
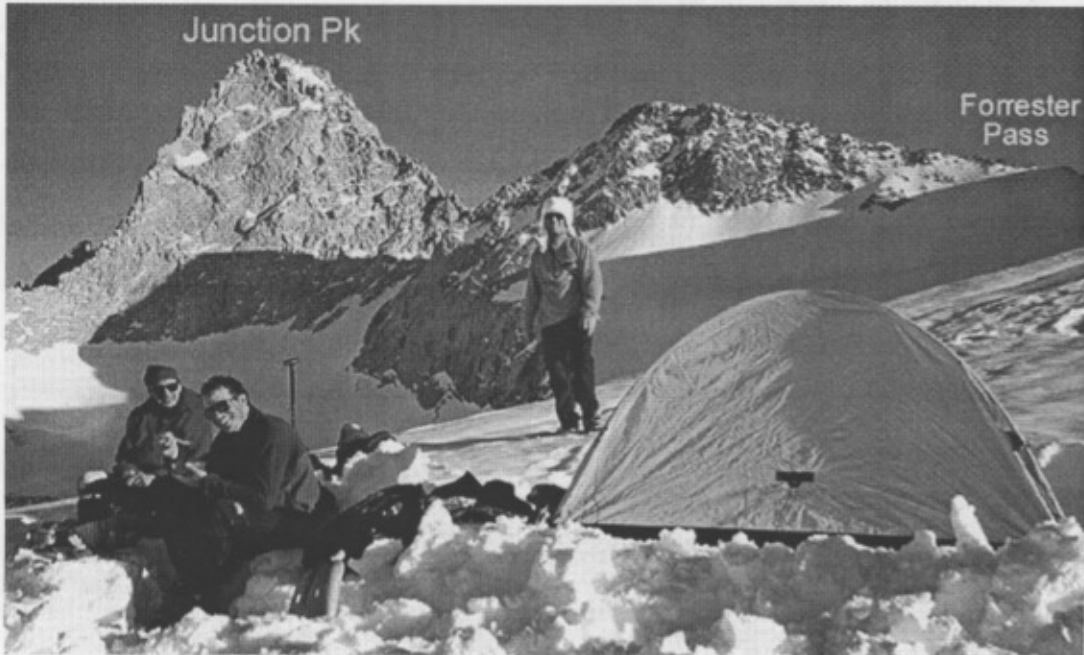


THE  MOUNTAINS

RCH
11/2000

November 2000

Issue # 761



Trans-Sierra Trip, April 29 — May 6, 2000 *Reiner Stenzel*

Good
Article

The crossing of the snow-covered Sierra Nevada is a true ski mountaineering adventure. It includes challenging backcountry skiing, climbing, orienteering, snowcamping, and self-reliance in the mountains for a week. For such an adventure it is good to have a small group of experienced friends. These were R.J. Secor, Duncan Livingston, Eric Watts, and myself. We skied from Onion Valley to Mineral King, crossing the Kings-Kern Divide and the Great Western Divide over 9 passes, covering some 42 mi and +17,000', -20,000' in elevation. As the detailed description shows, we had a wonderful experience blessed by great weather, excellent snow, good camaraderie, and no accidents/incidents. Here are the details:

On Fri, 4/28, I carpoled with Eric to Mineral King to meet Duncan who came down from Southern Oregon. We carcamped at the road closure which is about 8 mi away from the trailhead. We spent the night in clouds from a cutoff low over Southern CA.

On Sat, 4/29, we left my VW bus at Mineral King and drove with Duncan's car to Onion Valley (9,200'). This took about 6 hours via Hwys 65, 178 (Walker Pass), 14, and 395. At 1:30 pm we met R.J. at Onion Valley where his father had given him a ride. Our 40+lb packs were stuffed with supplies for 8 days. We assorted our common gear (2 tents, 2 stoves, repair kit, maps), made last-minute route decisions, and started our tour at 3 pm. We decided to go

(Continued on page 4)

MUGELNOOS STAFF

EDITOR
MUGELMAILER

Lorene Samoska
Pat Holleman

NEXT ISSUE

January issue deadline is Jan 10, 2001. All letters, photos, slides, or articles should be sent to Mugelnoos editor, Lorene Samoska, 701 Craig Avenue, La Canada, CA 91011. Materials can be sent by IBM disc or e-mailed to samsei@pacbell.net. Electronic photos and articles are preferred and appreciated.

