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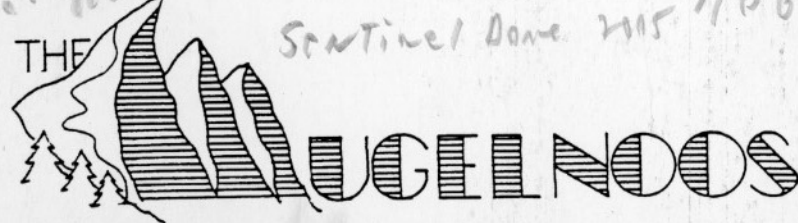
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Mugelnoos

Pat Holleman  
1638 6th Street  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

*Rich Nenne  
409 S. Lucia  
Redondo Beach, CA 90277*

last at 9/06  
Suils wrapup  
Sentinel Dome 2005 7/06



December 2005

Issue # 796



## MUGELNOOS STAFF

EDITOR Heiko Knapp  
 PRINTING Heiko Knapp  
 MUGELMAILER Pat Holleman

## NEXT ISSUE

Next issue has no deadline. All letters, photos, slides, or articles should be sent to Mugelnoos editor, Heiko Knapp, 2209 W 12th Street Apt A, Los Angeles, CA 90006. Materials can be sent on CD or emailed to heiko.knapp@web.de. Electronic photos and articles are preferred and appreciated. For files or emails > 2MB, please email me for special instructions.

## MEETINGS

3rd Tuesday each month - November through May (except December) 7:30 p.m., Griggith Park Ranger Station Auditorium, 4730 Crystal Springs Drive, Los Angeles, CA. Newcomers welcome!

## OFFICERS

Chair Lorene Samoska (818) 952 3665  
 email: samsei@earthlink.net

Vice Chair /  
 Leader Records Jonathan Meagher (818) 354 3374  
 email: meagher@ampersand.jpl.nasa.gov

Secretary Randy Lamm (310) 319 1947  
 email: randy\_lamm@yahoo.com;

Treasurer Tom Marsh (805) 498 9580  
 email: qrtmoon@adelphia.net

Webmaster Thomas Johansson email: thomasjohansson@sbcglobal.net

Outings & Safety Reiner Stenzel (310) 454 9787  
 email: stenzel@physics.ucla.edu

Editor Heiko Knapp (213) 385 8220  
 heiko.knapp@web.de

Programs Wally Drake wdrake@altrionet.com

Conservation Kathy Crandall (661) 255 9661

Mugelmailer Pat Holleman (310) 374 4654  
 patngerry247@verizon.net

## SMS LEADERS

Walter Boge Van Nuys H 818-781-4576 -  
 Ken Deemer Manhattan Beach H 310-546-4012 W 310-587-3390  
 kdeemer@earthlink.com

Kathy Crandall Santa Clarita H 661-255-9661 skimeup@earthlink.net  
 Jim Crouch San Diego 619-223-9084 jim@saratilim.com  
 Andy Fried Northridge H 818-993-1891  
 W 818-363-6196 andyfried@earthlink.net

Mark Goebel Huntington Beach H 714-963-9384 goebel.mj@verizon.net  
 Nancy Gordon Truckee H 530-582-6803  
 nancygordon@mail.telis.org

Paul Harris Truckee - paulharris@jps.net  
 Leslie Hofherr - lesliehofherr@yahoo.com  
 Gerry and Pat Holleman Manhattan Beach -  
 patngerry247@verizon.net

Scot Jamison Glendora W 818-963-4101 sjami2029@aol.com  
 Randy Lamm Santa Monica H 310-319-1947 randy\_lamm@yahoo.com  
 Mike McDermitt - mike@mcdermitt.org  
 Joe McGuire Alameda H 510-865-4211  
 joseph\_mcguire@ix.netcom.com

Owen Maloy Mammoth Lakes H 760-934-9511 owen.maloy@verizon.net  
 Tom Marsh Thousand Oaks H 805-498-9580 qrtmoon@adelphia.net  
 Keith Martin Palos Verdes Estates H 310-316-7617  
 kwmartin@verizon.net

