

No. 566 -- February 19, 1980

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A newsheet published by & for the Ski Mountaineers & Rock Climbing Sections of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter since 1938. Send subscriptions and address changes to: Dove Menkes, 1550 S. Highland Ave., Apt. D, Fullerton, CA 92632 This is a 6 page issue.

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#### SMS ELECTIONS

The Election Committee is now taking nominations for the SMS Central Committee. Ballots will appear in the March Mugelnoos. They will be counted at the April meeting. Send your nomination to: Elections Committee, c/o Tom Duryea, 11141 Asher St. #62, El Monte, CA 91732

#### JANUARY 19-20 MAMMOTH SKI TRIP

This tour got off to an uncertain start with one of the leaders stuck in Lone Pine with a dead battery (presumably the car's). Fortunately, the problem was located and corrected, and the party went on a brief tour in the vicinity of Aspendell and Lake Sabrina Saturday afternoon. After a delicious dinner prepared by Ellen Osssofsky, Mike Leyland and Emmett Rexford showed slides of their trip to Tweedsmuir Provincial Park last summer. On Sunday everyone skied at Mammoth; unfortunately, the Super Bowl didn't seem to have any effect on the crowds. Paul Parsons passed the 4th Class Ski Test in fine style on alpine skis and is now a full fledged member of the Ski Mountaineers. RJS

#### NEWS NOTICE

On Sunday, January 20, a Mammoth Heli-Ski helicopter lost a tail rotor and crashed near Sierra Meadows Ski Touring Center. Three passengers were injured, and fourteen skiers were stranded in the mountains, the specific location unknown. The accident is being investigated, and no further details were released. (Author's note: Why was this service operating during 'extreme' avalanche conditions?) RJS

#### HOT BUTTERED RUM AND POWDER DELIGHT

Have you ever skied a concrete driveway? Well, that is what we toured on a few weekends back. The cold, white surface had been consolidated by a deluge of rain and then frozen solid. A weak winter sun had little effect on the hardened mass, and our skis skidded and bodies shuttered upon impact.

We gave it a try and then retired to the warm hut where after a few brews, dreams of a future tour came to mind...the warm rains have stopped, and the frozen surface is replaced by cold, dry powder snow. Even though the sun is shining and the sky is a deep blue, our faces burn in the early morning cold as we again push our skis toward the little mountain hut. First out along the snow covered road, and then the route winds gently upward through the trees. There is one long open hill, and at the top the urge was too great to resist. Drop the pack and point the tips down the fall line. Just like a glider, floating, banking turns, and only the whistling wind breaks the silence.

The hut is just over the hill in a tree filled basin, located below glacier carved Horse Ridge. We lunched on the sunny porch, and then a short tour brought us to a rolling ridge top which dropped away to the north, creating a magnificent vista. Stretching to the horizon lay granite domes, jagged, snowy peaks, and miles of open country. Reaching out with our skis, we were pulled downward, again floating and turning through cold, dry powder. Breathless, we were soon at the bottom of the slope, and grinning at our first tracks, we reascended for another run, and another, and another...

You might call it "drunk with powder." There is no cure, just momentary relief while making another run, each one better than the last. Finally, our rubbery legs and the setting sun required a return to the hut. Inside were many other skiers, and so we relaxed in front of a hot stove and revived our worn but happy bodies with dinner and a few hot buttered rums.

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## MUGELNOOS STAFF

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 MUGELGRAPHER: Mark Cola  
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 REPORTERS: Norm Kingsley, Mark Goebel,  
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 LeRoy Russ, R.J. Secor, Jim Sharpsteen

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Next Issue: March 18, 1980  
 DEADLINE: Friday, March 14

MUGELNOOS MEETINGS: Third Tuesday of  
 each month, 7:30 pm (7:00 pm for Ski  
 Mountaineer equipment talk), IA Dept. of  
 Water and Power, 111 N. Hope St., Down-  
 town, LA - Program, refreshments, skiers,  
 and climbers, and their guests are wel-  
 come!

