



# Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS  
OF WESTERN MONTANA

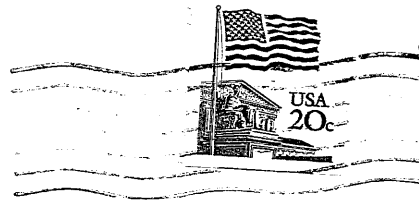
MARCH 1984

Volume 22, No. 6

**MARCH MEETING:** Wednesday, March 14 at 7:00 p.m. (note earlier time)  
at CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY (note location)

**PROGRAM:** Art Anderson, bicycle shop owner, Stuart Crook, Bikecentennial tour leader, and Joe Kipphut, Forestry Department graduate student, will present an informative program on MOUNTAIN BIKING. Topics will include equipment selection, potential tours, and rules of off-road use.

The Mountain Ear  
P.O. Box 4262  
Missoula, MT 59806



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Dave Line  
1135 Whitaker Drive  
Missoula, MT 59803

## TRIP REPORTS

## LITTLE ST. JOE February 11-13

Six hardy souls staged their own winter olympics at the Little St. Joe cabin February 11-13. Events included an endurance climb up the south ridge, a telemark tourney in the north bowl, a crash-and-burn bushwack between the cabin and the trailhead, and a Canadian Club contest in the cabin. The cabin was in its usual good shape. The firewood's holding out well, although the cabin register indicates that there's been about one group there every weekend. There's less snow than usual, but plenty to ski on. Conditions were icy on Saturday, with roughly 12 inches of new snow by Monday.

Ethel asked me to make a few remarks about Little St. Joe for those who have not made this trip. The cabin is presently mostly used by hardcore telemarkers but there's no reason that novice skiers couldn't also take advantage of it. I definitely recommend climbers to get to and from the cabin, especially from. Put the climbers on, and walk down to the trailhead. Then you can take them off and ski the road back down to your car. It doesn't take any particular skill to walk with climbers on. Rope climbers are inexpensive, and very easy to make.

The cabin is hard to find. There's no real trail to it, and it's quite unobtrusive. So for your first time there, go with someone who's been there before. They can introduce you to the mountain, too. Little St. Joe is a great ski. The north bowl is open and not particularly steep. There's a real fine view from the top.


March and April can be the best time of year for ski mountaineering. The snow is usually good in the high country then and you're not likely to run into extremely cold weather. Take your sunglasses.

--Don Baty

## LOLO PASS February 18

Only Jim Burns and Mary Jane Robinson went on the trip to Lolo. We skied a six-mile loop and watched some ski races. We exchanged unique humor with Ranger Pete and Rangers Jay and Jeff. Upon arriving back in Missoula we enjoyed some of Major Gene's scrumptious fried chicken (Double Front). Mama Fuji and Baby Fuji were in good shape. We also went to Lolo Hot Springs to soak up the aching joints.

--Jim Burns



**BRAXTON  
BIKE SHOP**

2100 South Ave W.  
549-2513

**ATTENTION CYCLISTS!**  
**4th Annual Spring**  
**"CYCLE-OFF" SALE**


Wednesday - April 4 thru Saturday - April 7  
 10:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.

HOMEMADE  
COOKIES  
COFFEE  
PUNCH

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BICYCLE  
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**20% OFF MOST ITEMS -  
ALL NAME BRANDS**



## MISSION MOUNTAINS - February 25-26

Five of us skied up the road to the Mission Mountain Wilderness boundary to begin a trip to the main fork of Cold Creek. We drove up the road about three miles, but at 4,000 feet the snow was too deep to drive and we skied four miles to the end of the road and the wilderness boundary. The skiing was fast on the snow-machine track but that ended after three miles. As we gained elevation breaking trail became slower and more difficult in very deep, fresh snow. It snowed off and on Saturday and Saturday night. Three miles beyond the end of the road, where the creek was bounded by mountains on each side, we set up camp at the head of the valley. From here Cold Creek divided, rising very abruptly to the west and another valley rising to the north. After lunch we skied up the west drainage where there were numerous cliffs and ice flow on both sides with a stream down the center. Because of the steepness and the depth of the snow, progress was slow and we did not make it to the cirque and Alpine Lake above.