MEETINGS

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Our newest member of the SMS is Annemarie Schober—welcome Annemarie! We're glad to have you!

SMS WEB PAGE UPDATE

The new link is: <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/skimt/>

Avalanche Beacons and SMS Historic Video For Sale

- SOS F1-ND Avalanche Beacon, 457 KHZ, \$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

For Sale: Heavy-duty mountaineering boots. French, Galibier-Pentory (classics-leather). Used one summer in France. Size 10.5 M. Cost: \$225, asking \$125. Also, Swiss lightweight hiking boots. Raichie Ecolite Special, blue & gray. Size: 10.5 M. Cost: \$75, asking \$25. Richard Neal (626) 286-4697.

For Sale: Men's randonnee boots. Trezeta (Italian) model TFK201, size 10-11. MINT condition, NEVER used. Retail for \$495, asking \$250/obo. Please phone Mark: (310)398-0366.

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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 "SMS." Due in October. Subscription payments are not tax deductible as charitable contributions.

Calendar of Events

Dec 2-3 Sat-Sun C: Leaders Ski Weekend at Mammoth: Come out and tune up your skiing for the 2000-2001 season. Ldr: Andy Fried Asst: Owen Maloy

Dec 15-17 Fri-Sun C: Keller Hut for Demo Days: Join other Ski Mountaineers at Keller Hut and participate in Demo Days at Bear Mountain. Regular hut fee plus optional donation for hut fundraiser. Potluck dinner Sat night. Contact Reservationist: Keith Martin

Jan 6-7 Sat Sun C: Ski Mammoth/June: Help stamp out summer by preparing your skills for the backcountry. Contact Ldr: Andy Fried. Asst: Owen Maloy.

Jan 16 Tue Monthly Mtg: Entertaining slide programs featuring equipment, safety, and outings. Newcomers welcome. 7:30 pm Griffith Park Ranger Station. Slide show: Dave Wyman - Favorite Snow Camps on the West Side

Side Jan 26-28 Fri-Sun 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 Res: Keith Martin

Feb 3 Sat TI: Local Tour: Intro ski mountaineering tour in local mountains. Check out your gear and enjoy some turns. Metal-edged skis and climbing skins required. Call leader in the prior week for location and time. Ldr: Mark Goebel, Asst: Kathy Crandall.

Feb 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 <http://angeleschapter.org/skimt/>.

Feb 10-11 Sat-Sun Ski Mountaineers, Orange County Sierra Singles TI: Snowshelter 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 experience, h&w phones, email address, rideshare info to Ldr: Reiner Stenzel. Asst: Keith Martin.

Feb 23-25 Fri-Sun 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 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 Res: Keith Martin.

February 23-25, 2001 TI: Weekend at Pear Lake Hut Ski : Climb slopes around Skiers Alta and ski wonderful powder bowls. 1900' gain to hut at 9,200', possible climb to summit of Skiers Alta 11,328' Comfortable hut accommodations dependant on lottery results, otherwise snowcamp. For strong interm. to advanced skiers with heavy pack skiing experience. Metal edged skis, climbing skins, shovel, probe and avalanche beacons required. Send e-mail/sase with experience to Ldr: Randy Lamm, Asst.: Tom Marsh.

Mar 4 Sun TI: Mt. Baden Powell 9,399': Climb from Vincent Gap to summit 2,800' gain. Challenging skiing down north facing gully back to Vincent gap. Advanced skiers confident on steep slopes. Stable Telemark or Randonnee gear required. shovel, probe, beacon required Weather/snow conditions may postpone trip. Send email / sase w/experience to Ldr: Randy Lamm, Asst.: Tom Marsh.

