

SKIING GOODE CANYON

By Alvin Walter

In an ongoing goal to climb and ski new routes and mountains at every opportunity, I planned to lead an SMS trip through Goode Canyon in the Mt. Baldy area after having made a solo exploratory trip to the top of the waterfall that drops into the challenging lower portion of the canyon. I know of no one who had ever done it and only one person who insisted I shouldn't try it, which is all I needed to cinch it as a 'must do' in my book.

I advertised it as suitable for experienced ski mountaineers with a "Spirit of Adventure". This drew my co-leader Angel Ocana and participants Cory Harelson and May Adachi who were willing to participate using the Baldy Hut as a base for the weekend of February 7-8, 2009.

There had recently been a substantial cold snowfall making it possible to begin our ski in 1 1/2 feet of new snow right at the trail head in Manker Flats. After climbing 2,000 feet to reach the hut, we took a short lunch break, left our overnight gear and headed to the top of West Ridge. In order to get a sneak preview of Goode Canyon, I suggested we make a powder run straight down to the waterfall.

The powder was awesome and we got drawn further to the south and deeper into the canyon than I had planned in order to follow the best powder line. When we regrouped and I checked the altimeter, it was clear we were well below the waterfall and we needed to head back up the sidewall of Goode Canyon. The way we just came down was far too steep to go straight up in the deep powder; so, we headed up the most reasonable way

to our right that should have brought us into the main gully of Goode Canyon.

The sky had darkened a bit and some new, tiny grapple-type precipitation had begun to fall. As we skinned higher, the slope steepened substantially and I packed my skis and lead a boot track up a 45 degree slope that crisscrossed a main chute that had turned into a steady river of flowing grapple that also was spilling off many ledges, giving us this feeling of being in a very fluid, albeit dry, medium.



When I reached a high prominent point and checked the map, I realized we were far west of where we wanted to be and the end of the daylight was drawing near. We were at the elevation we wanted; so, we began a long contour that took us late into the night. Fortunately, the sky cleared and we traveled by the light of a nearly full moon until

we reached West Ridge and saw the blinking beacons set out for us by Brad and some others at the Hut. From West Ridge, we all took turns carving first tracks on a pristine powder slope under the light of a brilliant moon that lit all of our spirits in the high adventure we all sought.

Sunday was to be the day to complete the Goode Canyon loop; however, the weather had deteriorated and the group was happy to do more first tracks in the bowl then ski all the way out to the cars via our track in. It was a great weekend, yet it left the Goode Canyon loop open to complete.

MUGELNOOS STAFF

EDITOR
MUGELMAILER

John Anderson
Pat Holleman

NEXT ISSUE

The April issue deadline is April 10, 2009. All letters, photos, slides, or articles should be sent to Mugelnoos editor, John Anderson, 21717 Evalyn Avenue, Torrance, CA 90503. Materials can be sent by CD or e-mailed to jaydeeday@yahoo.com. 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!

SMS WEB PAGE

The link is: <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/skint/>
Check out the web page for the latest SMS news

FROM THE EDITOR...

Sorry about the late February issue. Now it's the February/March issue. Work, family and skiing got in the way.

John

For Sale

Garmont Venus 25.5 new-in-the-box telemark boots \$300
Scarpa T1 Bumblebee with Raichle thermo liners 26.0 excellent condition \$150
Karhu Jax with hammerhead bindings 170 excellent condition \$300

Barbara Sholle (562)429-2647

OFFICERS

Chair: Scott Koepke	(310) 413-8087
Vice Chair: Steve Hessen	(562) 693-5012
Secretary: Randy Lamm	(310) 319-1947
Treasurer: Tom Marsh	(805)-498-9580
Programs: Keith Martin	(310) 316-7617
Outings: Jim Garvey	(310) 809-0792
Mugelnoos Editor: John Anderson	(310) 503-2542
MugelSpinner: Thomas Johansson	
Conservation: Kathy Crandall	(661) 255-9661
Mugelmailer: Pat Holleman	(310) 374-4654
Asst. MugelSpinner; Reiner Stenzel	(310) 454-8787
Asst. MugelSpinner: Owen Malloy	(760) 934-9511

