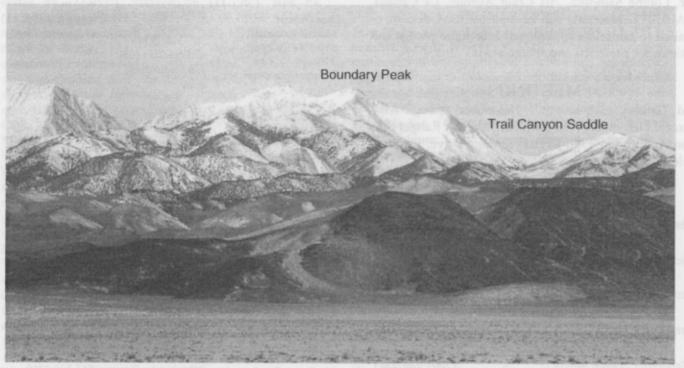


April 2003

Issue # 781



Panorama of White Mtns from the east. Boundary Pk is in the center of the photo. Approach via Trail Canyon Saddle.

Boundary Peak Trip, Mar 8-9, 2003

By Reiner Stenzel

Boundary Peak is located at the northern end of the White Mountain Range and is Nevada's highest mountain (13,140'). It is a frequently climbed DPS peak but, to my knowledge, a first-time ski ascent for the SMS. Probably for a good reason, since it is a LONG drive, a LONG ascent and a HIGH mountain to climb and ski.

We had a large group of strong skiers from all over California. These were Alvin Walter and Mark Vogt from San Diego, Stan Huncilman from Berkeley, Steve Stewart from Orangevale, Ted Lenzie from Folsom, and Angel Ocana, Jim DeRose, Chris Lohman, Jason Rivera, Leslie Hofherr, Lorene Samoska and Mike Seiffert from the LA Area. Our plan was to climb/ski Boundary Pk in a long day hike from the east side via Trail Canyon. The trailhead is reached via an 11 mi long dirt road, starting just south of the junction of Nevada State Roads 773 and 246. Nobody could give us reliable information about the backcountry road and snow conditions. Thus we simply had to try it. We had FRS radios in case we would get stuck or lost on some of the numerous side roads. Following the road by darkness with a GPS was no problem. However, the real problem was that snow started at the 7,000' level, well before the end of the road. The first to arrive was Angel. His 4WD truck floored and needed to be shoveled out. Nobody even made it to the B&B mine (UTM 390066E, 4193902N), about 5 mi from the trailhead. We parked at a flat spot near the road (UTM 390579E, 4193722N) and considered the options: give up the peak or get up really early. The latter was the choice for 10 of us. We retired in our cars and tents. The short night was calm, clear and cold.

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NEXT ISSUE

Next issue deadline is May 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 emailed 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 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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A Dutch oven breakfast of eggs, potatoes and onions prepared by Reiner and Leslie after the Boundary wilderness ski trip.

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Calendar of Events 2002-003 Ski Season and SUMMER!

.April 25-27 Fri-Sun SMS

TI: Convict Lake Drainage: Join us for this three-day basecamp in the spectacular Convict Lake drainage. For Intermed. Skiers with Metal Edge skis, Skins, beacons and shovels. Leader: Tom Marsh Asst. Randy Lamm

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. SE-COR, Asst: REINER STENZEL.

May 3-4 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. send lg. SASE with eperience, address, H & W phones + email if avail. by April 1 for carpool and further info.Leader: MICHAEL DODSON, Asst:KEITH MARTIN 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 20 Tue Ski Mountaineers Section

Monthly Mtg: Entertaining slide programs featuring equipment, safety, and outings. Newcomers welcome. 7:30 pm Griffith Park Ranger Station. See http://angeles.sierraclub.org/skimt/

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.

SUMMER TRIPS!

June 21-22 SPS and SMS I: Colosseum Mt. (12, 473 ft.) and Mt. Cedric Wright (12,372ft.) Trip restricted to SC members with strong physical conditioning. Sat backpack up Sawmill trail to Colosseum Mt. Sunday ascend Cedric Wright and then pack out. Send e-mail or SASE with relevant experience to Ldr: Leslie Hofherr. Asst. Erik Siering

Jul 12 Sat Mountain Biking Committee & SMS TS-B: Jalama: Mtn bike on deserted beach north of Jalama for about 8 mi toward Surf. Involves beach biking, some bouldering and occasional dips into the ocean. TS (technical skill) 2 - 3 and EL (effort level) 3. Send sase or e-mail experience, address and h/w phones to Ldr: Reiner Stenzel, Co ldr: Leslie Hofherr.

