

THE MOUNTAIN BOYS

No. 554--February 20, 1979

A newsheet published by the Ski Mountaineers & Rock Climbing Sections of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter. Send subscriptions(\$2) & address changes to: Phil Bruce, 544 Eucalyptus, Downey, CA 90243. Published monthly since 1937. This is a 4 page issue.

PEAR LAKE RENAMED POWDER BOWL

...this was the consensus among the participants who skied the knee-deep fluff in the bowls below Winter Alta on Jan 27-28. A thermometer placed outside the Pear Lake Hut read 2° at 7AM on Sunday morning prior to starting for Alta's summit. Fortunately there was very little wind, and this made the whole tour one of the best in recent memory.

Of the twelve on the trip, two showed up bright and early Saturday morning at Wolverton redid to go with nordic equipment. At the first sign of any real uphill on the way in, they were unable to keep up with their companions(they were using wax to climb to Heather Gap), and so the party was temporarily fragmented while the nordics took traverses and the others climbed straight up. Fortunately the two started early, so they did not delay the main group into the hut. Also fortunately, the pair decided to leave immediately for the roadhead early Sunday morning, so as not to delay the trip out. One of the two was a strong SPS type, who vowed to scrap his skinny skis in favor of alpine equipment, and promised to show up later this spring loaded for bear(and ready for some downhill!).

In an unrelated development, two other bedraggled nordic skiers appeared at nightfall Saturday seeking refuge in the hut, and were accomodated. They stated they were planning on camping out, but misjudged the difficulties in travelling the back county on nordic skis. They were fascinated by our group's downhill equipment, with Ramer bindings, steel edges, mountaineering boots, etc. It was felt that a couple more converts to alpine ski mountaineering were gained that night.

We bring all this out to illustrate once again that we really have two different sports here: alpine ski mountaineering, and nordic ski touring. As far as this reporter is concerned, never the twain shall meet!

Getting back to the Pear Lake trip: it stormed enough Saturday night to lay down about another foot of powder on top of several inches already there, over the 5-6 foot base. As Sunday dawned clear and calm, the stage was set for a memorable day in the Sequoia Park back country. Nine decided to go for Alta, and it was an elated nine who made the summit and serpentine back down to the hut, rooster tails swirling in the flying powder. Straight down the fall line was the order of the day, as the feathery stuff piled up over the knees and the skis were nowhere in sight.

Most trip members were homeward bound from Wolverton before nightfall Sunday, but did not arrive in LA until after midnight, the drive being aggravated by 10-15 MPH with chains to Hospital Rock, and a detour thru Tehachapi & Mojave when the Ridge Route was closed due to heavy snow. Anyone for Pear Lake in April? (JW)

BUTTERMILK COUNTRY SKI TOUR, JANUARY 20-21

Four experienced skiers toured Saturday in Sy Ossofsky's backyard, namely the canyons east of Mt. Humphreys, reached from the Buttermilk Road. The jeep ride in was almost as exciting as the skiing on, or rather among, randomly alternating patches of powder and breakable crust, with occasional bushes. Avoidance of the bushes proved a problem for two.

After hot buttered rum at Sy's, three of us enjoyed dinner (and more rum) with the Orange County Sierra Singles in Mammoth, before indulging in yo-yo skiing at Mammoth on Sunday, where two future ski mountaineers, Mike and Bill Ossofsky, skied for the first time.

While attempting to explain to the OCSS downhillers what could possibly be fun about walking up a mountain for one run down, we hit upon the following explanation, which we believe has some merit: (cont'd page 3)

Editor.....Tim Ryan
 Mugelmailer.....Phil Bruce
 Mugelgrapher.....Mark Cole
 Reporters.....John Wedberg, J. a
 Maloy, Jim Sharpsteen,
 Barbara Lilley, Izzy
 Lieberman, George Shino

MUGELNOOS MOVE PROPOSED

Both the SMS and RCS Chairmen favor a move from the DWP auditorium to a more reliable facility better suited to the size of the Mugelnoos meetings. The Youth Services Center on Bellvue Ave. is proposed. Presently, the DPS meets here. The only disadvantage is the rotation of "dark nights" which might fall once a year on a meeting night. This should be known far enough in advance to plan this into the schedule. Comments should be directed to RCS/SMS Chairmen or Mugelnoos Chairman (John Ripley) before the March meeting.

