



Skiers ascending bowls below Mt Stanford

Hilton Lakes Basecamp/Mt. Stanford and Morgan May 17-18th, 2003 Trip by Mike McDermott and Reiner Stenzel

A large group (14!) of skiers, one snowboarder, and one snowshoer assembled at the end of the Rock Creek Road near the Hilton Lakes trailhead around 8AM on Saturday, May 17th. The group consisted of Mike McDermott, Alvin Walter (co-leaders), Reiner Stenzel, Angel Ocana, Stan Huncilman, Ted & Sheryl Lenzie, Leslie Hofherr, Jay Rivera, Susan Livingston, Thomas Johansson, Mike Seiffert, Lorene Samoska, and Reed Moore. At first, we had to carry skis on packs as we hiked through the intermittent snow, but after about a mile we found mostly continuous snow and were able to skin up the rest of the way to make a basecamp near Hilton Lakes. On the way we saw some avalanche activity from the warm sunny days during the previous week, so stayed clear of those slopes.

After the group established basecamp at the lower Hilton Creek Lake (10,300') we skinned up around 1 pm toward the slopes east of Mt Stanford. We ascended the drainage west of Hilton Creek Lake 10,353'. After a while it became obvious that a faster group wanted to rush for the summit while a slower group preferred the more relaxed skiing on the excellent corn snow. Alvin and I led Ted, Stan, Jason, Angel and Reed up the drainage over a partially corniced ridge just east of a small Lake 12,000'

MUGELNOOS STAFF

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

NEXT ISSUE

Next issue deadline is April 10th, 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
Treasurer: Tom Marsh (805) 498-9580
Email: qrtmoon@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
Cons: Kathy Crandall (661) 255-9661
Email: kcranal@hartdistrict.org
Mugelmailer: Pat Holleman (310) 374-4654
Email: Patngerry@earthlink.net

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.

SMS LEADERS

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

Jim Crouch (I)
San Diego, CA 92110
619-223-9084
jim@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 Angeles Chapter Schedule. The meetings will still take place on the following Tuesdays at 7:30 PM:
Dates: April 20th May 18th

Calendar of Events 2003-2004 Ski Season

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 Gullies) - 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 bc ski experience, address, and h/w phone to Ldr: Mark Goebel, Asst. Randy Lamm

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

See Next Issue for SMS Summer Trips!

Crater Mountain (Mono Craters) February 28th, 2004

By Reiner Stenzel

The Mono Craters are a row of prominent volcanic outcrops a few miles east of Hwy 395 and south of Mono Lake. In the summer they look dry and sandy but after a winter storm they look attractive for backcountry skiing. Snowmobiles also hi-ride their slopes but none makes it up to the high point, Crater Mtn (9172'). To my recollection the SMS has not skied in this area.

On this weekend the SMS had scheduled one day of telemark clinics at Mammoth Mtn and one day free skiing. During the previous days a storm had dumped 3 feet of snow in the Mammoth area. Luckily the storm cleared for the weekend. This was the right time to ski the desert-like peaks. Thus, on Sat morning two of us decided to ski Crater Mtn while everyone else was yo-yoing. From Hwy 395 Leslie Hofherr and I drove east on Hwy 120 to the road closure just beyond the access to Mono Lake, where the road turns southeast. We decided to ski the range from the east since the access from the west appeared longer and through brush country. The snow covered road lead along impressive crater walls. After about 2 miles of skiing on the road we turned west guided by GPS toward Crater Mtn. The terrain started with gentle forested slopes that lead toward a canyon dropping down from a saddle between Crater Mtn and its next northern peak (8896'). The canyon ended in a steep gully, which looked avalanche prone. Thus we diagonaled up the east slopes of Crater toward a ridge coming down southeast

from the peak. Since the slopes were loaded with a foot of fresh snow we carefully switch-backed up near trees until we reached the crater rim. In the open terrain we were greeted by a cold breeze. The snow-filled caldera was surrounded by many exotic looking peaklets but the GPS clearly pointed to the named summit. We skied to 50' below of the summit and then climbed the c12-3 ridge to the top. What a spectacular view! Blue Mono Lake and the white Sierra crest were quite a sight. The summit register was buried in snow below a summit cairn. The last entry was from Aug 03 and it was our pleasure to sign in first this year. Surprisingly, the wind calmed down so that we could enjoy our lunch and picture taking on the summit. In the distance we heard snowmobiles but otherwise there was nobody far and wide. By 2:30pm it was getting time for the descent. After some careful initial turns on wind packed slabs near the top we reached the soft powder snow on the east face of Crater. It was a heaven for backcountry skiers: Untouched vast slopes of powder snow at an exciting but not scary angle. We left nice tracks behind but had no time and energy for a rerun. After retracing our XC route we reached Hwy 120 which by now had many snowmobile tracks. Around 4:30pm we were back at the car after a wonderful day of backcountry skiing. We concluded that this would make a great SMS day tour, provided it is done right after a good storm.





