



December 2000

Issue # 762

## **Bishop Pass to Virginia Canyon via Mammoth Hot Spring**

**May 13-20th, 2000 by Tom Marsh**

Weather for all seasons is the best way to describe the weather in the Sierras for the week of May 13-20. Upon our arrival at the Taboose Creek Campground on Friday night, May 12th, pleasant temperatures and clear star-studded skies greeted the eight of us as we conversed well into the evening. We were Joe McGuire, Evelyn McGuire, Don Ralphs, Randy S., Bill Lutz, Mike Rector, RJ Secor and myself. The weather was still quite nice as we shuttled the cars to the Taboose Pass Trailhead and took the long drive up to South Lake. The first two miles required carrying the ski-laden packs through the intermittent snow. At about 10,000 feet, we were able to don skis and relish the lighter packs without skis. Surprisingly, even though the snow level was quite high, an abnormal cold period had preceded our trip for the last week. The previous Tuesday had the town of Bodie as the low for the nation at 5 degrees. This was beneficial as we skate-skied the flat expanse of Long Lake and deep into the Bishop Creek Drainage. Because of our long shuttle, we did not arrive at Bishop Lakes until after 4:00 PM. The wind was blowing at about 40 mph. A large group from the Sierra Peaks Section had arrived before us and managed to climb Mount Goodard. The wind increased to 60-70 mph gusts as we set up camp. The only shelter was behind a large rock. As the night progressed, it was apparent that the wind was not going to abate. The group in the Megamid was constantly being beaten by the tent walls. Needless to say, no one slept well that night. The prediction of a strong storm system was still in the forecast as we awoke to even stronger winds. Rather than risk the weather, I decided on a layover day to get the group acclimated and determine the real intent of the weather. Therefore, a number of us ascended the hard windy slopes of Bishop Pass into Dusy Basin. It was difficult to ski upright in the winds as we toured the basin in view of Thunderbolt Col. Upon arriving back at camp in the early afternoon, we discovered that the winds had broken the tent poles of a VE25 Northface Tent. Faced with no shelter and a deteriorating weather pattern, the decision was made to ski out.

Tired and sore from our brief stay in the Sierras, we all filed into Whiskey Creek in Bishop for beers, good food and conversion. After that, we all drove to Polky's pool for a relaxing soak in an outdoor hot springs. Is this an SMS trip or a hot spring tour? The next day we all had breakfast at the McDonalds in Mammoth to contemplate our next move. The Forest Service Station in Mammoth had posted the prediction of the same strong storm to arrive that evening and stay through Tuesday, preceded by the persistent high winds. Most of us decided to take a off day and visit the town of Bodie. Joe and Evelyn decided to ski the Mountain. Late that afternoon we all came together for some more beers at Grummy's in Mammoth. As we relaxed, the full brunt of the storm arrived. By the next morning, 8 inches of snow had fallen. We all decided to ski the Mountain on that stormy Tuesday. Amazingly, we were all greeted with some of the best powder skiing of the year.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## MUGELNOOS STAFF

EDITOR Lorene Samoska  
MUGELMAILER 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!

### SMS WEB PAGE UPDATE

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

### BALDY HUT LINK

<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/lodges/sanantonioskihut.html>

### 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 ice hiking/alpine boots, size 10-11. Separate liner (thinsulate) and plastic boot. MINT condition, NEVER used. Asking \$95. 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

- 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.
- 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:** This month's meeting will feature Bud Halley, long-time ski mountaineer and ski racer, who will entertain us with a program featuring the early days of the SMS. Newcomers welcome. 7:30 pm Griffith Park Ranger Station.
- 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.: Mark Goebel.
- 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 Randonee 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/ltr/forms/ltr\\_application.html](http://angeleschapter.org/ltr/forms/ltr_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/ltr/> 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 drainages. 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 12-19 Sat-Sat T: Yosemite High Route Trans-Sierra :** Classic Yosemite High route tour from Silver Lake to Badger Pass in Yosemite National Park. Opportunity for many diversions on this 45 mile ski adventure. For strong interm. to advanced skiers with pack skiing experience. Metal edged skis, climbing skins and avalanche beacons required. Send e-mail/sase with experience to Ldr: Tom Marsh. Asst: Joe McGuire.
- 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.

