

RLT 496



# MUGELNOOS

DECEMBER 21, 1995

Number 723

## The Eleventh Essential

Longtime SMS members are probably familiar with the ten essentials. But changing technology has made spare batteries another essential. Many skiers in the back country now carry or should carry avalanche beacons. In a very short time those on longer trips will probably want to bring along a small GPS unit as well. With units selling now for less than \$300 and about the same size as an avalanche transceiver they can provide a navigation fix in poor weather, true the fix won't be exact but it will far exceed a visual fix in a white out.

What is GPS ? The Global Position Satellites system is composed of 24+ Satellites in orbit 10,800 miles above the earth. When properly set up with unobstructed view a handheld unit will acquire the signals from several of these satellites and convert that information into latitude and longitude fix and if enough signals are acquired some units will also give elevation above sea level (note on a recent kayak trip to Catalina Island my unit consistently indicated I was 45 feet below sea level).

Marine portable receivers operate on civilian availability code. This code is subject to Selective availability imposed by the department of defense. This means that D.O.D. dithers the clocks on the satellites to degrade the signals sent to civilian relievers. What this means on the ground is that the accuracy of a 100' radius 95% of the time is degraded to 300' radius 95% of the time. 300' radius could mean 600' off position. If you are looking for a pass on a trans sierra ski tour this would certainly be acceptable.

Other civilian users with greater need of accuracy i.e. airlines and coast guard use differential radio beacons to correct for SA. This would increase the cost considerably, and be of doubtful use in the mountains.

If you are interested in learning more about GPS, I would suggest that you stop by West Marine. They have several unit for sale, and their catalog has a lot of information about the system.

Andy Fried

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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 ISSUE: JAN 16, 1996**

ISSUE DEADLINE JAN. 10, 1996 ALL PHOTOS, SLIDES, AND ARTICLES SENT TO: ANDY FRIED, MUGELNOOS EDITOR, c/o TEC GROUP, 10727 WHITE OAK AVE. SUITE # 205, GRANADA HILLS, CA 91344. 3 1/2" OR 5 1/4 " DISKS (IBM) OR AT 71237.1270@COMPUSERVE.COM. 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
Jan 6	Local Intro Tour	Paul Harris, Walt Bogue Asst.
Jan 13	XC Downhill Clinic (local mts)	Howard Schultz
Jan 20	Mt San Jacinto	Ken Deemer, Pete Matulavich
Jan 26-28	SMS Training Camp	Nonie DeSurra, P. Harris, M. Goebel
Feb 3	Mt. San Jacinto	Reiner Stenzel, Howard Schultz
Feb 3-4	Mt. Baldy, San Antonio Hut	Ken Deemer, Mark Goebel
Feb 10-11	Snowshelter Course	Reiner Stenzel, Howard Schultz
Feb 11	San Jacinto Tour & Fun Race	Ken Deemer, TBA
Feb 17-19	Rock Creek, Mosquito Flts Yurt	Reiner Stenzel, Tom Marsh
Feb 24-25	XC Downhill Clinic Keller Hut	Nancy Gordon, Paul Harris
Mar 2	Mt. Pinos-Abel Traverse	Reiner Stenzel, Howard Schultz
Mar 2-3	San Gorgonio Snow Camp-Climb	Mark Bailey, Don Pies
Mar 9-10	San Jacinto, Intro. trip Snow Camp	Ken Deemer, Don Pies
Mar 16	Local Peak Day Trip	Mark Bailey, Pete Matulavich
Mar 16-17	Rock Creek Mosquito Flts Yurt	Reiner Stenzel, Owen Maloy
Mar 22-25	White Mountains Ski Tour	Tom Marsh, Paulette Woodward
Mar 23-24	Mt. Baldy	Mark Goebel, Paul Harris
Mar 30-31	Onion Valley-Sardine Canyon	Reiner Stenzel, Howard Schultz
Apr 13-14	Pear Lake, Sequoia N.P.	Ken Deemer, Mark Goebel
April 20-21	Ski Mountaineers Peak	Gerry Holleman, Paul Harris
May 4-5	Mammoth Lakes Touring	Mark Goebel, Andy Fried
May 4-5	Elderberry Can, Mt. Tom	Ken Deemer, Reiner Stenzel
May 11-12	Hilton Lakes Ski Camp	Keith Martin, Owen Maloy
May 18-19	Mtrs Route Gully, Mt. Whitney	Reiner Stenzel, Howard Schultz
May 25-27	Horton Lakes Ski Camp	Keith Martin, Tom Marsh
May 25-27	Mt. Lassen	Reiner Stenzel, TBA
Jun 1-2	Rock Creek Ski Camp	Pete Matulavich, Reiner Stenzel

