

Mount Waterman Tour - February 1, 1997

Even though warm rains had pelted our local mountains the previous weekend, sufficient snow remained to allow an enjoyable tour for 12 skiers up and down Mt. Waterman's east ridge; although some careful route finding and quick turns were required to avoid obstacles. Fortunately, freezing temperatures had returned to preserve the remaining snow, but of course the surface was now like concrete for much of day except in the direct sun. We were lucky in that it was also a fairly warm day so that most of our down slopes were on softer snow.

The summit was reached in good time, and following an early lunch we attempted to ski down the southern slopes of the peak, but after only a few 100 feet we were halted by insufficient snow and too many obstacles, Returning to the peak, we then skied the east ridge, staying on the crest until it ends. There we reached the top of a semi cleared slope of what was once a small downhill area. This provides a very nice downhill run (intermediate level) of about 600 feet, and an excellent opportunity for skiers to demonstrate their skills, The run ends just above the start of the tour, On this day, the snow was so nice that everyone took a second run on the upper slope before the final few turns which were very slick and icy,

Thank you to Pete Matulavich who assisted me on this tour, and for the following participants: Jim Valensi, Ken Kerner, Ken Wolff, Felix B., Mike Bratkowski, Keith Himes, Mike McDermitt, David Baron, Floyd Spangler, and Kevin Mikels,

Submitted by- Mark Goebel

Mt. Waterman: Yet Again (a Local Tour)

On January 18th Walter Boge and I led another of our annual expeditions to Mt-Waterman. This year it wasn't raining and there was actual snow on the ground. Waterman is one of my favorite places to ski, locally. It can offer some remarkable skiing: remarkably good, remarkably bad and remarkably mediocre. Often on the same day.

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MUGELNOOS STAFF

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ANDY FRIED ANDY FRIED 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: MARCH 18, 1997

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UPCOMING TRIPS:

Date	Location	Leaders / Program
	Thirty La Co., Got., Brit?	harden ew energe
Feb 21-23	Keller Hut: downhill practice	Nancy Gordon / Paul H
Mar 8-9	Mt. San Jacinto tour/snow camp	
Mar 22-24	Mt. Bago-Kearsarge Pass	Reiner Stenzel /Tom Ma
Mar 22-23	Mt. Baldy, San Antonio Hut	Ken Deemer/ Mark Goel
Apr 5-6	Avalanche Safety - Mammoth	Andy Fried/ Owen Maloy
Apr 12-15	Virginia Lake - Twin Lake	Tom Marsh /Keith Martin
Apr 19-20	Palisade Glacier tour	Mark Goebel/ Gerry Holler
Apr 19-20	Wahoo Gullies	Reiner Stenzel / TBA
Apr 26-M 4	Trans Sierra: Cirque Crest	R. J. Secor/ Reiner Ster
May 3-4	Ski Mountaineers Peak	Gerry Holleman / Paul Ha
May 10-11	Horton Lakes	Keith Martin / Owen M.
May 10-12	Mt. Williamson	Reiner Stenzel / TBA
May 17-18	Basin Mtn Couloir	Don Pies / Ken Deemer
May 24-26	Matterhorn Pk/Sawtooth Rdg	Reiner Stenzel / TBA

May 31-J 1 Rock Creek Ski Camp

cy Gordon / Paul Harris er Stenzel / Ken Deemer er Stenzel/Tom Marsh Deemer/ Mark Goebel Fried/ Owen Maloy Marsh /Keith Martin Goebel/ Gerry Holleman er Stenzel / TBA Secor/ Reiner Stenzel Holleman / Paul Harris Martin / Owen Maloy

r Stenzel / TBA Pies / Ken Deemer Reiner Stenzel / TBA Pete Matulavich / Ken Deemer

UPCOMING MUGELNOOS PROGRAMS

SMS WEB PAGE

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

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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.

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.

