

R717 11/93

MUGELNOOS

NOVEMBER, 16, 1993

Number 706

Sierra Club Mountaineering Insurance to Return

Awesome news! The Sierra Club is about to acquire insurance that will restore traditional four-season mountaineering activities to its rich and diverse spectrum of outings opportunities. The use of ice axes and ropes/climbing gear was banned late in 1988 when insurance premiums for such outings skyrocketed following costly accident settlements. The prohibition put the Rock Climbing Section (RCS) into deep hibernation and seriously impacted the Sierra Peaks Section and many other mountaineering-oriented sections.

Credit for the mountaineering restoration, which includes 5th class rock, will belong particularly to John Edginton, chair of the Club's Insurance Committee, and to Vicki Thorpe, Insurance Risk Manager. Working quietly but aggressively for over a year, their determined efforts have finally paid off. The additional coverage will cost the Club about \$45,000 a year plus an additional annual expense of about \$15,000 to provide medical insurance for ice axe/rope trip participants (details not yet known). These costs will be shared by the Club and the chapters in the same manner as our general insurance expenses. The current plan, then, is not to partially pass these extra costs directly on to the mountaineers.

Additional requirements on just trips using ice axes/ropes will be the use of liability waivers and the need for Sierra Club membership. Club membership has always been required for membership in any Section, Group or Committee. One cannot hold Section office, vote in elections, lead or assist on outings, earn emblems, etc. unless one is a dues-paying member of the Sierra Club. Club membership is not required, of course, to subscribe to newsletters nor to participate on outings - until now. Non-Club members will not be able to participate in outings using ice axes/ropes/climbing gear. They remain welcome on other trips. The membership requirement and the medical insurance coverage reflect the Club's recognition that members are less likely to sue "their Club" than non-members, and that accident victims with adequate medical coverage are also less likely to sue.

For at least another year or so, formal fee-charged training courses, such as Basic Mountaineering Training Course (BMT) and the RCS class, will remain prohibited. Some major past accidents have occurred in training courses, and insurers remain yet shy in covering them. This does not prevent, however, the Leadership Training Committee (LTC) from conducting M and E checkoffs for rock and snow, nor does it prevent qualified leaders from conducting an ice axe/rope practice session as part of a mountaineering outing.

Credit for insurance restoration belongs also to the Club's Board of Directors for recognizing mountaineering as a high-value traditional Club activity, an activity which attracts and retains members and which feeds capable leaders into all aspects of the Club's endeavors. Credit goes as well to all of us who passionately voiced our concerns and frustrations at the loss of climbing and who patiently hung in there even when prospects

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MUGELNOOS STAFF

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 MUGELPRINTER ANDY FRIED
 MUGELMAILER PAT HOLLEMAN

NEXT MEETING

DEC. 21, 1993 7:30 PM GRIFFITH PARK RANGER STATION AUDITORIUM 4730 CRYSTAL SPRINGS DRIVE, LOS ANGELES, CA.

NEXT ISSUE: DEC. 21, 1993

ISSUE DEADLINE DEC 13, 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
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

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Insurance cont.

appeared hopelessly dim.

Details of implementing the restored mountaineering program are in process. Leader certification is one item under review. This should not be a problem for Angeles Chapter M and E rated leaders. Trips can at least tentatively be scheduled now for next spring and possibly a little sooner. No longer a Club member? Regular Sierra Club membership is available for \$35/yr for individuals (\$43 joint). Seniors, students and limited income categories are \$15/yr (\$23). Your Club membership number appears on the mailing labels of Sierra magazine and the Southern Sierran. Lori Ives, Schedule Editor, can now quickly and easily verify anyone's current membership status. (Her database is updated electronically twice a week.) Give her a call or a jot. So, sign-up or renew already!

