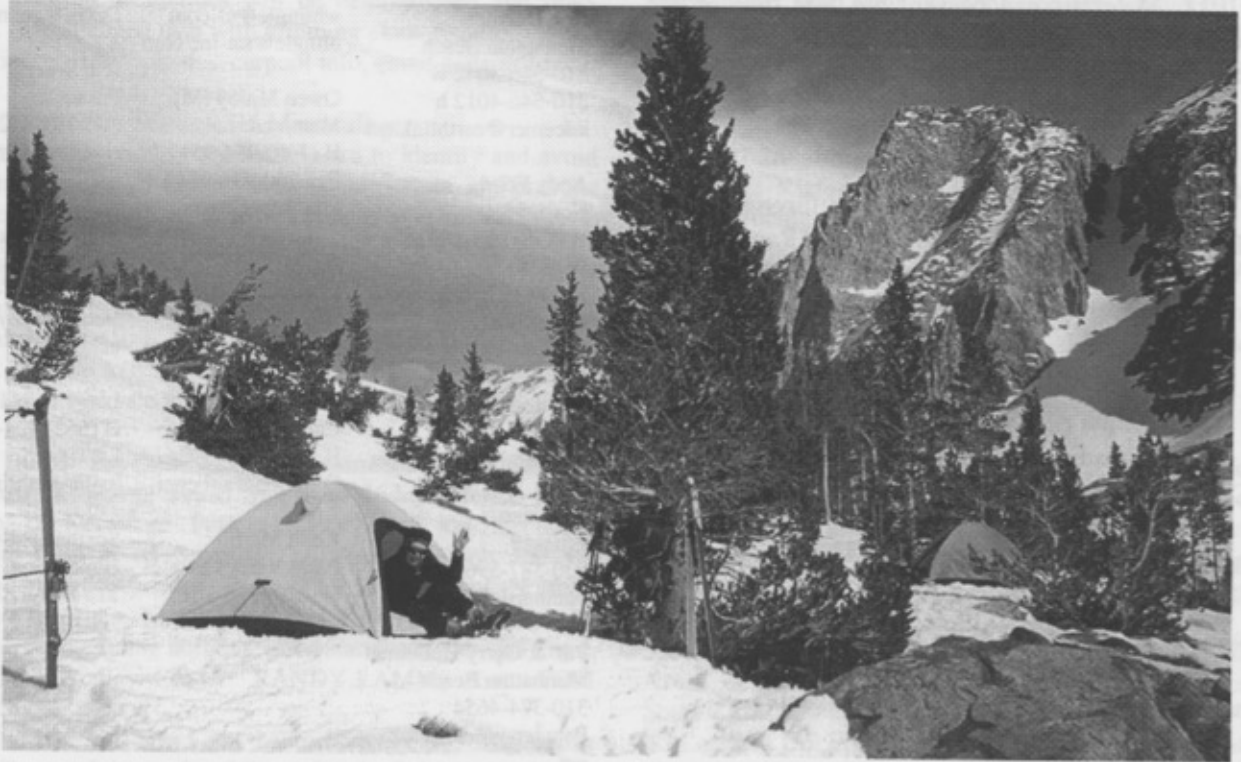


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# THE MUGELNOOS

March 2002

Issue # 773



*Campsite at Red Lake*

## **Mt Tinemaha April 28-29, 2001**

*By Reiner Stenzel*

This trip was a tri-athletic adventure involving mountain biking, climbing and skiing. Our destination was a 12,520' peak in the Eastern Sierra Nevada near Big Pine. The access was via the infamous McMurry Mdws Rd and the Red Lke trail. We were a group of five: Ruth von Rotz von Truckee, Susan Livingston, Baharam Manahedgi, R. J. Secor and yours truly. The trip was sponsored by the California Mountaineering Club (CMC) but all participants were also SMS members so that a trip report in the Mugelnoos seems appropriate.

On Sat, 4/28, 6 am, we met at the intersection of the Glacier Lodge Rd and McMurry Mdws Rd, drove up the dusty dirt road for 7 mi and then parked the passenger cars at McMurry Meadows (6,400') prior to the Birch Creek stream crossing. The idea was to mountain-bike the rough 4WD road which normal cars cannot make. However, the plan to bike 5 mi, +1,000', with full packs and skis was not fully appreciated and the ladies brought their trucks as a backup. So the bikers, Baharam and myself, had our motorized support team. Without packs and skis the bike ride was fun, at least down to the Red Lke Ranch, then it became a workout to paddle up 1,000' on a sandy road. With my 2-way radio I kept in touch with the cars a mile behind me and heard that they had to pick up Baharam from a wrong side road. But by 8 am we all made it to the correct Red Lke trailhead (6,500'). Here we stashed the bikes into

*(Continued on Page 4)*

## MUGELNOOS STAFF

EDITOR Lorene Samoska  
MUGELMAILER Pat Holleman

### NEXT ISSUE

April issue deadline is April 6<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:

March 23-24, San Geronio or Mt Gibbs—see the Calendar, next page.

