

12/2001

Calendar of Events MUGELNOOS STAFF

THE MUGELNOOS

November 2001

Issue # 769



Ruth skiing in Center Basin, 5/13/01

Bradley, Center and Keith, May 12-15, 2001

By Reiner Stenzel

This ski mountaineering trip combined peak climbing and skiing in the Eastern Sierra Nevada. It was appropriately sponsored by the Sierra Peaks Section and the Ski Mountaineers Section and was attended by five participants, two on snow shoes (Patty Rambert, Ron Hudson), two on randonnee skis (Ruth von Rotz von Truckee, Scott Koepke) and one on telemark skis (R.S.). As the detailed trip description will show, we had a great ski mountaineering adventure, climbed three SPS peaks, some with ropes, encountered extremes in weather, best to worst snow, easy and tough days, enjoyed camaraderie but also had a health incidence. Here are the details:

On Sat, 5/12, 6 am we officially met at Onion Valley, although everyone was there Fri night to sleep high (9,200'). We packed and shared gear to lighten packs which still weighed over 40 lbs, Scott's maxing it out with heavy randonnee gear. By 7:30 am we hiked up the Robinson Lke trail which was bone dry. A bloody sunrise was not a good weather omen. Close to Robinson Lke (10,500') we encountered continuous snow and could ski. By 9 am the weather deteriorated and it started to rain and snow. Beyond Robinson Lke we ascended a steeper slope and reached the long morained cirque below University Peak. U. Peak and Pass were in the clouds. We skied/climbed to the base of the pass where we regrouped. Scott's skins peeled off on the steep slope. The last 300' the skiers switched to ice ax and crampons and we all reached the pass safely by 1 pm. Blizzard-like weather greeted us on the pass with high winds, freezing wet snow and whiteout. The southwestern slopes were all barren rock except for one snow filled gully of uncertain runout. So we opted for descending on rocks, carefully avoiding the large granite slabs which were glazed over with a thin layer of ice from the freezing rain/slush. In the whiteout we had to stay together yet keep moving to stay warm which was not easy for a diverse group. Half way down the

(Continued on Page 4)

MUGELNOOS STAFF

EDITOR
MUGELMAILER

Lorene Samoska
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NEXT ISSUE

December issue deadline is December 10th, 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@earthlink.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!

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SMS WEB PAGE

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

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LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Leadership Training Navigation Events:

Dec 9, Warren Point, Freimanis and Bradshaw, Practice and checkoff.

Jan 6, Warren Point, Freimanis and Bradshaw, Practice and checkoff.

April 21 - 22, Indian Cove, Freimanis and Bradshaw, Practice and checkoff.

May 19, Grinnell Ridge, Freimanis and Bradshaw, Practice and checkoff.

Please see the *Angeles Chapter Schedule of Activities* or the LTC website for more information: <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/>

FOR SALE

Historic Sierra Club Outings Video Standard VHS format videotape of 1930s and 40s climbing and camping trips, filmed by former Sierra Club President Nate Clark. To order, send a check for \$15 to Angeles Chapter - Sierra Club, Attn: Video Orders, 3435 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 320, Los Angeles, CA 90010. Purchase price includes postage, handling and all applicable taxes.

Calendar of Events

Jan 15, Tue, SMS Monthly Mtg: Gene Myzereny, special events coordinator for REI will show and tell everything you ever wanted to know about GPS systems and altimeters. Newcomers welcome. 7:30 pm Griffith Park Ranger Station.

Jan 25-27, Fri-Sun, Ski Mountaineers Section

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 2 Sat Ski Mountaineers Section

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. Leader: Mark Goebel, Asst: Kathy Crandall.

Feb 9 Sat Ski Mountaineers Section

TI: Thunder, Telegraph and Timber: Ski the 3 T's in the San

Gabriel mountains. Intermed or better skiing ability required, not for beginners. Metal-edged skis w skins req'd. Send experience, h&w phones, email address to Ldr: Reiner Stenzel. Asst. Ldr. Randy Lamm

Feb 19, Tue, Ski Mountaineers Monthly Mtg: Gill Estrada of OFFPISTE presents Gear: skis, boots, poles, etc. everything you need to know about gear. Newcomers welcome. 7:30 pm Griffith Park Ranger Station.

