday, my powder alarm went off at 5:30 AM. What a work out that alarm is getting this year! What joy! I started a fire, plugged in the coffee pot, turned on the stove burners to heat water, and turned on the water to the hut which gets shut off each night. The new fatten snow glistened in the early rays of the sun. This was going to be one more heavenly ski day, my 46th since Thanksgiving. Talk about living your dream! We managed to get enough skiers for a group rate at Snow Valley (truly affordable skiing). There is something unique and exhilarating about 20 or so telemark skiers skiing all over a mountain at the same time. One unusual highlight of our day was the amazing appearance of "George," the only telemarking gorilla in existence, a truly rare breed; he showed up to inspire and entertain us. There were only two in our group who displayed the true SMS spirit of skiing mountain wilderness. Pete and Diann skinned up and toured the backcountry starting out near Fawnskin which is on the north side of Big Bear Lake, about 10 miles northeast of Keller. They were rewarded with endless, effortless telemark turning in the most perfect snow conditions. Despite enjoying the seemingly limitless vertical, I was very envious of their genuine backcountry adventure. The ambiance of Keller and this marvelous group of enthusiastic skiers made this trip a dream. Don't miss it next year!

Annual Breakable Crust Experience Trip and Mono Craters Snowplow Classic by Owen Maloy

For some years now we have been having what has been called the "Mammoth Condo Weekend," where a lot of SMSers come and sleep on my floor and go skiing somewhere. This year it fell on President's Day; we will try not to do that next year. They have a better zoo in San Diego.

Usually on President's Day we either have a blizzard or some fairly old snow, left over from the January thaw. This year we had good weather and difficult snow, and a dozen skiers staying in three different locations.

On Saturday most went to June Mt. for telemark practice to avoid the crowds at Mammoth. Pete Yamagata and Owen tried to go to Rock Creek to tour Mt. Morgan, but found from the Forest Service that the road had not been plowed (investigation revealed that the Lodge had not paid their share of the cost). We wound up skiing up "Morrison Canyon," between Mt. Morrison and Mt. McGee. This went rather slowly because of crusty snow and our false start; we only gained 2000' before turning around. The snow was crusty with three-inch slabs in some places and heavy powder in others; after making a turn one would often find a slab a couple of feet across riding in front of one's boots. Nevertheless one could turn fairly well in the stuff, and we returned to an excellent dinner provided by Susan Beck of Anything Goes.

The next morning eight skiers set out for the north side of Mono Craters. This area gets good snow and has excellent north-facing slopes. We skied a mile or so up the icy road after parking at the South Tufa area on Route 120. We could have just as easily driven the unplowed road; it was paved with ice. We cut southeast into the first available gully and skied up the draw to pick up the road which leads to the third crater from the north, lurching on peak 8446' on the edge of one crater. The impressive high crater, with its Class 3 summit tower, was about a mile south. The views of the Sierra and Mono Lake were spectacular, with layers of morning mist and thunderheads that

led us to think that somebody in Fresno entrusted with explosive devices had made a serious blunder.

Skiing down from this area was, as Dave Brower used to say, interesting (he said that "Interesting" is one grade of climbing higher than you'd care to do right now, while "Fascinating" is one grade higher than you'd care to do ever). The best technique most of the way down the road was the good old snowplow on the breakable crust, although we did find some heavy powder in the gully that could be telemarked. This provided some of our newer members with their first contact with the Real Stuff.

After descending the gully, more or less, we found that the sagebrush flat between us and the cars had not thawed at all, so that the good old snowplow was still the best technique on the boilerplate. It was sort of fun; pick a line through the bushes, skate a little, wedge around the next bush,

and pick another line. After a while we wound up at the cars for a little snowball-throwing. The safest spot was in front of the target.

On Monday, with serious winds presaging the next storm, everyone scattered, either to go home or to go back on the slopes for more yo-yo skiing.

