



# Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS  
OF WESTERN MONTANA

MARCH 1980  
Vol. XIX No. 6

Mar. 15-16 ELK MEADOWS OVERNIGHT with Joe Knotek. Moderate difficulty.  
549-2040.

Mar. 23 Sun. EPICUREAN SKI TOUR. Gourmands, get together your favorite  
cuisine. We aren't going too far, so bring your wok. All  
wines older than one year will be tasted by the leader, Rob  
Holden, 543-5545. Date changed from last issue.

April 5-6 EASTER at the CLUB CABIN. Celebrate Easter morning at the  
top of Little St. Joe peak and then share in the holiday  
feast. Myra Bair, 728-3616.

April 9 Wed. April meeting election of new officers.

May 17-18 TOSRV WEST. Date was incorrectly announced last issue.

THE MOUNTAIN EAR  
P.O. BOX 4262  
Missoula MT 59801



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**MARCH**

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

REPAIR YOUR  
HIKING BOOTS  
**NOW**

VIBRAM  
SOLES

SPEED-  
LACES

ZIPPERS  
LEATHER ACCESSORIES

ELBOW OVERLOOK is above the  
bostramp and campground on Lindbergh  
Lake in the Swan Valley north of  
Seeley L. Skiing on the lake surface  
was marvelous Feb. 24, 1980. The  
trail up to the overlook is an old  
roadbed. It can provide a fast trip  
down when the snow is set up. View  
is a grand panorama up and down the  
valley and over to the Swan Range.

Myra Bair

The LOLO PASS WINTER SPORTS AREA  
map folder has been revised and  
now includes Trails A through I.  
It can be obtained at the Visitor  
Center or at Missoula Ranger  
District office, 2801 Russell St.

MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS  
Karen Raymond, Martha Layman,  
Evelyn Petersen, Barbara Honkala

The Rocky Mountaineers of Western Montana, Box 4262, Missoula, Montana, 59806, welcome all persons interested in hiking, camping, ski-touring, snowshoeing, river floating, bicycling, and technical climbing--summer, autumn, winter, and spring. Subscription to the Mountain Ear is by membership: \$4.00/year, single; \$5.00/year, family; or \$2.00/volume to out-of-town addresses. Eight issues per volume.

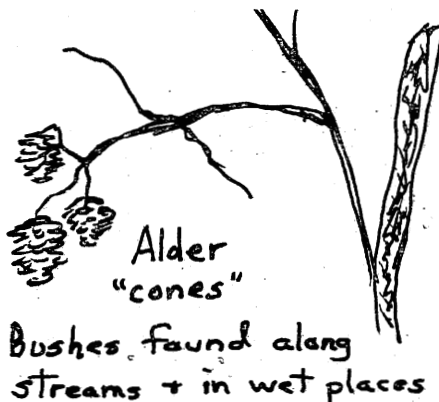
OFFICERS

President- Myra Bair.....728-3616  
Vice-Pres- Katherine Peterson.....721-5200 work  
Secretary- Les Ojala.....549-5263  
Treasurer- Arnold Finklin.....543-8705  
1st Past Pres.-Jerry Kogan.....721-3286  
Newsletter Staff-Myra Bair and  
Virginia Vincent.....543-8078

\* \* \* \* \*  
\* MARCH 12th MEETING 7:30 PM  
\* downstairs at the Double Front, 122 W. Alder  
\*  
\* Bill Jacko will show a program of slides:  
\* "Adirondack Adventure"  
\*  
\* Refreshments by Lynne Knotek  
\*  
\* \* \* \* \*

Mar. 8-9 LOST TRAIL HOT SPRINGS WEEKEND 5 miles south of Sula. Something for everybody- hot springs pool, whirlpool hot tub, sauna, home-made soups, fresh bread, downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, \*no ice skating, and indoor games area. The first 35 reservations will be accepted. Myra Bair, 728-3616. \*snow-shoe-ers should come!

July 4 Five days SAILING THROUGH THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS on a 30 foot Catalina sailboat with Ben Engelking. The boat sleeps 7, has a galley, head, etc. and costs about \$90/day. Write Ben at 14956 NE 31st Circle, Redmond, WA. 98052.



RE-HASH...

Moderating weather just before the Feb. 17 ski-tour brought 13 people out to "do" Pack Cr. We were on the trail at 11 a.m. after a 9 a.m. start from Missoula. Taking a car down the Idaho side of Lolo Pass takes up a bit of time, but for those waiting at the pass, hot chocolate & coffee at the Visitor Center made the time pass quickly.

