



No. 595 - July 20, 1988. A 6 page issue.

A newsheet published by and for the Ski Mountaineers and the Rock Climbing sections of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter since 1938. Send subscriptions and address changes to Dove Menkes, 2530 Coventry Circle Fullerton, CA 92633. \$4 per year due in October.

YOSEMITE VALLEY: MAY 29-31

I can only report on 1 1/2 days of this beautiful holiday weekend because I had to leave early - see below. However, LeRoy covered the climb in the June issue. Of the 39 routes signed out, 27 were on either Glacier Point Apron or Ranger Rock. 3 sign-outs were actually for both - a bad practice that would complicate a search effort. In addition to the routes reported by LeRoy, I should also mention the Braille Book and Arrowhead Spire. Rapping off Monday Morning Slab, Sunday morning, I was greeted with word that my passenger George Holland had broken an ankle in a fall off O.C. Concerto on Ranger Rock. It turns out that he chipped a bone and badly sprained his left ankle, falling 40' from too far above his protection to avoid hitting the ground. Happy he lucked out with fairly minor injuries. George then left for LA with Mark Cole, and I called my wife to say he'd be arriving that evening. No sooner did she hear George's name than she said he'd taken another whallop - in his camper's rear window, parked in front of my house. His, along with a dozen other cars had their rear windows shot out - plus one picture window of a house. My wife was a bit worried about more possible vandalism, so I drove home Sunday afternoon. Good old Bel Air! FR

WASHINGTON COLUMN

Over this past Memorial Day weekend, Claude Lane and I climbed the South Face of Washington Column. We had both made two previous attempts and had set completion of the climb as important goals for ourselves. For me however, the climb was not only an achievement, but also a celebration of my new status as a "real person" (rather than a student) after finishing law school. The celebration was necessarily brief though, for looming ahead was my present hermitic existence while studying for the Bar Exam. (Ed.: Wait to hear what they call you after you're admitted!)

In spite of my desire to celebrate, I did worry that Dinner Ledge - the spacious bivouac ledge halfway up the Column - might be too crowded with other parties over such an ideal weekend for climbing. However, we had the route to ourselves on Sunday and Monday, save for two climbers who had started several hours before us and were making a one-day ascent. Perhaps other climbers also thought the route would be crowded and avoided it. Or perhaps they thought that they needn't concern themselves with the problem of induction, and since the RCS had planned another trip to Yosemite Valley, it would be more appropriate to reseal the seams on their tents and raingear that to attempt a two-day climb. Whatever the reason, our fears of an overcrowded route were dispelled and Dinner Ledge did not become Banquet Ledge.

Our other fear, that our meager supply of water and two hot days would leave our throats like those of finalists in a peanut butter eating race also proved ill-founded. A previous party had left a full gallon jug of water on Dinner Ledge. Moreover, from about 11:30 AM until dusk a continuous 25-30 mph wind cooled things down considerably - too much, we reflected, as we spent Sunday afternoon in T-shirts with our sweaters below on Dinner Ledge.

Above Dinner Ledge is an impressive roof, whose challenge is in reaching for the three bolts placed by Layton Kor, who is 6'4" and with long arms to boot. The reach for the first bolt is the hardest, for it requires one to lean out about 90° from the rock with a daisy chain on tension. That is, such a move is required if one doesn't use some form of cheater stick. Claude was proud of his having made the reach on his previous attempts, and was disappointed when I fashioned a cheater stick by taping a fifi hook (I've always wondered about the origin

(continued on page 3)

MUGELNOOS STAFF

EDITOR for July . . . Fred Wing
MUGELGRAPHER . . . Mark Cole
MUGELMAILER . . . Dove Menkes
REPORTERS: Lloyd Balsam, Kathy Crandall, Jim Friedberg, Mark Goebel, Norman Kingsley, Andre Korbut-Werberg, Margo Koss, LeRoy Russ, Larry Tidball, Fred Wing

NEXT EDITOR: Emory Yount
773 W. Knepp Ave.
Fullerton, CA 92630
(714) 525-5196

NEXT ISSUE: August 17, 1982
DEADLINE: TUESDAY * August 10

C A L E N D A R

- Jul 24-25 - Tahquitz Rock, Jeter/McPherson
- Jul 30-Aug 1 - E Face Whitney, Jeter/Peters
- Aug 14-16 - The Balls, Yount/Russ
- Aug 17 - Mugelnoos meeting, RCS
- Aug 21-22 - Suicide Rock, Pies/Ryan

AUGUST MUGELNOOS

Because Emory Yount the next editor, is leading the climb on The Balls over the weekend preceding the next meeting, he must receive all entries by Tuesday, August 10.

