

MUGELNOOS

NOVEMBER 18, 1997

Number 738



Duncan skiing the sandunes at Red Rock Canyon

February 8th Mt. Baldy Trip

The February 8th trip planned for San Jacinto was changed to Mt. Baldy due to high winds. As it turned out, this was a wise move as Baldy Bowl was pretty well protected from most of the wind, and we heard later that skiing on San Jacinto would have been better with ice skates.

The seven skiers in our group were myself, assistant leader Mark Goeble, David Baron, Diann Fried, Keith Hines and his girlfriend, whose name I've unfortunately misplaced, and Bahram Manahedgi, who received his SMS check-out.

Our plan was to climb to the summit, but a couple in the group felt the snow was too hard, so we stayed in the bowl where we enjoyed decent corn-like conditions.

We were fortunate to have Bahram, a member of the Baldy Hut Committee on the trip, as there was no hutmeister that weekend, and Bahram was able to open the hut with his key. We all enjoyed hot drinks and warm conversation before heading back down.

Pete Matulavich

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.

MUGELNOOS STAFF

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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: DECEMBER 16, 1997

ISSUE DEADLINE DEC. 9, 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
Nov 18 Tue	Ski Mountaineer Monthly Mtg:	
Jan 10 Sat	Ski Mountaineers	O: Local Tour. Leader: Paul Harris. Asst: Walt Boge.
Jan 17 Sat	Ski Mountaineers	T: Mt Pinos - Pine Mtn Club. Leader: Reiner Stenzel. Asst: Pete Matulavich.
Jan 20 Tue	Ski Mountaineers Monthly Mtg:	
Jan 24-25 Sat-Sun	Ski Mountaineers	T: Snowshelter Course Reiner Stenzel. Asst: Ken Deemer.
Jan 24-25 Sat-Sun	Ski Mountaineers	O: Nordic Downhill Clinice. Leader Paul Harris. Asst: Nancy Gordon.
Feb 8 Sun	O: Local Tour.	Leader: Mark Goebel. Asst: Pete Matulavich.
Feb 17 Tue	Ski Mountaineers Monthly Mtg:	
Feb 20-22 Fri-Sun		T: Winter Hut Tour. Leader: Reiner Stenzel. Asst: Ken Deemer.
Feb 21 -22 Fri-Sun	Ski Mountaineers	O: Nordic Downhill Practice. Leader: Paul Harris. Asst: Nancy Gordon.
Feb 22 Sun	Ski Mountaineers	T: Mt Baldy Steep and challenging skiing in Baldy Bowl. Leader: Mark Goebel. Asst: Pete Matulavich.
Mar 7 Sat	Ski Mountaineers	T: Mt. San Jacinto (10,804): Leader: Lawrence Pallant. Asst: Paul Harris.

SMS WEB PAGE

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

Mar 14-17 Sat-Tue Ski Mountaineers
 T: Buena Vista Crest to Merced Peak Leader: Tom Marsh. Asst: Joe McGuire.

May 2-3 Sat-Sun Ski Mountaineers
 T: Lamarck Col: Leader: Lawrence Pallant. Asst: Tom Marsh.

SMS OFFICERS

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Outings/safety

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NEW MEMBERS

- Tony Bird
- Michael Dodson
- Ruth von Rotz
- Eric Watts
- John Bees
- Craig Hoehstetter
- Lawrence Pallant
- Daniel Richter
- Greg Stach
- Northridge
- Fullerton
- Reno-NV
- Long Beach
- Reno Nv
- Hermosa Bch.
- Encinitas
- Santa Monica
- Sausalito

FOR SALE

Ski bag, Snow chains, misc. winter gear (soft goods). Leroy Russ (213) 227-4973

New email address Marcia Male--marciam@sisna.com

PALISADE GLACIER TOUR - 1997

Mark Goebel, Ldr.

Hike or ski up the North Fork of Big Pine Canyon, and until you reach Second Lake, views of the upper canyon are blocked by the massive bulk of Temple Crag. Then as the lake unfolds below, you can now see the broad slopes leading up to the Palisade Glacier, the Sierra's largest, and still higher yet is the area's well known fourteeners, Mt. Sill, North Palisade, and Thunderbolt. For climbers and skiers, this is certainly one of the best alpine fun zones in the Sierra; and over the recent April 19-20th weekend, 8 SMS participants turned out for an explore up to the glacier.

