

# THE MUGELNOOS

January 2002

Issue # 771



*Left: The gang with chute #4 behind. Craig "Crash" Connally, Dave "King O the Mountain" King, Wally "Two boards are better than one" Drake, and Katie the wonder pup.*

*Above, right: In the chute. Contemplating Newton's Second Law on 48 degree snow.*

## **The Riches of Baden-Powell. But wait, there's more!**

*By Craig Connally*

With their appetites whetted by the March 25 SMS trip down the NE chute of Mt. Baden-Powell, Wally Drake and Craig Connally were determined to extract the most from this local treasure. We set our sights on the four north chutes and their 40+ degree runs. April 4 (4/4) has an inauspicious meaning in the town where I live: to Asians it means double death. But in the mountains it meant a cold spring storm. To us SMS funhogs, therefore, it meant shopping for powder. Despite every contrivance to delay, we arrived at Vincent Gap the next morning to

*(Continued on Page 5)*

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### NEXT ISSUE

February issue deadline is February 10<sup>th</sup>, 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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The link is: <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/skim/>

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## Leadership Training

### Leadership Training Navigation Events:

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

Crispi telemark boots-2 pair models CXP size 24.5 and CXU size 24 (about women's 7) \$300 and \$275; Telmark/AT skis 2 pair-Tua Big Easy 170 cm \$300, and Rossignal Audace 175 cm (very light) \$125; ~~lastly 1 Lowe Contour 4 backpack \$125.~~ ALL ITEMS ARE NEW. Please phone Ruth in Truckee @ 530-550-9982 or email mtngoat@gbis.com.

## 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 experiance 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 DEEMER

**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, car-pool 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/](http://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 Coulter 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/skint/](http://angeles.sierraclub.org/skint/).

**April 20-26 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 SkiMountaineers/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/skint/](http://angeles.sierraclub.org/skint/)

**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 advanced 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)

find the trees still flocked with white and the temperature well below freezing. As we trudged toward the top of Mt. Baden-Powell we did indeed find powder; nearly an inch of it and still too fluffy to make snowballs. The problem was that it was dusted on top of last week's corn snow that was frozen impressively firm. Firm enough to resist penetration by an enthusiastically (or desperately) thrust ski pole. But continue we did, eschewing crampons for the security of cast-in-place boot pits. At the top, we shared an inspiring view: whiteout; the warming and softening we hoped for was not to be. "Well, it is what it is," we resolved. After a brief lunch during which water hoses froze, Wally and I set off to bag the easterly #1 chute on the north side, hoping to find a conservative line. It proved to be narrowly defined by trees and rocks with an average slope of 35 degrees and sections over 40. The surface cups were solid ice, giving the sensation of skiing on cobblestones, but the powder provided minimal coverage in several places. This was definitely no-falls-allowed skiing. But ski it we did, with Wally on a snowboard and me on tele gear. With all the scraping over ice, it was certainly the noisiest skiing I have ever heard.

The total run was over a mile from the top, with nearly 2700 feet of vertical, and ended up right at the parking lot. Not bad for 90 minutes of driving and two hours of hiking. A great day of mountaineering with amazingly accessibility. As a note, we took a look at the outlets of the other three northern chutes and saw impressive avalanche runouts that meant hundreds of tons of snow sweeping desk-sized rocks and 5-inch trees across Highway 2 and down another thousand feet into the Rock Creek drainage. All chutes looked in great shape for skiing, but the ACH will need some work.

That left three more chutes, so on the following Thursday we set out again. This time we caught up with Mitch Weber, Gil Estrada, John Lichtwardt, and Big Tim Connolly, the gang from Telemark Tips. While they lollygagged at the top preparing to video their heroics (check Mitch's web site, telemarktips.com), Wally and I took off for chute #2 and its steep corn snow. Another really excellent run with a half mile of vertical followed by an easy cruise all the way back to the car door.

