



# THE MUGELNOOS

No. 539 - November 16, 1977

A newsheet published by the Ski Mountaineers and Rock Climbing Sections of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter. Send subscriptions & address changes to: Phil Bruce, 8544 Eucalyptus, Downey, 90243. Subscriptions \$2 per year. This is a 4 page issue.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS TO MUGELNOOS PAST DUE

Send in your two bucks to Phil Bruce (address above) if not already done. Otherwise, this may be your last issue! Mugelnoos subscription is required to maintain section membership in SMS & RCS. Delinquent subscribers list appears next month.

#### FALL RITUAL: ENTER THE SKI MOUNTAINEERS

May thru October, the Rock Climbing Section handles Mugelnoos programming. The Ski Mountaineers enter the picture November, and continue thru April. The traditional November program will be a nostalgia shot arranged by Barbara Lilley - namely John Wedberg's movies of aerial scenes flying the Sierra during the fabulous Winter of '69. We hope, via this program, to conjure up some spirits that'll dump tons of the white stuff on our mountains this coming Winter.

The RCS resumes its practice climbs and instructional sessions in December. Although the first session is already filled, beginners should contact and RCS officer for details on up-coming classes.

The Ski Mountaineers will have many one day beginners ski tours as soon as adequate local snow permits. Those interested in joining SMS on a scheduled overnight Sierra tour should receive an equipment checkout (½ hr prior to any Mugelnoos meeting), and appear on a local checkout tour to determine applicants ability and condition. SMS ski tours can be fairly strenuous, and entail skiing with packs in varying snow conditions. This is alpine skiing, not Nordic, and applicants are required to know how to ski (SMS does not teach skiing).

#### JOIN THE GREAT TRANS JUNEAU ICE CAP EXPEDITION

Plan your summer trips now! Here's an idea worthy of every skiers consideration.

The Sierra Clubs Mountaineering Committee, in conjunction with the University of Alaska, is planning an extensive summer ski expedition. Great Trans Juneau Ice Cap Expedition participants will begin their trek on the upper reaches of the Mendenhall Glacier near Juneau, Alaska. They will ski a protected route around the first two icefalls and continue up onto the Juneau Icefield. Traveling along, they will pass the Mendenhall Towers, Rhino Peak, Princess, The Duke, Emperor, Cathedral, Matterhorn, Flower and Knowles Peak in the Taku Range, as they ski on to famous Devils Paw. The route is virtually crevasse-free, with little elevation gain or loss. Duration will be 12 days. The expedition will either terminate at Atlin Lake, or slightly different variation might close at Skagway. Dates will be June 3 to 15.

Expedition leader will be Steve Johnson, instructor at the U of Alaska Juneau, who has arranged for participants to receive U. of A. credit for taking the trip. Credits will be awarded under heading "Expeditionary Leadership & Planning". Cost will entail round trip flight to Juneau, tuition and expense fees to the U. of A. Participants furnish their own skis, ice-axe, crampons, equipment. University provides ropes. Two airdrops are planned. Participants need to be in top physical and mental condition, have at least rounded basic mountaineering experience. Most important will be the ability to live 12 days on snow and ice, no running water, no greenery, and ski continuously for 6 - 8 hours daily, unless weather forces them into tents. For further information, send resume of mountaineering experience to Norman Kingsley (SCMC Chr.), Box 262, La Canada CA 91011 along with self-addressed stamped envelope. Or, write directly to Steve Johnson, c/o U.A.S.E. Senior College, Box 1447, Juneau AK 99802, also enclosing a s.s.s.e.

MUGELNOOS STAFF

EDITOR . . . . . Norman Kingsley  
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SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$2.00 per year

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NEXT ISSUE: December 21, 1977

DEADLINE: Friday, Dec. 16th or earlier

RCS ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

At a recent meeting, RCS ballots were tabulated and the new slate made known. Andy Fried assumes the 'Chair'. Al Carlsson, Vice-Chairman, and Dave Perkins as Secretary-Treasurer. Committee heads are as follows: History: John Ripley; Dick deRusha continues as Safety Cmte. head; Equipment: Phil Bruce; Training Co-Chairs are Ron Masters and Phil Bruce. Other committee appointments have not been finalized. They will appear in the next edition of Mugelnoos. Meantime, we wish Andy, Al and Dave much success in continuing the tradition of RCS leadership.

