

Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS
JANUARY, 1962 Vol. I No. 3

NEXT MEETING will be held January 8, 1962, in Lodge Conference rooms #1 and #2.

The program will be announced later.

GREYWOLF - MISSION RANGE, CA. 9,000'

October 29th, Shirley and Sam Braxton, Mary and Gardner Miller, and Gary Hall spent the day improving the Rocky Mountaineer's Greywolf trail from near Twin Lakes to near Grizzly Lake on the south side of Greywolf. The trail is now in excellent condition for about 2/3 of the way, while the final 1/3 to timberline is very well flagged with yellow surveyor's flagging. We hope to get back in soon to finish up this last portion. By next spring, with this good trail, the average party with day packs should be able to get to Grizzly Lake in about three hours. From Grizzly Lake there is good rock and snow climbing as many of you know.

November 3rd, Gardner Miller and Sam Braxton finished improving the last 1/3 of the trail. All but about 300 yds. above the second burn is now blazed and brushed out. This 300 yds. or so is flagged but needs to be worked out as to the most direct route possible.

Next spring a work party of six or eight men will be able to make this an excellent trail with a days work.

A TIP ON FLASHLIGHT BATTERIES "Alkaline Energizer" (E95), for continuous heavy drain application, according to our information will last five to ten times as long as regular batteries when used continuously. Under continuous use regular size "D" batteries will last 2 1/2 to 4 hours, using PR2 bulb. With a PR4 or 6 bulb battery life will be doubled because of lower amperage drain with very little change in brightness of light. Possibly 30 hours or more of service can be expected from a size "D" flashlight when using "Alkaline Energizer" batteries and a PR4 or 6 bulb. "Alkaline Energizer" batteries are not effected by temperatures down to minus 30 degrees Fahrenheit, whereas regular batteries have to be warmed before use in temperatures at minus 0 degrees F. Flashlight batteries should not be stored for more than a year because of energy loss. Cost - 75 cents. Available most of the time at Northwest Distributors on south Higgins.



ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

Climber's Code (from the Appalachian Mountain Club)

The Ascent: No climb is worth the deliberate risk of life nor should it be judged successful if anyone is foolhardy. A judicious retreat is more admirable than a dangerous victory. Be confident that you can get up and down.

Judgement: Be alert to your responsibility to others. Know their abilities and limitations as well as your own. Know the limitations of terrain, weather, and equipment. Good judgement means knowing these limits.

Margin of Safety: In the interest of speed some compromise with safety. This may be wise, but more is needed than "I almost didn't make it."

Companions: There must be mutual respect for the leader's orders to reflect safety. The essence of safe climbing is companionship and cooperation, not competition. Never climb solo unless absolutely necessary.

Equipment: Be sure that it is the best, both in type and condition. This includes clothing, food, and first aid equipment, as well as climbing gear.

