

RH 3/94

MUGELNOOS

MARCH 15, 1994

Number 709



PEAR LAKE HUT, SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK L-R REINER STENZEL, RON RIZZARDI, ELENA HINDS, NANCY GORDON, STEVE HESSEN

Pear Lake Hut

Feb. 18-21, 1994

by Reiner Stenzel

The weather forecast predicted a major winter storm for this weekend and we had only four places in the hut. Thus, an initial group of 14 applicants dwindled to five at the trailhead: Nancy Gordon, Steve Hessen, Elena Hinds, Rob Rizzardi, and myself.

On Friday we picked up our permits at the Lodgepole Visitors Center, waited until the roads were plowed, and looked for one participant with car trouble. Finally, by noon we were skiing out of Wolverton on the Pear Lake trail. The sky was dark, it was snowing, and the leader had to act confidently. After following snowshoe tracks for the first two miles through the forest we had to start breaking our own trails at the steep open hillside leading up to Heather Gap. Uphill through a foot of fresh snow with full packs is "character building". We were pleasantly surprised when a group of Randonee skiers came

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THE MUGELNOOS IS A NEWSHEET PUBLISHED BY AND FOR THE SKI MOUNTAINEERS AND ROCK CLIMBING SECTIONS OF THE SIERRA CLUB'S ANGELES CHAPTER SINCE 1938. SEND SUBSCRIPTIONS AND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: PAT HOLLEMAN, 1638 6TH ST., MANHATTAN BEACH, CA. 90266. \$7 PER YEAR DUE IN OCTOBER. SUBSCRIPTION PAYMENTS ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTABLE AS CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS.

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NEXT MEETING

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

NEXT ISSUE: MAR. 15, 1994

ISSUE DEADLINE MAR. 8, 1994 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
Mar 15	Griffith Park Ranger Station	"Mount Everest" - Randy Danta
Mar 19-20	Beginners Snowcamp, Local Mts	Todd Yuen / Nancy Gordon
Mar 26	Local Mountain Ski Tour	Ken Deemer/Mark Goebel
Mar 26-27	Dunderberg Peak/Buckeye Hot Springs	R. Stenzel /P. Matulavich
Apr 2-3	Kaiser Wilderness Ski Tour	Tom Marsh/ Howard Schultz
Apr 9	Snow Creek, San Jacinto	Craig Dostie /Howard Schultz
Apr 9- 10	White Mountains Ski Tour	Owen Maloy /Eddie Nunez
Apr 16-17	Flute Pass	Ken Deemer/ Gerry Holleman
April 19	G. P Ranger Station, "Ski Traverse of the Monashees"	M. Goebel
Apr 23-24	Bodie Ghost Town Tour/ Snow Camp	K. Crandall / N. Gordon
Apr 30-May 1	Lamarck Col	Don Pies/Eddie Nunez
Apr 30-May 1	South Mount Morgan (13,748')	Scot Jamison / Larry Tidball
May 7-8	Ski Mountaineers Peak	Gerry Holleman / Paul Harris
May 14-15	Mammoth Lakes Touring	Andy Fried/ Nancy Gordon
May 14-15	Hilton Lakes Ski Camp	Scot Jamison / Larry Tidball
May 17	Griffith Park Ranger Station	Members' Favorite Slides"
May 21-22	Cloudripper Peak, Inconsolable Range	O. Maloy /T. Marsh
May 21-22	Basin Couloir and Who Knows?	Craig Dostie / N. Gordon
May 28-30	Ritter Range Ski Camp	Reiner Stenzel / Eddie Nunez
Jun 4-5	Rock Creek	Reiner Stenzel /Pete Matulavich
Jun 25-26	Mount Baldy Bash, San Antonio Ski Hut	Gordon /C.Comm.

Future skier- Brian David, born 3-6-94, Weight 8 lbs. 7 oz, to proud parents Joy and Mark Goebel

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Pear Lake cont.

down from the Hump. Their tracks were a blessing. At 3:30pm we reached the Hump. Beyond Heather Lake the pace got slower and the daylight fainter. Although we had tents for safety, the thought of a warm hut kept us going. Three stronger skiers went ahead trail-breaking on the lower avalanche safe route between Aster lake and the Hut. Continuous snowfall during the day had covered previous ski tracks and it became quite a challenge to find the Hut after darkness in heavy snowfall. After arriving at 6:30pm, I went back to assist the trailing group and by 7:30 we were all safely in the hut. Nobody else was there. Soon the wood stove was running and hot drinks and dinner revived us. Outside it was snowing heavily. This adventurous day was my birthday which we celebrated with a good wine and fondue dinner.

Saturday morning the first storm had moved out and the sky was clear. It was a winter wonderland around us. We abandoned our planned trip to the Tableland since nobody had the energy for breaking miles of trail. Instead we skied the local slopes near the hut. It was wonderful powder skiing on untouched deep snow. The only tracks we found were from a white snow hare which I once saw from close up. In the afternoon, low stratus clouds moved in from the West signaling the arrival of the second storm. Another group of skiers arrived who were locals from the Fresno area and had heard about cancellations of the otherwise booked out hut. Some camped outside which became a genuine winter experience since the colder second storm dumped about two more feet of snow between Saturday and Sunday.

