



Mountain Ear

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

DECEMBER 1999

The Rocky Mountaineers are dedicated to the exploration of Western Montana's mountains and other high peaks throughout the world.

MEETING

CLUB MEETINGS: The Rocky Mountaineers normally meet on the second Wednesday of each month, in the lower meeting room, at the Missoula Public Library. This month we are meeting on December 8th at 7pm.

DECEMBER PROGRAM: We will have an extraordinarily scenic slide show by long time Western Montanan, Graeme Shaw. Graeme is an avid fly fisher, and his quest for Golden Trout (particularly BIG Goldens) has propelled him to do many backpacks in the Beartooth Mountains over the past 15 years. He has been to best and prettiest alpine lakes, has done some multi-day backpacks, and reached lakes that have no trails. He has hiked and climbed all over the Beartooths, one of Montana's pristine mountain ranges, and has lots of great photos. As a bonus, Graeme is going to add some slides of the best alpine lakes in other parts of Montana.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS: We are looking for new faces and energetic people to lead trips of all skill levels! Please contact Matt Grandy if you are interested in being a trip leader.

TRIP CALENDER

December 12, Sun, Kent Peak or Dome Mtn: Climb the highest peak in the Sapphire Mountains! Kent Peak stands at an elevation of 8999 feet, and is located almost directly east from the town of Darby, Montana. We will begin our jaunt at Coyote Meadows and follow a trail for approximately 4 miles. Upon reaching the Kent Lake cirque, we will scramble through a timbered break and work our way around some cliffs. Upon reaching the ridgetop, we will scramble over boulder slopes to the peak. An alternative peak will be Dome Mtn, also located in the Sapphire Mountains. Depending on snow quantities, skis or snowshoes, as well as an ice axe may be required. Contact Penny Palm at 258-2000.

December 18, Sat, Ice climbing: Ice is starting to form in various areas around Montana. We are hoping that trend will continue here in Western Montana. Tony Sabol will lead a trip for beginning to moderate ice climbers at Swan Slabs or Como Falls ...both located in the Bitterroots. These formations offer fairly easy access, and offer a nice introduction and early season warm-up for future ice climbing. Some gear can be shared, but try to borrow or acquire whatever you can. Call Tony at 273-2566 for your travel and adventure planning.

December 18, Saturday evening, Moonlight Ski, Lolo Pass: This will be close enough to the full moon for a bright night...but who knows what the snow will be like. If it looks good, we'll give it a go. This first month, Steve will probably do a short ski on obvious trails near the parking lot. New members, or those new to ski touring, are encouraged to go along. Contact Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for more information.

December 19, Sun, Destination TBA: Join Jordan Shapiro on a winter excursion of one kind or another. Scheduling conflicts and weather conditions preclude listing a definitive trip, however ice climbing or a winter alpine ascent are possibilities. Contact Jordan at 829-9313 if you are up for a Sunday trip.

TRIP REPORTS

East St Mary Peak, November 13: David Morris, James Jones, Mark Mencil, and Jordan Shapiro hiked East St Marys Peak in the Mission Mountains. The peak was obscured by thick clouds all day, but the hike went smoothly and quickly. When we hit the summit ridge, strong winds almost literally blew us down. We made the summit despite the visibility and winds, but decided to save the traverse to West St Marys for a day with better conditions. We made excellent time for 5400 feet in just four miles, and we all had fun. -Jordan.

Deadman and Hayes Points, November 20: Steve Schombel, Julie Warner, Bill Myers, and Vera Myers braved the cold early morning rain and completed this hike, which turned out just as advertised. It was a pleasant and quiet walk through the forest...and the weather improved as the day progressed. We shortened the hike, parking in a small lot closer to Deadman Point, then taking a shortcut down from Hayes Point. We probably covered 6-8 miles. We saw a few deer and squirrels, but no other humans...on foot, hooves, or bikes...remarkable for an area just minutes from town. -Steve

Want to Lead A Trip ? If you are interested in being a Trip Leader for the Rocky Mountaineers, contact Club President Matt Grandy at 728-0647 or e-mail him at matthewg@montana.com.



CLUB OFFICERS

President	Matt Grandy	728-0647	Treasurer	Julie Warner	543-6508
Vice President	Tony Sabol	273-2566	Secretary	Penny Palm	258-2000
Vice President	Steve Schombel	721-4686	Newsletter Editor	Tami Sabol	273-2566