

Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

MARCH, 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 March 10, at 7:00 p.m.

Program: Longtime Club member, Bill Meyers will present a slideshow entitled "Scrambles in the Alps (by a Montana Climber)." He will be sharing with us over 150 slides that he took over several trips he took to the Alps in the early 1970's. Bill has been a member of our club for over 25 years, and served as our club president in 1974. This should be a great show, you don't want to miss it.

Club Business: Elections for club officers will be held at the May meeting. Former vice-president, Len Broberg, will serve as chairman of the nominating committee. Call Len Broberg at 549-6031 if you are interested in serving as a club officer.

TRIP CALENDAR

March 13, Saturday, Ice Climbing. Enjoy a day of technical ice climbing, probably at Mission Falls. Heavy boots, crampons and two ice axes are required, however some equipment may be borrowed or shared. If conditions are not suitable for ice climbing, we will do a ski trip. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

March 14, Sunday, Upper Clearwater area. Ski touring trip to the Upper Clearwater area, which is north of Seeley Lake. Although you have to share these roads with snowmobiles it isn't as crowded as other areas. The views of the surrounding rugged mountain ranges in winter make it worthwhile. And the several-mile downhill glide back to the car offers one of the most fun experiences in ski touring, if snow conditions are right. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686.

March 14,15,16; Sun,Mon,Tue; 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 20-21, Saturday-Sunday, Rocky Mountaineer Cabin. Enjoy a fun-filled weekend at the Club's cabin. A moderate-length ski or snowshoe trip will take one to the cabin where a warm wood stove will provide all the comforts of home (almost). There are ski, snowshoe, and mountaineering opportunities in the area of varying lengths and levels of difficulty. Call Matt Grandy at 728-0647 for more information.

March 27-28, Saturday-Sunday, Buck Lake. One- or two-day ski/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.

April 3-4, Saturday-Sunday, Rocky Mountaineer Cabin. Enjoy another weekend at the Club's cabin similar to the March 20-21 trip. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

April 10, Saturday, Wisherd Ridge. Ski trip to Wisherd Ridge, which is located about five miles northeast of Bonner. Participants may either ski the bowls or ski along the ridgetop toward Sheep Mountain. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 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

Ice Climbing, February 13. Swan Slabs, a 300-foot, 45-degree ice slope is one of our favorite places for ice climbing because it is an easy two-pitch climb. Matt Grandy, Lara Ivchenko, Angie Kilgore, Gerald Olbu, Raven Stevens and Chris Stout eagerly headed out. We set up a belay for the bottom pitch and a fixed rope for the top pitch. It was easier than usual since it was covered with snow and didn't require much front pointing. We all enjoyed the day and got back to the trailhead at an early time. - Gerald Olbu.

Blind Canyon, February 20. At about 9:30 on a warm sunny morning Steve Schombel, Brett Doucett, Julie Warner and Lori Hutchinson left the Seeley ski area parking lot down the Cottonwood Lakes road. A few snowmobiles and one dog sled passed us. When we reached the Blind Canyon turnoff there was a new sign which showed it to be a designated snowmobile route, but only ski tracks went up this trail. Soon these tracks ended and we were breaking trail. The snow was great, about a foot of new that almost obliterated the old snowmobile tracks. It was quiet, and the views were fantastic, getting better as we entered the canyon and the trail steepened. We wanted to believe our friend who told us just last year he almost never saw snowmobiles or people up this trail. Unfortunately at 1:30 two came by and changed our mood and caused me to lose all traction. I rested while the others went on. Although there were only a few on our way back and the ski down was fast and fun it was different. There were a lot of them on the last mile back to the lot. We wish that snowmobiling wasn't becoming so popular. - Steve Schombel.

Ice Climbing, February 20. Five Rocky Mountaineers headed for Mission Falls near St. Ignatious. Matt Grandy, Tony Sabol, Tami Resheke, Ron Attaway, and Raven Stevens made the 3 mile trek to the falls and found the ice in excellent condition. The weather cooperated as well, with clear skies and gorgeous views across the Mission Valley. One note: we did encounter severe icefall; a good reminder of why it is mandatory to wear a helmet while ice climbing. - Matt Grandy.

Ice Climbing, February 27. Mission Falls is one of the most beautiful places when its canyon walls become covered with flowing and cascading blue ice. Matt Grandy, Angie Kilgore, Gerald Olbu, Chris Stout, Hillary Wood and Mike Wood enjoyed an excellent day ice climbing at Mission Falls. We set up two top ropes. One climb was short, but absolutely vertical; the other climb was longer and terraced. The ice was at the right temperature - it was soft but not wet. Oddly, considering how popular the area is, we were the only ones there, and the climbing was great. We climbed until late in the afternoon and hiked out under a light snowfall. - 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: _____

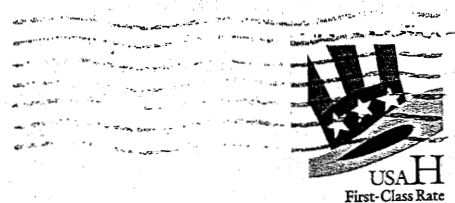
Address: _____

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

Mail a check payable to
"Rocky Mountaineers" to
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