

SKI MOUNTAINEERS SECTION
ANGELES CHAPTER
SIERRA CLUB

BYLAWS



APPROVED:

By Two-Thirds Vote of the Ski Mountaineers Section:

Date Approved: October 21, 1987 Attest: Gerry Holleman
For the Ski Mountaineers Section

By Vote of the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee:

Date Approved: June 2, 1988 Attest: Bob Kanne
For the Executive Committee

FOREWORD

The Ski Mountaineers Section (SMS) is one of the oldest self-governing sections of the Sierra Club, founded outside the Club in 1934. The group joined the Sierra Club in 1935 at the personal invitation of the President of the Club, Ernest Dawson. The section is small; about 100 members, including some of the founders. The section's outings are technical, and the members must be competent skiers. The section is active only during the ski season. The section's procedures have been the model for many Sierra Club organizations founded since.

The Ski Mountaineers and the Rock Climbing Section have a unique symbiotic relationship. The RCS is actually older, but filed for self-governing status later. Ever since the beginning, the two sections have shared their meetings and their newsletter, the Mugelnoos (meaning: news about moguls), established in 1938.

BYLAW 1**ORGANIZATION**

1.1 **Name.** The name of this section is the ***Ski Mountaineers Section*** (SMS) of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club.

1.2 **Purpose.** The purposes of the section are:

- To band together members of the Sierra Club to enjoy skiing in the mountain wilderness with the comradeship and safety of a group.
- To apply the principles of conservation as they concern the use of the wilderness in winter.
- To promote interest and ability in ski mountaineering by scheduling and leading ski mountaineering tours.
- To provide instruction in ski mountaineering and to determine the skiing and ski-mountaineering proficiency of members and candidates.
- To support existing ski huts.

1.3 **Constitution.** This section is an integral part of the Sierra Club and the Angeles Chapter, subject to their bylaws, and is not a separate legal entity. All actions of the section shall be consistent with these bylaws and with the policies and bylaws of the Angeles Chapter and the Sierra Club.

BYLAW 2**REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP**

2.1 **Eligibility.** A candidate for membership in the Ski Mountaineers Section must be a current member of the Sierra Club, must be a Fourth Class skier as determined by the Sierra Club Fourth Class (Qualifying) Test, or equivalent, must have participated in an SMS ski tour, must subscribe to the *Mugelnoos*, and must be sponsored by an active member of the section. In addition, he or she must display an attitude of harmony and cooperation with other members of the section and the Sierra Club and shall support the objectives of the Sierra Club and the Ski Mountaineers. The Fourth Class skiing proficiency requirement and the tour participation requirement may be waived in the case of persons who are physically unable to pass this test but who have shown an outstanding interest in the activities and objectives of the Ski Mountaineers Section.

2.2 **Election.** Eligible candidates shall submit applications for membership to the Central Committee. A majority affirmative vote of the Central Committee shall be sufficient for election to membership.

2.3 **Maintenance.** To maintain active membership, a member must continue Sierra Club membership and continue to subscribe to the *Mugelnoos*.

BYLAW 3**CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP**

3.1 **Active Members.** Only active members of the section shall be qualified to vote, hold office, or nominate candidates for office.

3.1.1 **Regular Members** are those who are classified as such at the time of adoption of these bylaws or

who subsequently fulfill requirements for membership, and who maintain their membership as outlined above. They may wear the Regular Badge and the Ski Mountaineers Patch.

3.1.2 **Big Badge Members** are members who are classified as such at the time of adoption of these bylaws or who are subsequently elected to Big Badge Membership. A candidate for Big Badge Membership must be an active regular member and must have a high degree of ski mountaineering proficiency as verified by two SMS qualified leaders according to the requirements of the Sierra Club Ski Mountaineering Test or equivalent. He or she must also have taken a greater than average part in the activities of the Ski Mountaineers by serving as a Central Committee member, committee chairperson or leader of a number of ski tours. Election to Big Badge Membership shall be by majority affirmative vote of the Central Committee. Big Badge members may wear the large badge.

