

MUGELNOOS

OCTOBER, 19, 1993

Number 705

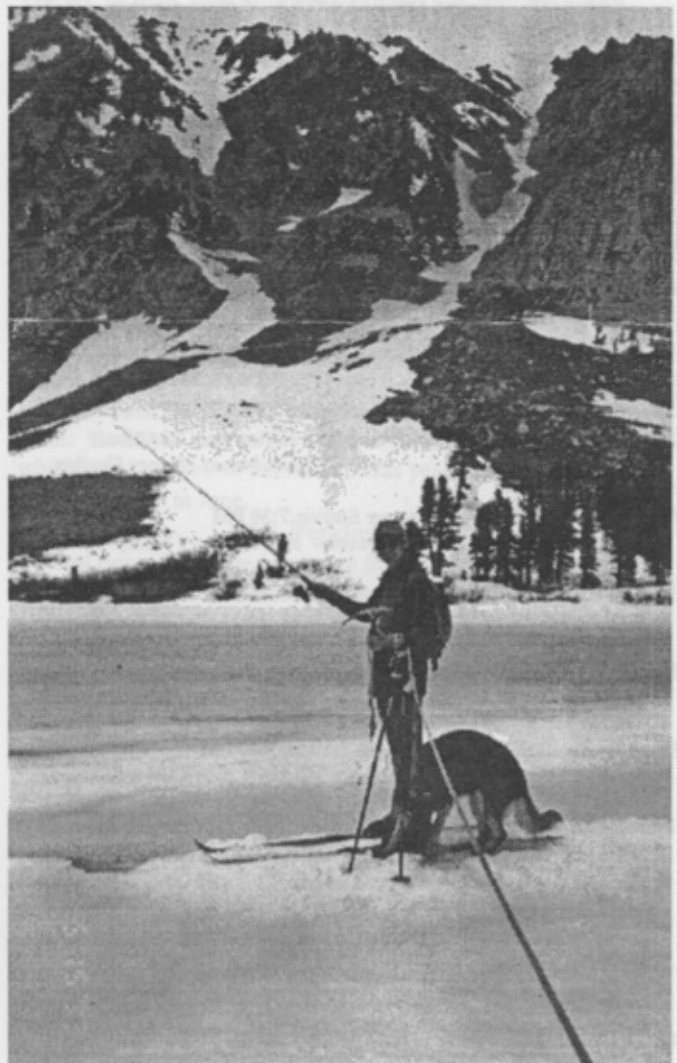
RTH 11/93

BASIN MTN AND ICE FISHING MAY 15-16, 1993

On Saturday a group of seven Ski Mountaineers (Paulette Woodward, Richard Contreras, Steve Turner, Mike Rector, Scott Ogden, Owen Maloy, Reiner Stenzel) and one K 9 (Tatanka) took off for a fun weekend of skiing, climbing and fishing. Beyond the locked gate we hiked up the Horton Lake road until we found continuous snow near the old mining buildings just below the lower Horton Lake (9,960'). Basecamp was established near the lake among trees. In the afternoon most of the group enjoyed skiing on the surrounding slopes while I tried out a new SMS activity: ice-fishing. Self-belayed on an 11mm "fishing line" I ventured with skis onto the treacherous lake, cut a hole into the ice with a Chouinard "fishing tool", and lowered the bait into a black hole. With some luck and patience six rainbows were caught and everyone could enjoy the taste of fresh trout for dinner.

Sunday morning we ascended on skis the Northwest slopes of Basin Mtn. The last 300 feet along the rocky ridge had to be climbed. The view from the summit to nearby Mt. Humphrey, Mt. Tom, Four Gables, etc. was excellent. At 13,181 ft it was Tatanka's highest summit. Except for the upper part of the mountain we had excellent corn snow and telemarked all the way down to Horton Lke. On the way out some of us walked down the road while others skied down on a "short-cut" which ended up in bush-whacking through a flooded valley. At the cars we met the "chute-corps" (Craig Dostie, John Wedberg, Nancy Gordon, ...) who had just come down a couloir on the NE side on Basin Mtn. It was a fun outing. I thank Owen for suggesting this trip and assisting with it.

Reiner.