SMS STORE

We have the following items currently in stock. Ortovox Avalanche Transceivers \$184.03 tax inc. model F1 focus 457 khz. SMS patches \$2.00, Pins \$3.00 Contact Mark Goebel (714) 963-9384 (evenings).

cont. from page 1

We had picked a marvelous day; clear skies, warm enough but not hot and no wind. The snow was excellent for uphill skiing and although plentiful, not yet consolidated after a couple of nice storms, hiding smaller obstacles but not always giving a ride over them.

After a leisurely lunch on the peak with excellent company, spent discussing sea-kayaking, long-distance swimming and the Ma(ine Corps, we skied back down through variable snow.

Partaking of and adding to the pleasures of the day were some who had skied with us before: Tani Barbour, Teresa Thompson, Mike McDermift, Keith Himes and some new to my acquaintance, Felix Betschardt, Rebecca Milici, Richard Geist and Ron Geiger.

Felix offered the suggestion that the skiing would be improved if we, like the Swiss, would only do away with trees. One should also note that Mr. Boge seems to have abandoned many of the Old Ways. I saw him using climbing skins and rumor has it that he possesses boots with buckles.

My thanks to all the participants for making it a fine trip and especially to Walter.

- Paul Harris

SMS Downhill Clinic, 1-25-97

This year we conducted our annual Downhill clinic on a somewhat different basis than we have in the recent past, holding it at Bear Mountain Ski Area and having the instructors in their Free-heel Program run the clinics, with every expectation of having quality rentals available on site - Scarpa T3s and Dynastar Vertical Extremes.

Organizationally it was a little too exciting. (and those of you who know me at all know that "organized" is not one of the top ten adjectives that will come to mind.) The decision was made in late summer because of the exigencies imposed by the Chapter Schedule. In the intervening time, the ownership of Bear Mtn had changed, the original terms changed four times, and the suppliers of the rental boots were not able to quite fulfill promises made. (the number of rental boots available grew in the week before the event from 8 to 18 pairs but no really small sizes). Of skis there were plenty.

The weather played its part for our week-end, having snowed enough to block the drive at Keller

which had been shoveled out just enough so that 4 or 5 cars could manage to park each other in.

Snow Valley again graciously allowed us to park in their lot over night (specific permission has to be obtained). As an aside this is a marvelous area for Telemarking, especially after a good storm.

Waking up to rain, but intrepid as always we got off to Bear Mountain (a couple of people weenied out, but skied the next day when conditions were almost a bad). The weather all day was the same. Rain at the bottom of the mountain, snow and wind at the top. "Full Conditions", in the words of the Great Goebelski. BUT, the bad weather gave us wonderfully ski-able snow instead of the typical Southern California pseudo-glacier. Restored my faith in Goretex. If you believe, it won't leak.

When we got to the mountain things were well organized; rentals tickets, group assignments. Our clinic was run in conjunction with a Womens Clinic, sponsored by the ski area, an opportunity of which most of the women in our group took advantage. The instructors for the various groups were Joe McCoy, Dennis Yates and Nancy Gordon and Jeff Alger from Bear Mtn, Dale that hot woman skier from Copper Mtn. (yes, I forgot her last name), and Urmas Franosch from Mammoth Mtn. The generalized experience of the day seemed to be: brains got filled to over-flowing and bodies followed as best they could. But a good, fruitful day.

By dark Keller Hut was filled with tired people, wet clothes. The fires were going. (Reiner, by changing the paradigm got the dining room fire to burn without smoking.) Joy and Diann were presiding over the kitchen. Dinner was the usual mix, good food, good conversation, too much dessert, which is of course just enough. After dinner we were entertained by the Ad Hoc Guitar Quartet, Dennis, Bruce White, George and Urmas. They are very good musicians.

Personally, I had a great time, deconstructed my skiing, met a lot of very enjoyable people, and, happily, a lot of the regulars staggered out again.

I would especially like to thank both Diann Fried for all her invaluable help over the weekend and Joy Goebel for doing a wonderful job in organizing the food and getting it to the table.