Jonathan Meagher Pasadena 818-354-3374  
 meagher@ampersand.Jpl.Nasa.Gov

Don Pies Santa Barbara H 805-967-9852  
 W 805-562-4062 dpies@gte.net

Lorene Samoska La Canada 818-952-3665 samsei@earthlink.net  
 R.J. Secor Pasadena - rjsecor@earthlink.net  
 Mike Seiffert La Canada 818-952-3665 samsei@earthlink.net  
 Jan StAmand - janstamand@sbcglobal.net

Reiner Stenzel Pacific Palisades H 310-454-9787 stenzel@physics.ucla.edu  
 Larry Tidball Long Beach H 562-424-1556 lbtidball@earthlink.net  
 Alvin Walter San Diego 858-586-1982 awalter@pacbell.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 and email changes to: Pat Holleman, 1638 6th Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266. \$15 per year payable to "SMS". Due in October. Subscription payments are not tax deductible as charitable contributions.

**Cover photo:** Ski touring in Sequoia NP in January 2005, the beginning of a great season. Photo by Heiko Knapp



## Calender of events 2005/2006

**Feb 4-5 Sat-Sun SMS, OCSS, PVSB TC/I:** Ski Mountaineers at Mammoth/June Mtn: Practice your telemark/parallel turns on lift-served terrain. Join Andy and Owen as they practice their teaching skills, free ski with other skiers and SMSrs, collaborate with other members to hire local PSIA professionals for group lessons or organize ski touring in local mountains. Something for everyone from advanced beginners to expert. Limited condo space available in Mammoth (must clean or pay for cleaning) send check for \$105 per person (SMS) to Keith Martin for 2 nights plus lesson (based on a lesson cost of \$60). Half day group lessons approx. \$60 per person through Mammoth Mtn for group of 5. Send check for \$60 (SMS) with ski level to Keith Martin for each lesson or take chances when arrive (pay any cost difference when arrive plus instructor tip). Send email or SASE to Keith if want more info. Ldr: Keith Martin. Assts: Andy Fried, Owen Maloy.

**Feb 10-12 Fri - Sun SMS TI: Ostrander Hut (8505'), Buena Vista Peak (9709'), Mt Bruce (9743')**: Ski to Ostrander Hut from Badger Pass by one of 3 routes (Horizon Ridge Trail, Bridalveil Creek Trail, or Merced Ridge Trail 9-10 miles, < 1500 ft gain) and spend 2 nights. Day tour to nearby Buena Vista Peak and possibly Mt Bruce. Ski out. Cost \$60 per person paid prior to trip to Ldr. Dates subject to change due to lottery. Requires backcountry ski experience with a pack and overnight stay. Required metal edged backcountry downhill skis, skins, beacon, shovel, probes. Send experience, contact, ride share info to Ldr: Leslie Hofherr. Asst: Keith Martin.

**Feb 11-12 Sat-Sun SMS TI: Mt Baldy Ski Hut Weekend:** Climb or ski to the comfortable Baldy Hut and plan to spend two days skiing the chutes of Baldy Bowl. Ldr: Alvin Walter. Asst: Reiner Stenzel.

**Feb 17-19 Fri - Sun SMS TI: Mono Hot Springs:** Rent snowmobile and transport skis and winter camping gear to Mono Hot Springs, Hwy 168. Leisure ski tours by day, followed by soaking in hot springs. Intermediate skiing, swimming and driving abilities reqd. (B/T2/E3/A7/X9). Cost involved. Ldr: Leslie Hofherr. Asst: Reiner Stenzel.

**Feb 18 Sat SMS TI: San Antonio Ski Loop:** Climb and ski to Thunder Mt, then traverse the ridgeline to Bighorn and ski out Icehouse Canyon. A short car shuttle will be arranged. Ldr: Alvin Walter. Asst: Jim Crouch.

**Feb 21 Tue SMS, SPS, DPS, HPS, LPC Annual Joint Meeting:** Meet and make plans with your friends and learn activities of these groups. Each group will give a presentation of their scope and upcoming plans. The program will include a presentation by Tim McCartney Snape from Australia on walking from the Bay of Bengal to the summit of Everest as well as climbing Gasherbraum IV. Newcomers welcome. 7:30 pm Griffith Park Ranger Station.

