

THE MUGELNDOOS

January 2003

Issue # 778



Ski Lineup: Pat, Lorene, Gerry, Mike S. Evelyn, Rosalie, Jan, and Don on route back from False White

Mammoth Area Day Trips, May 18 – 19, 2002

Gerry Holleman, Leader; Tom Marsh, Assistant

Fourteen enthusiastic skiers showed up to try their luck at Tioga Pass in a year when good snow was hard to find, on a weekend when the SMS had two trips scheduled. This trip had been scheduled for Bishop Pass, but a month earlier it was already clear there wasn't enough snow for that trip. Good reports were coming from False White however.

From the rest area just below the Yosemite entrance station, we crossed the road and started up the northeast slope of Gaylor Peak. The sun was bright and the sun-warmed slopes foretold of rotten snow later in the day. We skied over the ridge from Gaylor, dropped down to the upper Gaylor Lake, and contoured over gentle terrain around the north side of bumps on the ridge that eventually becomes False White. Owen Maloy issued several radio warnings that the north-facing slopes skied the best, but this group would have none of that. It was False White or bust. Eight skiers completed the traverse to False White and descended its soft, east-facing slope with a few face plants for good measure. The rest skied the firmer, north-facing slopes. We all met on the same lunch rock where the options were to climb a hundred feet to return to our entrance route, or to take Owen's advice and continue down north-facing slopes.

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NEXT ISSUE

Next issue deadline is February 10th, 2003. 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/>

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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Spring skiing smiles on a lunch break descending from False White in May 2002. Ruth and Owen are in the foreground.

Calendar of Events 2002-003 Ski Season

Feb 1 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 5 Wed DPS, SPS, HPS and SMS

Joint Meeting: Visit Mt. Everest Base Camp with world traveler Penelope May. Penelope has trekked world-wide and takes us on a trek in Nepal. Bring gear to trade or sell before the meeting. Swap meet 6:30. Show: 7:30PM at the LA Zoo Grande Room.

Feb 8 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 18 Tue Ski Mountaineers Section

Monthly Mtg: Entertaining slide programs featuring equipment, safety, and outings. Newcomers welcome. 7:30 pm Griffith Park Ranger Station. See SMS Section listing for newsletter info or <http://angeleschapter.org/skimt/>.

Feb 22-23 Sun Ski Mountaineers

TI/C: Local Tour and Free-Heel Downhill Practice: Sat intro ski mountaineering tour in mountains near Keller Hut. 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. Option to stay two nights at Keller Hut, with lift ticket and all day clinics on Sun. High quality rentals available at \$12. Sat. Dinner. Reserve early. Send a check for \$95 and 2 sase to Ldr: Keith Martin, Asst Ldr Kathy Crandall

Feb 28-Mar 2 Fri-Sun SMS

TI: Igloos on Kaiser Pass: Join us for a long weekend of wilderness survival techniques and backcountry skiing. Fri build igloos on Kaiser Pass. Sat ski Kaiser Pk. with practice in backcountry navigation. Sun ski out. Bring snowsaw, shovel, no tents, avalanche beacons, backcountry ski gear. Intermed or better skiing ability required. Send experience, h&w phones, email address, rideshare info to Ldr: REINER STENZEL. Asst: KATHY CRANDALL.

Mar 8-9 Sat-Sun SMS

TI: Boundary Pk: Ski Nevada's highest. 10 mi, 5000' rt. Intermed or better skiing ability and stamina required. Send e-mail with experience to co-leaders: REINER STENZEL, ALVIN WALTER.

