

## JANUARY, 1995

### MEETING

**Time and place.** Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 in the Missoula County Courthouse. This month's meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 11. **THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE FIRST FLOOR COURT ROOM IN THE OLD PORTION OF THE BUILDING, BECAUSE OUR NORMAL ROOM IS UNAVAILABLE DUE TO CONSTRUCTION.** Enter the building through the north door.

**Program.** Pat Caffrey, taking a break from his rigorous Mt Everest training, will present an exciting two-part slides how. In the first half, he will describe some family mountaineering trips. Pat and his son have climbed some of the highest peaks in the region, and in particular are fond of Mt Hood in Oregon. In the second half, he will show slides of his recent Mt Robson ascent. Mt Robson is the highest peak in the Canadian Rockies and perhaps the most difficult to climb due to the technical nature of the climb and the unrelenting poor weather which seems to always surround the mountain. Pat climbed Mt Robson via the Emperor's Face in eight days. Breakfast will be served after the presentation (that's a hint, Pat!).

### TRIP CALENDAR

**January 15, Sunday, Lolo Pass.** Ski touring trip to the Lolo Pass area suitable for beginning and intermediate-level skiers. Even when it seems like the snow conditions in Missoula are dismal, one can usually find excellent conditions at Lolo Pass. Many people have inquired about casual ski trips, so here's a great opportunity. There are many roads and trails in the Lolo Pass area which are ideal for ski touring. The exact route the group will follow will depend on participants' interest. Call Julie Warner at 543-6508 for more information.

**January 22, Sunday, Ice Climbing.** A day of technical ice climbing suitable for beginning- and intermediate-level climbers. The exact location will depend on ice conditions at the time; possibilities include: Mission Falls, Como Falls, or Swan Slabs. Two ice axes and crampons are required, however, some equipment may be borrowed or shared. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

**January 29, Sunday, Burnt Mountain.** Hike to the top of Burnt Mountain, a 6385-foot peak in the Rock Creek drainage, and east of the Welcome Creek Wilderness. The route starts by climbing steeply for 1000 feet until the ridge is reached. Then, the route follows a southern exposed ridge with a potential for great views. The snow should be minimal on the south ridge. This moderate-level hike will climb 2665 feet in six miles round trip. Call Dick White at 251-6430 for more information.

**February 4, Saturday, Ice Climbing.** A day of technical ice climbing suitable for beginning- and intermediate-level climbers. The exact location will depend on ice conditions at the time; possibilities include: Mission Falls, Como Falls, or Swan Slabs. Two ice axes and crampons are required, however, some equipment may be borrowed or shared. Call Dave Pengelly at 728-6512 for more information.

**February 12, Sunday, East St. Mary's Peak.** Ski to East St. Mary's Peak which is in the Mission Mountains southeast of St. Ignatius. The first portion of the trip will involve some bushwhacking up a steep hillside. Once the treeline is reached the ridge opens up with impressive views of the west face of Gray Wolf Peak. From East St. Mary's Peak, one can see the most majestic peaks in the Missions with their winter snow cover. This will be a long and strenuous trip. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

**February 18-20, Sat-Mon, Glacier Park.** A winter mountaineering trip to Glacier Park is being planned for the President's Day weekend. More details will be in the next newsletter. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

**February 25, Saturday, Stemple Pass to Fleisher Pass.** Cross country ski trip between Stemple Pass and Fleisher Pass which are located southeast of Lincoln, and are separated by 12-14 miles of rolling terrain along the continental divide. This trip is being coordinated with the outing club from Great Falls. More details will be in the next newsletter. Call Ed Monnig at 721-2707 for more information.

**Telemark Skiing.** Anyone interested in skiing on a weekend day is encouraged to contact Dave Pengelly at 728-6512. The location and date are dependant on the conditions; he'll go where there is good snow. A good possible date is Saturday, January 14.

**Wanna lead a trip?** If you are interested in leading a trip, contact Gerald Olbu at 549-4769.

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## TRIP REPORTS

Holland Point, December 17. After skiing in light powdery snow for several weekends, five skiers: Lisa McKenzie, Gerald Olbu, Tim Page, Janet Surrena and Jim Surrena, were determined to find some snow a bit more challenging. Sure enough, they found it on the route to Holland Point. Warm temperatures and rain at lower elevations the night before made for some strenuous trail breaking in very sticky snow. Above the freezing level, a large accumulation of newly fallen snow made the climbing slow and raised the avalanche danger to a very high level. So, at about 7000 feet where the trees thin out, the skiers decided to turn around. The ski down was a challenge, but spirits were kept high by thoughts of dinner at the Elkhorn Cafe in Seeley Lake. All agreed that this was an area that should be revisited under better weather conditions. - Jim and Janet Surrena

Lolo Pass, December 18. Richard White was the only person who called to go with Steve Schombel and myself on this outing. He expressed an interest in going uphill some, no fast down hill, and someplace away from snowmobiles. I opted for a logging road that goes up from Pack Creek Road to a saddle. From the saddle, you can ski a bowl, or just tromp around and explore. It was warm and spitting some rain as we set out. There was one short section where we observed some avalanche condition travel. When we got to the windy clearcut saddle, the weather was taking a turn to blizzard-like snow, from the rain. There was little shelter so we settled down into a snowdrift "ditch" to eat lunch, then headed back out. It was only snowing below. Feeling cheated out of a longer days ski, we played on the hill by the road junction for a bit. Despite it, I think a good time was had by all. - Julie Warner.

Rehabilitation process, January 7. It was a nippy and beautiful Saturday, with snow falling on and off during the day. For excitement, your newsletter editor went to work without crutches and wearing a shoe, rather than a velcro cast, for the first time. Yee Haw. It has been a long and boring seven weeks. - Peter Dayton

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### OFFICERS

Gerald Olbu, President - 549-4769

Dave Pengelly, Secretary-Treasurer - 728-6512

Peter Dayton, Newsletter Editor 728-8101

Dave Siemens, Vice President - 549-0102

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### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Check one: Individual (\$6.00/year) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$8.00/year) \_\_\_\_\_ (9398)

Mail a check payable to  
"Rocky Mountaineers" to

Dave Pengelly  
P.O. Box 4262

Missoula, Montana 59806

THE MOUNTAIN EAR  
P.O. BOX 4262  
MISSOULA, MT 59806

(STAMP)

FIRST CLASS MAIL