



No. 550-October 17, 1978

A newsheet published by and for the Ski Mountaineers and Rock Climbing Sections of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter. Send address changes and subscriptions (\$2.00) to Phil Bruce, 8544 Eucalyptus, Downey, 90242.4 page issue.

CLIMBING TRIP STARTS WITH A BANG

13 climbers showed up Sat. Sept. 23 (the first day of hunting season) for an exploratory trip to the Needles. All published information seemed to list only routes of 5.7 and above. As it turned out there are many things of all levels that need only to be identified. Sat. AM saw Kaplan & Callow as well as Neuner & Baker on Charlitan Needle. Ripley & Fried found a good beginners route on Magician. Others climbed various unidentified routes.

Sun. a party (Russ, Bagdon & DeRusha) went to nearby Dome Rock and reported it to be worthy of a trip in itself. Sun. saw Abe & Helen Siemand do a route on the Magician as did Baker & Neuner.

After the climb ended on Sunday a group scouted the area of Kern Slab near Kernville deciding that it also might be worth a trip. All of the climbing areas have campgrounds nearby, and are within driving distance of stores, restaurants, and even motels. Some campgrounds are near to fishing or horseback riding, and all offer hiking (outside of hunting season). Future trips to these areas will probably be popular with non-climbing family members as well as climbers. (AF)

NORTH AMERICAN HINDU KUSH EXPEDITION-NOSHAQ

July 1 to August 12, 1978

As an escape from the mosquitoes, high water and soft snow of the Sierra, Ski Mountaineer members, Mary Omberg, Sam Roberts and Mark Goebel traveled to Afghanistan for a climb of Noshaq, elevation 24,580 feet. Other participants were Sheldon Moomaw, leader, Laguna Niguel; Kesler Teter, Colorado; Jack Lewis, Washington; and Bernhard Ehmann, British Columbia. The expedition was endorsed by the American Alpine Club, and this greatly assisted us in obtaining the necessary permits from the red-tape enshrouded Afghan government.

Afghanistan is a land of great contrast, both in the physical aspects of the land, and its people. There are great deserts, towering mountains, and lush agriculture bordered by totally barren hillsides. The people are made up of many cultures, and it would be hard to describe a typical Afghan. This is a country which has felt the footsteps of invaders from Alexander the Great, to the Russians of today.

After a week in Kabul, the Afghan capital, gathering permits and supplies, we departed for the Hindu Kush riding on a truckload of tea. This 3½ day ride traversed an 11,000 foot pass, great rivers, narrow roads perched on cliffs, and a number of unstable looking bridges.

Following a two day hike to base camp at 15,000, we acclimatized for a few days, and then all but Bernhard and Jack (they climbed a lower but technical peak) started up Nosaq. It was a non-technical route, except for 500 feet of 4th class just below the 23,000 foot Camp III. Moving our camps as we moved up, we used 8 days to reach Camp III with a few rest and storm delays. On July 27th, all 5 started for the summit in windy but clear weather. The route was on snow most of the way, and like many peaks, there were 2 false summits along the way. Finally in mid-afternoon, Sam, Mary and I reached the summit along with clouds and falling snow. Retracing our steps, we found Sheldon and Kes climbing very slowly, and since it was late, they returned to Camp III where we all fell right into our bags.

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NEXT ISSUE: November 21, 1978
 DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 17, 1978

CALENDAR

Oct. 21-23: Sat-Mon. El Gran Trono
 Blanco, Baja. Leader- LeRoy Russ
 295-9703. Asst. Andy Fried
 Oct. 24: Tues. Mugelnoos Meeting, DWP
 Cafeteria Stage-End, instead of the
 auditorium. Same for Nov. Mtg. Dec.
 we return to the auditorium.

NEW ADDRESS

George Neuner
 2060 Mt. Shasta Dr.
 San Pedro, CA 90732

ITEMS FOR SALE

Polarguard sleeping bag- \$50.00- never
 used, large size

North Face Toulumne Tent- \$35.00- inc.
 poles and fly Total weight 4 lbs.

Contact Mark Goebel: Home: 820-1962
 Work: 480-4287

NANDA DEVI with Willi Unsoeld

Spectacular Film Lecture of the 1976
 Indo-American Expedition. Presented
 by the Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter.
 Friday and Saturday, Nov. 10 & 11,
 1978 at 8 PM. Wilshire Ebell Club,
 4400 Wilshire Blvd. (at Lucerne).
 Tickets \$5.00, available from Sierra
 Club Office, 2410 Beverly Blvd., Los
 Angeles, CA. 90057, (213) 387-4287,
 or from Theater, (213) 939-1128.
 Plenty of free parking.

BUSINESS MEETING

Please attend the business meeting on
 Oct. 24 DWP Room 871 7:30 PM. We
 need enough members to elect new
 officers, vote on retention of in-
 active members and offer suggestions
 on changes of section policies.

MUGELMAILER NOOS

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 of the Mugelnoos chairpersons and
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 to go into the hole either. Whenever
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 or change jobs and want that taken off
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 YOU WRITE A CHECK MAKE IT PAYABLE TO
 MUGELNOOS ONLY. (PB)

BUD & MARGIE HALLEY

Bud and Margie Halley just returned from a few weeks in Austria. "We
 lucked-out as usual on the weather with just enough rainy days to make sunny
 days that much more spectacular. This has been one of Europe's coldest and
 rainiest years. Following the Sierra Club Tote-Book's suggestion, we hiked
 from Aich to the Hans Hut. From our hotel in Schladming later that week
 we saw all the upper parts of the local ski runs covered with snow. The
 trails, both there and near Mutters, are well marked with the numbering system
 of local hiking club maps.

