



No. 562 - October, 1979

A newsheet published by and for the Ski Mountaineers and Rock Climbing Sections of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter since 1938. Send subscriptions and address changes to Dove Menkes, 1550 So. Highland Ave., Apt. D, Fullerton, CA 92632. A 4 page issue.

TIME TO RENEW SUBSCRIPTIONS TO MUGELNOOS

Send \$3, due in November, check made out to MUGELNOOS to Mugelmailer, Dave Menkes. INCLUDE YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS.

SKIERS FORGE CHANGE

What was billed as a possible confrontation between various factions within the S.M.S. turned out to be an harmonious and fruitful encounter between the 25 members attending.

Stemming from a Central Committee member's proposal that S.M.S. revert to committee status from Section, and the subsequent circulation of a "dissident's" petition, the meeting was to chart the course the S.M.S. would take in coming years.

From the very outset, however, quick consensus was reached in requesting the current challenged section officers to remain in office until the next election can be held in Spring. Cliff Cameron chaired the proceedings in a conciliatory, low-key way, citing he was unable to attend the last April election-meeting (that was in fact publicized in accordance with S.M.S. By-Laws in Chapter Schedule No. 220 Pg. 48, which resulted in no Section-election held due to lack of participation. From the outset, the proposal to eliminate SMB as a section, and revert to committee status, was declined by those attending. Promptly the assemblage chose to discuss the proposed By-Law changes circulated in petition form and published in these pages in previous issues.

The changes consist of three major points: first, holding elections via mail-ballot rather than at a Mugelnoos meeting. A pro and con discussion ensued in which it was pointed out by a senior member, Muir Dawson, that mail-ballot elections would result in non-active members voting without being too cognizant of current trends within the section. Mark Goebel countered by explaining the S.P.S. mail-ballot method which works well in that it sets up varying types of voting vs. non-voting categories. The consensus reached was that all S.M.S. members would be asked to vote by mail. Second, the method of developing the activities schedule was discussed and changes made in the proposed By-Law revisions dealing with appointment/selection of an Outings/Safety sub-chair. Third, the area of discussion focused on a proposed Membership sub-chair. Due to the detailed nature of the discussion and the amendments made to the revised By-Laws, Cliff Cameron volunteered to re-draft the latter based upon recommendations made at this meeting, and submit same to the membership via Mugelnoos, in ballot form.

By 9:15 pm the discussion terminated the By-Laws revisions issue, and shifted to accepting or rejecting use of Nordic equipment on S.M.S. trips. Here, the discussion became intense at times, although cordial. The consensus reached was that there definitely was a place for such equipment on S.M.S. trips. However, it could only be accommodated if the skier passed the 4th Class skitest as currently administered, on Nordic equipment. Further, accommodating such a participant would have to be at the discretion of the trip leader. This was put forth as a formal motion that requested the Central committee to change the Safety policy requirements to allow the former, i.e. pass 4th Class test. The vote was 17 to 8 for. Finally, the assemblage voted to confirm the current officer slate until an election can be held next Spring (April). Of course, all decisions taken at this meeting will be in form of recommendations for the Central committee to take under advisement.

In the opinion of observer John Ripley, the meeting indicated strong interest in the S.M.S. that had been quiescent. The fact that 25 people drove the long distance on a Monday night to John Wedberg's home near Bel Air confirmed this. Further, the meeting presented a cross-section of younger as well as old-time S.M.S. members, all agreeing that the section should present a broader base in order to attract new members and leaders. Also, there was strong agreement that a leader need only send in or present a write-up for a proposed trip, for it to be scheduled - as opposed to the Central committee making up all schedules.

cont. page 3

MUGELNOOS STAFF

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\$3 per year - make checks to Mugelnoos

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MUGELNOOS MEETING: Tuesday, November 20, 1979, 7:30 PM, L.A. Dept. of water & Power Auditorium, 111 N. Hope St., downtown L.A. Free parking. Programs, refreshments; climbers, skiers, guests all welcome.

