



# Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS  
OF WESTERN MONTANA

January 1983  
Vol. 21 No. 10

January 12, 1983 7:30 PM Meeting

Montana Power Co.  
1903 Russell St.

Program :

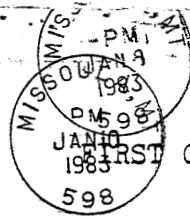
OUTDOOR COLOR PHOTOGRAPHY  
( a condensed workshop )

by JACK TUHOLSKE

Bring your 35 MM camera if you wish

\*\*\*\*\*

THE MOUNTAIN EAR  
P.O. Box 4262  
Missoula, MT 59801



CLASS



Dave Line  
1135 Whitaker Drive  
Missoula, MT 59803

**\*\* SCHEDULE OF TRIPS \*\***

Jan 9 Lolo Hot Springs Loop Ski trip by car, skis, and water Car pool with Joe Kipphut to Lolo Hot Springs, then gather into  $\frac{1}{2}$  the number of vehicles, drive to Lolo pass, ski down the Lee Creek trail (passing over two ski bridges Joe and his YACC crew built) all the way to Lolo Hot Springs, and then swim the final 20 feet. Meet at IHOP near K-Mart 8am. Leader: Joe Kipphut ph. 721-1564

Jan. 16 Ski backside of Mt. Fujii (Lolo Pass) Meet 8 am K-Mart  
Leader; Dan Weinstein

Jan. 23 Moderate ski trip either at Mill Creek or up Ninemile creek, along roads or meadow. Location depends on snow conditions as these are both low elevation areas. Call on Th, Fri, or ~~Sa~~ for details. Leader: Bob Benson 549-1426

Jan 30 Easy trip up Spring Gulch (Rattlesnake) . Meet 9 am at Eastgate shopping center. Leader : Charles Hama ph. 549-

Feb. 5-6 Overnite ski trip up Rattlesnake . Call Rob Holden for more details!  
Phone: 543-5545

Feb.12 Telemark turn practice. Location to be set later when snow conditions are more certain. (note: we can also probably con the leader into giving us some pointers - ) Leader: Bill Morgan; 363-5339

Feb. 26-27 Lillte St. Joe shelter cabin This is almost always a Stenuous trip  
Leader: Bill Morgan 363-5339

Mar. 5-6 Lost Trail ski trip. For those who havent been on this trip in past years, this provides a variety of skiing opportunities - cross country on the Anderson Mt. trail near Chief Joseph Pass, downhill at Lost Trail ski area, or ride the lift at the area and X-C down through the Saddle Mt. burn. Accommodations at Lost Trail Lodge are about \$12 per person. Meals at the lodge are additional. Cooking facilities available at the cabins.

NOTE: Reservations must be made by Feb. 2.. Phone Ralph Flockerzi 549-9986

Mar 13 Woods Gulch - Marshall Loop trip. Moderate. Meet East Gate 8 am  
Leader : Ralph Klawitter 728-4778

**\*\* Recent Trips \*\***

Dec. 12 Just A Spin .... In a little over an hour we made the circuit through the grand old Ponderosa Pines along the icy river and around the golden stubblefield. A "quickie" cross-country skiing area has been discovered! And it is the newly developed public access to historic Council Grove out Mullan Rd. Seven Mountaineers and guests opted to try that spot rather than risk the scratchy conditions at Pattee Canyon. The 4" of snow was just enough cover to make smooth going in old vehicle tracks. Participants were guests Lois Crepeau, Sue Monroe, and Mike Welch who puttered along with Alice Austin, Allison Easterling, Charles Hama, and Virginia Vincent. This place would really lend itself to a moonlight tour!

ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS MEMBERSHIP LIST  
JANUARY, 1983

All addresses are Missoula 59801 unless noted.

Mary Ambrose  
2526 Spurgin Road  
543-7566

Alice & Briggs Austin  
4741 Sundown Road  
542-2591

Myra Bair  
519 Woodford  
728-3616

Andy Beals  
625 Whitaker  
Missoula 59803  
542-2496

Robert & Erik Benson  
2325 Valley Drive  
Missoula 59802  
329-3533

Sue Brownlow  
2310 57th Street  
Missoula 59803  
251-5229

Jeanine Byrne  
600 Whitaker Drive  
Missoula 59803  
721-4097

William and Nancy DeCou  
Box 8674  
Missoula 59807  
728-5376

Edward S. Domer  
Box 151  
Seeley Lake, MT 59868  
721-7582

Allison V. Easterling  
1924 Dixon  
728-5145

Arnold Finklin  
P.O. Box 7795  
Missoula 59807  
543-8705

Ralph Flockerezi  
1221 South 5th St. West  
549-9986

John Garrity & Edyi Ortner  
511 Evans  
721-5021

Gary Hall  
101 Crestwood Lane  
Hamilton, MT 59840  
363-1167

Charles G. Hamma  
625 N. 3rd St. West  
Missoula 59802  
549-0463

Eleanor Hardy  
1624 Thames  
549-2527

Rob Holden  
609 Overlook Way  
Missoula 59803  
543-5545

Curt Holmen  
123 West Central Ave.  
721-4097

George & Sharon Howe  
915 Park View Way  
Missoula 59803  
543-4200

Ilona Hruska & Mark Swanson  
630 Evans  
721-3832  
Betty L. Johnson  
156 Kensington  
549-1763