CALENDAR

Nov. 19 RCS (t) Sespe Gorge, Wing & Nissen  
 476-4398  
 Nov. 19 SC Mtrng Cmte. nat'l meeting, AnCh  
 HQ, Kingsley 790-4275  
 Nov. 21 AnCh Schedule deadline, get your  
 writeups in prior date  
 Nov. 25 RCS (t) Joshua Tree, Campell &  
 27 Moore, 286-9751  
 Dec. 3 RCS (t) Stony Pt class, deRusha  
 661-9924  
 Dec. 10 San Antonio Hut, Len Bayless  
 11  
 Dec. 18 RCS (t) Mt. Rubidoux class, Russ  
 295-9703  
 Dec. 18 SMS Alpine Intro Tour, Wedberg  
 472-6768  
 Dec. 21 MUGELNOOS meeting, 7:30 Lemon  
 Grove, "Juneau Ice-Cap" Norman  
 Kingsley (eqpt check 7:00pm)

MUGELNOOS MEETING SPOT CHANGE

Effective January 1978, some important changes occur in Mugelnoos meeting dates & location.

The third Tuesday of each month, beginning with January 16 becomes new Mugelnoos day. The location shifts to the auditorium of the L.A. Dept. of Water & Power, 111 North Hope St., at 7:30pm. This is located directly across Hope St from the Music Center between Temple and First streets. Parking in a guarded parking area is available free. (B&B/FW)

FOR SALE

Head STD Skis size 190cm with Marker Simplex toes, Snap-Lock cables, touring plates - \$25.00 plus Rotomat TR Heels & Look GT toes \$45.00 contact Mark Goebel 820-1962

THIRTYNINE YEAR ERA ENDS

Ruth D. Mendenhall, Mugelnoos Chairman since early 1938, announced her resignation. John Ripley assumes her post as new Mugelnoos chair.

Except for a short hiatus during the war years (WWII), Ruth has 'mothered' the RCS/SMS newsheet. Before the war, Ruth edited all issues, sometimes as often as every two weeks. On behalf of all Mugelnoos editors and readers, past, present and future, we commend Ruth for an outstanding job above and beyond the call -

MENDENHALL TO EDIT AMER. ALPINE NEWS

The American Alpine Club announced the resignation of Chris Jones as AAC News editor, and the appointment of Ruth D. Mendenhall to the editorship. Ruth had been serving as AAC Membership committee chair, and assumes her new responsibility January 1978. (NK)vi(RDM)

BRIDGEPORT MUSEUM PRAISED

A remarkably good 'pioneer' museum is tucked away near the Bridgeport courthouse (admission free). It displays just about everything from old shoes and mining equipment to gorgeous beaded baskets made by the Paiute natives. To find the museum, housed in an 1880 school building, turn right just north of the courthouse; then turn left after one short block. It is flanked outside by old wagons, etc. (RDM)

(Ed. note: there's one in Independence, too)

FOR SALE: two French 'Godille' mtrng skis, one 185cm, one 195cm, Silvretta bindings, cables \$15 ea. 790-4275

BOFFO RCS PICNIC

Over seventy people turned out with appetites and various gourmet dishes for the annual RCS Picnic/Pot luck feast and climb. Despite somewhat ambiguous instructions, there was ample food for all. Many routes were climbed during the day, some almost continually. Festivities broke up around four, and most went home in good spirits. Strangely, some people forgot items around the eating area. Among the 'forgotten ones' were a Mary Hartman doll, a grill, and numerous items of clothing. Anyone missing their doll or feeling slightly under-dressed, please contact Andy Fried. (AF)

'LEARN THE ROPES' COMPLETES SEVENTH YEAR

Nov. 6 saw another concentrated one day 'Learn the Ropes' class complete Class 4 training with RCS'er Bob Samoano helping as instructor. Many students indicated a desire in furthering their skills so as to become eligible for RCS training & membership.

## CLIMB THE SOVIET PAMIRS

The USSR's Mountaineering section of the Central Sports Committee has invited the Sierra Club Mountaineering Committee to send a team to either the Pamir or Caucasus mountains during the summer of '78.

The Clubs Mountaineering Committee has expressed a preference for the Pamir area, and is now prospecting for suitable applicants.

Sierra Club mountaineers experienced in high altitude snow, ice and rock interested in joining this Soviet-sponsored Pamir climbing camp can obtain further information from the Clubs national mountaineering committee. (Local members, Dee, Fried, Goebel, Kingsley (Chr.), McRuer, R. Mendenhall, Shinno, Wédberg)

The December '75 edition of 'Summit' had an article by Richard Hechtel describing the Pamir camp and its activities, dangers, terrain and scope of possibilities. Candidates are urged to read this article before sending inquiries.