Mar 8-9 Sat-Sun SMS

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: KATHY CRANDALL .Asst: TBD

Mar 15-16 Sat-Sun Ski Mountaineers

TI: San Gorgonio Mtn. (11,499'): A 10.8 mi rt. 4300' gain overnight ski tour with a snow camp in the San Gorgonio Wilderness. 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: ALVIN WALTER

March 22 Sat Ski Mountaineers Section

O: Conditioning hike. Moderate to fast-paced hike to Echo Mountain (5 mrt, 1300 ft elev. gain). Weather and group interest permitting, continue to Inspiration Point (additional 4 mrt, ~1700ft). Be prepared for rain, wind and cold weather, bring lunch and water. Meet at top of north Lake Ave. and Loma Alta in Pasadena at 8:30AM. Ldr. LORENE SAMOSKA, Asst. MARK GOEBEL

Mar 22-23 Sat-Sun Ski Mountaineers

TI: Mt. Mary Austin (13,040'): ski and climb one of the few Sierra peaks named after a woman. Route will take us up the Baxter Pass trail or into Little Onion Valley, depending on snow conditions. Metal edged skis with climbing skins, avy beacons, shovels and snow camping gear required. E-mail experience, address and h/w phones to Prov. Ldr: Mike McDermitt; Asst Ldr: Reiner Stenzel

March 22-23 Sat-Sun SMS

TI: Mammoth Weekend: Ski the Mountain on Sat., Sun Ski Mt., or local tour. Ldr: Andy Fried Asst. Ldr: Gerry Holleman

April 12-13 Sat-Sun SMS

TI: Sardine Cnyn, and Slopes of Onion Valley, Independance or Kearsarge Peaks: Day tours/Car Camp. For Strong well conditioned Skiers with Metal Edge skis, Skins, beacons and shovels. Leader: Randy Lamm, Asst: Tom Marsh

April 12-20 Sat-Sun SMS

TI: Northern Sierra Peaks: Ski and climb Mt Rose, Tallac, Freel, Castle, Granite Chief, Tinker Knob. For experienced backcountry skiers. E-mail experience, address and h/w phones to Ldr: REINER STENZEL; Asst Ldr: TBA .

April 25-27 Fri-Sun SMS

TI: Convict Lake Drainage: Join us for this three-day basecamp in the spectacular Convict Lake drainage.

Calendar (continued)

For Interim. Skiers with Metal Edge skis, Skins, beacons and shovels. Leader: Tom Marsh Asst. Randy Lamm

April 25-27 Fri.-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. send lg. SASE with experience, address, H & W phones + email if avail. by April 1 for carpool and further info." Leader: MICHAEL DODSON, Asst: KEITH MARTIN

Apr 26-May 4 Sat-Sun Ski Mountaineers

TMR: Yosemite Border Tour; Electra Pk (12,442'), Foerster Pk (12,057'), Merced Pk (11,726'), Red Pk (11,599'), Gray Pk (11,573'): A 47 mi, +12,933', -13,002' trans-Sierra ski tour along Yosemite NP's SE boundary and the Clark Range. Leave No Trace snow camping techniques will be demonstrated and practiced. Metal edged skis with climbing skins, ice axes, crampons, avy beacons, shovels, and snow camping gear required. Send experience, H&W phones, carpool info, email address to R.J. SECOR. Asst: REINER STENZEL.

May 10-16 Sat-Fri SMS

TI: North Lake to Rock Creek: Join Joe and I on another section of the Sierra High Route. Opportunity for many diversions on this 35-mile ski adventures. 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

May 17-18 Sat-Sun Ski Mountaineers

TI: Mts. Stanford-N (12,851'), Morgan-N (13,005'): Climb two Sierra peaks from base camp in Hilton Lakes area, enjoy two 2000+ foot descents on spring corn snow. Metal edged skis with climbing skins, avy beacons, shovels and snow camping gear required.

E-mail experience, address and h/w phones to Prov. Ldr: Mike McDermitt; Asst Ldr: Reiner Stenzel.

May 23-26 Fri-Mon SMS, SPS

TI: Taboose Basecamp: Ski and climb Cardinal, Striped, Gooddale, Split, Vennacher Needle. For experienced backcountry skiers. E-mail experience, address and h/w phones to Co-Ldrs: REINER STENZEL; ALVIN WALTER.