Joe Kipphut & Clarisse Landry  
420 Woodford  
721-1564

Pauline Kirscher  
24 Tina Avenue  
Missoula 59802  
549-5539

Ralph & Lillian Klawitter  
104 39th Street  
Missoula 59803  
728-4778

Joe & Lynne Knotek  
109 West Central  
549-2040

Joe Lauinger & Nancy Shrader  
1117 Cooper  
Missoula 59803  
728-3334

Martha Lawrence  
919 Woodford, #2  
721-2874

Dave Line  
1135 Whitaker Drive  
Missoula 59803  
549-8444

Melvin G. Long  
Box 7372  
Missoula 59807  
728-4827

Ethel MacDonald  
316 West Central  
549-9722

Tom & Sharon Lukomski  
Rt. 1, NE 800 - 3 Mile Road  
Stevensville, MT 59870  
777-3648

Nancy C. Meyers  
1101 West Greenough Dr. #F-1  
Missoula 59802  
728-8173

Cindy Mish  
1760 South 8th West  
728-1735 or 728-0944

Bill Morgan  
112 No. 9th  
Hamilton, MT 59840

Lynn Paul  
102 Camelot Court, #6  
Missoula 59802  
542-0530

Evelyn Petersen  
1126 Vine Street  
Missoula 59802  
549-5241

Phil Poulsen  
P.O. Box 965  
Kamiah, ID 83536

Jim & Doris Pullen  
5345 Mockingbird Way  
Missoula 59803  
251-4787

Mary Rettig  
3403 South 7th West, #1  
721-1491

Mary Jane Robinson  
104 Camelot Court, #4  
Missoula 59802  
721-1276

Betty Rosenkranz  
415 East Kent  
543-5510

Sandra Satre  
817 - 2nd, Apt. A  
Cheney, WA 99004  
(509) 235-6068

Greg & June Siple  
717 Defoe  
Missoula 59802  
542-2607

Andy Smith  
1715 South 9th West  
721-1285

Mike Stefanick  
301 West Front, #111  
Missoula 59802

Evelyn Treiman  
P.O. Box 7374  
Missoula, MT 59807

Virginia Vincent  
907 Kern  
543-8078

George Votruba  
534 East Front, #12  
Missoula, MT 59802  
549-9557

Melvin & Kim Williams  
207 East Sussex  
543-8598

Dan Weinstein  
P.O. Box 9393  
Missoula 59807  
542-0285

Richard & Adele Wolff  
11001 Bench Road  
Missoula 59802  
549-4923

Martha Yale  
118 Livingston  
549-2163

# The Nordic Ski Patrol

## First Aid in the Winter Wilderness

by Stan Bradshaw

For months the woman had planned a solo ski tour into the rugged Taylor Fork area south of Bozeman, 100 square miles of snow-covered wilderness. When she finally set off into the mountains, she told her friends to expect her back in five to seven days. Eight days passed and still she did not return. Alarmed, her friends notified local search and rescue authorities. Searchers with snowmobiles quickly deployed into the area, only to become mired in several feet of fresh snow which had been deposited by heavy storms earlier in the week.

Unable to continue the search on snowmobiles, the authorities called in the Nordic Ski Patrol. Light and mobile in the heaviest of snows, the Patrollers quickly penetrated deep into the Taylor Fork area and found the woman's poles. The deep snows, however, had obscured all other signs of her. Search dogs found her several weeks later, dead of exposure.

On one level, this tragedy, reenacted with increasing frequency each year in Montana, represents a fundamental problem caused by the exploding popularity of Nordic skiing. The resurgent interest in Nordic skiing has resulted in an unprecedented deluge of people into Montana's woods and mountains during the harshest and most unpredictable of seasons in Montana. Winter, bitter at its worst, and at all times capricious, is unforgiving of the ignorant and careless.

On another plane, this incident highlighted the contributions of a relatively new entry into the field of winter safety and search and rescue — the Nordic Ski Patrol. Gallatin County Sheriff John Onstad was impressed by the performance of the Nordic Patrol on the Taylor Fork search. "They responded well, were ready to go at a moment's notice, and were able to move into the area when our snowmobiles could not. I think they will be a real asset to winter search and rescue in this area."

The Nordic Patrol has its origins in the National Ski Patrol System, an organization long recognized for its contributions to skiing safety and winter first aid at downhill ski

areas throughout the country. In 1970, as interest in Nordic skiing began to blossom in the eastern United States, the National Ski Patrol System recognized that Nordic skiing presented problems entirely different than those found at downhill areas.

While the Nordic and Alpine Patrols share similar training in advanced first aid and in winter evacuation, the resemblance ends there. The Alpine Patrol, confined to specific areas of heavy, highly concentrated use, places its emphasis on extensive coverage of the area in order to provide prompt first aid and evacuation where it is needed.