SMS LEADERS

SMS Leaders and Officers:

Kathy Crandall (M)
Newhall
661-255-9661
skimeup@gmail.com

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

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

Leslie Hofherr (Prov I)
Pleasanton
925-422-8255
hofherr2@llnl.gov

Pat and Gerry
Holleman (M)
Manhattan Beach
310-374-4654
patngerry247@verizon.net

Thomas Johansson
Newport Beach
Thomasjohansson
@sbcglobal.net

Heiko Knapp
Los Angeles
310-999-9538
heiko.knapp@web.de
Scott P. Koepke
Los Angeles
(O) 213-623-7820
(Cell) 310-413-8087
SPKoepke@aol.com

Randy Lamm (I)
Santa Monica
310-319-1947
randy.lamm@yahoo.com

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

Keith Martin (M)
Palos Verdes
Estates
310-316-7617
kwmartin@verizon.net

Tom Marsh (I)
Thousand Oaks
805-498-9580
qrtmoon@aol.com

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

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

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

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

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

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 \$15 per year payable to "SMS." Due in October. Subscription payments are not tax deductible as charitable contributions.

Calendar of Events

All trips sponsored Ski Mountaineers unless otherwise indicated.

SMS/OTHER SECTION TRIPS

Apr 11 Sat Ski Mountaineers

T1: San Joaquin Ridge: Join us for a fun day starting in Mammoth Lakes near the gondola building. We will go up San Joaquin Ridge toward SJ peak. Intermediate skiing ability required. Bring metal-edged skis, skins, lunch and other essentials. Email with h/w phones, carpool info. Ldrs: Barbara and Dave Sholle.

Apr 21 Tues Monthly Meeting Meet your ski friends, discuss trips and be entertained by slide/video program. Newcomers welcome. 7:30 pm Griffith Park Ranger Station Auditorium (4730 Crystal Springs Dr, Los Angeles).

May 8 & 10 Fri-Sun Ski Mountaineers

TI: Rock Creek Introductory Ski Tour: Car camp, ski slopes of beautiful Little Lakes Valley and surrounding area. Intro SMS day tours aimed at intermediate or better skiers with some backcountry experience. Metal-edged skis & skins required. Send experience, contact, rid share info to Ldr: Mike Seiffert. Co-Ldr: Lorene Samoska

May 19 Tues Monthly Meeting Meet your ski friends, discuss trips and be entertained by slide/video program. Newcomers welcome. 7:30 pm Griffith Park Ranger Station Auditorium.

LEVEL I AVALANCHE COURSE

The WTC is sponsoring a Level 1 Avalanche course on April 17-19 given by Kurt Wedberg, founder of Sierra Mountaineering International. The Friday through Sunday course will start in Bishop on Friday, moving to the mountains between Bishop and Mammoth on Saturday and Sunday. This course Level 1 is certified by the American Institute for Avalanche Safety and Research (AIARE). It introduces the foundation for snow and terrain evaluation. The basics of snow crystals, metamorphosis, and how slope angles and aspects affect the stability of snow are all discussed. We also discuss rescue techniques including the use of avalanche beacons and probes.

Tel (760) 872-4929 Fax (760) 872-2489 or email Kurt for more info. Email: info@sierramountaineering.com

SKI MOUNTAINEERING BOOK REVIEW

By Mark Goebel

"THE EDGE OF NEVER – A skier's story of life, death and dreams in the world's most dangerous mountains" by William A. Kerig, 2008, 254 pgs, Stone Creek Publications (\$15.95 paperback).

