

RFH

MUGELNOOS

NOVEMBER, 15 1994

Number 713

YOU KNOW THE REST

I THINK THE SUN CAME OUT ONE WEEK, BUT THE CLEAR SKIES DROPPED THE TEMPERATURES TO -60 F. OTHERWISE, IT SNOWED EVERY DAY. THEY REPORTED 650 INCHES THAT WINTER. AND I GOT 118 DAYS OF PLEASURE FLOATING AND SEEMINGLY FREE FALLING THROUGH NEAR CHEST DEEP FLUFF. I FELT I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD WHAT SKIING WAS ALL ABOUT. THAT WAS JACKSON HOLE 1982. THE YEAR I BECAME ADDICTED. I BEGAN TO LUST AFTER THOSE POWDER PLUNGES AND RACED OUT AT 0700 TO CATCH THE FIRST TRAM WITH THE VILLAGE SKI PATROL TO MAKE FIRST TRACKS.

IT WASN'T UNTIL I STARTED TO HANG WITH BILL BRIGGS GREAT AMERICAN SKI SCHOOL (GASS) AT SNOW KING, THAT I LEARNED ABOUT OFF-PISTE GLORIES. I SAW TELEMARSKIS FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND WASN'T REALLY CONVINCED WHAT THEY WOULD DO FOR ME. IT LOOKED SO HARD I THOUGHT ONLY A SERIOUS MOUNTAINEER WOULD NEED TO LEARN TO USE THESE. I WAS PERFECTLY HAPPY HAULING MY ALPINE SKIS AROUND. I KNEW I COULD HANDLE THOSE STICKS ANYWHERE. THAT SEASON WAS LIKE A DREAM AND I FELL IN LOVE WITH THE WINTER MOUNTAINS. WHEN I DROVE OUT OF TOWN I KNEW MY INFATUATION WOULD BECOME AN INCREDIBLE REALITY SOMEDAY.

IT WAS A YEAR LATER IN LOS ANGELES OF ALL PLACES, THAT MY BEST FRIEND, JOY FAGERT, TOLD ME ABOUT THIS INCREDIBLE GROUP OF SKI MOUNTAINEERS THAT DO JUST WHAT I'VE BEEN DREAMING OF. BUT THOSE TELEMARSKIS... SO I BEGRUDGINGLY HOT WAXED A RARELY SKIED PAIR OF KAZAMA MOUNTAIN HIGHS HOPING THAT WOULD MAKE ME FAST ENOUGH AND DROVE TO SNOW VALLEY. THAT WAS MARCH 1, 1983, MY 29TH BIRTHDAY. THE FIRST DAY WAS A GORGEOUS CRISP SUNSHINEY DAY, BUT IT WASN'T BITTER COLD, LIKE IN WYOMING. THERE WASN'T ANY POWDER EITHER, BUT I COULD GET USED TO THIS SUN. I HAD HEARD THE SMS WAS A TOUGH GROUP TO GET IN WITH SO I WAS REAL NERVOUS. BUT YA KNOW WE TRUELY HAD A GRAND DAY. AND EVEN THOUGH I MADE MARK GOEBEL FALL WHILE TANDEM SKIING, HE STILL SIGNED ME OFF. THE NEXT DAY WAS TO BE A RACE. OH RIGHT, NOW I REALLY GET TO MAKE A FOOL OF MYSELF. BUT THE WINDY STORM BEFRIENDED ME, AND ONE BY ONE WE DISAPPEARED SOMEWHERE BEYOND THE SECOND WAND, AND NO ONE COULD WITNESS OUR CRASHES. THIS GROUP WAS HAVING A BALL IN THE MOST DISGUSTING WEATHER AND I FELT RIGHT AT HOME.

IT WAS PAUL HARRIS WHO TOOK ME UNDER HIS WING AND ON MY FIRST BACKCOUNTRY DAY TRIP WITH THE SMS INTO THE SIERRAS. AND THE NEXT SEASON TODD YUEN TOOK ME ON MY FIRST BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING ADVENTURE INTO DEVIL'S POSTPILE, AND BECAME MY MENTOR. THE REST IS HISTORY YOU KNOW. HOW MANY OF US CONVERTS HAVE THERE BEEN? THANK YOU SMS FOR ORGANIZING AND SHARING AND COACHING AND CARING FOR ME AND FOR 60 YEARS OF US.

MARCIA MALE

PHOTOS PAGE 3

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.