Feb 22-24 Fri-Sun, SMS/Orange County Sierra Singles

TI: Free-Heel Downhill Practice Weekend/OCSS Ski Leader Training: 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 Bear Mtn. Stay two nights at Keller Hut, with lift ticket and all day clinics on Sat. & Sat night dinner. Sun either ski at Bear or join Leaders for Navigation exercise and local tour near the hut. High quality rentals are available at Bear for \$12. Reserve early. Send 2 large sase H&W phones, \$95 to include clinics, or \$65 without to Reserv\Ldr: Keith Martin, Asst: Michael Dodson.

The Idea of an SMS "List" by Reiner Stenzel

At the beginning of a new ski season it may be appropriate to think again about the concept of an SMS "List". The topic came up last year but has evolved in time. Thus, the present article describes some of the recent thoughts, lists some of the pros and cons expressed by some members, and serves as a base for a future discussion at some SMS meeting. Any comments and feedback would be welcome. So here is the story:

What is proposed: A Ski Mountaineer's "List of Peaks, Passes, Canyons, and Tours."

An example is given below. The "List" should be flexible and can be modified annually.

Purpose of a "List":

- (1) To compile a description of ski mountaineering trips worth repeating or adding. The description will contain past trip reports with pictures, perhaps collected on a CD and eventually published.
- (2) To reward efforts of doing and leading such trips, thereby increasing our activities, membership and leadership.

Pros of a "List":

- (1) Fresh ideas are healthy for any old organization.
- (2) A "List" creates a base of information.
- (3) When coupled with rewards a "List" sets goals and stimulates activities.
- (4) Significant recognition for leaders may attract new leaders and stimulate advancement of present leaders.
- (5) A "List" of peaks fosters joint activities with other peaks sections (SPS, DPS, HPS). It may increase our visibility and reputation in the mountaineering community.
- (6) Our social activities could be expanded from the annual potluck to an annual reward banquet.

Cons of a "List":

- (1) Why have a "List" if we have not had one for 60 years? (Inertia).
- (2) A "List" produces fears: People may become too goal-oriented, newcomers may shy away.
- (3) Accomplishing trip goals may compromise safety and leisure.
- (4) The "List" may become difficult to change in time.
- (5) Rewards for "List" accomplishments creates a new stratification, adds paperwork and takes time away from skiing.
- (6) Leaders may feel pressured to upgrade their ratings to lead some of the trips.

Example of a List of "Peaks, Passes, Canyons, and Tours":

25 Peaks: Southern CA: Baldy, San Jacinto, San Geronio. Western Sierras: Skier's Alta, Silliman. Eastern Sierras: Mt Gould, Perkins, Birch, Cloudripper, Ski Mtrs Pk, Basin, San Joaquin, Ritter, Wood, Dana, Gibbs, False White, Conness, Dunderberg, Excelsior, Matterhorn, Rose, Tallac. Northern CA: Mt Lassen, Shasta.

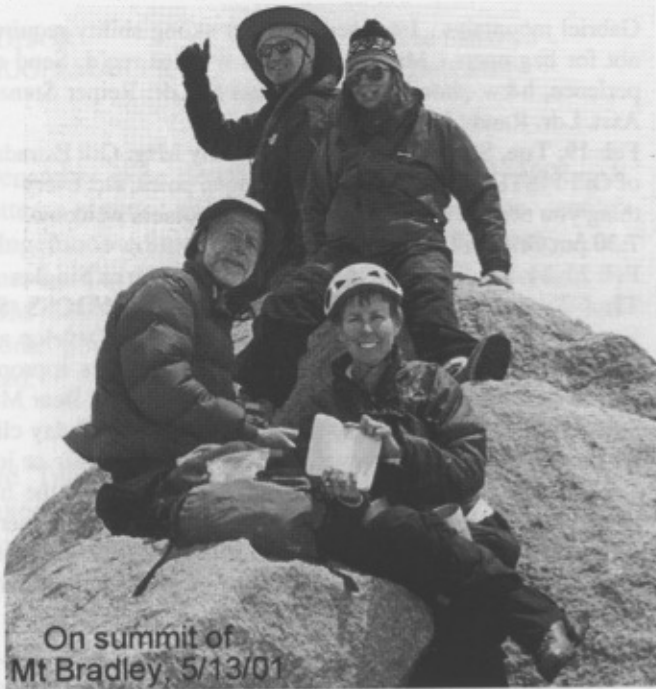
10 Passes: Kaiser, Cottonwood, Kearsarge, University, Bishop, Lamarck, Whitney Trailcrest, Blue Couloir, Duck, Sonora