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MUGELNOOS STAFF

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NEXT MEETING

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

NEXT ISSUE: NOV. 16, 1993

ISSUE DEADLINE NOV 9, 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 / Program
Oct 30-31	Telescope Peak Full-Moon Halloween Conditioner	Eddie Nunez / Nancy Gordon
Nov 16	Griffith Park Ranger Station, 7:30 PM Intro to the Ski Mtneers-	Ken Deemer / Nancy Gordon
Dec 4-5	Demo Days (Bear Mountain), Keller Hut	Nancy Gordon / Craig Dostie / Paul Harris
Dec 11-12	Mammoth Ski Weekend, Leader Training	Owen Maloy / Kathy Crandall
Dec 21	Griffith Park Ranger Station, 7:30 PM	Christmas Party
Dec 31 -Jan 2	OstranderHut, Yosemite	Nancy Gordon / Eddie Nunez
Jan 8	Local Introductory Tour	Paul Harris / Walt Boge
Jan 15	Cross-Country Downhill Clinic	Howard Schultz / Mark Goebel
Jan 16	Local Introductory Tour	Eddie Nunez / Paul Harris
Jan 15-17	Mammoth Introductory Tour	Owen Maloy / Nancy Gordon
Jan 18	Griffith Park Ranger Station, 7:30 PM	"Offbeat Skiing" Dave Wyman
Jan 22	Mount San Jacinto	Pete Matulavich / Reiner Stenzel

Jan 28-30	Ski Moutaineers Training Camp, Keller Hut	Paul Harris / Mark Goebel
Feb 5-6	Mount Baldy, San Antonio Ski Hut	Marcia Male / Pete Matulavich
Feb 5-6	Mammoth Ski Weekend	Owen Maloy / Kathy Crandall
Feb 12	Local Introductory Tour	Mark Goebel / Don Pies
Feb 15	Griffith Park Ranger Station, 7:30 PM	"Epic Ski Descents" - Craig Dostie
Feb 19-21	Pear Lake, Sequoia National Park	Reiner Stenzel / Nancy Gordon
Feb 25-27	Cross-Country Downhill Practice, Keller Hut	Nancy Gordon / Paul Harris
Mar 5-6	Snowshelter Course	Reiner Stenzel / Howard Schultz
Mar 12-13	Mount Baldy, San Antonio Ski Hut	Marcia Male / Nancy Gordon

1993-1994 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
Ken Deemer 1725 Pine Ave Manhattan Beach, 90266 310 546-1381	
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 McEivany 2058 Shorewood Upland 91786 714 982-4780
Paul Harris PO Box 70765 Pasadena 91107 818 577-4800	Eddie Nunez 269 Chesterfield Newport Beach, 92660 714 644-0527
Gerry & 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

CLASSIC SIERRA SKI DESCENTS

by Rich Henke, Spring 1993

Backcountry skiers often talk about long ski descents. On a typical multi-day tour such as the Goddard Loop, a 1,500 foot descent can be experienced occasionally. An example is the east side of Mt. Goddard, a superb Telemarker's dream. But what about their really long descents; 5,000 vertical feet or more? In the Spring of 1993, I sought out some of the classic Sierra ski descents.

Mt. Williamson

There are several routes on Mt. Williamson that offer great ski descents. Peter Green, John Arnason, and I chose George Creek. We drove to 6,000 feet, hiked to the mouth of George Creek at 6,500 feet and had to bushwhack only a short distance to around 7,100 feet before putting on skis. Snow coverage was complete, and we had an easy ski approach to about 11,200 feet where we camped by mid afternoon. We did pass several large wet snow avalanches that had come down from the south. George Creek can present real avalanche danger!

Our campsite was just below a large steep snow slope that led toward the upper part of Mt. Williamson. In the morning we skied/walked up the slope which was quite icy near the top. At about 12,700 feet is a large plateau which was free of snow. The snow that fell here presumably was blown off by the high winds which often accompany winter storms. A steep 1,000 foot snow slope led to the summit.

We skied to the very top (14,375 feet) but did not stay long since it was cold and windy. We pointed our skis down at about noon and skied back to camp in about 1 hour, walking only the rocky area on the high plateau. In the 2,000 foot drop, the skiing changed from icy to perfect corn. We packed up our camp and continued descending on great snow. When we finally removed our skis, we had skied more than 7,000 vertical feet. This was truly a long one, a personal record for all of us. The bushwhacking was worse on the way out since we broke through the soft patches of snow that we encountered. We arrived back at the car at 5 p.m. and were home at a reasonable hour. Peter used randonnee equipment while John and I used Karhue XCD'S.

Mt. Tom

John Moynier in his book 'Backcountry Skiing in the High Sierra', calls the ski descent of Elderberry Canyon on Mt. Tom, "simply the finest peak descent in the Sierra". When Brian Johnson and I skied it in late April, we certainly agreed.

An obvious rough dirt road leads from Rovenna toward the foot of Elderberry Canyon. This canyon is very visible from Highway 395 as one ascends the Sherwin grade. The road ends at about 6,300 feet and can possibly be managed in a passenger car. I had no problems with my VW camper but was in first gear all the way.