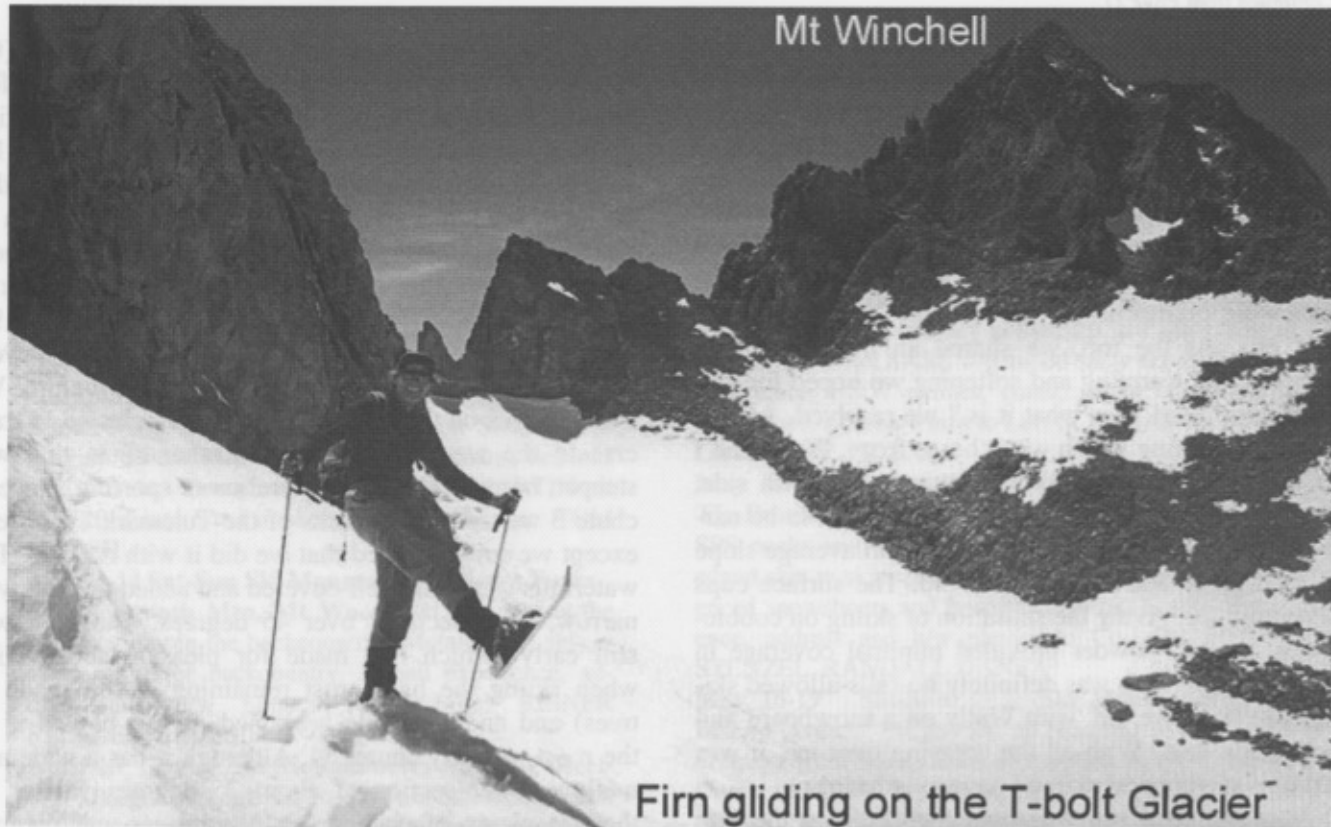
On Easter Sunday I couldn't resist another taste. It seemed that "Randonee" Randy Lamm had also been tempted by the fine weather and had arrived in the parking lot just after I left. On the way up I caught four other telemarkers from Wyoming who had come from a week in the Sierra. They said that Elderberry Canyon had been miserable crust and were looking for some-

thing softer. They wanted to avoid the center chute (#3) so I lead them to the top of #2, which starts with a few hundred feet of 45 degrees in widely spaced trees until it opens up and relaxes to 35 degrees. After lunch we left with Randy still savoring Baden-Powell's fruit. Another day of excellent corn snow with only a minimum of slush at the bottom. The agreement was that Southern California had better snow than Wyoming. Surely a first!