10 Canyons: Sardine Cyn, Armstrong Cyn, Elderberry Cyn, Basin Couloir, Dade's Hourglass, Dana, Wahoo, Bloody, Matterhorn, Zen on Baldy

5 Tours:

Trans-Sierras such as High Route, Cirque Crest, Onion Valley-Mineral King, Sierra Crest Routes such as Onion Valley to South Lke, Rock Creek to Mammoth, or other 5 to 7 day back-country tours to, e.g., the Clarke Range, Goddard, Kaweahs,

(Continued from Page 1)



On summit of
Mt Bradley, 5/13/01

pass, Center Basin appeared out of the clouds and we recognized familiar terrain. Continuous snow allowed us to ski down into Center Basin which, at 11,000', was all snow covered. All wet and tired we were looking for a campsite and found a nice one near the swampy area north of Golden Bear Lke. There were trees, running water, and some dry rocks for cooking. Toward evening the storm ended, the clouds lifted and the ragged Center Basin Crags and Center Peak were illuminated by a red sunset. After a hot dinner we crawled into our humid bags and wondered what had happened to the promised spring weather.

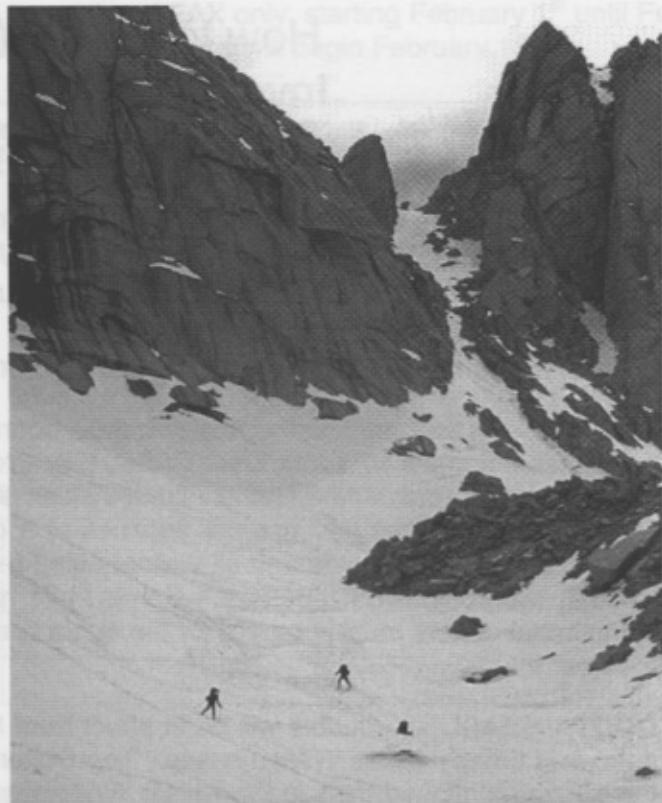
On Sun, 5/13, we got up at 6 am to a crisp and clear morning. Surface hoar sparkled in the sun on a few inches of fresh snow. By 7:30 am we left on foot/skis with the plan to climb Mt. Bradley and Center Pk. In no time we made it to the western slopes of Bradley where a long snow filled chute leads up to the ridge just south of the summit. After 300' of skinning up the chute we switched to ice ax and crampons and ascended another 1,500' to the ridge. In the meantime the weather turned finicky again. Billowing clouds rolled in from the southwest covering all of Owens Valley up to the Sierra Crest. From the ridge to the summit we had to traverse a steep snow slope and gully. The soft snow appeared unstable and a potential fall would carry one over a rocky cliff. Thus, Ron and I set up a fixed rope for a safe traverse. Between 11 am and noon, everyone had made it to the summit (13,264') and signed in as the first party in 2001. We enjoyed the Alpine views of many peaks rising and vanishing in the clouds. When the thunders were starting at 1 pm it became time