## CALENDAR

Feb 24 Rock Climb, Stony Point - Russ  
 Feb 24 Local Intro Ski Tour - Shinno  
 Mar 1-2 Baldy Bowl Ski Races - Secor  
 Mar 8-9 Fossil Falls - Fried, Russ  
 Mar 16 Safety Test - Pies  
 Mar 22-23 Suicide Rock - Perkins, Tidball  
 Apr 5-6 Pinnacles - Wing, Nissen  
 Apr 19-20 Tahquitz - Yount, Crandall

## SAFETY TEST - LAST REMINDER

If you plan to attend the March 16  
 Safety Test, make reservations w/ Don  
 Pies by Mar. 9. H: (213) 374-5745, 2451  
 Myrtle Av., Hermosa Bch., CA 90254 DP

## NEW ADDRESSES

Adam Paal  
 105 Larkin House  
 Stern Hall  
 Stanford, CA 94305  
 (415) 329-8897  
 (Until mid-June when old address resumes)

Sam Roberts  
 3234 E. Broadway #4  
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## NEW RCS MEMBER

Andre Korbut-Wedburg  
 761 W. Starlight Heights Dr.  
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 790-4842 DP

## FOSSIL FALLS

RCS members and guests planning on tak-  
 ing the bus to Fossil Falls (3-8&9)  
 should contact LeRoy Russ (213-258-1546)  
 for info and reservations. LR

Wise person does not play leapfrog  
 with a unicorn.

boots  
 Long Beach (213-315)

## STUDENT ROSTER CHANGES

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 714-870-8541

## FOR SALE

(Note, BMTIC'ers) 10 Pt. Andenmatten  
 Crampons - new. Size 44. Fit 9 1/2-10 boots.  
 Can be sized. See George Harr, 744 Obispo  
 Av., Long Beach (438-0153)

## WEATHER WATCH

DWP Snow Surveys Show 119% of Normal  
 (But More Snow Is Needed for So. CA)  
 Based on snow surveys completed this  
 week by the DWP, the overall Owens Valley-  
 Mono Basin snowpack measures 119% of the  
 normal February 1st. long-term average.  
 This comparison is based on the water  
 content of the snowpack measured. In-  
 dividual snow courses measured varied  
 from a high of 132% at Cottonwood Basin  
 to a low of 109% at Big Pine, Mammoth  
 reporting 117%. RL

## HOT BUTTERED RUM AND POWDER DELIGHT CONTINUED

The next day was just as brilliant, and the snow fantastic. We climbed way up near the top of Horse Ridge, traversed into the bowl, and went for the big run. Turn, turn, turn. With the sun at our back, our shadows sped ahead, and waves of powder exploded on every turn.

All dream trips must end, and this was no exception. We skied away from the hut, up and down along the crestline into the setting sun. It had all been perfect; we were worn and tired, but our recent experiences were now more than just a dream. (This actual dream trip took place in Yosemite N.P. near Ostrander Hut with Tom Duryea, Mary Omberg, and Mark Goebel, on Jan. 19-20, 1980. MG

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

February 4, 1980

Dear RCS Training Committee:

The January issue of The Mugelnoos indicated that the Fossil Falls trip scheduled for March 8 and 9 will be a "mandatory bus trip" for RCS students at the cost of \$19.00 per seat. Those who are in charge of the Training Committee should be reminded that this is not in compliance with the Bylaws of the RCS.

The Training Committee's responsibility is to teach students and prospective RCS members the basic rules of rock climbing as to technique and safety. It is in no position to make any trip mandatory, nor does it have the authority to require anyone to travel by bus and charge \$19.00. Student participation of the training is strictly voluntary and no minimum or maximum climb attendance may be set forth, other than those required for the safety test. It is, however, commendable of the Committee to be willing to organize such a trip. There is no doubt that it will cost less money for gasoline, conserve fuel and enhance friendship among climbers and yet it cannot be made mandatory, only urged or recommended. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Hans V. Lees, A.S.E.A.