But unfinished business remained, so on the 19th of April Wally and I again returned to Baden-Powell, this time with my puppy on her first ski adventure. We had our eyes on the big chute #3, but we elected to traverse to the west and enter by another chute that was steeper, narrower, and in general more sporting. Once in chute 3 we traced the tracks of the Telemark Tips crew, except we smugly noted that we did it with no falls. The waterfalls were still well-covered and added interest with narrow, short sections over 45 degrees. The hour was still early (which had made for pleasant acceleration when skiing the hard crust remaining in the shade of trees) and another chute beckoned, so we booted it up the most westerly chute, #4. Although it has a wide and mellow lower section of about 25 degrees, higher up there is plenty of challenging narrowness and sections measuring over 45 degrees. Still, with buttery corn snow on a firm base, the three of us arrived at the bottom grinning from ear to ear. It doesn't get much better than Baden-Powell when the snow is good, so Wally, the pup, and I repeated this route the next week after the avalanches that followed another snow storm.

Then we got a day's jump on Cinco de Mayo and returned yet again, this time with new SMS'er Dave King. Skiing from the top we had a fantastic run in purrfect corn snow for the price of an hour's focused hike on steep ice, some of which we climbed rock to avoid. The pup had no problems, of course, and managed multiple 20-foot glissades by running down the slope and sliding on her stomach. As before, the skiing was so good that we repeated the steep chute section, which we measured at 48 degrees. But all good things finally come to an end. Wally, Katie the puppy, and I returned on May 9 and booted (or pawed) our way up once again. This time the corn snow was firm, but dirty and suncupped. The chute had narrowed in spots to less than a ski length, and the lower few hundred feet were so covered in rocks and avalanche debris that we took off our skis there and settled for a long boot glissade right to the road. It was great fun nevertheless, and who could argue with two months of excellent skiing, in virtual privacy, on steep but firm corn snow, within 90 minutes of Los Angeles?

## Mt Winchell



Firn gliding on the T-bolt Glacier

## Firn Gliding on Thunderbolt Glacier June 1-4, 2001

*By Reiner Stenzel*

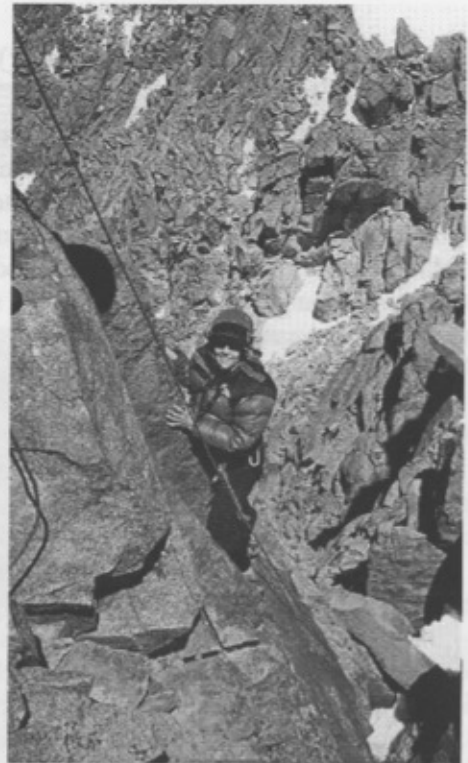
When I showed up with "Firngleiter" skis on a ski mountaineering trip to Winchell and Thunderbolt I got a lot of questions about these specialty skis. So it may be of interest to describe the skis and their use in the Mugelnoos. They are short (60 cm), wide (15 cm) all-metal skis which are excellent gliders ("gleiter") on corn snow ("Firn" in German), especially on the steeps. The bindings consist of a split leather shell with bootlaces which one can tie over almost any hiking boot of any size. Heels are tied down like on alpine skis, bindings are near the end of the ski, so the best way to ski them is to face downhill and make short parallel turns ("wedeln"). They are useless for ascending or skiing in flat terrain but they work like miracles in steep chutes. There one makes parallel jump turns, landing equally weighted in soft snow parallel to the slope which controls the speed. Since the skis are short and relatively light (< 4lbs), a series of jump turns is not utterly exhausting. Due to the short length one can make very tight turns and get easily through narrow passages (< 3'). On gentler slopes one can carve nice turns although the skis have no side cut. Skiing them requires good balance since the short length provides no for-aft stability. I should also mention the limitations of these skis: They do not edge well on icy

