

THE MUGELNOOS

November 2003

Issue # 783



Alvin Walter at Taboose Pass

Taboose Pass Base Camp – May, 2003

By Alvin Walter

The thought of doing a base camp at Taboose Pass opens the possibilities and excitement of bagging and skiing the many glorious High Sierra peaks in the immediate vicinity – Mt. Cardinal, Split Mt., Striped Mtn, Goodale Mtn, Vennacher Needle, and Mt. Ruskin. The challenge that comes along with such opportunities is the substantial elevation gain that starts from the hot and dry Owens Valley at 5,200 feet to the snow covered pass at 11,200 feet for an elevation gain of about 6,000 feet the first day with full packs plus skis, boots, and poles. These factors no doubt limited the size of the group who were up for the challenge. R.J. Secor offered to be my co-leader with Angel Ocana and James Crouch as participants.

After the Sierra Club check-in and announcements we began our hike up the dusty trail at what I describe as a sustainable pace. After climbing the first 1,000 feet and still being a substantial distance below the snow, Angel realized that he was carrying various amenities that were not appropriate for this outing and decided to jettison his hammock and various other non-vital luxuries in a stash spot beside the trail then to share carrying his tent with R.J. With only a couple of stops for water, we reached the first continuous snow at 9,200 feet where we proceeded to skin up and travel on skis. The snow was mostly solid and slightly corned for the rest of the distance to the pass. We did hear a few rock-falls echoing off the walls on the way up that we considered quite normal for the time of day and location.

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NEXT ISSUE

Next issue deadline is December 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/>

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SMS MEETINGS— are not listed in the Angeles Chapter Schedule. The meetings will still take place on the following Tuesdays at 7:30 PM:

Dates: Jan 20th, April 20th
Feb 17th May 18th
Mar 16th

Calendar of Events 2003-2004 Ski Season

Nov 27 -30 Thu-Sun SMS

TI: Mammoth Day Tours: Day trips in Mammoth including the resort with an end of the day run through Hole in the Wall. Day tours may include Blue Glacier, Mammoth Ridge, Duck Pass; Devil's Slide, San Joaquin, the Sherwins depending on snow conditions. Metal edged skis w skins, avy gear, and backcountry ski experience required. Lodging at the San Diego Ski Club Chalet available. Send e-mail to leader. Include backcountry ski ability, experience, and contact and ride share information. Ldr: Alvin Walter. Asst: TBA.

Dec 6-7 Sat-Sun SMS

TI: Leaders Ski Weekend: Ski Mammoth Lakes area for the weekend. Trip for SMS leaders and prospective leaders. Send e-mail to leader. Ldr: Andy Fried. Asst: Gerry Holleman.

Dec 25-28 Thu-Sun SMS

TI: Mammoth and June Lake Day Tours: Day trips near the Mammoth Lakes and June Lake area that will include San Joaquin via Fern Creek, Mt Carson, Tioga Pass, Convict Canyon. Metal edged skis w skins, avy gear, and backcountry ski experience required. Lodging at the San Diego Ski Club Chalet available. Send e-mail to leader. Include backcountry ski ability, experience, and contact and ride share information. Ldr: Alvin Walter. Asst: TBA

Jan 11 Sun SMS

TI: Mt Pinos (8831') and Sawmill Mountain (8818'): Local ski trip from parking lot at the road's end to Mt Pinos and Sawmill Mountain, 6 miles rt., 1200' gain. If the road is closed at McGill campground we will ski from there. Suitable for touring skis. Call or e-mail leader to confirm. Prov Ldr: Jan StAmand. Asst: Tom Marsh.

Jan 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 SMS Section listing for newsletter info or web at <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/skim/>

Jan 24 Sat SMS

TI: Introduction to "Skiting": Learn how to ski with a traction kite. Prerequisites are some knowledge of flying a stunt kite and intermediate backcountry skiing. Likely location Mt Pinos, depending on wind and snow conditions. Send experience, h&w phones, e-mail address, and questions to leader. Ldr: Reiner Stenzel. Asst: Leslie Hofherr.

Feb 1 Sun SMS

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. Contact leader in the prior week for location, time, and if sufficient snow. Ldr: Mark Goebel. Co-Ldr: Kathy Crandall.

Feb 7 Sat SMS

TI: Thunder, Telegraph, and Timber: Ski the 3 T's in the San Gabriel Mountains. Intermediate or better skiing ability required, not for beginners. Metal-edged skis w skins required. Send experience, h&w phones, e-mail address to leader. Ldr: Reiner Stenzel. Asst: Randy Lamm.