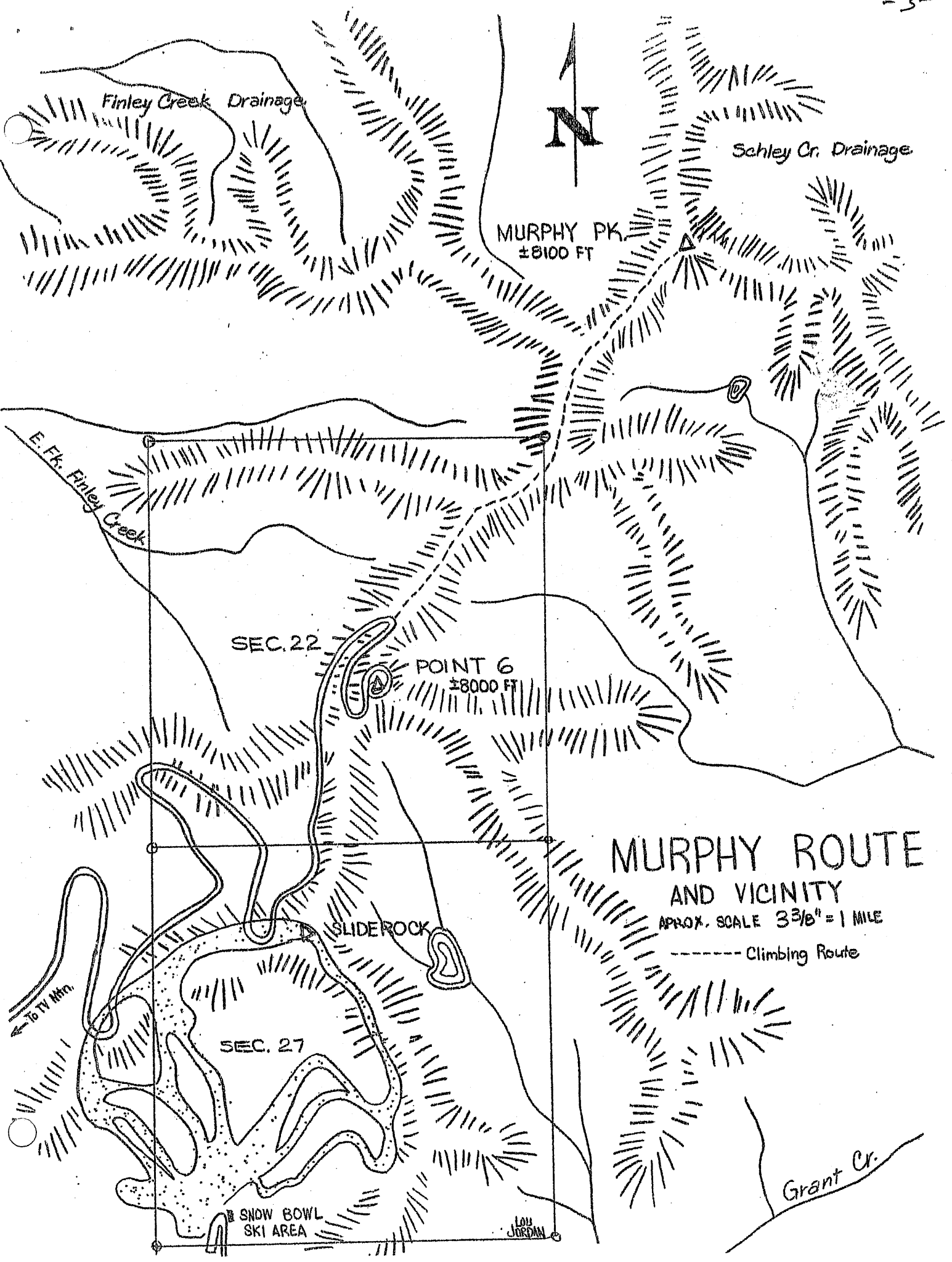
Belaying: Good belaying is the most important skill in safe climbing. A man's life may pass through your hands. Experience will show the value of dynamic technique and that he protects others who best protects himself.

Condition: Physical and mental condition should be adequate to your role as a climber. Hard work requires stamina. If you do not feel you can do it, don't. Another day may be better for you.

Climbing Ability: Know and practice good form. This includes party organization, signals, rope handling, body coordination, rappelling, and all details of rock, snow and ice technique which make an expert mountaineer.

Leadership: Everyone is obligated to exercise leadership by promoting safety and discouraging extremism and spectacularity. Give beginners special attention and suggest they climb with an organized group of conservative traditionalists.

The life you save will be your own. In mountaineering, pride goes before
a fall!!



MURPHY ROUTE
AND VICINITY
APPROX. SCALE 3 3/8" = 1 MILE
----- Climbing Route

MINIMUM EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

The general rule is that in timber where fire can be made you need little besides good matches; while away from timber where fire can't be made you should have good bivouac gear, and on technical terrain you must have adequate technical gear.

- (1) In timber you should have:
Wood kitchen matches in waterproof box or waterproofed fire starters, knife, compass, flashlight, and first aid kit including two triangle bandages, adhesive or "moleskin", and "band-aids."
- (2) Away from timber (above timberline or on technical terrain):
Fact: - you can die of exposure at 40° F. if tired, wet, and cold! For possible bivouac you should have at all times in addition to above items: pack, share of tarp or tent, extra clothes - wool socks, mittens, and stocking cap, sweater, parka, and poncho, if any chance of rain.

If on steep technical terrain you must have:
share of climbing rope, sling ropes, carabiners and pitons, and piton hammer, and climbing boots.

On steep snow you must have an ice axe and crampons, and dark glasses.

Food: Carrying dry foods you need from 1.5 lbs. to 2.5 lbs. per day depending on your appetite and amount of fat-rich foods.

Total pack weight for overnight trips will vary from 25 lbs. to 40 lbs. If over 40 lbs., you have too much!

Obviously, reasonable substitutions, additions, and deletions should be made.

For each extensive club trip, the leader has authority to require equipment which he deems essential, and to decide who is competent to make the trip.

You owe it to yourself, your partners (and your possible rescuers!) to be properly prepared with training and equipment.

BE PREPARED!