**Feb 25- 26 Sat - Sun SMS TI: Chinese Peak (8709'), Red Mountain**



*The Baldy hut outhouse in Winter 2005. Photo by Bahram Manahedgi*

**(9874')**: Sat ski from Hwy 168 near Huntington Lake toward Chinese Pk and to West Lake below Red Mtn (5 miles). Build igloos to spend the night in and tour area. Sun ski Red Mtn via west ridge and possibly climb Chinese Pk on way out. Intermediate level backcountry ski skills and willingness to build and spend the night in an igloo required. Metal edged skis, skins, safety equipment, and snow saw required. Experience in snowcamping required. Send experience, contact info, ride share info to Ldr. Leslie Hofherr. Asst. Reiner Stenzel.

**March 11-12 Sat-Sun SMS TI: Jepson Pk (11,205') Snowcamp:** Climb and ski to the base of Little Draw Bowl. Set up a snowcamp, then ski the chutes of Jepson and Charlston. Ldr: Alvin Walter. Asst: Reiner Stenzel.

**March 11-12 Sat-Sun SMS TI: Mt Baldy Ski Hut Weekend:** Climb or ski to the comfortable Baldy Hut and plan to spend two days skiing the chutes of Baldy Bowl. Ldr: Randy Lamm, Assist: Tom Marsh.

**Mar 21 Tue SMS Monthly Meeting:** Meet your ski friends, discuss trips and be entertained by a slide/video program. Newcomers welcome. 7:30 pm Griffith Park Ranger Station.

**Apr 1-2 Sat-Sun SMS TI: Elderberry Cyn, Onion Valley:** Ski (hopefully) on corn snow in the Eastern Sierra Nevada on two day tours and car camp. Intermediate or better skiing ability, metal edged skis with skins, beacons and probes required. Send experience, h/w phones, e-mail address to Ldr: Randy Lamm, Assist: Tom Marsh.

**Apr 8-9 Sat-Sun SMS TC: Mammoth Lakes Ski and Wine Tasting**

**Tour:** Ski the Mountain by day and sample from Andy's vineyard by night from his E(exquisite)-rated Zins, Nebs and Sangioveses. Repeat, if possible, next day, after aiming for the "Hole in the Wall". Intermediate skiing abilities under all conditions required. Send e-mail with previous similar experience to Ldr: Andy Fried, Assist: Tom Marsh.

**Apr 15-16 Sat-Sun SMS, SPS TI: San Joaquin Ridge:** Sat ski from Mammoth Lks along the San Joaquin Ridge toward Two Teats and S.J. Pk. SPS snowshoers welcome. Intermediate skiing abilities reqd. Bring metal-edged skis, skins, poles. Sun ski The Mountain. E-mail or call with experience, h/w phones to leader. Ldr: Barbara Sholle. Asst: David Sholle.

**Apr 18 Tue SMS Monthly Meeting:** Meet your ski friends, discuss trips and be entertained by a slide/video program. Newcomers welcome. 7:30 pm Griffith Park Ranger Station.

**Apr 13-16 Thur-Sun SMS, SPS TI: Mt Lyell:** Ski mountaineering trip to an SPS Emblem peak from Silver Lake. Advanced backcountry skiing and snow camping experience required. Bring skis, skins, beacon, shovel, probes. Send experience, contact, ride share info to Ldr: Reiner Stenzel. Asst: Alvin Walter.

**Apr 22-30 Sat-Sun SMS TI/C: Fairy Meadows Hut, Canada:** Powder skiing in the Northern Selkirk Mtns. Stay a week in comfort in a backcountry lodge, do long day trips with light packs. Powder skiing guaranteed, sunshine not. Guiding, heli transport and lodge cost approx. \$1500 CA \$. Advanced backcountry ski skills required. 25% deposit due by end of Nov. Read an earlier trip report. Send experience, address, H&W phone, email to Ldr: Jonathan Meagher. Asst: Reiner Stenzel.

