

RLH 12/2001

THE DUNDERBERG LOGS

December 2001

Issue # 770



Dunderberg and Dana May 12-13, 2001 *Coleaders: Gerry Holleman and Bill Lingle*

The sun was shining when 16 of us met at 7 a.m. just off Highway 395 at the top of Conway Summit for a ski tour of Dunderberg's northeast slopes. Clouds were building in the south and west, but clouds can be good when the predicted high is 70 degrees.

We drove about 4.5 miles up the Virginia Lakes road, turned right on the Dunderberg Meadow road, and went another 1.6 miles to intersection 9272. Then we went left on a 4WD road about 0.2 miles to an intersection with another jeep road and parked in sagebrush at the edge of some trees.

Mark Goebel had planned this trip with help from scouting trips by Owen Maloy. When Mark was unable to attend due to an eye infection, Gerry Holleman signed on to colead with Bill Lingle. Neither leader had skied this area before, but we had great expectations for north-facing slopes behind the thinly covered ridge in front of us.

After introductions, the group began hiking up a 4WD road through intermittent patches of snow. Tracks in the gravel told of one last snowmobile trip perhaps a week or two earlier. At about 10,000 ft on continuous snow, we contoured to the west around the broad slope northeast of subpeak 11,712, and skied up the gully between 11,712 and the east peak of Dunderberg. About 500 ft above the unnamed lake at the head of Dunderberg Creek we stopped to regroup. Clouds were sometimes obscuring Dunderberg and a chilly wind was blowing with sporadic sprinkles. That plus several hundred feet of bare rock on the ridge leading to the east summit convinced us to leave Dunderberg for another day.

Reed Moore was doing his usual scouting ahead of the group so we watched when he began skiing from

(Continued on Page 5)

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MUGELMAILER

Lorene Samoska
Pat Holleman

NEXT ISSUE

January issue deadline is January 10th, 2002. 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/skim/>

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Leadership Training Navigation Events:

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/>



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.

February 22-25 Fri-Mon TI: Weekend at Pear Lake Hut: 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. For strong interm to advanced skiers, who are in good condition with heavy pack skiing experience. Metal edged randonee or telemark skis, climbing skins, shovel, probe and avalanche beacons required. Send e-mail with experience to Ldr: Randy Lamm, Asst: Mark Goebel.

Mar 2-3 Sat-Sun Ski Mountaineers TI: Mt. San Antonio (10,064'): Ski classic Baldy Bowl and spend the night in the Ski Mountaineers' historic San Antonio Ski Hut. Intermediate or better skiing ability required, not for beginners. Metal edged backcountry skis with skins required. Overnight hut fee: \$10.00. Send experience, H&W phones, email address to Ldr: R.J. SECOR. Asst: KEN

Mar 9-10 Sat Sun Ski Mountaineers

TI: Ski Mammoth: Day tour one day, or ski the lifts, depending on weather and snow conditions. Stay with Andy or Owen. Contact Ldr: OWEN MALOY. Asst: ANDY FRIED..

Mar 10 Sat Ski Mountaineers TI: Local Tour: Join us for an intro ski mountaineering tour in local mountains. Check out your gear and practice some turns. Metal-edged skis and climbing skins required. Call leader in the prior week for location and time. Leader: KATHY CRANDALL, Asst: TOM MARSH

Mar 9-10 Sat-Sun Ski Mountaineers

TI: San Gorgonio Mtn. (11,499') & Navigation Checkout: A 10.8 mi rt,4300' gain overnight ski tour with a snow camp in the San Gorgonio Wilderness. Ski Mountaineers will have the opportunity to practice or check out I, M, or E navigation requirements. Leave No Trace snow camping techniques will be demonstrated and practiced. Metal edged skis with climbing skins required. Send experience, H&W phones, carpool info, email address to R.J. Secor. Asst: Reiner Stenzel

