



Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

JANUARY, 1997

MEETING

Meeting: PLEASE NOTE THE NEW MEETING TIME AND PLACE: Club meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the lower level meeting room at the Missoula Public Library. This month's meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 8.

Program. Pat Caffrey, a club member and Seeley Lake resident, will present a slideshow entitled "The Last Picture Show" detailing his climb of Mount Nevado Huascarán (22,200 feet) in the Peruvian Andes. Pat has had an extensive mountaineering career and has climbed the tallest peak on five of the seven continents as well as several other notable peaks. Pat also is the author of Climber's Guide to Montana, the most authoritative book of its kind. His slide shows are always amusing, if not somewhat rowdy. Parental guidance is suggested.

CALENDAR

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.

January 18, 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 19, Sunday, Lolo Pass Ski Touring. Enjoy a day of ski touring in the Lolo Pass area or other area depending on participants' interest. Call Julie Warner at 543-6508 for more information.

January 25, Saturday, Stark Mountain. I'm tired of doing the same old stuff, so I'll lead a backcountry ski tour to Stark Mountain, a 7349 foot peak located northwest of Alberton. The scenery is not bad from the top, and there are some good telemarking opportunities on the south slopes of the mountain. Access may be awkward due to all the low altitude snowpack. Call Peter Dayton at 728-8101 for details.

January 26, Sunday, Ice Climbing. Enjoy another day of ice climbing similar to the January 18 outing. Call Matt Grandy at 728-0647 for details.

February 1-2, Saturday-Sunday, Rocky Mountaineer Cabin. Overnight ski trip to the Club's 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 or chess in the evening. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for details.

February 8, Saturday, Ice Climbing. The ice climbing season is short, so here is another session to hone your skills in preparation for the spring and summer alpine mountaineering trips. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for details.

February 15-17, Saturday-Monday, Warren Peak. Three-day backcountry ski trip in the beautiful snow-covered Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness. On the first day, we will ski eight miles with 1900 feet of elevation gain along a road and trail to Edith Lake (about 7850 feet), which is a mile southwest of Warren Peak (10,453 feet). The peak will be approached from the southwest face or the west ridge, depending on conditions. Endurance and winter camping skills are required. Call Matt Grandy at 728-0647 for details.

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

TRIP REPORTS

Moonlight Ski Touring at Lolo Pass, December 20. Since the days were so short, Gerald Olbu, Steve Schombel and Julie Warner decided to enjoy a moonlight ski trip at Lolo Pass. Much to our delight, as we arrived at 7 p.m., the parking lot was completely empty except for six inches of fresh powder. We had the whole place to ourselves - not a single creature was stirring. Julie was quite familiar with the area, so she chose a route that took us down a trail and across a meadow. It snowed intermittently and the moon shone through the thin clouds to give us just enough

light. It was extremely quiet with fresh snow and no people. As we returned and approached the parking lot, we were entertained with a light show of yellow flashing lights as the road crew plowed the parking lot and highway. - Gerald Olbu.

OFFICERS

Gerald Olbu, President - 549-4769

Julie Warner, Secretary-Treasurer - 543-6508

Peter Dayton, Newsletter Editor 728-8101

Len Broberg, Vice President - 549-6031

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

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

Mail a check payable to
"Rocky Mountaineers" to
Rocky Mountaineers Outdoor Club
P.O. Box 4262
Missoula, Montana 59806

THE MOUNTAIN EAR
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