**Apr 22-23 Sat-Sun LTC, SPS, DPS, SMS M/E: Sierra Snow Checkoff:** Demonstrate your skills to receive an M or E snow checkoff or sharpen snow climbing skills. Restricted to Sierra Club members with prior ice axe, crampon, rope training/experience. All restricted trips now require everyone's complete medical info for the National Sierra Club. Eastern Sierra site depending on snow conditions. Email or send 2 sase, SC#, resume of snow climbing/training, H&W phones to Ldr: Tom McDonnell. Co-Ldr: Randall Danta.

**Apr 29-30 Sat-Sun SMS TI: Rock Creek:** Ski slopes of beautiful Little Lakes Valley and camp near the Treasure Lakes. Intermediate backcountry skiing and snow camping experience required. Bring skis, skins, beacon, shovel, probes. Send experience, contact, ride share info to Ldr: Mike Seiffert. Asst: Randy Lamm.

**May 6-7 Sat-Sun SMS TI: Ski Mountaineers Pk:** Ski the peak on the Thompson Ridge named after our section. Solid experience in backcountry skiing and snowcamping required. Bring metal skis, skins, beacon, shovel, probes. Send experience, contact, ride share to Ldr: Leslie Hofherr. Asst: Mark Goebel.

**May 13-14 Sat-Sun SMS TI: False White, Blue Couloir:** Ski corn snow on two day trips in the Eastern Sierra Nevada and car camp. Intermediate or

better backcountry skiing abilities required. Bring metal skis, skins, beacon and shovel. Send experience, contact, ride share to Ldr: Mike Seiffert. Asst: Keith Martin.

**May 13-20 Sat -Sat SMS, SPS TI: Onion-Boose Trip:** Join a Sierra Crest ski tour from Onion Valley to Taboose Pass. Ski and climb by day, followed by happy hour in camp. Hi route goes via Kearsarge Pass, Dragon/Rae Lks, Baxter Lks, Twin Lks, Pinchot Pass, Lke Marjorie and Taboose Pass for a short car shuttle back to Onion. On the way there are optional ski ascents of such class 2 peaks as Gould, Baxter, Acrodetes, Cedric Wright, Crater, Wynne, Pinchot, Striped. Need advanced backcountry skiing skills, proper ski and snow camping experience, bring good food and the right spirits. Must have skied/climbed with the SMS/Ldrs before the trip. Extended ski pack touring experience req. Trip subject to modifications depending on snow and weather. Send e-mail to Ldrs: Tom Marsh, Reiner Stenzel.

**May 16 Tue SMS Monthly Meeting:** Meet your ski friends, discuss trips and be entertained by a slide/video program. Newcomers welcome. 7:30 pm Griffith Park Ranger Station.

**May 19-22 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 Ldr: Reiner Stenzel. Asst: Randy Lamm.

**May 20-21 Sat -Sun LTC, Sierra Peaks, Desert Peaks, SMS M/E:** Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice: For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings or others who wish to practice new techniques. Restricted to SC mbrs with some prior basic training with the ice axe. All restricted trips now require everyone's complete medical info for the National Sierra Club. Send SC#, climbing resume, 2 SASE or email, H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson Co-ldr: Doug Mantle.

**May 27-30 Sat-Tue SMS TI: Sonora Pass Ski Camp:** Ski slopes and bowls around Sonora Pass, car camping overnight. 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: Leslie Hofherr. Asst: Lorene Samoska.

**Jun 22-25 Thur-Sun SMS, SPS MR: Miter (12,770'), Major General (12,400') and McAdie (13,680'):** Do the three M's out of Rock Creek. We explore new routes and non-listed peaks. From Cottonwood Lks trailhead via New Army Pass to basecamp in Rock Creek. Must be comfortable on high cl 3 rock and proficient with ice axe and crampons. All restricted trips now require everyone's complete medical info for the National Sierra Club. Send e-mail or SASE with experience and conditioning, SC#, phone #'s, \$5 permit fee to Leader: Reiner Stenzel. Asst Ldrs: Asher Waxman, Mark Goebel.



