

February 2000

Issue # 756

FREE HEEL DOWNHILL CLINIC JANUARY 28-30, 2000

LEADER: KEITH MARTIN

I got to the hut about 7:30pm on Friday night where Dorian Aniline was patiently waiting. We soon had the hut open and the wood stove burning. The rest of the participants continued to show up, one side benefit of no snow was that we could all find parking around the hut.

The next morning we were all out of the hut by 7:15am and at Bear Mountain before 8am. Again we luckily found parking in the upper lot near the main buildings. Using our Talk About radios, Reiner and I were soon able to make contact with Joe McCoy, who has distributed Talk About radios to all the Nordic instructors. Joe meet us at the Group ticket sales and quickly got us set up with lift tickets, clinic tickets and rental tickets for those who were renting. Joe made sure that the people renting skis got properly fitting boots. Joe has a special arrangement with the Ski Mountaineers. For the same price as a half day clinic, we get a full day clinic. This deal is only available on the two Ski Mountaineer Free Heel weekends.

Joe had five instructors available for the clinics. After a few practice runs we were split up into groups. The largest group was only about six participants, some groups only had one participant. I was in a group of only 3 participants. Talk about getting your moneys worth! The snow lived up to the reports I had gotten earlier, there was plenty of fresh man made stuff over a firm base. There were only a few spots where it got a little icy, but no one was disappointed. As a further bonus, the slopes were not overly crowded, so you did not get the impression you were skiing on a race course with moving

gates.

We skied all morning, took a break for lunch then skied again till 4. A tired group returned to the hut where, while happy hour was being enjoyed, Bahram and the other kitchen helpers prepared a feast of fresh mixed salad, pasta with Pesto sauce and broiled salmon fillet. Desert followed for those who could find room. The rest of the evening was spent discussing skiing and mountaineering as we enjoyed the extensive photo albums which Reiner Stenzel brought up to the hut. By 10 pm the hut was quiet. The next morning we were all up at 5:30am. The participants who were assigned breakfast all collaborated and we enjoyed another feast of scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, O'Brien Potatoes, Sweet rolls, Bagels, Orange Juice and of course plenty of coffee. About half the group decided to return to Bear Mountain where Joe had managed to find some discounts for us for the Funky Snow Day. We hooked up for more clinics and again skied till 4p. Like the day before, we enjoyed a good instructor to student ratio. As the afternoon progressed the slopes got less crowded and the snow softened up as low clouds moved in. We were all pleased with the instruction, Reiner mentioning that Dale, who worked with us on Sunday afternoon, did just the right amount of talking, followed by demonstration and finally observation and critic.

I would like to thank all the participants, including Bahram for a fantastic job of cooking and menu planning, Reiner and Steve for representing the SMS leaders, Virgil Talbot for helping me with the hut chores and Louisa Bonnie, Mary Lund, Mark Vogt, Gary Conklin, Dan Jamieson, Alan Franz, Bill Boehlert, Craig Connally, Afra Roet and Dorian Aniline for their interest in the

MUGELNOOS STAFF

EDITOR Don Ralphs
MUGELMAILER Pat Holleman

NEXT ISSUE

Issue deadline March 14,2000. All letters, photos, slides, or articles should be sent to Mugelnoos editor, Don Ralphs, 431 Alma Real Dr, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272. Materials can be sent by IBM disc or e-mailed to dralphs@attglobal.net. If you want your photos or slides returned after publication send a

Meetings

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

March 21, 2000 John Lichterwardt a local ski mountaineer and photographer will give a slide presentation titled: "Local Backcountry Ski Mountaineering"

April 18, 2000. Kurt Wedberg: a presentation "Mountaineering in the Sierras"

May 16,2000 (?) Porter Fox from Powder Magazine will be giving a talk showing slides from his trip to the India Himal:1st Glisse Descent of Yamunouri Pass 17,600' in the Indian Himalaya. Photos by Wade Mckoy, Skiers Porter Fox and Jason Tattersall.

Avalanche Beacons and SMS Historic Video For Sale
The following items are available for purchase from the SMS.

