



Mountain Ear

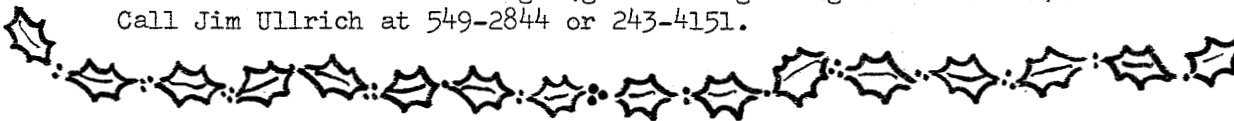
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS
OF WESTERN MONTANA

DECEMBER 1980
Vol. XX, No. 3

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10: Meeting at the University Golf Course Club House, 515 South Ave. E., at 7:30 p.m. Program change: George Howe and David Stephenson will present "To Heli and Back", a slide show about helicopter skiing. Refreshments. Business will include a vote on increasing dues to cover mailing costs and meeting space rental. See you there!

The Mountain Ear offers free space to members for swap and sell.

FOR SALE: Galibier winter climbing boots and two pairs mountaineering skis with Silvretta bindings (great for getting to the cabin)!
Call Jim Ullrich at 549-2844 or 243-4151.



THE MOUNTAIN EAR
P. O. BOX 4262
MISSOULA, MT 59801

FIRST CLASS

D. Line
1135 Whitaker Dr.
Missoula MT 59801

EARLY BIRD SKIERS' AND EAGLE WATCHERS' TRIP TO GLACIER PARK

By Rob Holden

This could be retitled "Spring Rains, Eagle Watchers, Salmon Snagging Trip to Glacier Park." The Friday rain in Western Montana held over until Sunday morning. This failed to dampen the spirits of this stalwart group, consisting of Ralph Flockerzi, Joe Kipphut, Art Anderson, Myra Bair, Laura Fujii, Clarissa Landry, and yours truly.

Friday night after supping at the Pine Cone Inn, the group settled into camp for a night of 100 percent humidity. Saturday morning the eagles were feeding, but not in the numbers observed on last year's trip. After viewing the eagles and a movie about big horn sheep, it was decided that the men of the group would participate in the big horn ritual of head butting. No winner was announced because of unconsciousness!

After a wet hike to Avalanche Lake, the group motored up to the loop to check out the (lack of) snow conditions. At this point, the ski tour was postponed until the MBC Glacier Getaway of 1981. Numerous mountain goats and a large bull elk were viewed often through the fogged windows of the car.

On the return trip, the nimrods of the group tossed lead weighted hooks into the river. This is a fall ritual started by the little known Leadhead Indian tribe to celebrate the salmon run. When last seen by the group, as they departed for Camas Hot Springs, the leader was trying to snag a winter supply of salmon in the Swan River.

HOURS

Mon.-Sat.

8 a.m.-7 p.m.

Sun. 11 - 4

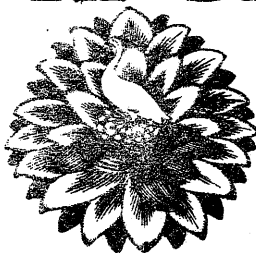
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The Rocky Mountaineers of Western Montana, P. O. Box 4262, Missoula, MT 59806, welcome all persons interested in hiking, camping, ski-touring, snowshoeing, river floating, bicycling, and technical climbing--summer, autumn, winter and spring. Subscription to the MOUNTAIN EAR is by membership:

\$4.00 per year - Single Membership
\$5.00 per year - Family Membership
\$2.00 per volume - Out-of-Town Addresses
8 issues per volume