Feb 7 -8 Sat-Sun SMS

TI: Baldy Hut: Baldy Hut for an overnight to ski the chutes and bowls including everything from the Dare to the Bowling Alley. Metal edged skis w skins, avy gear, and backcountry

ski experience required. Send e-mail to leader. Include backcountry ski ability, experience, and contact and ride share information. Ldr: Alvin Walter. Asst: TBA.

Feb 13-16 Fri-Mon SMS

TI: Silliman-Tablelands-Alta Traverse: A four-day winter tour through the western Sierra Nevada. Experience in snow camping, backcountry skiing, climbing and stamina required. Short car shuttle from Lodgepole to Wolverton involved. Metal-edged skis with climbing skins, avy beacons, shovels and snow camping gear required. Send e-mail to co-leaders: Reiner Stenzel, Alvin Walter.

Feb 17 Tues SMS Monthly Meeting at Griffith Park

Feb 28-29 Sat-Sun PVS/SMS/OCCS

C: Mammoth Free-Heel Downhill Clinic: Develop and improve your skills on free-heel equipment. All day clinics appropriate for all levels of skiers taught by professionals at Mammoth Mountain. Appx. 5 per instructor. Cost for instruction only, you need to purchase own lift ticket or use your pass. Find own lodging in Mammoth or join OCCSS/PVSB bus trip (See separate write up.). High quality rentals available in Mammoth. Send check for \$40 for each day and indicate which day and at what ability level made out to Sierra Club and 2 SASE to Res: Keith Martin. Need early sign up to guarantee group at your level.

Mar 6 Sat SMS

TI: Karatka Ridge/Mt. Waterman: Ski the slopes of Kratka Ridge/Mt. Waterman or possibly Islip to Burnham or lacking Snow move north to White Wing/Negatives in the Obsidian Dome area. Ski Lifts one day at June and backcountry the other day. Experienced skiers. Metal edged skis with climbing skins, avy beacon, and shovel required. E-mail experience, address, and h/w phone to Ldr: Randy Lamm. Co-Leader: Tom Marsh.

Mar 6-7 Sat-Sun SMS/SPS

TI: Olancha Peak: Ski/snowshoe an SPS emblem peak. Sat from Sageflat via Olancha Pass to basecamp on PCT; Sun summit peak and pack out, snow conditions permitting; 22 mi rt, 6000 ft gain. Backcountry skiing or snow shoeing and snowcamping experience req'd. Skiers need metal edged skis with climbing skins, avy beacons & shovel. E-mail experience, address, and h/w phone to Prov. Ldr: Jan Stamand. Asst: Reiner Stenzel.

Mar 12-15 Fri-Mon SMS

TI: Mt Charleston and Wheeler: Exploratory out-of-state trip to ski near Las Vegas, NV. Car camp and day tours. Backcountry and lift-served skiing by daytime; city adventures by night. Bring metal edged skis with climbing skins, avy beacon, shovel, and some nuggets. E-mail experience, address, and h/w phones to Prov Ldr: Leslie Hofherr. Assts: Reiner Stenzel, Randy Lamm.

Mar 16 Tues SMS Monthly Meeting at Griffith Park

Mar 27-28 Sat-Sun SMS

TI: Onion Valley Car Camp: Join us for a weekend of skiing in the Onion Valley area on the slopes of the Eastern Sierra. Bring metal edged skis with climbing skins, avy beacon and shovel. Email experience, address, and h/w phones to Ldr: Tom Marsh. Co-Ldr: Randy Lamm.

Apr 2-4 Fri-Sun SMS/SPS

TI: Mt Mary Austin: Ski one of the few Sierra peaks named after a lady. Basecamp in Bighorn Sheep territory, Little Onion Valley. Experience in backcountry skiing and climbing required. Bring metal edged skis with climbing skins, ski crampons, avy beacon, shovel, and snow camping gear. E-mail experience, address, and h/w phones to Ldr: Jim Crouch. Assts: Reiner Stenzel, Tom Marsh.

Apr 10-11 Sat-Sun SMS

TI: Mt. Humphreys (Wahoo Gulleys) - Car camp on Buttermilk Road. Metal edged skis with climbing skins, avy beacon, and shovel required. Experienced skiers. E-mail experience, address, and h/w phone to ldr: Ldr: Randy Lamm. Co-Ldr: Reiner Stenzel.

