

THE MUGELNOOS

No. 575 - November 18 1980

A news sheet 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 S. Highland Ave. Apt D, Fullerton, Ca. 92632. A four page issue.

RCS NOTES ON CLIMBING SAFETY: THE INTIMIDATION FACTOR

A new RCS proverb: Speak up while you still have the chance-or- it's OK to be kind to your mother, but it's better to blast your climbing partner!

Kathy Crandall, our new Vice Chairman, has asked me to write a brief note to start a Mugelnoos series on climbing safety. In sorting through my axioms and theorems on safety I have selected from personal experience something too new in my mind to be a Law--maybe it is a proposition.

While belaying the leader at Tahquitz, I held a 30 foot fall that should really have been only a 10 foot slide. The extra rope footage was supplied when two chocks placed after a traverse at the base of the pitch came out. This occurred because the belay was anchored in the wrong place - about 20 feet from the climbing route. OK, that was a mistake, but what's the point? It's this: I knew when the leader placed the first nut that we had set up the belay in the wrong place. Why didn't I speak up at that time? Because the leader was by far my climbing superior, too tough, full of nervous energy, short on patience, bitterly vocal when crossed...I knew that my ears would ring if I asked him to anchor in while I moved the belay. So I remained silent and the eventual fall was scaled up in severity. Fortunately the injuries were minor.

Later I concluded that the safety factor of a climbing team is reduced if there is not a free flow of safety suggestions between partners as the climb progresses. This interchange must occur regardless of the temperament of the climbers. It is important for our students in their first climbs. It is important for our senior members. Better to speak up and get insulted in return - at least the safety recommendation is out in the open where it can be rejected or accepted. Better than being surprised later.

I have also concluded that some other RCS accidents might have resulted in a similar way. I would be interested to hear from Mugelnoos readers if there really is an Intimidation Factor in climbing safety. EY

GREETINGS FROM CLOUDLAND (WASHINGTON)

Got skunked by weather the first three starts this summer. First two attempts, couldn't even find the peak, let alone climb it! Found Goode, and could even see 200 feet up the cliffs, but all cracks were full of ice. Chipped ice off of the rocks for a short distance, then, not being Russ or Mundwiler or etc., said goodbye to the icicles; a month later, the rocks were almost bare and it was a piece o' cake. Continued on page 2

MUGELNOOS STAFF

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 MUGELMAILER.....Dove Menkes
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 NEXT ISSUE: Dec. 16, 1980
 NEXT DEADLINE: Dec. 10, 1980
 MUGELNOOS MEETINGS: Third Tuesday
 of each month, 7:30 PM, LA. Dept
 of Water and Power, 111 North Hope
 Street, LA. Program, refreshments.
 Climbers, skiers, guests welcome.

CALENDAR

Nov. 28-30 Fri-Sun, Joshua Tree
 Nat'l Monument John
 Moore (714) 541-8886
 Site 2 at Sheep Pass
 Thur-Sat. nite, parking
 limited please carpool &
 bring water & firewood.
 Dec. 16 Tues, Mugelnoos meeting
 DWP 7:30 Andy Fried host

HELP YOUR MUGELEEDITORS

Type or print your articles so
 editors can type the masters with-
 out having to decipher misprints
 and sentence insertion arrows.

RCS EQUIPMENT

Anyone holding RCS equipment should
 contact Mike Mulry before student
 instruction begins. Mike can be
 reached at (213) 254-4333. MM

PHONE CORRECTION

Eleanor Graff's phone number was
 printed wrong in the SMS list. The
 correct number is (213) 246-3724.

PERUVIAN CLIMBING

Interested climbers should contact
 S: Bailey at (213) 832-6131 by
 December 1, 1980 SB

ABOUT THE SMS MEMBERSHIP LIST

The list just published contains
 the names of those who were eligible
 to vote at election time (as de-
 termined by the previous management)
 plus the names of those who joined
 since. It does not contain the
 names of people who let their sub-
 scriptions lapse and then re-sub-
 scribed. You have no problem if
 you are reading this. Before the
 next election, the list will be up-
 dated and republished for use by
 the elections committee. Only the
 names of those who are current
 subscribers will appear on the list.
 Gone but not forgotten: the inactive
 card file goes back 40 years, all
 it takes is three bucks to rescue
 a card from this prison. OM

1980 RCS PICNIC

This years annual picnic was held under ideal weather at Ed Nissen's
 cabin in Big Bear. Aproximately 35 people attended, many bouldering
 at nearby Castle Rock. The remains of last years beverages were
 finally consumed possibly setting a record for section temperance.
 About 45 pounds of chicken was consumed along with an excellent
 selection of food brought by members and guests. A thanks to Ed for
 being such a grand host. Hope to see a big turnout next year. RM

From page one

Then George Wallerstein and I hurried up the West Ridge of Thompson,
 to beat the drizzles on the two class 5 pitches. Next, the local
 marathon Stuart's West Ridge; the conventional bivouac is high in
 the crags, but we were so inspired by the cold wind and the dense
 clouds that we aided the final pitch and made it down to dwarf bushes
 before darkness and windy drizzels fell.

The Southwest Face of The Tooth was done in unbelievable sunlight--
 and with generally fine chock cracks--and the somewhat confusing
 return in the fog was well worth it.