Mar 10-11 Sat-Sun TI: Baldy Ski Hut: Ski mountaineering weekend on Mt Baldy's exciting upper slopes. Come for the day or stay overnight at the Hut. Advance intermediate or better skiers. Contact leader for reservations. Ldr: Mark Goebel. Asst: Bill Lingle.

Mar 20 Tue Ski Mountaineers Monthly Meeting: 7:30pm Griffith Park Ranger Station.

Mar 24-25 Sat-Sun TI: Olancha Pk (12,123'): Lengthy and strenuous ski tour attempt on southern Sierra high Point. Sat backpack over Olancha Pass to snow camp, approx. 7 mi, 4000' gain. Sun ski to peak

and return to cars, 12 mi, 2400' gain. Metal edged, lighter weight touring gear recommended. Send recent experience, address, phone #, and ride share info to Ldr: Mark Goebel. Asst: Keith Martin.

Mar 31 - Apr 1 Sat-Sun Ski Mountaineers/Sierra Peaks TM: Mt Perkins: Climb and ski a classic ski mountaineers/SPS peak via Armstrong Cyn. For advanced skiers/snowboarders and SPS climbers with snowshoes, ice axe and crampons. Send e-mail/sase w experience to Ldr:Reiner Stenzel. Co-Ldr: Keith Martin

April 7, 2001. Leadership Training Seminar. Everyone desiring to lead for Ski Mountaineers should sign up for the spring seminar. Written applications with the \$20 fee are required 2 weeks before the seminar starts. Applications are available at http://angeleschapter.org/ltc/forms/ltc_application.html or send large SASE to: Don Creighton, LTC Registrar, 2235 W 25th St., #128, San Pedro, CA 90732-4130 Phone: 310-519-0364 Also see <http://www.angeleschapter.org/ltc/> for more info on leadership courses.

Apr 7-8 Sat-Sun TI: Onion Valley Car Camp: Great time for skiing this fabulous area. Option to ski Kearsarge Pass, Sardine Canyon, University Pass, etc.. For strong interm. to advanced skiers/snowboarders/snowbunnies. Metal edged skis, climbing skins and avalanche beacons required. Send e-mail/sase with experience to Ldr: Tom Marsh. Asst.: Gerry Holleman

Apr 14-19 Sat-Thu Ski Mountaineers/Sierra Peaks TM: Mts Guyot, Joe Devil, Pickering, Newcomb: Ski some cl 1-2 SPS peaks south of Whitney via Cottonwood Lks. Basecamp near Rock Creek, peak climbs as day tours. Possible detour to Kern Hot Springs. For advanced skiers and SPS climbers with snowshoes, ice axe and crampons. Send e-mail/sase w experience to Ldr: Reiner Stenzel. Co-Ldr: R.J.Secor.

Apr 17 Tue Ski Mountaineers Monthly Meeting: 7:30pm Griffith Park Ranger Station.

Apr 21-22 Sat-Sun TI: Tour De Peaklet: Great shakedown tour for longer ski tours in this 10 mile exploration of both McGee Creek and Humphreys Creek drainage's. Ski to the base of Peaklet and Mt. Humphreys. Approx 3,000' vertical gain. For strong interm. to advanced skiers with pack skiing experience. Metal edged skis, climbing skins, shovel, probe and avalanche beacons required. High clearance vehicles recommended. Send e-mail/sase with experience to Ldr: Randy Lamm, Asst: Tom Marsh

May 5-6 Sat-Sun TI: Dunderberg Pk (12,374'), Mt Dana (13,374'): Two excellent peaks with long, wide open ski slopes. Dunderberg on Sat, 2874' gain, and Dana on Sun, 3407' gain. Car camp Sat nite. For advance intermediate skiers or better. Send recent experience, address, phone #, and ride share info to Ldr: Mark Goebel. Asst: Tom Sexton.