(BL)

Next Editor: Andy Fried
 538 N. Bronson Ave.
 LA, CA, 90004
 (213)466-0480

Next Issue: March 20, 1979
 Deadline: Thursday, March 15

Mugelnoos meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month 7:30 PM (1/2 hour earlier for ski mountaineering equipment checkout Nov. thru April), LA Dept. Water & Power Auditorium, 111 N. Hope St., downtown LA. Program, refreshments, Everyone is welcome!

RCS member George R. Davis, Ph.D. is pleased to announce he is now associated with PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICE ASSOCIATES. RCS members who require their heads screwed on are advised to give George a call.

CALENDAR

- 2/25 Local Introductory Ski Tour
Allen/Davie
- 3/3&4 Mt. San Antonio Ski Hut
John Wedberg
- 3/3 Stony Point P.C. (rescheduled from 1/27--last chance to practice leadre belay with bucket drop)
Tim Ryan
- 3/4 Mt. Rubidoux P.C.
Leonard Bayless
- 3/10-11 Suicide Rock
Mark Cole
- 3/11 Local Intr. Alpine Ski Tour
Walter Boge
- 3/17&18 Mt. Mary Auston & Black Mtn (joint SMS & SPS trip)
Doug Mantle
- 3/24&25 Mt. San Antonio Ski Hut
John Wedberg
- 3/24&25 Kern Slab Rock Climb
LeRoy Russ&Andy Fried

MINARETS TRAILHEAD QUOTAS

New trailhead quotas will affect certain trails this summer in both the John Muir and Minarets Wildernesses. Quotas will be in effect for the first time for trails into the Minarets wilderness out of the Agnew Meadows-Reds Meadows area, and for the Duck Pass trail out of the Mammoth Lakes Basin (Inyo Register)

NEW RCS LEADERS AND OTHER MATTERS

At their meeting on January 25 the Safety Committee voted "T" leader ratings for the following members:
 John Ripley T/M Mark Cole T/O
 Ed Nissen T/O Don Pies T
 Dick Mundwiler T/M Larry Tidball T/E

The T rating applies for RCS Climbs only. The second letter after each name is the Angeles Chapter leader rating, which applies to all chapter sponsored trips.

At the same meeting Jim Hoste was reinstated to regular membership. Welcome back, Jim. (JS)

New Ski Mountaineer--welcome

Kathy Grandall
 19121 Biddle Dr.
 Irvine, CA 92715
 (714) 833-8227

RCS ROSTER -- LAST CALL FOR CHANGES

The Secretary/Treasurer will publish a new roster early this year. If you know of any changes that should be made, please send them to Jim Sharpsteen, 1916 Bluebird Road, Glendora 91740, or call him at (213)335-8875. (JS)

CLIMBING GEAR FOR SALE

- Ropes:
- 165' 11mm Edelrid (never used) \$70
 - 165' 11mm Mammut (used) 40
 - 120' 11mm MSR (used) 30
 - 200' 9mm Ch'nard (new) 50
 - 165' 7/16 Goldline (used) 25
- Carabiners 1.50
 Jumar Ascenders (pair) 25
 Also nuts, pitons, slings and misc. climbing gear. Call Phil Bruce at (213)861-1159 or see for yourself at 8544 Eucalyptus, Downey, Calif.