After climbing for about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours we turned around and skied down in soft snow which allowed some turns although the stream's ten-foot-high snow banks offered some obstacles. Skiing down was much faster and more fun than skiing up, and after getting back down we made a few practice runs on a slope near the tent. We quit skiing just before dark, fixed supper, and stayed quite warm in the mountaineers' tent. We left the fly home to save weight, and for five people, it made for little per-person weight.

The following morning we boiled water for tea and coffee, ate breakfast, and Dan, Wayne, and Terry went up the other drainage. Breaking trail was much easier Sunday and we passed through a very scenic valley which rose moderately at first and then steeply. As we continued skiing, we kept on thinking the next rise was the top of the pass. About three hours later we saw the final ridge at 7500 feet and skied up it. From here we could see upper Cold Lake 1800 feet below on the other side of the pass and the cirque we failed to reach on Saturday. The scenery on the trip up was spectacular, and by the time we reached the top of the pass, the weather had cleared off.

The run down was outstanding, with deep, soft powder. The slopes were often very steep, comparable to the slopes on Snow Bowl, and some of them may have been steeper. But due to the soft powder, we were able to cut a lot of nice turns and had a great time skiing back to camp. After lunch we broke camp and skied out. Because we had broken the trail, we had an excellent ski out, with beautiful views. By the time we skied out, the weather was bright and sunny and we could finally see the beauty of the area.

The people who went were Wayne Hecker, Terry Jones, Mark, Rachel, and Dan Weinstein. We made it back to the car about 6 p.m. Sunday.

-- Dan Weinstein

## LOST TRAIL - March 3-4

Waking up Saturday morning to an inch or less of fresh snow in Missoula put the 21 people who met at K-Mart's parking lot into the mood for the real thing at Lost Trail.-- six to eight inches of beautiful, perfect powder. That same snow made less-than-perfect driving conditions, however, and a pile-up or two (traffic, that is) delayed the anxious group so that they didn't make it up to the ski area until 11:00 a.m. or so. Meanwhile, Bill Morgan, Devvi Erickson, Jerry Kogan, and Sherry Beyer had driven up from the Hamilton area and had managed to get to the good skiing ahead of the traffic jam. One group decided to take off from the lodge area instead: Allison Easterling, Andy Graybeal, Lyda Kontz, Mary Ambrose, Doris Pullen, and Ethel MacDonald followed a snow-machine track for a mile or so and then broke fresh trail up a very beautiful road. When it became obvious that they weren't on a loop after all and that the road was becoming impassable under downed logs, they turned back and had a most pleasant ski downhill. They explored another trail, which also appeared not to be a loop after all, and then rejoined Jean Doerr, who had enjoyed herself by walking and becoming familiar with her new downhill equipment. After a swim, hot tub, or both, the women began thinking about starting dinner.

(cont. next page)

Meanwhile, the other fifteen people had arrived at the ski area. Betty Rosenkrantz, Jean Pfeiffer, Charlie Athey, and Dale Pierce spent the day on the downhill slopes. Ralph Flockerzi, Myra Bair, Cindy Anderson, Robert Logan, Dan Weinstein, Wayne Hecker, Bill Thomas, and Bruce McDonald headed for the burn area (via the chairlift) and Mary Jane Robinson and Jim Burns went to the Saddle Mountain area. The ride up the lift was uneventful, as were the first couple of miles of skiing to the Saddle Mountain burn. However, after about two miles of skiing, Ralph's ski suddenly stopped, Ralph didn't, Ralph somersaulted, and the ski, not to be outdone, slammed him in the back of the head. An impressive amount of blood trickling down Ralph's neck caused some alarm among his companions. Cindy used her veterinarian's skill and knowledge to check out the wound and pronounce Ralph fit for skiing the rest of the day, and the group managed three runs down the ski area and caught the last lift of the day for a little extra skiing on the burn. Some of the members of this group managed to get in a swim or hot tub before dinner, but others waited until later.

A great potluck consisting of various gourmet hot dishes, salads, rolls, and desserts was accompanied by good conversation and the perfect background music supplied by Robert Logan's tapes to suit all good tastes in music. Since we had the whole lodge, some of us remained noisy until fairly late in the evening.