## Carson Peak (North Couloir)

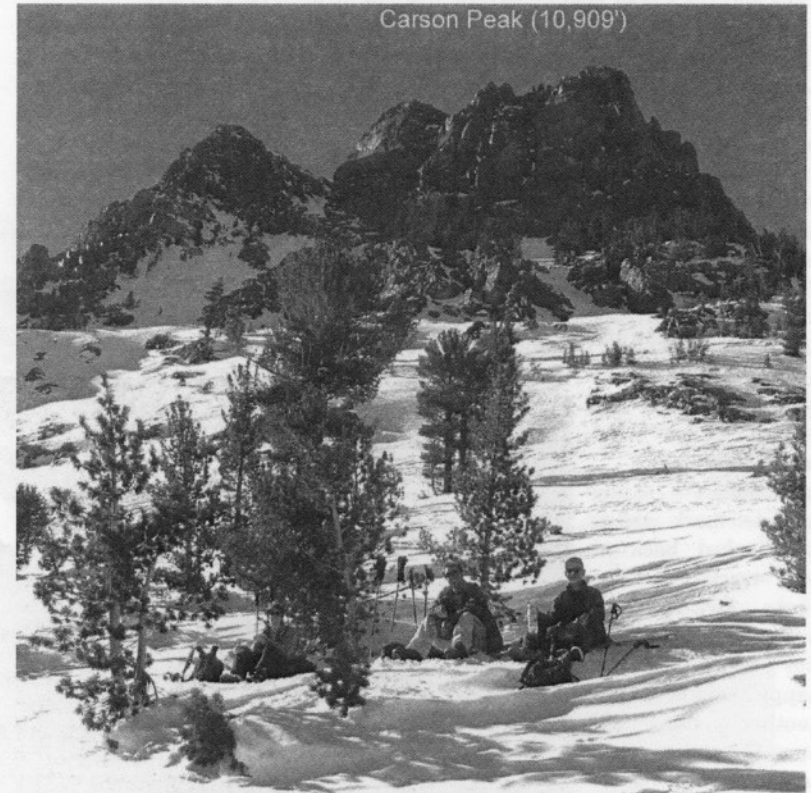
Jan 23, 2005 by Reiner Stenzel

On Sat, Jan 22, the SMS had a fine ski clinic at June Mtn, organized by Keith Martin with support from Owen Maloy, Andy Fried and myself. It was well attended and Urmas Franosh gave excellent ski clinics.

On Sunday, we had no specific agenda. Most people skied at Mammoth Mtn, but four of us (Leslie Hofherr, Mark Angevin, Marc Druyts, and myself) decided to do a half-day backcountry tour.



*North chute (Devils Slide) of Carson Peak*



*Lunch break below NE face of Carson Peak*

The day before I had spotted a great chute on the north side of Carson Peak. It runs approx. N-S parallel to Fern Creek, about 0.4mi west of the creek, and climbs steeply for about 1500 feet to a ridge half-way between Fern Lake and the summit. John Moynier calls it the "Devil's Slide" in his guide book "Backcountry skiing in the Sierra Nevada". Since the chute is mostly in the shade we expected (and found) some nice powder snow in it. Starting from the June Lake Road (S-158) near Fern Creek at 7,300' it took about 2 hours to skin up the chute in many switchbacks. At some places the kickturns on windcrust at 40 deg angles were dicey. It is rated as black/double black diamond terrain.

