



Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

DECEMBER, 1996

MEETING

Meeting: Club meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the County Commissioner's conference room on the second floor of the new portion of the Missoula County Courthouse. Please enter through the north door. This month's meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 11.

Program. Doug Ammons, a world-class kayaker from Missoula, will present a slideshow covering 15 years of numerous first descents in the whitewater of the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and the Himalayas, including a number of creek runs in Western Montana and Idaho. Doug has also been in four films. Come and see a spectacular show.

CALENDAR

December 14-15, Saturday-Sunday, Rocky Mountaineer Cabin. Spend a weekend at the Rocky Mountaineer's luxurious cabin in the Bitterroots. It is a moderately strenuous off-trail ski trip through timber to the cabin. Possible activities include great telemark skiing on the open slopes above the cabin, and a game of Monopoly in the evening. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for details.

December 20, Friday Evening, Moonlight Ski Touring at Lolo Pass. View rainbow-colored sparkles of the moon reflecting on snow crystals during a short evening ski trip at Lolo Pass. There are several options available for participants, including three-mile and six-mile loops around Packer Meadows. Call Julie Warner at 543-6508 or Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for details.

December 28, Saturday, Holland Point. Ski to Holland Point (8053 feet) which is northeast of Seeley Lake in the Swan Range on the border of the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The six-mile route with 4000 feet of elevation gain will involve both on- and off-trail skiing through various conditions. One should have great views of the Missions to the west and the Bob Marshall Wilderness to the east. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

January 4, Saturday, Ice Climbing. Enjoy a day of technical ice climbing suitable for beginners and intermediates. The location will depend on conditions, but Como Falls, Swan Slabs and Mission Falls are possibilities. Heavy boots, crampons and two ice axes are required, however some equipment may be borrowed or shared. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

January 11, Saturday, Gash Point. Backcountry ski trip to Gash Point (8886 feet), which is west of Victor in the Bitterroots. The route involves off-trail skiing in mixed conditions. The bowls on the east side of Gash Point offer excellent telemark skiing. This will be a moderately strenuous trip for the average skier. Call Art Gidel at 543-6352 for more information.

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

TRIP REPORTS

Sheep's Head, October 5. Joan Brehm, Len Broberg, Dan Chisholm, Brett Doucett and Gerald Olbu departed for the summit under a cloud-covered sky. We started hiking later than planned and were taking our time. Convinced we could not reach the summit and return to the trailhead before sunset, I asked the group if they wanted to turn back 1500 feet from the summit. Fortunately, Gerald and Len convinced me to press on. We enjoyed some challenging fourth-class climbing during the last 500 feet to the summit. Len and I also enjoyed watching Gerald and Brett debate choosing routes. As we reached the summit, the sky cleared and we had an unobstructed view of McDonald Peak covered in light snow. We descended soon after reaching the summit since the wind was cold and blowing hard. We reached the car just after dark. - Dan Chisholm.

East St. Mary's Peak, November 16. Len Broberg and Dan Chisholm set out early under a partly cloudy sky. We lost an hour driving while following some unusual directions given by fellow mountaineer Greg Zlock. Thanks to Len's map-reading ability, we were able to find the trailhead. Our feet slipped most of the way up and we ascended slowly since the slope was steep and the ground covered with four inches of fresh snow. Snow often fell gently from the trees and down the backs of our necks. At 7000 feet, we were sinking above our knees in the snow. We proceeded a few hundred feet more using snowshoes, then turned around to make sure we'd reached the car before dark. The butt glissade was the quickest, but not the most comfortable method of descent. Next year, we'll summit. - Dan Chisholm.

Oregon road trip, November 23-December 1. On the weekend before Thanksgiving, Art Gidel and Peter Dayton headed west for a week of

kayaking and skiing. Like Thelma and Louise, we didn't have any concrete plans, but just wanted to have some fun. Fortunately our road trip turned out better than Thelma and Louise's. We got in six days of kayaking in Oregon (Hood River, Breitenbush River, Quartzville Creek, Wilson River, Jordan Creek, and surfing in the Pacific) and three days of telemarking (Lookout Pass, Silver Mountain, and Hood Meadows). We were able to make connections with a number of friendly local kayakers, who provided us with a lot of useful suggestions and information, as well as probes and guides on three of the rivers, and lodging for one night. Further cost control was accomplished by crashing with several of my relatives in the Willamete Valley. There was a foot of snow on the banks of the Hood, and a regular blizzard blew in while we were on that river, but all of the other rivers were further west, where the weather was warmer but rainy. The scenery and whitewater were great, with dense forests, moss-covered trees, green ferns, narrow igneous gorges, log jams, and a lot of steep, tight, and technical whitewater. I can't wait to go back for more. - Peter Dayton.

Cabin Trip, November 29 - December 1. The recent storm brought lots of fresh powder to the surrounding mountains and convinced Andre Duran, Matt Grandy and Gerald Olbu to spend Thanksgiving at the cabin. The skiing was great and we even enjoyed a midnight ski through beautiful powder in the moonlight. We had close encounters with redrum as we spent the long dark hours playing a wicked game of Monopoly; next time, as a precaution, we'll hide the axe. - Gerald Olbu.

OFFICERS

Gerald Olbu, President - 549-4769

Peter Dayton, Newsletter Editor 728-8101

Julie Warner, Secretary-Treasurer - 543-6508

Len Broberg, Vice President - 549-6031

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mail a check payable to

"Rocky Mountaineers" to

Address: _____

Rocky Mountaineers Outdoor Club

P.O. Box 4262

Check one: Individual (\$9.00/year) _____ Family (\$12.00/year) _____ (9398)

Missoula, Montana 59806

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(STAMP)

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