CALENDAR

Oct. 20-21 Sat. Sun. San Antonio Ski Hut
John Wedberg, host
Oct. 27-28 Sat. Sun. San Antonio Ski Hut
Kathy Quinn, host

NEW ADDRESS

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1550 So. Highland Ave., Apt. D,
Fullerton, CA 92632

APOLOGY:

The MUGELNOOS editor for this month had to leave on a business trip to Canada (as you read this he's in Calgary) so was forced to move the copy deadline way up to his departure date. For this reason, many articles will not appear until the next issue. Sorry.

FOR SALE: Childs BONNA skis, 130cm \$10; poles to fit 4 - 8 yr olds; hiking, climbing boots to fit 4 - 8 yrs. 3 pr. Duck-down elephant's foot bag \$10 (ideal for child). LOWA climbing boots for 8 - 10 yr old, new, \$15. 790-4275, Kingsley

FOR SALE: New North Face day pack, leather base, \$38.50 ret., sell for \$30.00; Lace-up leather ski-mtnng boots, 9M, \$30; used Primus stove \$10; 336-0442, Omberg

FOR SALE: North Face Tuolumne Tent, rarely used, Dove Menkes, H(714) 525-7291 W(714) 732-1516

TEN YEARS "LEARN THE ROPES"

Nov. 11 marks anniversary 10 for the popular "Learn the Ropes" Class. The only popular

one of its kind in the Chapter, it teaches skills required for 3rd & 4th class Sierra Peaks ascents. Course founders are Norman and Anna-Lisa Kingsley. Instructors are RCS'ers Bob Sommano and Dale Irvine. Readers can encourage climbing-student friends and acquaintances to take the course, while there are still spots available. Class limit 20. Fee only \$6. See schedule or SOUTHERN SIERRAN for details.

MEMBERSHIP IN DOUBT?

Upon checking the 1979 Ski Mountaineers Membership Directory, Sierra Club Headquarters in San Francisco was unable to verify that the following people were current Club members as of 9/17/79. Since their records could be out of date, please notify the SMS Secretary if you are a member or when you renew. It is also recommended you contact Club Headquarters (in San Francisco) to verify that your records there are current. (Names marked "OK" have been confirmed with the SMS but not with Club Headquarters.)

- Roy Arnold - OK
Cathy Crandall - OK
Dan Eaton
May Frampton
May Haisi
Floyd Henny
Elmer Kutila
Jane McMahan - OK
Ed Omberg
Sam Roberts
Bill Stauffer
Robert Trousdale
Bill Voss
Craig Williams
Gail Wilts

Club membership is required to maintain membership and qualified status in the SMS, but not to be a trip participant. Reminder -- Mugelnoos subscriptions are also required and renewals are due in November. BL

YOU GO TO MY HEAD???

Reinhold Messner, considered World's Greatest Mountaineer in the German-speaking countries, was invited to deliver this year's keynote address at the German Alpine Club convention. He stunned the audience by exhorting the GAC to let its alpine huts and mountain trails decay. "If you can't accept our mountains in the totally pristine state, you have no business being in them", was his message. He now advocates doing away with trails, huts, guides, guidebooks. For one who began hanging out at the Sella-Pass Hut and the Groedner huts as a teenager, avidly studied the guidebooks to learn how to tackle his earlier problems, his current crusade raises questions. In Europe, many wonder if he's playing with a full deck. (NK)

SKIERS FORGE CHANGE cont'd

Cliff Cameron cited the contribution to the general discussion made by the Section "elder Statesmen", Bud Haley and Loyd Balsam. Also contributing ideas were R.J. Secor, Mark Goebel, Barbara Lilley, Dwen Maloy, Andy Fried, Walter Boge, Bill Feldman, Mary Omberg, John Wedberg and Chuck Wilts. Also Steve Wilkie, Ed Unge, Walt Davie, Dick Hawthorne and others. Cameron expressed his appreciation to all that attended, especially to the very senior members Haley and Balsam.