This experience led for a plan for the introductory trip in March. We will go find some indifferent snow, probably at Minaret Summit or the Obsidian Domes or both, and practice skiing it without the pressure of keeping up on a tour.

Mammoth Area Road Info

The Benton Highway (State Route 120) is not plowed beyond the Tufa Reserve, but the Benton Crossing Road is kept clear. This is the road that goes from US 395 at the Green Church just east of the Mammoth airport, goes past Whitmore Hot Springs, crosses the Owens River, and then goes behind Crowley Lake and Glass Mountain to join Route 120 and then US 6 at Benton. This road gives access to the Pinyon forests on the east and south sides of Glass Mountain, where there should be no end of interesting early-spring ski touring. Because there are ranches on this road, Mono County has paved it almost all the way. The paving is to be completed in 1993. It will then make a great bike loop: Up US 395 from Mammoth to June to 120, then some 50 miles out 120 to the Benton Crossing Road, back to Whitmore's and then back up 395 to Mammoth, about 100 miles.

An Ostrander First

by Peter Green

It was with some dismay that I read in the last *Mugelnoos* about the first TV use at Ostrander backcountry ski hut. Though it has been a decade since I last skied out from there, the landmark my brother achieved on that trip is noteworthy. At that time, (hopefully still) there existed a tradition of bringing gourmet meals to the hut. With room to spare in your pack that a tent and pad would normally occupy, one could indulge beyond freeze dried entrees. Some people even posted their menus on the wall as a standing challenge to the future. On most of my previous trips, I had carried things for my parents, and had no extra room for gourmet eats. Our fare ran no higher than instant "haut" (oat) cuisine. This particular trip, however, we took up the challenge. We spread the loads around even more so that about half of my brother's pack could be used to carry a cardboard box, lined with a plastic bag, filled with salty water containing that evening's main course. Purchased the previous afternoon, driven up in the evening, and skied in all day, that lobster was still feisty when the biggest pot in the hut came to a full boil. Dad was sure it wanted to make a run for the lake! With wide-eyed stares from the long-time ranger and other visitors, we hungrily chowed down.

Dear Mugelnoos Editor, Feb. 17, 1993

I recently learned that Joan Dyer Clark died last year. I do not remember a notice appearing in Mugelnoos about her passing and thought that the readers would like to be informed.

Joan Dyer Clark died in August of 1992. She leaves her husband, Nate Clark (past president of the Sierra Club), three grown children and several grandchildren. Joan was reared in Spokane, Washington and moved to the Los Angeles as a young lady. She and her sister, Ruth Mendenhall, moved into a large home with a group of single male and female Sierra Clubbers (except for one married couple). They called their living quarters "Base Camp", named after the popular Sierra Club camping trips back in the '30s, '40s, and '50s. "Base Camp" was located on Griffin Ave. near Ave. 43 in Highland Park. Joan Clark was considered to be one of the founders of the Mugelnoos, helped to set the format of the newsletter and acted as editor and publisher for many years.

Joan and Nate Clark married in Tuolumne Meadows on the granite dome located at the west end of Meadows. This was a very appropriate site because of their love of the Sierras and their many excursions into the mountains. Joan had not been well for several years, but managed to take a few trips

with Nate and was able to keep involved with her children and sisters. Nate became very ill two days after Joan's death and he is now in critical condition in his home on Monticito Ave, Los Angeles.

Ellen Wilts

WILDERNESS SKI RACE INFO March 27-28

Try one of the SMS' oldest traditions—a race through the wild. We may not be as wild as the old-timers who blasted down from the Baldy summit on long boards, but we hope to match their fun.

The planned route starts at Tamarack Valley, crosses the rolling flats through the woods to Round Valley, heads toward the Mt San Jacinto summit by whatever route suits your pleasure and concludes with an all out scramble back to Tamarack. Sounds like work, maybe, but not to worry, SMSer's won't get rich on their competitive genes.