May 12-16 Sat-Wed Ski Mountaineers/Sierra Peaks TM: Center, Keith, Bradley: Ski mountaineering to some cl2 SPS peaks. From Onion Valley ski via University Pass to Center Basin. Set up base camp and ski peaks with daypacks. For advanced skiers and SPS climbers with snowshoes, ice axe and crampons. Send e-mail/sase w experience to Ldr:Reiner Stenzel. Co-Ldr: Ron Hudson

May 15 Tue Ski Mountaineers Monthly Meeting: 7:30pm Griffith Park Ranger Station.

May 26-28 Sat-Mon Ski Mountaineers/Sierra Peaks TM: Mt Whitney, Mt Muir: Ski/climb our highest SPS emblem peak. Ski down open slopes from Trailcrest to Whitney Portal, snow conditions permitting. For advanced skiers/boarders, climbers with ice axe and crampons. Send e-mail/sase w experience to Ldr: Reiner Stenzel. Co-Ldr: R.J.Secor.

June 1-4 Fri-Mon Ski Mountaineers/Sierra Peaks TM: Winchell: Skiing and peak climbing in the Palisades Glacier area. Fri hike to base camp at Sam Mack, Sat do Winchell, Mo out. For advanced skiers and experienced SPS climbers. Metal-edged skis, ice axes and crampons, and climbing gear reqd. Send e-mail/sase w experience to Ldrs: Reiner Stenzel, R.J. Secor.



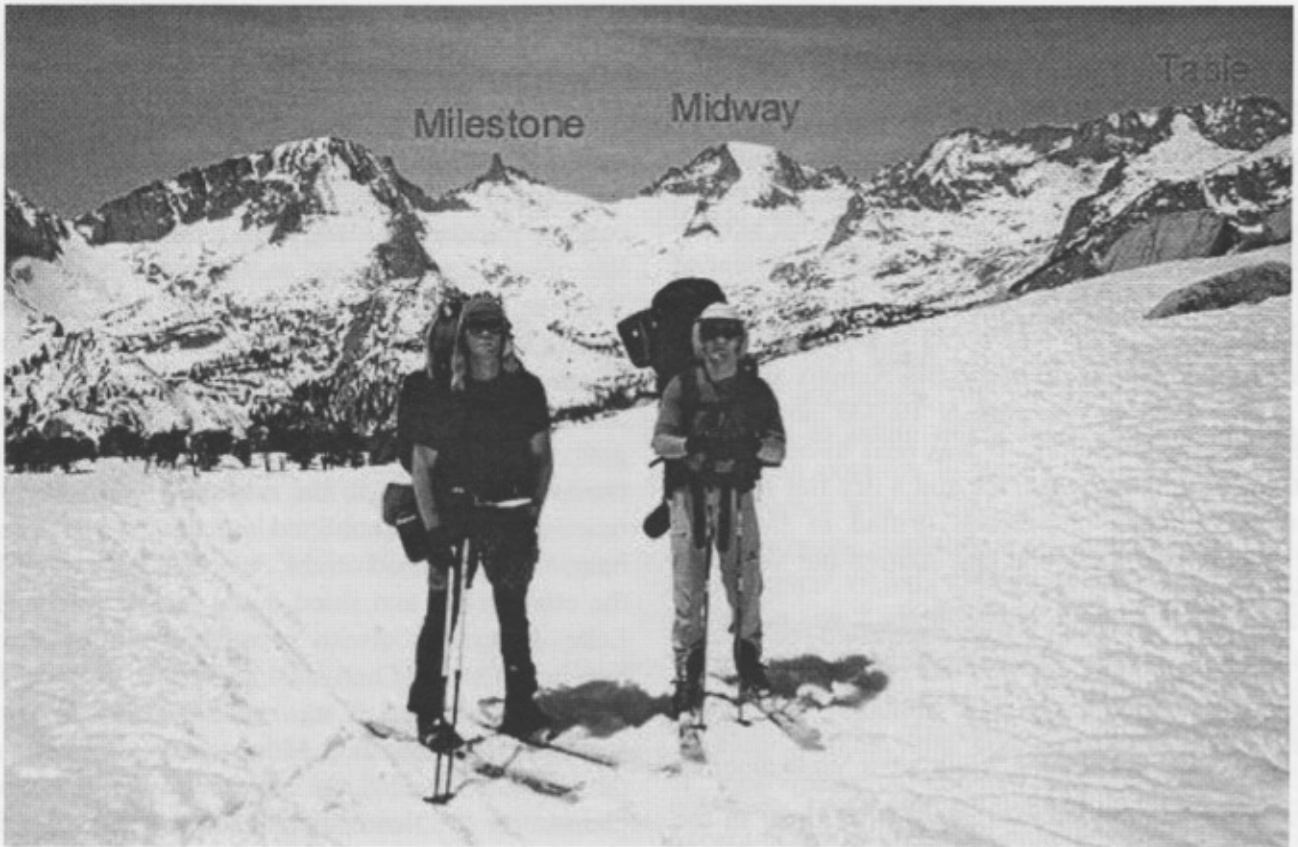
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over University Pass (12,640') into the upper Bubbs Creek rather than via Kearsarge Pass and the low Vidette Mdws. Although steeper, this avoided hiking below the snowline (9,000') and an uncertain stream crossing. It was one of many good route suggestions by R.J. who was in his familiar terrain. By 6 pm we were well above Robinson Lake (10,530') and set up camp on a high ridge (12,140') about 0.5 mi N of University Pass. We enjoyed the views down to Owens Valley and the sunset colors on the snow-covered Sierra peaks.