Mar 19 Tue Ski Mountaineers Monthly Meeting: Program of interest to Ski Mountaineers, watch Mugelnoos and Web Page for additional information. Newcomers welcome. 7:30pm Griffith Park Ranger Station. See SMS Section listing for newsletter info or angeles.sierraclub.org/skimt/

Mar 23-24 Sat-Sun Ski Mountaineers

TI: Avalanche Safety Course: Learn to identify and avoid avalanche prone ski terrain, snow stability tests, and practice rescue techniques. Course will be taught by Tim Villanueva, an AMGA certified guide, on Sierra slopes near Bishop. Spend night in town. Recommended refresher course even if you have taken previous classes. Group size is limited. Cost of course \$85 (50% discount for active SMS leaders). Send check payable to SMS along with email, phone #, and level of bc ski experience to Ldr: Mark Goebel. Asst: Kathy Crandall.

Mar 30-31 Sat-Sun Ski Mountaineers TI: Sardine Canyon (Keasarge Peak) Slopes of Independence Peak. Climb/ski Keasarge Peak (12,598') and ski

(Continued on Page 4)

Calendar of Events (Continued from Page 3)

legendary Sardine Canyon on Saturday, on Sunday Climb and ski slopes of Independence Peak (11,744'), one of Norman Clyde's favorites. Metal-edged skis, skins, beacons, shovels, probes, strong skiing abilities, good stamina req'd. Car Camp near Onion Valley. Leader: RANDY LAMM, Asst: TOM MARSH

Apr 5-7 Sat-Sun Ski Mountaineers TI: Mammoth Day Tours. Join us for this weekend of day tours in the Mammoth area. Blue Coulier on Saturday and White Wing or Macdonald Canyon on Sunday. For Interim. Skiers with Metal Edge skis, Skins, beacons and shovels. Contact Asst Ldr KEITH MARTIN nlt Mar 10 if interested in sharing condo. Leader: TOM MARSH

Apr 13-14 Sat-Sun Ski Mountaineers/Sierra Peaks TI: Mammoth Mtn, Mt Wood. Ski one day on the lifts, one day in the backcountry. Metal-edged skis w skins req'd for backcountry. E-mail experience, address and h/w phones to Co-Ldrs: REINER STENZEL; ERIK SIERING.

April 16 Tue Ski Mountaineers Monthly Meeting: Program of interest to Ski Mountaineers, watch Mugelnoos and Web Page for additional information. Newcomers welcome. 7:30pm Griffith Park Ranger Station. See SMS Section listing for newsletter info or angeles.sierraclub.org/skimt/.

April 20-2 Sat-Fri, Ski Mountaineers TI: North Lake to Rock Creek: Join Joe and Tom on another section of the Sierra High Route. Opportunity for many diversions on this 35-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

Apr 27- 28 Sat-Sun SMS TI: Rock Creek Intro Trip. Ski the slopes around Little Lakes Valley from Base Camp. Practice low impact snow camping. Metal edged skis, skins, beacon, 0 degree sleeping bag and backcountry gear req'd. Leader: MICHAEL DODSON, Asst: KEITH MARTIN

Apr 27- May 4 Sat-Sat Ski Mountaineers & Sierra Peaks TMR: Trans-Sierra Ski Tour. From Taboose to Cedar Grove along the Cirque Crest, trans-Sierra or loop tour depending on road/snow conditions. Optional climb of State Pk included. For this restricted trip you must be a member of the Sierra Club and have suitable mountaineering experience. Metal-edged skis, skins, beacons, ice axe, crampons, strong skiing abilities and stamina req'd. Must have skied with leaders before. E-mail climbing/skiing experience, address, h/w phones and SC# to Co-Ldrs: REINER STENZEL; R. J. SECOR.