## SUPPORT THE AMERICAN WOMEN'S 1980 EXPEDITION TO DHAULAGIRI

This Fall, Vera Komarkova, of Annapurna record, will lead an all-women's expedition to Dhaulagiri, which at 26,810 ft., is the sixth highest peak in the world. First choice of routes is The Pear, which to date has not yet been climbed in a successful summit bid. Estimated cost for the relatively small group is about \$60,000; you can help by getting your "It's better on Top" beige, French cut T-shirt for a tax-deductible \$10. Medium & large sizes (These T-shirts run very small in size.) Order from Mary Omberg, 15116 Del Prado, Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 (213)336-0442. Order blanks for other sizes, men's style, and yellow color and trekking information are also available.

## HOLUBAR MAKES GOOD ON KELTY NAME

Three years ago, I bought a Sierra West Gore-Tex parka from the Kelty Glendale store. Immediately, the fabric bubbled and delaminated, losing its waterproofing characteristic. Believing that the caveat emptor philosophy prevailed universally, putting two years of wear on the product, and knowing that Kelty had changed hands all encouraged me to do nothing. Recently, friends urged me to talk to Holubar. Voilà! The best service I've received from a climbing store. Holubar replaced the parka, which had been cut from a defective bolt of fabric, within a week w/ absolutely no hassles nor questions asked. -MGO

## BOOK REVIEW

ALLEINGANG (Going Alone): Nanga Parbat by Reinhold Messner, BLV Verlag, Munich; 270 pps., photos, many in superb color, ISBN 3-405-12090 (not published in English language yet).

Many of Reinhold Messner's books have been criticised for being badly translated. In a recent review of one of his books in Climbing magazine, the reviewer speculated about how Messner's story might sound in its original German. We obtained a copy of his latest book Alleingang in German and found it was no better than the English translations of past efforts.

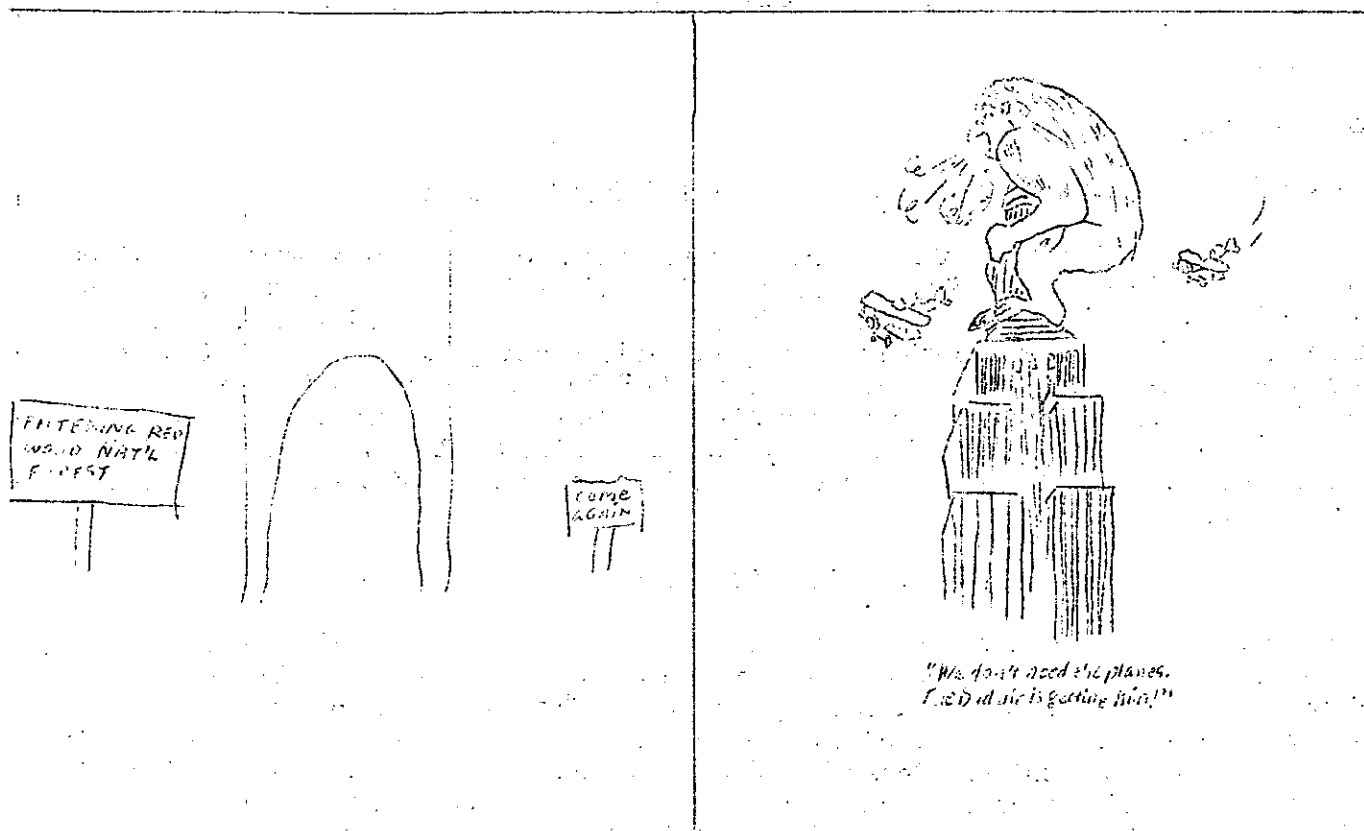
Alleingang (Solo) tells the story of Messner's one-man triumph on Nanga Parbat. Actually, it tells a lot about Messner the Hyperegocentric, his opinions, lifestyle, and his attitude toward major solo climbs. Relatively little is told about how he singlehandedly reached Nanga Parbat's summit. What there is tends to reinforce the enigma of Messner's exploits - 4,876 ft. elevation gain through ice-falls, seracs,

