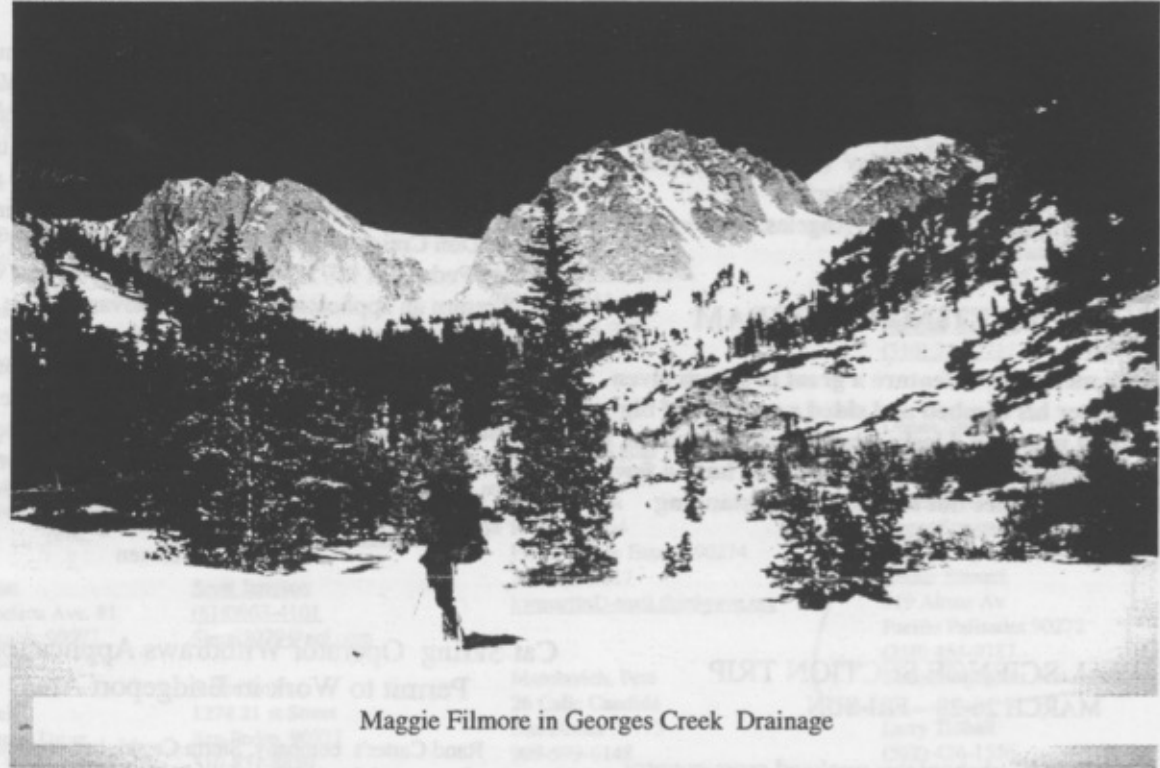


# THE MUGELNDOOS

December 18, 1998

Issue # 747



Maggie Filmore in Georges Creek Drainage

## TUTTLE CREEK TO GEORGE'S CREEK CREST TOUR

May 2-6, 1998 By Rich Henke

Crest Tour No. A in Moynier's book was the plan. A very long walk was required, however, since the Cottonwood Lakes road was closed 13 miles below the trailhead. A look at the south fork of Tuttle Creek from Route 395 and a quick survey of the Whitney 15 min. quad map convinced us that Tuttle Pass was a reasonable alternative entry point.

We spotted a car at George's Creek, our proposed exit point, and drove to Tuttle Creek trailhead to spend the night at an elevation of 6,000 feet. On Saturday, May 2, 1998, we started the tour with skis on our backs. The skiers were Maggie Filmore, Armando Menocal and myself. A good trail to "The Rockhouse" exists across from the south face of Lone Pine Peak. From just above the rockhouse, a surprisingly easy traverse on the left bank of Tuttle Creek led south and then west until we reached snow at about 8600 feet. The ski to the pass, at 12,880 feet, was gentle and continuous. Not until 300 feet below the pass did we do our first kick turn, after which we kicked steps up to the windy ridge. It was 7:15 pm by the time we had worked our way down the steep western side of the pass, where we reached some open water just below Sky Blue Lake.