Sun, 4/30. By sunrise (6 am) we got up, had breakfast, packed, and left by 8 am. It was another cloudless spring day. After a short scramble over rocks we used ice axe and crampons to ascend about 1,000' on hard snow to the summit of University Pass (10 am). From there we had a great view of the snow-covered backcountry: In the distance the rugged Kings-Kern Divide, nearby Center Peak which separates the Center Basin from the Bubbs Creek drainage. Of the various options to cross the Kings-Kern Divide, we chose to go for Forrester Pass (13,200'), hoping that its steep South side would be passable. Thus, we descended University Pass, the first 500' on rocks, then skied down to North of Golden Bear Lake around Center Peak and up Bubbs Ck toward Forrester Pass. We passed some bright green lakes of glacial snow melt. By 5 pm, we found a pretty campsite on a ridge (12,530') about 0.5 mi N of Forrester Pass. Another great view, but one had to be careful that the wind did not blow one's gear down the ridge onto Lake 12,237' below the pass.

Monday, Mayday, we continued our tradition to get up by sunrise, move by 8 am, and climb a pass while the snow was still frozen hard. Since the North side of Forrester Pass is not too steep, three of us skied up with ski crampons. These fit under telemark bindings and give excellent lateral stability when traversing and turning on frozen slopes. We reached Forrester Pass by 9 am and were greeted by a group of 3 skiers who just came up from the South side. This relieved our concern about crossing this high pass. But the descent was not trivial. With heavy packs, skis poking up, we front-pointed down a 45 deg chute of hard snow into which the ice axe would barely penetrate. After this adrenaline rush we reached the safe terrain of the upper Tyndall Creek drainage. Around 10 am the snow corned up and it was easy cruising down the gentle open terrain between Diamond Mesa and the Caltech Pk ridge. Eric did a fine orienteering job and got us precisely down to the Kern River just above Milestone Ck (10,630'). The river was open but there were enough snowbridges for safe crossing. The scent of pinetrees and the songs of birds were a pleasant change from the sterile high country of rocks and snow. In the afternoon, we ascended along the High Route toward Milestone Mtn. The route goes up a most beautiful valley rimmed by steep mountains and terminated by the characteristic "finger" of Milestone Mtn (13,641'). The creek flows partly below the snow, partly breaks through the snow, and sometimes gushes down an icy waterfall. Milestone Pass looks more intimidating than it actually is. To keep our tradition we camped below the pass to climb it in the morning. By 4:30 pm we spotted a small plateau for a perfect campsite. We cooked on a dry flat rock and overlooked the valley like marmots. High cirrus clouds moved in producing a ring around the sun, a typical sign that a front is moving in. In the evening huge lenticular clouds formed over the Eastern Sierra Nevada.

