



Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

February 1991

MEETING

Time and Place: Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the Montana Power Building at 1903 Russell Street in Missoula. The February meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 13, 1991.

Program: Ed Monnig will give a slide show on a week-long winter ski trip in Yellowstone Park from Old Faithful down the Beckler Canyon out the southwest corner of the park to Ashton, Idaho. This is one of the few ski trips on which you should bring a swimsuit. After seeing this slide show you will probably all rush to join on of the two groups that will be repeating the trip this March.

NOTE: The Forest Service is going to charge the club for the special use permit for the cabin on Little St. Joe. If you want to provide some input on this issue, please attend the February meeting or call Dave Pengelly at 728-6512.

TRIP CALENDAR

General Contacts for Skiing. If you want to go backcountry skiing some weekend, but can't make (or don't like) the scheduled trips, call Dave Pengelly (728-6512), Peter Dayton (728-8101), Art Gidel (543-6352), or Ralph Flockerzi (549-7150). Chances are good that they can either suggest or organize an unscheduled trip. New skiers are particularly invited to contact these guys.

Saturday, February 16, Boulder Peak. A ski trip up Boulder Peak, which is the mountain south of Trapper Peak in the Bitterroot Mountains southwest of Darby. Call Peter Dayton at 728-8101 for details.

February or March, Trapper Peak. Dave Pengelly will probably try Trapper Peak some time soon. Call Dave at 728-6512 to suggest a date if you are interested.

February 23-24, East Pioneers. An overnight ski trip into the beautiful East Pioneer Mountains near Dillon. This range has thirteen peaks over 10,000 feet. Call Peter Dayton at 728-8101 to discuss details if you are interested.

Sat-Sun, March 9-10, Little St. Joe Cabin Trip. Ralph Flockerzi will lead a two or three day trip to the Club's cabin on Little St. Joe Peak in the Bitterroots near Florence. Good fun, good telemarking. Call Ralph at 549-7150 for details.

February or March, Hylite Ridge Trip. A three or four day trip down a high, undulating ridge in the Gallatin Range south of Bozeman. We are in the process of selecting a date, so call Peter Dayton at 728-8101 for details if you are interested.

March 9-16, Beckler Canyon, Yellowstone Park. A six day, five night, 40-50 mile ski trip from old Faithful down the Beckler Canyon out the southwest corner of Yellowstone Park to Ashton, Idaho. The route crosses the Continental Divide three times in generally easy rolling terrain, and then heads down the canyon. The group will probably lay over one or two days at hot springs or geyser basins. Call Ed Monnig at 721-2707 for details.

TRIP REPORTS

Gash Point, January 5. On a clear and sunny day, Beverly Chin, Colleen Hunter, Art Gidel, Carol Anderson, and Peter Dayton headed up Gash point for some telemarking. Somebody had preceded us, so we followed their track to avoid breaking trail. Instead of heading up the northernmost spur of Gash Point, the trail lead to the next spur ridge to the south. This proved to be a very nice area. There were a lot of open patches on the ridge, and the terrain is steeper and more interesting than on the north spur, which is pretty gradual. There were real attractive open bowls on either side of the spur. Art, Carol, and Peter climbed to the top of the ridge and took in some scenery before heading down. Carol declared the powder to be "intoxicating." If Gash Point has enough powder to slow you up, this area is definitely worth trying. - Peter Dayton

Little St. Joe Cabin, January 12-13. Ralph Flockerzi, Maryann McClain, Peter Dayton, and Art Gidel spent a weekend skiing out of the Club's cabin on Little St. Joe Peak near Florence. We were only able to drive partway up the switchback below the commune. The snow conditions were gross down low, but got quite nice as we approached the cabin. Ralph, Maryann, and Peter would like to thank Art for breaking trail all the way to the cabin, and from their all the way to the top. He just disappeared in a puff of snow, and we never saw him till the top. The snow was a bit heavy but a lot of fun. Due to some wind the conditions were best in the trees between the cabin and the notch. It snowed most of the weekend, and dumped enough Saturday night to obliterate the tracks from our first day of skiing. That night we discovered, after much experimenting with alternative materials, that a great wick for a kerosene lamp can be made from gauze bandage material. However, the next group to use the cabin should probably tote up some real wicks. We expected some friends to join us Sunday morning for some telemarking, and were perplexed when they didn't show up. As we descended towards the car, we discovered why; it had been raining all weekend down in the valley. The conditions down low were so foul and disgusting that we didn't blame them a bit. - Peter Dayton.

Sweeny Peak, January 19. Joe Kipphut, Art Gidel, ~~John Pierce~~, Peter Dayton, and Ralph Flockerzi climbed Sweeney Peak in nearly clear conditions. This is the first time I've been able to see more than about fifty feet up there, so naturally I forgot my camera. As we left the saddle, Bret Doucette caught up with us. Traumatized by the geopolitical situation in the Persian Gulf, he had watched television news all night and hadn't gotten a wink of sleep. After running his paper route in the morning he showed up late, missed our group, drove down himself, and had to park his car at the last house on the road, over a mile lower than us. However, none of this seemed to slow him up any. After reaching the false summit where we normally stop, we ditched our skis and hoofed it along the ridge to the real summit, a quarter mile west and forty feet higher. We figured we might as well, since it would probably be a long time before we saw such good weather again. - Peter Dayton.

Ice Climbing, Como Lake Area, January 27-28: Steve Niday, Rick Murney, and Dave Pengelly skied across Como Lake to the inlet along Rock Creek and spent two (2) half days practicing waterfall ice climbing. Steve did the initial leads on several 50-60 foot pitches, set up top rope stations, and then we all took our turns. The area is ideal for practicing, which Dave and Rick can use, being novices at the sport. Steve also learned that it's difficult to climb vertical ice with only one crampon. We had a great camp at the inlet with open water and lots of firewood due to the fire several years ago in that area. - Dave Pengelly

2386d

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Mail a check payable to
"Rocky Mountaineers" to
Arnold Finklin, P.O. Box
4262, Missoula, Montana

Check one: Individual (\$6.00/year) _____ Family (\$8.00/year) _____ 59807