MURPHY PEAK, Rattlesnake Mountains Elev. ca. 8,100

In October, 1961, five Rocky Mountaineers led by Dave Line hiked to Murphy Peak, which lies about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles northward from Point Six, through about 8" of new snow. Little was seen as it was snowing all day with limited visibility and strong winds blowing. The party left the Point Six road at a switchback not far from the top and followed a series of ridges northward—we'd have been completely lost if Dave had not been along! In the summer this is a very pleasant $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour class 1 hike to the summit. In the winter this should be good ski touring but the approach will be much longer because cars will have to be left in the vicinity of the old Snow Park ski area. A summit register was left in the cairn at the top. It is 16.8 miles from where the car is left to where the TV mountain road meets Highway 10 across from the Smoke Jumper Base.

EQUIPMENT SOURCES FOR THE SKIER -- CLIMBER -- BACKPACKER

Part of the fun of a mountaineering expedition, a week or weekend spent in the mountains, is in the planning. Careful selection of equipment can best be made by examining the items offered by a number of equipment firms. All of the companies listed below are reputable firms which sell items for the backpacker, climber, and hiker by mail.

Abercrombie & Fitch
Madison Ave. & 45th St., N.Y. 17, N.Y.

David T. Abercrombie Co.
97 Chambers St., N.Y. 7, N.Y.

Alaska Sleeping Bag Co.
723 N.W. 18th Ave. Portland 9, Ore.

American Pad & Textile Co. (sl. bag)
Greenfield, Ohio

Bachrach-Rasin Co.
14 N. Howard St., Baltimore 1, Md.

Barnard Guards (rain parka)
765 W. Minnehaha, St. Paul 4, Minn.

G. H. Bass & Co. (boots)
Wilton, Maine

Eddie Bauer
160 Jackson St., Seattle 4, Wash.

L. L. Bean, Inc.
Freeport, Maine

Charlie Brun's Ski Shop
616 Perma. Ave., S.E.
Washington 3, D.C.

R.C.M. Burton & Son
911 E. St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Camp & Trail Outfitters
112 Chambers St. N.Y. 7, N.Y.

Coleman Co, Inc. (parts & repairs)
Wichita 1, Kansas

Herb & Jan Conn (leathercraft)
Custer, South Dakota

Corcoran, Inc.
Stoughton, Mass.

Dave Cook's
1601 Larimer St., Denver 1, Colo.

Davis Pack
1150 N. 205th St. Seattle 33, Wash.

Dawson's Book Shop (mountaineering books)
550 S. Figueroa St. Los Angeles 17, Calif.

Gerry Mountaineering Equipment
Ward, Colorado

H & H Surplus Center
1104 W. Baltimore St., Baltimore 23, Md.

Highland Imports
65 Ivy St., Riverside, California

Himalayan Pak Co., Inc. (pack only)
807 Ocean View Ave., P.O. Box 1647
Monterey, California

Holubar
1215 Grandview Ave., Boulder, Colorado

Howe Fur Co. (pack)
Cooper Mills, Maine

A.I. Kelty Mfg. Co. (pack)
P.O. Box 3453, Glendale 1, California

Kindle-lite Corp. (fire starter)
160 West St., Brooklyn 22, N.Y.

Klein's Sporting goods (rain parka)
227 W. Washington St., Chicago 6, Illinois

Peter Limmer & Sons
Intervale, New Hampshire

Robert E. Miller & Co. (parts & repairs,
Optimus stoves) 35 Pearl St. N.Y. 4, N.Y.

Mor-San Sales
10-21 50th Ave., Long Island City 1, N.Y.

Dick Pownall (boots)
7745 W. 5th Ave., Denver 15, Colorado

Recreational Equipment, Inc.
523 Pike St., Seattle 1, Washington

W.C. Russell Moccasin Co. (boots)
Berlin, Wisconsin

Sandvik San & Tool Div., Sandvik
Steel, Inc. (parts & repairs, Primus &
Radius Stoves) 1702 Nevins Rd.
Fair Lawn, New Jersey

Sierra King Asso. (Reflector Oven)
P.O. Box 156, San Anselmo, California

The Smilie Co.
536 Mission St., San Francisco 5, Calif.

Sport Center
8th & D Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Super Surplus Center
8500 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, Md.

Norm Thompson
1311 N.W. 21st St., Portland 9, Oregon

Trailwise (The Ski Hut)
1615 University Ave., Berkeley 3, Calif.

Van Degrift's, Inc.
717 W. 7th St., Los Angeles 7, Calif.

Charles Bradley Wood
40 Niles Hill Rd., New London, Conn.

FOOD

Bolton Farm Packing Co., Inc.
P.O. Box 66, Newton 64, Mass.

Drilite Foods
8716 Santa Fe, South Gate, Calif.

Gerry Mountaineering Equipment
(Freeze Dried meats) Ward, Colorado

Russell Bullock (Beef Jerky)
Bullock's Delicatessen, 586 Figuera St.
San Luis Obispo, California

Washington Dehydrated Food Co.
709 N. First Ave., Yakima, Wash.