MUGELNOOS STAFF

EDITOR ANDY FRIED
 MUGELPRINTER ANDY FRIED
 MUGELMAILER PAT HOLLEMAN

NEXT MEETING

JAN. 17 1995 7:30 PM GRIFFITH PARK RANGER STATION AUDITORIUM 4730 CRYSTAL SPRINGS DRIVE, LOS ANGELES, CA.

NEXT ISSUE: DEC. 20, 1994

ISSUE DEADLINE DEC. 9, 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
Dec 3-4	Bear Mtn./Demo Days	N. Gordon, P. Harris, C. Dostie
Dec 10-11	Mammoth \Leader Training	O. Maloy, N. Gordon
Jan 7	Local Intro. Tour	P. Harris, W. Boge
Jan 14	XC Downhill Clinic	H. Schultz, M. Goebel
Jan 14-15	Mammoth Intro Tour	O. Maloy, N. Gordon
Jan 21	Mt. San Jacinto	P. Matulavich, R. Stenzel
Jan 27-29	SMS Training Camp	P. Harris, M. Goebel
Feb 4-5	Mammoth Ski Weekend	O. Maloy, N. Gordon
Feb 4-5	Mt. Baldy, San Antonio Hut	C. Dostie, P. Matulavich
Feb 11-12	Snowshelter Course	H. Schultz, R. Stenzel
Feb 17-19	Pear Lake Hut	R. Stenzel, E. Nunez
Feb 24-26	XC Downhill Practice	P. Harris, N. Gordon

SCHEDULED MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKERS:

December no meeting- We've all gone Skiing.

Tues Jan 17 The "E" word of Back Country Skiing, Craig Dostie will speak and show slides on aspects of ski mountaineering and some of the hot back country ski routs in the Western United States. Don't miss this opportunity to ask the editor of "Couloir" Magazine questions about equipment and locations. 7:30 PM Griffith Park Ranger Station.

Tues. Feb 21 No Skis But Plenty of Snow; Climbing Mt. McKinley, Alaska Photographer Ed Nunez will speak and show slides of his recent spring mountaineering expedition on Denali, North Americas highest Peak.

Tues. March 21 A ski Traverse of the Northern Selkirk Mountains. Mark Goebel shows slides of his spring 94 ski traverse of the Northern Selkirks in British Columbia. Now is the time to begin planning your spring trip.

Tues. April 21 Tentative: Celebrating SMS's 60th Anniversary Old Videos/ Movies/ and open slide night (Bring your 10 best ski/snow slides, prints or vidlios to show).

Ski Mountaineers Central Committee
 Chair-Ken Deemer Vice Chair- Nancy Gordon
 Outings/Safety Howard Schultz Sec.ATreas-Mark Goebel
 Programs- Dana Pearce Mugelnoos Editor- Andy Fried

Ski Mountaineer Leaders

- | | |
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| Kathy Crandall
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805 388-3984 |
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909 882-6168 |
| Scot Jamison
2517 King Way
Claremont 91711-1720
909 626-1712 | Todd Yuen
10635 Lynn Circle
Cypress 90630
714 220-2599 |

FOR SALE

Asolo boots: new, size 9 1/2, Extreme Racer, retail \$565 sell for \$250; Asolo Snowdrift, retail \$315 sell for \$175. Tua Montet with wood topsheet, Vole releasable bindings with brake, and Reva cable bindings, retail over \$700. Used 10 times, sell for \$350. Kastinger 3-pin double boots, size 10, \$80 obo. Synergy internal frame pack, \$80 obo. Bolle ski goggles X-500 with Irex 100 lens, will fit over eyeglasses - \$20; Excel roller skis with Adidas binding - \$50, obo; Kneissl track skis, 210 cm with Adidas bindings and boots size 9-10 - \$40, obo; Call Al Tapia at (818) 351-0401.

FOR SALE: STEREO SYSTEM, SKI RACK, ROOF RACK, BAG, SNOW CHAINS (CABLE0, ROSSIGNOL QUANTUM SKIS QS858LS (190), NORDICA BOOTS N781 (29.0), TENTS (2), LE ROY 213 227-4973

Marcia Memoirs cont.

My first outing with the SMS March 1-2, 1983. Race days at Snow Valley



Sunday race Day Marcia Left (#2) Joy on Right (15).



L-R Richard Smith, Paul Harris, Joy Goebel (kneeling), Pat Holleman, Gerry Holleman, Kathy Crandall, Mark Goebel, and ?

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Bonjour! Merci!