July 19 Sat Ski Mountaineers Section I: Mt Marsh (13,550'): Climb a cl 2 peak near Whitney Pass, recently named after the person who built the Whitney trail and hut. 10mi rt, 5000' gain. Good conditioning required. Send sase or e-mail with climbing experience, current conditioning, phones to Ldr: Tom Marsh, Co ldr: Reiner Stenzel.

Jul 20-27 Sun-Sun Ski Mountaineers/Sierra Peaks M: Columbine, Isoscles, Langille, Citadel, Wheel, Woodworth: Climb some fine peaks in the vicinity of the Middle Fork of the Kings River. Enter via Bishop Pass into Dusy Basin, Kings River, Black Divide. Climb beautiful but less visited Serra Peaks. 40mi rt, 20,000' gain. Good conditioning and experience on rock required. Send sase or e-mail with climbing experience, current conditioning, phones to Ldr: Reiner Stenzel, Co ldr: R.J. Secor.

July 29 - Aug 4 Tues. - Monday SPS/SMS/WTC

I/M: Mt. Goodard (13,568'): other possible peaks are Mt. Huxley (13,086'), Charybdis (13,096'), Mt. McDuffie (13,282'), Black Giant (13,330), Scylla (12,956'), Mt. Fiske (13,503'), Mt. McGee (12,969'), Goethe (13,264'), and Mt. Lamarck (13,417'). We will backpack in over Lamarck Col and camp at Darwin Canyon (approx. 6 miles and 2600' gain). Then from Wed. through Sat. we will climb peaks (class 1, 2 & 3) and move camp to Wanda Lake and possibly the Ionian Basin near Black Giant. On Sunday start heading out and climb a peak or two that we missed and be back at the trailhead Monday. The total is approximately 28 miles round trip with backpack and 26 miles with daypack and overall elevation gain of 18,000 feet (if do all the peaks). Some of the peaks are optional so there will be time to relax and enjoy the beautiful lakes and scenery. There will be some navigation practice for those interested. Strong, experienced WTC students will be accepted at the

On Sat, 3/8, the alarms went off at 4 am. Had breakfast by flashlight, packed, put the skis on and left under starlight at 4:45am. Owls were howling, otherwise it was dead quiet. There were patches of black ice on the road. Ted took a tumble without problems, and then Jim did, hurt his knee and unfortunately had to return. By 6 am we had daylight and saw the awesome snow-covered White Mtn Range in front of us. We regrouped at the trailhead just prior to the Wilderness boundary, signed in and started the XC route up Trail Canyon. Our first goal was Trail Canyon Saddle (UTM 381637E, 4191372N 10,800'). As we ascended, powder snow gave way to hard wind-packed slabs. A cold breeze greeted us on the Saddle. We took a well-deserved break behind a stand of white bark pines. Then we started our ascent up the steep north ridge of Boundary. The only safe way on skis was to ascend with ski crampons. Those who had none climbed over rocks. After reaching the first high point on the ridge (12,150') one could see the impressive, jagged northern face of Boundary Peak. The gullies were all snow filled but the steep ridge was half rock, half snow. There was no way to ski the ridge. However, the east face had solid snow coverage. This would be the obvious descent route. We dropped into a small saddle where we left the skis (UTM 381569E, 4190153N, 12,100'). It was 11 am and we felt that we had climbed already for 6 hours. The summit was within reach but another 1000' climb over mixed rock and snow. Four of us decided to go for it. At 12:30pm we reached the summit. A cairn stuck out of the snow but no peak register was found. So we left a signed sheet of paper in a plastic bag. Peak fever caught on and eventually six of us were on the summit. The view was fantastic: The Sierra Nevada to the west, Montgomery, Dubois, Pellisier Flats and THE White Mountain to the south, and numerous snow covered Nevada ranges to the east and north. On the radio we spoke to Lorene, Leslie and Mike who skied powder in Trail Canyon Saddle. We overheard many FRS calls at Mammoth Mtn, about 27mi away per GPS. Ritter, Banner, the Minarets, Dana, Mono Lake were all clearly visible. After taking lots of pictures we headed down, the last one at nearly 2pm. At the



Contemplating the White Mountains from the Nevada side

12,100' saddle we recovered our skis and started down our >2000' ski run toward Trail Cyn.

The upper half had soft snow and was a real pleasure. Then it turned into breakable crust, which got everyone sooner or later. This was Jay's terrain and he sliced the crust easily with his snowboard. Eventually we all made it down to the trailhead where the road starts. We cruised down in our tracks, which was much faster than on the way up. Occasionally we lost the snow coverage, had to take the skis off and walk through red soft muck which soon covered boots and bindings. By 5pm we were back in camp after a 12 hr, 20mi, 6,000' day. Now it was happy hour around a campfire. There were appetizers, red wine, fresh salad, all followed by a wonderful beef stew dinner prepared by Leslie in a Dutch oven. The warm fire kept us talking for a long time. Stars and moon were exceptionally bright. A bird kept singing till late into the night.