The first  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles was the usual pleasant & easy going. The track was good and the snow & temperatures excellent. But as we stood by the Pack Cr. bridge that awful realization came upon us that all was not to be ideal. Skis were sticking! Henceforth we ALL battled snow freezing onto ski bottoms. Even the no-wax skis had to have periodic applications of paraffin. A light drizzle warmed and wetted the snow surface but it was still cold beneath. After lunch in a snowbank we seemed to find the right wax combinations and progressed fairly well. We had run out of track shortly after the bridge so breaking trail was divided into 10 min. segments. The trip took  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hours, including the lunch break.

Members and guests participating were "Andy" Beals, Roxanne Doremus, Allison Easterling, Charles Hamma, Werner Held, Betty Johnson, Jim Lynk, Paula and Nicole Mullis, Jean Pfeiffer, Karen Raymond, Doug Wright and Virginia Vincent.

2/1/80

Dear Mountaineers:

Here is my check for continued receipt of  
The Mountain Ear.

It satisfies that masochistic tendency in my personality---to know of all the good things you fortunate people are doing who live in Montana, while I have become entrapped in this web of my own making-- the greed of my paycheck. Well, I get a whole lot of satisfaction from the work that I do, helping citizens all over the country find answers to their questions about trees. The job could be done very well from Missoula, but the organizations does not think that way.

Have the club members all gotten copies of Forest Service's Program Aid No. 1140, Winter Recreation Safety Guide? Excellent thing for the pocket or pack with safety tips. Just printed.

Have fun..

Sincerely,

*Barbara*

Barbara Honkala also sends along this recipe: HOT CHOCOLATE MIX- 8 one quart packages Sanalac powdered milk, 1 lb. Nestle's Quick, 6 oz. jar Coffeemate. Mix well. For one large cup serving put 4 heaping teaspoons in cup and add boiling water.

#### FRUIT SQUARES

$\frac{1}{2}$  lb. butter creamed with  
1 cup brown sugar

Add 1 beaten egg &  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup  
light corn syrup

Add alternately  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sour  
milk and following dry ingredients: 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups flour,  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  t. salt, 1 t. baking soda.  
To batter mix in  $\frac{1}{2}$  C raisins,  
1 or 2 teaspoons vanilla &  
if you wish, 1 C nuts,  $\frac{1}{2}$  C.  
coconut.

Spread in a greased 12"x18"  
pan and bake at 375 F for  
20 min. May frost with  
powdered sugar. Lynne Knotek

A THOUGHT FOR THE TRAIL  
The candy bar you take into  
the woods should provide at  
least the energy needed for  
bringing the wrapper out.  
from Park Guide for  
Shenandoah National Park

# Cross Country Skiing/Snowshoeing

4.

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest Service  
Lolo National Forest  
Missoula Ranger District



LOLO CREEK AREA

**\*\* NOTE:** THIS ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO WINTER RECREATION USE DURING ACTIVE LOGGING OPERATIONS. CHECK WITH THE MISSOULA RANGER DISTRICT FOR INFORMATION ON CONDITIONS OR ALTERNATIVE ROUTES.

TRAIL BEGINNING 4200 ft. (1280 m.)

This trail begins on the bobsled run behind the Lolo Hot Springs Restaurant.

TRAIL ENDING 4200 ft. (1280 m.) This trail makes a complete loop returning to the bobsled run.

## BOBCAT CREEK CROSS COUNTRY SKI/ SNOWSHOE LOOP TRAIL

Length: 9.7 mi. (15.6km.)

Recommended season:

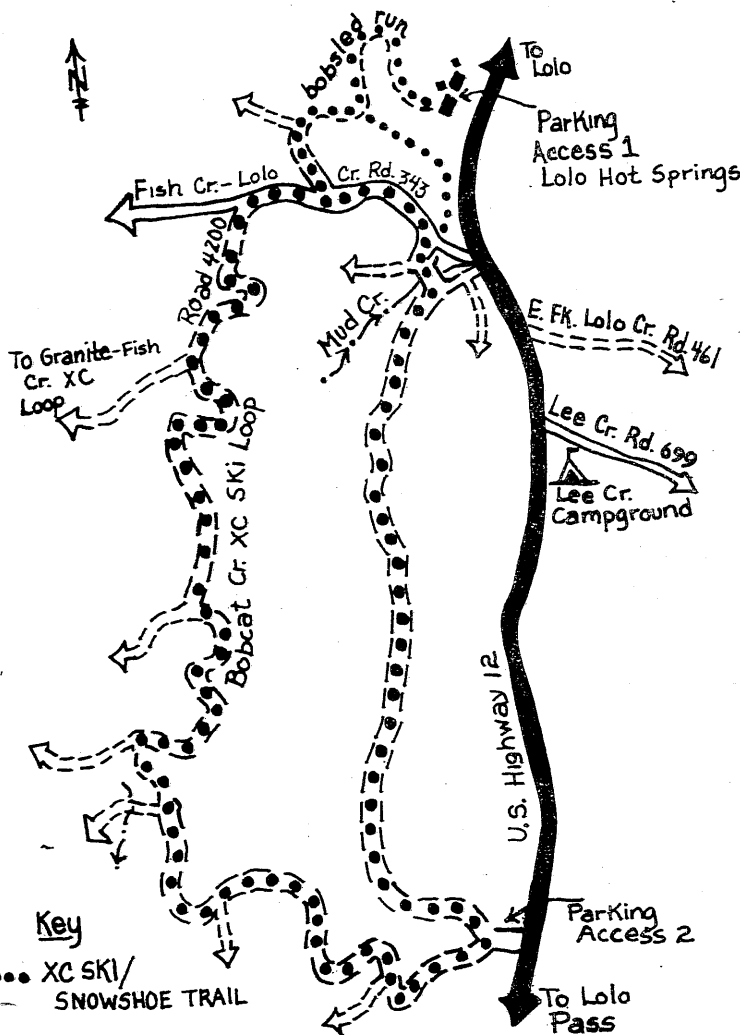
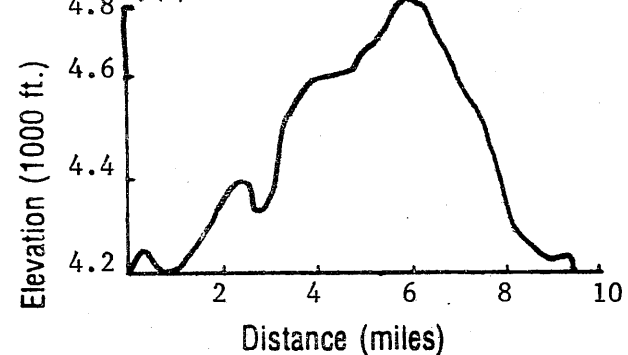
Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
←→			←→

Use: light

Difficulty: Most Difficult

USGS Map(s): LOLO HOT

SPRINGS QUAD.



ACCESS#1 Take U.S. Highway 93 south from Missoula to its junction with U.S. Highway 12 in Lolo. Travel west on U.S. HWY. 12 for 25 miles to the Lolo Hot Springs Resort. Park in the plowed parking area on the west side of the highway. The ski trail is accessed by skiing up the old bobsled run located behind the main restaurant building. SEE SKETCH MAP.

ACCESS #2 Continue south on U.S. HWY. 12 for 2.4 miles west of the Lolo Hot Springs Resort to where the south end of Mud Creek Road intersects U.S. HWY. 12. Check with the Missoula Ranger District for an update on plowed parking conditions at this access.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS This trail is jointly managed by Champion International Corporation and the U.S. Forest Service. The geographic location

## BOBCAT CREEK XC SKI/SNOWSHOE LOOP

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS (continued)

and close proximity to Lolo Pass make this route suitable for skiing from late Fall to mid-Spring during a normal snow season. The elevation gain and the total length of this route limit its use to more experienced skiers. However, all skiers have the option of skiing a portion of the trail and then re-tracing their tracks back to the starting point. Snowmobiles may occasionally be encountered along this route. Please remember to show courtesy to others using the National Forests for wintertime activities.

NARRATIVE From ACCESS #1, the Bobcat Creek Loop begins by making a climb on a portion of an abandoned bobsled run located behind the Lolo Hot Springs buildings. The bobsled track was designed as a training run for the American Olympic Team. The last year that it was used by the team was 1965. Because of the banked grade on the bobsled run, some sidestepping may be required to negotiate this portion of the ski trail. The Bobcat Loop trail separates from the bobsled track about 0.16 miles from the trailhead. It heads to the west, following an old logging road until reaching Fish Creek-Lolo Creek Road 343.