The upper area of Big Pine Canyon basin and the glacier offer many ski touring possibilities; but on this occasion our objective was a broad, prominent gully which falls nearly 2000' from the Palisade Glacier to Third Lake, right under the sheer walls of Mt. Gayley and Temple Crag. While just about any route down from the glacier will go, this well defined route is the most obvious, holds snow well in to summer, and it really stands out as the line to ski.

I had thought we might be on our skis lower down in the canyon, but this unique winter in which little snow fell after January required us to walk until just short of Third Lake. There we made camp in the early afternoon on a knoll overlooking the partially frozen lake. Our campsite was at the base of a long slope that eventually leads up to the glacier, and although there was a fairly good forest above us, this area has been the run out zone for some big avalanches in the past. In fact, everything west of Temple Crag is avalanche terrain based upon clear evidence of past activity. During our visit the slopes were very stable, but any earlier visits to this area should be taken with great caution.

The afternoon was spent either recovering/lounging on our camp rock, or some did partake of a short tour directly above camp, but the snow was mostly in a crusty, breakable sort of afternoon mood. One energized participant did explore the lower portion of our intended objective, and reported back that the snow was very skiable in spite of the lateness of the day. Things looked good for Sunday, but when we awoke, a strong wind was blowing and the sky was full of dark clouds. Surely not a good sign, but since a little sun was shining on nearby slopes, we started up on hard snow, carrying skis on our packs. Thanks to unrelenting step kicking efforts by Russ Haswell, we were able to climb straight up on a 2000' white staircase. The wind continued, and seemed to blow hardest whenever there were no steps and I was forced to cling by my boot edges to the frozen slope.

Two thirds of the way up, the slope began to fall back and we could now see the lower edge of the glacier and the crags above. Until now, I was guessing that if the blustery conditions continued, the snow would not soften and it would be a rough ride down. But then, almost at once the wind died, the clouds cleared, and the snow under foot began to corn up. Soon we were at our high point looking out over the Palisade Glacier and up to Mt. Sill where a dividing line of sun and shade ran right up the Swiss Arete. Russ H. and Craig Hoehstefter both continued further up on to the glacier while the rest of us relaxed and enjoyed the alpine arena from our front row seats.

By 11:30 am, Russ and Craig were back with a long line of turns behind them, and we all began our descent with a short traverse and a few turns on good corn to the top of the first big drop. it was a slope reminiscent of Baldy Bowl, and although the snow was firm, almost everyone cranked turns right down the fall line and past 3 snow boarders who were still climbing the gully. Our timing seemed to be just right as the snow was well softened by the sun as reached the lowest slopes. Perhaps the earlier wind was a blessing in disguise. After several more good drops, we were able to ski right back to camp, and then back around the lake to the trail below. From there it was just a long walk back down the canyon; but at Second Lake we did pause a moment to look back and reflect upon a fine day of skiing in the Palisades. The other participants included Mike McDermift, Floyd Spangler, Bahram Manahedgi, Dan Richter, and Pete Yamagata.

FEES FOR NATIONAL FOREST ACCESS

Bring your wallet when you visit and park in one of our local national forests. Now in place are daily parking fees of \$5.00 per vehicle (an annual \$30.00 pass is available) for visits to the Angeles, San Bernardino, Cleveland, and Los Padres Forests. The fee applies to all parking through out the forest, other than at a commercial establishment such as a ski area. Passes may be obtained at local outing equipment stores and from the Forest Service.

Further north in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, climbers on Mt. Shasta must now purchase a \$15.00 Summit Pass good for a 3 day period, and in addition to the peak fee, a \$5.00 per vehicle per day fee is required to park at trailheads on the north side of the peak. A parking fee is not required along the Everitt Memorial Highway, access to the south side of the peak.

Ski Mountaineers Schedule

Fall-Winter 1997-1998

NOV 18 TUE

Monthly Mtg: Entertaining slide programs featuring equipment, safety, and outings. Newcomers welcome. 7:30 pm Griffith Park Ranger Station. See SMS Section listing for newsletter info or www.edgeinternet.com/skimt.

JAN 10 SAT

T:Local Tour: Intro ski mountaineering tour in local mountains. Metal-edged skis and climbing skins required. Subject to rescheduling due to snow conditions (see Mugelnoos or www.edgeinternet.com/skimt). Leader: Paul Harris. Asst: Walt Boge.