and vertical rock in six hours one day: down-climbing, facing in, step by down-step mainly, 9,144 ft. in one day to reach base-camp. He carried one piton, one screw, and a meter of rope to anchor himself to something in case of trouble. He carried a stove that burned butane cartridges, and got it all to cook at over 24,000 ft. elevation (My Bluet is useless above 9,000 ft. in snow).

This is a self-serving book, a bit too slick and commercial, probably, for American taste. It's written for the broadest possible market, to make money. While in Europe this past summer, this reviewer found Messner a highly merchandised commodity in all German-speaking countries: boots, clothes, hardware, gear, books, maps, foods. This book is probably just another facet in a quest to become the world's richest climber. NK

#### RULES OF THUMB FOR AVALANCHE SAFETY by Ron Perla

1. Consider the general rule: NEVER TOUR AFTER A STORM. The question is how soon after the storm are conditions safe? One hour? One day? One month? A whole season?
2. When conditions are unstable, the wise travel only for the rescue of fools.
3. When it comes to judging slope stability, the rule of thumb is: That there are no rules of thumb.
4. A ski tour disaster is triggered by someone's intuition that a slope is stable.
5. Next time you come to an avalanche slope, ask not only "will it slide?" but also, "what will happen if it does slide?"
6. While crossing an avalanche slope, he who hesitates is lost.
7. The family that tours close together gets buried close together.
8. The weekend ski tour begins with a Friday night call to the snow ranger or ski patrolman.
9. Carry a probe as you would have others carry a probe for you.
10. A fact for what it's worth: No one wearing an avalanche cord has been recovered dead.
11. There are no rules. MG



#### RCS ROSTER

It is finally off the press, one month earlier than last year. Individuals wishing a copy can receive one by sending a S.A.S.E. to Jim Sharpsteen, 1916 Bluebird, Glendora, CA 91740, or pick one up at a climb or meeting. Please send corrections and changes to the above, or call 213-335-8675. Your help in maintaining up-to-date records is appreciated. JS (See next two pages for roster.)

#### FOOD FOR THOUGHT WHILE BELAYING

1. How many birthdays does an average man have?
2. Some months have 30 days, some 31. How many have 28?
3. A person has in his hand two United States coins which total 55 cents in value. One is not a nickel. What are the coins?
4. True or False? A pound of gold weighs more than a pound of feathers.
5. Is it legal for a man to marry his widow's sister?

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"... I don't want to be a big frog  
in a small pond. All I want to be  
is a small frog in a clean pond..."



"... (continued from previous page)"