Ski Mountaineers Central Committee  
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**FOR SALE**

TIRE CHAINS CALL LeROY RUSS FOR INFORMATION (213)227-4973

**NEW SMS MEMBERS**

The following new members joined the Section during the past year:

- AL CHRISTENSEN- SEAL BEACH
- MICHAELL BRATKOWSKI- VAN NUYS
- MARCIA BURTON- SAN GABRIEL
- PETER MASON- LONG BEACH
- MARJORIE KRUEGER- MISSION VIEJO
- ALAN WADGE- CORONA

This section will contain the most current news of interest to SMS members. The monthly updates to the SMS pages will be summarized here also.

## SMS BEGINS FREE-HEELING THE INTERNET

Starting December 1995, the SMS home page was launched on the World Wide Web. The pages were authored by Mark Bailey with the helpful support of Jenny Bailey, Reiner Stenzel, Mark Goebel and Andy Fried. Dan Anderson (aka Sierra Club Internet Wizard) of the San Diego chapter was also very helpful. Special thanks goes out to Jim Guiltinan of Edge Internet for his assistance in hosting our pages.

If you like what you see, I would welcome your feedback/comments. I hope to make an update to the pages in late January with lots more good stuff to be added. Please forgive any errors, typos, misspellings, etc.... I'll clean them up ASAP. This release concentrated on content and not style/grammar. Also, spread the word on the SMS website to all your surfing/free-heeling friends.

Mark Bailey (714-379-0746)  
102045.3411@compuserve.com

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DECEMBER 1995 SMS PAGES

The initial release of the SMS pages has information for prospective, non, new and old members alike. Skiers new to the SMS will find the NEWCOMERS, EQUIPMENT, SKI TECHNIQUE and HISTORY pages most interesting. "Old" members will want to check out the SCHEDULED TRIPS, TRIP REPORTS, LIBRARY and SUMMIT LOG/TRAVEL DIRECTORY. Members are strongly encouraged to provide information to Mark Bailey for the DIRECTORY and their E-MAIL ADDRESSES. Color photos (.GIF format or prints which I may scan and return) are requested for the LIBRARY. Short articles of interest to all members are requested for publication here in the SMS NEWS.

### SMS MEMBER IS CENTERPIECE OF OFFICIAL 1996 BEAR MOUNTAIN SKI GUIDE

Congratulations to Jim Valensi who was pictured on the FUN page (pg. 17) of this year's ski guide for Bear Mountain. Jim was once again showing off some of his most fashionable headgear and the latest in eye protection from Vuarnet. Incidentally, Jim has about 50 pairs of these sunglasses for sale in this month's Mugelnoos.

We hope to have Jim's handsome mug in the January home

page update. Way to go Jim. You make the SMS proud!!!!

### 95-96 PACIFIC CREST TELEMAR SERIES

January 13-15, Bear Valley

January 21, Northstar Telebration

February 15-18, Snowbowl, Flagstaff,

March 19-24, Tahoe Telemark Festival

Any SMS members/friends interested in attending? Send Mark Bailey an e-mail if you are.

The Pacific Crest Telemark Skiing Association promotes telemark and backcountry skiing through a series of telemark event days. Events feature on and off-piste instructional clinics for all abilities, equipment demonstration opportunities, competition and great parties.

For more information write PCTSA, P.O. Box 2704, Olympic Valley, CA 96146, call 916-583-3087, fax 916-581-5487, or e-mail telemark@sierra.net

The Tahoe festival includes the US National Telemark Racing Championships, World Cup Racing, Banff Film Festival, Clinics and Demos. Racing is at all levels. The clinics are often followed by an evening of slides, and always conclude with a great party.

More details on the series will be provided here in January.

