

# MUGELNOOS

NOVEMBER 19, 1996

Number 730

12/96

## Mt. Lassen and Mt. Shasta

Memorial Day Weekend, May 25-27, 1996.

by Reiner Stenzel

Ten telemarkers from various parts of California converged to Lassen Park for a weekend of skiing. These were Pete Yamagata from Sacramento, Richard Contreras from Mountain View, Reed Moore from San Diego, Peter Mason via Mammoth, and from the Los Angeles area Pat and Gerry Holleman, Diann Fried, Pete Matulavich, Eddie Nunez, and myself. On Sat we met at Emigrant Pass (6,446') where the northern park road was closed. The goal was to ski the Northeastern slopes of Lassen Peak (10,457') which had excellent snow coverage. We started at about 11 am, hiked for 30min through the forested area near the road, and then skinned up above a creek at the base of the Devastated Area (6,800'). We ascended the broad NE gully which got progressively steeper as we approached the summit. After traversing to the right we skied up the North ridge to the summit plateau. There were a few hot spots on this active volcano where snow, mud and steam mixed. Some volcanic rocks were heavily rimed producing a bizarre landscape. In the afternoon the earlier winds had calmed down, the sky was dark blue, and the view of Mt. Shasta in the Northwest was spectacular. After everybody had climbed the summit block we prepared for our 4pm ski descent. We traversed/kickstepped the hard, steep upper slope until we reached the central sun-filled NE gully. From then



Sargents

Ridge

Route

cont. pg 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.

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**MEETINGS**

3RD TUES EACH MONTH NOV. THRU MAY EXCEPT DEC. 7:30 PM GRIFFITH PARK RANGER STATION AUDITORIUM 4730 CRYSTAL SPRINGS DRIVE, LOS ANGELES, CA.

**NEXT ISSUE: DEC. 21, 1997**

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**UPCOMING TRIPS:**

Date	Location	Leaders / Program
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**See Insert**

Non SMS ski trips run through Orange County Singles, Led by SMS member Keith Martin. Call for more information and costs. (310) 316-2860

Feb 13-17	Thur-Mon	Ostrander Hut Yosemite
Feb 28-Mar 2	Fri-Sun	Mammoth Tour
April 4-7	Fri-Mon	Tuolumne Mdwys Tioga Pass Lodge Trip

**UPCOMING MUGELNOOS PROGRAMS**

Dec.	No Meeting
Jan. 21	Demo and tips on what gear to take to the back country, and how to avoid the heavy pack syndrome.
Feb 18	Avalanche Safety and awareness.

**For Sale**

Tua Escape S (backcountry waxless), 210cm, used 5 times, w/ Asolo tele-bindings \$195. Tua Trans Alp (wide Tele ski), 197cm (84-64-74), new unmounted \$165. Fischer Country Crown, 210cm, w/ Asolo tele-bindings \$45. Leki Super Extreme 3-section poles with or without self arrest grip \$70. Leki HI-TEC alpine poles with cork grip 50 or 48 inch. New \$65. Al Tapia (805) 242-2205

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**BALDY HUT READY FOR WINTER**

The October 5th. and 6th. work party was attended by about 30 hard working volunteers, including SMSers Ken Deemer, Don Pies, Diane Fried, Peter Mason, Mark Goebel, and Pete Matulavich. Thanks to everyone's help, the basement is now full of firewood, the area in front of the Hut has been enlarged, new stove pipes installed, and other general maintenance work completed. The Hut, originally built by the Ski Mountaineers in the 1930s, is now maintained by Sierra Club members for use by all Club members. The next work party will be in June.

**SMS ULR**

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

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 IF SO PLEASE SEND IT TO PAT HOLLEMAN.

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on it was a telemarker's heaven: over 3,000 vertical feet and several miles of spring snow in wide open terrain. The fun was only limited by the strength of the legs. And that was needed since further down the snow got deep and the snakes were waiting at each turn. The group was stretched out with Reed in the lead and Pete Y. doing the sweep. After regrouping at the bottom and hiking the last 30min through the forest we were back at the cars by about 6:30pm.