COMMENTS REQUESTED

This is to inform all RCS members that the following people have passed their safety test and other requirements and are being considered for membership in the section:

- Scott Luther John Clarke
- Adam Paal Bob D'Evelyn
- Virgil Shields Gregory Stevens

Comments or opinions as to applicants sa

sensible turn-back time. I was forced to turn back, but Ron continued, climbing the peak by staying at the edge of the powder chute. The narrow ridge was a crampon climb, not at all nice for skiing. He was able to get to the north summit by crawling on his hands and knees to prevent being blown into downtown Trona. Ron decided it would be nice to do the south summit some other time. He descended by skiing the super steep powder chute and retraced his path along the ridge. The setting sun and 60mph winds hastened the return to Mahogany Flats. After downing hot drinks and swapping horror stories, we packed up camp at 11PM. We arrived in Riverside at 7 AM Monday. Ron donned his blue suit and put on his crispest possible military manner to return to work as Lt. Col. Milnarik. This undisciplined civilian returned home to crash.

Delays caused by failure of the self-adhesive skins were a serious problem on this trip. The failure of the skin to adhere was probably caused by wax on the ski. Skis to be used with self-adhesive skins should be cleaned with wax remover. I had used solvent, which was not good enough. (OM)

(Illegible) BALDY RENAMED SLUSH ALLEY

Six strong and eager ski mountaineers started from their cars at 7:30 AM Sat Feb 10 for what was agreed upon beforehand to be a one day tour on Baldy. Leader Wedberg did not promise the other five a rose garden -- and a rose garden they did decidedly not encounter!

The early start facilitated a comparatively trouble-free hike to the Hut over the still frozen firm snow. They donned skis & skins and made the West summit of Mt San Antonio for a late lunch. All agreed they had experienced better skiing on other occasions, to put it charitably. The snow was deep enough -- about $4\frac{1}{2}$ ' at the Hut -- but only about five days of sunshine was not enough for total consolidation. Conditions varied from ice in the shade, to breakable crust facing east, to honeycombed wet heavy crud facing south & west. Occasional patches of 50-100 feet in length were skiable on thick corn. They skied right down to the cars on Mt Baldy Road, where a foot of snow still remained from the storm of a week previous. "Skiing" down to the cars from the Hut was, again, putting it a bit Charitably; slicing thru the wet cement, kick turning (or falling), and epitaph uttering would be a more accurate description. The one big plus was the weather: a picture perfect day, warm sunshine and no wind.

The leader of the next two Baldy tours promises ideal spring touring conditions with acres of wide open corn. Call John Wedberg for reservations at 472-6768 before 8 PM. (JW)

FOR THE RECORD

An error has been found in the climb statistics reported last month. LeRoy had 27 RCS climbing days last year, not 25 as reported. Why the error? He forgot to sign the attendance sheets at El Gran Trono Blanco, and he was the leader! So let that be a lesson to all of you who seek recognition.

With this correction Fred Wing still finished in first place by one climb, and incidentally he presently leads the pack this year with 5, followed by five others (including LeRoy) in hot pursuit with 4 as of the end of January.

Finally, apologies to Ed Nissen for misspelling his name. (JS)

HELICOPTER SKIING COMES CLOSER
(but not in price)

This year, heli-skiing is provided in the 11,000' Ruby Mountains, 20 miles from Elko, Nevada, by Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski Guides (3587 Doverhill Dr., Salt Lake City, Utah 84121). It is advertised as wide open terrain with little tree skiing, receiving an average of 400 inches of snow per year. In addition, Sierra Guide Service (P.O. Box 697, Bridgeport, CA 93517) offers heli-skiing in the Bridgeport/Sonora Pass areas of the Toiyabe National Forest. Price is \$900 and up for 5 or 6 days; Sierra Guides have a daily rate of 165 dollars. (Oh, well, back to climbing skins!) (BL)

EQUIPMENT WANTED

Roy Keenan reports that he is preparing for a climb of Mt McKinley this year and is interested in purchasing used personal gear. Anyone interested may contact Roy at (213)7703113(work) or (213) 328-3797(home).

brought to the attention of the Safety Committee Chairman, Andy Fried,
538 N. Bronson Ave., Los Angeles 90004, Phone (213) 466-0480, no later than 20 March.
(JS)

BUTTERMILK CON'T

The real reason that the Ski Mountaineers are downhillers, mainly, doesn't relate so much as to necessary downhill skiing capabilities, but rather to the fact that downhillers don't really mind walking uphill. The reason for this is that they are so conditioned to discussing anything and everything with total strangers on the chair, that when they go Ski Mountaineering, they simply do the same thing, and don't even notice the pain or the fact that they are walking instead of sitting.

