

MUGELNOOS

APRIL 15, 1997

Number 735



KEARSARGE PASS - Mt. BAGO

Mar. 22-24, 1997.

by Reiner Stenzel

Our first scheduled Sierra trip this season turned out to be great fun. We were 7 skiers, Ken Deemer, R.J. Secor, David Kaye, Don Ralphs, Mike Rector, and myself. On Sat 7:30am we met at Gray's Mdw Cpgd, organized our gear and drove up the Onion Valley road past a road block at Seven Pines. Unfortunately, just after the Sardine Canyon turnoff, at about 7,300', an avalanche left an impassible 6' snowbank on the otherwise clear road. Wearing comfortable tennis shoes and ski gear on the back we walked up the winding road to the parking lot (9,200'), arriving at 10 am. Now the ski trip really started. We ascended to Little Pothole and made our lunch break above Gilbert Lake. It was warm and sunny. We stayed on the South facing corn snow slopes and passed Flower, Heart and Pothole Lake arriving at Kearsarge Pass (11,810') at 3 pm. The view to the West was superb: A vast white mountain range, a true Sierra Nevada. After a few steps down the upper rocky trail we hit snow again and enjoyed a nearly 1,000' ski run down to the Kearsarge Lakes

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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 DEDUCTIBLE 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: APRIL 15, 1997

ISSUE DEADLINE APR. 11, 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:

Date	Location	Leaders / Program
Apr 19-20	Palisade Glacier tour	Mark Goebel/ Gerry Holleman
Apr 19-20	Wahoo Gullies	Reiner Stenzel / TBA
Apr 26-M 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 Pk/Sawtooth Rdg	Reiner Stenzel / TBA
May 31-J 1	Rock Creek Ski Camp	Pete Matulavich / Ken Deemer

NEW MEMBERS

Floyd Spangler	Anaheim
R. Matt Doody	Lancaster
Dennis Landin	Glendale
Don Ralphs	Pacific Palisades
Ken Kerner	Canyon Country
Bahram Manahedgi	Los Angeles

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.**

Trip Leaders: If you have led a trip and not submitted an article to Mugelnoos, Please do so. Our members want to know what our club is doing.

SMS STORE

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

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(10,900'). At 4 pm we set up basecamp. The Chouinard Pyramid took a bit longer to set up than the pitching tents. Dinner was prepared at a community kitchen. In the evening clouds rolled in from the West and there was an ominous red sunset and ring around the full moon.

On Sun we skied out by 8:45 am. R.J. signed out to climb University Peak and six skiers headed for Mt. Bago (11,870') SW of Charlotte Lake. It was a quick ski run down to and across frozen Bullfrog Lake (10,600'). There we skinned up to ascend Mt. Bago along its Northern slope and ridge. Clouds billowed by 10 am and it was not obvious whether they or we would reach the summit first. The upper ridge to the Northern peak involved some tricky sidestepping/climbing. We stayed at a respectful distance from the large cornices along the ridge. By 11 am we summited, ate lunch, and then the first graupel shower came down. After a careful retreat on sastrugi snow we were ready to drop down into the East facing Bago bowl. It is a large version of our Baldy bowl and it was filled with the best spring snow the Sierra has to offer. Last summer when I hiked the John Muir trail it was my dream to ski it and now, 6 months later, it came true. But the weather rapidly deteriorated. Clouds were sinking, thunder could be heard in the East, and it snowed steadily. By 3 pm we were back at the basecamp, weather proofed our tents and had an early dinner in the snow. There was no sign of R.J. which raised our concern by the time it got dark. Contingency plans were made, flashlights and whistles activated, and a quick search started. Luckily, a tired skier was discovered in the darkness. His comment to climbing University Peak in a snowstorm: "It was hell!" Later that night we enjoyed to watch the lunar eclipse through openings in the clouds.

Monday morning was clear and cold. We packed and skied by 9 am reaching Kearsarge Pass at 10 am. After a last view of the Great Western Divide we started our descent to the East. The corn snow was so inviting that we telemarked nearly down into Pothole Lake. Then we carved turns in the fine bowl North of Heat Lake. One corn snow slope followed another one, until we were at the parking lot around 11:30 am. After some bushwhacking over avalanche debris we continued skiing for another mile along the creek. Finally, the fun came to an end with an hour walk down the road. Everyone left safely at 2 pm, tired but satisfied with a fine ski mountaineering adventure. Special thanks to Ken for offering lead assistance in the last moment.

ROBERT KENNETH BRINTON

1915-1996 Robert Brinton was a pioneer California rock climber and skier with a contagious