- SOS F1-ND Avalanche Beacon, 457 KHZ, \$157.00. (only 3 left, then the price goes to \$168)
- SMS Video of members skiing in the Sierra in the 1960s, plus rare skiing footage of Section founder, Walter Mosauer in 1932. \$10.00 (only 3 left)

Contact Mark Goebel: 714-963-9384

SMS WEB PAGE

HTTP:www.angeleschapter.org/skimt/.

Slide Show, Five years of trip reports, backcountry links and much more. Check it out.

Marmot Gore Tex Jacket For Sale

Marmot Thunderlight (ultralight) shell w/pit zips mens lrgBlue(purple)/black 2years old worn 20 days ,like new \$180 was \$ 390 new. Call Don Ralphs (310) 454-0703

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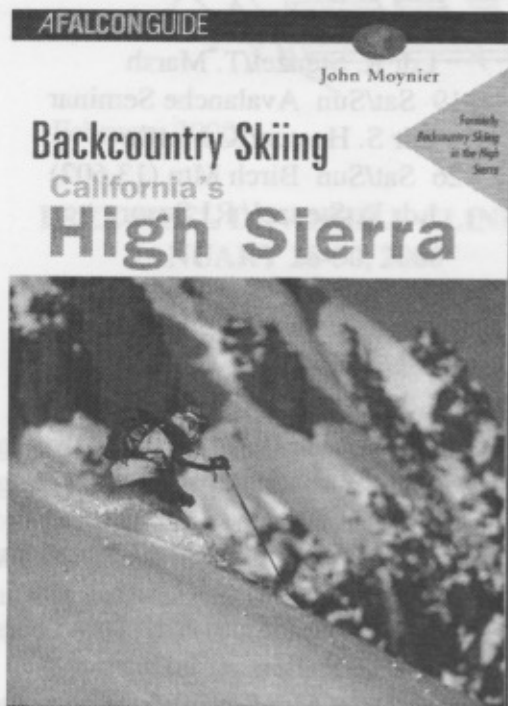
Avalanche info for Eastern Sierra

Phone: 760-924-5500

Web: www.csac.org/Bulletins/Calif/current

The Mugelnoos is a newsletter 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

TWO EXCELLENT NEW BOOKS ON
SKIING THE SIERRA NEVADA

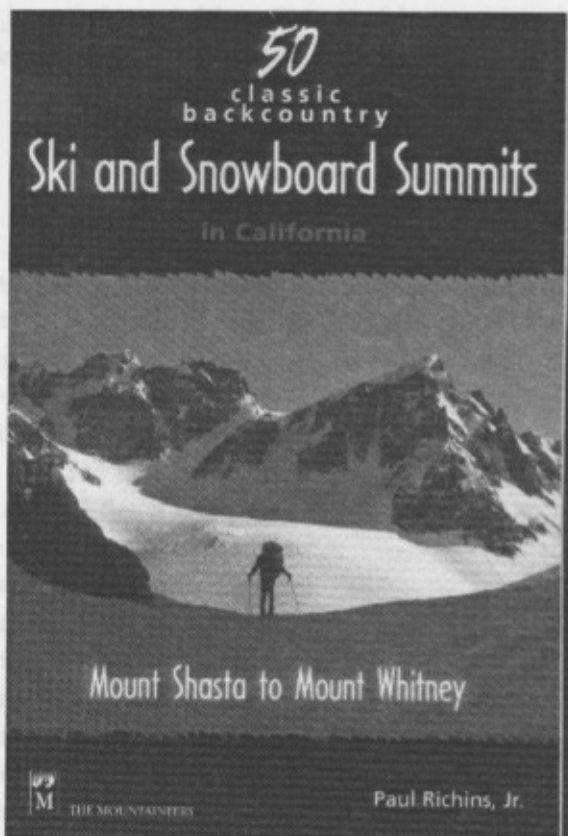


Many of you are familiar w/ Moynier's earlier book of the same name published back in 1992. The text has been updated and expanded. The Peak descent section which had previously covered only 17 peaks now covers 60. The old maps, which were of little more use than to start a campfire have been tossed out in favor of some well drawn, easy to decipher versions. The new photos have much better resolution and convey the message w/ greater power. He has retained (and improved) the elevation /distance graphs that provide a lot of info on the terrain one is to expect. In short, the book is better in all respects than the very informative, if unpolished original.