On Tue, 5/2, 8 am, we ski-cramponed up to Milestone Pass (13,123') reaching it by 10 am. The last few steps over the narrow ridge were quite exciting. Unfortunately, we had to take the skis off since the South side was still frozen hard and a fall down rock-studded Milestone Bowl was not advisable. After cramponing down to an acceptable angle



we began to telemark in Milestone Bowl to where it drops 800' down into the headwaters of the Kern-Kaweah River. Somehow we had to cross this valley and get on a 12,000' high ridge on the other side of the big cirque South of Colby Pass. We tried to keep the elevation by circumnavigating, but it did not pay off. We spent too much time traversing steep slopes in soft snow and reached the base of the unnamed pass by 2 pm when it became unsafe to climb the steep mush. Various options were discussed and the vote was to wait till after 4 pm when the sun was off the slope, the snow had hardened, and it would be safer to climb it. So it was time for loafing. Duncan got a book out and we read it loud, taking turns each chapter. Once in a while Eric would dig a small pit to look at the snow stability. The hours passed by and finally, after the sun had left the slope, we started our ascent. The snow was less mushy now but the angle on this 12,000' pass became so steep that kickturns were at the limit of lifting one's leg. This lesson reminded us to stay with our usual schedule to climb passes in the morning. After we reached the unnamed 12,000' ridge, Triple Divide Pk (12,634') became visible to

the West. We skied toward the upper lakes and stream which feed the Kern-Kaweah River and set up basecamp by 6:30 pm at 11,600', 1.5 mi NE of Triple Divide. The sun soon vanished behind a tall ridge in the West and we were in our bags by 8:30 pm. It became a cold clear night where waterbottles froze inside the tent.

On Wed, 5/3, we got up at 5:45 am to another cloudless day. After the usual morning business we began our ascent to Triple Divide Pass (12,210') by 8 am. We had a great view from the NE sub peak (12,400') which reached from the Palisades Range in the North to Olancha Pk in the South. By 10 am we cramponed down T.D. Pass, then skied down to Glacier Lake where we encountered another group of skiers enjoying the corn snow in Cloud Cyn. We then contoured around the rock West of Glacier Lake and ascended Lion Lake Pass (11,610'). Below the rock the slopes were steep and hard frozen, requiring boot or ski crampons to avoid a long fall into Cloud Cyn. From Lion Lake Pass we skied down SE staying above Lion Lake (11,005') and headed up Lion Rock Pass (11,800'). Climbing a third pass this day became tiring, espe-

cially by midday in a bowl of intense sunlight without a breeze. In spite of ample sunscreen, chapstick and zinc, Eric got sunburned on the tongue. On Lion Rock Pass we met other skiers, superb athletes with light packs, zipping along the Great Western Divide. From the pass we had a wonderful ski run down into the Nine Lakes Basin. We stayed clear of the lakes which began to melt at the shore. We soon passed Kaweah Gap and could not stop our corn snow fun until we were in the Big Arroyo. By 4 pm we found a pretty campsite at 10,000' about 1 mi West of Eagle Scout Pk. It was next to open water of the Big Arroyo near trees and a dry flat rock for cooking. After 5 pm clouds drifted in from the West. Fog rolled into the Big Arroyo but vanished later at night.

