



Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

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The lonely sunsets flame and die;
The giant valleys gulp the night;
The monster mountains scrape the sky,
Where eager stars are diamond-bright.



Have you gazed on naked
grandeur where there's
nothing else to gaze on,
Set pieces and drop-curtain
scenes galore,
Big mountains heaved to heaven
which the blinking sunsets
blazon,
Black canyons where the rapids
rip and roar?

The lonely sunsets flame and die;
The giant valleys gulp the night;
The monster mountains scrape the sky,
Where eager stars are diamond-bright.

Selections from
Robert Service's works

2.

EMERGENCY GEAR IN YOUR CAR THAT MAY SAVE YOUR LIFE:

Sleeping bag & Tarp
Small Swede Saw
Shovel
Axe Also full-fill Forest Service requirement
Bucket (collapsible)
Flashlight
First Aid Kit
Tow Chain
Tire repair kit and pump
Flares
Tire chains
Two Jacks (bumper and axle)
Car tool kit
Water and salt tablets if travelling in desert areas
Food
Toilet paper and/or kleenex
Road maps of the area you are travelling in
Rope - about 25 ft. 1/4 in.

CUP COOKERY: is particularly suitable for one-man meals. Having a hand chemical fuel, two large cups and a pot of water, the climber crawls into his sleeping bag and heats each course in sequence. A cup of soup, next a cup of meatballs eaten with bread and butter, finally a cup of tea and a pastry and off to sleep.

If the climb begins in the middle of the night breakfast is merely the first installment of lunch. A doughnut and a swallow of milk or a tiny can of fruit cocktail are typical menus. Some climbers are convinced they cannot budge without hot food; their neurosis can be quickly pampered with instant cereal or cocoa cooked by chemical fire. (Taken from Mountaineering, The freedom of the Hills).

ANNOUNCEMENT:

ON MAY 26 & 27, PROBABLY STARTING MAY 25th., THANKS TO INTERSCHOLASTICS HOLIDAYS, A HIKE AND CLIMB IN THE ANACONDA - PINTLAR WILDERNESS WILL BE HELD. AN EASY WALK OF 5-6 MILES TO BASE CAMP WILL TAKE PLACE FRIDAY FOR THE LAZY OR HOBBLER (LIKE T. CHOATE) THE MORE AMBITIOUS CAN COME IN SATURDAY ONLY OR SATURDAY AND SUNDAY FOR AN OVERNIGHT TRIP AND A LOOK AT THE HIGH COUNTRY. FOR DETAILS, CALL TOM CHOATE 543-7241 ext. 380 (days).

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MITOUER GULCH RECONNAISSANCE SKI TOUR: On Tuesday April 4, 1962 a party of 3, Dave Line, Sam Braxton and Virginia Vincent, left Missoula around 8:30 am to drive as far as possible on the Mitouer road and then to hike to the head of Mitouer ~~road~~ Gulch and adjacent Marshall Ridge. Upon finding a stretch of solid ice at the start of the Mitouer Road where it leaves Marshall Canyon, it was necessary to put chains on the Volkswagen's town tires. They were quickly discarded as most of the road was dry save 2 or 3 drifts that were easily shovelled through. We were able to drive to the point in Mitouer Gulch where the road first crosses the little creek (near the upper end of the large burn, beyond the high wires).

Here solid snow pack was met, where it was necessary to use skis and snowshoes (Sam) almost immediately for at 10 am the snow was soft enough to drop through (this also due to several days of warm sunny weather). Skiers found Swix Red climbing wax to work quite well on the granular surfaces.

The saddle at the head of Mitouer Gulch was reached in 2 hours (12 noon) (2½ hours by slower Virginia) after relatively easy going along road which follows high wire line most of the way. This area was full of snow 2 - 4 feet deep and some large drifts which this year should remain several weeks after most snow is gone.

After a leisurely lunch in the saddle, which is a south easterly extension of Marshall Ridge some 1000' lower than the top.

The return trip down the power line and road was difficult for skiers as even a snow plough turn dug into the snow, it had softened so in the bright sun. However, the descent was accomplished in 1½ hours.

