

February 2002

Issue # 772

## SMS APPROVED TO LEAD "TMR" OUTINGS

*What is a "TMR" Outing? By Gerry Holleman*

Would you believe Transcendental Meditation Retreat? Didn't think so. Reiner Stenzel is leading two of the three Ski Mountaineers trips rated "TMR" in the spring schedule, and meditative is not an adjective typically used to describe his outings. The "T" is the SMS designation for outings that require competent backcountry skiing ability. Participants usually establish their credentials by obtaining a checkoff on a local introductory tour. The "M" is an Angeles Chapter designation for outings that require a moderate level of snow or rock climbing ability. Snow climbing with an ice ax on greater than 34-degree slopes is the applicable skill in our case. Finally the "R" indicates a restricted outing, which is one that requires the use of mountaineering equipment for safety. Mountaineering equipment is defined as "ropes, pitons, jam nuts, runners, bolts, ice axes, crampons, carabiners, or belaying techniques." Skis, snowboards, and ski crampons are not included.

In January 2002 the Ski Mountaineering Section was certified by the Angeles Chapter Safety Committee to sponsor R-rated outings. Prior to this, R-rated ski outings were conducted jointly with the Sierra Peak Section, which had previous authorization to conduct restricted outings.

An "R" rating triggers special rules for both leaders and participants. Details are provided in the January 2002 revision of the Outings Safety and Training Policy of the Ski Mountaineers Section copies of which are available from the SMS Safety Chair, Gerry Holleman. A short description of restricted outing rules follows.

First, everyone must be a current member of the Sierra Club and their membership number must be provided on the Sign-In Sheet/Liability Waiver before the trip begins. On more typical ski tours, which are designated "T" or "TI", the same Sign-In/Waiver form is used, but participants are not required to be Sierra Club members.

Second, the leaders have to complete mountaineering training commensurate with the trip being led. If rock climbing or snow belays are anticipated, leaders must be M- or E-rated by the Angeles Chapter Safety Committee. SMS restricted trips usually are limited to climbing steep snow slopes without roped belays in which case I-rated leaders can qualify by passing the SMS Snow Climbing Test. This test includes an M-level snow checkout administered by the Angeles Chapter Leadership Training Committee (LTC). The M-level checkout tests the non-skiing aspects of using crampons and ice ax for ascending, descending, and self arresting on snow slopes greater than 34 degrees. Candidate SMS leaders must also demonstrate their ability to climb and self arrest on skis. In addition, they must be able to assess participant skills and provide assistance when required.

Leaders will screen participants for skills and experience that meet prudent mountaineering standards for the trip they are leading. Minimum qualifications are a ski check-off that qualifies one for membership in the SMS, and snow climbing experience equivalent to the SMS Snow Climbing Test described above.

The "TMR" ski outings in the spring schedule are:

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| April 27 – May 4 | Trans-Sierra, Reiner Stenzel and R. J. Secor, Leaders |
| April 27 – 28    | Mt. Rixford, Scot Jamison and Larry Tidball, Leaders  |
| May 24 – 27      | Mt. Brewer, Reiner Stenzel and Alvin Walter, Leaders  |

These are all great trips to beautiful spring landscapes that are more challenging than our standard outings. Provide a resume of your experience to the leaders to see if you qualify. If not, there is still time to become a Sierra Club member, and possibly establish your credentials in earlier intro and training trips. --GH

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## NEXT ISSUE

March issue deadline is March 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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## SMS WEB PAGE

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

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.

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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/>

## NEW SUBSCRIBERS

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## Calendar of Events (Condensed)

Please see January or March Issue for more details or contact the leaders

**Feb 22-24 Fri-Sun, SMS/Orange County Sierra Singles**  
**TI: Free-Heel Downhill Practice Weekend/OCSS Ski Leader Training:** Reserv/Ldr: Keith Martin, Asst: Michael Dodson.

**February 22-25 Fri-Mon TI: Weekend at Pear Lake Hut:** 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'):** Send experience, H&W phones, email address to Ldr: R.J. SECOR. Asst: KEN

**Mar 9-10 Sat Sun Ski Mountaineers**  
**TI: Ski Mammoth:** Contact Ldr: OWEN MALOY. Asst: ANDY FRIED.

**Mar 10 Sat Ski Mountaineers TI: Local Tour:** Leader: KATHY CRANDALL, Asst: TOM MARSH

**Mar 9-10 Sat-Sun Ski Mountaineers**  
**TI: San Gorgonio Mtn. (11,499') & Navigation Check-out:** Send experience, H&W phones, carpool info, email address to R.J. Secor. Asst: Reiner Stenzel

**Mar 19 Tue Ski Mountaineers Monthly Meeting:** 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:** Ldr: Mark Goebel. Asst: Kathy Crandall.