What happened next is usually called a "learning experience". The poles and fly of our tent were unpacked, but the tent had accidentally been left in our car. After considerable pioneering engineering work, we managed to erect the fly over the poles using skis and straps. It had no floor, but otherwise we had a tent!

Day Two was bright and sunny, as had been the first day. This was better than expected, since the forecast predicted cloudy skies with possible showers. We skied north over Discovery Pinnacle at 13,750 feet where we had the strange experience of looking down at Trail Crest just south of Mt. Whitney. We descended to Guitar Lake and then continued clockwise around Mt. Whitney, stopping to camp at Arctic Lake.

On Day Three, the skiing improved considerably since three inches of new powder snow had fallen during the night.

(Continued on page 6)

The Mugelnoos is a newsheet published by and for the Ski Mountaineers Section of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter since 1938. Send subscriptions and address changes to: Pat Holleman, 1638 6th Street, Manhattan Beach, CA. 90266 \$7 per year payable to "Ski Mountaineers" Due in October. Subscription payments are not tax deductible as charitable contributions

## Mugelnoos Staff

EDITOR Don Ralphs  
MUGELMAILER Pat Hollman

## MEETINGS

3d Tuesday each month - November - May (except December)  
7:30 PM Griffith Park Ranger Station Auditorium  
4730 Crystal Springs Drive, Los Angeles, CA

### JANUARY MEETING - PROGRAM

**Our January 19th meeting will feature a great program given by Peter Green. Peter has climbed and sided a number of big mountains and great routes in Alaska, the Yukon, the Andes, the Karakorum, and the Himalayas. He may even have a few shots from the Sierra. Be sure not to miss this outstanding presentation.**

### NATURAL SCIENCE SECTION TRIP MARCH 26-28 FRI-SUN

0: Winter Ecology Workshop: this weekend cross-country ski trip to Mammoth to study wintering plants and animals fulfills the natural science requirement for prospective Sierra Club leaders and is open to any intermediate skier interested in learning about the winter environment. Our naturalists, both experienced cross-country skiers, are Jim Lowery, professional tracking specialist and environmental skills teacher, and Jean Dillingham, environmental educator and teacher trainer for the LA schools.

Participants can stay with local Sierra Club members (cost expected to be \$60) or at a condominium for an additional cost. Saturday and Sunday breakfasts and lunches are provided; Saturday dinner is a potluck. Group limited to 12. Cost payable by Feb. 1, 1999. For reservations, send 2 sase to Ginny Heringer, 245 San Miguel Road, Pasadena, CA 91105. For more information, call Ginny at 626-793-4727.

Leaders: SHERRY ROSS, GINNY HERINGER

### Kayak For Sale

Klepper Double Folding Kayak including 2 take-a part paddles plus extra repair parts. \$ 1900 Rich Henke 310-545-6491  
Richhenke@aol.com

## LEADERS WANTED

You know who you are! An SMS leader has told you on a trip. "you should be a leader" or you suspect you are more qualified or experienced than some of the leaders you have skied with or you have some great ideas for trips that the SMS should do or....

If you have the ability to lead an SMS trip of any type, here is what you must do to become a Sierra Club trip leader. This is mandatory. even if you are Dave Beck, Norman Clyde or Reinhold Messner .

The Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club offers a number of leadership training programs and skills seminars. What is required to lead simpler trips for our section is fairly simple and straightforward. First you must attend a Saturday training seminar on April 10, 1999. This will be held at the same place where the SMS meets. Obtain specifics by sending a SASE to Don Creighton, LTC Registrar 2235 W. 25th St. #128 San Pedro CA 90732-4130. Do this now as you will need to return an application 2 weeks in advance. This mandatory seminar is only offered twice a year.