Apr 16-18 Fri-Sun OCSS/SMS

I: Devils Post Pile Intro Ski Camp: 8 miles 500' gain 1700' loss to camp near Devil's Post Pile on Fri. Tour in San Joaquin valley up towards Iron Mountain on Sat., 1700' gain, 500' loss to return on Sun all off trail. Int xc skills, Metal edge skis, backcountry boots, 0 degree bag, shovel, beacon, skins required. Ldr: Keith Martin, Co-Ldr: Virgil Talbott

Apr 20 Tues SMS Monthly Meeting at Griffith Park
Apr 28- May 2 Wed-Sun SMS

TI: Tioga Pass, Yosemite High Country: First stay at Tioga Pass Resort (TPR) as basecamp and do a prov lead tour to Mt. Gibbs followed by an optional backcountry tour to Lyell or Earhardt. Trip is pending availability of reservation and will require fee for TPR of approximately \$260 for two nites (accommodation and food) due by Jan 1, 2004. Trip will be rescheduled, moved, or canceled pending availability at TPR and avalanche conditions. Metal edged skis with climbing skins, avy beacon, and shovel required. Bring gear for backcountry tour, which is for experienced skiers. E-mail experience, address, and h/w phones to Prov. Ldr: Jonathan Meagher. Asst: Reiner Stenzel.

May 1-2 Sat-Sun SMS

TI: Dunderberg Peak (12,374'): Sat climb, 2874" gain, and ski this prominent peak above Virginia Lakes. Advance skiing skills required along with metal edged skis with climbing skins, avy beacon, and shovel. Car camp Sat nite. Conditions will determine Sun's tour. E-mail be ski experience, address, and h/w phone to Ldr: Mark Goebel, Asst. Randy Lamm

May 8-9 Sat-Sun SMS

TI: Bishop Pass Ski Pack: Sat ski with packs from South Lake to Long Lake area for basecamp and explore surrounding slopes. Sunday ski Bishop Pass and nearby bowls and pack out. Approx 12 miles, 2400 ft total. Bring metal edged skis with climbing skins, avy beacon, shovel, and snow camping gear. Email experience, address, h/w phone numbers to Prov. Ldr: Lorene Samoska, Asst: Tom Marsh.

May 8-9 Sat-Sun SMS

TI: San Joaquin and Mt. Carson: Ski up Fern Creek and back via The Devil's Slide - 4000+ vertical. Experienced ski mountaineers with all ski climbing and safety equipment required. Email experience, address, h/w phone numbers to Ldr: Alvin Walter. Co-Ldrs: Jim Crouch, Reiner Stenzel.

May 15-16 Sat-Sun SMS

TI: Blue Couloir: Sat ski from Lake Mary road to the Mammoth Crest northwest of Duck Lake. Lunch on top and a fun ski descent out. Approx 10 mi, 2700 ft total. Sun optional local tour. Bring metal edged skis with climbing skins, avy beacon, and shovel. Email experience, address, h/w phone numbers to Prov. Ldr: Mike Seiffert. Asst: Gerry Holleman.

May 15-19 Sat-Fri SMS

TI: Sierra Crest Tour: South Lake to Taboose Pass. Backcountry ski tour through the beautiful high country of the Sierra Nevada. Climb and ski peaks and passes, short car shuttle at start/end of trip. Experience in backcountry skiing and climbing required. Bring metal edged skis with climbing skins, ski crampons, avy beacon, shovel, and snow camping gear. E-mail experience, address, and h/w phones to Ldrs: Reiner Stenzel, Tom Marsh.

May 18 Tues SMS Monthly Meeting at Griffith Park

May 28-31 Fri-Mon SMS

TI: Mineral King Base Camp: Ski from Silver City to basecamp near Mineral King unless road is open to MK. Then do day tours to nearby peaks and passes. Experience in backcountry skiing and climbing required. Bring metal edged skis with climbing skins, ski crampons, avy beacon, shovel, and snow camping gear. E-mail experience, address, and h/w phones to Ldrs: Reiner Stenzel, Randy Lamm.