### TO FIND THE SMS HOME PAGE THE URL is :

<http://www.edgeinternet.com/skimt/>

#### Mammoth online:

<http://www.rsn.com/~mammoth> (World Wide Web)  
<http://www.aminews.com/ami> (AMI Recreation Network)  
<http://www.ccd.edu/ski.html> (Southland Ski Server)  
<http://MammothTimes.com> (Mammoth Times)

### WHITE MOUNTAIN SKI TRAVERSE (attempt)

by Rich Henke

Timing is everything on a ski tour in the White Mountains. Early in the season, high winds and very low temperatures are commonplace. Late in the season when the weather is better, there is typically not enough snow for skiing. Although I had wanted to do a complete traverse of the Whites for many years, a combination of those factors always caused prospective trips to be canceled.

It appeared that 1995, the heaviest snow year since

cont. from page 3.

1983, was the right time. We planned a late trip at the end of April, after the winter storms were gone. Heavy snow all year had left lots of white on the Whites.

On 27 April, Bryan Johnson and I left LA. and met Armando Menocal at Benton, about 40 miles northeast of Bishop. Our proposed route was to ski from south to north starting at Westguard Pass and finishing at Queen Canyon. We would ski past Bancroft Laboratory, over White Mountain (about halfway through the tour in distance), along the high 13,000 foot ridge north of White Mountain, over Montgomery Peak and Boundary Peak, and finally down a long ridge to our waiting car in Queen Canyon.

After leaving a car in Queen Canyon we drove to Westguard Pass and were able to drive 9 miles to Sierra View at 9,400 feet before reaching a locked gate. From Sierra View, we had 51 miles to ski in 4 days. We started walking along the road early the next morning and were able to start skiing after 1 1/2 miles. We skied along the road under cloudy skies with light wind conditions. The snow covered Sierras were visible to the west. They were covered with high clouds also which did not give us much confidence for good weather. That night we camped near the Patriarch Grove on the snow covered road, surrounded by bristle cone pines.

The following morning we continued towards the Bancroft Laboratory, but by the time we arrived, the winds had increased and were quite heavy. We had lunch inside the unoccupied laboratory, just to get out of the wind for a while. We continued on toward White Mountain with the winds getting progressively worse as we climbed. A gust knocked two of us to the ground simultaneously. It was clear we had to find a sheltered place to camp. We were at 13,000 feet and hoped to avoid the strong west wind by skiing around to the east side of the peak. No such luck. We encountered steep cliffs, while still in the main force of the wind. We descended several hundred feet to a very comfortable tent for 3 people, weighing less saddle east of White Mountain and found a flat spot where we thought the wind was lighter.

We pitched Bryan's 4 person, 4 season Bibler tent. This than 6 pounds. However, when Bibler called this a 4 season tent he must have excluded the White Mountain winds. An hour later as we were busily melting snow in our hanging stove, the wind gusts resumed. It was unfortunate that we did not have 4 people in the tent because that way we would have had one person to hold a pole in each of the 4 corners. With only 3 people, one of us had to hold on to 2 poles. Even with our efforts, the tent buckled as the heavy gusts hit. We estimated them at near 70 mph. Finally the wind abated somewhat, and we were able to finish

dinner. For entertainment, we read out loud, Galen Rowell's account of the first winter traverse of the Whites in 1973, a trip from north to south which took 16 days. We managed to sleep without having to sit in the corners of the tent. It snowed much of the night with 'light'winds in the 30-40 mph range. In the morning, conditions were no better; little visibility, light snow, and incessant wind. Halfway through our tour in terms of distance, we decided to retreat. We should have brought a stronger tent! Had we continued north, we would have encountered a difficult technical ridge, the crux of the trip, followed by many miles of skiing on an exposed 13,000 foot ridge. In addition, we would have had to climb over 2 high peaks, to reach our car.

The ski out was anticlimactic. As we dropped down to below 11,000 feet, the winds abated and we managed to ski 17 miles on day 3. We reached our car early on day 4 and spent the next several hours collecting our second car at Queen Canyon.

We concluded that the secret to skiing the Whites is doing it when the winds aren't blowing. What isn't clear is how to determine when this might be. Maybe 1996 won't have winter storms in the last week of April.