William Kerig, a professional skier for ten years, is a co-producer of the recent film *Steep*, a documentary about big-mountain skiing, and a writer, editor, and filmmaker. In the *Edge of Never* he tells of his dream to film the story of big mountain skiing and the people who risk their lives challenging steep and dangerous alpine faces and couloirs. He introduces us to fifteen-year-old Kye Peterson, a rising ski star, and the son of Trevor Peterson, a legendary pioneer of big mountain skiing who died in an avalanche in 1996, while skiing above Chamonix, France, the so-called Death Sport Capital of the World. In a gripping style, Kerig tells of traveling with a film crew to Chamonix in 2005, and the filming of Kye skiing the run that killed his father. Kye is assisted by a band of extreme skiers that includes Glen Plake and Mike Hattrup (skiing stars in Greg Stump's 1980's epic ski movie, *The Blizzard of Aahhhs*), Anselme Baud, a famous French guide and extreme skier (his 24 year old son was killed by a falling serac while skiing the Gervasutti Couloir), and one of Chamonix's best guides, Stephane "Fanfan" Dan.

Even with these "experts" managing the action, the reader realizes there is no guarantee of a successful outcome. My hands were sweating while reading descriptions of descending 50+-degree icy slopes, where rocks, cliffs, and avalanches are a constant threat. Also it's an interesting read on the difficulties of filming in alpine conditions, and background on the film *Steep*. The book can easily be purchased via the author's website, <http://theedgeofnever.com/>, and the website also includes trailers for the forthcoming movie.

Note: Mark found this book in his local library

(Old) Letters to Mugelnoos-circa 1938 (nobody sends us letters these days)

LETTERS TO MUGELNOOS

NORMAN GLYDE, who has been acting as custodian of Glacier Lodge this winter, writes the Mugelnoos of the fine skiing he has had in the region at the head of Big Pine Creek. He made two trips up into the upper basins of the South Fork of Big Pine, "a region never before visited by any rider of the slippery slats." Just after the holidays, Dave Brower, Morgan Harris, Arthur Blake, and Norman Clyde explored the North Palisade Glacier and climbed Mount Winchell. Norman reports that, due to unusually heavy snowfall, there should be good "corn snow" skiing in the high country throughout May.

(Continued from page 1)

Saturday, Feb, 28, 2009 I got a few friends together to attempt the Goode Canyon loop in a day. Dr. Scott Bornheimer, Cedric Ma, and Heiko Knapp were enthusiastic and ready. We were blessed with good weather and still had plenty of snow from 3 weeks earlier. Scott paced out ahead and by the time Cedric and I got to the Hut in less than 2 hours, Scott radioed back that he was



on West Ridge and going for a run on the Dare. I positioned myself below the Dare and got an excellent movie of his run that would have made a nice scene in a Warren Miller movie. By the time I got on West Ridge, Scott caught up and was headed to Girley Man's chute for another run. Just as he was ready, I broke out my little movie camera and caught another descent down the 50 degree slope -- from the top this time; and again, it would have made a fine scene for the big screen.

Our scheduled route for Goode Canyon was to top out at West Baldy Peak, head south along a ridge, then drop in one of the classy tree-speckled side slopes into Goode Canyon.

We all met at the top for a snack break and the fine view out to Catalina and San Clemente Islands and, of course, the spectacular-looking backside of Baldy that we would have to save for another day. A slight breeze kept the top cool while the sun had ripened the snow to perfection. The long rolling run along the ridge in totally untracked terrain that we had all to ourselves was like savoring the strawberry and whipping cream of an ice cream Sundae knowing there was still much more good stuff to go.

When we reached our Goode Canyon drop in point, I bolted out ahead and hooted in ecstasy as I took in all the sensations of the wilderness, terrain, snow and good company. Then I finally stopped to film Scott, Cedric and Heiko in each of their distinctive styles racing to-

ward me - then beside - then beyond and below me. I know that if I ever wanted to be a cinematographer, I was certainly in the right place and right time to film a scene that would be enjoyed by anyone who had a passion for the mountains. Our selected drop-in offered changes in aspects and corresponding changes in snow texture that was like adding more of your favorite toppings to that already delicious strawberry Sundae. About $\frac{3}{4}$ the way down, Scott, Cedric and Heiko headed over a rib into a slightly different drainage while I headed straight down to the top of the waterfall area that I knew. From my perspective, the cascading waterfall route I was taking was totally ski-able as long as I worked my way slowly around the obstacles and soft snow. Then I checked via radio with the others to find they were already 700 feet below me on firm snow. When I caught up with them, I saw the nice tracks they left on the solid old avy debris slope.

