



Olancha Peak from above Summit Meadows in winter

Skiing Olancha Peak **March 6-7th, 2004 by Jan St. Amand**

Nine enthusiastic participants including 7 skiers, 1 snowboarder, and 1 snowshoer met early Saturday morning on a warm, cloudless day for my first provisional lead to Olancha Peak. The group consisted of Mike Seiffert, Lorene Samoska, Jay Rivera, Jim Crouch, Rich Henke, Steve Curry, Leslie Höherr, Reiner Stenzel (my assistant and evaluator), and myself. We started hiking from the end of the Sage Flat Road at 5800 feet. The snow coverage was sparse and we strapped our skis to our already heavy overnight packs and headed off in a southwesterly direction easily finding the main trail to Olancha Pass. At 6700 feet we reached a fork in the trail and followed the left fork or cow trail. From here we were able to skin/snowshoe on continuous snow. After a leisurely lunch break at Olancha Pass (9200 feet) we continued along the ridge and made camp in Bear Trap Meadow at an elevation of 10,000 feet. We quickly settled into our campsite and Reiner and Jim built a communal kitchen in time for all to sit, relax, and enjoy the sunset.

We left camp at 6:30am the next morning on firm snow continuing along the ridge in a northerly direction towards Olancha Peak. We wasted some time skirting around an exposed rocky section and

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NEXT ISSUE

Next issue deadline is May 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!

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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 last meeting of the season will still take place on the following Tuesdays at 7:30 PM: May 18th

Calendar of Events 2003-2004 Ski Season *Plus Summer!*

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. Election Results

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

Jul 30 - Aug 1 Fri-Sun SPS /SMS

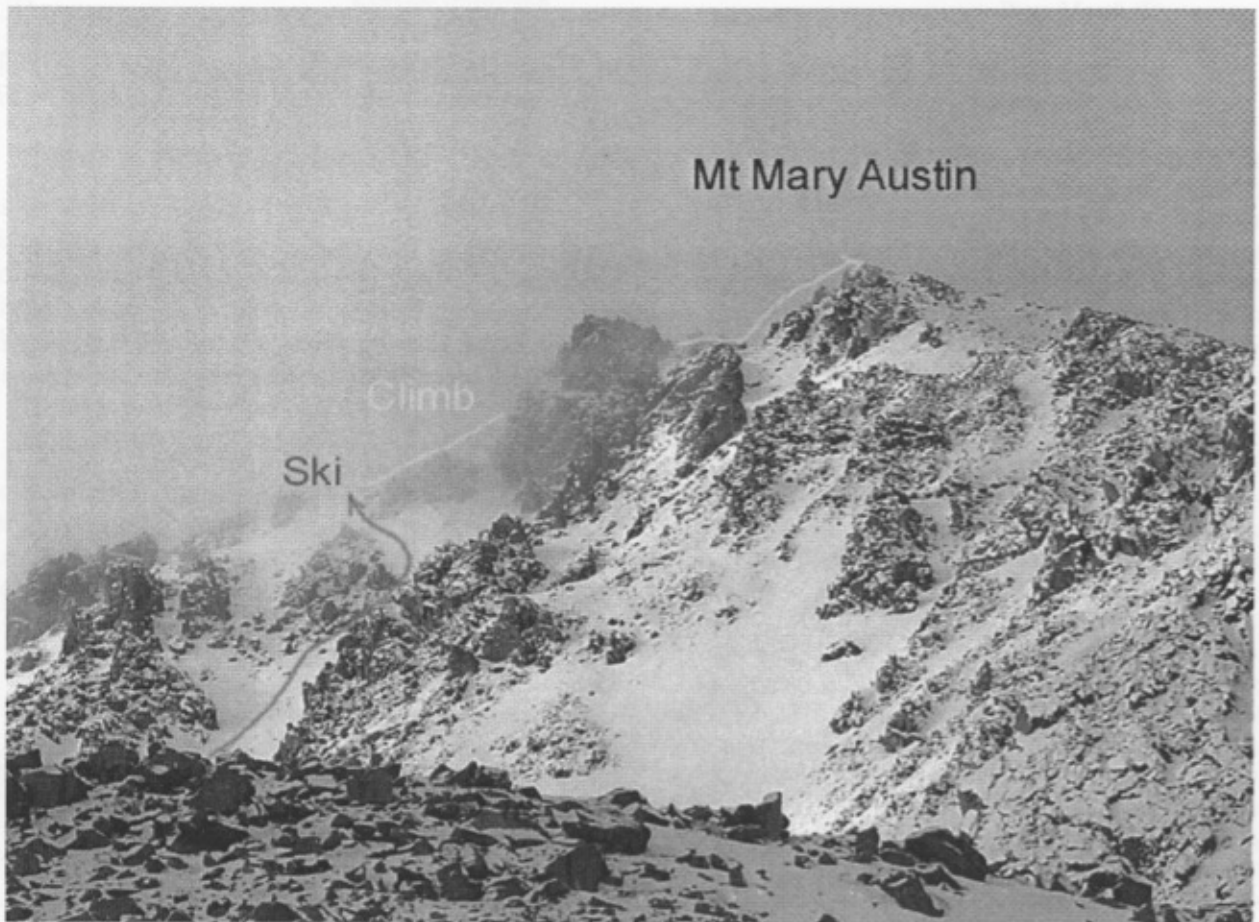
M: Mt Ansel Adams, Electra: Climb two remote, beautiful, and not frequently visited peaks in Yosemite N.P. Exploratory trip to consider A. A. for the SPS List. Approach from south with basecamp at Sadler Lke. 30mi, 6000' rt. Good conditioning and cl 3 rock experience required. Send e-mail with climbing experience, current conditioning, phones to Ldrs: Reiner Stenzel, Mark Goebel.