After attending the seminar, you will need to show competence or attend training sessions in First Aid, Wilderness Navigation, and Environmental Awareness. The course materials and training are quite useful even if you are Norman Clyde. Please see the Angeles Chapter Schedule for further info or speak to any of our Leaders or Management

Steve Hessen

### Cat Skiing Operator Withdraws Application For Permit to Work in Bridgeport Area

Rand Carter's company, Sierra Catski, had applied for a special-use permit, which would allow it to take paying customers into the Bridgeport Ranger District of the Toiyabe National Forest, to areas adjacent to Dunderberg/Castle Peak, Monument Ridge, Cavanaugh Ridge, and Eagle Peak. The staging area was to be Conway Summit, Green Creek Road, and Buckeye Hot Springs Road. Since 1982, Carter had been taking friends and family out from Conway Summit on his snowcat- which is apparently legal, since they aren't paying him. He had sought to make this a going business. However, the application drew significant comment, most of it adverse. The primary concern had to do with the proposed use of explosives for avalanche control in a wilderness area.

Another factor that seemed to play a large role in the decision to withdraw the permit was the large expected expense of pursuing the permit. It is now the policy of the Forest Service to require the applicant to shoulder the cost of the review process (EIR Reports, ect).

It is expected the applicant may renew when the area develops a new Forest Plan Amendment in a few years.

Don Ralphs

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SMS WEB PAGE

HTTP:www.angeleschapter.org/skimt/  
Slide Show, Five years of trip reports, back-country links, and much more. Check it out

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MUGELNOOS RENEWAL DUE NOW

To renew your Mugelnoos subscription, send a check for, \$7.00 made payable to "Ski Mountaineers" to the Mugemailer: Pat Holleman, 1638 6th St., Mannattan Beach, CA 90266-6,347. **Please update** your telephone # and area code if it has changed so it will be correct on the membership roster. Also include your email address if you wish.

AVALANCHE TRANSCEIVERS NOW AVAILABLE

Once again the SMS has avalanche beacons available for sale. We have the SOS FI-ND beacon, manufactured by Survival On Snow Inc. of Canada. It operates on the 457 kHz frequency, and features a 90 meter range, 2 point body harness, built-in battery check, speaker, plus 3 LED light signals which give a visual clue to the signal strength to indicate direction and distance, and a Range Selector LED light which signals when to turn down to a lower range setting. For additional information, check SOS's web site <http://iwww.sos-find.com>. Price per unit including sales tax is \$156.96. Contact Mark Goebel at 714-963-9384, or at SMS meetings. Sales are limited only to Sierra Club members.

HISTORIC SMS VIDEO AVAILABLE

This video features two films, one is titled *WHITE HORIZONS* and was filmed by SMS members during the early 1960s while on tours to Pear Lake, San Gorgonio, and a number of eastern Sierra locations. The second is from 1932, was only recently discovered, and may well be the only film of Walter Mosauer skiing while teaching this new sport in San Antonio Canyon. Dr. Mosauer was considered the father of alpine skiing in Southern California, and was also the SMS founder. Naration and music have been added; and viewers will enjoy seeing the styles and equipment along with plenty of good action scenes. Last season we sold out! So order yours now by sending a check for \$10.00, payable to SMS, to Mark Goebel, 9522 Innsbruck Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646, along with your mailing address.

# Upcoming Trips

## Meaning of Ratings:

All Ski Mountaineers ski tours are rated "T" (Technical), even if easy. A resort trip with no tours is rated C (conducted), and does not require two leaders. The T rating refers to the ability to ski steeper slopes in the backcountry. It does not imply any level of rock or snow/ice-climbing ability beyond that normally possessed by an experienced skier. Tours are also (Intermediate), M (Up to Class 3 rock/snow), or E (Up to Class 4 rock/snow), according to the Angeles Chapter rating system.

Most trips are rated TL. This rating means that there is substantially no climbing except on skis, and that ropes and ice axes are not required for climbing safety. Trips rated TM or TE are restricted trips which require qualification for mountaineering insurance coverage. The Sierra Club and the SMS encourage qualified leaders to lead such trips.