Thur, 5/4. Cold nights contrasted the blistering heat of midday. As we fetched water from the creek in the morning, a few minutes later it was coated with ice. We cooked, ate breakfast, packed, and left before the sun reached the valley floor. It was bumpy mogul skiing through the forest in the Big Arroyo. Instead of following down to the Patrol Cabin we stayed high, contoured East of Lippincott Mtn, and headed toward the Little Five Lakes. After a few hours of up and down skiing past forests, streams and lakes, we were above Lake 10,476' 1.5 mi E of Mt Eisen where one ascends toward Black Rock Pass. We stopped for a lunch break and enjoyed the fabulous view of the nearby Kaweahs and the distant peaks of Whitney, Langley and Olancho. By early afternoon we skinned up to Black Rock Pass (11,600') which was luckily free of cornices. However, looking over to our next pass, Glacier Pass, we saw a row of menacing cornices and began to wonder how to get over/through them. After a farewell to the Kaweahs we skied down the Western side of Black Rock Pass on soft spring snow. We arrived by 4 pm, set up camp near a majestic pine tree at the upper Spring Lake, cut a hole into the lake for supply of fresh water, washed up, relaxed, and watched clouds forming over the Great Western Divide. At times, the clouds covered all peaks, at other times they all vanished. The San Joaquin Valley was entirely covered by clouds. While we ate dinner, another group of 4 skiers came down and camped near the lake. They had enviously light packs, but the price was an hour of

setup time for their pyramid tent, after which they cooked and ate by darkness.

On Fri, 5/5, we had the first day without sun in the morning. It was humid and warm and clouds were rising from the West. The other group came over to discuss how to ascend the glaciated pass. We offered to try it first and they could follow us. By 8 am we ski-cramponed up the slopes West of Spring Lake, continued on a plateau to the base of Glacier Pass (11,200'), switched to boot crampons and kicked a line of steps into the soft snow. Energetic Duncan led the last section which lead between two cornices to the ridge. By 9 am we were relieved to have summited our last pass. An hour later, 8 people stood on the Pass. We bid farewell to the other group and skied down direction Monarch Lake. It started outwith superb corn snow skiing, but became softer and slushier further below. With one rocky exception we could ski down to the snowline at Groundhog Mdw where we picked up the trail and hiked down to Mineral King. It was a pleasure to see flowers, butterflies, deer and a 500 lb bear. At 1 pm we lunched on the steps of the deserted Ranger Stn, then began the tedious 7 mi hike out to my car at the road closure. Duncan and I were trotting down the road, kicking pinecones, when suddenly a truck came out of a service road. Duncan's smile at the Rangerette saved us the last few miles of walking, much to the envy of our trailing party who joined us later at 4 pm. After condensing all the gear in my car we drove the winding MK road down to Three Rivers where we stopped at Reimer's Candy shop to load up on extra large vanilla shakes. Then we continued to Bakersfield, where we really filled up at the Sizzlers. The plan was to camp at Walker Pass, but since it was filled up we proceeded to Fossil Falls where, at 11 pm, I quit driving. We slept in the warm desert wind. Next morning, Eric discovered a new bedfellow, a 2 inch long scorpion!

On Sat, 5/6, 7 am, we stopped for a grand slam breakfast at the Ranch House in Olancho, then drove up to Onion Valley to get Duncan's car. We all had the same feelings: It was a wonderful trip with a fine group of people. Thanks to everyone, especially to R.J. for his help to make it an official SPS/SMS trip.

SKIING IDAHO's SAWTOOTH MOUNTAINS

By Rich Henke

Skiing the length of the Sawtooths has been on my ski trip list for 10 years. Back in the early 90's, I heard about a commercial outfitter in Idaho who ran multiday Sawtooth ski trips. I wrote requesting information hoping to score some route ideas, but all I got was a letter with an enormous price quote plus some words about how they almost never take anyone on a serious trip like this who has not done other trips with their company. But then, my friend Carl Hamke moved to Boise. He selected a potential ski route and we were all set to go in the spring of 1999. That was just before he got called for jury duty and was selected for a 6-week trial. So finally, a year later on April 15 2000, we were ready to ski.