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

**For Sale:** 190 cm Tua Excalibur MX [90-70-80] with Emery Altitude LX Randonnee bindings [French—releasable toe, Look Nevada turntable heel—ski crampons]. VG condition. \$325. Call Bruce @ (310) 375-0776

## Calendar of Events

New  
me &  
face!

**Mar 23-24 Sat-Sun Ski Mountaineers**  
**TI: San Gorgonio Mtn. (11,499') & Navigation Checkout, Or Mount Gibbs:** 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 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 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 12-14 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 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:** Newcomers welcome. 7:30pm Griffith Park Ranger Station.

**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 Keasarge 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:** Newcomers welcome. 7:30pm Griffith Park Ranger Station.

**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 req'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.

New  
me!

(Continued from Page 1)

the cars and saddled up our packs with skis which weighed anywhere from 39 lbs (R. J.'s) to 65 lbs (sufferer's name omitted).

By 8:45 am, on a sunny spring day, we headed up the sandy northern trail high above Red Mtn Creek. It felt like a summer trip since the paint brush was already blooming and no snow around for the next 2,500'. The 5 mi, 4,000' hike up Red Lke trail involves some bush whacking, route finding and postholing. At about 9,500', we had solid snow coverage and skinned up the last 1,000' to Red Lke (10,500'). The beautiful lake is located below the steep east face of Split Mtn and offered great campsites among trees near its shore. It was frozen over but with ice axe and shovel we opened up a suitable waterhole. Around 3 pm we pitched our two Bibler submarines, Baharam set up his bivvy, and we cooked and ate on dry rocks near the shore. It was time for relaxing and enjoying the great mountain scenery. The north facing slopes were solidly covered with snow but we were not so sure about the south facing slopes of Tinemaha which were out of sight. R. J. did some scouting and brought back good news about plenty of snow. We all admired his flawless turns down a steep hill. The mood was high by dinner time. In the evening spectacular lenticular clouds formed over the Sierra crest. Gusts of wind drove us into the tents. Baharam shared his delicious herbal tea with everyone which made us sleep well.

On Sun, 4/29, we got up by 6 am to take pictures of the first sun rays on Split Mtn. Surprisingly, it was completely calm and there was not a cloud in the sky. After our sumptuous oatmeal breakfast we packed and started around 7:30 am for Tinemaha. There was no need for an alpine start because we wanted to time our ski descent to the best corn snow conditions around mid day. From Red Lke we ascended north into a 1 mi long valley which leads to the base of the peak. On the frozen snow it was faster to crampon up than to ski up. We had a few breaks to enjoy the scenery and to take pictures. At the end of the valley we climbed to the crest, left the skis in the rocks and continued the next 300' with crampons and ski poles over mixed rock and snow. Finally, the last 50' was just a rock scramble on foot to the western summit (12,520') where the peak register was hidden under a rock pile. At 10 am we signed in as the first visitors in 2001. The view was worth all the effort. Sitting 8,500' above Owens Valley on a sunny, calm spring morning was a true pleasure. Many 14,000' mountains were clearly visible: Split, Mid Pal, Sill, and Williamson. We snacked and replenished fluids, took summit pictures, some used the portable phone booth, and we simply had a good time. But by 11 am it was time to leave. We retraced our steps

back to the skis and then started the best part of the trip, i.e., the ski run down on now perfect spring snow, about 2" of soft snow on a firm base. It was telemarking at its best. The alpine skiers had equal fun. Turn after turn we flew down the slopes in minutes which took us an hour to climb. This is the best way to enjoy those SPS peaks which, in summer time, are boring scree/talus ascents.

By noon the last ones were back at camp. We had lunch, packed and left the beautiful Red Lke area by 1:30 pm. Skiing with full packs became a bit more strenuous. Initially the snow was still forgiving, further down it turned into deep mush. Turning became an act of strength and balance and fancy turns gave way to survival turns. Falling with heavy packs in deep wet snow is exhausting and worse, one can easily twist one's legs. We skied down on the north facing slopes (south) of Red Mtn Creek which had snow coverage much lower than the trail on the south facing slopes. However, we needed to cross the creek to regain the trail. This proved to be a painful bush whacking experience which not only R.J. but also the ladies expressed in colorful language that shall not be quoted. Finally, we were back on track and marching down the dry trail into cactus country. Coming through a turn I almost stepped on a 3' buzz worm whose angry rattle required a temporary retreat. By 4:30 pm we were back at the cars. After the 6,000' descent there was no desire left for mountain biking. So we squeezed five people, bikes, skis and gear into the two 4WD cars and drove on the bumpy road back to McMurry Mdw. By 6 pm the last ones were on their way home. All together, we had a wonderful trip, a fun group, excellent weather, and some fine backcountry skiing. Thanks to everyone, especially co-leader R. J., for this fine weekend.