June 12-20 Sat-Sun SMS

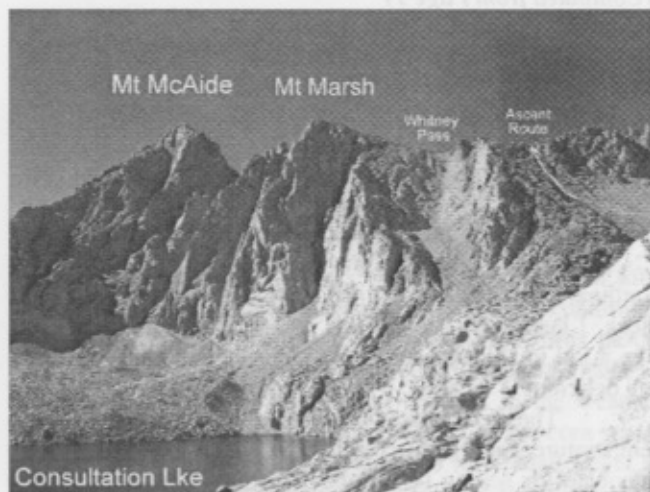
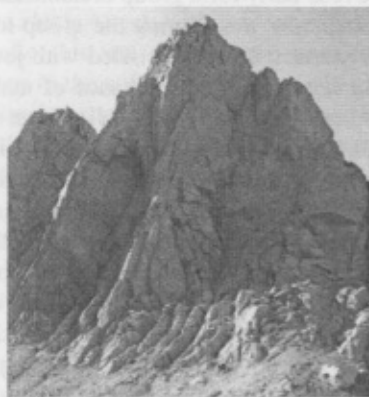
TM: Washington Volcanoes: Sequel to last year's popular Oregon Volcano trip. Ski/climb on Mt Adams, Rainier, Baker and Shuksan. Summit attempts are private. Fly to Seattle, rent car, do day trips, car camping, long days of driving, skiing, and fun. Advanced backcountry ski skills required. E-mail experience, address, and h/w phones to Ldr: Reiner Stenzel. Co-Ldr: Alvin Walter



Summit Register on Mt Marsh from 1940 signed by Chester Versteeg

MOUNT MARSH Sep 28, 2003

by Reiner Stenzel



Left: North walls of chute from Whitney Pass Rt: Mt. Marsh

There are a few unknown peaks in the Sierra Nevada that are real treasures of terms of climbing history. One of them is Mount Woodworth with a 100-year old register, another one is Mt Marsh. Few peak climbers have even heard of Mt Marsh. No word about it in Browning's "Name Places..." It is not spelled out on the Mt Whitney topo map since only last year the USBGN has officially accepted the name. It is located 0.3mi NNW of Mt McAidie at UTM 11 385679E, 4046037N, elev. 13,550', NAD27. Bob Rockwell wrote a fine article about it in the Southern Sierran (Feb 2003, p.8). Inspired by the history and the name I called my friend Tom Marsh to find out whether he wants to climb "his" mountain. He happily agreed although there were no family ties. We scheduled it as an I-rated Sierra Club trip through the SMS, which now conducts summer peak climbs. Due to the scarcity of permits we decided to do it as a long day hike from Whitney Portal (8,360'). Our participants were Rudy Fleck and Mike Rector. On a fine summer-like fall day we started at 7am and hiked up the main Whitney Trail, our expensive day hike permits dangling from the packs. By 10:30am we were near Consultation Lake where we consulted the write-up and terrain about our XC route options. Bob Rockwell describes an ascent via the obvious chute from Consultation Lake to Whitney Pass. It is a 1500' climb on sand at the angle of repose, not my favorite uphill choice. Besides it is difficult to enter the chute from either the lake or the steep rib to the right (north) of the chute. So we chose to climb to the right of the rib on rock and talus blocks. After a long ascent we reached the ridge west and above Whitney Pass (13,280'). According to the map running the ridge appeared easy, but in reality there were a few short cl 3-4 surprises on the way. By 1 pm we were all on the summit of Mt Marsh (13,550' or 4130m). Under a pile of rocks was a peak register. Two stacked soup cans contained a plastic bag with another metal cylinder inside, a Colgate shaving stick container. It contained two long sheets of paper with all the original entries, starting with the first ascent by Chester Versteeg and his party in Aug 1940. The first page has three other entries up to the year 1968, the second page has five entries from 1971-76, the

third page lists three climbs in 1979, 1998 and 2002 and the fourth and last page has now our signatures from 2003. No familiar SPS names were found in this register. Ours must have been the first scheduled Sierra Club trip to this summit. Two further Xerox copies were included in the plastic envelope that described the background history of this peak: Chester Versteeg (1887-1963) unofficially named the mountain in honor of Gustave F. Marsh from Lone Pine who designed and built the Mt Whitney trail in 1904 and the summit hut in 1909. The latter was used for scientific purposes. Through the persistence of George Marsh, the grandson of Gustave Marsh, the US Board on Geographic Names officially named the mountain Mt Marsh on January 10, 2002.