Due to the good weather and snow we became ambitious and decided to ski Mt. Shasta the next day. So we drove to Shasta City, joined for a late dinner in town, and finally arrived at Bunny Flat by midnight. Only four of us (Reed, Pete M., Diann, and myself) were willing to get up by 4am for the summit assault. The rest slept well to enjoy a more leisurely ski day. By dawn we ascended the Green Butte Ridge Route. Pete and Diann later descended into the Avalanch Gully while Reed and I continued up the Sargents Ridge Route. This was a fine mountaineering route with >45deg slopes. At the Red Banks we joined the standard route via Misery Hill and skied up close to the summit block. After 8.5 hours and 7,000' higher Reed and I stood on the summit of Mt. Shasta (14,162'). We enjoyed the views and talked to climbers while ominous dark clouds began to billow in the South. It was time to get off this exposed mountain. By 2pm we skied down the crusty slopes of the upper mountain, then dropped over the Red Banks into Avalanch Gully which had superb corn snow down to Helen Lake. There the weather caught up with us. Thick clouds sank down, it started to snow and we were in a dense whiteout. The skiing slowed down dramatically as we had to feel our way down in the uniform, white environment. Staying closely in sight and following hikers' tracks down Avalanch Gully we made it to the Sierra Club Hut. Thunder accompanied us on the way back to Bunny Flat. Around 4:30pm we were back at the cars, and then the weather turned really nasty with heavy rain and lightning. Later, we heard that somebody died that night on the North face of Mt. Shasta.

The other participants enjoyed their skiing in Avalanch Gully and escaped before the weather turned bad. After a farewell dinner in town we all dispersed on our ways home. My carpool with Diann, Pete, and Eddie drove a few hours South to the Sacramento River where we spent the night in my VW bus in a spectacular thunderstorm. On

Memorial Day we leisurely cruised home. It took a few days to recover from this 11,000' ski weekend, but the memories of a great ski adventure with fine friends remain.



**HILTON LAKES SKI CAMP INTRO-TRIP**

MAY 11-12, 1996

by Keith Martin, Leader

At 7am Saturday Morning, thirteen eager skiers met at Tom's Place Cafe to chow down on last minute carbos, coffee and other essentials. By 8am we were on the road, driving on dry asphalt to trailhead parking below the corrals next to Rock Creek Lake. Large patches of snow were still visible, but so were large patches of non-snow. After posing for pretrip photos, We proceeded undaunted, skis on our backs, along the Hilton Creek Trail. The first two miles consisted of picking out the trail between the patches of snow. After two hours we reached where the trail bends to the right. It appeared that unbroken snow awaited us.

Skinning Up, spirits were raised with an easy ski up to the pass, where we were rewarded with bright sun, a dry rock for lunch, and glorious views. By 1pm we were

traversing the slope just south of the eastern Hilton Creek Lake. By 2pm we were camped by this lake, a grand snow kitchen being constructed by the participants. We then played on a favorable slope within a quarter mile of camp, practicing tele-turns and tumbles. As night descended, good cheer was enjoyed at the snow kitchen, while a fiery sunset painted the western skies above Mount Stanford.

Sunday morning again dawned bright, clear and sunny. We skied past Lake 10363 and up the chute north of Mount Huntington. Catching our breaths, we were then rewarded with an over 500 foot decent down creamy sun warmed corn. The ecstasy on the faces of all the participants promised a new crop of Ski Mountaineering Afficionados. We returned to camp finding the south side of Lake 10363 easier than the north side we traversed earlier. By 1pm we were retracing our path over the pass towards Rock Creek. We opted to stay high, traversing the 10300 foot contour until we reached the drainage out of Patricia Lake. Continuous snow validated the choice. Reaching the gully out of Patricia Lake, we descended to the trail, running out of skiable snow below the 10200 foot level. Re-grouping at the intersection of the Hilton Lakes Trail and the steep switchbacks up from the road next to Rock Creek Lodge, we hiked back the mile and a half to the cars, everyone ready for the return trip home by 5pm.

Thanks to Owen Maloy; Assistant Leader, Pete Yamagata; group photographer, and participants: Chris Best, Fred Nicolet, David Alabran, Tani Barbour, Julie Smith-Meek, Scott Meek Michael Dodson, Paulette Woodward, Gary Landers and Mark Ives. Thanks also to

the mountain high pressure system which gave us warm days, calm nights and intense sunburn to every square inch of unprotected flesh.



## Bear Mountain Telemark and Free-Heel Ski Games Series

**January 26**

**February 23**

Clinics • All Levels • 2 Hours

Equipment Demonstration Opportunities

Fun and Wild Competitions

Synchronized Skiing Contest

Skinning Climbing Race

Dual GS Race • Tele and Free-heel Divisions

Awards Party • Prize Drawing

**March 22 - 23 Spring Tele Festival**

Add • Uphill Downhill Race • Costume Skiing Contest

**For a change of pace, a challenge, and lots of fun, come to the games**

Morning Clinics \$25.00

Registration \$50.00 (includes Lift Ticket)

Late Fee on entries not postmarked 7 days

or faxed 2 days before event date.