to leave the summit. We descended the same gully first on foot, then on skis and glissading. By 3 pm, Center peak was engulfed in clouds, thunder was rumbling in the west, and there was no chance for another summit bid in the late afternoon. So we headed back to base camp and enjoyed a relaxed afternoon, cleaning up, drying gear, and having an early supper.

On Mon, 5/14, Ron's wake up call echoed through Center Basin at 4 am. An hour later we headed out by flashlight to climb Center and Keith. It was another crisp and clear morning. We skied over Golden Bear Lke and cramponed half way up the southeast slopes of Center Pk before the first sun rays reached us. At the base of a steep gully we left our skis and proceeded to climb over mixed rock and snow to the summit of Center Pk (12,762') which was reached between 10 and 11 am. The register is at the base of an 8' cl 4 summit block which we all climbed in various ways. Tall Ron took two long steps and was on the top. The others were belayed by Ron. Ruth used a shoulder stand and climbed the block on socks, Patty and Scott did a fine rock climb and I prussiked up the fixed rope. All of us had great fun and many photo ops. Then we discussed the climb of distant and tall Mt Keith which would take another 7 hrs. Scott and Patty preferred a more relaxed afternoon, Ron offered to lead them safely down, so only Ruth and I proceeded as planned. We descended to where we had left the skis, then traversed along the east slopes of Center Pk to Lke 3592m. The ski traverse took only 15 min on excellent corn snow. In the heat of the day we cramponed up a short gully between Lke 3592m and Courte Echelle to reach the northeast slopes of Mt Keith. After a long steep climb we finally reached the gentler slopes NE of the summit. The pace had slowed down at almost 14,000' elevation but by 4:30 pm we summited Mt Keith (13,976'). All the effort was rewarded by a splendid view ranging from the Great Western Divide, Kings-Kern Divide, the Palisades Range to the White Mtns. Shepherd Pass was just below us, and we almost spotted our base camp in Center Basin. We talked to Ron and the rest of the group by radio. By 5 pm the first clouds began to move in and I got nervous and urged for a retreat. We missed the boat by an hour since the sun had vanished from the north slopes and the cold wind crusted up the spring snow in no time. With kick turns and stem Christies we handled the ski descent on the upper slopes, but the steep (30-40 deg) NE face was another story. The wicked crust could only be handled with energetic jump turns, but after 12 hrs of skiing and climbing there was little energy left for this fun. So we took the skis off and made a humiliating but safe retreat on foot with ice ax. Further below, the crust became manageable and we skied to west fac-

ing slopes which still had soft spring snow in the late sunshine. From there on it was a pleasure to cruise along the western slopes of Courte Echelle and Mt Bradley back home. By 7:30 pm we were back at base camp, still in time to cook dinner by last daylight. It was a looong day but we were happy to have skied/climbed two fine Sierra Peaks. The rest of the group had spent the afternoon relaxing in great spring weather.