Jan 9 Sat Ski Mountaineers  
T: Local Tour. Intro ski mountaineering tour in local mountains. Metal-edged skis and climbingskins required. Subject to rescheduling due to snow conditions. Leader: Paul Harris. Asst: Walt Boge

Jan 24 Sat Ski Mountaineers  
TI: Mt Abel (Cerro Noroeste): Intro ski mountaineering tour in local San Rafael Mtns. Mtn bike 3 mi on road depending on snow conditions) then ski to summit. Metal edged skis w skins and bike req'd. Send sase or e-mail w/exper, phones, rideshare info to Ldr: Reiner Stenzel. Asst: PeteMatulavich.

Jan 29-31 Fri-Sun Ski Mountaineers  
C: SMS Free-Heel Downhill Clinic: Develop and improve your skills on free-heel equipment. Clinics appropriate for all levels of skiers taught by professionals at a local area. Stay two nights at Keller Hut, with lift ticket and all day clinics on Sat. High quality rentals available at \$12. Reserve early. Send a check for \$95 and 2 sase to the Ldr. Paul Harris.

Feb 6 Sat Ski Mountaineers  
TI: Local Tour: Intro ski mountaineering tour in local mountains. Metal-edged skis and climbing skins required. Subject to rescheduling due to snow conditions. Leader: Mark Goebel. Asst: Paul Harris.

Feb 7 Sun Orange County Sierra Singles - Ski Mountaineers  
TI: Avalanche Awareness. For backcountry X-C skiers, study avalanche terrain, route selection, weather patterns, and rescue. Local mtn, intermed. skier, limited to 15. Text: The Avalanche Handbook by Mountaineers. Beacons suggested. \$10 for handouts. Make check payable to OCSS. Send sase with three extra 32 cents stamps, address, phone # to Ldr: Virgil Talbott. Asst: Keith Martin

Feb 12-15 Fri-Mon OCSS-Ski Mountaineers  
TI: Yosemite XC Ski Trip Tamarack Flat/North Rim: Spend 1st night at ldr's house in Groveland. Ski 7 mi and 1 000' gain to snowcamp 2 nights at Tamarack Flat. Day tour to North Rim of Yosemite Valley, intermed. Level skiers with ski pack exper, metal edges, 0 degree bag, skins. Share cleaning expenses at house. Send 2 lg sase, H&W phones, \$20 (payable to OCSS) refundable at trailhead, qualifications to Ldr: Keith Martin. Asst: Donna Specht.

Feb 26-28 Fri-Sun Ski Mountaineers  
C: Free-Heel Downhill Practice Weekend: Clinic and or free-ski with us. Develop and improve your skills on free-heel equipment. Clinics appropriate for all levels of skiers taught by pro-

professionals at a local area. Stay two nights at Keller Hut, with lift ticket and all day clinics on Sat. High quality rentals are available at \$12. Reserve early. Send a check for \$95 to include clinics, or \$65 without, and 2 sase to the Ldr: Paul Harris

Mar 6-7 Sat-Sun Ski Mountaineers  
TI: Avalanche Awareness Training: Two-day course in avalanche awareness taught by noted instructor Norm Wilson. Snowcamp in Sherwin Bowl area near Mammoth. Sat ski in, instruction. Sun more instruction and tour, ski out. Must have appropriate gear including transceiver. Send \$60, 2 sase, H&W phones, rideshare info to Ldr: Steve Hessen. Asst: Ken Deemer.

Mar 13-14 Sat-Sun Ski Mountaineers  
TI: Dare the Shit and Zen, Mt Baldy: Challenging chute skiing in Baldy Bowl, not for the faint-hearted. Spend the night at San Antonio Hut. Weather/snow conditions may postpone trip. Stable telemark or randonnee gear reqd. Send e-mail /sase w experience to Ldr: Reiner Stenzel. Asst: TBD

Mar 20-21 Sat Ski Mountaineers  
T: Mt. San Jacinto (10,804'): Intro snow camping trip. Ride up trim from Palm Springs, ski from Long Valley to snowcamp near Mt San Jacinto. Metal-edged skis, skins, and intermediate or better skiing abilities reqd, Send sase w/experience, h&w phones, rideshare info to Leader' Ken Deemer. Asst: TBD.