Put consisely, it's bullshit on the way up, and Oh -----! on the way down. This statement describes Saturday's tour exactly. (JM)

NEWS FOR ROCKCLIMBERS

*****Sports Chalet is selling Robbins (blue) boots for \$36. They are on sale from some even more outlandish price. Buy now it's a climber's best hedge against inflation.

*****Kern Slabs is a climb scheduled mainly for students. Interested students should contact leader, Leroy Russ, (213) 295-9703 for reservations. RCS members help is required to make this trip a success. Please contact Leroy or Andy. The March Mugelnoos will contain details on this trip.

*****The January 14th practice climb at Mt. Rubidoux was uneventful, no broken limbs, no pulmonary edema and no high altitude rescues. Dick Mundwiler and the other members of the training committee are to be congratulated for their fine efforts. Under the tutelage of the training committee the students spent the day practicing anchor placements. All of the hard climbers retreated from the mountain in the face of changing weather conditions. That is to say "It began raining like crazy and we got the ---- out of there." (LR)

FEB. 4 INTRODUCTORY ALPINE SKI TOUR

This trip was attended by the leader, his daughter Janet, Gary North, and John Ribarich. The latter two passed their Fourth Class Test. We first went to the Devil's Punch Bowl area but soon gave up after struggling around boulders and bushes in hip-deep snow. Further down the road towards "Mile-High" we spotted a steep clearing that ran nearly to the ridge and managed to get in a couple fast runs on this in waist deep powder. As we were just barely out of the desert, it was all a bit weird! (IL)

MOUNT WATERMAN CHECK-OUT SKI TOUR

Sunday morning, January 14th, dawned overcast and threatening with storm. Clouds in the mountains. Ten participants car pooled at the La Canada meeting place and drove to just beyond the Buckhorn campgrounds.

Ascending the Waterman Ridge was by the fire road on icy snow, with occasional equipment adjustments and checks. There was no major problem, it's just that my climbers kept coming off. As we approached the summit the storm hit us with a drastic drop in temperature, rising wind with snow flurries which proceeded to turn into a full fledged blizzard that dumped four inches of new snow on us. Three of us stayed behind with the balance of the party climbing the peak.

Lunch such as we could manage was hastily eaten. Fortunately for our party the new snow made an ideal cover over the icy existing snow and we were able to ski down to our cars without mishap.

All but one of the party qualified to participate on our overnight ski trips.

The trip down to La Canada was slowed considerably by the new snow fall and traffic in general. All in all this was a good check out tour. Editor's comment: This tour as well as several others on Mt. Waterman are suitable for experienced cross-country skiers. X-C skis with metal edges are advised.

(GS)

SKI DEATH VALLEY - February 3/4, 1979

Our latest blizzard closed all the local ski areas and passes, and deposited several feet of powder in the local mountains, causing cancellation fo a scheduled SPS ice axe session at Baldy and making the rocks a Stony Point all wet and nasty. Thus your reporter and Ron Milnarik set out to climb Telescope Peak on skis.

We were able to drive within a mile of the charcoal kilns in Wildrose Canyon, and then skied to Mahogany Flat campground where we set up camp in the powder snow at dusk. After a late start the next morning, we skied up the ridge in heavy powder, walked across the bare rocks on top of the ridge, and skied up the road to the west of Rogers Peak, picking up the trail at Arcane Meadows where it goes west of Bennet Peak.

We skied across the icy crust on the wind-blasted ridge between Bennett and Telescope and started up the northeast ridge of Telescope to the west of the bare