For more information or to register call or write:

Telemark Program



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P.O. Box 6812 • Big Bear Lake, CA 92315-6812  
909-585-2519 ext 348 • Fax 909-585-6805

## Bear Mountain Tele Events

**Dec. 7-8 • Norpine's Telemark Demo Days**

Must Pre-register with Norpine (819) 278-1577

**Jan. 12 • Norpine's "Learn to Turn" Sunday**

Must Pre-register with Norpine (819) 278-1577

**Jan. 25-26 • SMS Tele Training Camp**

Pre-register with SMS. Stay at Keller Hut

**Jan. 26 • Telemark & Free-heel Ski Games**

Clinics, demos, fun races, awards party, prize drawing

Pre-register with Bear Mt. Tele program

**Feb. 22-23 • SMS Tele Practice**

Pre-register with SMS. Stay at Keller Hut

**Feb. 23 • Telemark & Free-heel Ski Games**

Clinics, demos, fun races, awards party, prize drawing

Pre-register with Bear Mt. Tele program

**Mar. 22-23 • Spring Tele Festival**

Clinics, demos, fun races, awards party, prize drawing

Pre-register with Bear Mt. Tele program

For more information or to register call or write:

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Photo by Keith Martin: Telescope peak and unknown hikers in the background. In foreground: from left to right: Gwen Hembrock (sitting), Tom Marsh (sitting), Paulette Woodward (standing), Ron Hall (kneeling), Gary Landers (standing).

## TELESCOPE PEAK, aka HORTON LAKES SKI CAMP

Memorial Day Weekend, 1996  
by Keith Martin, Leader

It was late on Thursday Night. The weather prediction was for storms over the Sierra. Tom, my assistant, and I had spent too many Memorial Days sitting in tents by some high Sierran Lake. We decided not to repeat the experience. When informed of the decision, Paulette Woodward was exasperated, here we had a whole Memorial Day Weekend, we couldn't just do nothing! And so was born another Ski Mountaineering Section hike of Telescope Peak.

Saturday afternoon we grouped at the Wildrose Campground in Death Valley. In separate groups, we had spent the time exploring the sights along the way to our meeting place. Some explored Skidoo and Trona Pinnacles while others climbed Wildrose Peak. In the small hamlet of Balarat the store owner offered alien skulls (which looked very much like Jack Rabbits) and Beef Jerky fresh off the cow. Telescope Peak was well dusted with snow. A posted report on the camp bulletin board warned of dangerous and icy conditions suitable only for experienced mountaineers. After a second reading, I realized it was posted in May of 1995. A talk with the ranger encouraged us to stick with our plans, he expected mostly clear conditions With snow drifts not exceeding two feet.

Sunday morning dawned clear and breezy. Mahogany Flats trailhead was full of parked cars. The

first several miles were on clear trail. We found some drifts as we traversed around Bennet Peak. Just north of Telescope, but several parties of hikers were ahead of us, and a good path was stomped down through the snow. The saddle between the peaks was clear. As we approached Telescope, we initially tried to follow the winter trail along the north ridge. We quickly realized that the summer trail, to the east side of the ridge, was clear enough to hike. The combination of warming temperatures and hikers ahead, made for an easy and enjoyable ascent to the top. The wind stopped blowing long enough for us to savor our lunch and the views of the Sierra to the West and Death Valley to the east. The long hike back was uneventful, the trail being nearly clear from the day's sun and traffic. We took our time returning to camp, enjoying the long sunfilled day, and exploring the charcoal kilns next to the road. An extended happy hour and dinner finished off the adventure back at Wildrose campground, as we were entertained by a group of boy scouts getting stranded midway up a rocky slope across the road from camp. The last straggler was coaxed down by the combined efforts of excited dads and the ranger.

Monday we went our separate ways. Some opted for an early return home. Others spent the day enjoying the Unseasonably mild temperatures in Death Valley, exploring the sights around the Sand Dunes, Golden Canyon and Furnace Creek.

Thanks to Tom Marsh; Assistant Leader, and participants: Gwen Hembrock, Ron Hall, Paulette Woodward and Gary Landers.

