



Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

March, 1993

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 March meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 10.

March Program: Rich McCleary will present a slide show and videotape on a trip down the Alsek River in British Columbia and Alaska. This trip involved a helicopter portage around the notorious Turnback Canyon. It should be an unusual and exciting presentation. It sounds like if you want to do some homework before coming to the meeting, read the article on the Alsek in the a recent issue of Canoe magazine; the group described in that article took a much more arduous portage across a glacier.

TRIP CALENDAR

Floating. The floating season is here again (some would question if it ever left), so if you want to go kayaking, canoeing, or rafting, call Peter Dayton at 728-8101 or Art Gidel at 543-6352.

Saturday, March 13, Boulder Point. Ski trip up Boulder Peak, which is located just south of Trapper Peak, southwest of Darby in the Bitterroot Mountains. This mountain is similar to Trapper in that it has a long, fairly low-angle south face which leads to a north-facing cliff with great views (if only, for once, it isn't snowing). If the group is less ambitious we could go telemarking on the open slopes near Boulder Point Lookout. Call Peter Dayton for details at 728-8101.

Sunday, March 21, McDonald Peak. Climb of McDonald Peak, the tallest mountain in the Mission Range. A strenuous non-technical 6,000-foot one-day bushwack and climb; crampons and ice ax recommended. Art has scheduled this trip a week later in hopes that the snow will firm up better. Call Art Gidel at 543-6352 for details.

Saturday, March 27, Bass Lake. Ski trip to Bass Lake, which is up the Bass Creek drainage northwest of Stevensville in the Bitterroot Mountains. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for details.

Sunday, April 4, Gash Point. Ski trip to Gash Point, one of the most popular backcountry skiing areas in the Bitterroot Mountains, which is located west of Victor. Moderately strenuous, suitable for beginning and intermediate backcountry skiers, although unfortunately this year the road is not being plowed as far up as in past years. Call Dave Pengelly at 728-6512 for details.

April 3-10, Desert Float Trip. Ed Monnig is interested in going on an easy spring multi-day family-style wilderness desert canoe and/or raft trip, with the San Juan and Dolores Rivers being prime candidates. Both have outstanding scenery, do not have difficult white water, and should have decent stream flows at that time. Call Ed at 721-2707 with your questions and suggestions.

Wanna lead a trip? If you are interested in leading a trip, help is only a telephone call away; Art Gidel, 543-6352, will be delighted to sign you up.

TRIP REPORTS

East St. Mary's Peak, February 2, 1993: Steve Niday and Dave Pengelly did a ski ascent (most of the way) up East St. Mary's Peak in the Missions. Total elevation gain was 5,600 feet from the car. In typical fashion our time of departure was dictated by when McDonald's opened so Steve could get his breakfast. We drove to within a quarter mile of St. Mary's Reservoir and then headed due north up the heavily timbered ridge which approaches the peak from the south and the east. The lower elevation brush was a bit of a nuisance, but after about 1,500 feet

the route was quite good with relatively firm snow. The open ridgeline at about 8000 feet was wonderful. We left our skis for the final pitch to the summit. After a brief stop on top we headed down. Instead of staying up on the ridge we skied into the basin which drains No Fish Lake. The snow was soft and we broke through frequently. After we dropped down into the basin, we elected to follow a path of least resistance down an avalanche chute. It made for a quick descent, but unfortunately led us into the creek bottom. Needless to say, that was a mistake. The brush was too thick to ski and the snow too soft and deep to walk. In other words, we completed our trip with a typical Mission Mountain bushwack. - Dave Pengelly.

Ward Mountain, February 28, 1993: For her 35th birthday, Jenny Murney left Rick at home to work and joined a group of nine of the guys for a trip to Ward Mountain (elevation 9,119 feet), which is located southwest of Hamilton. The group got off to a speedy start since there was a set of tracks to follow for the first 1,000-1,500 feet of elevation. After that, the remaining 3,500-4,000 feet was untouched. Due to the large group size, the trail breaking was quite reasonable, even if one member managed to linger near the back of the pack the whole trip. We arrived at the summit around 12:45 p.m. and had unobstructed views in all directions. The only disturbance was the off-key chorus of "Happy Birthday" which the guys sang to Jenny. The return trip was quite exciting with numerous crashes and panic turns and stops as we nipped through the lodgepole. Jenny's guys included John Pierce, Art Gidel, Gary Palm, Mark Waters (Thompson Falls), Jim York, Steve Niday, Peter Dayton, Ralph Flockerzi, and Dave Pengelly.
- Dave Pengelly

OFFICERS

Art Gidel, President - 543-6352

Dave Pengelly, Secretary-Treasurer - 728-6512

Peter Dayton, Newsletter Editor 728-8101

Rick Murney, Vice President - 543-7586

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Mail a check payable to
"Rocky Mountaineers" to
Dave Pengelly
P.O. Box 4262

Check one: Individual (\$6.00/year) _____ Family (\$8.00/year) _____ Missoula, Montana 59806

THE MOUNTAIN EAR
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