Sunday several of us took part in the first of the Bear Mtn Free Heel -Telemark Events. The weather was much better. That is, it quit raining at the bottom of the mountain in the afternoon, although it kept on snowing lightly at the top.

Besides getting a bunch of stuff in a day-pack and a tee shirt and actually winning something at a drawing (not unfortunately one of the snow-boards), it was a lot of genuine fun, a whole bunch of telemarkers out having a good time intimidating snow boarders with our numbers. One could make a stately progress through a truly genteel race course, no DQ's, no Death by Donga. There was synchronized skiing, at least some of us were synchronized some of the time, an up-hill skinning race, (I took a gentlemanly last, some people to their apparent regret took this all too seriously). Reed More cheated. Just ask anyone. The day was capped by Dennis Yates leading us around the mountain: ("There's some really bad snow over here", "If we ski over there we can drop 10 feet over a little cliff straight down to a flat road" or "Lets monotele down this frozen junk"). Then back to the barn for the food and the drawing. A grand day.

- Paul Harris

"Allen & Mike's Really Cool Backcountry Ski Book"

A Review by Michael Bratkowski

(Disclaimer: This bit o' literary fluff (the review, of course) contains the occasional bit o' Eubonics (sic) so please don't show it to a school teacher or board of education. Thanks.)

Okay, so the title of this little tome sounds like the beginning of another ôBill and Tedö flick, but other than a rather wordy title, Allen O'Bannon and Mike Clelland have come up with a great book. Weighing in at only one hundred and fourteen pages, it Æs not quite ôMountaineering: Freedom of the Hillsö, so don't go looking for a great deal of depth in the subject matter (Allen admits this in the introduction to the book and throughout it.). But if you/Ere looking for a refreshing change from the usual clinical (zzzzzzzz!snore!) rendering of the basics, you've come to the right place. From cover to cover, Mike Clelland's illustrations are wonderful, chock full of humour, intelligence and instruction. When I first picked up 'Really Cool', I read it like a comic book due to the fact that there is so much information in the drawings and captions. It reminded me of the John Muir book, "How to keep your Volkswagon Bug alive". And no, I don't mean 'that" John Muir, either.

The underlying theme of "Really Cool" is "do-it-yer-self". If given a choice, the boys always choose the cheap (or should I say inexpensive?) and simple way. Duct tape, vegetable tins, string, bailing wire and electrical tape. This definitely ain't no techie book. It's about the basics: how to have fun, be safe, stay warm and build a 'rilly bitchin' snow kitchen! But seriously, folks, I found

"Really Cool" to be full of vital and informative bits on avalanches, hypothermia, drying gear, snow shelters, bladder relief and search work. No massive insights about the big subjects, but lots of small ideas that save time, energy and allow you to get one more run down the hill in before the sun sets. Such tidbits include: ôanother V.B. (vapour barrier) fact: your feet'll stink...BAD! And they'll be PRUNEY!" or "Stuff a Bandana in yer goggles on those long up hills... This'll keep'em from FOGGING!" and, lastly, "By placing a pot of water down a hole in the snow and then covering it with a block of snow or some bags, you can keep it from freezing into a solid block of ice." Yep, it's not all yuks and giggles, they do cover some good stuff. Thank god, I'd hate to think that a young klister-head like myself would have to go through life eating burnt snow! For a translation of the above sentence, please see:

"Allen and Mike's Really Cool Backcountry Ski Book"
By Allen O'Bannon (words) & Mike Clelland (pictures)
Published by Chockstone Press
P.O. Box 3505
Evergreen, CO. 80439
(as of 2/1/97, I found it at Wilson's Eastside Sports in
Bishop and at REI in Northridge for about \$12.95)
and for the truly desperate: ISBN 1-57540-076-6

march 29,3

1997 Mountain Fest' Bigger & Better Than Ever
To: All Media Interested in Eastern Sierra Activities

Wilson's Eastside Sports of Bishop again is presenting a weekend festival of mountain films and activities. Highlights again are the most recent picks of the annual Eagle Creek-Baniff Festival of Mountain Films, and clinics on skiing, climbing and more by expert mountain guides.