enthusiasm and a sprightly sense of humor. Robert Brinton was born in Los Angeles January 9, 1915. As a boy he was active with the Trailfinders led by Harry C. James. At the age of eleven Bob climbed Mount San Geronio, the highest point in Southern California. He attended Los Angeles High School and UCLA and was employed by General Petroleum for five years. He was part of a small group that skied in the winter and rock climbed in the summer. He was a leader with Walter Mosauer and George Bauwens in the formation of the Ski Mountaineers Section of the Sierra Club. He named the Ski Mountaineer news sheet the "Mugelnoos". He was on a number of ski touring trips in the High Sierra including crossing the Whitney-Russell pass on skis. In 1936 with James Smith, Bob was one of the discoverers of Tahquitz Rock as a climbing area. His first ascents included the Trough, Piton Pooper and Fingertip Traverse. He gave the names of many of the climbs such as the From Bad Traverse. In the same year he skied on Mount Rainier with Wolfgang Lert. On September 5, 1937 Bob made the first ascent of the East Buttress of Mount Whitney. In 1938 he was in British Columbia climbing Bugaboo Spire, and in Zion National Park going through the Narrows of the Virgin River and making a first ascent of the Sentinel. World War II scattered the Sierra Club skiers and climbers. Robert Brinton worked for the National Defense Research Council at Northwestern University, the University of Southern California and did field research in Panama, Australia and New Guinea. Through the Ski Mountaineers Section of the Sierra Club he met Mary Mies whom he married in 1946. There are three daughters, Donna Brinton of Los Angeles, Louise Brinton of Washington, D.C. and husband Kevin Adams, and Laurel Brinton of Vancouver, Canada and her husband Ralph Brands, and two granddaughters, Elsie Adams and Monica Brands. In 1948 Robert Brinton received his Ph.D. in chemistry from UCLA and accepted a faculty position in the chemistry department at University of California Davis. He taught introductory chemistry and physical chemistry and his primary research interests were in photo chemistry and gas phase reactions. Bob and Mary spent sabbatical years in Ottawa, Canada with a National Research Council of Canada Fellowship from 1954 to 1955, in Stuttgart, Germany with a Guggenheim Fellowship from 1961 to 1962 and in Cambridge, England from 1971 to 1972. He retired in 1976 but kept his office at Davis and the Brintons traveled extensively in Switzerland and elsewhere. Robert Brinton died on December 9, 1996 in Davis at the age of 81. The Robert K. and Mary M. Brinton Chemistry Department Graduate Student Loan Fund has been established at the University of California, Davis. Glen Dawson 4/7/97

Membership Notes

From the Jan 97 membership file I found that the SMS now has 303 voting members. After an argument about Nordic vs Alpine skis in 1979 there were only 80 or so. For the record, the SMS does not care what kind of skis a skier uses, as long as they are likely to work in the backcountry and the skier knows how to use them.

However, there are 80 people who only subscribe and are not actually members. Many of you have qualified for membership by surviving an SMS tour, but may not know how to actually join. You need to be a Sierra Club member and have toured with the SMS. Get the tour leader to sign a card that says you can ski at the 4th class level, and then get the leader or another member to sponsor you by signing the card. Add your Sierra Club number and send the card to the SMS Secretary (currently Mark Goebel). If you never had such a card, send Mark a sase to get one. It doesn't cost anything because you already subscribe to the 'Noos. No point in paying for something without the benefits. We'd love to have you.

Owen Maloy

Better Glove System

Instead of the regular Alpine leather glove I have been using "windstopper" fleece gloves for a couple of years. These have a Goretex layer inside. They seem to be about as warm, and of course they don't get water-soaked in the spring.

These gloves are fairly loose and should be warmer with a polypro liner. Tight leather or Thinsulate gloves often seem to be colder when a liner is used (blocks the air space). I thought the Goretex/Thinsulate gloves would be a big improvement over leather, especially in the backcountry, but they are stiff and not very warm.

Here's what I am trying as a serious glove system: Polypro or similar liners, fleece windstopper gloves, fleece overmitts, nylon overmitts.

Owen Maloy

Owen Maloy (jom@qnet.com)



Steve Hessen: Basecamp near Kearsarge Lakes, Kearsarge Pinnacles in background.

SAN GORGONIO "Poopout Hill" and "The Downhill!"

As "Ski Mountaineers" WILDERNESS IS OUR HERITAGE, and long before we skied San Gorgonio small and farsighted groups went to Washington, D.C. to see that a law was passed to forever keep the elevations above 8000' on this mountain exactly as God created it Today, from the top of the Snow Summit lift you can see our mountain's "Big Draw." Longingly developers sought to "develop" this area. In the early 40's we left the Barton Flats road and carried packs & skis the 8 miles to the course for one of the most dramatic downhills you can imagine.

There was no Jenks Lake Road nor the spur from it that ends at "Poopout Hill." The downhill finish gate was at the foot of "Christmas Tree Hill" at the head of "Southfork Meadow." There was no groomed or packed course with guard fence and hay bails such as you see on T.V. There was no Austrian Army to sidestep the course after a new snowfall such as I saw at the "Hanenkamm" in Kitzbuhl in 1958. What was there?

We sidestepped individual lines down through the gullies and tightly spaced lodgepole pines that began at the foot of the "Little Draw". From its crest we left at one minute intervals for the one mile schuss to the trees. Somehow we survived!

There was also "The San Gorgonio Ski Club", and there was a crawl-in "Edelweiss Hut." Until after World War II when the Forest Service was directed to enforce the no-building restrictions of the Wilderness Act, ; otherwise, we slept out, and equipment wasn't of the quality that it is today.

The attack on Pearl Harbor took place on the Sunday I was hiking out from a practice run for the downhill. Little did I know that soon I would be commissioned in the infantry and report to the "10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION AT CAMP HALE." (Actually it was only the 87th Regiment at the time, and we were being used as "guinea pigs" to test equipment and maneuvers for mountain warfare at 10,000 to 14,000 feet.) Our teachers were the elite of the skiing world. They were a hand-picked battalion that had seen action in the Aleutians following their time at Mt. Rainier and Ft. Lewis. John Jay in his book "Ski Down The Years" has many detailed accounts of this group and several other historical settings of U.S. Skiing. I was only with "The 10th" during training. My destiny was the beaches of Normandy, and of the three times I have had my legs broken, combat gets credit for #1.

After receiving my disability retirement in 1945, I figured "That's it for skiing." Nevertheless, Margie & I were newlyweds and part of our time was spent at the Sierra Club's "Clair Tappan Lodge" at Donner Summit. From the setting of my broken femur my right leg is short, so I put a block of wood under the heel and gave the old boards a try. O Happy Day! I could ski Mt. Lincoln and with the aid of special boots made by a friend in Innsbruck I've still been at it for 60 years!

Bad

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Jan. 25-26 • SMS Tele Training Camp

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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

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