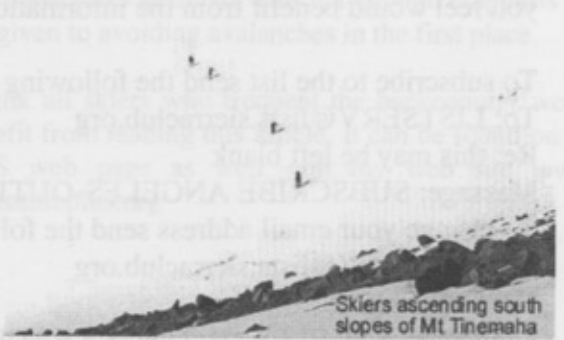
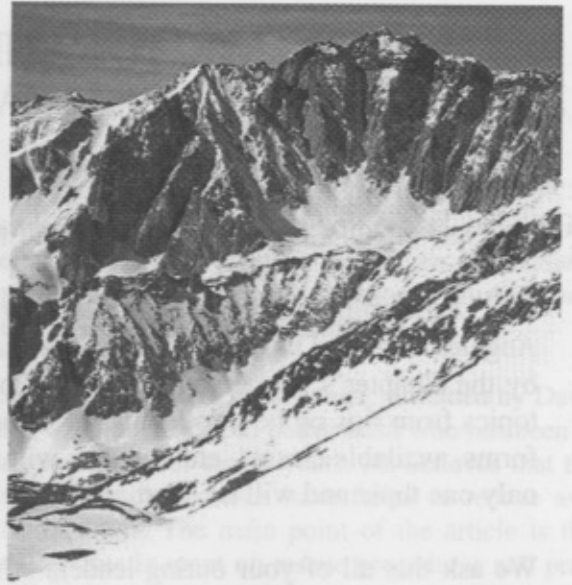
End of Bike-Hike-Ski trio in McMurrv Mdws

*Bottom Left, Page 4: Reiner after mountain biking to Red Lke trailhead*

*Above, Left: End of trip at McMurry Mdws from about the elevation of the 11,600+ saddle just west of 11,712.*

*Right: Skiers ascending the south slopes of Mt Tinemaha*

*Bottom: Ruth, R.J., Baharam and Susan on summit of Mt Tinemaha*



Skiers ascending south slopes of Mt Tinemaha



## LTC MEMORANDUM *(submitted by Mark Goebel)*

From: Dan Richter, LTC Chair  
To: All Angeles Chapter Outings Leaders

Re: New ANGELES-OUTINGS-LEADER E-mail Listserve

The Leadership Training Committee is proud to announce a new free email service designed to assist Angeles Chapter Outing Leaders to lead safer and more enjoyable outings. The information is provided by the Chapter's Leadership Training Committee. Information provided will cover a whole range of topics from tips on how to lead safer, more enjoyable outings to navigation, first aid, use of approved forms, available classes, etc. Leaders will not be inundated with emails. Each email message will cover only one topic and will be short and to the point.

We ask that all of your outing leaders whom have email signup for this free service plus anyone else you feel would benefit from the information provided (the service is open to anyone.)

To subscribe to the list send the following email:

To: [LISTSERV@lists.sierraclub.org](mailto:LISTSERV@lists.sierraclub.org)

Re: this may be left blank

Message: SUBSCRIBE ANGELES-OUTINGS-LEADERS yourfirstname yourlastname

To change your email address send the following email:

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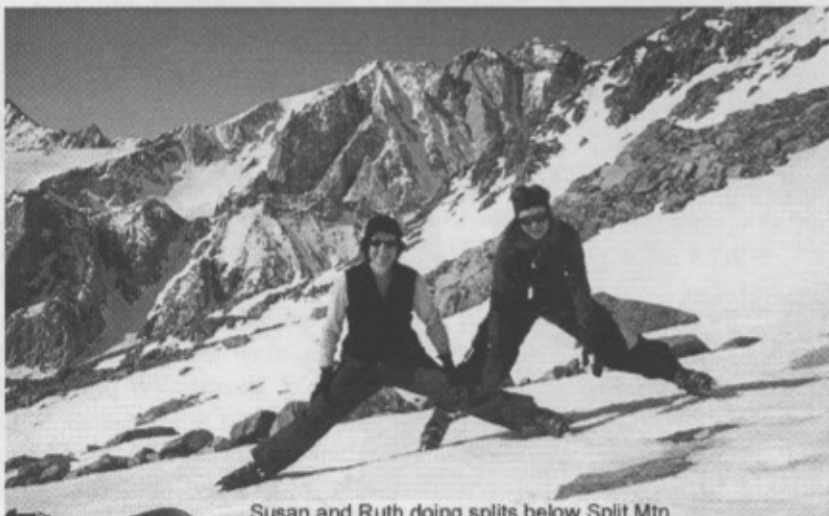
Re: Leave blank