From there we made our way through more avy fields and some soft areas on south-facing aspects that were pulling apart, giving them a glaciated look. A little further down, we were almost waterskiing and creating waves of slush as we pulled our turns until we ran out of snow at about the 5,500 foot level. At that point we packed our skis and did a little trail blazing for the next 100 vertical feet until we reached Baldy's San Antonio Creek and headed back up through some lush areas until we reached the road where it was a short 15 minute walk back to our cars.

For me, I was very satisfied to do something that most would never consider and for my friends, I believe that



they got to experience that "Spirit of Adventure" that brings out a much fuller satisfaction of life in all of us who have made the mountains a part of our lives.

Front Point Skiing the Local Mountains By Craig Connally

The phone rang at 7:30 Sunday morning. It was Wally.

"Wally. Where are you?"

"Wrightwood," was the answer. Couldn't be good



news.

"Ice ax and crampons? Sure, Wally, I can bring those to you. But where are yours? Your car? The car keys are *where*?" It wasn't good news.

I hurriedly collected the gear and packed the wife, the kid, and the dog into the Beemer and we were off to Wrightwood bright and early.

Seems Wally Drake and Heiko Knapp had planned to ski Mt. Baden-Powell in March of 2008, but instead of creamy corn they got a late start and encountered unexpectedly icy conditions. After meandering around for a time looking for a feasible way to the top, they changed plans and began looking for a safe way down. And the sun grew ever lower. And the ice grew ever harder.

Abandoning any hope of putting on gear and skiing out of their predicament, and having left their ice axes and crampons in the car at Vincent Gap, the intrepid pair soon found themselves unable or unwilling to move up, down, or sideways. They clung to some shrubbery above the steep, polished northeast couloir and dialed 911 in fading daylight.

The rescue helicopters soon arrived, one to lower The Man and one to hold the light. The Man was unwilling to unclip and also unwilling to rescue Wally and Heiko's gear, so the mountaineers were winched up and their gear was left lashed to the shrub--skis, poles, and packs.

On the ground at Vincent Gap it was immediately abundantly apparent that Wally's car keys were still attached to that handy little clip in the top pocket of his backpack. Fortunately, another Man was willing to give them a lift to the last motel room in Wrightwood.

On Sunday we put on our ice gear, Wally and Heiko with axes and me with poles, and, while the family rollicked in the sunlight, we trudged up the mountain in the cool shade. The ice was still thoughtfully bullet-proof after a cold night. The photo shows Heiko in the background and Wally sampling the ski slope with his front points. I could-

Noos you can Yoos

In January we reported Joy Goebel's ski accident injuries. Mark reports: "Joy's recovery has been remarkably quick. The cast and splint came off in early February. She has had physical therapy to improve range of motion and strength in her wrists. Full mending of the fractures takes about 1 year. She is back to work, back going to the gym, and she is anxious to get out for some hikes and to ski again soon."

Randy Lamm reports: "the next SMS leader -- Arlo Joseph Barkan Lamm was born 2/17/09 6lbs, 12 oz." Congrats to Randy and his wife, Bronwyn Barkan.



The next generation of SMS leader is here, Arlo Lamm (great ski name). Has he signed up for the basic training course yet??? He'll have to wait until October now. There will be a 50 year age gap between current and future leaders.

THERE'S ONE AT EVERY WORK PARTY**

THE SUNDAY-APPROOXY ADMIRER



This laborer, who usually travels in Double Dates, arrives at the Hut, smiling heartily, about noon on Sundays. He is very clean and shaved, and all dressed up in alluring little Outing Outfits that make the laboring class look like something out of the cellar.

He shows his guests about the Hut & grounds with a jovial air of personal pride. After a prolonged and appetizing lunch, the Admirer spends a constructive hour standing where the paint and brecc-and-bit are apt to fall on him, making broadly commendatory remarks about how marvelous the Hut will be if it is finished by ski season. Perhaps he chews a nail or leans on a hoe.