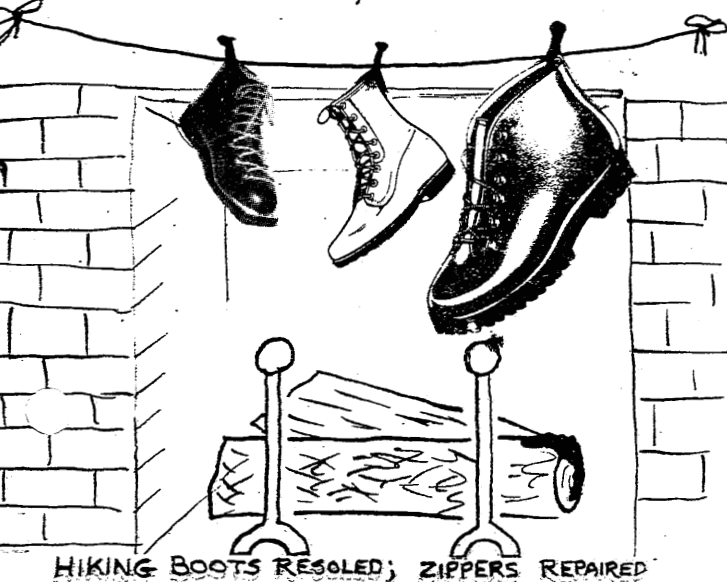
TRIP SCHEDULE

- December 14, Sun. Wisherd Ridge cross-country ski trip. Moderate skill and strength at least. Call Bob Benson, 549-1426, or Randy Washburne, 721-3256, by December 12.
- December 20-21, Sat.-Sun. Winter solstice weekend at Lochsa Lodge. We hope there will be snow for ski touring or snowshoeing. Call Ilona Hruska at 721-3832 before December 13.
- January 1-4, Thurs.-Sun. New Year's feast and skiing at the Rocky Mountaineers' cabin on Little St. Joe. Call Bob Benson at 549-1426 for more information by December 30.
- January 14, Wed. January meeting, 7:30 p.m., University Golf Course Club House. Ian Lange, UM Professor of Geology, will speak on Mt. St. Helens.
- January 24, Sat. Pack Creek ski tour. Easy-moderate, 8 miles in all, beginning at the top of Lolo Pass. Call Allison Easterling at 728-5145 by Thursday, January 22.
- January 24-25, Sat.-Sun. Elk Meadows winter camping. Call Joe Knotek at 549-2040 for details and equipment needed.
- Jan. 31-Feb. 1, Sat.-Sun. Big Mountain for downhill and Nordic skiing. Stay at Viewmont Cabins. Call the Howes at 543-4200 by Christmas. Sauna and swimming available.

February 11, Wed. Mountaineers' February meeting, Marshall Ski Area, Nordic instruction.

LLOYD'S SHOE REPAIR

1230 W. KENT

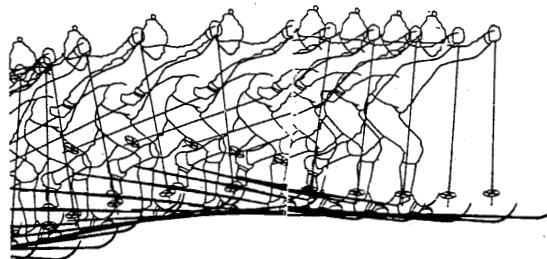
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BY RESERVATION ONLY BETWEEN DEC. 15 AND JAN. 1***

Cross Country Skiing/Snowshoeing



7.

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service
Lolo National Forest
Missoula Ranger District

RATTLESNAKE/GOLD CREEK AREA

TRAIL BEGINNING 3640 ft. (1110 m.)
.5 mile north of gate closure on
Rattlesnake Road.

TRAIL ENDING 4640 ft. (1410 m.)
Trailhead #516, upper end of Spring
Gulch.

ACCESS Five miles up Rattlesnake
Drive and turn left to Rattlesnake
Road and gate closure. Continue
.5 mile on foot to the trailhead.

SPRING GULCH TRAIL #4

Length: 3.5 mi. (5.6 km.)