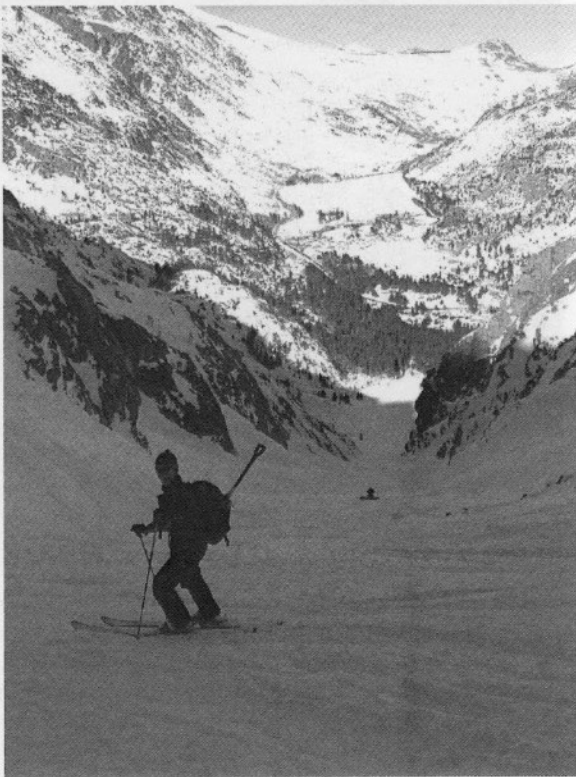
We had a great view from the top of the chute, overlooking Fern

Lake and the slopes leading to San Joaquin Mtn.

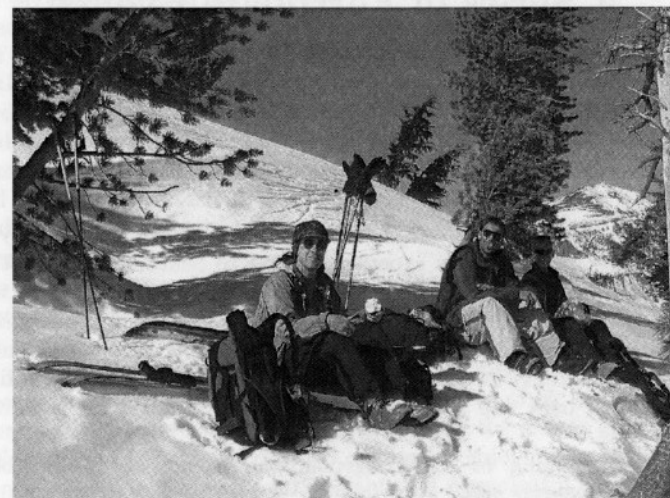
To the north was Mt Wood, which we had skied three years ago. One could also see the "poconip" (Paiute for freezing fog) over Mono Lake where two of us camped Sat night. A summit attempt to Carson Peak (10,900') was canceled due to the limited time and steepness of the terrain.

The ski run down the chute was exciting. Snowboarder Marc was in heaven, Leslie and Mark and Mark randonneed safely down and I had my fun with telejumps and turns.

We took many pictures and video clips of snowboarding, randonnee skiing and telemark skiing and looked back at our tracks in the chute. By 1pm we were safely back at the cars with a happy mood after another fine ski mountaineering adventure.



*Skiers in the Carson Peak chute looking down to Silver Lake*



*Lunch break on top of the chute. Leslie, Marc, and Mark*



*Marc carving in the Carson chute with his split board*

## A Series of Fortunate Events: Mitchell Peak, Sentinel Dome and the Tablelands

March 4-7, 2005 *by Harlin Suits*

Its satisfying to succeed on a backcountry project on which you earlier failed miserably. This was my experience skiing to Sentinel Dome—not the well-known nubbin on the south rim of Yosemite Valley, but the obscure nubbin on the south rim of the South Fork of the Kings River. Several years ago, my first attempt to reach Sentinel Dome bogged down in deep snow several miles short of the goal. This time, to sweeten the deal, I added an extra day and switched from an up and back trip to a loop trip that also sampled the high country of the Tablelands.

After camping in the Lodgepole parking lot, John Langbein, Rich Henke, Steve Cochran and I rose to find an inch of new snow on the ground and more on the way. Were we going to get dumped on like the previous attempt? The key to success was to make good progress on this first, bad-weather, day: the weatherman predicted sunshine for the remainder of our trip. By the time we began skiing up Twin Lakes trail, the snow had stopped, with patches of blue sky appearing.