Aug 6-8 Fri-Sun SPS /SMS

I: Amelia Earhart (11,982') and Donohue (12,023): Climb two fine peaks out of Lyell Cyn. Good conditioning required. Send e-mail with climbing experience, current conditioning, phones to Ldr: Leslie Hofherr. Asst. Erik Siering

Oct 1-4 Fri-Mon SPS /SMS

M: North Guard(13,327') and Francis Farquhar (12,893): Enjoy High Sierra in the Fall. Friday backpack (6 miles, 5500' up) to Sphinx Lakes for base camp. Climb Saturday and Sunday. N. Guard (rt) is 8 mi/4kft; Farquhar (rt) is 4mi/2kft. Monday, pack out. Send SASE or email (preferred) to leader with class 3 experience, conditioning, your email. Ldr: Jim Crouch. Asst: Reiner Stenzel



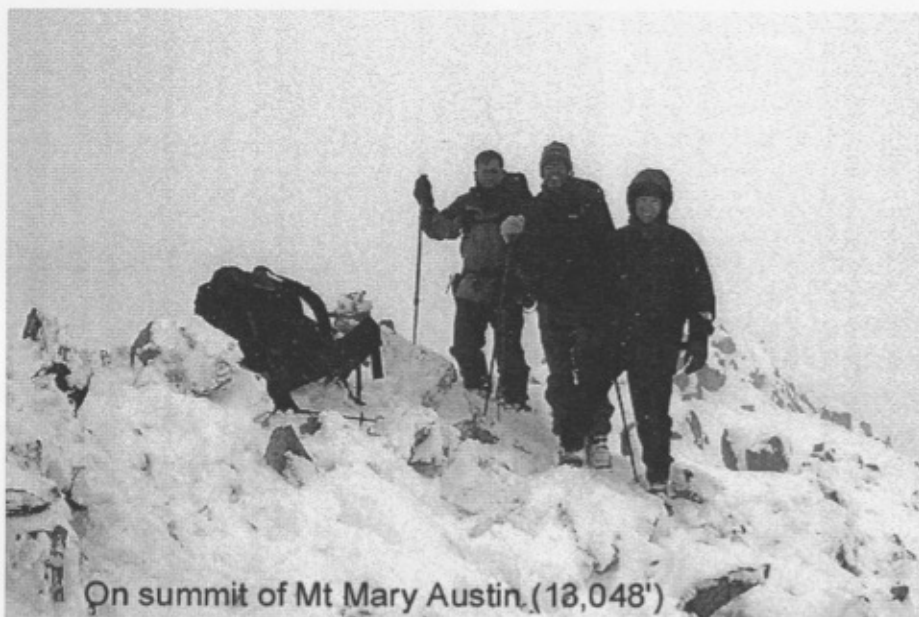
Mt Mary Austin

April 2-4, 2004 *by Jim Crouch*

Mark and I set out Thursday afternoon from San Diego in northbound I 15 traffic. Then on the I 215 north of San Bernardino we encountered stop and go traffic due to an accident over the pass at Oak Hill. We eventually cleared the traffic and Friday morning we joined the other participants at the trail head (2175m or 7136' on the Onion Valley Rd). They were Leslie Hofher, Brad McHose, Angel Ocana, Stefan Schiede, Reiner Stenzel (co-Ldr on this joint SPS-SMS trip), Mark Vogt, and I. (Tele skiers were out numbered by randonee 3 to 4.) Under partly cloudy skies the group set off hiking on the old mine road (2175m or 7136' on Onion Valley Rd) past Sardine Canyon and to Little Onion, CA (2380m) where we left the road for bushwhacking through manzanita, sage, and ultimately stream crossing through willows. After crossing we went up the middle of the relatively flat valley aiming for the climbers left side of the first bench in the canyon. After again crossing the stream we found the

bottom of a chute with enough snow to get our skis off our backs. As the chute slowly steepened the snow became harder. Exiting near the top brought us to easier terrain, but still very hard snow. After more climbing we arrived at the last stand of trees in the canyon (elevation 3270m, 10,730') under threatening skies for our camp. The four tents were quickly setup and a luxurious snow kitchen dug -- camp was established. The kitchen gave a pleasant venue for dinner and getting to know each other or catching up after our approach and climb to altitude.

