January 2004

Issue # 784



Craig and Wally build an Igloo near Duck Pass

## Duck Pass Base Camp - April 25-27th, 2003

By Randy Lamm (photos by Randy Lamm and Craig Connally)

This trip was originally listed as a three day base camp in the Convict Lake Drainage, but due to a high snow line in that area we moved to a base camp just below Duck Pass from the Coldwater Campground trail head. On Thursday night, Tom Marsh, Mike Rector and I carpooled up to the Convict Lk Campground, arriving at 11pm we met Bill Lutz in the parking lot. It was Cold and windy at Convict, but Bill had been soaking in a new hot pool he found down in Long Valley, so it was decided we would go there to camp. Driving on the Whitmore Road we took the usual first left on to the dirt road and went down it a couple of miles and turned right and went around a mile further. Eventually Bill pulled up to a playa mesa where we parked and got our bags out, but first we had a nice soak in the hot pool - a good way to start a trip. The next morning we met the rest of our group at the Lake Mary Road end. Our group consisted of leader Tom, me assisting, Mike Rector, Bill Lutz, Joe McGuire, Helga Zimmer (Alpha Female #1), and Evelyn McGuire (Alpha Female #2), Wally Drake and Craig Connally. After a 3 hour slog we eventually found a place to camp a little above Barney Lk at about 10,400'. The rest of the day was spent setting up our camp. Tom and I set up our tents, Joe and the Alpha Females set up a megamid. Craig and Wally started work on an Igloo. Craig had brought his special Igloo building tool

### MUGELNOOS STAFF

EDITOR EDITOR'S ASSISTANT PRINTING MUGELMAILER Lorene Samoska Michael Seiffert Keith Martin Pat Holleman

#### **NEXT ISSUE**

Next issue deadline is February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004. 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!

#### **OFFICERS**

Chair: Reiner Stenzel (310) 454-9787 Email: stenzel@physics.ucla.edu Vice Chair/Leader Records: Randy Lamm (310) 319-1947 Email: randy\_lamm@yahoo.com Secretary: Wally Drake Email: Wdrake@altrionet.com (805) 388-3984 Treasurer: Tom Marsh Email: grtmoon@aol.com Webmaster: Owen Maloy (760)-934-9511 Email: owen.maloy@verizon.net Outings: Leslie Hofherr (310) 206-3929 Email: Leslie@admin.ucla.edu Editor: Lorene Samoska (818) 952-3665 Email: samsei@earthlink.net Programs: Michael Seiffert (818) 952-3665 Email: samsei@earthlink.net

### SMS WEB PAGE

Email: kcrandal@hartdistrict.org

Email: Patngerry@earthlink.net

Cons: Kathy Crandall

Mugelmailer: Pat Holleman

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.

### SMS LEADERS

Kathy Crandall (M) Newhall kcrandal@hartdistrict.org (661) 255-9661

Jim Crouch (I) San Diego, CA 92110 619-223-9084 iim@saraitlim.com

Michael Dodson (M) Fullerton, CA 714-529-6020 phyllisd@surfside.net

Andy Fried (E) Northridge H (818) 993-1891 andyfried@earthlink.net

Mark Goebel (E) Huntington Beach 714-963-9384 goebel.mj@verizon.net

Leslie Hofherr (Prov I) Manhattan Beach 310-206-3929 Leslie@admin.ucla.edu

Pat & Gerry Holleman (M) Manhattan Beach 310-374-4654 patngerry@earthlink.net

Randy Lamm (I) Santa Monica, CA H (310) 319-1947 randy\_lamm@yahoo.com

Owen Maloy (M) Mammoth Lakes H (760)-934-9511 Fax 760-934-9511 owen.maloy@verizon.net

Keith Martin (M) Palos Verdes Estates 310-316-7617 kwmartin@verizon.net Tom Marsh (I) Newbury Park, CA (805) 498-9580 qrtmoon@aol.com

Mike McDermitt (I ) Mendham, NJ mike@mcdermitt.org

Joe Mc Guire (I) Sunnyvale 408-204-8775 (H) 408-553-7607 (W) joejam99@ix.netcom.

Jonathan Meagher (Prov I) Pasadena 818-354-3374 meagher@radar-sci.jpl.nasa.gov

R.J. Secor (E) Pasadena 626-795-5520 rjsecor@earthlink.net

Reiner Stenzel Pacific Palisades H (310) 454-9787 stenzel@physics.ucla.edu

Lorene Samoska (O, Prov I) La Canada 818-952-3665 samsei@earthlink.net

Mike Seiffert (Prov I) La Canada 818-952-3665 samsei@earthlink.net

Jan St Amand (Prov I) Santa Clarita, CA 661-263-7827 janstamand@earthlink.net

Alvin Walter (M) San Diego, CA 858-586-1982 awalter@pacbell.net

SMS MEETINGS— are not listed in the Angelo Chapter Schedule. The meetings will still tall place on the following Tuesdays at 7:30 PM: Dates: Feb 17th, April 20th

Feb 17th, April 20th Mar 16th May 18th

(661) 255-9661

(310) 374-4654

## Calendar of Events 2003-2004 Ski Season

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. Metaledged 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 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/skimt/

Feb 28-29 Sat-Sun PVSB/SMS/OCSS

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 ex-

perience, 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 Charlston 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

## Calendar 2003-2004 (Continued)

for backcountry tour, which is for experienced skiers. Email experience, address, and h/w phones to Prov. Ldr: Jonathan Meagher. Asst: Reiner Stenzel.