From the small parking spot, do not follow the old mining road which switchbacks up a snow slope to the left, as we did. Instead, follow the deep dry gully to the right which quickly reaches skiable snow. The gully widens and continues to about 10,800 feet where the Old Lambert Mine is located but we could see no sign of the mine under the snow. We climbed up steep slopes to the north ridge of Mt. Tom at about 12,000 feet. From here, one could go to the summit but it would take a long time. We were more concerned that the

snow would soften so we started down. After a few hundred feet of challenging turns at the top, we reached corn snow which continued until we were 10 minutes from the car. 5,500 vertical feet of perfect snow for skiing! And a good day of exercise as well. Brian used Kazama Outback's while I used old Dynastar downhill skis fitted with 3 pin bindings.

Basin Mountain

Basin Mountain is located just south of Mt. Tom. From Bishop, one can see the ski route, an obvious vertical line of snow ascending from the very base of the mountain to a notch just south of the summit. To reach the base of the climb, park near the Horton Lakes Trailhead at about 7,800 feet. This trailhead can be reached by taking the Buttermilk Road, which turns right from Highway 168, 7 miles west of Bishop. Secor's 'High Sierra' has good directions to the trailhead.

On the day following our Mt. Tom excursion, Brian Johnson and I slept at the trailhead and started walking at about 7:15 a.m. Snow was reached in 15 minutes and we skied continuously to the top of the snow gully at about 12,800 feet. The ski up had four distinct sections; a long mellow lower slope, a flat area where a mine was located, a steeper section, followed by the steepest section of all which led to the notch. However, the highest section was much gentler than it appeared when viewing it from the bottom. We took 2 hours to climb the 400 feet of fourth class which led to the summit (13,240 feet), descend back to the notch, and have lunch.

The ski back down was almost 5,000 feet of continuous telemarking. Some of the snow was a little heavy but still okay. We learned later in Bishop that the 'locals' believed that the run would 'corn up' better in a week or so. They are very finicky about spring skiing in Bishop!

It is very possible to set up a weekend basecamp at the Horton Lakes Trailhead and do day tours to Basin Mt. and Mt. Locke which is located just to the south. This year, this may be enough snow to do this in June.

Mt. Perkins

Several fine ski runs are located in the vicinity of Mt. Perkins. Access is via the road to the Division Creek Powerhouse which turns off Highway 395 just north of Independence. Continue past the sawmill pass trailhead to Scotty's Spring where one can park a regular car at about 6,000 feet. (A 4 wheel drive vehicle can probably go further).

Armstrong Canyon is a moderate canyon to the north which almost reaches the Sierra Crest. Spook Canyon, to the south, is a very visible vertical line of snow which extends to the top of peak 11,765, a subsidiary peak east of Mt. Perkins. This is for experts only. The route Peter Green and I skied in early May was located in between and consisted of a shallow gully which also reached the top of peak 11,765. The 15 minute Mt. Pinchot quad map shows these routes very clearly.

Unfortunately, we had to walk along the old mining road leading west from Scotty's Spring for 2,000 vertical feet before reaching snow. We did not have a 4 wheel drive! A run from the top would still have resulted in a 3,500 foot ski run. We did not go that far because of windy, icy conditions up high, but we did have a fine ski descent on a challenging slope, before walking back down to the car. Spook Canyon looked very appealing but only in perfect conditions.

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1993

SMS RCS-R

Mugelnoos

Sept. 19, 1993

Dear Andy,

Although Mugelnoos no longer covers rock climbing activities, there are still readers who remember the early days of the Rock Climbing Section. Therefore, I have written a brief article on the death of an early climber.

On August 24, 1993, Ethel Jane Pabst passed away in Alamogordo, New Mexico after a long battle with cancer. She met Bill Pabst on Sierra Club R.C.S. outings and married him in 1943. During the war and after her marriage, she maintained a home and cared for children and often accompanied Bill to practice climbs at Pacifico and Stoney Point enjoying friends and outings with the RCS. Ethel and Bill celebrated their 50th Golden Wedding Anniversary on May 15, 1993. For many summers, Ethel and Bill were host and hostess at Red Fish Lake in Idaho. Ethel was known for her vivacious and happy disposition. She kept tabs on the RCS members and seemed to know much about budding friendships and love affairs. She leaves her husband, four sons and several grandchildren.

Bill Pabst sent me an old copy of Popular Mechanics dated June 1946. The article gives examples of climber's hardware and clothing along with photos of rock climbers, Bill Pabst, Chuck Wilts and Jim Gorin. It is a wonderful article for the RCS Archives.

Ellen Wilts

FOR SALE

Black Diamond vapor barrier socks large size new, \$5; Bolle slci goggles X-500 with Irex 100 lens, will fit over eyeglasses - \$20; Excel roller slcis with Adidas binding - \$30; Kneissl track skis, 210 cm with Adidas bindings and boots size 9-10 - \$40; Rucksack - \$8; downhill ski bibs - \$15; wool hat - \$3; balaklava \$2; Ramer adjustable ski poles with powder baskets and touring grips; For these and more unlisted items, call

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