Many birds were observed and heard singing. This area is also good for its diversity of trees.

Trip Log, April 4, 1962

Mileage

Time
up down

Marshall Cr. Rd. to Mitouer Cr.		
at 1st. Rd. crossing (drove)	2 miles	
Skied and snowshoed up to head		
of gulch (Power Pole Knoll).....		2 hrs. 1½ hrs.

APRIL 22, 1962 EXPLORATION OF MITOUER GULCH - MARSHALL BOWL AREA: A motly crew spent a fine spring day exploring the Mitouer Gulch approach to Marshall Bowl northeast of Missoula. The group consisted of Sam & Shirley Braxton, Baet & Dalt, and Virginia Vincent.

The road up Mitouer Gulch (see April 3 trip) was just passable to a point above the powerlines on the east side of the gulch, at the first double switchback. Much water was running over it and some erosion was taking place in the creek bottom portion. Upon leaving the car we put skis on at a large snow bank only to take them off around the corner. This procedure lasted throughout the length of the road as far as Power Pole Knoll (head of gulch) tho' there were several lengthy sections of snow. The power line itself was almost devoid of snow. To facilitate climbing on skis, we applied Swix red wax which worked fine on the very firm, but not icy, snow. It took the 3 adults and 2 children two hours to get to Power Line Knoll where snacks were had.

The road which side-hills along the S or SSE end of Marshall Ridge was snow covered. We left it to climb a southerly exposure of the ridge proper, thru rather dense forest on a long pull up to the top. At first the exposure was such that much snow had melted among the trees and we walked, crossing snow patches with ease for perhaps 1/3 of the way up. Then skis were put on, tho' the snow continued to be firm enough to walk on. Well up on the ridge, 2 hrs. further along, at a point overlooking Johnson Gulch and Sheep Mt. we stopped in the lee of the thinning trees for lunch. Tho' the sun was blazing, the air was cool and sweaters were comfortable much of the day.

From this point we meandered along the glently slopping ridge, first peering over the E. edge into the large bowls, then to the W. to look down Marshall Cr. and the Green's Ski Area (now covered with Spring's verdure). The Bowl was edged with cornices which, in large part, had shed huge chunks onto the lower slopes of the bowl recently. However, the open slopes one ridge south of the main bowl was without and overhang or evidence of avalanching and would provide up to 2000' of steep ski slopes and gentler ridges leading into Johnson

April 28, 1962 Trip to Marshall Bowl:

Skiers: Dave Line, Peter Flaccus, Dan Harper, Lionel and Gary Hall.

Time up from Missoula: Five hours (Many Delays & Etc.)

Time down to Missoula: One and a half hours.

WEATHER: Near 30 degrees, wind, and a dense cloud cover.

SNOW CONDITION: Frozen raincrust badly rutted.

ROUTE: Parked car between first and second switch backs on Mitour Gulch road as we were blocked by a lingering snow drift. From there we proceeded to the top of Marshall Mtn. by way of the "jeep road". We did not find skiable snow cover until we reached the point where the jeep road connects with the ridge from the saddle west of "Power Line Knoll". At no time did we need to put on our skis as we were able to walk on top of the crust. Four feet of snow had melted in the two previous weeks as the open southern end of the secondary bowl turned out to be densely covered with jack pine.

The main bowl however was still in good shape as far as amount of snow was concerned, but we did not go into it for lack of time and the hard crust of frozen rain. It still had not yet avalanched out side of a few large chunks of cornice which had broken off and slid down.

MAY 6, 1962 LOLO PEAK RECONNAISSANCE: Trying to find a new approach to Lolo Pk, Gary Hall and Sam Braxton went up to Mormon Peak Lookout, 3.1 miles up Lewis & Clark Hwy. to the turn off and then 10 miles over a very excellent dirt road to the Lookout. Then back tracked 1.5 miles to Mill Creek Trail No. 310 (\pm 6000 ft.) (Cedar Creek Trail No. 309 4 miles - Lewis and Clark Hwy. by trail 6 miles) comes into the road. Left here at 11:00 A.M. on snow shoes and shorty skis, snow beginning 200 yds. up the trail, and proceeded up trail and then down until we came to an observation point of the north face of "False Peak" (\pm 9000') which was about 2 miles by trail. From there came back to car at 3:10 P.M.