After taking pictures of this historic register, enjoying the views of nearby McAidie, Muir, Whitney, Russell, etc., it was time to descend. At 1:30pm we were back at Whitney Pass. The sandy chute leads straight down to Consultation Lake (11,680'). Usually scree slopes are fun to descend. So we decided to jump into it, two in parallel since the rocks were tumbling down the chute. After a while we would duck for shelter and radio the other pair to come down. It was fun until the sand gave away to hard clay and the footing became insecure as the angle steepened to >35 deg and the chute funneled down into a narrow gully. We had to get out of the chute. We traversed just below the rockwall to a second broader gully, which also lead down to the lake. Unfortunately at the lake we found out that vertical rock walls obstructed the way around the west side of Consultation Lake. Even on the south side vertical rock walls dropped into the lake, preventing an escape around the east side. So we had to climb back up through a cl 3-4 chute to the plateau west of the lake. From there on it was a short hike back to the trail below Trail Camp. Obviously, the chute is not the best way to Whitney Pass. Another 3-hour march on the Mt Whitney highway got us down to Whitney Portal by 6pm. We felt the 11-hour day of doing about 18mi rt. and 5200' up and down. More than enough to burn all the good food from Ret Moore's SPS List Finish Party the day before. Thanks to Tom for his help to lead this trip for a small, strong and fun group.

(Continued from Page 1)

At the pass, there was that exhilaration that comes from a long ambitious climb when we reached the point where we could see the vast expanse of the western side of the Sierra stretched out in front of us – it was, as John Muir would say, “glorious”. We proceeded to scout around for a campsite close to a water source, and found the ideal location near a chute that stretched up toward Mt. Cardinal. R. J.’s behest throughout the day was that he had to bag Mt. Cardinal and it seemed like the perfect goal for the next day. Heck, I had never been in this area before and was feeling like a kid in a candy store with everything all around looking delicious.

The weather stayed clear during the night with the temperature getting just below 32 degrees that was plenty adequate for setting up a solid snow-pack. In the morning after breakfast, Angel spotted the movement of large animals in a line that were headed across the pass. We all were taking note and began to count. R.J. counted into the mid 30’s at which point some of the lead animals noticed us and began an abrupt turnaround taking the herd back to the East side of the pass. We speculated that they were probably Elk due to the large size of the herd. Whatever they were, it was exciting for all of us to see this large number of large animals in the snow at this high altitude pass.

Mt Cardinal was a straight shot up a steep couloir that Angel and myself decided to take. R.J. wasn’t interested in using skis, so he set off on foot up a parallel and partially rock exposed shoulder toward the summit. Jim decided to take a rest day and hang around camp. The route Angel and I were on got quite steep in places to the point where Angel said he had great difficulty pulling his knee tight enough into his chest to make a kick turn. At this point we decided to carry the skis and kick steps the rest of the way through the steepest pitches. Soon we were all at the top signing the register and admiring the awesome peaks and scenery all around us.

The descent down was in superb corn for about the first 500 feet then it began to get quite heavy and wet so that we were setting off shallow sloughs with each turn in the steepest – 40 degrees plus – pitches. On more than one occasion, I was sliding along with the sloughs and enjoying accelerating out of them to pop jump turn after jump turn. R.J. plunge stepped his way down the couloir and we regrouped at camp. Jim left some nice tracks on the hills around camp where he was taking it easy. Angel and myself needed more action while Jim and R.J. enjoyed camp. We set off climbing and skiing the slopes and bowls to the west for another 2,000 vertical by the time we got back to camp.

On the way back, we were excited again to see that large herd of Elk in the evening in a migration pattern from the west to the east. Also, at this point we were starting to question whether we were seeing Elk or Mule Deer since the animals didn’t meet all the classic identifying markings of Elk

At camp and as a group we discussed our plans for the next couple of days. We all felt that Split Mtn would be the choice destination, but were split as to whether we should move camp. R.J. was adamant that we not move, so

we accepted the fact that bagging Split Mtn from our base camp was going to be a long day.