Friday night the wind blustered and five to six inches of snow accumulated at camp. Saturday morning, after breakfast we set out at about 8:00 am under cloudy skies, through snow flurries, and at times very limited visibility. The route is up canyon to the Parker Lakes and then to the hanging valley on the north side of the main canyon. From the valley we climbed to the saddle west of Mount Mary Austin.



On summit of Mt Mary Austin. (13,048')

There was new snow covering the rocky slopes. The ridge east to the summit was "Class 2" covered by one foot of fresh snow, exposed to more winds and still the low visibility. At noon six of us gathered on the summit. After an unsuccessful search for a register we signed in on a sheet of paper and left it in a plastic bag under a newly constructed cairn on the 13,048' summit in hopes (expectations) that the next party would put it into the register. Our descent was the way we came. Along the ridge we got glimpses through the clouds of the slopes of Acrodictes and Baxter Peaks to the north. The strong skiers had a blast skiing down the bench to the Parker Lakes. From the Parker Lakes we made a short tour to the end of the Little Onion

Valley to the impressive south face of Black Mountain (13,291'). The waning storm gave us some tantalizing looks at blue sky and even, briefly, our own shadows. The return to our camp was an easy run from the end of the canyon.

Saturday night we again got snow, but little wind this time. Sunday morning we were treated to clear skies and sunshine. Early in the morning (before breakfast!) Brad, Angel, and Stefan had signed out to ski some of the chutes tempting them up in the canyon. We remaining four enjoyed breakfast in camp then packed up and skied out. We were treated to gentle bowls and new, very nice snow. Our skiing was burdened only by our heavy packs. We descended a different chute than our ascent and found it to be the preferred route. It is to climber's right of the obvious chute, behind a rib at the bottom of the bench. The willows along the stream below 2600m (8530') were budding – what a difference from our wintry camp. Our way out kept to the south side of the canyon which gave somewhat better travel conditions – no escaping the willowy stream crossing, however. At Little Onion we took a break and adjusted clothing for the higher temperatures of the hike out on the mine road. Soon we arrived at the cars, changed clothes, reset our watches/clocks, and departed for our homes. This was a challenging, but enjoyable outing. Thanks to all participants and to Reiner for his help.