snow, they do not cut well through breakable crust, and skiing in deep suncups or glacier rundles is no fun. Otherwise they are great on Sierra spring snow. They are also practical on travel since they fit into a suit case together with collapsable poles, no ski boots needed. I brought mine from a trip to Austria and also skied with them on Mauna Kea, HI, on a New Year's Day.

And what about this trip? It was conceived as an SMS trip but turned into a CMC trip due to SC restrictions for cl 5 peak climbs. R.J. Secor organized the trip, consisting of 6 climbers and one skier. On Fri we hiked to Sam Mac Mdws, set up base camp and climbed/skied the short, steep chute leading to the glacier. On Sat we climbed Winchell (13,775') via the East Arete. In the afternoon some of us traversed the Thunderbolt Glacier and climbed into the North Couloir to investigate the traversing of the bergschrund. I practiced my turns from below the bergschrund back to basecamp. On Sun we climbed Thunderbolt. With crampons and ice axe we ascended the North Couloir to the 13,800' crest, traversed west into a snow-filled chute, climbed to the saddle between the Lightning Rod and T-bolt, roped up for a short cl 4 section, and finally ascended to the summit block of Thunderbolt



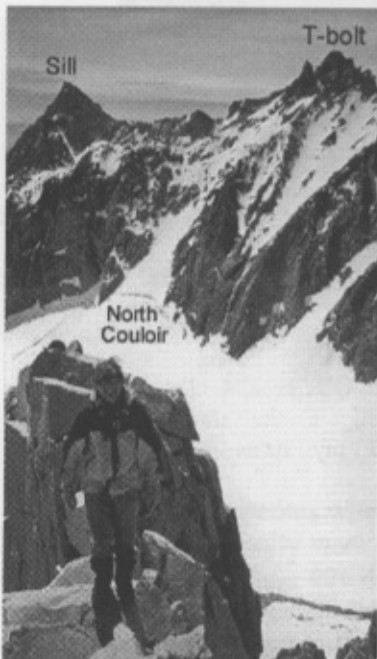
(14,003'), my last of the 13 California Fourteeners. The belayed 5.9 climb of the exposed summit block was one of the highlights of the day. The other one was to ski down the 35-40 deg, 1000' North Couloir. Breakable crust in the shaded top section required a few kick turns before reaching the sunny part of the gully. Then it was jumping time with no falls allowed above the bergschrund. Quite a few breaks were needed to keep the pulse rate under 120. After skiing across a narrow snow bridge on the side of the bergschrund it was safe cruising down Thunderbolt Glacier to basecamp. On Mon we hiked out. Great mountaineering and best spring skiing!