On Tue, 5/15, we had a leisurely start since we thought we would be over University Pass and out within a few hours. At 8 am we started our climb up the pass with full packs. Three of us decided to crampon up a steep snow gully while Ron lead Scott over the safer rock route to the pass. At a steep section of the gully, I set up an SMS-style belay using the skis as deadman anchor and a Munter hitch belay. When we were two thirds up to the pass Ron radioed that Scott had problems and needed help. So I accompanied Ruth and Patty up to the pass, dropped my pack and headed back down again. Scott had serious breathing problems from a growing lung infection and could not lift his monster pack up the pass. Ron took his pack and I carried Ron's with Scott's heavy boots. By 1 pm we finally made it to University Pass (12,600'). Scott got a good rest, we lightened his pack and he kick stepped down the upper steep section of the pass until it was possible to ski safely. We had a great ski run down, interrupted by many rests stops. After a good dose of tree skiing near Robinson Lke we ran out of snow and hiked down to the cars arriving by 5 pm. Scott stayed



Skiers and glissaders descending University Pass

overnight in Lone Pine while the rest drove home. We had four action-filled days, climbed and skied as much as we could, and came out safely in spite of some pains. Thanks to everyone's great camaraderie, Ron's legendary leading skills, Patty and Ruth's good humor, and Scott's positive attitude of hanging in.

 (SMS List—Continued from Page 3)

<p>White Mtn Range, etc.</p> <p>It is of course understood that the trips be performed on snow, not hiked in the summer. There are no restrictions on type of equipment (telemark, randonnee, snowboards are all ok).</p> <p>Example of Rewards:</p> <p>SMS Emblem: Finish 25% of the list (balanced in all categories)</p> <p>Senior SMS Emblem: Do 50% of the list (balanced in all categories)</p> <p>Master SMS Emblem: Do 75% of the list (balanced in all categories)</p> <p>SMS List Finish Emblem: Do all of the list.</p> <p>Added recognitions (e.g. Big Badge) should be given for</p>	<p>leading listed trips.</p> <p>Implementation:</p> <p>The "List" could be tried out for a number of years, say 3 years. Each year trips can be added and subtracted keeping the total fixed. Any trip once listed and done will count toward an emblem even if subsequently deleted. Leading new exploratory trips is encouraged to keep the "List" fresh.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <p><i>Please send comments to Reiner and the SMS committee members.</i></p> </div> <p><i>See Page 7 for an example of a Sierra Peaks Section List Finish Party!</i></p>
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How to get a Wilderness Permit Inyo and Sierra National Forests

Wilderness Permit System Changes - 2002

In April 2001, the Inyo and Sierra National Forests completed a new management plan for the Ansel Adams, John Muir, and Dinkey Lakes Wildernesses. As a result of the new plan there are some changes in trailhead quotas, the quota season, and the permit reservation system. These reservation system changes will apply to the Ansel Adams, John Muir, Dinkey Lakes, Kaiser, Monarch, Golden Trout, and South Sierra Wildernesses, unless otherwise noted.

QUOTAS – All trailheads in the Ansel Adams, John Muir, and Dinkey Lakes Wildernesses now have entry quotas. Sample Meadow, Deer Creek, Billy Creek, and Potter Pass in the Kaiser Wilderness as well as Cottonwood Pass in the Golden Trout Wilderness also have entry quotas. Quotas apply to all overnight visitors, whether you use the services of a commercial outfitter/guide or not. Some trails have specific commercial quotas and all visitors using a commercial outfitter or guide must obtain their permit through the commercial operator. Some trails have 'single quotas' where all commercial and non-commercial visitors must compete for the quota space. Trailhead quotas will be posted on this website in the near future.

QUOTA SEASON – Quotas will be in effect from May 1st to November 1st for the John Muir, Ansel Adams, and Dinkey Lakes Wildernesses. The Cottonwood Pass trail in the Golden Trout Wilderness and the above mentioned trails in the Kaiser Wilderness will remain the last Friday in June through September 15.

RESERVABLE QUOTA – The methods of obtaining reservations for quota space differ between east and west side entry points, and are described below. If you are using the services of any commercial outfitter/guide for any activity including backpacking, mountain climbing, and horse packing, the commercial operator must reserve quota space for you. For each non-commercial quota 60% of the quota is available for advanced reservation. The remaining 40% is available for walk-in on a first-come, first-served basis, no fee charged. Commercial quotas are 100% reservable.