He then hurries back to Los Angeles for a bath and an early buffet supper, where he speaks with quiet pride of having put in the day at a work party.

** Any resemblance of these characters to any person, living or (justly) dead, is wholly accidental. All Persons and events depicted herein are entirely fictitious.

FEBRUARY SPECIALS!

- Hickory Skis, Bindings, Poles \$10.95
- Ski Shoes, \$10. and over, reduced 20%
- Norwegian Skis reduced 25%
- Austrian Bindings reduced 30%
- Austrian Knee Length Sox reduced to 95¢ and \$1.45
- Metal edges put on for \$6.50
- See our bargain table!
- VAN DEGRIFTS SKI HUT, 607 West Seventh St., Vt. 6275

THE SCHEDULED TRIP TO CRESTVIEW will be a Bridal Party. The Jenders will be the newly married Mr. and Mrs. Bob (Luella) MacConaghy.

Congratulations to Wolfgang Lert who was recently made a member of Phi Beta Kappa, honorary scholarship society.

In Mugelnoos 71 Years Ago

Mugelnoos #4, February 17, 1938

WHERE TO EAT. A Guide to Better Eating Houses on Foothill Blvd. This bit of constructive information was compiled especially for the benefit of the tired and hungry skier who weekly wends his way homeward after a week end at the San Antonio Ski Hut. It is hoped that this Guide will serve to solve the important problem of where or where not to eat which is now so often discussed by carloads of skiers all the way from Claremont to Santa Monica as they eagerly inspect each wayside inn along Foothill Blvd.

DICK'S CAFE, Azusa. Generally acclaimed by passing motorists as the ultimate in good food and Southern hospitality. Conveniently located just west of the main intersection in Azusa, this delightful spot offers excellent meals at 50¢ together with outstanding service by a host of congenial waitresses hailing from the Lone Star State. L.L. Dickerson, Prop., has assembled an amazing group of Texas lassies who would gladly serve up a boiled ski bood and a toaster Klister sandwich if they thought it would make you happy.

THE OXFORD INN, Claremont. Nestled in a beautiful grove of orange trees with a good view of the San Antonio skiing slopes out the rear window, this picturesque eating establishment boasts a hoat who will invariably interupt your meal to inquire if you are enjoying the food. If wearing ski boots, exercise caution in entering this place because the slippery floors have been the cause of great embarassment and near accidents. You will find the Oxford Inn just at the western limit of Claremont. Good food, but inclined to be over-crowded Sunday nights.

THE BROWN MUG, Claremont. Not especially elabotate, but possesses a rather quaint atmosphere enhanced by frequent visits of attractive students from nearby Scripps College. Three blocks west of Scripps, in the heart of the smudge pot region.

There are of course a great number of additional eating establishments of merit, but it is doubtful if you could improve on Dick's Cafe in Azusa. Wilson's, The Sportsman's Tavern, Edwards, and a host of other cafes offer quite a variety to the weary skier but the Mugelnoos still thinks Dick's is the greatest attraction of them all. Mention the Mugelnoos and maybe the Editor can swing a deal for a free meal before the winter season has passed.



**PRIVATE TRIP REPORTS:
SEND 'EM IN**

"Back in the day" SMS group trips were the norm and massively well attended. Today, with inexpensive and extensive transportation and probably tighter time schedules, a lot of our backcountry skiing is done on private trips. If you take an interesting private trip, let Mugelnoos know about it. It's not much of an effort these days to type it up on the computer and email it and some digital pictures to me. We all need the beta.

RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO MUGELNOOS NOW.

Help keep the longest running ski publication in North America going...

To renew, send a check for \$15 made payable to "Ski Mountaineers" to the Mugelmailer:

Pat Holleman, 1638 6th St., Manhattan Beach, CA



LOS ANGELES CA 90001

06 APR 2009 PM 3 T



Mugelnoos

Pat Holleman
1638 6th Street
Manhattan Beach,
CA 90266

Richard L. Henke
409 South Lucia
Redondo Beach, CA 90277-
SMS RCS R 2009