

Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

JANUARY 1999

MEETING

Meeting: Club meetings are held 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 January 13, at 7:00 p.m.

Program: Rocky Mountaineer member, Paul Jensen has climbed and trekked on five continents! Paul will show his climbing trips to Mt. St. Elias (18,008 feet) and Mt. Steele (16,643 feet) in the Wrangle -- St. Elias area. Located at the confluence of Alaska, British Columbia and the Yukon Territory, the mountains in this area are the highest, on average, in North America. This area is extremely beautiful but weather there is very harsh. Paul's slides will provide an insight into this spectacular place.

TRIP CALENDAR

January 16, Saturday, Sweathouse Falls. Hike or snowshoe trip to Sweathouse Falls which is located in the Bitterroots west of Victor. The trail climbs 1200 feet in 2 miles to the falls, our lunch spot and point of decision. Farther on is the wilderness boundary at 2.5 miles where the trail levels out. At 3 miles is a smaller but aesthetically proportioned falls. And at 3-3.5 miles is a small forest of 435-year-old larch trees. Depending on participants' interest, the trip could be done on Saturday or Sunday. Call Doyle Gerrard at 961-3839 for more information.

January 16-18, Saturday-Monday, Bass Peak. Two- or three-day trip to the Bass Peak (8855 feet) area, which is a nice peak in the Bitterroots southwest of Florence and immediately west of Bass Lake. This trip will involve either skiing or snowshoeing, your preference. We'll trek to the Bass Peak area and assess a suitable winter ascent route, if feasible. This will be a great trip to practice snow caves, winter camping and route-finding. Call Tony Sabol at 728-7221 for details.

January 23, 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 24, Sunday, Lolo Pass. Ski touring in the Lolo Pass area which is suitable for beginning and intermediate-level skiers. Lolo Pass has an abundance of new snow and more snow falls almost every day. Participants may choose from several roads and trails in the area to ski. Call Julie Warner at 543-6508 for more information.

January 30, Saturday, Ice Climbing. Enjoy another day of ice climbing similar to the January 23rd outing. Ice climbing experience will be beneficial or required on many of the Club's trips this spring and summer. Call Matt Grandy at 728-0647 for more information.

February 6, Saturday, Buck Lake. Ski or snowshoe trip to Buck Lake which is located in the southern portion of the Missions. The trail begins at Lindbergh Lake and is quite steep for the first 800 feet of elevation gain to the top of the ridge. After the ridge top is reached, the trail is very gentle for 10 miles to Buck lake. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

February 13, Saturday, Ice Climbing. The ice climbing season is short so we'll have another outing. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

March 1,2,3; Mon,Tue,Wed; Ice Climbing. Daily trips to any of several ice climbing areas in the Bitterroots and Missions with

the possibility of an overnight trip in an area with several ice climbs. These trips are not suitable for beginners since no top rope will be used. Call Tony Sabol at 728-7221 for more information.

March 14,15,16; Sun,Mon,Tue; Ice Climbing. Another series of daily ice climbing trips similar to the March 1-3 outings. Call Tony Sabol at 728-7221 for more information.

Want to lead a trip? If you are interested in leading a trip, contact Matt Grandy at 728-0647 or e-mail him at matthewg@montana.com.

TRIP REPORTS

Bass Creek, December 19. We were going to climb the Bass Creek Craggs, which are usually fun to climb in late fall with a moderate amount of snow. However, since this was close to the shortest day of the year and the temperature was -5 °F with a windchill of -40 °F, Len Broberg and Gerald Olbu decided to make it short and easy. We hiked up Bass Creek a few miles and enjoyed the clear blue sky and fresh powder snow. The surrounding mountains were quite attractive with contrasting patches of bright white snow and dark gray rock; and the early morning sun caused these features to be even more striking. Naturally, we saw no one else - we seldom do. It's fun to go where no one else goes. - Gerald Olbu.

OFFICERS

Matt Grandy, President - 728-0647
Tony Sabol, Vice President - 728-7221
Steve Schombel, Vice President - 721-4686

Julie Warner, Secretary-Treasurer - 543-6508
Gerald Olbu, Newsletter Editor - 549-4769

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Phone: _____

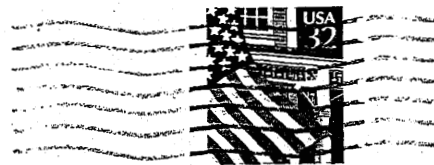
Address: _____

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

Mail a check payable to
"Rocky Mountaineers" to
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FIRST CLASS MAIL



March +
May

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