(Continued from page 1)

Starting with Wednesday, we finally had an improving weather pattern. Itching to get back into the backcountry, we drove up to Virginia Lakes in the Hoover Wilderness. A beautiful day provided us relatively easy access up the canyon, over the pass and down to the Eastern shore of Summit Lake. It was an ideal campspot in the view of Stanton, Camaica, Virginia and Greyhead peaks. Ski tours across the long length of Summit Lake became a nightly ritual. The next day we took an 8-mile loop from Summit Lake to Stanton Peak to Solider Lake and back down into the canyon. We all very much enjoyed the 2,000-foot decent from Soldier Lake to the bottom of the canyon on great spring corn. We did, however, have a number of unnerving sounds and feelings of settling snow slabs, as well as large snow ball development.

The next day we decided to pack out with a detour to the top of Excelsior Mountain. We had to scale one 300-foot steep section before the moderate slopes of the pass. Luckily, Mike had plow-stepped down the slope two days early and provided a secure route up the steep icy slopes. Both Mike and Evelyn had ski crampons to traverse up—a valuable tool on this type of terrain.

Upon reaching the pass, we dumped our packs and started the long ascent of Excelsior. The first section proved to be the most difficult. We were able to ski to the ridgeline separating Virginia Canyon from the East encampment. The wind had blown most of the snow off the West slopes. Therefore, we traversed large talus for the last mile to the top. The views were incredible! Even better was the descent back to the pass on great spring conditions. One lone marmot had managed to chew a hole into Mike's gorp. The descent from the pass to the cars was good, although, it was a bit mushy toward the last stand of tree skiing.

That evening we had a very relaxing soak in Travertine Hot Spring right out of Bridgeport, as well as fine dining at the Bridgeport Inn. On Saturday, we had to get one more tour in under fine weather. Therefore, we skied to the top of False White in the Tioga Pass area. It was not the best time to be on that mountain. Contrary to the conditions in the Virginia Lakes area the day before, False White

had ankle deep mush on the ascent up. The pit dug at the top evidenced two feet of mush on an icy floor. This became especially apparent after Joe traversed the ridge and let off a 10-foot wide, 2-foot deep slide that went 200 feet. This was unnerving, since all of us were still above this section. One at a time, we gingerly skied down past the runout in the mushy conditions. The snow finally improved toward the bottom on the canyon. We arrived back at the cars by 1:00PM in full sight of the slide on False White.

A final soak in Hot Creek was in order as we made our way home from this week of skiing. Special thanks to Joe for co-leading the trip and Mike and Bill for some great company!

## Olympic Ski Mountaineering?

"The International Council for Ski Mountaineering Competitions President, Jordi Colomer, reported about his meeting with the International Olympic Committee President Samaranch and possible perspectives to get Ski Mountaineering Competitions into the Olympic Games 2006 in Torino. Meanwhile a positive reaction of the IOC Sports Director Mr. Felli has been received and his condition of a backing by the FIS has been favorably answered in a discussion with the FIS President Mr. Kasper. It seems now to be up to the Organizing Committee in Torino to decide on the inclusion of Ski Mountaineering Competitions in the 2006 Winter Games."

--from World Mountaineering and Climbing, 3/2000, the UIAA magazine. (Submitted by RJ Secor)

\* \* \*

Happy Holidays to All!

\* \* \*



## Secret Tricks by Allan Bard

*(Allan Bard was one of the pioneers of Sierra backcountry skiing, and a well-respected mountaineer, guide, and telemark skier. Known as the "Reverend Bardini of the Church of the Open Slopes," he died in a climbing accident in the summer of 1997. The following is one of his works on backcountry skiing tips, and is reprinted with permission of the Bardini Foundation. Submitted by SMS member Jim Valensi.)*

Cool tricks for staying warm, safe and happy in the backcountry. . .