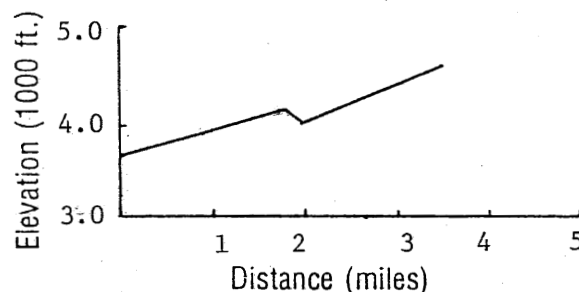
Recommended season:

Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
			←→

Use: Heavy

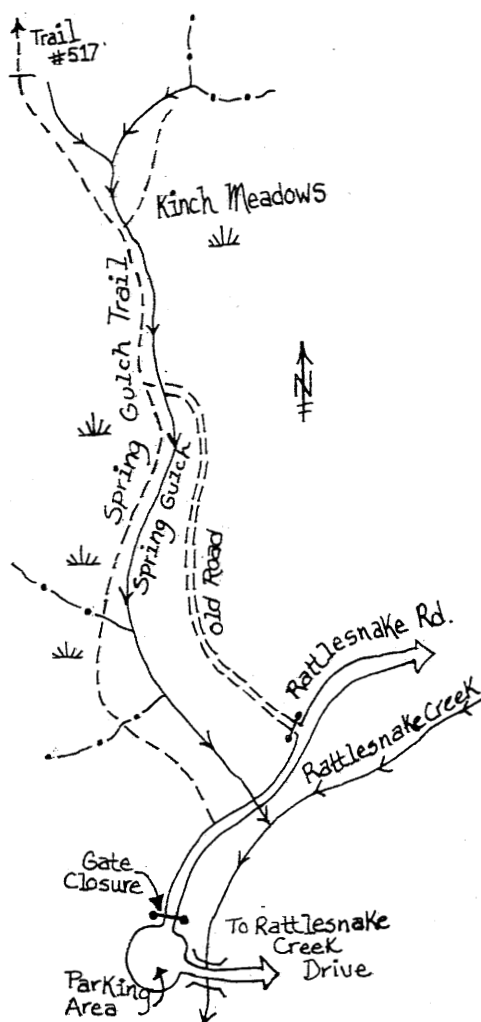
Difficulty: Easy

USGS Map(s): NORTHEAST MISSOULA Quad.



ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

Excellent for cross-country skiing, all ages. This trail leads to Stuart Peak Trail, which continues up to Mosquito Peak and on up to Sanders Lake. Kinch Meadows at the upper end of the trail offers excellent off-trail skiing. Possible loop tours in general area of meadows and Spring Creek.



NARRATIVE Spring Gulch Trail #4

This trail, often considered the gateway to the Rattlesnake drainage, is one of the most pleasant trails in all seasons in the Rattlesnake area. After 3.5 miles and approximately 1000 feet of elevation gain, the trail joins Stuart Peak Trail #517 which continues to Rattlesnake Peaks. Spring Gulch Trail is suitable for use by persons of all ages and capabilities and is excellent for cross country skiing.

Visitors have crossed Spring Creek in the summer months, leaving many paths and creek crossings. The old road on the east side is better for skiers, not only because it is generally cooler, but it also is wider and less brushy. In this section the visitor passes an old homesite established by an early Mormon family and apple trees planted by earlier settlers that still bear fruit. The grade during the first 2.5 miles is less than 10 percent and is suitable for novice skiers.

Although there may not always be sufficient snow cover at the trailhead and lower elevations, a short walk up the trail usually brings the skier to adequate snow. The last mile has a grade of 10-15 percent and reaches Kinch Meadows at an elevation of 4500 feet. From this point, Stuart Peak Trail #517 is often used by experienced skiers; it has longer and steeper sections and a possibility of downhill powder skiing. However, from the meadows, the less ambitious skier can make tours on moderate slopes. Many loop tours are possible using the general area of the meadows and Spring Creek or heading up Strawberry Ridge to the east and ultimately down to Rattlesnake Road, approximately 3 miles from the parking area. If snow conditions are good at lower elevations, this provides an excellent loop of less than 10 miles.



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