The ski trail crosses Road 343 and follows a spur road for a very short distance where it joins Mud Creek. The creek is crossed via a log bridge and the route continues to its intersection with Mud Creek Road. From the bobsled run and for the next 2 miles, the Bobcat Loop follows the Mud Creek XC Ski/Snowshoe Trail. See R.O.G. page XC 102 for additional information on the Mud Creek Trail.

Following the Mud Creek Trail south, the ski route climbs gently for 1.5 miles to an elevation of 4400 feet. After reaching this elevation, the ski trail begins a 0.8 mile descent towards U.S. Highway 12 (the end of the Mud Creek Ski Trail). Just before reaching U.S. HWY 12 the Bobcat Loop turns northwest and makes a 3.4 mile gradual climb to a small saddle, the highest point along the route. From atop this 4840 foot viewpoint, the mountains to the west are spectacular.

From the saddle, the Bobcat Loop makes a nice 1.0 mile downhill run at an 8-12% slope to its junction with Road 4200. The trail follows Road 4200 northeast to its intersection with Fish Creek-Lolo Creek Road 343. It continues south on Road 343 for 0.5 miles and then turns east onto a spur road. This spur road climbs steeply (15-20%) for 200 feet and joins the upper end of the bobsled run. The trail completes its loop by following the entire length of the competitive bobsled run to the Hot Springs Resort.

The Bobcat Loop Trail is long; skiers should be aware of the distances that can be comfortably covered in a day's outing. The terrain covered on the trip is quite varied; the topography is rather changeable. Know your party's capabilities; plan a winter campout if necessary.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
Missoula Ranger District  
2801 Russell  
Missoula, MT 59801

6.

REPLY TO: 2300 Recreation

January 17, 1980

SUBJECT: Avalanche Warning Systems  
Cooperative Field Observers

TO: Dear Forest Winter Traveler



Within the past few seasons the use of our mountainous lands for winter recreation has increased many fold. This has been mainly due to the popularity of cross-country skiing and related outdoor experiences. These trends are leading the public back farther and farther into our backcountry. Although these experiences can be extremely rewarding, they can also be hazardous.

Many of the more experienced winter travelers have become very aware of the dangers to inexperienced and unknowledgeable skiers in avalanche terrain. The need for some means of warning the public recreationist of the winter avalanche hazards appears necessary. For this reason the Forest Service in Montana and Idaho has undertaken a public warning service on a very limited scale. The success of this service depends entirely upon volunteer field observers, weather bureau information, and Alpine Ski area reports. The intent is not to alarm the skiing public unless a hazard is evident and a possible accident could result. If and when these conditions become evident the forest will then assemble information and forecast the conditions to the local news media. Hopefully this service will grow in scope and dependability to match the forecasting service found in the states of Colorado and Washington. We are a few years from achieving this goal.

Now for the bottom line. We need local skiers with avalanche training or knowledge that are willing to volunteer as field observers. As we see it, the job would consist of:

1. During your recreation skiing, observe snow conditions that could lead to a hazard, or be a hazard.
2. Call in by phone as soon as possible if you feel a hazard warning is necessary.
3. Occasional meeting or discussion by phone or some aspect of avalanche warning for forecasting.

An example - Observer A would call in Thursday evening that snow was shearing in front of his skis on north slopes at Point Six.

Observer C calls in Friday noon, observed a small slab avalanche in the bowls at Blue Point. From these calls the Forest Avalanche Coordinator would issue a news release on Friday afternoon for the weekend, forecasting the hazard for the area covered, duration of warning, reason for warning and instruction for skiers on how to minimize the risks. 7.

For coverage of the Missoula vicinity it would be desirable to have upwards to 10 observers. With this number it is anticipated that someone would be able to submit information at any time the hazard arises. As you may guess there will be no financial assistance at this time, and no one knows what the future will bring.

The Lolo Forest is sending this letter out to a limited number of persons who may be interested in observing. There may be others we miss. Please consider our proposition and give us a call if you have an interest or can recommend someone you know who would be interested. This is our first effort so we may be a little rough on the edges to start out with, but I am sure with your help our efforts will be worthwhile.

You can contact me either at my office located at 2801 Russell, phone 329-3853 or at my home, Route 2 Frenchtown Frontage Road, phone 549-4390.

*Ed Deschamps*

ED DESCHAMPS

Lolo Forest Avalanche Coordinator

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