

# MUGELNOOS

DECEMBER 24, 1996

Number 731



## Sonora Pass, June 2, 1996

For the third year in a row, we went back to Sonora Pass. Again we skied into Blue Canyon from the ridge from the pass, and we decided this is a dumb way to go; it is two miles farther than going up Blue Canyon itself, and there is a lot of gain and loss, without any real downhill to make up for it. It took us several hours to get in and only about 45 minutes to get out, even though we had to sidestep a steep narrow chute and ski a bunch of suncups to reach a safe stream crossing (a real problem here). If you climb up directly from the pass, ski the bowl to the east. You can also ski the McKay Creek bowl next farther east, but you may have to work to get around Sardine Falls.

There are several wonderful bowls in Blue Canyon we haven't explored yet. The snow was heavier than it was last year in July, being earlier, but there wasn't quite as much of it. The participants were Pete Yamagata, Kathy Crandall, Joe McCoy, Alpine Clinician Bruce Colbert from Mammoth, and Owen Maloy. See the photos showing the tigers ready for the climb and Kathy and Joe making their exit from Leavitt Bowl, which we left well tracked up. Another skier was pursued down from the highest point by a wet snow sluff. He said: "Darn thing kept following me." So much for worrying about avalanches.

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

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

ISSUE DEADLINE JAN 21, 1997. 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:

Table with 3 columns: Date, Location, Leaders / Program. Lists various ski and mountaineering trips with dates and locations.

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.

SMS ULR

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

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Agent for Progress Owen Maloy Mugelnoos Editor- Andy Fried
Mugelnoos Mailer Pat Holleman

Ski Mountaineer Leaders

- Mark Bailey 12612 Fieldstone Lane #73 Garden Grove, 92645 (714) 379-0746
Walt Boge 13260 Cumpston Street Van Nuys 91401 818 781-4576
Ken Deemer 1725 Pine Avenue Manhattan Beach 90266 (310)546-4012H (310)587-3390 W
Nonie De Surra 188 E Pine Ave. Costa Mesa,92627-2831 (714) 646-0758 (714)631-4834 W
Andy Fried 9218 Jellico Avenue Northridge 91324 818 993-1891
Mark Goebel 9522 Innsbruck Drive Huntington Beach 92646 714 963-9384
Nancy Gordon 6550 Ellenvue Avenue West Hills 91307 818 884-8065
Paul Harris PO Box 70765 Pasadena 91117 818 577-4800
Gerry and Pat Holleman 1638 6th Street Manhattan Beach 90266 310 374-4654

LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSE AVAILABLE

Registration is underway for the Angeles Chapter's Leadership Training Course, a program to prepare Chapter members to become qualified Sierra Club outings leaders. The course begins with an all-day seminar to be held at Griffith Park on Saturday, April 5,1997. All applicants must be Sierra Club members and have participated in at least five club hikes or trips.

Club members wishing to enroll in the course should send a stamped, self-addressed business-size envelope to Alice Danta, LTC Registrar, 17561 Medford Avenue, Tustin, CA 92680-1950. Completed application forms must be returned to the Registrar not later than March 22,1997.

DO YOU HAVE AN E-MAIL ADDRESS? WANT IT PUBLISHED SO OTHER SMS'ERS CAN FIND YOU? IF SO PLEASE SEND IT TO PAT HOLLEMAN.

**Follow Up to 'Avalanche Beacons Versus Common Sense'**

In my article in Mugelnoos 729, I asked if anyone had any statistics concerning the odds of being found alive in an avalanche when wearing a beacon. Peter Green recently gave me some data. His understanding is that about 1/2 of avalanche victims are killed by the impact of the avalanche, not from suffocation. This makes it even more desirable to avoid an avalanche rather than trust that you will be found if you are buried since 50% of the time, success is really no success.

Peter also had some data from Ski Patrol Magazine which discussed 19 buried avalanche victims in the U.S. in 1991-1992. It is unclear whether this represents all the avalanche victims that year.

**METHOD OF LOCATION**

	FOUND DEAD	FOUND ALIVE
Beacon	7	0
Probe	4	0
Visual	3	3
Dog	0	1
Sound	0	1

It is sobering to see that none of the 11 victims that were found by a beacon or probe were alive.

Finally, R.J. Secor suggests if you wear a beacon, you might encourage people to dig more enthusiastically since the high cost of a beacon makes it a valuable find, independent of the state of the victim!