A belated Thank You to hut host Marcia Male and all of the famous revelers who hiked in the July heat up to Keller Hut for a fine going away/leaving L.A. party for me. Wonderful memories haunt me still, such as licking salt from the Mugei Chair's deltoid prior to belting prime tequila..Howard, did I really do that?

I have been studying Gerontology very hard, and am almost ready for you guys. Age on, skiers! We're gonna have fun. I am moving to Missoula in April, to marry this mountain man and to establish the SMS Angeles Chapter Montana Winter Retreat. Don't worry, those grizzly bears sleep almost all winter. Miss you guys love, Rose Lynch

Skiable Backpacks; Gregory Apollo 3136 cu in./51.38L, 5#2oz. \$150; Gregory Weekender, 1800 cu in, \$50.

Skis: Rossignol Black Widow 183cm w Voille cable Tele binding, skied 3 times, \$300; TUA Excaliber Randonee 180cm w Petzl binding, like new,\$300.

Boots: Merrill SuperComps womens 7 1/2, \$250; Merrill Tele, womens 7,\$45. Han Wag Randonee mens 6/womens 8, \$150.

Moving, Must Sell; consider trade for skating skis and boots. CALL MARCIA (310) 479-0758.

Ski Equip: X-C, Telemark, Alpine Touring, Snowboard. Asolo, Nordica, Artex, Tua, Peltonen, Dynastar, Excel, Leiki. Discount to SMS Members. Al Tapia (818) 351-0401

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- Norpine's "Learn To Turn Your Light Skis"
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Teaching Clinics

- PSIA "Level 1 Teaching" Clinic
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Annual Full Moon Dune Ski

Great Sand Dunes National Monument

Being a California transplant, I had never partaken of this crazy tradition in Colorado, but since I now have I must say that they have better sand. A

contingent of telemark instructors from Colorado Springs joins a similar minded group from Boulder each September moon to tour and ski this eerie landscape. We started our evening tour just after BBQ and sunset, so as to catch the color off the Sangre de Cristo's to the north of the Monument, and to have plenty of time to watch the moon rise. No SMS pace here. Fortunately the

wind quits at sunset, so the dunes were freshly sculpted untracked sand. The first destination was Sheik's Peak, probably a 2000 foot climb from the desert floor, with nice, steep enough bowls on two sides.

Several other bowls, slightly different each year, (that shifting sand) were tracked up good before the night was over. The temp dropped from seventy degrees to forty, and coupled with the fact that everyone was skiing, I really kept forgetting it was sand. "Conditions" varied from slope to slope, due to such factors as moisture, sun, wind, kinda like snow. Fascinating to watch was the way the surface sand softly broke bilaterally around the skis as we cut a diagonal uphill climb. You mighta had to be there for that one. It was rumored that Lemon Pledge buffed in just so, was the base treatment of choice, and that black bottomed skis were junk, but I recommend a full research study in order to be absolutely certain. One thing was clear: Craig Dostle jump turns were the technique of choice if you wanted to go anywhere. But hey, the moon was beautiful and the thighs got a much needed workout, after a summer of trips to the library.

Rose Lynch

For Sale:

Karhu Skis Supreme model 198cm \$180
Tua Skis Toute Neige 195cm slightly used \$120
Pantagonia guide Jacket red large new \$60
Featherweight shell pullover, large new \$40
Cool weather tights sz med, cool weather top sz large
\$20 ea. asst ski packs \$10-\$50. Jim (310) 547-2672

FAREWELL FROM THE KINGSLEY'S

We had no chance to bid you beloved SMS'ers goodbye, and give you our new address. Before doing that, Let me set your minds at rest in case you think we're "down the drain" in the Old Folks Home.

We Live in Whitefish, Montana. Today, Nov.,6, our Local ski hill, Big Mountain, opened up for 'Locals.. Free skiing all day. 41 of groomed powder. Only chair 2 & 3 open, a horde of 300 on 1000' of black diamond to green ball. Anna-Lisa and I tooted on up and Tele'd our buns off for 5 hours. Maybe 20% of Local skiers are on pins or Lightweight cables. Of those, 30% are in the Dostie class. Craig, CouLoir is avidly read here. The "SMS" shop carries it.

Marcia MaLe visited here in Spring, can tell you about Wish. Bad place. EspecialLy in Winter; especialLy when you begin TeLeling Nov 6. But then for a week we've skild right out the garage backdoor into the woods behind our place. Guest room: 136 MaLLard Lp, Wlfsh MT 59937, (406)862-5902

norman kingsley

Wolfgang Lert Wrote just after the last Mugelnoos went to press to say that Otto Steiner died on Sunday, October 2, 1994. Otto and wife Tunette have been living for quite a few years at Rosmoor in Walnut Creek. Craig Dostie has a vidio with Otto's reminiscences which I took two years ago.