We rose early for a group breakfast at which time R. J. notified us that he was leaving the group to head home on his own. Apparently he was satisfied with just hiking up Mt Cardinal and felt we had little chance of making Split Mtn; so we signed him out. Fortunately, Jim is an experienced Sierra Club ski leader in San Diego and I appointed him as co-leader so that the outing continued as an official SMS trip.

Our approach toward Split Mtn began with a 1,000 foot descent to the South Fork of the Kings River via a forest with wonderfully frozen snow and non—stop moguls thanks to the tree wells. Angel and I were having an absolute fun filled descent while Jim would have preferred slightly different conditions. At the river, the sparkling rapids and sounds indicated a tremendous amount of power that truly heightened our wilderness experience. We did consider doing Ven-nacher Needle that would have meant crossing the river, but we didn’t find any suitable snow bridges for a number of miles and my big concern was that they probably wouldn’t be passable later in the day on the way back.

The Upper Basin we were in was broad and impressive with tall mountains all around providing a great sense of the wilderness. We were drawn to explore it further and continue our goal to bag the fourteener – Split Mtn – from the third class route up the north-facing flank. At a little over 12,000 feet, rocky patches broke up the snow and we decided to leave the skis and set off on foot to the peak. After about two hours, we all reached the peak for the grandest view of the Sierra and a look back at the awesome route we took to get there. Signing the register is always part of the fun; however, in this case there was only an accumulation of papers that some of our members will have to one day replace with a nicely bound register that this peak very much deserves.

The real fun began on the way down when we were able to do standing glissades with numerous linked turns mixed with various sitting glissades on the extensive snow-



Jim and Angel starting out for Split Mountain

fields. Then back at our skis the fun continued on the fine corn with many turns for the next 1,000 plus feet. After that and with a change in the aspect of the slopes, the snow became a little less ideal. Angel, with his very short, very wide and very parabolic skis was able to pop numerous parallel powder style turns in the soft wet snow that we were starting to encounter. The fun started to dampen as we found spots where the snow became uniformly soft for at least three feet deep and we had to use a bit of caution to prevent sinking up to our waists.

We were considering skiing some of the other fine slopes around, but chose to let caution be our guide and stayed close to the river that provided fine views with many excellent photo opportunities. When we finally had to leave the river and start our ascent back up to the pass, the moguls that were so fun to ski down, were now quite steep and caused us to take a rather convoluted route back up. To no one's surprise, it was taking longer than expected and the sun managed to find its place below the horizon. As dusk was coming on, layers of clouds floated in around us providing this absolute mystical sensation as an occasional window of visibility gave glimpses of the fading world around us.

As I was leading the group back thru the forest with a rhythmical kick and glide pace, thoughts of the wildlife and the mountains surrounding us kept me in a very pleasant state as we faced a cool breeze upon approaching the pass. With visibility quite limited as a result of the clouds and growing darkness, I was completely satisfied that we were right on course from the visual fixes I took along the way.

Soon we were at the pass and heading down to our campsite. The snow patterns established for me exactly where we wanted to be and in no time we were at our campsite. It had been a warm day and much of the snow was gone. With a little work, we had everything like new and ready to indulge in a well-deserved feast following a thirteen and one half hour day of adventure.

On Monday, we were planning to head out after some more early morning turns during peak corn conditions. Angel felt that he hadn't really gotten all the turns he deserved for our efforts and no one could disagree – that's always a risk with such day-to-day changes in the weather. The sun was shining bright and it looked like the corn would develop early. Jim had already decided he needed to get an early start on the way out since he knew his feet were going to bother him on the long descent. Angel and I each picked a different slope to leave our individual signature set of turns, then regrouped at camp to ski the remaining 2,000 feet of snow together – it was a blast! We picked the best time for all the best snow conditions of the day. Once we were off the snow and on the trail, we pretty much continued non-stop down to the cars with the exception of stopping to pick up Angel's luxuries that we left near the bottom of the trail.

Both of my altimeters documented that we accumulated over 17,000 vertical feet of elevation gain in that weekend that truly confirmed we ended the season – at least for me—with an all out effort for a very memorable ski mountaineering experience.



Angel climbing couloir up to Cardinal Mountain



Herd of what we now believe to be Mule Deer at Taboose Pass



Skiing on November 2nd!

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*Ruth von Rotz getting in some early season turns on Donner Summit (photo
by Owen Maloy)*

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