Mar 26-28 Fri-Sun Natural Science Section  
O: Winter Ecology Workshop X-Country skiing in the Mammoth area, study of wintering plants and animals. This trip, open to intermediate skiers, satisfies the natural science requirement for Sierra Club Leaders. Participants can stay with local Sierra Club members (cost expected to be \$60) or at a condominium for an additional cost. Saturday and Sunday breakfasts and lunches are provided; Saturday dinner is a potluck. Group limited to 12. Cost payable by Feb. 1, 1999. For reservations, send 2 sase to Ginny Heringer, 245 San Miguel Road, Pasadena, CA 91105. For more information, call Ginny at 626-793-4727. Leaders: SHERRY ROSS, GINNY HERINGER

Mar 27-28 Sat-Sun San Antonio Ski Hut/SMS  
TI: Ski Mountaineers Section Weekend: Enjoy steep and challenging skiing in Baldy Bowl and surrounding slopes. Hike 3 miles, 2200' gain to Hut early Sat., another 1800' to summit. Stay at Hut Sat night. Advanced intermediate or better skiers only. Come for one day or both. Call leader for meeting time and other info. Ldr: Mark Goebel. Asst: Ken Deemer.

Apr 3-4 Sat-Sun Leadership Training Committee/Ski Mountaineers R M Self Arrest Clinic: Clinic to improve self arrest and self

belay skills for Ski Mountaineers. Two day clinic with AMGA/PSIA rated guide Tim Villanueva. East Side Sierra Location TBD Limited group size, preference to Ski Ldrs. Metal edged skis with skins) ice axe, crampons, shovel, avalanche transceiver required. intermed. or better skier. Send lg sase ski experience, check for \$80(made out to SMS), SC#, H&W phones to Ldr: Keith Martin. Asst: Brad Jensen.

Apr 10-11 Sat-Sun Ski Mountaineers  
 TI: Cloudripper (13,525'): Ski Mountaineering tour to the Inconsolable Range Sat ski from Parcher's Camp 3 mi, 1700' basecamp above Green Lake. Sun ski/climb Cloudripper and return (+2,300, -4,000, 6mi). For advanced skiers. Send e-mail/sase w experience to Ldr. Reiner Stenzel. Asst Tom Marsh.

Apr 17-18 Sat-Sun Ski Mountaineers  
 TI: Mt. Wood(12,6S0'): One of the big ski descents of the eastern Sierra; it has been described as never ending. Sat climb and ski Mt Wood's huge eastern slope, 5400' gain. Sun., following a car camp we will tour at another location depending upon interest and conditions. Must be an advanced skier and confident on steep slopes to participate. Send SASE and skiing experience to Ldr: Mark Goebel. Asst: Reiner Stenzel

May 1-2 Sat-Sun Ski Mountaineers  
 TI: Mt. Morgan(13)005): One day ascent and ski via hidden Esha Canyon from McGee Creek. 5300' gain, 3.5 mile.. This route follows a series of steep benches and meadows to a north-facing cirque and the summit. Sat night car camp and tour on Sun will be decided based upon conditions and group's interests. Must be an advanced skier and confident on steep slopes to participate. Send SASE and skiing experience to Ldr: Mark Goebel. Co-Ldr: Dan Richter