Breakfast was mainly the production of early-riser Dan, with able assistance from Ralph. Pancakes to accompany the scrambled eggs were especially appreciated, since Ralph had spent the evening before telling everybody he had forgotten the pancake mix. Croissants added the touch of class we needed, and nobody complained about not getting enough to eat. (Some people may have been a little worried earlier when all the fuses in the "kitchen" blew, but the intrepid cooks simply moved the kitchens and carried on.)

Sunday was an even more perfect day than Saturday for skiing, with some more fresh snow, perfect temperatures, and beautiful sunshine. Little storms threatened now and then, just enough to make the blue skies and sunshine appreciated that much more when they quickly reappeared. Everybody was back out on the snow by 10:00 or so. Jean and Betty joined Allison and four others from the previous day to tour toward Anderson Mountain, while Doris and Jean Doerr elected to relax around the lodge area. Otherwise, people generally were happy to repeat their activities of Saturday. Wayne and Dan went the whole distance to Saddle Mountain, where they found a tent where people were apparently camping. (They also found a tent or two on Saturday.) Bruce and Bill made about 18 telemark runs down the downhill slopes at the ski area. Ralph and companions were heard to mention something about having possibly done "a little too much" on Saturday and taking it a little easier on Sunday, and enjoyed the burn area a little less strenuously than the previous day.

Most of the group were on their way back home by 4:30 or so, with sincere and numerous expressions of "thanks" to Ralph for the kind of planning that enabled 25 people to have a wonderful weekend.

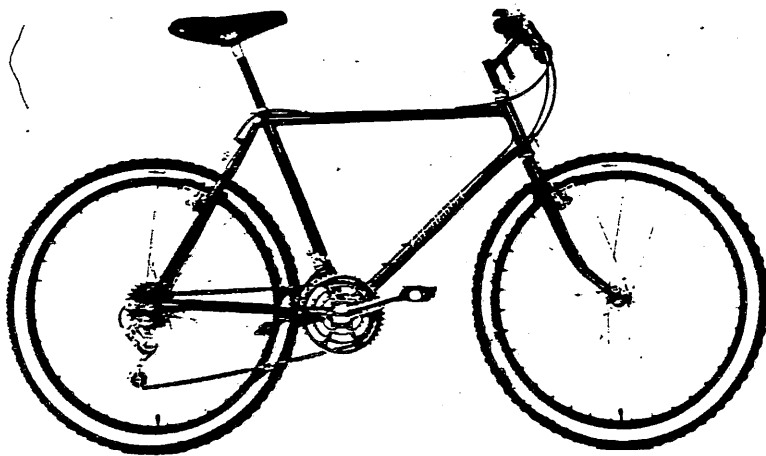
--Ethel MacDonald, with help from  
Ralph Flockerzi (or vice-versa)

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS:	Renewals:	Dr. & Mrs. Chris Buzan	Allison Easterling
		Jeanine Byrne	Martha Lawrence
		Jean Doerr	
		Ed Domer (Box 151, Seeley Lake, 59868, 721-7582)	
		Cindy Mish (1760 South 8th West, Missoula, 59801, 728-1735)	
		Mary Rettig (3403 South 7th West, Missoula, 59801, 721-1491)	
	New Members:	Mel Long	Wayne Hecker
		Box 7372	6117 Hillview Way
		Missoula, 59807	Missoula, 59803
			Phone: 251-4853

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NEEDED: VOLUNTEERS FOR THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR NEW OFFICERS!! (ALSO, OFFICERS!)



Mountain Biking  
MARCH 14 - WEDNESDAY  
7:00 p.m. at  
City-County Library

Wanted: Volunteers for  
Nominating Committee

## TRAIL ETIQUETTE

While riding on public lands remember that others are using the area for recreation too, and that bicycles are still an unexpected occurrence on the trail. So...

**YIELD**-always yield to the passage of hikers and folks on horseback, even if at times it seems inconvenient.

**PASSING**-when overtaking others let them know of your presence well in advance of passing, this is especially important with horses. Each horse will react differently to the sight of riders without four feet. In some cases it may be necessary to actually dismount and lift your bike off the trail to allow passage on narrow trail sections.

**HORSES**-when passing a horse from the rear, announce your presence to the rider and horse, bikes are very quiet and whizzing past a horse at speed could cause serious accident.