3.1.3 **Honorary Members** are Sierra Club members who have given many years of service to the Ski Mountaineers and who, upon nomination by the Central Committee, are confirmed as Regular or Big Badge Members for life by vote of the membership at a business meeting. Honorary members shall receive a lifetime subscription to the *Mugelnoos*, free of charge, and shall have all the privileges of other active members.

3.2 **Inactive Members** are members of the Sierra Club who were at one time members of the Ski Mountaineers Section but who do not fulfill requirements for maintenance of membership. An Inactive Member, upon application, may be reinstated to his or her previous grade of membership (Big Badge or Regular) by meeting the requirements for active membership.

BYLAW 4

MEETINGS

4.1 **Mugelnoos Meetings.** These are monthly general meetings of the membership, guests, and friends, held jointly with the Rock Climbing Section (RCS) to:

- Prepare the *Mugelnoos* newsheet for mailing;
- Disseminate conservation, technical and outings information;
- Provide a ready means to meet and communicate with non-members interested in the SMS/RCS and the Sierra Club.

The SMS and RCS separately preside over Mugelnoos meetings, each for half of the year, (six meetings each) on a schedule agreed upon by the officers of both sections.

4.2 **Business Meetings** are those meetings of the membership in which business requiring a vote or polling of the members is conducted or nominations for office are received. There shall be at least one business meeting in March of each year for the purpose of receiving nominations from the floor for the following year's Central Committee. Business meetings may be conducted in conjunction with Mugelnoos meetings. Business meetings may be called by the Chairperson or the Central Committee, or upon written petition to the Central Committee of ten active members of the section. The chairperson shall call a business meeting within 30 days after the receipt of such a written request. The petitioners may direct that an issue be decided by secret mailed ballot instead of by vote at a business meeting.

4.3 **Notice of Meetings.** Notice of the purpose or agenda, time and location of meetings shall be given in writing to the members at least one week in advance. Notice may be given by mail, in a Chapter publication, or in the *Mugelnoos*.

4.4 **Quorum.** Ten percent of the members of the section shall constitute a quorum at a business meeting.

The most-recently-published membership roster shall be used to determine the total membership.

BYLAW 5

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

5.1 **Responsibilities and Powers.** The management of the Ski Mountaineers Section shall be entrusted to a Central Committee of six active members elected to one-year terms, June 1 to May 31, by the active members of the section. Only the Central Committee or those specifically appointed or authorized by it, shall act in the name of the section. The Central Committee shall have the power and responsibility

- To appoint committees and representatives.
- To appoint qualified outings leaders, including ski tour leaders, who shall have the authority to verify skiing and ski mountaineering proficiency.
- To approve, modify and maintain the section safety policy, establishing the qualifications for participants and leaders, rules, practices and safety for ski tours and other outings.
- To manage the section's funds, and delegate financial responsibility as required.

5.2 **Nomination.** Before the January *Mugelnoos* meeting, the Chairperson of the Central Committee shall appoint an Elections Committee composed of at least three active members of the section, who are neither members of the Central Committee nor candidates for election. The names of the Committee shall be published no later than in the March *Mugelnoos*. Candidates may be nominated by the Elections Committee or by any active member by communicating with a member of the Elections Committee before the April *Mugelnoos* deadline, or from the floor at the March Business Meeting. There shall be at least two more candidates nominated than offices to be filled, if possible. All candidates must be willing to serve. The candidates's names shall be published in the April *Mugelnoos*. The Elections Committee shall prepare the ballots for the vote of the membership.

5.3 **Election.** The members of the Central Committee shall be elected annually by a secret ballot mailed with the April *Mugelnoos*. All (and only) members who are active at the time of mailing shall receive ballots and be eligible to vote. The ballots shall be counted and certified by the Elections Committee. They shall report the election results to the Central Committee, to the newly elected persons, publish this information in the May *Mugelnoos* and announce it at the April *Mugelnoos* meeting. If for compelling reason this schedule cannot be adhered to, the election shall be held at the earliest practical time and the incumbent Central Committee shall continue in office until the new Committee is elected.