May 24-26 Sat-Sun SMS

TI: Buttermilk Base Camp: Day tours/Car Camp, Wahoo Gulleys- Mt. Locke, Basin Mt. , Elderberry Canyon For Strong well conditioned Skiers with Metal Edge skis, Skins, beacons and shovels. Leader: Randy Lamm, Asst: Tom Marsh

June 15-22 Sun-Sun SMS

TI: Oregon Volcanoes: Ski your heart out on Three Sisters, McLoughlin, Batchelor, Broken Top, Jefferson, Hood, St Helens, etc. Day trips, car camps, long days of driving, skiing, and fun. Advanced backcountry ski skills required. E-mail experience, address and h/w phones to Co-Ldrs: REINER STENZEL; TBA.



A brilliant day of Tioga Pass skiing.

(Continued from Page 1)

This time Owen prevailed, and we skied down soft, but not rotten, snow, toured out past mining community of Bennetville, and returned to the parking lot by 3 p.m. The forecast for Sunday was strong wind, so after an hour of refreshments and discussion, we decided to tour to Blue Couloir on the Mammoth Crest the next day because most of the route is protected by trees. The next critical decision, where to eat, sent us to the Tiger Bar in June Lake, but it was packed, making the next stop for most of us Giovanni's in Mammoth. Ruth von Rotz and Angel Ocana opted instead to drive to Sonora Pass to join Reiner Stenzel's trip. Tom Marsh and Mike Rector elected to make do with their steaks in camp instead of joining us for pizza.

Fierce wind greeted us at the Twin Lakes bridge the next morning. We drove up to the south end of Lake Mary and walked up the Coldwater road, which had remnants of snow drifts here and there. At the end of the road, we skinned up and basically followed the summer trail to Emerald Lake, easily skirting occa-

sional bare spots. Just below the lake, we removed our skis to cover about 50 yards of rocky terrain, and then climbed very nice slopes to the base of the Blue Couloir. At the top of the couloir, the surface turned into hard, wind-blown bumps, but there wasn't much wind. Threatening clouds stayed to the north while we enjoyed an early lunch and hoped the top of the couloir would soften just a bit. After a couple tentative turns at the top, beautiful corn appeared and Don Pies, Mike Seiffert, Lorene Samoska, Pat Holleman, and I had a great ride back to the Coldwater road. The rest of the group—Mike Rector, Dan Jamieson, Evelyn Fleeg, Rosalie Frankel, and Jan St. Amand—elected to join Tom on a loop around to Duck Pass instead of skiing the couloir. It turned out to be a great Sierra weekend in spite of limited snow, and ended with all of us looking to squeeze in at least one more back country ski trip before a too short season ended.—G. H.



Regrouping on the way up to False White: From left, Mike S., Lorene, Dan, Don, Angel, Jan, Gerry, and Ruth

Playing on Mount Pinos with Adult Toys

Semi-Private Tour Dec 28, 2002 *By Keith Martin*

When up at Mammoth for the OCSS Ski Leader Training on the weekend of December 14-15, I went into Kittridge's on Saturday night to buy some new lanyards for my telemark skis, needed for the clinic on the mountain the next day with Urmas Franoisch. While there I saw a pair of the Fisher Crown Boundless waxless touring skis. Checking them out I found that they had nearly the same profile as my K2 Piste Stinx's with which I have been very happy. In addition they were a cap ski with both good flex and good torsional rigidity. So I made an impulse buy that was three years in the making.

I did not have a chance to use them that weekend, but talking to Reiner Stenzel the next week we decided to schedule a day trip to Mt. Pinos the weekend of December 28. Too late for the schedule or Mugelnoos we tried to get the word out by email. By Friday the 27th a storm was predicted to come in on Saturday night. So we told everyone to meet us at the Sylmar carpool point on Saturday morning. Janet Saint Amand and Dorie Boynton joined Reiner and myself for the trip to Pinos. As we drove the road up to the summit area, we did not encounter any of the rangers checking for adventure passes. At the top the Ski Patrol told us it was a free day.