**EROSION**-one instance where a bike makes a contribution to trail erosion is on wet areas. This can be avoided by carrying or walking past the bike, this will avoid lasting deep wheel ruts.

**SPEED**-safe speeds are relative to terrain and your own capability as a rider. Switch-backs should always be approached with the anticipation of other park users.

**STAY ON TRAILS**-Try to minimize your impact, never ride off of established trails.

**LITTER**-pack out what you pack in.

**REMEMBER** that biking on public lands is in its infancy, and that courtesy will insure its lasting acceptance.

Courtesy of: POINT REYES BIKES  
Highway One, Point Reyes Station, Ca 94956  
(415) 663-1768



The Rocky Mountaineers welcome all persons interested in outdoor activities in all seasons. One complimentary copy of the Mountain Ear will be sent upon request, and non-members may attend meetings and participate in activities prior to joining.

OFFICERS: President: Ilona Hruska, 721-3832  
V. Presidents: Dan Weinstein, 543-4783  
Martha Yale, 549-2163  
Secretary: Mary Jane Robinson, 721-1276  
Treasurer: Arnold Finklin, 543-8705  
Mountain Ear: Ethel MacDonald, 549-9722  
Lois Crepeau, 728-5321  
Jim Burns, 549-5375  
Social: Andy Graybeal, 542-2496

To volunteer to lead hikes, ski trips, or organize any activities, call either Martha or Dan. To suggest programs or activities, call Ilona.

DUES: \$5.00 Individual; \$7.00 Family. Join at any time.

Send dues to Arnold Finklin, Rocky Mountaineers, Box 4262, Missoula, 59806 or bring them to the February meeting. Renewal notices are included with each Mountain Ear. Members will be dropped from the mailing list after two notices.

# TRIP CALENDAR

March 17-18  
Sat.-Sun.

Storm Lake, overnight. Storm Lake is in the Pintlars, above 8,000 ft. elevation. The ski in follows a snowmobile trail and is not difficult but may be several miles. We will set up camp after Storm Lake, and those interested can ski to Storm Pass which, at 9,000 ft, is a much steeper terrain than the ski into the lake. The mountains surrounding the lake and pass are just under 10,000 ft. If the weather is clear, we should have moonlight for some night skiing. It is a 40-mile drive to the trailhead. Call Dan Weinstein, 543-4783 if interested.

April 1  
Sunday

Nash Point. Nash Point is in the Bitterroots on the edge of the Selway/Bitterroot Wilderness Area. This is a back-country ski trip. Call Bill Morgan, (1)-363-5339, if interested.

April 7  
Saturday

Squaw Peak, or wherever there's snow. Bob Benson promises to lead a group somewhere. If he can't find snow, he'll make it a trip to sniff the buttercups. Call Bob at 549-1426.

DON'T BE SHY ABOUT VOLUNTEERING TO LEAD TRIPS! CALL DAN at 543-4783



**Mammy's Bakery Café**  
"Missoula's original natural foods cafe and bakery."

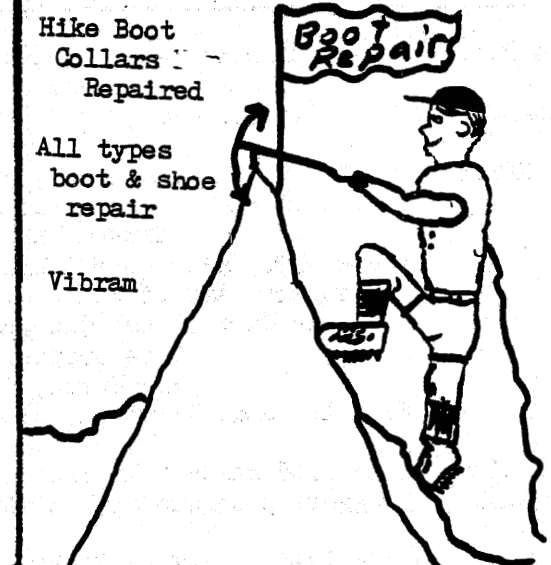
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- homemade soup & sandwiches
- hot vegetarian entrees
- Mexican dinner Friday evening
- salad bar
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