This year the Banff Festival screening has been expanded to two Nights of award- winning films on mountain adventures and mountain cultures, with different features on Friday March 28 and Saturday March 29. Both nights will be at the Bishop High School auditorium, with an admission of \$10. Skills clinics will run in the field during Saturday, the 29th and Sunday the 30th, and participants can choose from basic rock climbing, belaying, snow climbing, ski touring, avalanche awareness, a snow, cave picnic, and packing for adventure travel. Additionally, on Saturday the 29th, climbing shoe manufacturers will be in the field to demo their latest lines, and Range of Light Productions will be screening the best of locally produced mountian sport videos. All activities with a fee include donations to benefit the Inyo Council for the Arts. For more information, contact Wilson's at (619) 873-7520.

Subject: For the Echo/Sage/Mugelnoos: Outings Committee Meetings

Meeting of Sierra Club Outings Committees, El Paso, Texas, Jan 31-Feb 1, 1997

Since the reorganization of the Sierra Club in 1994, outings policy is set by national committees which report directly to the Board of Directors.

Previouly, this function was performed by the Sierra Club Council. The umbrella committee is the Outdoor Activities Governance Committee (OAGC),

chaired by Susan Heitman, Angeles Chapter. Subordinate committees are responsible for national outings, inner city outings, and local outings. Local outings are under the Group and Chapter Outing Committee (GCOC), chaired by Rich Schiebel, Lone Star Chapter.

These committees met in El Paso on January 31 (OAGC) and February I (GCOC). The members are sensitive to the grass-roots nature of the Club and are interested in the opinions and input of outings leaders. The GCOC members are all outings leaders themselves, either national or local, and have all served as outings chairs. The GCOC meets in a different part of the country each time. So far it has met in San Francisco, Boulder, St. Louis, and El Paso. I have suggested Harwood Lodge for a future meeting.

The Club's outings program is extraordinarily diverse. The GCOC estimated that 200,000 people participate in group and chapter outings each year. One often hears that only the Angeles Chapter has outings sections, but this is quite wrong. Most California chapters have several sections. In other chapters, the sections may be attached to large regional groups (it wouldn't make much sense to have a chapter section for all of Texas!). I have been impressed by the awareness of leadership training and safety issues and by the friendliness of the members I've met. It is wrong to think that the national club is insensitive to outings issues. Two members of the Board of Directors attend these committee meetings.

It's fun to visit the Club's Web page at www.sierraclub.org. From there one can travel to all chapters and many groups and sections, with more pages being added all the time. One source of problems in the past was the hierarchial nature of the Club. A bulletin sent to a chapter was unlikely to get to all the leaders. Angeles is better off than most, since the Safety Committee maintains a list of all the chapter's leaders. In most other chapters the regional groups are widely separated geographically and run their own independent outings programs.

To help improve communications, the GCOC has a newsletter and an email discussion list. Any leader can get the newsletter. Call Cathy Benton at the Club's San Francisco office, 415-977-5652 or email her at cathy.benton@sfsierra.sierraclub.org. Cathy is the staff member in the Outings Department whose job it is to support these committees and also answer questions about insurance and so on. She is also the Regional Lodge Manager. A lot of work.

Those who have email can subscribe to the outings leader's list on the Club's email server. Each group and section should have at least one person who monitors this list, OA-GC-OUTINGS-LEADERS@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG. To do this, send an email message (no subject required)

SUBSCRIBE OA-GC-OUTINGS-LEADERS to LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG.

By monitoring the questions on this list, we can figure out what policies are unclear. An example is the first-aid requirement, which is being clarified because there have been many questions. The Club requires that leaders have current first aid knowledge, but not any particular current card. A mountaineering medicine seminar is preferable to a low-level Red Cross card. Many chapters and groups, including Angeles, have more specific first-aid requirements tailored to the activities they sponsor.