Apr 27-28 Sat-Sun Ski Mountaineers/Sierra Peaks TRM: Mt Rixford (12,887'): Sat hike/ski over Kearsarge Pass depending on snow conditions, 3000'+ gain from Onion Valley. Drop over pass to camp Bullfrog Lake area. Climb Rixford up class 1 south slope from lake. Ski down if conditions permit. Restricted to SC members w/ cross-country skiing, ice axe and crampon experience. Mail SASE w/detailed snow ski & climbing experience, H&W phones, email, recent conditioning/experience, rideshare info to Ldr: SCOT JAMISON. Co Ldr: LARRY TIDBALL

May 18-19 Sat-Sun Ski Mountaineers/Sierra Peaks TI: Dunderberg and Excelsior. Climb/ski two fine SPS peaks in two day trips with Sat carcamp. Metal-edged skis w skins req'd for backcountry skiers, experienced snowshoers and boarders also ok. E-mail experience, address and h/w phones to Co-Ldrs: REINER STENZEL. RANDALL DANTA

May 18-19 Sat-Sun Ski Mountaineers TI: Bishop Area. Sat day ski up beautiful Bishop Creek drainage from South Lake with option to climb/ski Mt Goode (13085'). Sun ski Lamarck Col (12,700') from North Lake. Strong intermediate skiers w metal-edged backcountry skis & skins req'd. Send experience, h&w phones, email address to Leader: GERRY HOLLEMAN. Assist: TOM MARSH

May 21 Tue Ski Mountaineers Monthly Meeting: Program of interest to Ski Mountaineers, watch Mugelnoos and Web Page for additional information. Newcomers welcome. 7:30pm Griffith Park Ranger Station. See SMS Section listing for newsletter info or angeles.sierraclub.org/skimt/

May 24-27, Fri-Mon, SMS-SPS, joint LA & SD Chapter trip. TMR: Mt Brewer. Climb and ski an SPS emblem peak over Memorial Day weekend. Cedar Grove to basecamp at Sphinx Lks, day tours to climb/ski Brewer's south face, the North Guard-Brewer cirque and/or slopes of South Guard. 30mi rt, 9,000' gain to summit, cl 3 climbing, black-diamond backcountry skiing. Trip restricted to SC members with avanced skiing/snow travel ability. Ice axe & crampons requ'd. Send experience, phones, e-mail address to Co-Ldrs: REINER STENZEL, ALVIN WALTER.

May 25-27 Sat-Mon Ski Mountaineers TI: Sawtooth Ridge Ski Tours: The slopes below Matterhorn Pk and the Sawtooth Ridge provide reliable late spring skiing. Sat backpack approx. 4 mi, 2000' gain to camp on Horse Cr from trailhead at Twin Lks, near Bridgeport. Sun tour and explore slopes beyond Cleaver Col. Short tour on Mon before packing out. Must be a seasoned backcountry skier. Send experience, address, and phone # to Ldr: MARK GOEBEL. Asst: RANDY LAMM.

(Continued from Page 1)

about the elevation of the 11,600+ saddle just west of 11,712. Reed's cautious jump turns on the firm rutted snow caused about half the group to stop at this level and ski the wide gully down to an unnamed lake. The other half (Bill Lingle, Alvin Walters, Wally Drake, Randy Lamm, Craig Connally, Bahram Manahedgi, and Reed again) went up towards the saddle.

The snow softened closer to the lake and everyone decided the bumpy ride was good enough for an encore. After 2 or 3 runs the snow had softened in spite of continuous cloud cover, and it was possible to punch a pole through the crust. Fortunately skis stayed on top. A contour traverse back around the ridge brought us back to the cars by about 3 p.m.

At the end of the day neither the weather nor the snow had been great, but everyone enjoyed being out in the wilderness away from lift lines. The terrain on the northeast side of Dunderberg is excellent with options that run from easy to steep when there is enough snow. SMS should lead more trips to this area.

Other participants were: Ray Smith, Bob Crosby, Jan St. Amand, Paul Harris, Dan Jamieson, John Kornak, Jeremy Cole, and Pat Holleman.