FOREIGN FIRMS

Benjamin Edgington
Ruxley Corner, Sidcup, Kent, England

Camp & Sports (Cantors) Ltd.
1-2 Hardwick St., London, E.C. 1,
England

Canadian Alpine Equipment Co.
1315 14th St., N.W., Calgary, Alberta

E. Dufour Et Sie
Aubonne, Switzerland

Robert Lawrie, Ltd. (Boots)
54 Seymour St., London, W. 1, England

Sporthaus Witting
M.-Theresien-Strasse 39
Innsbruck, Austria

Thos. Black & Sons (Greenock) Ltd.
Scottish Industrial Estate
Port Glasgow, Renfrewshire, Scotland

Thomas J. Gaston (books)
27 Chancery Lane, London WC2, England

*This list the compliments of
Recreational Equipment, Inc.

MT. HARDING (MISSION RANGE, EST. 9,500')

On Sunday, October 8th, Sam and Shirley Braxton, Russell Betts, and Gardner Miller attempted to climb Harding -- the large mountain east of "Allentown" -- via the west-northwest ridge.

On the way up we saw a most unusual spectacle known as the "Specter of the Brocken." At noon, with the sun on our backs, looking north and down at clouds in the canyon below us, each one of us could see his own shadow on the clouds (but not shadows of others) and, very spectacularly, the shadow was surrounded by a circular rainbow with a diameter

about equal to the shadow height. We got good color pictures of this "Specter" -- Gordon Edwards in his "Climber's Guide to Glacier Park" also describes having seen and photographed the "Specter" in 1950 in Glacier Park.

We traversed upwards from the ridge below the north summit on the west side to by-pass the apparently impassable notch between the north and main summits. Below the main summit we roped up and started up a steep and narrow snow filled chimney (5-10' wide), after Sam and Russ did a shoulder stand to get Russ down off a rock ledge which he'd examined for a route (with slippery thin snow cover, rocks wouldn't 'go'). A heartbreaking estimated 50' below the summit we were stopped by a check stone which we couldn't get over without more time than we had -- so we started down, anxious to thaw out Sam's toes. A new pair of ski pants had cut off circulation resulting in a first degree frost bite. We arrived back to the car via flashlight at 8 p.m.

On Monday, Oct. 23rd, Sam and Gardner again tried Harding via the northwest ridge, but encountered tough weather and snow conditions. Turned back at about 9,000' unable to find the top in the snowstorm and clouds! This trip truly pointed up the need to carry adequate equipment -- it snowed all day with 20-30 mile per hour winds. Just before turning back the wind suddenly increased to over 50 miles per hour with the temperature at about 20°. We were quite comfortable -- had plenty of clothes, bivouac equipment, food, etc., -- without these a person could not have survived many hours on that face. Apparently we traversed too far and were nearly below the notch on the south side of the main summit. Fluffy powder snow about 2' deep gave very insecure footing on the underlying rock and rubble.

PANORAMIC PEAK -- MISSION MOUNTAINS ELEV. CA. 8,700'

In Sept., 1961, Dave Line, Gardner and Mary Miller climbed Panoramic Peak and left a club register in a cairn on top.

Panoramic lies a mile or so east of MacDonald Peak, and an equal distance northwest of Tourquois Lake. This is a very spectacular rugged glaciated area easily reached from the east side. Follow the highway north from Seeley Lake past the Holland Lake turn-off, to the Glacier Creek road (there's a Forest Service sign here), then follow the Glacier Creek road to its end about 1½ miles east of Glacier Lake. Follow the easy trail to Glacier Lake, then on towards Tourquois Lake for perhaps a mile or so, where you'll take the right hand fork (this is a new trail built in 1961) to Crescent, Heart, and Island Lakes. On our trip the new trail had not yet reached Island Lake so we had about one-half mile of moderately severe bushwhacking. A short distance above and to the northwest of Island Lake we camped on a small 'pothole' at the east base of Panoramic, and the next day scrambled up the east side of Panoramic (class 3, about 2,000' vertical rise) under very heavy clouds threatening rain or snow, but with no thunder or lightning.

The actual summit lies on a long rocky ridge with steep slopes dropping off either side into Tourquois Lake and Cliff Lake (on the northwest). While traversing this ridge we encountered a very strong electric 'field' which put our hair on end, literally! Retreating as quickly as possible we got off the ridge and sat out a 45 minute snow and rainstorm. We then went on to the top where we built the cairn, admired the magnificent scenery, and finally tried to sit out another snowstorm. But we again heard electricity snapping around us, so we hastily left at about 2 p.m., returned to the camp, packed up, and were at the car by about 6 p.m. We were all most interested to learn that you can encounter dangerous electric conditions in the 'high country' with no warning other than stormy looking clouds.