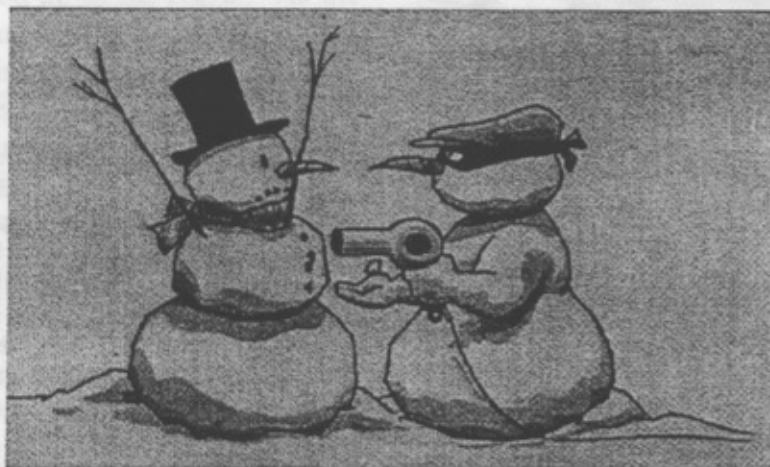
May 8-13 Sat.- Thu Ski Mountaineers ,  
 T: Eastern Sierra Ski Tour; Join us on this adventurous backcountry ski tour in Eastern Sierras. Location/route dependent on conditions. Intermed or better only. Metal-edged skis with skins, shovel, avalanche receiver required. Send 2 Lg SASE, ski experience, H&W phones, to Ldr: Tom Marsh. Asst: Joe McOuire

May 15-16 Sat.Sun Ski Mountaineers  
 TI: Mammoth Area Day Tours: Sat ski Blue Couloir off the Mammoth Crest. Sun 13000' Mt Dana above Tioga Pass. intermed or better skiers; metal edges, skins required. Send SASE and experience to Ldr: Gerry Holleman. Asst: Paul Harris.

May 22-24 Sat-Mm Ski Mountaineers  
 TI: Tioga and Sonora Pass Ski Camp: Car camp near Tioga and Sonora Passes. and ski bowls and chutes in the Tioga Pass and Sonora Pass area. Possible ski one day at Mammoth. Metal edged skis with skins. shovels, avalanche transceiver required. Intermed or better skier. Send lg SASE, ski exper, H&W phones to Ldr: Owen Maloy. Asst: Kathy Crandall.

May 22-24 Sat-Mon Ski Mountaineers  
 TI: Palisades Glacier: Skiing and mountaineering in the Palisades Glacier area. Sat ski/hike to basecamp near Sam Mack Mdws (6mi, 2,000'). Sun ski glaciers, chutes, and/or ski/climb Mt Winchell (13, 7751). For advanced skiers. Send e-mail or SASE w experience to Ldr; Reiner Stenzel.Asst: Keith Martin

May 29-30 Sat-Sun Ski Mountaineers  
 TI: Treasure Lakes. Dade Couloir: Joius for a weekend of corn-snow skiing and ice fishing in Upper Rock Creek. Intermediate or better skiing and fishing skills required. Appropriate tools reqd. Send SASE or e-mail to Ldr: Reiner Stenzel. Asst: Owen Maloy.



(Continued from page 1)

Russell-Whitney Col at 13,050 feet proved to be no problem, after which we descended to Iceberg Lake below the East Face of Mt. Whitney on good steep snow. Two skiers from Utah finished a ski descent of the Mountaineer's Route just as we arrived. We made turns all the way to Upper Boy Scout Lake, where a lone skier with a big black pack made beautiful turns down from Russell-Carillion Col. Later, we learned that the skier was Reiner Stenzel finishing a four-day solo tour from George's Creek. At this point, Armando opted to cut the trip short and headed out via Whitney Portal (backcountry skiers are allowed a few moments of weakness), while Maggie and I followed Reiner's tracks to Russell/Carillion Col and descended to Wallace Lake to camp. Our tent setup was quite proficient by now.