Message: SIGNOFF ANGELES-OUTINGS-LEADERS

If you have any questions please send an email to:

[ANGELES-OUTINGS-LEADERS-request@lists.sierraclub.org](mailto:ANGELES-OUTINGS-LEADERS-request@lists.sierraclub.org)

Dan Richter  
Leadership Training Committee Chair



*Susan and Ruth doing the splits*

## Avalanche Stories and Info

### AVALUNG

#### AvaLung Credited for Saving Skier Buried in Avalanche (3/5/02)

Salt Lake City—The use of an AvaLung breathing device apparently saved the life of a backcountry skier who was buried in an avalanche in which two others died. The skier, Mike Morrissey of Colorado, told interviewers that he spent about 38 minutes buried in the snow, with his head about four feet deep, before he was recovered.

The Feb. 10 incident occurred during a heli-skiing trip near Revelstoke, British Columbia, according to Black Diamond, which sells the AvaLung, and a local newspaper that reported on the incident.

The AvaLung is an emergency breathing device that draws air out of snowpack and expels carbon dioxide near the user's back. It is designed to let avalanche victims continue breathing until rescuers locate them using avalanche beacons and dig them out.

Officials from Black Diamond, which sells the AvaLung, and its inventor interviewed the skier and others from the heli-ski service, which was not identified. Dale Atkins of the Colorado Avalanche Information Center, who said he has no financial interest in Black Diamond or the AvaLung, also interviewed the skier.

"Surviving an avalanche burial has always been more a matter of luck than skill or equipment," Atkins said in a written report on the interview. "However, in this accident the equipment—the AvaLung—made the difference."

*(submitted by RJ Secor)*

— Doug McClellan

### AVALANCHE AVOIDANCE

*by Rich Henke*

Several years ago, I wrote a short article which questioned the need for avalanche transceivers in the Sierra for spring conditions. I also questioned trusting ones life to transceivers under any conditions.

I recently received an excellent article written by David Spring, a member of a ski patrol team who has been an avalanche instructor for 20 years. He believes that traditional avalanche courses have failed to reduce avalanche fatalities. The main point of the article is that too much time is spent on rescue procedures and practice transceiver searches with not enough emphasis being given to avoiding avalanches in the first place.

I think all skiers who frequent the backcountry would benefit from reading this article. It can be found on the SMS web page as well on my web site [www.adventureplus.org](http://www.adventureplus.org)



*(Below) Sunrise on Split Mtn*



View from tent on Split Mtn at sunrise

## New Ski Book From Dan Anderson

There's a new ski history book out by Ingrid P. Wicken, Associate Professor at Riverside Community College. I think Mugelnoos readers will be interested in her book:

"Pray for Snow -- History of Skiing in Southern California."

It's a comprehensive account of skiing in Southern California from the do-it-yourself 1930's to the snow making, high tech present.

207 pages, 8.5 x 11 in., paperbound, indexed, about 200 illustrations. Price \$30.00

Ms. Wicken also has a webpage here on Southern California ski history (but no book information yet):  
<http://www.academic.rccd.cc.ca.us/~skiing/>

It's not commonly available yet, but one place you should be able to find it is Dawson's Book Shop, 535 North Larchmont Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90004  
1-323-469-2186 <http://www.dawsonbooks.com/>  
Email [info@dawsonbooks.com](mailto:info@dawsonbooks.com)

## Angeles Chapter Workshop

Urgent environmental issues are facing us. In order to ensure good outcomes we need an involved and informed membership. Responding to Environmental Impact Reports and other such documents is of great importance for our membership.

That being the case, the Orange County Group, the Legal Advisory Committee of the Angeles Chapter and Cal State University of Fullerton's Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary are cosponsoring a workshop on analyzing and commenting upon EIRs.

The event will take place on Saturday, July 13, 2002, from 9am to 4pm, at Cal State Fullerton, McCarthy Hall, room 121. Legal and scientific experts will participate and informational materials will be provided. Refreshments will be provided and there will be a nominal Ten Dollar (\$10.00) fee.

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