JAN 17 SAT

T:Mt Pinos - Pine Mtn Club: This is a local tour for intermed or better skiers able to ski the steep, forested northern slopes of Mt. Pinos. Tour depends on good snow conditions. Send Sase w experience, h&w phones, rideshare info to Leader: Reiner Stenzel. Asst: Pete Matulavich.

JAN 20 TUE

Monthly Mtg: Entertaining slide programs featuring equipment, safety, and outings. Newcomers welcome. 7:30 pm Griffith Park Ranger Station. See SMS Section listing for newsletter info or www.edgeinternet.com/skimt.

JAN 24-25 SAT-SUN

tSnowshelter Course: Join us for a weekend of wilderness survival techniques. Sat build igloos/snowcaves. Sun ski and practice navigation techniques for white-out cond; review avalanche rescue. No tents. Bring snowsaw, shovel, avalanche beacons, metal-edged skis, and skins. Intermed or better skiing ability required. Send w experience, h&w phones, rideshare info to Leader: Reiner Stenzel. Asst: Ken Deemer.

JAN 24- JAN25 FRI-SUN

C: Nordic Downhill Clinic: Stay Fri, Sat nights at Keller Hut in the San Bernardino Mts. and hang out with fellow pinheads Sat lift-served skiing and professional telemark instruction at local resort. Sun more lift-served skiing (at additional cost) or local touring. Beginners welcome. Cost TBD covers hut fees, Sat dinner. Sat lift and instruction. Telemark ski and boot rentals available at additional cost. Send two large Sase+s to leader Paul Harris. Asst: Nancy Gordon.

FEB 8 SUN

T: Local Tour: Intro ski mountaineering tour in local mountains. Metal-edged skis and climbing skins required. Subject to rescheduling due to snow conditions (see Mugelnoos or www.edgeinternet.com/skimt). Leader: Mark Goebel. Asst: Pete Matulavich.

FEB 17 TUE

Monthly Mtg: Entertaining slide programs featuring equipment, safety, and outings. Newcomers welcome. 7:30 pm Griffith Park Ranger Station. See SMS Section listing for newsletter info or www.edgeinternet.com/skimt.

FEB 20-22 FRI-SUN

T: Winter Hut Tour: Destination possibilities include Pear Lake Sequoia NP, Rock Creek Lodge, or Tioga Pass Resort depending on conditions and availability. Cost TBD. Metal-edged skis, skins and intermed or better skiing ability required. Send Sase w experience, h&w phones, rideshare info to Leader: Reiner Stenzel. Asst: Ken Deemer.

FEB 22 SUN

T:Mt Baldy: Steep and challenging skiing in Baldy Bowl. Plenty of elevation gain (4,000+ to the top) Intermediate or better only Metal-edged skis w skins, probe poles, shovel, avalanche transceiver or cord reqd. Send Sase w experience, h&w phones, rideshare info to Leader: Mark Goebel. Asst: Pete Matulavich.

FEB 21 - FEB 22 SAT-SUN

C:Nordic Downhill Practice. Stay Fri, Sat nights at Keller Hut in the San Bernardino Mts. and hang out with fellow pinheads Sat lift-served skiing at local resort. Sun more lift-served skiing (at additional cost) or local touring. Cost TBD covers hut fees, Sat dinner and Sat lift fee. Telemark ski and boot rentals available at additional cost. Send two large Sase+s to Leader: Paul Harris. Asst: Nancy Gordon.

MAR 7 SAT

T: Mt. San Jacinto (10,804'): Ride up tram from Palm Springs, ski from Long Valley to Mt. San Jacinto, 2400' gain. Metal-edged skis, skins, and intermediate or better skiing abilities reqd. Send Sase w/experience, h&w phones, rideshare info to Leader: Lawrence Pallant. Asst: Paul Harris.

MAR 14-17 SAT-TUE

T: Buena Vista Crest to Merced Peak: Experience the spectacular views of the Clark Range, as well as, skiing the Merced Peak area on this unique traverse. First and last night at Ostrandar Hut. Intermed or better only. Metal-edged skis with skins, shovel, avalanche transceiver reqd. Send 2 4x9 Sase, ski exper, h&w phones, \$50 (hut fees) to Leader: Tom Marsh. Asst: Joe McGuire.

MAY 2-3 SAT-SUN

T: Lamarck Col: Sat backpack to camp at Grass Lake. Sun climb 3000' to Lamarck Col for exciting descent. Intermed or better skiers w/metal-edged skis, skins, avalanche beacon, and snowcamping gear reqd. Send Sase w/exper, h&w phones, rideshare info to Leader: Lawrence Pallant. Asst: Tom Marsh.