On the other hand, the very character of Nordic skiing defies the Alpine approach. Nordic skiers can be found almost anywhere at any particular time during the winter, and the Nordic Patrol cannot possibly cover all the areas that Nordic travelers might use.

Consequently, the Nordic Patrol concentrates its efforts on accident prevention by educating skiers on everything from the availability of basic ski instruction by qualified instructors to waxing techniques and emergency winter survival. Gary Hall, the Northern Region Advisor for the Nordic Patrol, characterizes their efforts this way: "Ideally, we would like to work our way out of a job, but that doesn't look like it is going to happen soon."

Given the limitations of trying to reach everybody who might need the instruction the Patrol offers, it extends its endeavors to several other fronts including skiing with first aid and emergency equipment, patrolling Nordic ski races, and accompanying ski touring groups to provide repairs, assistance, and first aid on the trail.

To fulfill these diverse obligations, Nordic Patrollers go through extensive first-aid instruction and training emphasizing winter survival, orienteering, avalanche training, ski mountaineering, emergency evacuation and the construction of emergency shelters. The focus of this training is on emergency survival. The virtue of this approach is well founded, as illustrated by an incident which occurred in Wyoming a number of years ago, when two skiers were caught out after dark in bitter sub-zero temperatures even further reduced by wind chill factors down to 60 degrees below zero. The cold paralyzed all efforts to start a search that night. Fortunately, the skiers knew the basic concepts of emergency survival. They constructed a snow cave and were able to survive the night in good form. Any other course of action would have meant almost certain death by hypothermia.

The problems most often encountered by the Nordic Ski Patrol arise from lack of planning and preparation. Gary Hall emphasizes that Nordic skiers can eliminate many dangers of back country travel by adhering faithfully to a few common sense practices:

1. Carry adequate food, clothing, fire starters, repair kit, and shelter to stay overnight should the need arise.
2. Never travel alone.
3. Always tell someone where you are going, when you expect to return, and let them know when you have returned.
4. Make sure your party is adequately equipped to handle any emergency.

As Nordic skiing has grown in Montana, so has the Nordic Patrol. Currently there are Nordic Patrols in Essex (Kalispell), Missoula, Helena, Bozeman, Billings and West Yellowstone. In addition, skiers in Anaconda, Seeley Lake, Dillon, Gardiner, Great Falls and Hamilton have expressed interest in forming Nordic Patrols.

Persons interested in joining the Nordic Ski Patrol or in having one formed in their community may get more information from Gary Hall, P.O. Box 1127, Hamilton, Montana.

### Suggested Nordic Day Pack

While everyone has specific likes and dislikes in the outfitting of a Nordic day pack — preferences in food and drink are especially divergent — the Nordic Ski Patrol recommends that the following items be carried, as a minimum, in any day pack:

Candle  
Canteen or water bottle  
Cup  
Chap stick  
Climbing skins or rope climbers  
Compass  
Face mask or balaclava  
First aid kit  
Repair kit:

spare tip, screwdriver, pliers, wrench, rope, pole basket, wire, duct tape, screws, and assorted parts  
Head lamp or flashlight with spare batteries and bulb  
Sunglasses  
Extra socks  
Stove and fuel

Toilet paper  
Plastic whistle  
Lunch and extra food  
Map of the area  
Matches in waterproof case  
Mittens  
Pocketknife  
Windproof parka  
Space blanket or light tarp



# Lloyd's

CONVERSIONS done on lace-up downhill ski boots to make a thinner-soled heavy duty X-C touring boot

CONVERSE with LLOYD'S.

1230 West Kent  
(N. end of Tremper's Shopping Center)

\*SHOE REPAIR \* LEATHER CARE \* ZIPPERS \*  
\* "VIBRAM" \* ACCESSORIES \*

## \*\* CLUB OFFICERS \*\*

President: Ilona Hruska 721-3832

Vice -Presidents and trip coordinators:

Bill Morgan 363-5339

Charles Hamma 549-0463

Secretary; Andy Beals 542-2496

Treasurer: Arnold Finklin 543-8705

MountainEar: Bob Benson 549-1426

This issue includes a membership list, as up-to-date as we know of. If you are a member but are not listed please let us know. Future Mountain Ear issues will include new members and corrections so you can update the list.

## \*\* NOTICE \*\*

Monday, Jan. 17 7 pm  
at Western Federal Savings & Loan  
(on Brooks, with the time & temperature sign)

"ALL YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT CITIZEN CROSS COUNTRY SKI RACING BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK"

To be presented by  
MAVIS LORENZ, U of M

- Intro to sport of ski racing
- Equipment
- Waxing
- Manners
- Overview of course
- Timing
- Discussion of first race which is Jan 23rd.

## Backpack

### HEADQUARTERS

Complete

X-COUNTRY  
PACKAGE

with fiberglass  
skis

\$89<sup>95</sup>

**BOB  
WARD**  
AND SONS

HIGHWAY 93  
AT  
SOUTH AVE.  
MISSOULA