



Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

December, 1993

MEETING

Time and Place: Club meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the County Commissioner's conference room, which is located on the second floor of the Annex (new portion) of the Missoula County Courthouse. Please enter by the north door. The December meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 8.

December Program: Paul Jensen, a Missoula climber, will give a slide show on climbing in South America, featuring in particular his 1990 climb of Anconcagua (22,831'), the tallest peak in South America, by the Polish Glacier route.

January Program. Dan Mazur, another Missoula climber, will present a slide show on his 1993 climb of K-2.

TRIP CALENDAR

December 12, Sunday, Discovery Ski Area. Carpool trip to Discovery Ski Area, which is a great place to learn to telemark ski since there are several long easy slopes. The newly-opened back side contains some very difficult triple diamond runs. There's something for everyone. Lift tickets not included. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for details.

December 18-19, Sat-Sun, Backpack ski to Trapper Peak. Overnight backpack ski trip to Trapper Peak, the Bitterroot's highest peak. The trip will involve following a snow covered trail about four miles up a ridge. We will camp at about 8,000 feet on a relatively flat plateau. Bring a good book and a headlamp; it gets dark early! Between the camp and the 10,157 foot peak is gentle terrain with widely scattered trees or completely open slopes which may have great skiing opportunities at this high elevation. There is minimal avalanche danger for most of the route. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for details.

December 19, Sunday, Lolo Pass ski touring. Here is an opportunity to go skiing without the risk of breaking bones and other body parts on the more difficult trips. Lolo Pass offers beautiful scenery and lots of snow on the many trails and roads. The terrain in this area is mostly flat and should provide a very relaxed and enjoyable ski trip for the family or anyone wishing to enjoy the winter. call Ralph Flockerzi at 549-7150 for details.

December 31-January 2, Fri-Sun, New Years Eve at the Rocky Mountaineer Cabin. Spend three days skiing and bring in the new year in proper fashion. The trip involves skiing 5 miles up a ridge to the club's lavishly appointed lodge in the Bitterroots. Above the cabin is a variety of open slopes and tree skiing, which often have great snow conditions. Bring a warm sleeping bag; the lavish appointments unfortunately do not include totally effective chinking between the logs. Call Ralph Flockerzi at 549-7150 for details and to coordinate food.

January 9, Sunday, St. Mary's Peak. Day ski trip to St. Mary's Peak in the Bitterroots. The trip will involve skiing about 5 miles along a road, trail, and/or ridge to reach the 9,351 foot summit of this peak, which contains a lookout tower. This trip is of moderate difficulty for the average telemark skier. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for details.

January 15-16, Sat-Sun, Overnight ski trip up Lion Creek. Join us for a backpack ski trip up Lion Creek in the Swan Range. The trip will involve skiing 7-8 miles along a wide, gentle trail, past a spectacular waterfalls to an area in the vicinity of Swan Peak. There are several open slopes in the basin with great skiing opportunities. Avalanche danger is unknown at this time, but will be assessed when we arrive. Call Cheryl Beyer at 251-2344 for details.

Wanna lead a trip? If you are interested in leading a trip, help is only a telephone call away; Gerald Olbu, 549-4769, will be delighted to sign you up.

TRIP REPORTS

"The Saint on Snowshoes," St. Mary's Peak, November 20. Three strong members of the Rocky Mountaineers (Paul Jensen, Dan Mazur, and Rick Murney) successfully completed an all-snowshoe ascent of St. Mary's Peak in the Bitterroot Mountains. This may have been the first such ascent . . . that day. Two telemark skiers and sign of one snowboarder were encountered on the route. We judged the snow conditions to be a bit thin for those activities just yet. Shreds of petex were found on some low lying sticks and stumps. Snow depth was sufficient to keep all vehicles one switchback below the trailhead.

Hoodoo Pass, November 21. Gerald Olbu, Jack Bell, Cheryl Beyer and Art Gidel took an early season ski trip to Hoodoo Pass, which is located south of Superior. They went south of the pass quite a ways, perhaps 3-4 miles, in excellent weather. The trip was primarily a tour, but they did take a couple of runs down through the eighteen inch deep bottomless snow.

OFFICERS

Gerald Olbu, President - 549-4769

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
Missoula, Montana 59806

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

THE MOUNTAIN EAR
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MISSOULA, MT 59806

(STAMP)

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