The GCOC has been simplifying or eliminating some of the clubwide policies which affect chapter outings. For example, the Board is being asked to rescind the ban on chapter outings over 10 days. Once the rules are cleaned up, the committee plans to help develop more outings where there aren't many.

Restricted mountaineering trips are reviewed by the Mountaineering Oversight Committee, chaired by Cal French of the San Gorgonio Chapter. Cal is a member of GCOC. This committee was part of the Insurance Committee, but has now been moved to OAGC. The Club definitely wants to see more mountaineering trips, including rock climbing. So far, the SPS has run most of the restricted trips in the Club. Cal is currently working on simplifying the review and approval process.

Owen Maloy Member, Group and Chapter Outing Committee jom@qnet.com

Web Page Revised

Mark Bailey moved to Seattle, so Owen Maloy and Ken Deemer have taken over the spinning of the SMS World Wide Web page (actually,many pages). The pages have FEBRUARY 18, 1997 Number 73

been revised following Mark's basic plan. We added some art, many trip writeups and photos, the text of the ski tests, and a summary of the bylaws and safety policy.

The URL (address) is http://www.edgeinternet.com/skimt/. Yes, those are forward slashes; this is Unix, not DOS. What does all this mean? "http" is a program (hypertext transfer protocol) that runs on a computer under the Unix operating system. The part after the double slashes is the name of this computer. The "skimt" part is the name of our directory. If you use "dps," "hps," or "sps" instead you will get the pages for those sections.

To view these pages you need a web browser and a modem. The leading browser is Netscape Navigator. The performance of the latest version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (Mac 3.0) was much worse when viewing these pages. Services such as Compuserve and America On-line have similar browsers. On some browsers you can set the font for display. Some fonts are much more readable on a screen than others. The pages were developed using 10-point Lucida Casual.

There is also a slide show that you can get to from the home page. This show currently contains some of the same pictures you can see in the trip reports. The slide show is accessible from the Angeles Chapter home page (http://www.edginternet.com/angeles/).

Those who haven't surfed the Sierra Club web will be pleasantly surprised. The Club home page is at http://www.sierraclub.org. It is very attractive, and you can get from there to any chapter, group, or section that has a web page.

Publishing on the web has several advantages. In the first place, it is in color. The pictures look better. Also, it is very easy to update and change.

Reports may be submitted by mail or email (email greatly preferred) to Owen Maloy (jom.qnet.com), or to Andy Fried (for the 'Noos).

If you can, submit text by email (text file); scanned text has to be hand-corrected. If you wrote it on your computer with a word-processor anyway, why bother with a printed copy?

Writeups for the Web should be one-paragraph abstracts, much shorter than for the Mugelnoos. The Web is a visual medium. People are paying by the hour to use it, so they won't read long writeups. You are also writing for people who are not members and just want to know what we do; they are not necessarily interested in what restaurant good ol' Bob and Sally went to in Lodi (unless they, too are "stuck in Lodi again"). People do want to

know what route was used to ski a mountain and how hard it was, but it is the pictures that carry the message.

For the Web, scan photographs and submit by email or on floppy disk, either IBM or Mac 3.5 inch. A floppy disk holds only a few small pictures, and can get damaged in the mail. It is better to scan the negative or slide than a print. Kinko's, Thrifty, and Kodak (through any photo shop) provide scanning services.

Scanning photos onto CDROM (service provided by Kodak and others) provides best resolution. A Kodak PhotoCD contains up to 100 photos in five sizes, scanned with very high resolution. For 35mm, these go from 192 x 128 to 3072 x 2048 pixels. It takes a serious computer to play with the large sizes!