As a wise mountaineer once said, "Good judgement is a function of experience and experience comes from having lived through periods of bad judgement." If you're like me, you want to spend most of your time skiing in the backcountry, not solving the situation of just staying warm and happy. Experience counts into the sum of the fun.

I recall an incident skiing up the Tasman Glacier in New Zealand on a long ski trek with Ned Gillette. We were skiing uphill in brilliant sunshine. It was almost hot. Ned and I lagged behind at a slower but steady pace so as not to overheat, while Tom and Jan forged ahead with great exuberance. Not far up the glacier, the vast shadow of Mt. Cook's 10,000 foot Caroline Face transformed the cooking sunshine into a freezing shade. Just at the edge of the shadow line, Ned and I stopped to change into warmer clothes before we entered the chill of the shade. Tom and Jan, still warm, (overheated in fact) from the sunny glacier trucked onward welcoming the cool of the shade. I looked at Ned and commented, "Rookies." Ned retorted, "They'll learn - the way we did." Experience is a great teacher. In ten minutes we had overtaken Jan and Tom stopped on the glacier. Both were chilled from overheated bodies and sweaty clothing and struggled to pull on warm dry clothes.

The trick is to regulate your clothing so one neither overheats or gets too cold, and do it before you're too hot or too cold. It's easier to stay warm than to get warm.

A common incident I have seen day skiing on the Sherwin Ridge near Mammoth Mountain is folks wrestling with their wind jackets, fighting the ubiquitous wind rather than using a bit of forethought and installing the jacket at a windless spot

just before the ridge.

On the note of clothing, I have just one word of advice: Plastics! Goretex works its greatest magic amidst the snowy landscapes. Also all the modern monofilament-type synthetic garments are more functional than wool, in case you missed that tidbit of information in the last ten years. They transmit moisture away from the body for comfort; they are very warm for their weight and dry quickly. The layering system that we used with Duofolds and woolies still works but it functions even better with synthetic longies and sweaters. Even so, take this piece of sage advice from one David Beck, renowned California backcountry ski guide, "The layering system works really well as long as the last layer is a big down jacket." And don't forget that THE final layer, at least on overnight trips, is the sleeping bag.

So, what about sleeping bags? Get a warm one. Don't skimp here. I can be out in the cold all day, but when I lay down for the evening I want to sleep warm and comfortably. Winter bags are always in the 4-5 lb. range and Spring bags are usually more like 3-4 lbs. And I prefer two bags. I use a sleeping bag system rather than one large snow camping bag. I discovered the advantages of this system on the first ski tour around Denali. Ned Gillette and Galen Rowell both had large mid-winter down bags. They used down instead of synthetic because of the greater warmth for the weight. Galen's was even one of those high-tech Goretex bags. Doug Wiens and I had regular summer down bags (about 3 lbs.) with a 1½ lb synthetic overbag with a vapor barrier liner (VBL) for really cold nights. Each day all our bags were damp on the surface from frozen condensation. This comes from warm moist body heat meeting the cold surface layer of the bag and is a common occurrence in cold weather camping. During a very cloudy stormy period Ned and Galen had difficulty drying their bags. Rather than risk even more wetness from the elements while "drying" outside the tent they stuffed their bags damp. Doug and I stuffed our down bags that were without the dampness of condensation and hung our synthetic bags outside to dry. A synthetic bag dries in almost any weather except rain or very wet snow. The bags always dried out. Within a

week the brand X mongo bags were useless cold lumps of down and nylon, reduced to a wretched state of sogification. Meanwhile Doug and I were warm and dry for half the price of an expensive Goretex bag and half the bulk of an expedition weight synthetic bag. All we'd done is add an inexpensive Polarguard overbag to our long overused summer bags. The synthetic bags also add insulation from the snow and counts towards your total sleeping pad insulation.