On Sun we slept in and got up after the sun was out. The clear weather had changed and half the sky was red at sunrise. Once more we fired up the Dutch oven and prepared a breakfast with fried potatoes, onions, tomatoes, bacon and eggs. With that base everyone was ready for the long drive home. Since we had come in via Bishop and Hwy 6, we returned via Hwy 168 over Westgard Pass, thereby circumnavigating the White Mtns. On the way we saw Nevada's famous wild horses, a herd of elks in Owens Valley, many wild flowers, and the earlier-skied Telescope Peak reflecting in the half-flooded Owens Lake. It was another fine day.

Skiing Boundary Peak was a real adventure. The distances are vast, the terrain unspoiled, no humans around, it was a true wilderness experience. Our group was strong, experienced and fun to be with. Thanks to Leslie for all the good food, Jim DeRose for the good wine, and special thanks to Alvin for his lead assistance with this trip.



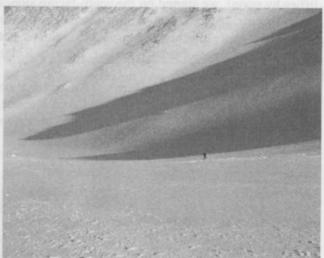
Proud Summit Picture: Reiner, Angel, Steve, and Ted



Jagged north face of Boundary Peak



Leslie and Lorene enjoying the ski through the sagebrush



Skiing untouched slopes on the east side of Boundary Pk



Climbing to Trail Canyon Saddle with Nevada desert in the distance



Stan on summit of Boundary Peak, with Sierra Nevada mountains in the distance—what a view!

Mammoth Day Tours March 22-23, 2003

Leader: Andy Fried, Asst. Gerry Holleman

A few days before this trip, the forecast for a badly needed three-foot snowfall turned into 18 inches at Mammoth Mtn., but that was enough to make back country conditions uncertain. John Moynier's site indicated considerable avalanche risk on March 17, so the plan became to ski the lifts on Saturday while we evaluated local conditions. Ten ski mountaineers (Andy Fried, Patti Mailman, Gerry and Pat Holleman, Dave and Barbara Sholle, Jan St. Amand, Maya Hyams, Scott Leavitt and Helen Qian) met at 9 am at Canyon Lodge for a day of skiing on various lifts. Due to the very warm temperatures (mid fifties by noon), we started on the south-facing slopes around Chair 25, and then moved around to cooler slopes with more northern exposure. Conditions got very soft, and ungroomed slopes like Roger's Ridge were heavy going.

When we stopped for lunch at McCoy Station (Mid Chalet) we met Eric Siering and Ann Kramer, who had come up on a ski club bus trip and joined us for a few afternoon runs.

From the Mammoth lifts, snow coverage on the San Joaquin ridge appeared adequate, but a forecast for strong winds on Sunday (which turned out to be very accurate) made that route unappealing. The route to Duck Pass has wooded protection from high winds, but a test of off-piste conditions under Chair 21 revealed partially consolidated snow that was rejected in favor of more lift-served skiing.

Late Saturday afternoon the continuing need for new equipment overcame Jan, Scott, and Helen who reconvened at Mammoth Mountaineering. A poster there indicated that free telemark lessons would be available Sunday morning for beginners at 10 am, and intermediates at 11. They are provided by Tom Peterson, who operates a sandwich shop across the street from the Stove, and will be offered on several Sundays through the end of the ski season (Meet at the bottom of Roller Coaster.). Patti managed to find him, but the rest of us missed out because we were looking at Canyon Lodge instead of Roller Coaster. Patti's experience indicates his instruction is very worthwhile, and a short observation of Tom's skiing verifies that he is a highly skilled telemarker. He says the lessons are free to avoid conflicts with the Mountain. Anyone interested in inexpensive lessons should check him out.

Saturday evening Andy and Patti hosted a scrumptious spaghetti dinner with puttanesca sauce (olives, capers, anchovies, garlic, olive oil, and tomatoes), with contributions from other trip participants that included salad, garlic and cheese and jalapeño breads, and wine followed by fresh strawberries, kumquats, lemon cake, and panatone for dessert. We finished the evening with a video of inspiring (read death defying leaps off cliffs) extreme tele-skiing.