RESERVATION FEES – There is a fee of \$5 per person to make a reservation. It is due at the time the reservation is booked and is not refundable. Mt. Whitney trail reservation fees remain \$15 per person.

INYO NATIONAL FOREST (eastside) ENTRY

RESERVATION PERIOD - Reservations may be made up to six months before the first day of your trip. **The March 1st opening date no longer applies.** For example, if your trip is to start on July 3rd, you can request your reservation beginning January 3rd and any time up to two days before the entry. Since the quota season starts May 1st the earliest you can make a reservation is November 1st, and that would be for a trip starting on May 1st, six months later.

PHONE RESERVATIONS – We will accept phone reservations beginning November 1st, Monday – Friday, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. If the six months in advance date falls on a Saturday or Sunday, you must make your phone call on the following Monday. Starting June 1st phone lines will be open 7 days a week.

FAX, MAIL and E-MAIL RESERVATIONS – We will accept applications through mail and FAX. We are currently exploring the feasibility of an e-mail application system. Check back at this site for any future changes or additions.

MT. WHITNEY – There are NO CHANGES to the current Whitney Lottery. Applications for a day or

overnight Mt. Whitney trail reservation will be accepted by mail and FAX only, starting February 1st until February 28 for all dates during the quota season. Processing of reservations will begin February 15.

INYO NATIONAL FOREST WILDERNESS PERMIT RESERVATIONS

Phone Numbers

Reservation Line**	760-873-2483
Commercial Reservation Line	760-873-2492
Wilderness Permit Office FAX	760-873-2484
Wilderness Information	760-873-2485

Mailing Address

Inyo National Forest
Wilderness Permit Office
873 North Main Street
Bishop, CA 93514

Wilderness Information from Ranger Stations/Visitor Centers

Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center	760-647-3044
Mammoth Lakes Visitor Center	760-924-5500
White Mountain Ranger Station	760-873-2500
Mt. Whitney Ranger Station	760-876-6200

Submitted by Mark Goebel

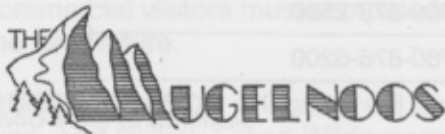
SPS List Finish by SMS Members Pat and Gerry Holleman!



The Hollemans completed all 247 peaks on the Sierra Peaks Section List on 10/27/01. They finished their last peak, Taylor Dome in the southern Sierra, accompanied by 29 people, including 14 SMS members and 7 former SMS chairs! Congratulations Pat and Gerry!!! Left: SMS members on Taylor Dome. Rear: Mary Motheral, Keith Martin, Gerry Holleman, Andy Fried, RJ Secor, Pat Holleman, Paul Harris. Front: Barbara Sholle, Mark Goebel, Reiner Stenzel, Nancy Gordon, Owen Maloy, Jan St. Amand, Ron Hudson.

Right: Pat and Gerry showing off their new list finisher pins!

Next month's December Issue will feature all the upcoming Spring Trips!



Angeles Chapter Awards Banquet

Sunday, February 24, 2002 No host reception: 5:00pm Dinner:6:30pm
Brookside Country Club, Pasadena

Once again we Angeles Chapter members will gather to honor and thank our dedicated volunteers, socialize, and celebrate the many accomplishments of our chapter this past year. We have allotted extra time preceding dinner to interact with others who share our love of exploring and preserving nature and the environment. Each year many of our members enjoy viewing and bidding for the diverse artistic or useful items that have been donated for our Silent Auction. Your contributions would be welcomed by our Silent Auction Chair, Anne Gladman (323) 255-2317.

Individual tickets at \$30 each, or a table of ten (\$300) can be reserved. Please specify the number of Chicken and Vegetarian entrees. Send a check (Angeles Chapter), and a SASE to our reservationist:

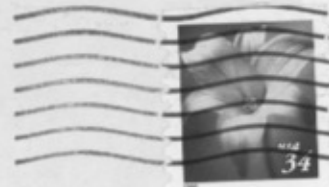
Cathy Kissinger,
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Thanks for your support!

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