View from Crater Mtn on the Mono Craters with Eastern Sierra Nevada in background

ater Mtn



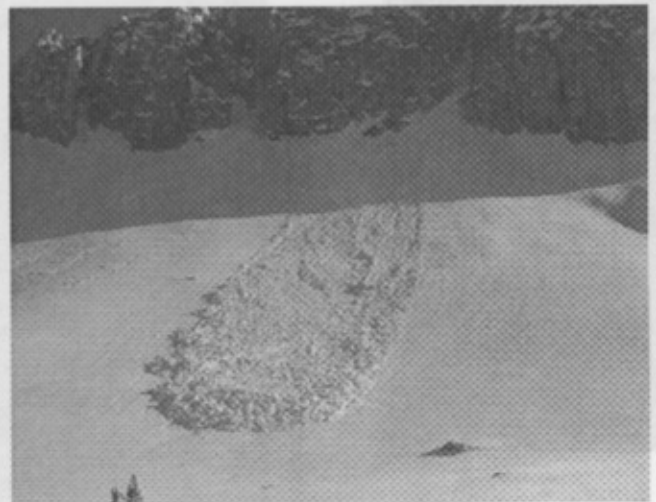
(Continued from Page 1)

which drains into Stanford Lake (11,436'). To the west there was an obvious peak (12,800') which is close to, but not the summit of Mt Stanford (12,838'). The latter is just a rock outcrop on the west end of a long ridge. To the north was a noticeably higher and distinct peak (12,931') which some thought was Mt Stanford. A continuous snow field lead up to it. So why not ski it first. The first were on the summit by 4pm. The view was outstanding. Red Slate (13,123') and Red and White (12,816') stood clearly out in the west. Of course there was no peak register, which disappointed some while others did not care. Angel and I decided to head for the real Mt Stanford below us. Since the ridge was not skiable it turned into a mixed rock and snow climb on foot. The ridge is almost level and we walked right by the "summit block" without realizing it. After we reached the 12,800' south peak of the ridge and found no register, we were reluctant to return to the 12,838' bump. After a while Alvin followed us. By radio we gave him directions where the suspected summit block was. Sure enough, he found the register. Well, Mt Stanford is one of those bumps on a ridge which does neither deserve to be called a peak nor be on the SPS list. After descending below the rocky terrain we strapped on our skis and skied down the way we came up. Unfortunately, after 5 pm the snow had turned into breakable crust and it was a slow and tricky 1600' descent. Most were back in camp by 7pm; Alvin arrived just before it got dark. We joined happy hour and ate dinner in our community kitchen sharing our adventures. The plan for Sunday was to get up "early" to climb and ski Mt Morgan.

On Sun we got up at 5:30am to a beautiful, cloudless spring day. For the large group it took till 7:15am before we got started. From camp we traversed west over a small hill to the drainage of Hilton Creek which drops steeply down to the upper Davis Lake (9,852'). The pace was slow and it was obvious that the group would not make the summit and be back at a reasonable time. Furthermore, the 3,200' ascent of Mt Morgan required climbing steep dry slopes with forest and rock. Alvin predicted a 7 hour roundtrip. The group had a change of heart and preferred to ski corn snow instead of climbing the peak. Reed and I thought that at a reasonable pace we would make the summit before noon. Mike requested us to sign out which we happily did and then took off. The rest of the group skied the same beautiful bowls from the Mt Stanford drainage from the previous day. Clearly the "corn window" was between 10AM and 1PM because yesterday's soft snow at 4 PM (and getting mushy) was perfect ripe corn around noon!

The two of us summit-attempters skied down to the Davis Lakes. At the west side of the lower Davis Lake (9,808') we ascended through forest and brush to the 3200m level where we found continuous snow. Passing through low trees we could ski to the runout of a long snow-filled gully which went up the east side of the mountain right to the summit. It was a looong gully requiring many, many switchbacks. Finally, by 11:30am we summited and enjoyed a spectacular view from this 13,000' peak. Signed in as the first this year, took pictures, snacked, and talked by radio to the rest of the group. Then the fun started to ski down this long gully. At the top the angle is near 40 deg, which Reed handled with parallel turns and I did with more exhausting telejumps. But it was wonderful corn snow. We layed two parallel tracks of free-heel turns down this 2500' gully. Then we had an intermission, hiked on dirt for 15 min, and continued to ski down to Davis Lake. We decided to ski to the opposite (east) side of the lake where the return would be easier. Skiing around the lake was not only long but questionable since there was open water at both inlet and outlet. Thus, we crossed our fingers and skied carefully across Davis Lake on this warm spring day. With more confidence we also took a straight-line short-cut across the upper Davis Lake, then skinned 500' up to our Hilton Lake base-camp. We arrived at the promised time of 2pm and joined the rest of the group in skiing out. Climbing and skiing Mt Morgan was 6 hours of sustained action except for a 30 min break on the summit. But skiing the grand alley on its east face was worth all the effort.