Any more data out there?

Rich Henke



815 Fred's Place  
 Box 176  
 Gardnerville, NV  
 89410  
 (702) 782-3047

Dave Beck has a new catalog of classes out, write to the above address for more info.





### 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



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 (619) 276-1577  
Jan. 12 • Norpine's "Learn to Turn" Sunday  
Must Pre-register with Norpine (619) 276-1577  
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

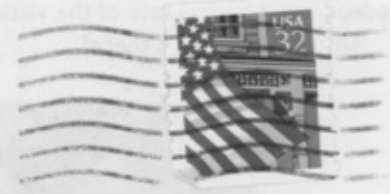
Mar. 22-23 • Spring Tele Festival  
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### THE MUGELNOOS

Pat Holleman  
1638 6th St.  
Manhattan Beach, Ca 90266



Richard L. Henke  
652 Marine Ave.  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266  
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**Telemark and Free-heel Ski Games Series • January 26 • February 23 • March 22-23 Spring Tele Festival** • Bear Mountain Ski Resort is hosting a series of telemark and free-heel skiing events that has something for everyone interested in the sport. It is an opportunity for people to get together, share in a sport they enjoy, meet other telemarkers, and have fun. Each event date will feature morning clinics for all levels, equipment demonstration opportunities, afternoon wild and fun competitions [Dual GS race: Expert and Novice classifications for men and women, compete in one of two divisions, Telemark (penalty for non telemark turns) or Free-heel Downhill (any turn legal), a Synchronized Skiing contest, a Skinning Climbing contest], a post race awards party, prizes for top finishers in each class, and a prize drawing for all participants. The March event will be a two day Spring Festival that will have more zany and imaginative games [an Uphill Downhill race, a Costume skiing contest, and who knows what else]. **To help support and encourage nordic skiing in Southern California** the following organizations shall be given one dollar each for each person registered: Special Olympics -- Nordic • Adaptive Ski School -- Bear Mountain • Southern California Nordic Ski Patrol. For more information or to register call or write: Bear Mountain Ski Resort • Telemark Program • P.O. Box 6812 • Big Bear Lake, CA 92315-6812 • Phone 909-585-2517 Ext. 348 • Fax 909-585-6805.

The **Southern California Nordic Ski Patrol** has been named again as the No. 1 Nordic Ski Patrol in the Nation, first named in 1993, for their search and rescue work. They patrol Mt. Pinos and other popular backcountry ski areas in Southern California on weekends and holidays during the ski season. They are now recruiting, for more information contact: Larry Acord • 310-459-8045 • Fax 310-391-6278.

**WANTED: Reward offered by the Backcountry Fun Police** • Rumor has it that somewhere in the San Bernardino Mountain there is a very active tele program offering free-heel downhill clinics by a gang of certified instructors seven days a week, has tele rentals, and is organizing free-heel events. Some say the clinics were fun, they may be making better and more turns, and many are now enjoying more challenging slopes and handling difficult snow conditions better. This must stop before it gets out of control! It could be addictive -- too much fun, increases noise levels -- too much laughter and shouts of joy, and mar virgin snow and slopes with long continuous tracks -- too many turns. If you locate the gang's hideout, please do not tell others and notify your local backcountry fun police. Gang members are armed with too much information that they are too willing to share, be careful when approaching them.

**Urmias Franosch** was chosen to be the western division representative to the National PSIA (Professional Ski Instructors of America) Nordic Demonstration Team last spring. He is a ski instructor at Mammoth Mountain and trains ski instructors for the Marine's. Look for him when skiing slopes on or around Mammoth.

Congratulations to the following newly certified PSIA Nordic Downhill Instructors. Level 1: **Jeff Alger, Tani Barbour, Eric Klosterman, Owen Maloy, Bob Meador.** Level 2: **Craig Allsberry, Nancy Gordon, Mike Howard, Steve Chin.** Level 3: **Craig Albright and Jack Copeland.** Most are Sierra Club members and some are leaders. Other members attended various skiing or teaching improvement clinics that are held during the season. This season we also hope to offer some track and skating clinics in the local mountains. For more information call: Joseph McCoy (909-585-2517 ext. 348) • Dennis Yates (213-874-4148) • Any instructor on the list.