Saturday-touring and snow camp. Sunday—the race and more touring. Winter mountaineering gear required including: compass, topo map (Palm Springs 15' quad) and whistle. Leaders: Don Pies H(310) 318-6251, W(310) 616-9692 and Nancy Gordon H(818) 884-8065.

SNOWSHELTER COURSE FEB. 27-28, 1993, MT SAN ANTONIO.

By Reiner Stenzel

Eight brave skiers ventured into the wilderness to practice how to survive a winter night without tents outdoors in the mountains. These spirited skiers were Mark Bailey, Dean Walraff, Richard Contreras, Stephen Turner, Rex and Pam McClure, Eddie Nunez and Reiner Stenzel. Our local mountains were blessed with fresh snow so that we decided to hole up on Mt Baldy. The San Antonio Hut was closed when we passed it and there was no escape for the faint hearted. Clouds rolled in when we ascended the West ridge of Baldy Bowl and we kept a respectful distance from the avalanche-prone chutes. Up on the ridge by 2pm we found a small flat area at 9,500, which was safe and scenic so that we decided to build our igloo town here. At least, that was the plan until we found out that the first three to five feet of snow were unconsolidated powder snow unsuitable to cut into blocks required for making igloos.

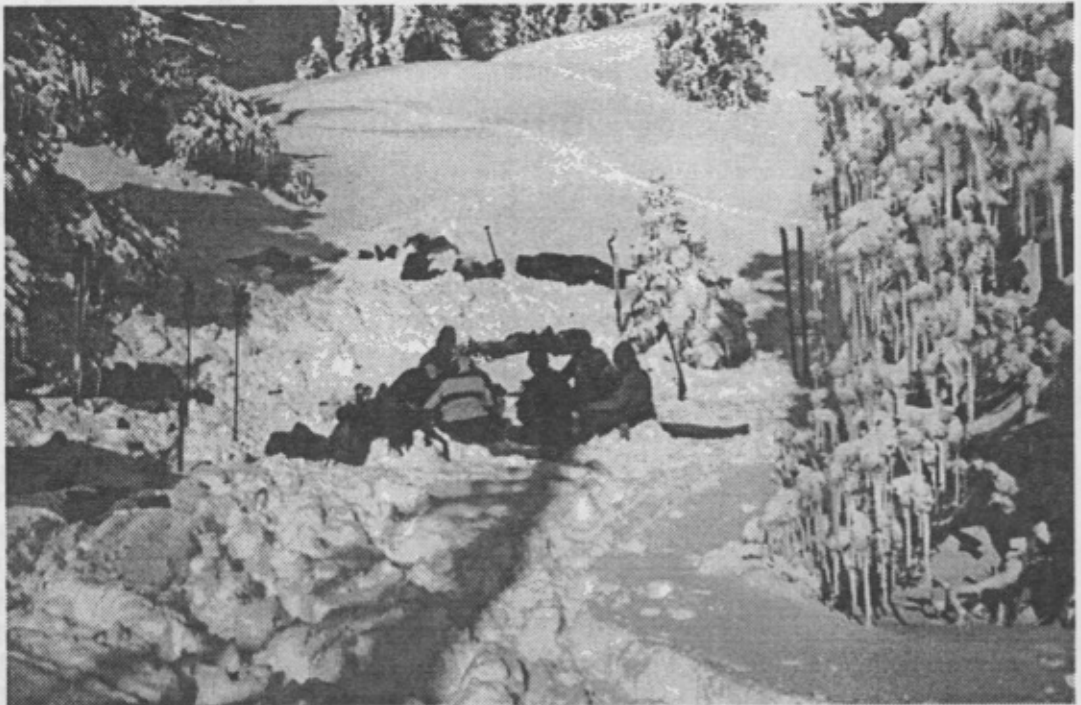
No problem, we thought, let's then build snow caves. We found a nice hillside with a small cornice and good snow depth. After digging for a while Murphy's law struck



