



Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

NOVEMBER, 1997

MEETING

Meeting: Club meetings are normally 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 at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12, but will be in the small meeting room on the lower level, rather than the large room. If you enter via the back (lower level) door, turn right and go down the hall to the meeting room.

Program: "From the Andes to the Amazon", a slideshow and presentation by Doug Ammons. Doug is a nationally-known Missoula kayaker who has appeared in several National Geographic specials, and he also gives a heck of a good slide show. Earlier this year he did a snow and ice climb of Picayno Alpamayo, an 18,000-foot peak in Bolivia. Then, he made first descents by raft and kayak of several rivers flowing into the Amazon. Come see what happened.

CALENDAR

November 16, Sunday, Heavenly Twins. Climb one of the Heavenly Twins (9282 and 9243 feet) which are west of St Mary Peak in the Bitterroots near Florence. The route follows a trail for four miles with 2000 feet of elevation gain, then goes off-trail for about three miles through some very scenic alpine terrain, mostly up and down along ridge tops. The climb of the peak will involve easy/moderate fourth-class climbing. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

November 28-30, Friday-Sunday, Cabin Trip. Work off the Thanksgiving pounds with a three-day trip to the Rocky Mountaineers' cabin. For entertainment, one can play a game of Monopoly or climb a couple of the nearby peaks. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

December 12, Friday, Lolo Pass Moonlight Ski. Enjoy a moonlight ski trip in the Lolo Pass area under the full moon. There are several ski trails in the area to choose, depending on participants' interest. If you don't like the hustle and bustle of the crowds and snowmobiles, this is a great opportunity. In previous trips, we have seen no other people. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for more information.

May/June, Mount McKinley. A trip is being planned for Mount McKinley (20,320 feet) in Denali National Park, Alaska. If interested, contact Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 to express an interest and also participate in the several training sessions we will have. For training this winter, we will do a lot of ice climbing and winter camping. Also, a shake-down trip is being planned to Mount Rainier (probably in January) which will be a week-long trip and will involve camping on top of the summit.

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

TRIP REPORTS

Bass Creek Crags, November 2. It was dark when Matt Dombrowski and Gerald Olbu left town, but when it became light, we saw a clear blue sky and knew we would have a great day. We hiked up the trail and then took our usual route, which avoids most of the brush, and soon we were in the cirque below the crags. There was about a foot of snow in the basin and made boulder hopping more fun. Every time we do the crags, we take a slightly different route. We traversed along some cliff bands, which was some great snow and rock climbing and was quite enjoyable. As we climbed higher, the snow became deeper. To gain the top of the ridge, we had to slog our way up a snow couloir using a very interesting technique. It was about a 45-degree slope and the snow was up to our chest. We used our hands to shovel out the snow in front of us, took one step forward, repeat. It took us about an hour to go 30 feet, but we made the top of the ridge. We climbed up to a point (not the highest) and called it a day. The trip down was fast and enjoyable. -Gerald Olbu.

Just hunting. A lot of hiking tends to be goal oriented. You hike from A to B, you rack up 8.5 miles, you camp at Big Lake, you climb Snowy Peak. When hunting, however, you just sneak around in the woods. One of the goals of hunting is of course to locate an animal and convert it into steaks, but hunting is fun even if you don't find any animals. On the first weekend in November, in search of the elusive wapiti, I snuck all over the place. I snuck up a ridge, I snuck down through the trees, I snuck through the bushes, I snuck across a clearcut, I snuck through some deadfalls, I snuck down a ravine, and I snuck through the snow, but the woods were mysteriously devoid of wildlife, as if an unidentified flying object had descended from space and sucked up all the animals. I saw one set of deer tracks the whole time. Nevertheless, I thought it was a pretty successful weekend, if you know what I mean. - Peter Dayton.

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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(STAMP)

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