Skiing magazine (Sept. '96) has come out with their second annual listing of America's best skiing instructors -- with a bonus roster of extraordinary teachers for children. **Joseph McCoy** of Bear Mountain was listed among the tops for kids. He is probably the only instructor on the list that teaches all his lessons (Alpine, Nordic, and Adaptive) on telemark equipment. Most of his children clientele are four years old and under or are adaptive. He also teaches the parents how to ski and ski-talk with their children so they will enjoy skiing together. You do not have to be a child to take a lesson with Joseph, he does teach grown-ups and free-heel skiing. Rumor and legend have it that he **taught a gorilla to ski**, a mountain tele gorilla named George, who has been spotted skiing the slopes of the western states and in New Zealand since the early 80's. Many people claim to have pictures of him either in their group photo or skiing. Groups of Japanese tourists took several hundred pictures of him or his cousin skiing the Tasman Glacier in New Zealand. See if you can get a picture of George this season. He wears a black and red kamikaze headband with a PSIA instructor badge pinned to it, a colorful shirt that sometimes hold a baby gorilla along for the ride, mirrored sunglasses, and skis on free-heel skis.

**Telemark rentals** will now be available this season at Bear Mountain Ski Resort, Big Bear Lake, CA. Rentals consist of 35 pair of Scarpa's new T3 boots (all sizes), 25 pair of Dynastar Vertical Extreme tele skis, and Voile cable bindings. Tele rentals will be offered in ski packages (Lift ticket • Lesson • Equipment). New also this season; telemark skis have been added to the on-slope Dynastar Test Center. You can demo both tele and alpine skis.

**Scarpa's New T3 Tele Boot** • This is how Black Diamond describes their new boot: "This extremely light, all plastic boot is appropriate for all traditional leather boot aficionados. Weighing two pounds less per pair than the T2, the T3 is very soft in flex, at the toes and at the cuff, for excellent "walkability". Completely dry and waterproof, NO break-in time (seriously)." We demoed this boot last spring, were very pleased with it, and recommend you try it. This boot will be made two full sizes smaller

than previously available (down to about woman's size 4) which will make those with small feet very happy. Sizes: 21/2 through 12. Note: the sizes listed are not U.S. sizes. Subtract 1 to 2 1/2 sizes off your normal size before ordering. Proper fit in a plastic boot is very important because if your boot is too big your toes may get crunched, boot will try to flex behind toes making that area sore from pressure, and you will get heel-lift and maybe blisters. Remember, a plastic boot has a predetermined toe flex and will only flex at that point unlike a leather boot. Many people are skiing in boots that are too big. Consult a shop with a good boot fitter to determine the size that's most appropriate for your specific needs. Rent or demo if possible before you buy. Take advantage of events that have demo gear, try skiing with thinner socks, and make a point of skiing boots sized smaller than usual. It may make your feet happy, improve your turns, and make skiing more fun.

**Attention Trip Leaders** • Planning an outing to the ski slope this season? Then take advantage the group rates offered by Bear Mountain Ski Resort; available to groups of 20 or more, not available during holiday periods, and requires a 7-day advance purchase. Reduced rates on lift tickets, lessons, rentals, and ski packages. Lower rates Sunday-Friday and a special lift ticket price (\$25.00) for Early Season (opening thru 12/20) and Late Season (3/17 thru closing). For assistance call 909-585-2519 Ext. 220.

**Norpine's Telemark Demo Days • Dec. 7-8 • Bear Mountain, CA** • Join telemark skiers from all over Southern California (and beyond) for a weekend of free-heel merriment on skis, boots and poles from Telemark's best equipment manufacturers. Registration fee include your lift and demo tickets, a telemark 'mini-lesson' with the Bear Mtn. Telemark Staff, a chance to win 'big game' tele prizes, and almost more fun than you can stand. Call Norpine (619-276-1577) before the demo weekend for reservations.

**Looking for some Tele skis?** Goldsmith's in Big Bear is selling off last year Tele rentals which have very little wear and tear. Bindings are Voile -- 3 pin with cable. Skis are either Atomic ATC 80/60/70 or Kazama Outback and one pair of Tele Comp 2 -- 207. Cost -- **\$225.00** -- skis and binding -- ready to ski.. Call Linda and Fred Goldsmith at 909-866-2728.

**--Dennis Yates and Joseph McCoy**  
Tele Instructors -- Bear Mountain, CA  
Free your heels, ski any and everywhere