Bill Oliver, Activities Administration Committee Chair, 11/06/93

MT. RITTER & THOUSAND ISLAND LAKE

May 29-31, 1993

On Saturday ten Ski Mountaineers met at 7:30 am at the Rush Creek trailhead on the June Lake loop. We decided to start there instead of at Mammoth since the road to Agnew's Meadow was still closed. Our group consisted of Nancy Gordon, Owen Maloy, Reed Moore, Alvin Walters, Richard Contreras, Steven Turner, Dana Pearce, Wim Burmaister, Dane Cawthon, and Reiner Stenzel. At 8:30 am we hiked up toward Agnew Lake, crossed the dam at Gem Lake, and finally skied up to the Clark Lakes where we had lunch at 1:30 p.m.. Owen's lingering cold prevented him from continuing with us and he stayed with Nancy at the Clark Lks while the rest of the group continued to Thousand Island Lke. We snow camped near the still frozen-over lake. Our expectation that the rest might catch up late in the evening or next morning did not materialize. In fact, they wisely skied out on Sunday.

On Sunday our ski tour started at 8 am. At the South end of 1000 Island Lke we ascended a saddle (3,100m) beyond which we dropped down to Genet Lke. Continuing South toward the Nydiver Lks we were confronted by a long ridge with impressive cornices. We chose the easiest-looking chute (- 40 degree slopes) at the Eastn end of the ridge which unfortunately, created a significant detour to get back to Ritter and Banner. In retrospect, we should have ascended just

below Banner which would have saved time and energy. Around noon we were at the base of Mt. Ritter. The snow was getting soft, wet avalanches were running, and we were facing a challenging 3,000' climb without ice axes, and certainly a late return. Thus, we decided on a more realistic goal, i.e. to ski the Ritter-Banner saddle and to climb Banner Peak. This turned out to be a very enjoyable tour, especially the telemarking out of the saddle to Lake Catherine and from North Glacier Pass down to 1000 Isld Lke. We thereby completed a circumnavigation of Banner Peak which looked impressive from all sides. By 6pm we were back at camp.

During the night the weather changed and on Monday, Memorial Day, we were in the midst of a significant snow storm. Route finding in whiteout without tracks became a challenge. Lightning and thunder accompanied us near the Clark Lks, and a "short cut" from the Clark Lks to Gem Lke turned into a long struggle along the Southeastern shore of Gem Lke to the dam which we had to cross. In pouring rain we hiked out. Memories of such Memorial Days at Mt. Shasta came back. When I unpacked at the car, water dripped out of my camera, thus there are no pictures from this trip. Owen and Nancy made the right decision to get out on Sunday. But except for the last day it was a fine ski tour and there are plans to go back to ski Mt. Ritter next year. Thanks to many leaders for their help, especially to Nancy who assisted in place of Howard and then took care of Owen, and our third assistant Alvin whose route finding skills were very helpful.

Reiner.

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Leather Ski Boot Care

By Al Tapia

The old saying "Take good care of your tools and your tools will take of you" is very appropriate concerning the care of your leather ski boots.

If your boots are made of leather, you must care for the leather in such a way that it will continue to perform. Leather is a natural product. While it was on the steer or cow, the animal's blood supply cleaned and nourished the leather. Now that the ownership has changed, the new owner must accept the responsibility for this cleaning and nourishing if the leather is to remain healthy.

An average pair of feet contain about 250,000 sweat glands. Together they pour out about a half pint of perspiration per day. In addition to water, the perspiration contains salts and acids. Fortunately, as you remove your socks each day, a large portion of the salts and acids deposited from the perspiration comes out with the sock. However, a portion of it stays in the linings and insoles.

To stay healthy, our boots will require daily care, occasional applications of conditioner, waterproofing and polish. At the end of the season or more often, a through cleaning and conditioning are needed.

To properly maintain your boots you will need two shoe brushes, (one for daily cleaning, one for polishing;) a stiff bristle scrub brush (a fingernail brush will do) for working the cleaners into the leather and liner; a toothbrush for cleaning and working the conditioner into crevices; wax or cream polish; leather dye; Sno-Seal wax; Lexol cleaner and Lexol conditioner; cedar boot trees and boot dryer.