THE BALLS TRIP

Participants on this trip over the Aug 14-16 weekend must contact the leaders (Yount/Russ) for directions and times.

SPORTS CHALET EVENTS

- Fri, Aug 18-7pm: Greg Thomsen (of Wilderness Experience- Climbing in China, Tibet)
 - Thu, Sep 23-7pm: Norm Kingsley-The Alps, Alaska, Canadian Rockies & Himalayan Alps
 - Some time in Sep - Lou Whittaker
- Call (790-2717) for exact times

NEW RCS MEMBERS

- Tony Bird Don Havens
111 N Gale Dr Apt F 1037 Parkhill
Beverly Hills, CA Costa Mesa, CA
90211 (213)653-0618 92627 (714)642-8655
- Jim Friedberg Phil Thomas
870 Hilgard Av #407 2442 Norwalk Av
Los Angeles, CA Los Angeles, CA
90024 (213)824-3603 90041 (213)2581915

CAMPSITE FEES

At the last Tahquitz trip (6/19-20) many climbers did not give the leader the \$2 campsite fee. If you did not give \$2 to the leader, please send it to the Secy/Treas, Margo Koss, 5830 Benner St, #207, LA 90042.

KC

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON STONY POINT

At the Stony Point Park Dedication (see June Mugelnoos) 11 volunteers signed up and a preliminary meeting (of 3) was held on ways to raise money to buy the 1.83 acre triangular lot at the SW corner that includes Rocks 1 and 1.5 and the frangible oaks of bucket-drop fame. It's on the market for \$120,000. Maybe some industrial gifts or a benefit concert? Please call or write John Ripley or me with suggestions or to volunteer. FOR SALE: EB's size 46 (13) used one time. LeRoy (213) 258-1546
ROPE BARGAIN AT REI: 165' Mammut \$89 and change.
GERMAN ALPINE CLUB VISITOR'S SCHEDULE

By publishing this schedule in a SC publication, we place the leader under Club liability insurance protection.

- Jul 16-23: w. Ron Hudson to Sierra
- Jul 23-30: China Lake's Greg Vernon & 7 SAR friends to South Sierra
- Jul 30-Aug 1; w. Tom Jeter Whitney
- Aug 8-15: w. RJ Secor Devil's Crags
- Aug 19 - Loma Prieta Base Camp w. Art Calkins & Bob Reid
- Aug 27 - w. Wayne Moss Trinity

RCS APPLICANTS

The following persons have applied for RCS membership: Alois Smrz, Greg Vernon, Nelson Willis. If you have comments regarding their competence and safety, please contact LeRoy Russ.

TRAVELLING IN EUROPE

I will be travelling in Europe from early August until early September. If any RCS members or affiliates will also be in Europe during this period and would like to climb, please call me at 824-3603. Further I would appreciate any suggestions from anyone who has climbed in Europe. Jim Friedberg

RCS SAFETY CLIMB/SAFETY TEST POLICY

Safety Test. Individuals interested in taking the Safety Test must make reservations with the Safety Chairman or other designated person.
Safety Climb. Individuals needing a Safety Committee member climb must make their own arrangements with a member of the Safety Committee before a scheduled trip or some other mutually agreed-upon time. Individuals not making prior reservations but showing up on a trip looking for a safety climb might not get one from Committee members present. Please make advance reservations. The time to schedule your safety climb is when you possess a rack, a rope and other necessary climbing equipment and are competent with the equipment. In addition to the

(continued on page 3)

RCS SAFETY CLIMB/SAFETY TEST POLICY (continued)

equipment, it is important that you have developed the necessary climbing skill. For the safety climb you are expected to lead the entire climb, place protection, utilize knots, proper rope handling, climbing signals, belay technique and belay anchors and exhibit a safe style and attitude. Safety Committee Members: LeRoy Russ (Ch) Don Pies

Leonard Bayless Virgil Shields
Kathy Crandall Larry Tidball
Andy Fried Fred King JR

WASHINGTON COLUMN (continued)

of that term) onto a cleaning tool. I avoided most of the long reach by finding a small slot in which a #5 brass nut fit perfectly. Even so in order to make the reach comfortably, I had to balance my makeshift cheater stick on the pick of a crag hammer, which proved itself essential in several other unexpected fashions. After we surmounted the roof a spectacular view of the Valley excited us about the next day as we climbed to a hanging belay, fixed a rope, and rappelled down to Dinner Ledge.