Thanks to Johns GPS and Richs ability to discern snow-covered trails, we stayed on route through heavily forested terrain. We moved north over Cahoon Gap. The snow flurries returned several times more but never stayed long. The skiing was pleasant, through just a few inches of new snow. At 3:30 we crossed JO Pass. Below, the Central Valley brimmed with clouds. For that evenings campsite, we descended to Rowell Meadow in the basin between Kettle and Mitchell Peaks by 5:30. There we found a hole in the snowpack that exposed a trickle of water. Steve, the only person in plastic boots, graciously volunteered to wade into this swampy area several times to fill up our water bottles. Success: we had skied 9-10 miles.

Both our tents were equipped with homemade hanging propane/butane stoves. I marveled at how quickly these double-boiler contraptions heated water. The stoves helped us get away quickly the next morning: while the stove is cooking, the tent warms up and you can start packing in comfort even though its still cold outside. We left camp at 8:00 a.m.

Our first objective Saturday was to ski to the top of Mitchell Peak, At 10, 300 feet, the summit pokes just above timberline, giving awesome views of the Monarch Divide to the north, the Sierra crest to the east and the Mt. Silliman area to the south. Mitchell had been the farthest point reached on my

earlier attempt, and I felt the excitement of entering the unknown as we descended the north slope in nice powder.

Sentinel Ridge is a natural ski route, extending northeast from the summit of Mitchell gently downhill to Sentinel Dome. The dome is out of the way, but thats part of the appeal: Id never heard of anyone skiing there. As the ridge narrowed, we traversed slopes on one side or the other to avoid having to ski up and over bumps. With about 2 miles to go, we dropped our backpacks and continued unladen. At last the dome came into view. It seemed way down there, and the bald granite looked quite steep. Could we get up it? The final slopes leading to it were the best powder yet, about a foot deep under widely spaced trees.

So tiny from a distance, the dome looked impregnable as we approached its flanks: the two sides in profile were snow-plastered slab; the side toward us a vertical cliff. Undaunted, Rich kicked steps up to a wide chimney that split the face and, after a difficult mantel, disappeared from sight. About 10 minutes later we heard his summit whoop. The rest of us, loathe to try the move in wet ski boots, were content to let him uphold the groups honor.

We slogged back up the ridge to our packs, enjoying great views of the mile-high wall of Kings Canyon on the right and Sugarloaf Valley to the left. By the time we reached our packs the sun had set, so we pitched camp a little below the ridgetop at about 9000 feet.

The next morning we descended a south-trending spur of Sentinel Ridge into the Sugarloaf Creek drainage in preparation for our long climb up to the Tablelands. We were not looking forward to descending breakable crust, but found we could ski on top of the snowpack in most places. When we saw the enticing white expanse of Williams Meadow in the valley west of us we abandoned the ridge and made a beeline for easy ground.

Soon we had crossed the main fork of Sugarloaf Creek and were skinning up the broad, forested south-trending ridge between the South and East forks of Sugarloaf Creek. There are several parallel canyons that dead-end into the north wall of the Tablelands. A lot of them have significant avalanche slopes, but our chosen route looked pretty good on the map: just before the ridge gets craggy, a moderately angled ramp cuts southeast into the upper basin of the east fork at around 9600 feet. We reached the unnamed lake at the head of this canyon at 3:30. It seemed too early to camp, so we kept moving, ascending the obvious rounded buttress that exits the canyons southwest wall.

The angle steepened to about 35 degrees and the powder increased to more than a foot. This was the one place on the days route where a potential avalanche slope was unavoidable. Were two days of sun enough to stabilize the snow? Normally I would have stopped and dug a pit to evaluate the layers, but Steve was way ahead at this point, and he just steamed right up the hump with no dire consequences. Steve clinched the MVP award by breaking trail almost the entire climb, about 3400 vertical feet.



At the pass I scratched my head. Ahead of us was a broad snowy ridge, not the big drop into the Tablelands we were expecting. Soon we realized we had one more mini-pass to cross, a little over 11,000 feet. On the other side, the snow-plastered fangs of the Kaweah peaks came into view over the broad snowy basin of the Kaweah Rivers Marble Fork. To the south we recognized the popular ski peaks above Pear Lake Hut but saw no tracks on them. It was getting cold fast, but the advantage of being up high late in the day was an awesome light show as the peaks turned orange with alpenglow. There was no flat ground in sight for camping, but fortunately we found a suitable spot in a gully as darkness fell.