The distribution of skiers was geographically diverse: Carl from Boise, Craig Miller from Seattle, Hal Thompkins from Palo Alto, Armando Menocal from Jackson Hole, and myself from Redondo Beach. The route was from south to north beginning at the turnoff to Alturas Lake on scenic Hwy 75, which parallels the eastern side of the range. We had dropped a car at the North end near the small town of Stanley while driving to the trailhead. Our exit from the range would be at a trailhead called Iron Creek. We carried food for 7 nights although we thought the trip would be shorter. This extra time would give us a chance to ski a number of interesting peaks along the route and provided a buffer for the unsettled weather which was forecast for the entire trip.

Our pack weights at the start varied from Armando's 38 lb to Hal's 52 lb. Various people carried crampons, ice axes, self arrest poles, and camera gear. The snow was quite consolidated and we did not need transceivers. We had 3 people in a Stretch Dome using a hanging stove and 2 in a Bibler with an MSR Dragon Fly. Temperatures were mild enough that the snow didn't firm up enough at night to provide good corn for the following day. So the skiing was not outstanding. It was not necessary to melt any snow on the entire trip. I managed to get 14 man-days from the first 16 oz propane canister in my hanging stove.

Carl had drawn out route on the "Sawtooth Wilderness Hiking Map and Guide". This one map

at 1:48,000 covers the entire range. We also used the relevant 15-min maps. Our first pass, just south of Snowside Peak at 9600 feet was the highest one. We would cross 6 passes in the 7 days that we skied, and also ski 2 peaks. Decker Peak at 10,700 feet is the 3rd highest point in the Sawtooths.

I found the terrain to be relatively gentle compared to similar trips in the Sierra. Much of the skiing at the lower elevations in the valleys was through heavy forest – again different from the Sierra. Several times, finding the summer trail allowed us to make much better time than would have been possible in the heavy trees and brush. The weather was indeed unsettled. It consisted of snow showers, sunshine and warm conditions, and mostly good visibility. We had excellent downhill skiing on our 2 ski descents. Our basic route covered 48 miles and gained 10,164 vertical. Our 2 ski descents added a few more miles and 3,700 more vertical. It was certainly not a killer trip. We camped early most days and had a very relaxed schedule. There was good snow cover everywhere except at our low point on day 6 when we dropped down to 5,600 feet. The low elevation forced us to carry our skis for several miles along a good trail before crossing the final pass at 8,500 feet.

On our last day, we awoke to a whiteout. I went back to sleep hoping it would clear later. This was the morning we planned to ski Alpine Peak. But then I heard Carl say something about a beautiful day. We were camped on Sawtooth Lake and our camp was covered with a dense but thin layer of fog. Fifty feet above the lake, everything was in beautiful sunshine. The ski descent down Alpine Peak with Sawtooth Lake below was probably the highpoint of the trip.

Our skis ranged from my Black Diamond Vectors (with a pattern) to Craig's new parabolic skis. Craig certainly "ate our lunch" on this trip. He was able to turn effortlessly in all types of snow, while the rest of us struggled. I think the time has come to upgrade my equipment!



GUIDE BOOKS AND INFORMATION

For Sale: Ski Tours in Southern California: New book on cross-country skiing in the local mountains. See www.ski.drydog.com. By Club member & Mugelnoos subscriber Dan Anderson.



Pete Yamagata's **Northern Sierra Peaks Guide** can now be accessed online at <http://www.lanset.com/pyamagata>. It contains useful information in skiing the peaks of the Northern Sierra, and vicinity.



SKI MOUNTAINEERS! I will pick you up for free from Sac Metro, with limited transport provided, should you be intent on spending time skiing the backcountry summits of the Northern Sierra. Any time of the week will be fine, although better lodging opportunities exist mid-week. Please call me anytime at (916) 444-6319, or e-mail to: <1000pks@lanset.com>. Thank you! Pete Yamagata

Mugelnoos

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