As we settled in for the night, I reflected on my two previous attempts at the South Face with Pat Wallen. Pat and I first approached the Column last October, but our attempt was bogged down with the logistical problems that accompany a first attempt at a grade V; simply put, we moved too slowly the first day to count on making the summit on the second. We returned in December to climb in better style, but we woke up at 4:00 AM of our second day to a storm that turned out to be the first of a continual series of storms that did so much damage in the San Francisco area. It's a good thing we decided not to sit out the storm. So instead of watching a sunset from the Column's summit, we watched the old Disney film, Son of Flubber, in the Yosemite Lodge lounge, a section of which we unashamedly commandeered to dry off our thoroughly soaked clothes and equipment.

The second day for Claude and me began less ominously, but quite spectacularly with an exciting free jumar over the roof. The climbing above was mostly aid, which was wonderfully exposed yet fairly easy.

We reached the summit just at dusk, and chose to spend the night on top rather than attempt the North Dome Gully descent at night. I had "fond" memories of sliding down wet slabs during a descent in a drizzle several years ago when I climbed the Royal Arches route. The descent on Tuesday morning proved less fearsome than I remembered it, but would still have been quite perilous at night.

The South Face is one of the most benign grade Vs in the Valley. The exposure is terrific, yet none of the climbing is too difficult. In fact, it is not necessary to free climb above 5.8, and that only for two short sections. There are, however, two exceptionally fine 5.9 jamcracks if one is so inclined. The climb is an excellent choice for a first grade V.

JF

SNAKE DIKE BEAR WARS, YOSEMITE

"LeRoy didn't tell me you have to go all the way around both Quarter Domes - what am I doing here?" lamented Stan Klein on the forced march up the trail to Nevada Falls the night before our planned climb of the Snake Dike on Half Dome. But his troubles had barely begun. Upon arrival at the campsite, our flashlights picked out eyes belonging to a procession of giant bears on their way up to Little Yosemite campground, followed shortly by two climbers retreating to the Valley. The bears had picked off their food on their way up-canyon - a bear reportedly snapped off their 3-inch food-hanging branch at the trunk. Duly warned, Margo strung her bear wire between two trees and John Peters made an ingenious rig designed to bewilder even the most experienced bear. Meanwhile Stan and Paul Harris held the bears at bay. Happily our two bears were only medium-sized - the big ones must have been up at the main dinner area. After laying in a large store of pine cones to throw and arguing over who got to sleep in the middle, we got into our sleeping bags. Stan and John bravely guarded the perimeter, while Paul threw pine cones and growled ferociously every time a bear was heard climbing a tree (always the wrong tree, luckily). Margo slept through most of it. (Note: At the Picnic Paul must give a demonstration. Ed.)

The next day dawned clear, bright, and with our breakfast still intact! The remainder of the approach was only moderately harrowing, and we were on the summit by early afternoon, followed later by another RCS party, Bob Somoano, Rudolpho Iturriaga and Steve Dawson.

The climbing is superb - pitch after pitch of moderate 5th class (5.4-5.7) on beautiful rock. The view from the belays (double bolts) is wonderful, both the Valley and the high country. The climbing is definitely worth the approach, even with the bears!

MK

The newly and duly elected Central Committee of SMS held its first meeting June 10 at the home of Kathy Crandall. All members were present except Fried and Roberts. The main business conducted was:

* Selection of SMSCC officers: Ch.-Mark Goebel; V.Ch.-Kathy Crandall; Sec.&Treas.-Lloyd Balsam; Alternate Officer-Sam Roberts.

* Appointment of Committee Officers: Outings & Safety Coord.-Jackie VanDalsem; Mugelnoos Comm. Ch.-John Ripley; Projection Comm. Ch.-R. J. Secor.

* Jackie VanDalsem was appointed an approved SMS Trip Leader.