After about an hour of discussion at the road-head, Gerry, Pat, Paul, Wally, Craig, Randy, and Jeremy decided to camp at lower Lee Vining campground, and the rest joined Reed and Alvin at the San Diego ski club lodge in Mammoth. \$15 a night for a bed and a hot shower is a great deal. The trip to Dana would depend on the weather the next morning.

At 7 a.m. Sunday morning 11 skiers appeared in the parking area next to the Tioga Pass entrance station.

The snow on Dana looked very patchy, but the weather was sunny and it seemed impossible for Dana to not be skiable two weeks before Memorial Day, so off we went. Leaders, Bill and Gerry, and skiers, Reed, Dan, Bahram, Jeremy, Jan, Pat, Randy, Paul, and John. Bob, Ray, and Alvin either skied Mammoth or succumbed to Mother's Day guilt and went home. Wally and Craig signed out to ski an icy Dana Couloir and then, we found out later, climb back up Solstice Couloir so they wouldn't miss the great skiing the rest of enjoyed on the northwest slopes of Dana. A clear night sky had dropped the temperature to freezing so the snow was very firm. Just as the previous day, about half the group carried their skis and half put them on.

The traverse under Lion Head was mostly rock so our route angled farther south than usual as we worked up the steep slope coming out of the trees. With careful attention to the route it was possible to find continuous snow to about 12,500 ft on the upper cone of Dana. From about 11,600 ft there was a light dusting of

new snow on a base that got icier as we ascended.

At the top of the snow we left our skis and climbed mixed rock and snow to the summit to enjoy the view and see dark clouds in the southwest. The usual cornice on the summit was almost nonexistent. Jan, a budding peak bagger, was happy to get her eighth Sierra peak. For Pat and Gerry it was about their 17th ascent of Dana.

When we started skiing back at about 1 pm, the snow was still very hard down to about 12,000 ft. From there we had the wonderful ride Dana is known for until we got back to tree line. Then it became a game to find continuous snow around rocks, trees, and streams. Reed and Bahram found a route all the way to the cars on snow, and there were several comments about how much fun it was to bob and weave through the trees on minimal snow. Everyone was back by 2:30.