With all the group finally together we picked our way through rocks and brush to find nearly continuous snow back to the cars, using skins for the route because of the up and down. This was a beautiful trip with gorgeous sunsets, nice corn snow, and a great group of fun people. Thanks to the leaders and all who participated!



Avalanche activity near Hilton Lakes



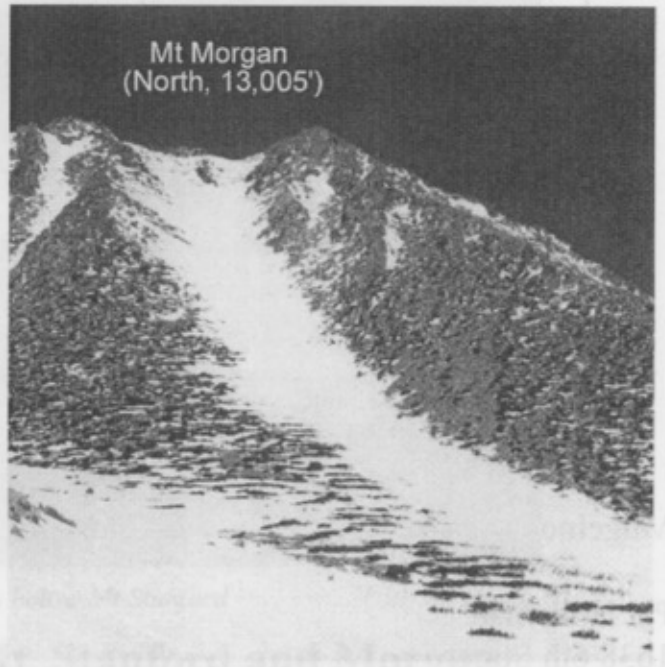
Group climbing Mt. Stanford Bowls



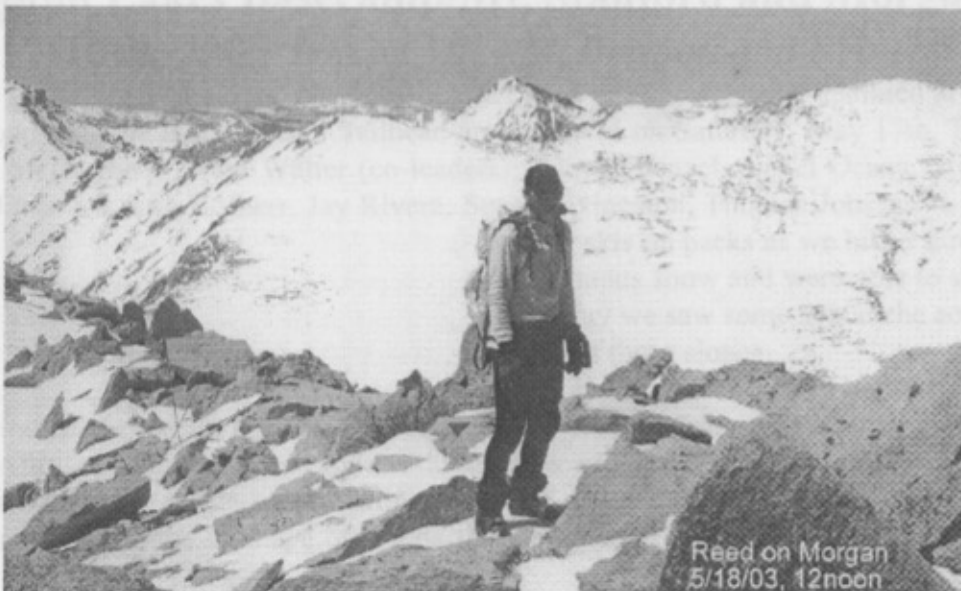
Little Lakes Valley from our climb to Hilton Lakes



Alvin and Angel climbing



Mt Morgan
(North, 13,005')



Reed on Morgan
5/18/03, 12noon

FOR SALE

Backcountry Gear For Sale

2003 Black Diamond 179cm Crossbow skies (115-82-105). Drilled for Fritschi Freeride AT bindings. Used once. \$240.00. Also 2003 Atomic 160cm TM:22 skies (106-72-98). Drilled for Fritschi Diamir Titanal 3 AT bindings. Used once. \$220.00. Email: peninsulatug@earthlink.net

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 wmn's 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 wmn's 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

Scarpa T2, Mens Size 7 (Women's 8.5/9) used, \$50 OBO. Women's 9 Alico leather backcountry/telemark boots - fits 3-pin or cable binding, \$30 OBO. Email samsei@earthlink.net

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: April 20th 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