Cost entails round trip air fare to Moscow. The USSR then levies additional \$1,100 to \$1,400 inland travel and camp costs, depending upon which program the SCMC decides to participate in. Deadline for notification of Soviet authorities as to number and names, addresses of participants is January 5, '78.

## "BERG-ZWERG" KILLED

Heini Holzer, tiny chimney-sweep known as "Berg-Zerg" (mountain-midget" died in a 1,200 foot ski-fall on the 12,993 ft. Roseggipfel, in the Bernina range. Holzer was to be the subject of an article by your current editor for Ski magazine. The 4' 11" Holzer was an early climbing companion, and in the late '60s accompanied Reinhold Messner on some epic ascents in their native 'Suedtirol'. In fact, Tiny Heini was one of the few people, outside of Peter Habeler, that Messner would team up with (prefers to solo all). Heini began making ascents of major eastern and western Alps peaks in the late '60s, lugging his skis along. From the summit, he'd then make the descent on his 'rutscherl' (Boards). In this fashion he descended the Piz Bianco, Bernina, Monte Rosa, Montblanc and many others. Heini became addicted to high-speed ski-descents. The more he made, and he hardly ever even took a fall, the greater his addiction became. He wanted so badly to ski down Everest, but could not raise the necessary finances to realize his dream. Holzer was never hurt, either on rock, ice or snow. When he finally took the big fall, it was his first and last. Holzer was buried in his home village near Meran and Bozen, Suedtirol, Italy.

## SYLVAIN SAUDAN TRIUMPHS

The Swiss mountaineer and skier Sylvain Saudan, surpassed all his previous downhill exploits on couloirs, faces and flanks in the Alps and North America by skiing off the summit of Kashmir's 23,403-ft high Nun Kun. Saudan proudly pointed out that the job was done without oxygen. Unlike the Japanese-skier who parachuted down a couloir on Everest, Saudan got down by making hundreds of fast turns. It took Saudan two expeditions over a two-year period to achieve his exploit.

Saudan, with photog Del Mulkey to document the descent, made two tries for the summit. Finally success. Saudan changed into his downhill gear and bounded off the peak through thin air. After a four hour run, he was back at base camp.

What did 'The Skier of the Impossible' learn from all this? "It was total adventure. My skis and thoughts just didn't coincide like they do at lower altitudes in the Alps. I could not feel the skis in the same way. My thinking slowed down. I was out of rhythm. There was strong avalanche danger, particularly in the late afternoon; and the final pitches were full of crevasses. Just before camp I had to climb into one crevasse and, while standing on a snow bridge, chinned myself up the other side." (MG via Mtn Gazette)

## "Boomer" McClure Killed on Matterhorn

Steep-mountain skier Robin McClure (First Time Down Mt. Owen, '75) and photog/climber Glenn Warren Conarroe were killed July 16 during an attempt to ski the 4,505 m (14,867') Matterhorn.

There were no direct witnesses to the accident, but the circumstances indicate that McClure had not yet begun his descent when the two fell almost 4,000 ft. from the summit to the glacier below.

According to accounts received in Jackson, Wyo., where both men lived, the two talked briefly with two German climbers at the summit and informed them of McClure's intent to ski down. The two Germans apparently moved off the summit to watch McClure's run. As they did, they heard movement of snow and then saw the two men fall. The Germans recalled that one man was taking pictures of the other when the higher one slipped. When the other tried to catch him, he was knocked off and both fell off. (MG via 'Skiing Scene')

## SAFETY COMMITTEE CAMERA

The RCS Safety Committee is recipient of a camera, purchased so as to record for future reference the look of triumph on students faces as they complete their safety test (this will also ease associating the name with the face when membership applications are received a year or two later). The camera is of the inexpensive instant type. Unfortunately, when demonstrated at the store, it gave the subject a slightly greenish tint. In view of its intended use however, it was felt that no one would notice this slight malaise. (AF)

## CLARENCE KING TRIP

As dawn broke over Union Valley, sleepy RCS members Wing, Brandsma, Fried and guest John Parker looked up to see the surrounding peaks covered with snow. Undaunted, they set off promptly 2 or 3 hours later. Soon after starting up the trail, they encountered talus, then talus covered with wet snow. Shortly below Golden Trout Lake, it was decided that in view of the slightly less than ideal conditions (and sagging enthusiasm) the trip would be canceled. In view of the overwhelming response to this trip, it will probably not be rescheduled in the future. (AF)