Four inches of snow fell that night, but the skies were clear on the morning of Day Four. We had decided to shorten our tour by taking a shortcut over Vacation Pass, just east of Wallace Lake. This route led to a canyon, which ended directly at Georges Creek. However, it was not to be. About 400 feet below the top we encountered very difficult conditions. The old snow was as hard as ice and fresh snow covered everything, making it difficult to get good ice axe placements. Reluctantly, we turned around. It was the first time in 20 years of spring skiing in the Sierra that I wished I had brought crampons! It was 11:30 am by the time we returned to Wallace Lake. Rather than turn back, we decided to continue on our original route over Mt. Bernard, although the weather was doubtful. It got worse as we skied up the long Southwest Ridge toward the 13,990 summit of Mt. Bernard. Conditions were bad enough at 13,000 feet that we had to prepare a tent platform for a possible campsite. Our makeshift tent needed a "perfect" site with deep snow on all corners to bury the poles and skis. With survival assured, we decided to continue on and see what developed with the weather. Because visibility had improved near the top, we were able



Heading toward Tuttle Pass

to summit at 5 pm. A long boulder field led down toward the northeast to what looked like a skiable snow slope (i.e., one shallow enough to be safe from avalanches after the recent fresh snow). After a slow 1 000-foot descent over snow-covered talus, we put our skis on at 6:30 pm and made a continuous 3,000 foot ski run to the junction of the north and south branches of George's Creek. Unfortunately, we were too tired and it was too late in the day to attempt to make turns. We descended all the way with big traverses and kick turns. It was dark by the time we crawled into the tent.

Day Five found us skiing good snow in George's Creek while descending to the trailhead. Armando had planned to wait for us, as he had expected us to finish the previous day. We thought that surely we would be out by noon but no chance! We skied until 8,000 feet and started walking. We made good time at first, but the middle portion of the bushwhack was extremely time consuming. Three stream crossings all required patience and agility. The trailhead was reached at 2 pm -- 6.5 hours after we broke camp.

## Dana and Blue Cols

I skied Blue & Dana Cols on Fri & Sat. The approach on the flats up Dana was very heavily sun cupped, but on the steeper slopes it got smoother. Once on top the ski down to the top of the col (at around 2pm) was moderately heavy mush, with a small cornice to negotiate on the slope down to the saddle. Temps were in the 60's on top.

Once into the col, the snow was very firm and smooth, with just a enough softness to set an edge. At the bottom of the "throat" of the col, was a large bergshrund which was not very visible from above as you are skiing down - I recommend staying to the far skier's right until you get below it - it is deep!. Once out of the col, we had a long traverse around the moun-

## July 3-4, 1998

by Randy Lamm

tain with heavy mush, we crossed over much recent avalanche debris, including stuff that looked like it came down that day. We crossed the wreckage from the party that was heli rescued last weekend and managed to bring back a few of their things to the search and rescue. There are still big cornices hanging down and with the warm afternoon temps it seems like they will continue to be falling off. The slopes themselves were steep enough and mushy enough to slide -- along the return traverse route. Overall there was plenty of coverage, the problem was the sun cups on the flat return slopes.

Ellery Bowl, did not look like it was in good shape from the road -- lots of sun cups, rocks, dirt and hanging cornices

Blue Col was good skiing in the col, but the approach and return were heavily suncupped, plenty of coverage

## Mts MORRISON AND BALDWIN

May 10-11, 1998 by Reiner Stenzel

This was a restricted SPS/SMS trip led by Larry Tidball and Scot Jamison with Susan Loftus and myself as participants. Actually there were two more participants, Leila and her buddy, two M-rated K-9s.

The original plan was to climb the two SPS summits. But when we gathered Sat morning at Convict Lake the weather dictated a change. Every few minutes a roaring blast of wind came down the valley like a freight train. We would probably be blown off the summits. Thus, we decided to day ski in the protected canyon east of Mt Morrison toward Mt Aggie.