However, in the words of John Wedberg, "all well and good, but the bottom line is that we still don't have sufficient leaders coming forward and submitting trips. Until that happens, we're right back to square one!"

THE RAY BEAL TRAGEDY: Epilog

By now it's history that Beal fell to his death rappelling off Poly Dome when his carabiner's gate opened, allowing his rapell rope to detach from its anchor. Every reader of the September issue is totally informed about what happened, and why.

What readers that weren't at Tuolumne that weekend don't know, was how tragedy affected the RCS'ers on the scene. That's the purpose of this article: to "expose" how a group of "average" Sierrans coped with a shattering accident. We often sit and speculate about what could happen if tragedy strikes. And truthfully, we tend to anticipate the worst. At least your Editor does. He's seen tragedy galore during a youth spent in Nazi Germany, subsequent WWII, and years of professional soldiering as a combat Marine - not to speak of shocking mountain deaths experienced in 30 years.

What was seen and experienced at Tuolumne was an eye-opener.

By the time Ray's three companions returned to camp, most participants knew the worst. Some had prepared Ray's lady companion for the news, and comforted her quietly. Although the mood was somber when the three returned, they were openly welcomed with warmth and feeling. They were encouraged to talk, but no one made any challenging, accusatory moves - nor was there any "interrogation" with an underlying motive of establishing "fault".

Climbers and friends went about the sad business required of such a mishap. While a group close by arranged and then drove Ray's companion back to town, others helped leader Jim Campbell find out who and how to notify "next of kin". The accident victim's gear meanwhile was carefully inventoried, and stowed in anticipation of it being seized by the authorities. Myriads of details got taken care of, quietly and efficiently. No one bossed anyone about; it seemed everyone quietly pitched in without being asked. Campbell had his hands full completing accident reports, interviewing people and answering Park Service personnel clearing their side of paperwork these things involve. Much later, when the victims' sons were found and arrived at Tuolumne, Campbell and some volunteers met them and tactfully took care of that unpleasant duty. Next day, Fried and a few Safety Committee members climbed back up to the accident site, carefully inspecting it and reconstructing events in order to protect the section and the Club. One could go on for pages describing the individual acts of concern that distinguished RCS'ers on that trip.

The purpose of this article though, is to simply make a statement for future RCS members to remember, if and when unforeseen tragedy strikes. This writer is no RCS member. Nor is he bent on painting the latter as "heroes". The point is that the tragedy couldn't have been handled better. No panic, no pettiness, no recriminations; just cooperation. RCS'ers proved themselves mature, competent and sympathetic humans. As one "guest" on the trip remarked, "if anything ever happens to me, I hope it'll be on one of their trips because now I know they know how to handle things." An odd sentiment, but it tells something about the character and leadership experienced on that RCS trip. (Editor)

TWO CLIMBERS KILLED IN PALISADE GLACIER AREA (Inyo Reg.9-27-79)

The body of a 30-year-old Los Angeles climber was recovered by Inyo Search & Rescue members Monday in the Palisades Glacier area of Big Pine. The body was flown out in a Forest Service helicopter. The climber was identified by the Inyo County Coroner's Office as George Chevalier of Los Angeles. He was attempting to rappel Sunday when he apparently slipped, going down the mountainside and over a ledge. Two members of L.A. County's Sheriff's Search Team witnessed the accident and helped recover the body.

It was the second fatality in the same area within 24 hours. Saturday's climbing victim was 20-year-old Charles A. Ellis of Saratoga, Ca., in Santa Clara County. Ellis fell some 1,300 ft to his death while rappelling down a u-notch when a pin broke loose. That accident was witnessed by members of Ellis' hiking party, who summoned authorities.