## SKI MOUNTAINEERS SECTION, Alpine Ski Touring Schedule '77 - '78

Dec. 18	Local Introd. Alpine Ski Tour	* J. Wedberg	472-6768
Jan. 8 '78	Local Introd. Alpine Ski Tour	M. Goebel	820-1962
Jan. 14-15	Mammoth Introd. Alpine Ski Tour/Skiing	" "	" "
Jan. 28-29	Pear Lake Hut - (second choice)	G. Shinno	664-1534
Feb. 4 - 5	Pear Lake Hut - (first choice)	" "	" "
Feb. 12	Local Introd. Alpine Ski Tour	W. Davie	390-3938
Feb. 18-19	Mt. San Antonio Ski Hut	* J. Wedberg	472-6768
Feb. 26	Local Introd. Alpine Ski Tour	I. Lieberman	391-6076
Mar. 4 - 5	Mt. San Antonio Ski Hut	* J. Wedberg	472-6768
Mar. 12	Local Introd. Ski Tour	W. Boge	781-4576
Mar. 18-19	Mt. Morgan via Rock Creek, joint w/SPS	M. Goebel	820-1962
Apr. 1 - 2	San Geronio Wilderness	B. Feldmann	527-0406
Apr. 15-16	Union Valley (car camp)	G. Shinno	664-1534
Apr. 22-23	Convict Lake area/Mammoth skiing	**R. Shepherd	838-9617
Apr. 29-30	Pear Lake Hut	C. Wilts	255-9521
May 13-14	Thompson Ridge (Ski Mountaineer Peak)	B. Lilley	886-4154
May 20-21	San Joaquin Peak/Mammoth skiing	M. Omberg	798-2548
May 27-29	Ritter Range	M. Goebel	820-1962
June 3 - 4	Rock Creek	*J. Wedberg	472-6768

\*before 8pm \*\* Tentative

## SHORT TAKES FROM SKI MOUNTAINEERS CENTRAL CMTE MEETING Oct 31

Attending: Cliff Cameron, Bill Feldmann, Mark Goebel, Barbara Lilley, Geo. Shinno. Latter reported cash and assets keep SMS solvent. SMS pins to sell for \$3, patches for \$2. Announcement made of Mugelnoos meeting change to 3rd Tuesday at DWP. Notices will be released in 'Southern Sierran' to reach as many attendees as possible.

If approval of new by-laws by SMS membership vote, and agreement of Snow Touring Committee, these two will merge to form a "Wilderness skiing Section" with one set of officers. There will be two seperate outings committees, one for Nordic, one for Ski-Mountaineers outings. The latter will function just as it has before, and these committees would be incorporated into the by-laws, as would the current Mugelnoos Committee. Snow Touring will hopefully adopt Mugelnoos as their newsletter, also. There will be further meetings of both groups, with merger target date of Nov. 1978. (Comments and questions should be directed to Mark Goebel)

Thanks to Ruth Mendenhall for purchasing Nate Clarks Sierra Club book and donating it to AnChap. on behalf of Mugelnoos; also for her many years of service to Mugelnoos. Skiers need to help remove plane wreckage from Parker Canyon: contact Bill Feldmann if interested.

Mugelnoos Programs are tentatively scheduled as follows:

Wed. Nov. 16 - Movie, "Winter of '69" by John Wedberg  
 Wed. Dec. 21 - Slides, "Climbing on the Juneau Icecap" by Norman Kingsley  
 Tues. Jan. 17 - Avalanches, by Mark Goebel  
 Tues. Feb. 14 - The Japanese Alps, by George Shinno  
 Tues. Mar. 14 - Helicopter Skiing/Sierra Ski Tours, by Bill Feldmann  
 Tues. Apr. 18 - Climbing in the Wind Rivers, by Cliff Cameron

Committee Chairmen for the 1977-78 season are:

Mugelnoos: John Ripley; Projection: John Wedberg; Ski Test: Steve Wilkie; Ski Mountaineering: Chuck Wilts

There will be no formal SMS Banquet this year. Note: the central committee meeting was also attended by Don Barcus, who represented the Snow Touring committee in the merger discussions. For more up-to-date information on above programs, contact person listed as 'program arranger' for that particular night. (BL)