May 1-2Sat-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 bc ski experience, address, and h/w phone to Ldr: Mark Goebel, Asst. Randy Lamm

May 8-9Sat-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 8-9Sat-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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Harvey Hickman, an active member of the Rock Climbing and Ski Mountaineering Sections of the Sierra Club in the 1950s and 1960s, has had his World War II memoir published. Those interested in ancient but exciting history can order *Vignettes of War* from Amazon.com, a book dealer, or direct from the publisher, JoNa Books, at 1-800-710-6960.

## FOR SALE

**Backcountry Gear For Sale** 

New Contour 3 or 4 Internal Frame pack 5000+cubic torso adjustable \$150., almost new Osprey Internal Frame pack with Shove-it pocket 3900 cubic small frame \$150, new wmns 7 Alpina 2002 skate boot \$95, 170cm-200cm Skate and x-country wax and waxless skis good shape \$5-\$15., Asolo snowfield tele-boots wmn 8.5 \$20., merril xtreme teleboots wmn 7 \$20., AT Dynafit 180 cm skis w Dynafit bindings and Dynafit boots wmns size 7-8.5(will sell only if U have your heart set on Dynafit) Talk to me before buying Avy probes \$20. E-mail mtngoat@gbis.com

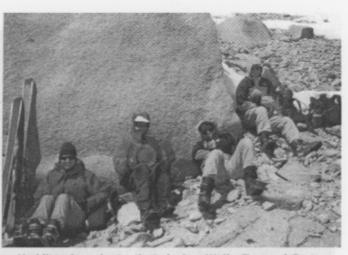
Rossignol Telebird Telemark skis, 183 cm, with Riva II binding— lightweight and great for spring corn touring. \$100 OBO. Scarpa T2, Mens Size 7 (Women's 8.5/9) used, \$50 OBO. Women's Alico leather backcountry/telemark boots - fits 3-pin or cable binding, \$30 OBO. Email samsei@earthlink.net

## -Sardine Canyon Robinson Basin April 21-22, 2003 by Randy Lamm

This trip was intended to be Sardine Canyon but due to lack of snow, and storm conditions, it was diverted to Robinson Basin instead. Trip Participants included: Tom Marsh (Assistant Leader), Mike Rector, Bill Lutz, Mike Seiffert & Lorene Samoska, Thomas Johannson, Jeremy Cole, Don Pies, Jan St. Amand, Wally Drake and Craig Connally. Most of us arrived Friday nite and set up our car camps in the Upper Greys campground. At 6am we started getting ready to caravan up the road to the OV parking lot. Over the Campground and Owens Valley it was clear, calm and even sunny, but when we got up to the road end it was overcast, cold and breezy. We looked at the dry gully going up the south side of Kearsarge Pk. Then we ran into Bill Lingle, Walt Davie, Bruce Rorty and Bahram who were there as the Alpine Ski Mountaineering Section. The day before, Bill had hiked along the old dirt mining road which runs along the base and hits the OV road on one of the last major switch backs. Bill reported that Sardine Cvn did not have much snow. They were going up Robinson Basin, which is goes up to the southwest from the parking lot. The weather was balmy as the sun came out so we started skinning up the apprx 300' vert slope at the entrance to Robinson basin. The skinning was on frozen windpacked corn and the slope was a steep angle, and was a little challenging. Jeremy dropped out quick at the top of this slope, due to a combination of the slope angle, his expedition grade arctic