No bag works unless there is adequate insulation from the snow. Even in this modern age of new-wave air mattresses I still use some kind of ensolite pad. I can set a stove on it to cook inside the tent, make splints and C-collars with it in first aid situations and sit on rough ground or frozen snow with no worry of ruining it. Try doing that with an air mattress. On snow I use two pads, not only for warmth, but for comfort. After all, when one passes the forty year mark the warranty runs out on all parts for the old bod. Even you twenty-year-old immortals should start treating yourself more like I do. Two ensolite pads, two sleeping bags, and expensive toilet paper.

Ah, but before we sleep comes the issue of where to put the tent. Well you put it on a natural flat spot. Rectangular and oval shaped dome tents are preferable to round or square floor patterns because you dig less. You dig? But why shovel and scrape when we could just camp out on the flat surface of the lake, pond, or even meadow. I've seen the remnants of this logic too many times. It's bad news. Circular snow walls to protect the tent from the inevitable wind exposure, yellow snow on the lee side of the tent and not too distant t.p. fluttering in the breeze. Not only is this not what I would call low impact camping, but it makes one wonder if these folks sleep in their bathrooms at home. Also, these areas are generally colder and more exposed to the elements. All in all it makes for lousy camping.

John Muir said, "Go to the mountains and get their good tidings." He got the good tidings because he was an expert at reading mountains. He could read where the wind usually comes from in the flag trees bare of much foliage on the windward side and where it came from last in the snow sur-

face. He knew that lakes and meadows are in basins which collect cold air at night. Twenty feet uphill in the trees the air is warmer and still. Camp here.

Be smart with human waste. You may be camping on snow but when it melts be aware of what's underneath. A lake? A stream? Or how about a meadow gushing with runoff or flooded in the spring? Maybe what's below is a popular summer camping spot. You might be the one who wants to camp here in August. And burn your toilet paper and pack it out.

I do most of my extended ski tours in spring. The days are longer and warmer and the nights are shorter and warmer. So, I don't have to bring as much to stay warm and dry. There's less hazard from avalanche because the snow becomes more and more predictable as the season progresses. Also, there's usually open water meaning less time and gas spent melting snow for that all important element. H2O.

Speaking of water, what does one do to keep it from freezing? While traveling on cold winter days I bury my water bottle in my pack. In the spring I can usually put it in an outside pocket. At night one can sleep with it. The double sleeping bag system is ideal for this. One can sleep with a water bottle, without cuddling the frosty lump all night, by putting it between the two bags. Of course one needs a receptacle that absolutely does not leak. Another way to keep water in a liquid state at night is to bury it. When you have to melt snow for water or your source freezes at night, fill all of your pots and bottles and bury them about a foot or two in the snow. Mark the spot with a shovel so you can make easy recovery in the morning. I once made the mistake of not marking it. It made for a frustrating but wildly hilarious aerobic shovel search in high winds with my pals screaming encouragement in between their pleas for hot coffee. Oops!

*(to be continued next issue)*

**NEXT MONTH:** More of Allan Bard's tips for staying warm, skiing with a pack on, choosing equipment, and preventing cold feet. Stay tuned!

## Photo Gallery



Spring touring out of Rock Creek at its finest!



Carving turns above Ruby Lake



The uphill slog nearing Mills Lake

Photos courtesy of Mugelnoos subscriber (and the one with the best tracks!) Richard Ross, April, 2000



The Rock Creek Lakes area of the Eastern Sierra is a great place for an easy overnight ski tour, with many options possible for more difficult extended trips. With a trailhead starting at 10,000 feet, you can't go wrong! There are many idyllic campsites near the basin's many lakes, and very little elevation change required to get there. Ruby Lake and Treasure Lakes make ideal spring base camps from which to explore the many peaks and passes in the area, such as Mt. Dade and Mt. Abbott.

—Ed



The Mugelnoos editor is soliciting ski photos for the Photo Gallery. Submit your backcountry ski photos to: samsei@pacbell.net

## SMS Peaks: To List or Not to List?

The SMS is thinking about having a list of peaks, passes, and couloirs, similar to the Sierra Peaks Section. Any members with opinions on this idea should email their comments to Randy Lamm (randy\_lamm@yahoo.com) or Jim Derose (debram@ucla.edu).

## 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](http://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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