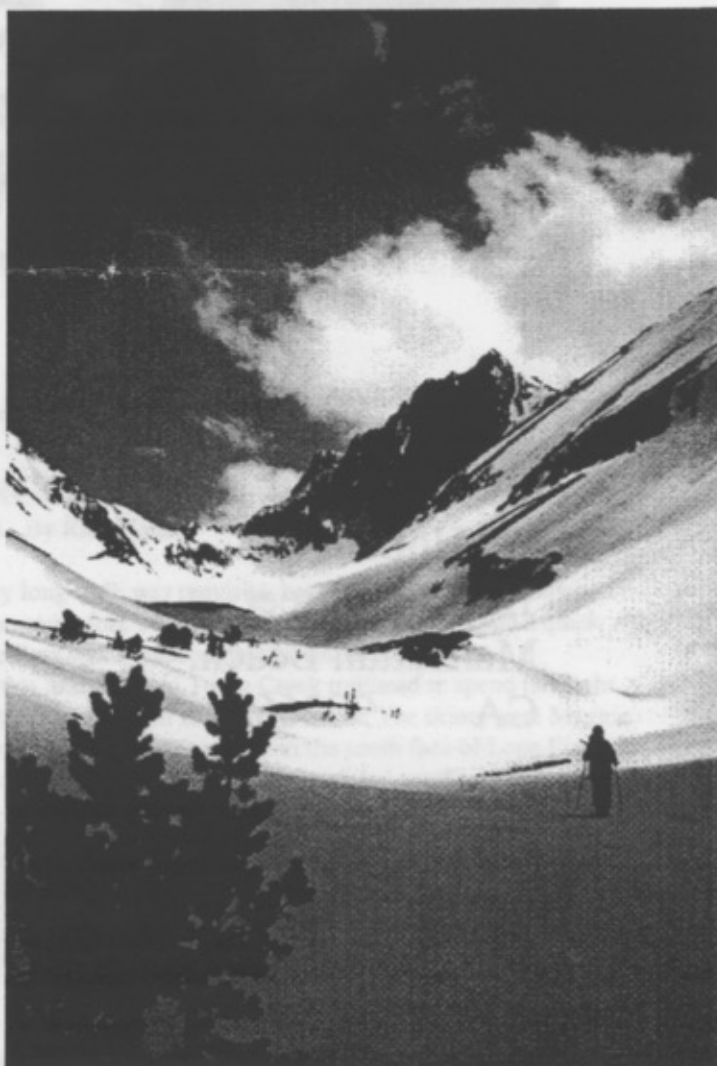
After a short hike up the slopes east of the lake, we reached the snow level, skinned up and skied along the East face of Morrison. There was plenty of earlier wet snow avalanches activity, but because of the winds it was cool and safe to ski in the valley. The scenery was beautiful, the wind bearable, the snow a bit crusty but fine for climbing. The dogs were happy and seemed to have unlimited energy.

After a few hours we came toward the end of the valley which forms a big cirque north of Mt Baldwin, west of Mt Aggie. Scot and Larry decided to ski in the bowl while Susan and I headed up to Mt Aggie. As the angle increased and the snow got harder, we switched from skis to crampons.

On the ridge the winds greeted us again with **fury**. At times one had to stop, plant the poles down wind, bend down and hold on with a little prayer. But we made it to the summit (11,561'), of course did not stay for very long due to the wind and rapidly approaching clouds. While descending a gust caught me by surprise and lifted me a foot off the ground. This was not the day for skiing on a ridge. Murphy's law struck Susan too: While putting on her skis one of them came

off, darted downhill on the hardpacked snow approaching rapidly the speed of the wind gusts. Luckily, it was found in a rock band without damage.

Later, we regrouped with Scot and Larry who began to wonder about our long climb. Together, we skied down the valley, this time outpacing the dogs. The last stretch down to the lake had a nice steep snowfield with soft wet snow, a pleasure to shred with 115mm wide shovels. Back at the cars not only did we feel the 4,000' ski adventure, but also the two dogs expressed themselves by laying flat on the ground. Thanks to the leaders for a fine ski trip in good company.



Susan Loftus skiing in Morrison Canyon

(Continued from page 1)

Russell-Whitney Col at 13,050 feet proved to be



Arctic Lake Tuttle/Crest Tour

Mugelnoos

Pat Holleman  
1638 6th Street  
Manhattan Beach,  
CA 90266



Richard L. Henke  
652 Marine Ave.  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266  
SMS RCS-R 1999

you are sliding down - I recommend staying to the fir  
skier's right until you get below it - it is deep. Once  
out of the col, we had a long traverse through the snow-