**Mar 30-31 Sat-Sun Ski Mountaineers TI: Sardine Canyon (Keasarge Peak) Slopes of Independence Peak.** Leader: RANDY LAMM, Asst: TOM MARSH

**Apr 5-7 Sat-Sun Ski Mountaineers TI: Mammoth Day Tours.** 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.** Co-Ldrs: REINER STENZEL; ERIK SIERING.

**April 16 Tue Ski Mountaineers Monthly Meeting:** 7:30pm Griffith Park Ranger Station. See SMS Section list-

ing for newsletter info or angeles.sierraclub.org/skimt/.

**April 20-2 Sat-Fri, Ski Mountaineers TI: North Lake to Rock Creek:** Send e-mail/sase with experience to Ldr: TOM MARSH. Asst.: JOE MCGUIRE

**Apr 27- 28 Sat-Sun SMS TI: Rock Creek Intro Trip.** Leader: MICHAEL DODSON, Asst: KEITH MARTIN

**Apr 27- May 4 Sat-Sat Ski Mountaineers & Sierra Peaks TMR: Trans-Sierra Ski Tour.** 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 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.** 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.** Send experience, h&w phones, email address to Leader: GERRY HOLLEMAN. Assist: TOM MARSH

**May 21 Tue Ski Mountaineers Monthly Meeting:** 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.** 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:** Send experience, address, and phone # to Ldr: MARK GOEBEL. Asst: RANDY LAMM.

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## Voile Releasable Binding Alert from Gerry Holleman

If you use Voile releasable bindings be aware that the spring mechanism that sets the release tension can go sproooooong! Typically the cylindrical plastic housing for the spring splits down the side, the threads holding the adjustment screw in place open up like a clam shell, and the spring and adjustment screw are launched into the deepest powder in the area. Without a handy repair kit the binding is useless even if you find all of the parts. This happened to Andy Fried on Mammoth Mt.

recently. In a previous instance a hose clamp squeezed the plastic housing back together so that the threads on the housing held the adjustment screw in place and the release mechanism could be reassembled. This skier was able to ski from the top of Baden-Powell. On my old Voiles, the housing is 1.25 inches in diameter. Measure yours to be certain of the size you need because newer models may have been beefed up. A hose clamp is a lightweight piece of insurance. --GH

# Southern California Mountaineers Association Presents Ellen Wilts

March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm at Loyola Marymount  
University in University Hall 1000

Taken from American Alpine Club Journal 1992 and written by Ellen Beaumont Wilts:

"We met in June of 1941 in Tuolumne Meadows. In the fall of 1941, on a Sierra Club outing, Les Grossman introduced Chuck to the greatest love of his outdoor adventures, rock climbing. I was an initiate at the same time. Chuck became a Sierra Club member in 1942. Soon after joining the Sierra Club Rock Climbing Section, he discovered another lifetime outdoor activity, skiing, and he joined the Sierra Club Ski Mountaineering Section. He served as chairman of both sections. In 1945, he was a founding member of a skiers folk-dance group, "The Mountain Dancers", which is still active today. After the war, we mountaineered, rock climbed, skied and folk danced together and then married in 1947.

At Tahquitz Rock, Chuck made too many first ascents to list. He also published in the 1956 second edition of the Guide to Tahquitz Rock the first official "decimal system" used for classifying and comparing climbing routes. Climbers originally called it the "Sierra-Wilts Decimal System." Chuck objected to the original name and finally it came to be known as the "Yosemite Decimal System." Throughout the years, he updated and published the guide five times. In 1964, he became a member of the American Alpine Club, which pub-

lished the fourth, fifth and sixth edition of the Guide to Tahquitz and Suicide Rocks. He donated the book's proceeds to the Club. During Chuck's many years of climbing he wrote articles for climbing magazines, Sierra Club publications and journals on safety concerns, rope durability and climbing hardware. He invented the knife-blade piton. He also built a device to test the strength of climbing ropes. "

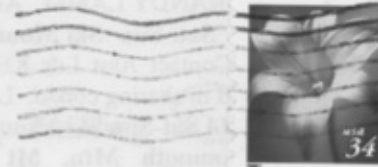
#### Directions to the venue:

Take the 405 (San Diego Freeway) to the Howard Hughes Parkway Exit. Take Howard Hughes Parkway up the short hill to Sepulveda, turn left (south) on Sepulveda. Take Sepulveda to Manchester, turn right (west) onto Manchester. Take Manchester to Lincoln, turn right (north) onto Lincoln. Take Lincoln down the hill to LMU Drive, turn right onto LMU Drive. University Hall, 1 LMU Drive, is the large building on the right. Drive into the underground parking (the third entrance) or P1. You may park anywhere in the structure, except for handicap spaces. Take the elevators up to the first floor. The room University Hall 1000 is on the first floor at the east end of the building.

(For addition details see [www.rockclimbing.org](http://www.rockclimbing.org) or [www.delphi.com/scma](http://www.delphi.com/scma) or call SCMA hotline 213.368.8573)

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