Soon the four of us had our skis on and we proceeded up the road from the parking area. Reiner and Jan put on their skins, while Dorie and I choose to use our patterns. Once past the parking area Reiner led us off the road and up the adjacent slope. A good test of the pattern on my new skis! They got me up there, but of course there was no competition with the skins. Richard Boardman had told me he had been to Pinos earlier that week and that there was great powder. Of course by the time we got there the majority of the snow had developed a breakable crust. Ugh! As we reached the meadows below the summit the wind really began to pick up, so it began to look like another typical Mt. Pinos trip: breakable crust in a gale.

Reiner, Jan and I made our way to the summit, where we briefly examined the tower and then began our descent along the road to the west of the summit. We skied through the trees looking for some uncooked powder, but generally came up short. Soon we were at the meadow below the sum-

mit, piling on multiple layers of clothes so we could have a quick lunch. Reiner mentioned something about a surprise as we were heading for the meadow, and while Jan and I were starting to munch our lunch, Reiner pulled out of his pack a multi colored kite inspired by the November program by Andrew McLean. Reiner put on a climbing harness and then attempted to deploy the kite in the erratic gusting wind. Initially the kite filled and began to rise, but it began to spin and soon the multiple lines attached to the perimeter were developing a massive tangle. Jan and I went over to see if we could help, but felt fairly useless as Reiner tried to unravel the cords. About this time Dorie returned from exploring some of the adjacent meadows and she and I returned to the summit for a little extra ski play. When we returned to the meadow, Reiner was packing up his kite and we prepared for our ski back to cars. He mentioned that he briefly succeeded in getting the kite to inflate, but the force generated was so sudden it pulled him flat on his face! Photo opportunity lost! An absurd image formed in my mind of a fully inflated kite flying off the north side of Mount Pinos with an airborne Reiner in tow.

We then began our return ski. Reiner found some powder on a slope above the east portion of the summit meadows, and I finally got an opportunity to test the turning ability of my new skis. They did good. We then found the road at the east end of the meadows and followed it down to the point where we could head off into the woods to the south where we had come up. Reiner was able to find several patches of skiable powder, and being behind him, I was able to take advantage of his snow scouting abilities. Making turns where the snow was good and traversing where we ran into more breakable crust. Soon we were back at the cars and the adventure was over. A cup of hot chocolate purchased from the ski patrollers at their hut added a warm final touch to an adventurous day playing with our adult toys.

Two weeks after the trip I went to the Mammoth area on an OCSS bus trip. The conditions were ideal with about 8 inches of powder over a firm base. My new skis performed to my full expectations. Just to prove sometimes gear can make a difference.

Reiner told me he again took his kite up into

the local mountains. He anchored himself to a tree as he deployed the kite. The forces generated were so great that he was still sore. I assume we will be seeing more of the kite this spring.

Thanks to Reiner for co-leading this trip, for his superb snow scouting abilities and his lunch time entertainment. Thanks also to Jan and Dorie for joining us and making for a great day of skiing with good friends.