Skiers in the "town" of Little Onion, CA

(Olancha continued from Page 1)

reached an elevation of 11,300 feet at noon. From here Rich took off his skis and proceeded on foot towards the 12,132' summit following Reiner who kept his skis on. Steve, determined to get his first emblem peak, continued to the summit on snowshoes. The remainder of the group decided that there was not enough time to reach the summit and ski out before dark. We skied back to camp avoiding the rocky section by skiing below it and this was the best skiing of the trip. We packed up and left camp, skied up to a high point above the meadow where we removed our skins and had a pleasant ski to Olancha Pass and then to a lower pass at 8600 feet. From this point the snow was very heavy and turning was difficult. About half way down this slope and while attempting a turn Lorene hurt her knee. Mike took her skis and others helped lighten her load as she proceeded down on foot. Soon Jim, Mike, and I also removed our skis since it was faster to walk with the occasional posthole than to ski on the heavy snow. We regrouped at the cow and hiking trails junction and continued on foot reaching the cars just as it was getting dark. Thank you everyone for a memorable trip.



An ecstatic Steve after summiting Olancha



Descending the slopes below Olancha with Kern Basin in the distance



Group at snow kitchen for dinner Saturday evening: Steve, Jim, Jay, Jan, Rich, Mike, Leslie, Reiner (Photo by Lorene S.)



Group at hut: Tom, Bill, Randy, Lorene, Eric, Jerome, Mike R. (photo by Mike Seiffert)

Pear Lake Feb 27th -Mar 1st 2004

This year, 10 SMS skiers and friends took over the Pear Lake Hut in Sequoia National Park for 4 days of powder skiing after a storm dumped 3 feet in the Sierras. Tom Marsh, Randy Lamm, Mike Rector, Eric McGee, Jerome, Bill Lutz, Mike Seiffert, Lorene Samoska, Helga Zimmer, and Stan Huncilman joined this year. Seven helped break trail through the deep powder, arriving at the hut at dusk after 7 hours of travel. Helga broke a binding but snowshoed in with hopes that someone could fix her ski (the two Mikes did!) Bill rolled in at 8:30 in the dark after everyone broke trail! We were treated to two long days of perfect powder and touring which included Skier's Alta and the Moose Lake area. Evenings were spent concocting cocktails out of flavored drinks mixed with snow to make slurpees, and enjoying feeding the pellet stove. Thanks to Tom Marsh for organizing the trip and to everyone for the great skiing and comraderie.



Randy and Mike Rector



Skiing with ghostly fog coming up from the valley



Skiers with powder tracks



Mike S. and Lorene on Skier's Alta



Mike S. and Jerome on Skier's Alta

SMS Elections— Please vote for no more than 6 people for Central Committee positions on the enclosed ballot. Nominees are: Leslie Hofherr, Randy Lamm, Brad McHose, Thomas Johansson, Wally Drake, Lorne Samoska, Reiner Stenzel, Tom Marsh, Heiko Knapp, and Jonathan Meagher. Ballots should be sent to RJ Secor before May 14th:

R.J. Secor, 2366 Las Lunas St., Pasadena, CA 91107-2510.

FOR SALE

Backcountry Gear For Sale

2003 Atomic 160cm TM:22 skies (106-72-98). Drilled for Fritschi Diamir Titanal 3 AT bindings Used once. \$200.00 Email: peninsulatug@earthlink.net

New Tua Big Easy Ski 170cm 102/72/94 \$300 OBO, New Contour 3 or 4 Loweinternal frame pack 5000+ cu. w/ adjustable torso \$150., almost new Osprey Internal Frame pack w/shoveit pocket 3900 cu.small frame \$150, new wmn's 7 Apina 2002 skate boot \$95, Merrill xtreme leather teleboots wmn 7 \$20, old style t2 about mns 6.57.5 \$75, avy probe \$20, Northface 3lb down bag \$120. Email smtngoat@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

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