Ruth joins me in extending our best to you-all

John Mendenhall

RCS ELECTIONS

Over half of the sections members attended this years election of officers. Newly elected (or drafted) officers are; Chairman - John Ripley, Vice Chairman (non gender) - Kathy Crandall, Secretary/Treasurer - Virgil Shields. Don Pies is retaining his position as safety chairman. Mike Mulry and Jim Sharpsteen will co-chair the training program. Leroy Russ is acting as Registrar for training this year. LeRoy also weakened and didn't vote to remove all members who failed to make four climbs.

I would like to thank the membership for their help over my past three years of officership. Certainly the leaders of our group deserve a thanks and a rest. Hopefully the large attendance of this years membership will signal the start of a larger participation by our group as a whole. The continued existence and quality of our organization will be dependent upon it. RM

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Just a note at renewal time... We have not been near the Northwest's most celebrated mountain this year, but we found pieces of it everywhere we went. Trails have a sandy deposit on them, quite fine and dusty in some areas (depending on how hard the wind was blowing at the time of deposition). Glaciers are covered with a grey grit similar to the usual end-of-season grime but more extensive. The glaciers were melted back a little more than usual this year because of their dark coating.

We climbed Mt. Olympus the weekend after Labor Day for an exciting close to an otherwise undistinguished climbing season. Olympus is not a high summit although at 7965 it is the highest on the Olympic Peninsula of Washington. Its distinguishing features are the facts that 1) the shortest approach hike is over 17 miles (round trip from the road to the summit is 44 miles) and 2) the summit receives the highest amount of precipitation of any point in the Olympic Rain Forest. We were lucky and managed to get to the summit on a day which was perfectly clear. We were able to see the snowy coastal range of British Columbia, all the volcanoes of Washington and even Mt Hood in Oregon. And behind us, we could see the Pacific Ocean! An astounding range of view.

The climb itself is mostly glacier tromping, with a short steep snow pitch and a bit of rock scramble to the summit pinnacle. It's a very satisfying summit because of the bit of work at the end - a great place to savor the scenery.

We ran into John Mendenhall at a meeting of the Mountaineers. We enjoyed a little reminiscing with him about the clear skies and simple ridge systems of the Sierras, and good rock.

We're gearing up for the ski season now. We use both kinds of cross-country gear, but we saw some startlingly short radius telemark turns last year. This winter will be the year of the telemark for us.

Happy, safe climbing to all our friends in the RCS. Visit us if you're in Seattle. Karin Sundquist Gochoel (1612 NE 75th Street, Seattle, Washington, 98115)

Kathy Crandall et al; no intent to imply that becoming an officer by means of an "illegal election" would necessarily affect the honesty, sincerity and ability of that person, especially one not involved beforehand in the process leading to the election. However, if apparent irregularities are observed it is only proper to bring them to the attention of SMS members. With the definition of an "honest" election being one in which everyone who is eligible to vote receives a ballot, how else can a member be aware that he was erroneously removed from membership (obviously he would not receive a copy of the Membership Directory) since the custom of sending out "warning notices" to delinquent SMS Mugelnoos subscribers by the SMS Secretary has apparently been discontinued.

SMS members wishing to be reinstated should notify SMS Secretary Owen Maloy, whose almost monthly contributions to Mugelnoos contain not only numerous "inuendos" about past SMS activities but occasional false statements as well, which are offensive to a greater number of people than are on the SMS Central Committee and do tend to create somewhat of a credibility gap as well. So c'mon SMS CC--how about it? BL

TELLING ON THE TAHQUITZ TOPO

The August Mugelnoos published some corrections to Randy Vogel's book of topographic diagrams to Tahquitz and Suicide Rocks. Randy has replied, thanking those who noted mistakes and asking for further corrections or comments. He adds, "I am in full agreement about adding Angle Iron Traverse, Fitchen's Folly, and the Offshoot, although Angle Iron is more of a variation than a route. Some climbs were not included, however, due to doubt as to their credibility-- for example, Dilemma at Suicide, which local opinion holds to have never been climbed. Free Lance has been chopped and does not really exist any more."

Randy supplied the following list of corrections not noted in the August Mugelnoos:

TAHQUITZ

- Plate 1: right hand start is 5.10a.
- Plate 2: My Pink Half... is 5.10b/c, not 5.10d.
- Plate 3: El Whampo is misspelled "El Whamo."
- Plate 10: On pitch 3 of Fool's Rush (D), one should climb up and right around the roof higher up instead of going out left as shown.
- Plate 12: Vampire is 5.11, not 5.10d.

SUICIDE

- Plate 14: Aqualung is 5.11+, not 5.10d.

INDEX--TAHQUITZ

- North Buttress is 5.3, not 5.0.
- Zeno's Paradox (5.11) is not listed.
- Stairway to Heaven (5.9) should note "(and A3)."
- Left X Crack (5.9, A4) is not listed.
- Right X Crack (5.7, A2+) is not listed.
- TM's Jewel (5.7, A4) is not listed.
- Climb with No Beginning (5.6) is not listed.

INDEX--SUICIDE

The following are not listed:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Tabby Treat (5.1) | Rebolting Development (5.11) |
| Cheap Day Return (5.8, A3) | AID SECTION: |
| Sword of Damocles (5.9) | Forrest Lawn (A2) |
| Warm Up (5.9) | Aid Route (A3) |
| Euphoria (5.9) and Knocking on Heaven's Door (5.11+) should both add "(& A3)." | |

Further comments can be sent to Mugelnoos or directly to Randy Vogel (1252 Peacock Hill Dr., Santa Ana, CA 92705).

JR