The next morning our exposed campsite got early sun. The ski downvalley was a lot of funfast conditions on frozen snow. We arrived at Pear Lake Hut as the occupants were finishing a late breakfast. We reached our cars at Wolverton mid-afternoon. It was a great trip, about 40 miles of varied terrain and only a few potential avalanche slopes. The deep snowpack made the forested terrain surprising free of obstacles such as down timber.

## The International Ski History Association

by Bud Halley

"I. S. H. A" - What is it?  
The International Ski History Association  
P.O. Box 644, Woodbury, CT 06798

And... WOLFGANG LERT. Who is he?

Pioneer in southern California skiing, crew-member with those who built the Mt. San Antonio Ski Hut, and coach of the UCLA Ski Team when we raced at Yosemite and Sun Valley back in the late 30's and early 40's before World War II. (current phone daytimes in the Bay Area: 650-991-5145)

Now....BUD HALLEY. Who is he?

We've met before: A time of "Ski Mountaineering Sharing" at a Mugelnoos meeting in Griffith Park, or at the Hut where I still have a locker. One Work Party I gave GIL ESTRADA copies of "SKIING HERITAGE" (I.S.H.A.) for the viewing of those at the Hut on such weekends. (909-624-8224)

My son, Jim, has this information. Should you have questions, his phone: 562-698-7872, jhalley@escapees.com.

Who else?

You can phone DAWSON'S BOOK STORE on Larchmont in Hollywood,

and order a copy of "PRAY FOR SNOW." INGRID P. WICKEN, author, wrote this "History of Skiing in Southern California." (Glen Dawson and I were two of those whom she turned to for information. GLEN DAWSON'S address is on our Mugelnoos mailing list. He and I occasionally get together.)

So why all the information for you and the future?

Oral histories are important.

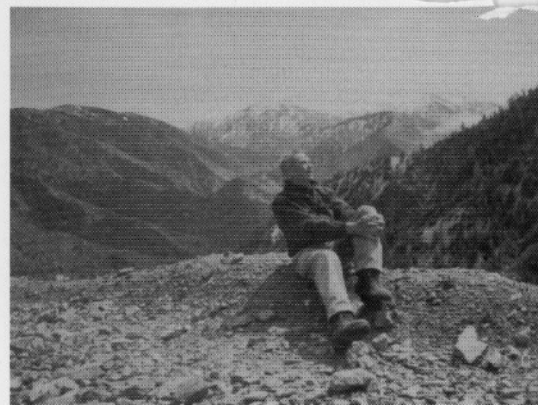
THE INTERNATIONAL SKI HISTORY ASSOCIATION has done a fine job in relaying information and establishing ski museums. Many are in the East, but recently a fine one is up at Mammoth. It's well worth a visit!

Wolfgang edited many western ski magazines. He is currently on the board of ISHA. His biography is on page 10 in Vol. 10, Number 1 (Sept. 1998). You can write ISHA to join or order back issues.

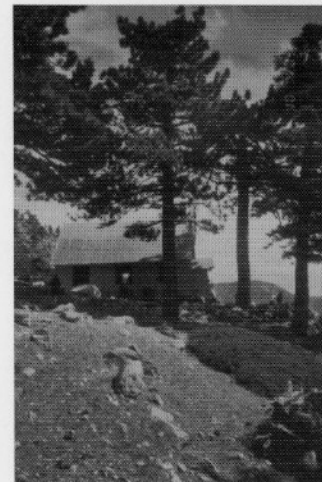
There's a section in every issue for "Reader's Responses." In Vol. 3, No.3, Sept. [redacted] of the UCLA Ski Team under the caption, "WOL [redacted]"

the Sa  
VAND

1937, and they followed [redacted] [redacted]



JBud Halley from Big Horn Mine on Baden Powell



of four articles I wrote about [redacted] together in #765 by ETHEL

began skiing at "Big Pines" in [redacted] deded my way down the hill. They have free passes for 70 year olds, and at 82, I more than qualify!

Bud Halley, 2005