After 30 years as a science teacher at the South Gate Junior High, Bud
 took an age-55 early retirement in Feb. and completed his Master's Degree
 at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena this August. Both he and Margie
 are now "full time grandparents." Margie is active at the local hospital
 in volunteer work; Bud is assisting the pastoral work at their church. (B&MH)

UP COMING CLIMBS

Jan 14- Big Rock- Yount, Ripley Jan 27- Rubidoux- Wing
 Feb 10-11- Fossil Falls- DeRusha, Lindgren Feb 17-19- Pinnacles- Wing, Nissen

ADDITIONAL CLIMBS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE THREE

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Noshaq

About noon the next day, those who had reached the summit began descending to base camp, while Sheldon and Kes remained for a second try at the summit. On the 29th, Swiss climbers reported seeing them slowly starting out again.

During the evening of the 31st, a light was observed from base camp descending the slopes of Noshaq. After a long wait, 2 exhausted Austrian climbers appeared out of the darkness, and they told of coming from Camp III, and that one American was dead! On their route to the summit, they had discovered Sheldon's body at the base of a 600' couloir leading down from the summit ridge, and there was no sign of Kes. Subsequently, the area above Camp III was searched by Bernhard, and he confirmed that Kes was missing and presumed dead.

Although we will never know exact details, the tragic loss was probably contributed to by a combination of fatigue and decreased judgement brought on by the high altitude, and possibly poor visibility.

On August 4th, with one last look up towards the summit and our lost companions, our small group began the long journey home. (MG)

YOSEMITE VALLEY

20 climbers and 8 non-climbing guests enjoyed mild, clear and beautiful weather over Columbus Day weekend. Besides the evening sessions of reminiscences, anecdotes and self adulatory (or deprecatory) climbing yarns-- around a campfire or over food and beverage, there was a lot of climbing. Most active were Scott Luther and Bill Rubin who polished off the Grack, Harry Daley, The Cow- Left, and the Nutcracker-- all in the 5.8 range. Randy Sheaff and Harry McKellop were also busy: The Grack, Harry Daley and a good start on Upper Cathedral Spire-- the first pitch, they report, now being a 5.10ish (up from 5.9) due to key flakes having fallen off. The biggest climb was Royal Arches by Ray and Doug Beal, who also did (with Ed Nissen) the shorter but harder Arches Terrace. Andy Fried, in a day and a half, climbed Monday Morning Slab- Right and the Grack with Bill Spina and a left start- right finish variation of Harry Daley with Len Hall. Nick Clinch, Bill Spina and Fred Wing spent an invigorating but frustrated day on Star King. The area and peak were magnificent. But they lacked any wired nuts and were told by a descending party that one was essential. So, they backed off the summit. The most popular route was Monday Morning Slab- Right: 5 ropes. Three of them met at the top and shared the same rappel line.

For John Clarke and Brian Rennie it was the best of times and the worst of times. They enjoyed doing Monday Morning Slab, Saturday (what happened to Sunday), and the Cow- Center on Sunday. Then, not content, they set off in the late afternoon for Lunch Ledge (on Washington's Column), planning to rap off when necessary. Then came the bad stuff. Brian, rapping over a lip, got his right hand wedged between the taunt rope and a sharp rock edge and received deep cuts on all four knuckles, requiring 10 stitches on the little finger- performed by a young doctor, at the Valley Hospital, who was very sympathetic, being a climber herself. But back to the descent. The raps done, John, while descending loose talus in the dark, suffered a bad sprain in his right ankle. The x-ray revealed no fracture. They'll be on the mend-- we hope-- but off the rock for a while.

Several climbers enjoyed a visit by Jim Endo, who's been in the Valley for the past month. (FW)

MEXICO CLIMB EL GRAN TRONO BLANCO

Leader LeRoy Russ has obtained 18 tourist cards for those interested in this climb. All participants must be 18 years of age or accompanied by a guardian. Proof of citizenship is required-- IE: Passport, voter registration, birth certificate. Driver's license is not acceptable. Driver's in Mexico must have Mexican Insurance (about \$4.50 for a weekend).

We will meet at the turn off Mexican Highway #2 at 9:00 AM Saturday. The Border is open from 8 AM to midnight. This is a two day climb. For further information call LeRoy Russ or Andy Fried. (AF)

UP COMING CLIMBS

Nov 4-5 Tahquitz-- DeRusha, Fried	Nov 18 Sespe Gorge-- Wing, Nissen
Nov 25-26 Joshua Tree-- Yount, Tidball	Dec 10 Stony Pt.-- Brandsma
Dec 23 Mt. Rubidous-- Russ	Jan 7 Stony Pt.-- Fried

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND AT JOSHUA TREE
advance notice

RCS has a reservation for SITE 3 at Sheeps Pass Campground, Joshua Tree National Monument, for Friday and Saturday nights, November 24-25, 1978. It has a limited parking area so there is a need to carpool. No car/truck campers permitted. No water. Bring firewood for campfire. Climb Lost Horse Wall and Hidden Valley. (EY)

EDITOR'S NOTE

In the future it would be helpful to those typing the Mugelnoos if articles that are submitted are either typed or printed. Some handwriting is not to be believed.