Sending the raw file in the format the scanner produces (usually TIFF, or PICT for a Mac) is OK for the Web. We compress these to about 384 pixels wide x 256 high, using GIF compression. This works best if the original has lots of color depth (16-bit or better). While some browsers can display other formats, the process is somewhat hokey at present.

The compressed file will be sent to Andy for the 'Noos. We can also do video capture from a camcorder tape.

Owen Maloy

PSIA Nordic "Fall" Symposium - Northstar, Jan 6-8, 1997

Again this event was held in the winter, because in December Mammoth was open but Northstar wasn't. A number of SMS members and leaders attended.

For those who haven't skied Northstar, it is a very attractive resort in a north-facing bowl off the road from Lake Tahoe to Truckee. There are 12 chairs and an excellent balance of terrain and sun exposure.

One clinic used video for skiing analysis. One run through the trees in ungroomed snow made everybody feel that their skiing had completely degenerated, a not uncommon feeling in the backcountry. Yet the video looked fine. Maybe we are better than we think.

One of the attendees was Mellen Colberg, who works at the Sierra Club Hut on Mt. Shasta. Mellen says they need help with the hut's systems,in the form of both work parties and money. Perhaps the SMS and the other ski sections can help. Those who participated in the many clinics were Tani Barbour, Nonie deSurra, Owen Maloy, Joe McCoy, Bob Meador, Virgil Talbott, and Todd Yuen.

Dennis Yates spent all three days in bed with a cold, after driving 500 miles from Big Bear.

Owen Maloy

US 395 Washed Away in Walker Canyon

As a result of the tremendous rainstorm over New Year's, the West Walker River totally destroyed seven miles of US 395 in the canyon between Sonora Junction and Walker. The Mountaingate Lodge in Walker no longer exists; people were lucky to get out alive. A number of people are homeless. According to Mono County Supervisor Andrea Mead Lawrence (of Olympic fame), damage in Mono County amounted to \$38 million. The damage in the Lake Tahoe and Central Valley areas was even more severe.

To get to Reno, take the Smith Valley cutoff. Turn east on CA 182 at the south end of Bridgeport and drive to Wellington, NV. The road then returns to US 395 north of Topaz Lake. The West Walker goes under the highway in Wellington, but the bridge was not washed out.

Replacement of the highway is urgent because the communities of Walker, Coleville, and Topaz, as well as the Topaz Lake Casino in Nevada, depend upon it for tourism.

But there are some questions. The highway has been destroyed five times since the 1920's. The severity of the flood is alleged to be partly due to overgrazing in the Pickel Meadows area. If the road is rerouted (requiring a Federal-State right-of-way transfer) replacement will not happen as quickly, but then the road would be safe from flooding and the West Walker could be declared a Wild and Scenic River, ideal for rafting: a new industry for Mono County.

Please write Andrea Lawrence at P.O. Box 43, Mammoth Lakes, CA, 93546 immediately with your comments so that she can have some backup from highway users to bring to the Board of Supervisors. CalTrans is already going full speed, so there's not much time.

Owen Maloy

Owen Maloy (jom@qnet.com)





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Bear Mountain Tele Events

Jan. 25 • Ski With A Demo Team Member Clinic Women Clinics: Tele mark- Alpine - Snowboard

Pre-register with Bear Mt. Tele program

Jan. 25-26 • SMS Tele Training Camp

Pre-register with SMS. Stay at Keller Hut

Jan. 26 · Telemark and Free-heel Ski Games

Clinics, demos, fun races, awards party, prize drawing Pre-register with Bear Mt. Tele program

Feb. 22 · Ski With A Demo Team Member Clinic Women Clinics: Telemark - Alpine - Snowboard

Pre-register with Bear Mt. Tele program
Feb. 22-23 · SMS Tele Practice
Pre-register with SMS. Stay at Keller Hut

Feb. 23 · Telemark and 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:

Bear Mountain Ski Resort-Telemark Program

P.O. Box 6812 • Big Bear Lake, CA 92315-6812

909-585-2519 ext 348 • Fax 909-585-6805

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