December 1940 Sierra Club Bulletin *(submitted by R. J. Secor)*



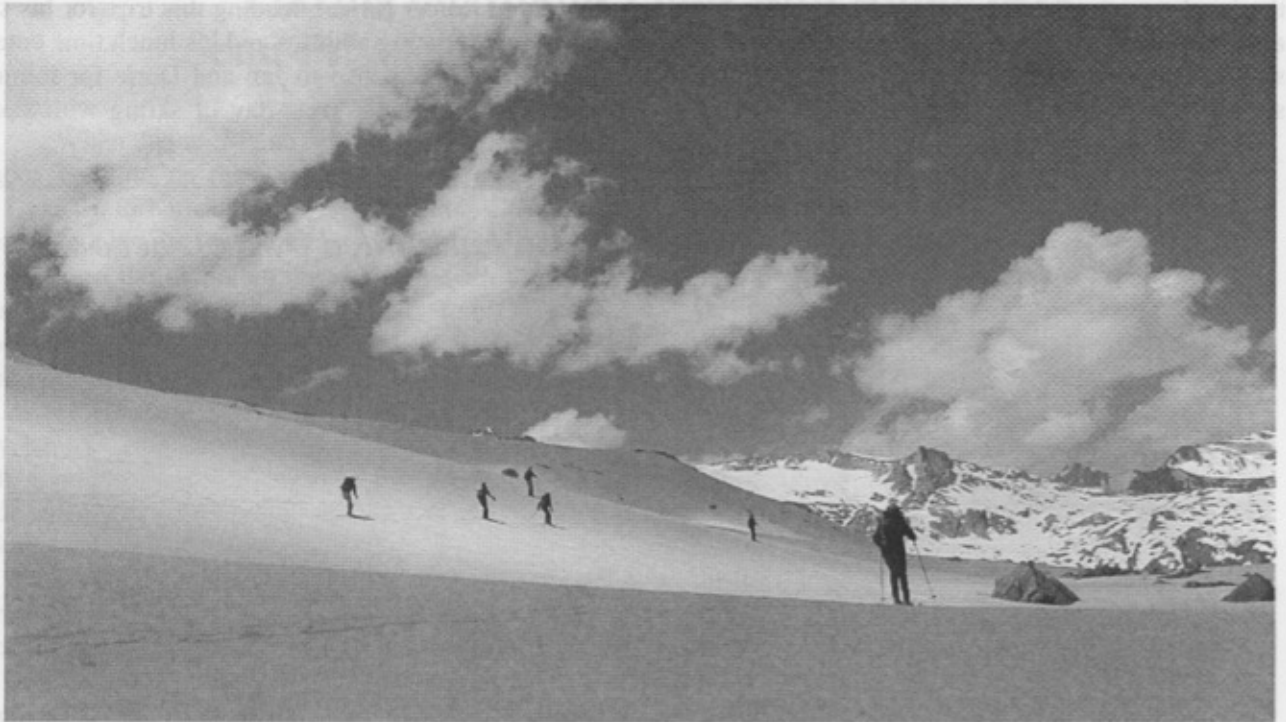
JANUARY AMONG THE PALISADES — By Arthur H. Blake

It has been suggested that the pleasure to be derived from ski-touring varies inversely with the weight of the pack. The exact ratio is open to dispute, but not the general truth of the suggestion. Accordingly, skiers who would like to tour, but whose apprehension of painful scapulae has damped their touring ardor, may be glad to know that packs need not be heavy. Last winter, during a ski ascent of Mount Ralston in the Echo Lake region, a party of four Club skiers decided to keep pack weights low. They took equipment for two nights' camping on the snow, tents (which served as dunnage bags as well), sleeping bags, primus stoves, food, kerosene, and all

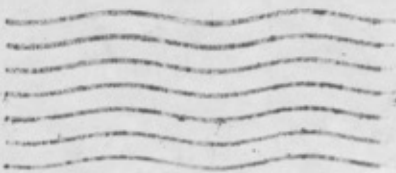
the recommended emergency equipment for rescue work or ski repairs. They slept comfortably in spite of a storm, and had a slight reserve of food. Yet the packs averaged nineteen pounds per man.

Secret of this supposedly record low was very simple, and might well be followed by others. Before the trip, the four men emptied all their packs in one room and weeded out the duplications. The resulting weight economy was astounding. Careful choice of equipment might permit a lower light-pack record to be established. More important, however, is the necessity of remembering all the essentials.

Playing on Mount Pines with Adult Toys



Descending from False White to Bennetville, May 2002 (photo by Owen Maloy)



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