We are calling "False Peak" the point on the north Lolo Pk. Ridge which rises gradually from a saddle just west of Carlton Lake and then drops off in a sheer cliff.

The ridge from the saddle (where Mill Creek Trail No. 310 takes off) 1.5 miles west of Mormon Peak Lookout leading up to the Carlton Ridge Road is about 1.5 miles through a lodge pole thicket.

After coming back we tried to find the Carlton Ridge road and to follow it out but was unsuccessful ending up on Mormon Creek - McLean Creek Divide.

WHITEFISH LAKE STATE PARK: On Whitefish Lake 2 miles west of Whitefish and 10 miles from Big Mtn. Ski Area. (camping, picnicing, boating and fishing). can

Campground in paper birch grove with fir, larch, and pine also present. Camp to left or west of the main entrance road for early morning sun. Water about 25 ft. to west of main parking area on west shore. The water (has a lot of iron in it) is from a spring and should be available all year thus eliminating the necessity of waiting until the water is turned on by the Park Service or packing your own.

It is a beautiful camping spot with plenty of fire wood close at hand. The only disadvantage here is the railroad which borders the park on the south just a few hundred yards or so from the campground.

EQUIPMENT CHECK LISTON THE PERSON

Matches* (in waterproof container)

Firestarters

Pocket Knife*

Compass

Map

Pencil and Note Pad

Wallet (with ID)

IN RUCKSACK (ON DAY TRIP)

First Aid Kit*

Flashlight* (extra bulb & batteries)

Climbing Goggles* (and/or sun glasses)

Sun Paint* (lotion and actor's grease paint)

Mitts & Liners*

Sweater*

Primus or Heat Tab Stove

Fuel (heat tabs or gas in fuel bottle)

Cup or Pint Pot

Fork and Spoon

Aluminum Foil (wind screen)

Can Opener

Whistle

Toilet Paper

Sewing Kit (in first aid kit)

Camera & Film

Field Glasses &/or Spotting Scope

Twine

Canteens

* Basic Essentials

Food

Bivouac Sleeping Bag

Bivouac Tarp (poncho)

Orange Survey Tape

Anti-fog Cloth

Extra Socks

Hand Axe

IN RUCKSACK (OVERNIGHT TRIPS). . . In addition to the above
Tent instead of Tarp

Ground Cloth (if tent has no floor)

Sleeping Bag

Mattress (Air or Ensolite)

Stove and Fuel

Cook Kit

Spoon & Fork

Small Chain for Pots

S.O.S. Pads

Several Small Plastic Sacks

Dish Detergent (in plastic vial)

Dish Cloth and Rag

Boot Grease

Shoe Laces

Candle Lantern (Extra Candles)

EQUIPMENT AND FOOD CHECK LIST

SNOW COVERED TERRAIN

Ice Axe
Avalanche Chord & Shovel & Prob Pole
Glacier Goggles
Yellow Lens Goggles
Climbing Rope
Crampons
Snowshoes
Skiis, Boots, & Poles
Screw Drivers & Combination Pliers
. . . for bindings
Waxes (Downhill & Climbing)
Wax Remover (Paint Thinner)
Climbers (skins)
Ski Tip (if using wood skiis)

ROCK COVERED TERRAIN

Climbing Rope
Sling Ropes
Carabiners
Pit ons & Hammer
Piton Holder
Climbing Boots
Tennis Shoes
Hard Hat
Belay Gloves

FOODS

Pre-cooked Meats
Dehydrated potatoes
Dehydrated Vegetables
Butter (margarine doesn't spoil)
Salt & Pepper
Sugar
Tea
Honey
Jello
Raisins or any other dried fruit *Dates*
Figs
Gorp
Freeze-dried Foods
Hard Rolls
Tang *Wyle's Lemonade*
Lemon Powder
Logan Bread
Soups
Bouillon Cubes
Fruit Juices

Dave Line
Rt. #3

City