On Sunday morning it was a white out with occasionally heavy snowfall. Stories of the Donner Party were told. By midday I got restless and decided to test the local slopes. Trail-breaking uphill through 2-3 feet of powder clarifies the meaning of "earn your turns". But those turns were very special: skies below the surface, dry powder parting above the knees, and the steeper the slope the better the feeling. Falling was soft, but getting up a real struggle. Powder skiing was at its best and easily rivaled that in the Selkirks. The enthusiasm caught on and by afternoon we all ventured toward "Skiers Alta", the summit north of Alta Peak. Due to returning clouds we abandoned the peak but had a wonderful run down over virgin powder slopes glittering with surface hoar. It was a superb day after a big storm.

On Monday morning, with bright sunshine and a gorgeous view from the Tablelands to the valley, we had to ski out. Again, it was trail-breaking time and careful route finding because all the slopes were heavily loaded with unsettled snow. Beyond the Hump it was virtually impossible to get up with a heavy pack from a deep hole in the powder.

Exhausted, but happy, we arrived at Wolverton where we had to shovel out the cars from 3 feet of snow. The Sequoia forest looked beautiful after a heavy winter storm. This long weekend was a great adventure with a fine group of people.

The Winds of Waterman Tour

February 12

February 12th was opening day for the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer Norway. It was also opening day for backcountry winter sports in the local mountains. A recent dump left two feet of nature's finest on Mt. Waterman for our group of eight SMS'ers and guests. Joining co-leader Paul Harris and myself were Ken Deemer, Susan Lotus, Bill Livingston, Matt Doody, Maury Dahlen and John David.

A cold blast of Arctic air from the north froze our tootsies as we skinned-up in the parking lot. Snow conditions were generally excellent—a solid base sprinkled with a layer of light powder. It was that last half an inch of wind crust on top that turned the day around. Going up was OK except for one pair of wide tele skis with 35mm skins and one with no skins at all. Paul brought extra skins and solved the no skin problem and tired arms solved the skinny skin dilemma.

Despite the wind, the mountains were sunny and definitely the place to be. We had a pleasant lunch on the summit at noon followed by an eventful descent on variable quality snow. There was just enough skiable snow in places to make us feel good and then try something stupid. Ski pole arrest and pine tree arrest were helpful at breaking falls on the icy slopes. Both Susan and myself found the latter to be most effective at stopping but the high cost of medical care made the ski pole a preferred option. John showed us the best way down with his tele jump turns (Craig Dostie where are you—we need your air time class again).

The snow keeps falling in the local mountains as I write, so benz-z-neeze and shine off those whiners complaining about another year of drought.

Don

Pics

SMS Training Camp at Keller Hut,

Jan 28-30, 1994

A recent dusting of the glorious white stuff made this a wonderful skiing weekend. Arriving at the hut about 5 P.M. Friday, I felt a surge of power as I blasted my new 4-wheel-drive Explorer up the unplowed road to unload all

the food and gear at the hut's door step, terrorizing my passenger on the black diamond drive. There is a feeling of sheer ecstasy when I'm near snow. Participants arrived throughout the evening and the next morning.

Saturday Mark purchased 42 lift tickets for our group! Holy Telemark! Is this interest exciting! Three expert PSIA (Professional Ski Instructors Association) instructors volunteered their services: Todd Yuen of Nordic Pro, Joe McCoy from Bear Mountain, and Denis Yates from Kratka Ridge and Bear Mountain. Everyone worked hard on improving his/her skill level during the day. The telemark spirit reigned supreme by the end of the day. Unfortunately, one of our participants collided with a snowboarder and injured her lower leg at the ankle. Paul Harris attended to this misfortune; and the participant, Leigh Broussard, returned to the hut with a temporary cast after being treated in San Bernardino. This is the first accident in the SMS since I've been skiing with them (7 years).

Saturday after skiing, I never experienced a more enthusiastic group. The discussions were animated, the hors d'oeuvres delicious, and the kitchen bustled with dinner preparations. After a dinner of tossed green salad, lasagna, corn, and hot garlic bread, we cleaned up the kitchen before tantalizing our palates with dessert. Craig Dostie dazzled us with his earn-your-turns skiing the backcountry slide show. Craig is the editor of "le Chronicle du Couloir," which is THE backcountry skiers magazine. I don't know about everyone else, but I had some pretty intense and amazing ski dreams that night inspired by Craig's slide show.

Sunday we had 20 skiers returned to Snow Valley for another great day on the slopes. We sure hope everyone had a great time, made some new friends, learned a little more about telemark technique, saw some improvement in their skiing, and are inspired to join us again, perhaps tackling the most challenging and rewarding activity, skiing the backcountry!

Special thanks to Mark Goebel and Paul Harris for organizing this trip.

- Nancy Gordon

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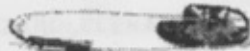
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