* Reviewed Safety and Training Policy: no changes. "Safety and Training for Ski Mountaineering--Outings Safety and Training Policy" dated Nov. 1980, approved by SMSCC 11-19-80, and by Angeles Chapter Safety Committee 3-3-81, still applies. Copies available from SMS Secretary (above-913 Kenter Way, LA 90049) by sending \$1.00 for repro costs, plus 54¢ (not 20¢!) SASE.

* Reviewed new Sierra Club requirement for by-laws revision imposed on all Chapters, Groups, Sections, etc. These are engendered by recent changes to Calif. law with respect to non-profit corporations. Club's Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws are already changed to conform. Main thrust of the required changes at SMS-level, is:

- tighten the structural relationship between Chapter and Section;
- specifically define & limit financial responsibilities, authority of (and reporting by) Section, in context of previous item;
- Membership Comm. (we have) and Conservation Comm. (we don't have) are required;
- officers to have 2-yr. terms and be elected in 4th quarter of year
- fiscal year of Section to coincide with FY of Club (10/1-9/30);
- Sierra Club Council must approve Section by-laws.

* Strong encouragement (but not direction) to re-format by-laws per model provided.

In addition, SMSCC is considering proposing to include in such a by-laws revision: officer selection procedure, specification of effective date-of-office of new officers, and upgrade Outings/Schedule Coordinator to SMSCC officer.

The Secretary was directed to study and report recommended specific action, consistent with the presently effective 12/79 by-laws, and follow-through on it; coordinating fully with SMSCC, to completion, by the Dec. 31, 1982 Club deadline--ratified, approved by Council and all. LB

LAMARCK COL TOUR * May 15-16, 1982 DON WAS ON THIS TRIP

A record setting number of skiers, 18 in all, appeared at the North Lake turnoff Saturday morning, and enjoyed fine Spring skiing between camp at Grass Lake and Lamarck Col. Not counting turns, it is about a four mile run, with 3000' of vertical, mostly above timberline.

New snow had fallen high in the Sierra during the previous week and lingering clouds dropped a few more flakes upon us, but good weather returned as we met Gail and Chuck Wilts, who described heavy snow above but later we added some fall line curves of our own during the afternoon run. Also notable was the view of impressive Mendel Couloir (skied by Chris Landry a couple of years ago).

After a night in the teens Sunday was perfect weather wise; and the skiing was hot going up, and real fast on the way down. Seven attempted the steep slopes of Mt. Lamarck, with Own and Jean Francois going for the top. The first turn is always the hardest, but then we just started cranking S's one after the other. Long after the snow is gone, we will remember those tracks.

Of course, a Lamarck tour is not complete without mentioning the willows on the ski back to North Lake. Don't worry, they are still there. NG

LACKING A BRIDGE OVER FAST WATER

SMS to Mt. Ritter - May 29-31

A ski descent of Mt. Ritter ideally starts with a deep snow pack late in the Spring, thus providing a skiable surface on the road from Mammoth to Agnew Meadows, and on up above Shadow Lake.

The trip was scheduled this year and with luck the snow was still 10 plus feet deep at the Mammoth parking lot when 6 skiers began the long approach to Ritter. We slid on down to Agnew, through the woods, and walked the trail down to the San Joaquin River. At the river's edge, we discovered deep, fast water and no bridge. The river had been even higher, the bridge was gone and there wasn't a chance of making a safe crossing. What to do?

Thinking fast, I suggested we turn around, ski out, and drive to Tioga Pass. Although easier said than done, it was a long climb out of that hole before better things could be contemplated (like a cold beer).

Tioga Pass was entrenched between towering walls of snow. Ferdinand was collecting fees at the gate, and the slopes of Mt. Dana awaited our carving edges. Unfortunately, the forces of nature were still against us, and the higher slopes on Dana did not thaw. However, the middle and lower sections were very skiable, but sun cups were beginning to form. The 3rd day we tried a southern exposure, but a cold wind and bumpy snow made for less than ideal conditions. HG

RCS MEMBERS CLIMBING RACE

After taking an early lead, LeRoy Russ (27 climbing days) is falling off the pace, (Was his fast start due to being required to go on all those trips because he was the leader?) along with Margo (26 days) while John Peters (24 days) and Paul Harris (23 days) are moving up fast, with Larry Tidball (20 days), Mike Baca (19 days), Anna Houpt and Mike Mulry (17 days) and Virgil Shields (15 days) not far behind. Ruth Carter, Stan Klein, Ron Mastrianni and John Orange, at 13 days, have a bit of a gap to close. But Paul, Anna and Margo will be off climbing in Colorado in late July, missing two (!) trips. Mike Mulry is on an extended cross-country jaunt that will end up with the others in Colorado, and LeRoy will be in Idaho instead of on Virgil's Pinnacle Foray, so maybe John will catch LeRoy and leave Margo, Paul, Mike and Anna far behind.