Daily Care

After skiing each day, wipe or brush your boots down, rinse off any accumulated salt stains with

water and a scrub brush. Remove rocks from the boot sole and binding pin holes. Store with cedar boot trees after each ski trip.

In order to allow your shoes to dry out properly, it is recommended that you rotate your shoes and not wear the same shoes every day. It is impractical to do this with ski boots. Some methods of boot drying include the following: Never dry boots by a fire or over a heater. Such heat is potentially harmful to boots. Open up your boots, take out any footbeds, and place the boots near the ceiling where warm air rises and can slowly dry the boots. It is better to dry boots naturally even if it means putting on boots not thoroughly dry. Whenever this is impractical, such as in wet snow conditions or with boots that have thick liners, use a boot dryer.

There are several types of boot dryers on the market. Two types use either heated or room temperature air forced into the boot. Several dryers use heating elements inserted into boots which radiate low heat. Or, preferably the natural drying method described above is used followed by a dryer if the boots are still damp.

Cleaning

Keeping the leather clean is probably the biggest favor you can do for your boots. When small particles of dirt and salt are in the fibers of the leather they act like sandpaper, cutting away at the boot.

To clean the boots, moisten under warm running water, inside and out. Use a scrub brush and a cleaner such as Lexol. Do not use saddle soap that is alkaline with a high pH. A

pH balanced shampoo can be used for liners. Scrub the boots inside and out to remove the salts and acids. Rinse the leather and liners thoroughly. If your boots have footbeds remove them and the laces, wash by hand with shampoo or Woolite.

This cleaning process is only applicable to high quality boots, that are made with well tanned leathers, with leather insoles and leather heel counters. This process can and will damage lower quality boots. But for high quality footwear it will extend their life immensely.

Conditioning

When the boots are still damp from cleaning, is a good time to apply a conditioner such as Lexol. The conditioner serves to nourish the leather. During use and cleaning, the fats and oils that give softness to the leather have been depleted. The conditioner restores these life-giving materials. For older boots with leather linings, apply the conditioner inside and out. For boots with liners, apply conditioner on the outside only. Applying several light coats, allowing time for the nutrients to penetrate, will accomplish much more than one generous coat.

After the conditioner has had a day or two to soak in and dry, you can apply leather dye to scuffed areas and a cream polish to maintain the pigment in the leather. Apply a generous coat with a soft cloth and buff out. If a high gloss finish is desired use a wax polish.

Waterproofing

It is important to waterproof leather ski boots. For waterproofing use waxes only. Kiwi wax polish, which also works well as a waterproofing agent, can be used. For additional protection around stitching, use a waterproofing wax such as Sno-Seal.

The important thing to remember when using this type of product is to always remove the previous coat with a leather cleaner before applying the new coat. This will help prevent dirt from getting in the leather fibers.

Don't use waterproofings containing silicones, oils or greases (animal fats). Prolonged use of these products saturates the leather with chemicals.

A welt sealer is not recommended. These sealants can allow trapped water to get through, and making it hard to dry out. Ordinary waterproofing should be sufficient.

Boot gaiters primarily keep snow out of boot tops. Full-boot gaiters such as Black Diamond's Supergaiters, can also serve to protect the boot from ski edges and provide some warmth.

Additional Notes

How often you clean and condition your boots depends on how often you wear them and how much your feet sweat. At the end of the season clean the boots, add conditioner and store with cedar boot trees. Do not polish or waterproof until the next ski season starts. This will keep the boot leather protected over the summer (but not seal it off), allowing the leather to breath and dry the inside of the boot out completely.

With the cost of a good pair of back-country or telemark ski boots now costing from \$200 to 550, it is wise to protect your investment.

Special thanks to Kirk Haskell of Morin Custom Boots in Evergreen, Colorado; James Wilson of Wilson's Eastside Sports in Bishop, California; Bob Nagy of Kenko International, distributors of Asolo Boots; and Michael Franchot of Lexol Products.

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