**BOOK REVIEW** by Keith Martin  
**THE PERFECT ART:**

**The Ostrander Hut and Ski Touring in Yosemite.**

If you have ever been to Ostrander, plan to go to Ostrander, or just like to sit by your fire and dream about Ostrander, then this is the book for you. Written by Howard Weamer, the hut caretaker since 1974, it is an intimate view of this unique edifice which could be written by no other person. Howard mixes a respect for history, a flair for poetry and a mastery of photography to create a rare collection of written and visual art.

Throughout this first portion of the book, Howard has liberally filled the pages with many historical photographs and graphics.

The second portion of the book departs from the historical style and enters into the realm of poetry in prose. Ostensibly a selection of entries from the hut log mixed with photography, the result becomes a magical combination of word and photo essay which gives the reader insight into the intoxication that comes from spending over 20 winters at Ostrander.

I was surprised, after finishing the book, that a work put together in the most professional of styles was self published. It is truly a work of love. It is available in soft cover from the Yosemite association for \$24.95 plus tax and shipping. You can order over the phone at 209-379-2646 and can charge it to a major credit card. I suspect that there are only a limited number of books published, so don't delay your order if you want to get yours. Please don't ask to borrow mine.

The book is divided into two sections. The first section follows the history of skiing in Yosemite starting with the completion of the all weather highway from Wawona in 1926. Tracing the changing desires of the Park Service, Sierra Club, Curry Company and National Ski Association, Howard gives the reader insight into the forces which formed winter skiing as we know it now in California and led to the construction of the Ostrander Hut.

Howard records the everyday history of the hut, from the initial plans prepared in 1940 through the construction and operation of the hut in the present day.

**THE MUGELNOOS**

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**TIME to RENEW for 1997!!**  
Richard L Henke  
652 Marine Ave.  
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SMS RCS-R 1996

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## Ski Mountaineers Section

Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club, Founded 1934

1996-97 Schedule

Are you a strong XC or downhill skier with interest in back country skiing? Come ski with the SKI MOUNTAINEERS in the local mountains and the Sierra Nevada. Most trips require at least intermediate downhill ability and metal-edged skis with touring bindings, climbing skins, and some involve backpacking and snow camping. Contact leaders or Sierra Club Angeles Chapter schedule for additional information. If you have not skied with us before, we ask that you first come to an Introductory Tour. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month November through May (except December). Updated trip info, club activities and links to other backcountry sites may be found at the SMS Internet site: <http://www.edgeinternet.com/skimt>.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Leaders</u>
Dec 7-8	Norpine / Bear Mtn Demo Days *	N/A *
Jan 18	Local Tour	Paul Harris / Walt Boge
Jan 24 -26	Downhill Clinic: Keller / Bear Mtn	Paul Harris / Nancy Gordon
Feb 1	Local Tour	Mark Goebel / Ken Deemer
Feb 8	Mt. San Jacinto	Pete Matulevich / TBA
Feb 15-17	San Bernardino Ridge	Reiner Stenzel / TBA
Feb 21-23	Keller Hut: downhill practice	Nancy Gordon / Paul Harris
Mar 8-9	Mt. San Jacinto tour and snow camp	Reiner Stenzel / Ken Deemer
Mar 22-24	Mt. Bago-Kearsarge Pass	Reiner Stenzel / Tom Marsh
Mar 22-23	Mt. Baldy, San Antonio Hut	Ken Deemer / Mark Goebel
Apr 5-6	Avalanche Safety - Mammoth area	Andy Fried / Owen Maloy
Apr 12-15	Virginia Lake - Twin Lake	Tom Marsh / Keith Martin
Apr 19-20	Palisade Glacier tour	Mark Goebel / Gerry Holleman
Apr 19-20	Wahoo Gullies	Reiner Stenzel / TBA
Apr 26-May 4	Trans Sierra: Cirque Crest	R. J. Secor / Reiner Stenzel
May 3-4	Ski Mountaineers Peak	Gerry Holleman / Paul Harris
May 10-11	Horton Lakes	Keith Martin / Owen Maloy
May 10-12	Mt. Williamson	Reiner Stenzel / TBA
May 17-18	Basin Mtn Couloir	Don Pies / Ken Deemer
May 24-26	Matterhorn Peak - Sawtooth Ridge	Reiner Stenzel / TBA
May 31-Jun 1	Rock Creek Ski Camp	Pete Matulavich / Ken Deemer

\* Not a Sierra Club event. Contact Norpine (619) 276-1577 or Bear Mtn (909) 585-2517 for info and reservations

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