## TELEMARK SKIING



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**Special Events.**

- **Dec. 2 & 3** Norpine's Telemark Demo Days
- Must Pre-register - Contact Norpine Mt. Sports (619) 276-1577**
- Skilling Clinics**
- **Nov.** PSIA "Level 1 Exam Prep" Hill Clinic
- **18** PSIA "Skilling through Level 2" Hill Clinic
- **Nov.** PSIA "Level 2 Exam Prep" Hill Clinic
- **19** PSIA "Skilling through Level 1" Hill Clinic
- Must Pre-register - Contact PSIA (209) 586-1408**

**Information**

- Ski School Office (909) 585-2519, ext. 231



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The following was sent in by Bud Halley, a long time member of the SMS. Bud now lives in Whittier, Ca.

**"THE ADOLESCENT EFFERVESCENT !"**  
(HERE IS AN ADVERTISEMENT THAT BUD HALLEY SENDS IN FOR INFORMATION)

I'm in the process of writing an "oral history" primarily for personal use by family members that will be titled.....

**SIXTY YEARS OF SKIING**

From the 1995 address list I see about 10 names that would identify "The Adolescent Effervescent" as my "handle" back in the 30's. I had my 73rd birthday Nov. 12th, and God willing will still be skiing in 1987, so I'm getting a head start!

I'm sure the Ski Mountaineers must have some reviews of our history. I would like to know who made the video-tape of our early "Mt. San Antonio MÜgel-hof" movie in which Wolfgang Lert was the fox that the best skiers chased down through the pinnacles.

In the hut on June 28, 1987 we celebrated the 50th anniversary of its building. John Wedberg spent many days at the hut in these later years encouraging us to keep it maintained, and we owe him a great deal. The article that he plus Wolfgang Lert & Craig Dostie wrote for "le Chronicle du Couloir" in Jan./Feb. 1992 I have to round-out my section on skiing in the Mt. San Antonio Area, but I shall also be looking for material about "The Big Pines Ski Club", "The San Gorgonio Ski Club.", etc. as .....

**OUR BIRTH IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**  
(HERE IS A SAMPLE:)

I climbed to the hut in 1939 hooked like a stretcher-bearer to Walter Hennies with the pair of skis between us carrying a 12-volt truck battery. In those days, eligibility for membership in "The Ski Mountaineering Section of the Sierra Club" was attained by attending a Work Party and demonstrating that you could side-step, stem-turn, traverse, kick-turn, and STOP!

Bob Brinton conceived the idea of a propeller on the pine tree out front. It was something of a success, but certainly not up to the high-tech solar cells we generate with today.

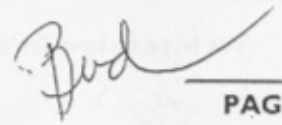
Later there were work parties to carry up 4'x8' sheets of plywood. Now there's a real challenge on a narrow 3 mile trail!

Bob plus Glen & Muir Dawson and myself were known to each other from our roots in a boys outdoor group called "Trailfinders," but I'll try to stick to "Mt. San Antonio" for now where the annual Downhill Race took place, and Friday night found some 30 skiers packed into the hut. (O, the smell of socks, pine tar, and drying mittens!) We had candlelight, a squeez box and yodeling. Besides the racers there were lots of "timers, gate-keepers, & cooks. We were disqualified if we took a shortcut through the pinnacles, and there was a gate above the timber West of the main slope. We started in the clouds near the summit and ended across from the hut.....

The "adolescent" handle has been dropped. Now I'm ...

**THE YODELER or THE VILLAGE IDIOT!**

A "70 plus" advantage is free lift tickets at Snow Valley. Who knows, Perhaps the next yodeler you hear might have a fanny pack with the name "BUD" on it....SKI HEIL !!



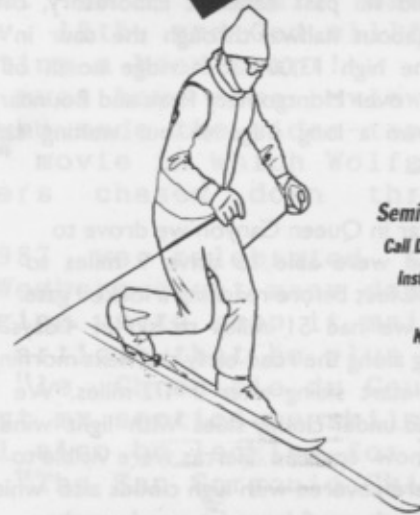


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### THE MUGELNOOS

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 SMS RCS-R 1996