OTHER EVENTS OF NOTE**December 12 - 14 Fri. - Sun****OCSS and SMS**

Backcountry Ski Leaders Training Mammoth: OCSS and SMS ski Leaders & Leader Candidates. Carpool Friday evening. Saturday will be a field training exercise building rescue sleds and practicing with beacons. (See write up below for the Training Workshop to be held Wed evening, Dec. 2). Saturday night will be a discussion of leader ship problems and guidelines. Sunday ski with PSIA instructors. On Sunday there will be three group levels. Bob Meador and Nonnie DeSurra will work with beginner and intermediate level skiers. Urmas Franousch will work with advanced skiers. Additional instructors might be available for advanced skiers if there is a sufficient early sign up. Cost includes lodging at the Ullr Lodge. Saturday's dinner and Sunday's clinic. OCSS will pay, for the lift ticket of active OCSS leaders. SMS will pay, for the lift tickets of active SMS leaders. Send 2 large SASE. H&W phones. \$110 (OCSS), xc ski level to Ldr: Keith Martin, Asst. Michael Dodson. Late sign ups may not get the instructor of their choice on Sunday.

December 2**Wed****OCSS and SMS**

Backcountry Ski Leader Training Workshop: Learn to assemble emergency sleds to evacuate injured skiers from the backcountry. Bring skis, poles, touring day pack & 100' of 1/8" nylon cord. Bring any skis you want prepared for this technique. Meet 7 pm at leaders house in Fullerton. This class is prep for OCSS/SMS Ski Leader Training Weekend of Dec 12-14, but other participants can come as space allows. Leader: Michael Dodson, Asst: Keith Martin.

NORPINE DEMO DAYS NOV 22-23

To be held this year at Mammoth Mountain. \$50 per day with lift ticket, \$20 for tourers. Demos of both downhill and touring equipment available. Mini-lessons from Demo Team members. Register before the event by calling Norpine at (619) 276-1577. XTC Tours (619) 259-2292 is offering bus transportation, lodging, shuttle service in Mammoth, and meals on the bus for \$149. Confirm reservations as soon as possible.

Bear Mountain Demo Days Dec 5,6,7

Hosted by Off Piste \$50 for lift ticket, demos, clinics, prize drawings, and lots of fun! \$60 with a t-shirt. Test skis, boots, bindings, poles, snowshoes, avalanche beacons, backpacks, tents, and other gear. To pre register or for a catalogue contact: Off Piste (626) 914-8485. Fax (626) 963-3213 or www.offpiste.com

Bear Mountain Teli Clinics (909) 585-2519 ext 348

Jan. 9,10,11 Early season workshop Jan 23 "Chasing Funky Snow" Jan 24 SMS Free Heel Training Sessions
Jan 25 Telemark and Free Heel Ski Games Series- Game # 1



MATTERHORN PK- SAWTOOTH RIDGE,

May 24-26, 1997.

by Reiner Stenzel

On this Memorial Day weekend we had fifteen enthusiastic skiers in search of good snow. There was no disappointment because the Northern slopes of the Sawtooth range near Bridgeport hold snow till early summer. Our participants were David Kaye from Arizona, Pete Yamagata from Sacramento, Richard Contreras from Los Gatos, Reed Moore and Alvin Walter from San Diego and, from Los Angeles and vicinity, Duncan Livingston, Randy Lamm, Eric Watts, Mike Rector, Bahram Manahedgi, Mike McDermitt, Dennis Landin, Doug O'Neill with friend John, and myself. We met at 6:30 am at the end of the Twin Lakes Road. The planned early start was delayed since the parking attendant of the Mono Lakes Resort appeared at 8 am to sell us the required parking permits. By then the place was busy with fishermen and campers who wondered what we are doing with skis on a sunny spring day. We hiked up the Horse Creek trail

passing by a spectacular waterfall and many pretty wildflowers along the way. Our first break was at the lower Horse Creek Meadow where one has a clear view of Matterhorn, the Dragtooth and their large snow fields. The second Horse Creek Meadow was too small for a campsite for our large group. Thus, we continued up along a feeble trail which led through a mixed terrain of brush, rocks, and snow until we hit continuous snow above 8,300'. A broad flat area in the Horse Creek drainage was suitable for a group snow camp, but some preferred to camp slightly higher on a dry but windy ridge (8,500'). We were not the only skiers in the area but were soon joined by a dozen of skiers from the SF Bay area. Between 10:30 am and 12 we set up camp and ate lunch. In the afternoon we headed up the Horse Creek drainage to the base of Twin Peaks. It was very windy and cold and fierce spin drifts greeted us at higher elevations. An impressive cornice topped the ridge between the two summits of Twin Peaks and forced us to turn back at the last bowl (I