5.4 **Vacancies and Absences.** A vacancy on the Central Committee shall be filled immediately by vote of the remaining members. A member who fails to attend two consecutive meetings of the Central Committee shall be so advised in writing by the Secretary and notified that failure to attend a third consecutive meeting will automatically result in a vote by the remaining Central Committee members as to whether the absent member's position should be declared vacant.

5.5 **Officers.** Following their election, the Central Committee shall select from its membership the following officers: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Outings and Safety Chairperson. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined. The remaining members of the Central Committee shall perform duties designated by the Chairperson.

1. **Chairperson.** The Chairperson shall conduct Central Committee meetings, section business meetings, and SMS *Mugelnoos* meetings, shall cause any reports required by the Angeles Chapter to be prepared, and shall serve as a member of the *Mugelnoos* Committee. The

Chairperson shall have the power to vote and to resolve ties.

2. **Vice Chairperson.** The Vice Chairperson shall conduct meetings in the absence of the Chairperson.
3. **Secretary.** The Secretary shall take minutes at Central Committee meetings and publish a condensed version in the next *Mugelnoos*, process candidates for membership in the section, maintain membership records and publish an annual membership directory, communicate the results of elections to the Angeles Chapter, and handle all section correspondence. The names of all new members, offices and committee appointments shall appear in the minutes of the Central Committee and be published in the next *Mugelnoos*. He shall also maintain a current list of SMS qualified leaders, and ensure dissemination of notices of meetings.
4. **Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall manage the finances of the section and the sale of section patches and pins, and make all necessary financial reports.
5. **Outings and Safety Chairperson.** The Outings and Safety Chairperson shall solicit and collect outing proposals from leaders for Central Committee approval for publication in Chapter publications and the *Mugelnoos*; shall monitor and enforce compliance with and propose any needed changes to SMS safety and training policies, and shall oversee the planning and conduct of training in ski mountaineering.

5.6 **Meetings.** Meetings of the Central Committee shall be held at least twice per year at times and places to be specified by the Committee. Meetings of the Committee may be called by the Chairperson and shall be called upon request of any two members of the Committee. Notice of meetings shall be given to all committee members at least one week in advance unless all agree to a modified advance notice period, stating time, place, and purpose or agenda. No vote shall be taken at a meeting on any subject not included in the call unless all committee members are present and all consent.

5.7 **Quorum.** A majority of the Central Committee shall constitute a quorum.

5.8 **Open Meetings.** Whenever possible, the place and time of Central Committee meetings shall be published at least one week in advance in the *Mugelnoos*. Members of the Ski Mountaineers may attend meetings of the Central Committee. Active members not on the Central Committee shall have a voice but no vote.

BYLAW 6

COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

The Central Committee shall appoint the following committees and representatives, in addition to the Elections Committee. Their members may also be Central Committee members. The terms of office of all committees and representatives shall expire with the term of the Central Committee.

6.1 **Programs Committee** The Programs Committee shall arrange for the *Mugelnoos* meeting place, shall provide for all programs at *Mugelnoos* meetings for which the Ski Mountaineers are responsible, and shall arrange for the care and operation of the section's projection equipment.

6.2 **Chapter Council Representative and Alternate.** The SMS Chapter Council Representative or Alternate shall represent the section on the Angeles Chapter Council.

6.3 **Chapter Conservation Representative and Alternate.** The SMS Chapter Conservation Representative or Alternate shall represent the section as a member of the Chapter Conservation Committee.

6.4 **Additional Committees.** The Chairperson may appoint such standing or special committees deemed necessary to carry out the purposes of the section. The Chairperson shall be an *ex-officio* member of all such committees, except the Elections Committee.

BYLAW 7

THE MUGELNOOS

7.1 **The Mugelnoos** is a skiing, climbing and conservation newsheet published monthly by and for the Ski Mountaineers and Rock Climbing Sections of the Angeles Chapter.

7.2 **Mugelnoos Committee.** The *Mugelnoos* shall be managed by a committee of five consisting of a chairperson, the current chairpersons of both sections, the Mugelmailer, and the Mugelgrapher. Responsibilities of this committee shall include publication of the *Mugelnoos*, the appointment of editors, the maintenance of necessary equipment, and management of *Mugelnoos* funds.