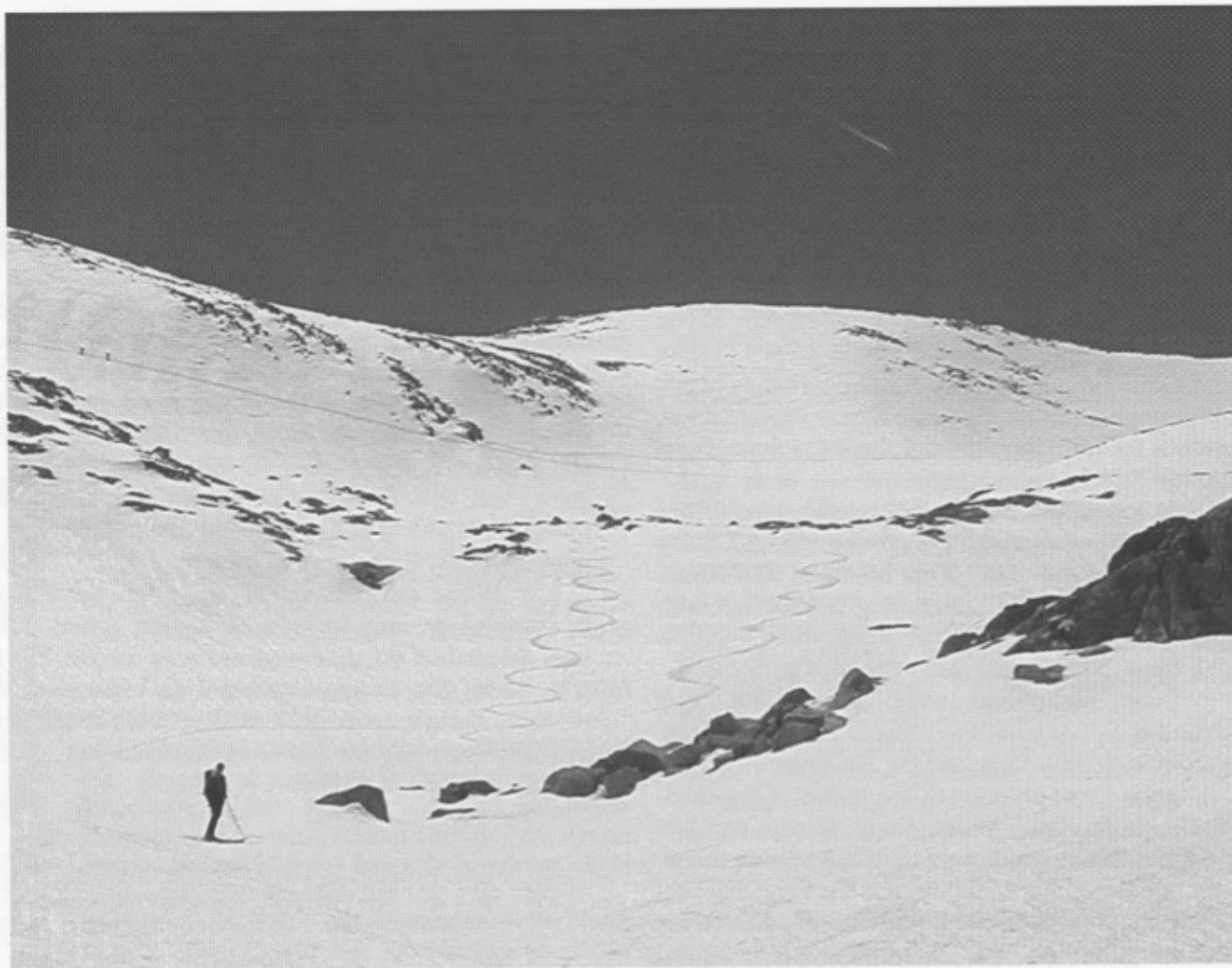
While we were packing up, a few snow flakes in sunshine seemed to indicate mother nature would miss the end of ski season as much as we did. On the way home, San Joaquin appeared to have good, but probably bumpy, coverage from Fern Lake to the peak, and Bill was ready for one more weekend, but most of us waited for a new season.—Gerry

* * * * *



Happy Holidays !

* * * * *



(Above) Joy admiring our tracks on False White

False White Spring Tour 2001

By Owen Maloy

"False White" is the 12,002' peak on the ridge north of Tioga Pass that is in front of the real White, which is just south of Mt. Conness. False White has a huge skiable face that is readily seen as one drives up the Tioga road (SR 120) past Ellery Lake. The Tioga road is plowed from the east long before Tioga Pass opens, and as soon as the road opens local skiers throng to the parking lot above Tioga Lake and ski Mt. Dana to the south and the ridge north. I think the tour up along the ridge is much more interesting than Dana. There are many chutes to ski down, and a beautiful flat tour out along Mine Creek past the Bennettville mining camp.

Gerry and Pat Holleman, Joy Goebel, Wally Drake, and I met in the parking lot at 8 AM and contoured up the northeast side of Gaylor Peak. Most of the routes up are a slog. It is possible to go up from

the Park entrance after walking up the road, but this is steeper than it looks and requires some loss descending from the ridge into Gaylor Lakes. A better route is to find the right gully up the northeast side of Gaylor and then cross over into the Gaylor-Granite Lakes area. The most gradual way is to go all the way to the end of the drainage and then turn left (south), coming out on the NE side of Gaylor, and then traverse up and over the ridge (a big cornice blocks a more direct route). We went up a bit early and as usual I had trouble following Gerry's steep line, in spite of having brand new skins. As I neared the top, Wally and Gerry skied down by me, making a tele run. I found later that my family radio has fallen out of my pack during the climb.

We skied up past the Great Sierra Mine and some amazing cornices to the top of the knob



(Above) Owen along Mine Creek above Bennettville; Mt. Dana in the rear.