After a nighttime serenade of wind noise a reduced group met again on Sunday morning for a day of skiing where the object was to avoid the strong wind. Andy lost his cap from under his hood while riding up Stump Alley. By lunchtime wet snow was falling with flat light that made even easy slopes challenging. Snow coated goggles, wet seats, and satisfaction for an enjoyable weekend led to an early finish in the afternoon.

SuperLoop Binding Alert! Submitted by Mark Goebel

If your tele skis are mounted with Rainey Super-Loop bindings and the front throw is black plastic, beware; at least three SMS members have had this critical part break on them. A large crack appears spontaneously along one side, and if you are out on the slopes, you will no longer be able to tension the cable around your boot. What to do?

First Aid, carry a large hose clamp (duct tape might also work) that can tighten around the front throw, side to side. At the first sign of failure, hopefully the tension springs and cable tightening gear are still in place; hold the front throw together using the hose clamp. If you forgot a screwdriver, use a coin.

You can upgrade your binding by replacing the front throws with the new bright blue throws that are suppose to be of stronger plastic. These and all other binding parts are available from Rainey Designs, 866-733-0553, or at raineydesigns.com. A pair of new front throws will cost you \$15 including shipping, but you have to re-assemble the cable gear and cable and I found this to be a lengthy and difficult job. Better to purchase new front throws with the cables already installed.

Winter Ecology Workshop March 15-16th, 2003

By Michael Seiffert

"Look! Pine Marten tracks!" This was just some of the excitement on the March 15-16 Winter Ecology Workshop. Though this trip was not a sanctioned SMS trip, but sponsored by the Natural Science Section, four SMSers (myself, Lorene, Steve Hessen and Keith Martin) drove up to June Lake for a fun weekend of animal tracking, birding, and tree identification on skis. The workshop was originally suggested by Keith Martin, to allow prospective I-rated leaders for the SMS to get Natural Science instruction in a snow setting.

Our leaders for this trip were Ginny Heringer and Kathy Keane, and our naturalists were Jean Dillingham and John ("Salt") Walters. After crashing on Jean's floor Friday night, we had a short lecture on winter survival strategies of various birds and mammals, and also on the fascinating mutual dependency of the Clark's Nutcracker and the White Bark Pine. We packed our sandwich lunch for the day and headed out for a day of ski touring and tree identification.

It was windy and we took turns breaking trail

through heavy new snow just north of the Mammoth ski area, pausing now and then to learn about the White Bark Pine, Mountain Hemlock, Red Fir, Western White Pine, and the Lodge Pole Pine.

The next morning we had calmer weather, and there was an amazing variety of colorful bird life at Jean's feeder. We ate breakfast, watched the birds have their breakfast and listened to a short lecture about the geology of the region. Inyo craters and the nearby lava domes are less than 600 years old!

For the day's ski we made a circumnavigation of Obsidian Dome. We saw lots of fresh tracks in the new snow, mostly from Douglas Tree squirrels ("Chickarees"). One highlight was spotting the den (under the snow near a dead tree stump) and tracks of the Pine Marten. A few of us also sneaked in a few opportunities to make some turns!

It was a relaxing and interesting trip with good mountains, birds, small mammals, and nice people.



Keith Martin on the Obsidian dome tour



Sneaking in some turns . . .



Nina Kaufman descending gully



... before crashing in wet cement

SMS Elections

Don't forget to vote for central committee members!

It is time to vote for new Central Committee Members for the 2003-2004 season. The Election Committee Members for this year are Kathy Crandall and Mark Goebel. Please vote for no more than 6 candidates on the enclosed ballot.

Please mail the ballots so they arrive before May 17th (or bring them to the May 20th meeting) to:

Kathy Crandall 23710 La Salle Canyon Road Newhall, CA 91321

(Ph: 661 - 255 - 9661)

Calendar (continued from p. 3)

leader's discretion. Send 2 sase or e-mail detailing experience/recent conditioning, \$5 permit fee to Ldr: Keith Martin. Co-Ldr: Patty Rambert

Aug 1-3 Fri-Sun Ski Mountaineers/Sierra Peaks M: Mt Ansel Adams, Electra: Climb two remote, beautiful, and not frequently visited peaks in Yosemite N.P. Approach from south with basecamp at Sadler Lke. 30mi, 6000' rt. Good conditioning and cl 3 rock experience required. Send e-mail with climbing experience, current conditioning, phones to Co-Ldrs: REINER STENZEL, MARK GOEBEL.

Aug 8-10 Fri-Sun SMS/SPS

I: Amelia Earhardt, Donohue: Climb two fine peaks out of Lyell Cyn. Good conditioning required. Send sase or e-mail with climbing experience, current conditioning, phones to Ldr: LESLIE HOFHERR, Co-ldr: REINER STENZEL

Mugelnoos

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