The Burrowing Arctic Snow Snake by Betta Anon

This is a particularly good time of year to familiarize yourself with the Burrowing Arctic Snow Snake or Wigglianus verycoldi. I have the only Wigglianus in captivity that I know of; I call her "Icemam." It is truly one of the easiest animals to care for—as long as the freezer doesn't go on the fritz.

This creature was discovered on April 1, 1941, in its native habitat of northern Canada by the famous herpetologist and skier H. R. "Chic" Nerdman, a friend of Dr. Walter Mosauer, the adviser of the Ski Mountaineers Section when it was first founded November 7, 1934. Before Chic could publish his discovery, he passed away in the wilds of the Yukon, due to his mistaking a passing Timber Wolf for his faithful cocker spaniel, "Spot." Therefore, the documentation of the Burrowing Arctic Snow Snake was not discovered until April 1, 1971, by Nerdman's illegitimate son, H. P. "Running Deer" Nerdman, who brought his finding to the National Museum in West Yellowknife, Yukon Territory.

The Burrowing Arctic Snow Snake gets its name from its hunting and hiding behavior. It hangs by its tail from branches waiting for prey. The snake's translucent white coloration makes it

extremely difficult to see among the icicles. Many an unsuspecting Eskimo has come face to face with one when he broke off an icicle to make a popsicle, and instead had a wiggling snake in his hand. But this hanging behavior serves the animal well when hunting. When an unsuspecting snowshoe hare or small rodent passes, the snake plunges to the ground, impaling its prey. If the rodent is quick and the snake misses, it often buries itself several inches in the snow—thus its name.

"Icemam" came to me a few years ago when I was on a trip to Alaska. One of the locals had caught her while hunting walrus in the Bering Sea. The snake had attached herself to his canoe as it was stored upside down on the beach. The Eskimo flipped over his canoe and was surprised when one of the icicles slithered into the boat. He sold "Icemam" to me for \$4.99 and a postcard of the Hollywood sign.

"Icemam" is easy to maintain. Burrowing Arctic Snow Snakes spend most of the year hibernating in the cold north — so I just keep her in my freezer. However, come April 1, the Burrowing Arctic Snow Snakes are all on the prowl. They come out of their winter burrows and see if they can see their shadows. If they cannot, they go off looking for a mate. If they do see their shadows, they become very confused and usually go back to sleep until the following year. This behavior is believed to indicate an evolutionary link between the Burrowing Arctic Snow Snake, the groundhog, and the Capistrano swallows. Currently, the National Science Foundation is evaluating my research grant proposal to ski throughout the Canadian Rockies in pursuit of the proof of this evolutionary link to research the little known and possibly endangered Burrowing Arctic Snow Snake.

"Icemam" has yet to miss her shadow. With no potential mates within several thousand miles, I fear her dating life is as fascinating as my own. So I keep her "on ice" all year. "Icemam" seems happy and never complains. I can go away for extended periods, and she's content as long as the fridge is on. She is truly the perfect pet.

Several SMS members have alluded to a possible Sierra Snow Snake that on occasion has impeded their skiing, then obviously burrowed back into the snow before being seen. Discovering such a southernly Wigglianus would be a real triumph and almost assuredly electrify the Society of Herpetologists and the National Science Foundation. If anyone locates a specimen, which would most likely occur during the Wigglianus Spring mating season, please put it on ice and contact me via The Mugelnoos. Happy Spring skiing to all!



PHOTO PAGE 2

NORDIC PRO

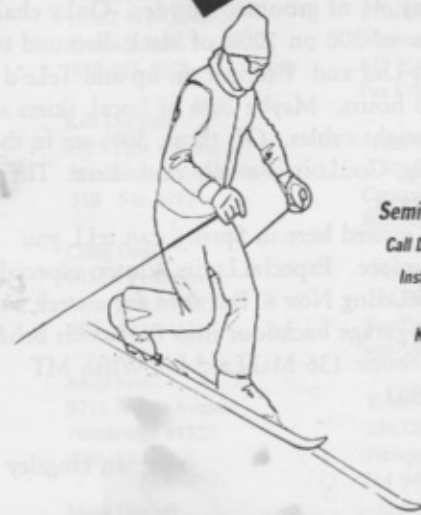
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SMS RCS-R 1994