1,200'). The descent had the typical mix of snow: wind slabs and crust at the top, breakable crust in the middle, and delightful spring snow at lower elevations. By 4 PM we were

back at basecamp for an early dinner in the community snow kitchen. The wind got us early into our tents.

On Sunday, we got up leisurely since it would some sunshine to soften up the hard frozen snow. The plan was to tour around Matterhorn Peak, inspect its famous East Couloir, and consider a possible ascent. At 9 am we ascended the Horse Creek drainage to about 8,600' and then turned Southwest toward The Cleaver. After some climbing, Matterhorn Pk came in sight and we headed straight toward its glacier and couloirs. The steep walls of the nearby Dragtooth are very impressive. Many skiers were spread out over the long glacier. As one heads into the East Couloir the glacier steepens considerably. We ascended on skins to about 11,400' where the steep rock walls start, beyond that the snow became too hard and steep for safe edging, leave alone the kick turns. This is where most everyone turned back. Three of us (Duncan, Eric, and myself) decided to head for the summit. We all had ice axes, but only Duncan had crampons. After making careful kicksteps we slowly ascended the steep (>40 degrees) upper East Couloir. At some point in the climb I was hit by random rock fall, not very pleasant. At about 12 noon we reached the top of the Couloir. Looking down we had some second thoughts about skiing it down. We continued on the South side of the mountain, left the skis at the highest snow field, and ascended

the summit via the class 3 East ridge. From the Matterhorn summit (12,278') we enjoyed a spectacular view on a clear spring day. One could see peaks near Lake Tahoe in the North, all of Yosemite to the South, and endless desert ranges in Nevada to the East. The close Sawtooth Ridge had countless bowls and chutes with plenty of good snow to ski in. Doodad's precarious boulder was just below us, and convoluted Whorl Mtn to the South reminded me of an earlier ascent through a needle hole. After taking many pictures and signing the overflowing peak register of this emblem peak we descended at 2 PM. By now the East Couloir was in the shade, the snow was stone hard and a fall would be difficult to arrest. Even hiking it down without crampons was risky, thus we decided to ski down the Southeast face into Spiller Canyon and to return via Horse Creek Pass. The snow was soft and we enjoyed a safe, great run down. Along the way we made several side tours to carve unskied slopes until our energy was drained. By 5:30 PM we were back at camp and joined the rest of the group to share the day's adventures. They had skied down Matterhorn glacier and toured the adjacent snow fields up to The Cleaver. In the evening some decided to hike out to avoid another windy cold night.

On Monday, we got up at 7 am, packed and skied/hiked out. The plan was to make a detour to nearby Buckeye Hot Springs before going on the long drive home. By 10 am some of us were soaking in running hot water next to a cold stream. Then we bid farewell with the resolution to come back to the Sawtooth Range for a multiday basecamp-style ski tour in another year.





Many SMS's Knew Allan from clinics at Mammoth or Rock Creek. Allan fell climbing down the Owen-Spalding Rt. on Grand Teaton last July. The following was sent in by Jim Valensi:

I was a city kid. I didn't grow up in the mountains or out in the countryside. I didn't even ski in those days. But I have always been connected to wild places. On days in the big city that the wind blew and the rain fell, days that were filled with dreary clouds, my instinctual thoughts turned to higher elevations and more precipitous terrain. In the wilds, inclement weather wasn't a problem that city folk dreaded, it instead gave the mountain experience a more exotic texture. "Full conditions" are as much a part of the mountains as shear granite peaks, tall trees, high alpine lakes, and grand timberline vistas. What some might call bad weather is the most rudimentary tool that sculpts mountains into their cathedral shapes and smooths canyon walls into slick monolithic forms. Watching mother nature in all her meteorological fury somehow connected me to a life I could not have foreseen. I knew in my heart, even then that I would somehow make my pilgrimage and that I would come home to the promised land.

- Allan Bard

In Memoriam Allan Richard Bard

Aug 1, 1952- July 5, 1997

THE MUGELNOOS

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