1. The **Chairperson** of the Mugelnoos Committee shall be appointed jointly by the officers of the Ski Mountaineers and the Rock Climbing Sections on the basis of editorial competence, knowledge of both climbing and ski mountaineering, and willingness to take charge of the publication. The Chairperson shall be a member of at least one of the sections and preferably both.
2. The **Mugelmailer** shall be appointed by the Mugelnoos Committee subject to the approval of the Mugelnoos chairperson, and shall serve for an indefinite period. The Mugelmailer shall manage the subscriptions and mailing of the Mugelnoos, maintain a file of all Mugelnoos issues to be passed on to future Mugelmailers, and serve as Mugelnoos Treasurer. The Mugelmailer shall submit a financial report to the Mugelnoos Committee after the close of each fiscal year.
3. The **Mugelgrapher** shall arrange for the printing of the Mugelnoos.

BYLAW 8

FUNDS

8.1 **Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of the section shall coincide with the fiscal year of the Club.

8.2 **Bank Accounts.** The Central Committee shall have authority to open bank accounts and to regulate withdrawals therefrom. Bank accounts shall be in the name of the section and shall include the words "Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club", and shall be under the jurisdiction and responsibility of the Treasurer of the section.

8.3 **Contributions.** The section may receive contributions directly but the expenditure of such funds shall be consistent with Sierra Club policy and any designated purpose of the contribution.

8.4 **Chapter Funds.** Funds received from the Chapter for a designated purpose shall be expended only for that purpose.

8.5 **Fundraising.** Consistent with Sierra Club policy, the section may conduct fund-raising activities for which participants are expected to make a donation. Expenditure of the proceeds shall be consistent with the designated purpose of the fundraising activity.

8.6 **Requirements to Deposit.** All monies received by the section shall be deposited as specified by the Central Committee upon the recommendation of the Treasurer. Proceeds from fundraising and other activities shall be payable to the section and not to activity leaders or other members. Members handling SMS funds prior to deposit to the SMS bank account shall keep such funds separate from

their personal funds.

8.7 **Disbursements.** All disbursements shall be made by check against written invoices (budgets in the case of advances). At least two persons shall be authorized to sign checks on behalf of the SMS: the Treasurer and one other Central Committee officer. One signature shall suffice.

8.8 **Books and Reports.** All section funds shall be accountable to the Central Committee and to the Chapter. The Treasurer shall keep proper books of account, and annually, and at such other times as may be required by the Central Committee, shall submit a report of revenues and expenses and of the financial position of the section. An annual financial report shall be submitted to the Chapter Treasurer.

8.9 **Indirect Expense.** Activities shall be budgeted to provide funds for purchased equipment, services, and supplies, and to cover all administrative expenses needed to conduct the activity.

8.10 **Prohibitions.** Neither the section nor its committees shall borrow money, own real estate, collect dues or assessments, or raise funds by direct mail appeal.

BYLAW 9

APPEALS

9.1 **Section Appeal.** Any active member of the section may appeal in writing to the Central Committee for a determination regarding action of any standing or special committee, and may request a vote of the section upon any action taken by the Central Committee.

9.2 **Chapter Appeal.** Any member of the section may appeal in writing to the Executive Committee of the Angeles Chapter for a determination regarding action of the section or of the Central Committee provided that an appeal to the section has been taken and has been denied.

BYLAW 10

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The order of precedence of motions and rules relating to motions tabulated in *Robert's Rules of Order, Revised* (1915) shall govern the section in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the bylaws or special rules of this section.

BYLAW 11

AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws are fundamental and shall not be added to, amended or repealed except by a two-thirds vote of those active members returning a mailed secret ballot. The proposed changes shall be published in the Mugelnoos, or mailed to active members, at least two weeks before the ballots must be returned.

An amendment so voted shall become effective when it has been approved by the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee.

In the event that the currently effective bylaws of the Club or Chapter conflict with these Bylaws, any conflicting provision of these Bylaws shall be suspended and the Central Committee shall replace it with a temporary rule until the members have agreed to an appropriate revision in a special election.