If Proficiency Card holders were in this race too, the leaders would have to look out for Jim Bryla, Nick Smith, Phil Thomas and Nelson Willis, notably ubiquitous on RCS climbs this year.

(Tally of climbing days is up to and including the Tahquitz trip of June 19-20.) MBC

WILLIAMSON ROCK June 12 1982

17 participants showed up at this rock outcrop located near Angeles Crest Highway and Mt. Williamson. This was the first RCS trip to the Rock in several years and LeRoy was the only one on the trip who had been there before. There are many possible 3-4 pitch routes and LeRoy pointed out some known lines. This rock is quite loose and protection is at all times poor. Many of the fixed bolts have no hangers, bring your own. Some participants reported a fine day's climbing, while others swore never to return. The opinions varied with the route climbed in direct corollary to the looseness of the rock and the lack of protection. With the pleasant stream running past the base of the Rock, this location makes an interesting alternate 1 day climb. BT

TAHQUITZ: 19-20 June

For those climbers crazy enough, given the overcast and occasional drizzle in the L.A. basin, to come out to Tahquitz, Thor was kind: he only grumbled slightly Saturday afternoon. His Saturday companion Loki was ineffective as even though rain could be felt, it was insufficient to wet much of any thing and served only to remind us mortals of mountain weather's capriciousness. As usual, there was the afternoon breeze but it did not disrupt the idyllic Idyllwild weather or the delicious liberation from the overcast in the L.A. basin.

A new record may have been set for latest return to Lunch Rock: 11:30 AM from West Lark by the intrepid quartet of Baty, Hudson, Loki and Stees, with Hudson having enough fortitude to do Jamcrack the next morning - good show Ron! Other, definitely not record-setting statistics include 34 climbers on Saturday (8 RCS members) and 27 on Sunday (with one more RCS member) doing 17 different routes including

(continued on page 6)

Super Pooper by Harris and Mulry. Angel's Fright was the most popular route with two parties each day. The plethora of Safety Committee members expected did not materialize so Virgil and Larry were busy both days climbing with aspirants - what they were truly aspiring to is beyond the comprehension of any rational being.

For those joining the campfire Saturday night, the pot luck (blessed by Frey and enjoyed by this author) must have been magnificent judging from the quantity and quality of food still available late Saturday evening. Betsy & Betsy of this year's class celebrated their birthdays by climbing Saturday and then providing cake for everyone back in camp. The largess evidenced by these two must reflect the excellent training provided by Mulry and Co(horts). Keep up the good work Mike and we'll come to expect a keg of suds at the roadhead next year! Perhaps the following year we can expect a cold keg.

The state park rangers were quite understanding. At least one finally realized that even the mighty power of the State of California is inadequate to intimidate the RCS anarchists. Saturday night the minions of the state accepted the pittance collected and offered by the leader without asking for a strict accounting, by license plate, which vehicles were parked where. For those of you unfamiliar with the modus operandus of the rangers, they expect each of the two vehicles parked in a campsite to have had their license numbers registered at the office so that the roving ranger can rapidly determine if a BAD GUY has parked where he should not. Another regulation (odious to some) is the limitation of two vehicles per campsite. Why two? Mine is not to wonder why; mine is but to do or get-hassled-by-the-meanest-gun-slinging-ranger-in-town.

My apologies to those of you who tried to reach me by phone. If you still have this compulsion, the best probability of getting through to me is by calling me at work: (213) 847-5508.

Good luck Liz and Becky in your journey into the wild alien country of Colorado; I'm sure Gringo Starn will protect you from the ferocious two-legged nut placer, but beware of pin popping friends. AK-N

THE MUGELNOOS
c/o Dove Menkes
2530 Coventry Circle
Fullerton, CA 92633



DON PIES
4619 W 130TH ST
HAWTHORNE CA

90250

staple