Climbing Robinson drainage with dry Kearsarge Pk in the distance



Huddling from the April wind: Jan, Wally, Tom and Craig

mountaineering suit, and the 10 beers he had for breakfast. Once up on this first slope we saw a group doing self arrest practice on a steep gulley. It turned out they were members of the mountaineering training course. We kept going, heading up into a sheltered series of bowls where the sun was starting to thaw the corn and soften up the sierra cement. We kept going up another steep bowl until we got into the last big open part with a straight view of frozen Robinson Lake, and the wall of peaks blocking the basin, of which University Pk is the most prominent. We decided to stop for a break, which turned into a lunch break at the east end of the basin at about 11.000'. The breezy, balmy conditions changed into the strong hurricane force winds that accompany storm fronts crossing the sierras. There were not any good ski slopes up ahead, so we decided to head down. We had a variety of conditions from a thin layer of heavy powder on a firm base, to hard wind pack, buttery corn, to mash potatoes slop. The storm clouds were closing in so we headed back down the hill to our campground. Back at Upper Greys it was warm and spring-like. The clouds and winds seemed to stop just at the Sierra crest. We pulled out our camping lounge chairs, cracked some brews, killed a couple bottles of wine, and feasted on Tom's campfire cookery. In the morning we had decisions to make. The storm clouds were still suspended just hanging over the sierra crest. We heard weather reports of a big storm that was supposed to hit, yet where was it? Tom and the rest of the group decided to head home early and stop for a hike in the Fossil Falls area south of Olancha and just south of the Coso Road rest stop. I still wanted to ski and since it sounded like the storm was hitting up at north, I drove to June. It was snowing hard enough to cover tracks after each run. I had the whole place to myself and racked up 21,000'. Not bad for starting at 11am. On the way back the storm ended at the top of Sherwin Grade. Sardine Canyon will have to wait until next season.

(a form with a long broom stick attached). After about 4 hrs they put the capstone on the igloo and moved The rest of us built a kitchen with a snow wall. Evelyn, Helga and Joe and Bill went out for afternoon tours on the ridge just west of Barney Lk. Soon the sun went down and everyone cooked dinner and went to bed fairly early. The next morning it was sunny and reasonably calm. After breakfast everyone started heading up towards Duck Pass. At the top we turned right and headed along the ridge over towards the west. We toured around and looked down on Dear Lakes and Blue Couloir. After lunch some of us decided to ski down to Duck Lk and across to climb the peak on the southwest side. There was nice run down some corn snow and to get to the base of this mountain and then Joe, Helga, Evelyn and I climbed to the top, while Tom, Mike and Bill went back to base camp. The run down was heavy powder and mashed potatoes. After skiing back across Duck Lk. We had a nice run back down Duck Pass to our base camp. Wally and Craig bailed out early as Craig had to be at birthday part for his daughter on Sunday. Bill immediately moved into the igloo.

As we were changing and watching the sun set, we noticed clouds coming in from over Mammoth Mt. Soon it started snowing. With our snow kitchen we had enough room for everyone to socialize and cook. Mike pulled a plastic bottle of Schlivavitz from

his jacket and passed it around, and Tom had an endless supply of paraffin wax bars that he kept stoking his wax fire with. As the snow came down stronger it started spattering the wax fire. The party moved into the igloo where it was quiet and warmer. Mike and Bill spent the night in the igloo. Joe and the Alpha Females were warm in their Megamid. The next morning there were high clouds and we did a short tour up to the pass to farm some of the powder from the previous night. Although it snowed pretty hard for a little while, it was not enough to cover the frozen corn surface underneath - about 2 inches of light dry stuff on a very firm base. It was still skiable and everyone had a decent run or two down. Evelyn did about 4 or 5 runs. I had a run down a steep slope with a thin film of dust on crust. Each turn was scraping the ice underneath. When I got to the bottom of the 3-400' slope I could see that a small slide had come slowly down behind me going right thru the middle of my tracks. It made a good picture. We then packed up and skied down tour cars. Joe and the Alpha Females headed back to the Bay Area, Mike, Bill, Tom and I went back to Bill's private Hot Pool. Along the way we ran into Mike and Lorene who were out driving around looking for hot springs, so they followed us to ours. After cleaning up we headed to the Bishop Taqueria before driving the 250 miles back to Another fine SMS trip in the eastern sierras. Thanks to all who participated.



Randy and Wally chase the women up the Pass





Above: Praying to the Wax God at camp

Left: Turns on Dust-on-Crust with slough on Duck Pass



Helga skiing below the Mammoth Crest

# MUGELNOOS SUBCRPTION RENEWALS DUE!

Please send your subscription renewal with \$7 made payable to SMS to:

Pat Holleman 1638 6th Street Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

## Joint Climbing Sections Meeting, Feb 5th!

HPS, SPS, DPS, SMS, LPC
Feb 5 THU (Changed from Feb 4 Wed listed in the Schedule)
Annual Program for all Hiking Sections: Join us for the 9th annual joint climbing groups social program, hosted this year by HPS. In a departure from the usual, there will be an important presentation of the threats to our forests and the critters that live in them by Sierra Club Regional representative, BILL CORCORAN, biologist MONICA BOND and the "what to do about it" expert, JOHN MONSEN. Refreshments provided by host. Swap Meet precedes meeting; bring all your unwanted hiking and camping paraphenalia. Swap Meet: 6:30. Show: 7:30 pm at the Griffith Park Ranger Station auditorium. HPS Program Chair: LAURA JOSEPH
Co-sponsored with SPS, DPS, Ski Mountaineers, LPC

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

Mugelnoos

Pat Holleman 1638 6th Street Manhattan Beach, CA 90266





Richard L. Henke 409 South Lucia Redondo Beach, CA 90277 SMS RCS R 2004