KINGSLEYS LOST IN EUROPE

After a lengthy siege of hut-hopping and peak-bagging in the Dolomites this summer, wife, daughter and I visited my favorite aunt & uncle in Lugano, Switzerland. "You've got to climb our Monte Boglia"; they said. "when we were young, it was our favorite!" So, Uncle Otto drove us to the trailhead early next morning and described the route.

"Switchback up along this flank until you get ti Alpe Boglia. Just past the little stone farm house, find the spur leading to the spine of the summit ridge. Climb it, you'll be on the summit then which you follow nearly its length. On the summit ridge, you'll see a path drop off steeply to the left. That'll take you down to Bré village, from there come right down through the forest to Castagnola (where they live)."

We did exactly as he told us. Climbing up the spine to the summit ridge consisted of clawing our way up through three miles of goat crap and flies. We had to stay on the spine, and that's where the goats had gone up and down for centuries. The summit ridge was the same, only we could walk in most places. Also, we were in the clouds. There was the goat trail left off the summit. It dropped a mile down a 50° incline to a berry patch. We ate raspberries, and dropped further down onto winding spurs. After two hours we finally spied a little stone farm house, a cow and dog way down below. We headed for it, and asked the man that came out, "Dove Bré?" (where's Bré?). He shook his head and a long session of head-shaking and arm-waving followed. I showed him Bré on the map. In answer he pointed to an open area in Italy, then to us, to the ground and said "Qui" (here). We were five miles from Bré, and in the wrong country to boot, without passports.

I won't bore you with our epic, waterless, foodless bushwack around the flanks of Monte Boglia. Obviously, we not only made it back to Switzerland but even back to La Canada. But as far as simple peak-bags in Switzerland go, don't ask.

NEVADO ILLIMANI BOLIVIA

RCS member Horton Johnson along with former RCS members Jim Smith, Ron Smith, Carolyn Smith, Roger Smith, Ron Perle, left L.A. Sept. 8, 1979 for La Paz, Bolivia on an expedition to Nevado Sajama (21,400 ft.). Highest mountain in Bolivia. Problems frustrated us for four days so we turned our attentions to Nevado Illimani (21,200 ft.). We had luck acquiring transportation to the base of this giant. As it turned out, the four days spent walking around 12,000 ft. La Paz helped us acclimatize to altitude. Our base camp was at an altitude of 15,000 ft. We could watch Llamas around base camp at any time during the daylight hours.

After several days of very hard work and some dangerous climbing with heavy packs above the snow line, we established Camp 1 at about 17,000 ft., Camp 2 at about 18,400 ft. After a rest day, we made a summit bid on Sept. 21. We put in fixed ropes (600 ft.) on several spots on the steep ice ridge between 18,400 ft. and 19,400 ft. We then started up steep glacier terrain on the west face. At this point, when I was leading, I fell into a hidden crevasse and injured my right leg.

After some time, I continued climbing but not leading as my right calf was hurting badly. We climbed up steep, crevassed broken; glacier terrain and noticed we were right on top of a large hanging glacier which calved off large ice avalanches now and then. At around 3:30pm Ron Perle complained of freezing feet. The group decided to turn back because of my injured leg, Perle's freezing feet and the late hour. It was suggested we try for the summit and a bivouac on the way down. We were at about 20,500 ft., only 700 ft. from the summit. But I was overruled and the decision was made to turn back. It was suggested the ones who were still in shape continue and use a bivvy on the way down, but we turned and headed down. My leg hurt and did so through a painful descent to base camp over the next 3 days. Perle was in a state of hypothermia when we reached Camp 2.

After reaching base camp, Perle walked 45 miles to get us transportation out. It was a fine climb on a beautiful mountain and an interesting trip altogether.

HJ

Kathy Crandall, of 1025 E. Woodbury, Pasadena, has been accepted as a member to the RCS.

AF
