



Mountain Ear

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

FEBRUARY 2000

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 February 9th at 7 p.m.

FEBRUARY'S PROGRAM: Bryony Schwan, director of a national activism group and world traveler, will show slides from her trip to Thailand in 1988, as well as slides from recent trips to South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe. In addition, Bryony will present slides on wilderness trips offered through WILD (Women's Institute for Leadership Development in Women).

TRIP CALENDER

February 12 or 13, Sat or Sun, Quigg Peak: Climb Quigg Peak (8419 feet) in the Sapphire Mountains. Our approach will depend on conditions, but will begin in the Rock Creek drainage. We will climb to the summit by way of Butte Cabin Creek or Big Hogback Ridge. Snowshoes or skis will be a necessity this time of year. Contact Tami Sabol at 273-2566 for more information.

February 19, Sat, Lolo Pass Ski Trip: Join the Rocky Mountaineers for winter fun in excellent cross-country snow conditions at Lolo Pass. This will be a great trip for beginners! Please call Julie Warner at 543-6508 for more details.

February 20, Sun, Ice-Climbing: Bring your gear and join the Rocky Mountaineers for an exciting day of ice-climbing. The location will be determined at a later date, based on current ice conditions. If conditions aren't suitable for safe climbing, we will conduct a ski, snow-cave, and avalanche transceiver-training trip. Call Tony Sabol at 273-2566 for more information.

February 27, Sun, Seeley Lake Ski Trip: Dig out your skis and join the Rocky Mountaineers on a cross-country trip in the Blind Canyon area. This trip will be very scenic and is on mostly level terrain, with some steady uphill after we reach the mouth of the canyon. Please call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for more details.

March 18, Sat, Ice-Axe Training Workshop: Join the Rocky Mountaineers for an instructional workshop on proper ice-axe use and self-arrest techniques. This trip will be a prerequisite for future glacier travel trips that will be listed this summer. The workshop will be held at either the Rocky Mountaineers winter cabin or Marshall Mountain Ski Area. Please call Penny Palm at 258-2000 for more information.

TRIP REPORTS

Rita Creek Moonlight Ski Trip, January 22nd: Steve Schombel, Charles Tree, and Julie Warner set out for some easy ski touring. We decided to take advantage of the snowpack near town and headed up Blue Mountain. The moon never broke through the overcast sky, but there was enough glow from town to provide decent visibility. We went from the gate to the ATV lot, rested, and enjoyed an effortless glide down. As we rounded bends with large gaps in the trees, we could see all of the lights of Missoula below. Julie remarked "it's like skiing off the edge of the world" - Steve Schombel

Pintlar Cave, January 29th: Joe Oliphant, Katie Savage, Jessie Savage, and Jordan Shapiro embarked early for our not-so-secret cave in the Pintlars. The road was a snowmobile track, with grooves cut by a Suburban. After we dug my Subaru out and parked low on the road, we left under clear skies on a cold morning. Soon, the sun emerged and warmed us. We had too long a hike to find the cave (it would have taken some searching this time of year), but enjoyed a thoroughly pleasurable day of snowshoeing in glorious weather. We will reschedule for the spring - Jordan Shapiro

Bass Creek Ice, January 29th: Tony and Tami Sabol set off to climb a nice ice formation located up Bass Creek. We had a beautiful hike in with cool temperatures and clear skies. By the time we reached the ice, the temperature had climbed and the sun was brilliant. The ice appeared hollow in many spots and every few minutes or so, large chunks of ice and rock would break off. This climb is renowned for avalanche danger above, but appeared minimal today. Being that the ice was definitely not in shape, we retreated and enjoyed pizza and beer back home - Tony Sabol

Lee Creek Ski Trip, January 30th: This was a popular trip! Nine people besides myself went: Joe Kotek, Rita Cheek, Beth Metzgan, David Day, Joleen Watson, Pam & Steve Wheat, Legen Todd, and Tom Woodward. Seven others had to drop out at the last minute. Though a bit chilly, it was a beautiful, sunny day. Conditions were good for fast snow, and some took sidetrips to ski the hills we passed. The trail was nice, the company good, all in all the trip we expected - Julie Warner

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.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Household Yearly Membership (\$13.00)

Make checks payable to "Rocky Mountaineers" Rocky Mountaineers
PO Box 4262
Missoula MT 59806

LIABILITY WAIVER-INDEMNITY AGREEMENT: In today's legal environment, liability for accidents is always a concern. It is very sad, but it is a reality of our times. Many of our members will not lead trips for fear of legal action being directed against themselves and their families. In order to help alleviate some concerns regarding this matter, we have sought the advice from a major mountaineering organization. We have been provided with an indemnity and release statement, which any member of a Rocky Mountaineer sponsored trip will be required to sign and have on file prior to going on a trip. Extra copies will be provided to trip leaders to have available for signing for any members of the club or public who have not had the opportunity to sign one. You can never sign away negligence, but you can sign away the many acts of God or Nature, which are inherently present in the outdoors. If you are actively participating in trips, please sign your copy and send it to the Rocky Mountaineers P.O BOX so it may be placed on file. Thank you so much for any cooperation in this matter.

I, (print name) _____ hereby state that I wish to participate in courses and/or activities offered by The Rocky Mountaineers, a non-profit organization. I recognize any outdoors activity may involve certain dangers, including but not limited to the hazards of traveling in mountainous terrain, accidents or illness in remote places, force of nature, and the actions of participants and other persons. I further understand and agree that without some program providing protection of its assets and its leaders, the Rocky Mountaineers would not be able to offer it courses and activities.

In consideration of and as part payment for the right to participate in the activities offered by The Rocky Mountaineers, I agree to RELEASE, HOLD HARMLESS, AND INDEMNIFY The Rocky Mountaineers and its members from any and all liability, claims and causes of action arising out of or in any way connected with my participation, or the participation of any minor that I am signing on behalf of, in any activities offered by The Rocky Mountaineers. I personally assume all risks in connection with these activities. If I am signing on behalf of a minor, I further agree to RELEASE, HOLD HARMLESS, AND INDEMNIFY The Rocky Mountaineers and its members from any liability, claims and cause of action, which the minor may have arising from the minor's participation in activities. The terms of this agreement shall serve as a release and indemnity agreement for my heirs, personal representative, and for all members of my family, including any minors. (Parents or Legal Guardians must sign for all persons under eighteen (18) years of age).

I have read this release and indemnity agreement and have fully informed myself of its contents before I have signed it.

Print Name

Signature

Date

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian if Participant is Under 18 Years of Age

Date

THE MOUNTAIN EAR
PO BOX 4262
MISSOULA MT 59806

FIRST CLASS MAIL