(11,887') south of False White. The knob was full of rocks. I followed Wally's line, which got into a sticky place requiring a careful step down through some rocks. Looking at the map, it appears that it is better to go around the knob on the west. The others had gone up to the ridge and were having lunch not far away, but I stopped at the saddle just southeast of the peak. It appeared that the snow was better and the ridge was only a few feet higher.

We all skied down the 600' face on perfect corn. After shopping for the best snow, I realized I was wasting vertical and settled for medium-radius parallel turns-down the fall line, trying to look like a ski instructor being watched by the bosses. At the bottom of the face, Joy and I decided to tour out to Bennettville, which she had never seen, while the others elected to go back along the ridge and ski the killer chutes on Gaylor. Joy and I had about 1400' of vertical left to ski before reaching the creek above Fantail



Joy peering into cabin at Bennettville.



Lake. We never needed skins on the way out. Single-cambered skis climb without skins or wax fairly well.

After a beautiful tour out along Mine Creek with great views, we inspected the buildings at Bennettville, and then toured out through the notch along the old road that leads to Tioga Tarns and back to the parking lot. This is the best way into this area. Going up from Tioga Pass Resort gets one into an area of creek gorges with vertical rock walls, bare outcrops, and brush, and involves more gain. There is no place to make turns, while the route along the old road allows one to ski open slopes right down to the road, or tour directly to the parking lot.

A few days later the Range of Light Group skied into the Mine Creek area on lighter gear, going as far as Spuller Lake and part way up the slopes Joy and I had skied down. Going in I searched for my radio in vain, but a few days later one of the local skiers called me. She had found it on the peak.



Gerry, Pat, Joy, and Wally at the trailhead.

WEATHER CONDITIONS HIKERS: November 11, 2001

By Mark Goebel

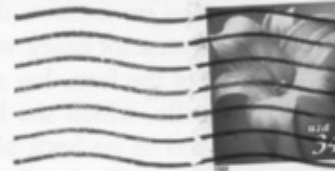
Last year's conditioning hike on Mt. Baldy was notable for new snow the night before, an icy road to the trailhead, and brisk summit winds. Conditions that skiers thrive upon. In contrast, this year's edition of the hike was weather challenging well before it started. Rain!! Wet roads on the drive up, ground hugging clouds obscuring a twisting mountain road, and a lingering question, would anyone even show up? Well, they did, ten in all, for a scheduled traverse along the ridge from Dawson Saddle eastward to Mt. Baden Powell. We scrapped the traverse and necessary car shuttle in favor of a direct assault on Baden Powell's even, but zigzagging trail starting from cloud shrouded Vincent Gap. In a light but steady rain, we quickly entered a perpetual rain forest of dripping trees, surrounded by gray mist. Moving steadily upward, our main challenge was to maintain a hiking pace that would not overwhelm sweating bodies encased in rain gear. With just a couple quick stops to point towards potential ski routes through the mist, we emerged after 2¼ hrs. on the summit, and surprise, surprise, there was even some rays of sunshine. Fol-

lowing a brief lunch around Lord Powell's summit monument, we began to retrace our steps downward, proud of our achievement in the face of adversity. Reality quickly returned, as we encountered a large troop of Boy Scouts, many clad in shorts, with only a few frayed plastic ponchos in the crowd. We encouraged them upward, hoping they would have a safe return from their pilgrimage. With occasional views through parting clouds of the desert far below, all hands returned to the cars with clearing skies ahead. Many thanks to Keith Martin for assisting, and for all who attended: Annemarie Schober, Larry Campbell, Bill Lingle, Jacob Nik, Mike S. & Lorene S., Bahram M., and John Kornak.

PS: On this weekend, Mammoth Mountain became the first lift served area in California to open for the 2001/02 season. A combination of natural and machine made snow brought out an enthusiastic crowd of snow riders. Another storm blasted through on Monday, adding additional inches. Here's to a bountiful and lengthy ski season!

Mugelnoos

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