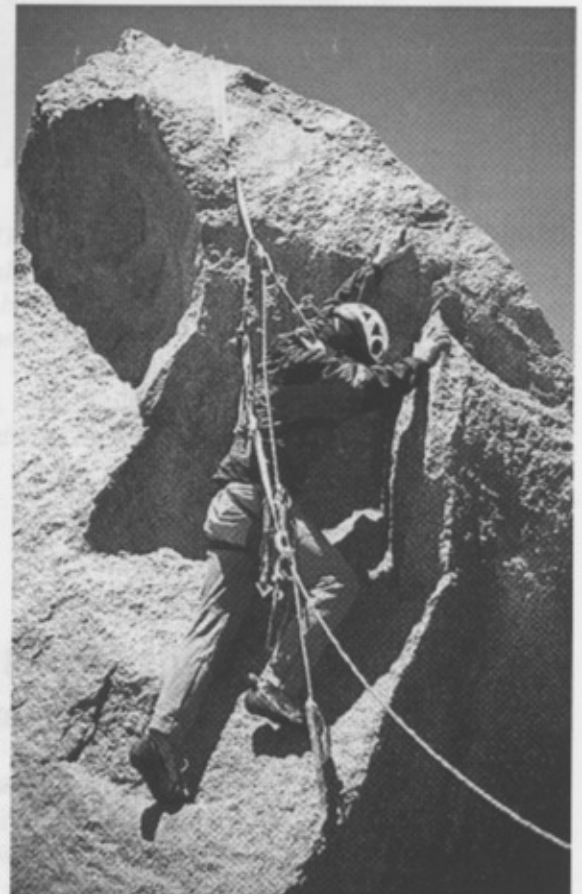
Susan climbing the d 4 section on Thunderbolt Pk



Firngleiter skis fit into mountaineering daypack



Reiner on the East Arete of Winchel



David lead climbing the summit block of Thunderbolt Pk

# Mars Ski Report: Snow is Hard, Dense and Disappearing

By Robert Roy Britt (Excerpt from Space.com)

Mars would make a lousy host for the Winter Olympics. Yes, there's the lack of air to consider. But more important, Martian snow turns out to be rock hard. Worse, it is melting away at an alarming rate. In fact, Mars may be in the midst of a period of profound climate change, according to a new study that shows dramatic year-to-year losses of snow at the south pole.

It is not yet clear, though, if the evidence of a single year's change represents a trend. But the study provides a surprising new view of the nature of the southern ice cap, said Michael Caplinger of Malin Space Science Systems. "It's saying that the permanent cap isn't quite so permanent as we thought," Caplinger said in a telephone interview.

A second study of both poles finds that Red Planet snow is more dense and hard than the euphemistic "packed powder" advertised by Eastern ski resorts, and nothing like the soft flakes expected in Utah for the 2002 Olympics. Instead, it's hard as ice.

Though unrelated, the two studies were based

on observations made by NASA's Mars Global Surveyor and both will be published in the Dec. 7 issue of the journal Science.

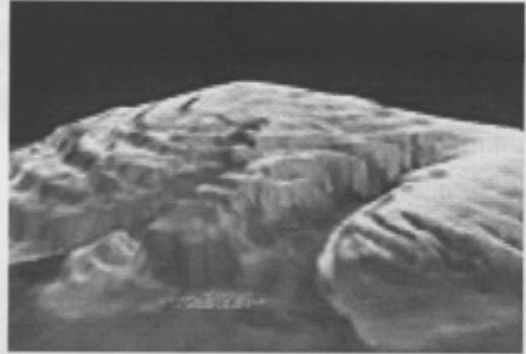
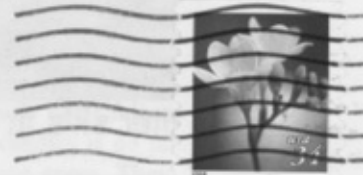


Image of Martian Icecap

The full article can be viewed online at [http://space.com/scienceastronomy/solarsystem/mars\\_snow\\_011206-1.html](http://space.com/scienceastronomy/solarsystem/mars_snow_011206-1.html)

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