The book starts out w/ a historical overview of the sport as practiced in the Sierra. There are sections on avalanche awareness, snow camping and equipment. Trips are rated for difficulty on a Class 1-5 scale and the reader gets directions to the trailhead (sometimes the most difficult routefinding of a trip) and through the regulatory hurdles.

The majority of the book describes longer tours. The Sierra Crest, south to north is divided into seven tours at logical trailheads. In the second section four trans Sierra trips are described. The third section discusses eight shorter less committed trips and the final section, peak descents (and ascents).

Got to have it! \$14.95. Falcon Press (800)582-2665 or www.FalconOutdoors.com



Richins book, as it's title suggests, has different coverage than Moynier's. In addition to the Sierra Nevada we are provided sections on the Mt Shasta, Mt Lassen, and Lake Tahoe areas. There are no descriptions of extended "tours" but some of the individual peaks are remote and the round trip described can go to a week. Peaks for all ability levels are included.

Each chapter contains a regional map showing towns and access roads in sufficient detail to guide the backcountry skier to the trailhead of each featured trip. Trip write-ups include a summary of the route, 7.5-minute USGS topo(s) needed, trip duration, level of difficulty of the descent (intermediate, black diamond, double bd, extreme), mileage, elevation gain, a snowboard recommendation, snow conditions, and the best time to go. Also included are directions to the trailhead, a detailed description of the ascent and descent routes, and camping recommendations. Many of the trip descriptions include alternate ascent routes and various descent routes, and some suggest nearby summits with their approach routes. All of the approaches are given an "effort factor" which gives the estimated time based on an assumption of an hour for each two miles traveled and each 1,000 ft of elevation gained.

The appendix contains a wealth of info including listings of the peaks by difficulty, phone #s, and gear lists.

You are going to want to have this beautiful book as well! \$17.95 Available from The Mountaineers (800) 553-4453 or www.mountaineersbooks.org

**SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS SERVICE
AWARDS GIVEN TO TWO SMS OFFICERS**

Owen Maloy

Owen has led ski trips annually for the Ski Mountaineers Section since 1990, served as Outings and Safety Chair in 1980 and 1997-99. Owen is revising Outings and Safety Policies for the section as well as for the Orange County Sierra Singles Section and Range of Light Group. Maloy served as OCSS Safety Chair in 1979 and 1982 as well as Outings Chair in 1982. He has been instrumental in encouraging skiers to join Ski Mountaineers and to improve their skills.

Keith Martin

Keith lead trips for the Ski Mountaineers Section, Orange County Sierra Singles and joint trips between the Palos Verdes-South Bay and the Hundred Peaks Section. He served as Program Chair for the Sierra Peaks Section 1997-99 and on the Ski Mountaineers Sections Management Committee as Chairman, Outings Chair and Ski Safety Section Chair. He is currently vice-chair of the Ski Mountaineers

**SKI MOUNTAINEERS
2000 TRIP SCHEDULE**

- March 11-12 Sat/Sun Little Onion Valley
Ldr R. Stenzel/T. Marsh
- March 18-19 Sat/Sun Avalanche Seminar
Ldr S. Hessen/K. Martin
- March 25-26 Sat/Sun Birch Mtn (13,602)
Ldr R. Stenzel/ RJ Secor
- April 1-2 Sat/Sun Eldeberry/ Onion Valley
Ldr T Marsh/ M Goebel
- April 29-May 7 Trans Sierra Tour
Ldr R Stenzel/ RJ Secor
- May 6-7 Sat/Sun SanJoaquin Mtn(11,600)
Ldr M Goebel/G Holleman
- May 13-19 Sat-Fri Bishop Pass to Tabosse Pass
Ldr T Marsh/ J. McGuire
- May 20-21 Sat/Sun Mammoth Area Day Tours
Ldr G. Holleman/ P.Harris
- May 27-29 Sat/Mon Mts Powell & Thompson
Ldr R. Stenzel/ M Goebel

Mugelnoos

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