again: A thick ice layer was encountered at about 4 feet depth which was approximately in the middle of the snowcaves. Unbreakable by shovels we had to slowly cut it apart with snowsaws which made some of us predict that they would never ever build a snow cave again. By now it was 4 pm, snowing and getting darker. Some of us decided to live above the ice layer in a deep cave of low ceiling. Two caves had an internal connection, and housed six people. Another cave was tall but of less depth in the hill. In spite of the initial difficulties we ended up with some warm and safe shelters illuminated by pleasant candlelight. We had dinner at a community snow table

and saw lightning in the distant clouds.

Sunday morning it was clear and cold (18deg). Since some people were missing for breakfast we looked into their cave only to find out that they were almost trapped. The powder snow ceiling had crept down and nearly closed their entrance. With some shovel action the problem was solved. After breakfast six of us decided to climb and ski Mt. Baldy. It was the best skiing ever with powder from the sum-



mit into the bowl.

After lunch we packed and skied down. We could ski all the way down to the cars. It was a great adventure in skiing and wilderness survival. Many thanks to Eddie Nunez who made this trip possible by offering his assistance to lead on a very short notice. R. S.

PHOTOS by Reiner Stenzel

SNOW SHELTER COURSE FEB 27-28, 1993

PAGE 5: GROUP ASCENDING WEST SLOPES OF BALDY BOWL

PAGE 6 TOP: COMMON DINNING TABLE. THREE SNOW CAVES WERE DUG INTO HILLSIDE AT LEFT HAND SIDE.

PAGE 6 LEFT: RIMED TREES ON MT. BALDY

MT. PINOS -MT. ABLE TRAVERSE MARCH 6, 1993

PAGE 7: NANCY ON SAWMILL MTN.

PAGE 8: SUMMIT PICTURE ON MT. SAWMILL, SIERRA NEVADA IN BACKGROUND. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT KEITH MARTIN, GRACE TSANG, RICHARD CONTRERAS, NANCY GORDON.

Mt. PINOS- Mt. ABEL TRAVERSE**MARCH 6, 1993**

By Reiner Stenzel

Nine skiers and one K9 ventured on a one day ski trip from Mt. Pinos to Mt. Abel in the San Rafael Mtns. These were Barbara Cohen, Keith Martin, Ed Swayze, Richard Contreras, Grace Tsang, Dietrich Machleder, Dana Pearce, Nancy Gordon, Reiner Stenzel and his German shepherd Tatanka.

The long day started with driving four cars to the Mt. Abel trailhead at 7am, then squeezing into Reiner's VW bus to go up to Mt. Pinos to meet the rest of the group and to start the tour at 8:30 am. Due to beautiful weather, excellent snow conditions, and a straight line path we were soon on top of Mt. Pinos (8,831'). In the clear air we saw in the distance the white peaks of Sierra Nevada and, deceptively close, our goal, Mt. Abel or Cerro Noroeste.

Beyond Mt. Pinos we skied 400' down and then ascended Sawmill Mtn. (8,715'). Following the ridge due West we headed to Grouse Mtn. where we had lunch at 1pm. Excellent telemarking terrain was found on the open NW slopes of Grouse which lead down into a saddle (7,618') from which we ascended Mt. Abel (8,286'). After looking at the abandoned lift area and searching for a summit register it became 4pm and time to ski down the road for the remaining 8.5 mi to the cars. A shortcut of the SW loop of the road may have saved us a mile but got some of us into a thicket and a steep ravine which had to be walked down. Finally, about 2 mi before road end the snow faded away and we walked down with a beautiful sunset to the West and a nearly full moon rising in the East. By 6:30pm we were back at the cars after a 15mi +1500' gain, long but rewarding day. Some of us were shuttled back to Mt. Pinos to their cars.

This trip is was a fine addition to our local day tours but should not be underestimated, especially in poor weather.

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