



# MOUNTAIN EAR

**Monthly Newsletter of the Rocky Mountaineers**

**HIKING-CLIMBING-MOUNTAINEERING-SKIING-  
EXOTIC TRAVEL-EXPLORATION OF PEAKS AND  
MOUNTAINS OF MONTANA AND OF THE WORLD**

**\*\*\*January 2002\*\*\***

## **THE GREAT BURN**

The next meeting of The Rocky Mountaineers will be on Wednesday January 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. in the second floor meeting room ( County Commissioners Room) of the Court House Annex. Use the Pine Street entrance.

The Great Burn Study Group will give a slide presentation on the Great Burn Proposed Wilderness. This visual presentation by Dale Harris, 30 year Great Burn advocate, and Bob Clark, Field Studies Coordinator will focus on history, "connection to place" and year-round recreational opportunities within the Great Burn Proposed Wilderness. Other issues include increased off-road vehicle use and an update on the search for grizzly bears in the area. This 275,000 acre roadless area west of Missoula is one of the regions largest unprotected areas. The great fire of 1910 burned heavily here, leaving charred snags, grassy slopes, and expanses of sub-alpine meadows. High cirques, dozens of clear lakes and several large drainages with pockets of ancient Western Red Cedar ascend to 8,000 ft. granite peaks. With a good system of uncrowded trails that includes 40 miles of the splendid Bitterroot divide, The Great Burn is one of Western Montana's "hidden secrets." Come on out and see "The Burn!"



## TRIP REPORTS

**Winter Fun-** So far this winter we have not had a series of organized trips. Instead, we have had a group of outdoor enthusiasts who meet at a certain time and place and then decide where to go and what to do spontaneously. On **December 9<sup>th</sup>** we looked at the East Fork Lolo Creek road, but it was plowed and the gate was locked. So instead of Sally Ridge we decided to go up Bobcat Creek. Steve Schombel, David Kahl, Julie Warner and Lois Crepeau went a long way up this drainage and cut tracks for at least ½ mile beyond the last person. Three skied and one stubborn guy snowshoed and tried to keep up. On **December 16<sup>th</sup>** it had been raining in town and the snow was still thin. Instead of Pattee Canyon Steve, Dave and Julie went up to Lolo Pass and had a great time skiing up and down the 5 miles to Moose Pass. The trail was very well groomed, but, surprisingly we saw almost no other people once we got out of sight of the warming hut. A very quiet day. On **December 23<sup>rd</sup>** the snow was just too great and tempting at Lolo Pass, and so Dave, Julie and Fred Schwanemann passed up Babcock Creek and did the Packer Meadow Loop under brilliant blue cloudless skies. Julie reminds us that often the gray and gloomy days in town can be beautiful and sunny up in the mountains. On **December 26<sup>th</sup>** Steve, David Andrus, Dennis and Wendy Ferry and Glen and Janice Kelly did an unplanned snowshoe hike up the "B" trail from Lee Creek trailhead. This is a good road for beginners, and also has some steep hillsides and ridge tops for the more experienced. The only trip that came off as planned was the moonlight ski on **December 30<sup>th</sup>**. It turned into a great eve before New Year's Eve party for two clubs.

December 30th's "Full Moon Ski/barbecue" was a HUGE success, thanks to all who made the trek to Lolo Pass.

Gear and food was sledged to the warming hut on two sleds, and two barbecues were set up. While the brauts were sizzling on the grill, a feast of potato salad, chips, beans, cookies and drinks was set up in the warming hut. It was snowing lightly and the full moon wasn't visible. But many of us had head lamps and skied the short Glade Creek loop. The little kids (my grand kids Allison, 4 years old and Jack 2 years old, and my great grandson Noah 8 months old) had a fun time being pulled in sleds by their parents.

We packed up gear, cleaned the warming hut and

## BY-LAWS and OTHER BUSINESS

We got a lot of feedback at the business meeting on December 12, and have settled most of the questions concerning the new by-laws. We are going to put a minimum age of 18 for full membership. We will delete the clause about rock and snow climbing from the mission statement. We will not have a designated month, just an annual election. We decided that a quorum of 10% is a round number, better than 8% and more reflective of the average attendance in recent years. We support the concept of all members also being board members. We will add a clause that elections will be conducted under Roberts Rules of Order. We will substitute a family membership for the household membership, and will reinstitute a cheaper membership for individuals.

Unfortunately we have gotten bogged down on some of the more complicated issues. We had really hoped to have a set of proposed by-laws ready for the January 9th meeting to be voted on. Now it looks like it would be better to slow down and try to do the job right. There is no harm in continuing under the old by-laws which cover most situations. It would be good to have a clearer definition of who is a member and can vote and run for office. The really thorny issues concern liability. It has been pointed out to us that Montana has its own liability statutes, making it necessary to rework section 5.7. There is also much confusion over what to do about youth. We agreed that those under 18 should not lead trips, but what about participating without a parent or guardian? And there is section 5.6 which is very confusing. Should we rewrite it, and how?

Some other people don't like the idea of having all members be board members and would prefer the more traditional arrangement of officers, a board and general members. These people have put a lot of work and given good advice to the club for a lot of years. We want to be fair and listen to their ideas. We probably should try to decide this basic issue after the slide show on January 9th, and then try to get volunteers to help iron out the complicated issues; or maybe we should take a different direction with the by-laws.

In the meantime we will try our best to have entertaining shows at our monthly meetings, and we will be meeting regularly on the second Wednesday through May at 7 PM in the second floor meeting room of the Court House Annex. And we are trying to have a variety of trips on weekends. Right now we have several people who like to Nordic ski and snowshoe, but we haven't heard much from the ice climbers and telemarkers this winter. We certainly hope some of you will get more active in the club again.

## UPCOMING TRIPS

**Please note:** The distances and elevations are estimates of a one way hike. Call the trip leader early in the week to get an idea of experience and gear required. And be prepared to give a definite yes or no if you will be going. It is generally assumed that participants have at least average outdoor skills and know what clothing is needed for different Montana seasons.

Most members also do a lot of outdoor activities that they do not put in the newsletter. Feel free to call other members you may know.

### January 12<sup>th</sup> Scooter Creek

Members of the Rocky Mountaineers are invited to go along on a ski/snowshoe trip by the Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club. Ski through the Chief Joseph area to Sentinel Meadows and then snowshoe down Scooter Creek to highway 43. Participants will meet at the Montana Power Building south of Hamilton at 9 AM or at the Chief Joseph parking lot at 10. Mel Mooers is the co-ordinator at 961-3163. Those in Missoula who want to car pool to Hamilton should call Steve Schombel at 721-4686.

### January 13<sup>th</sup> Beginners ski

If you are interested in, or a beginner in the sport of cross country skiing here is a chance to get some free instruction and a lot advice about our favorite area from Julie Warner. The trip will be in the easier areas near Lolo Pass. Call Julie at 543-6508.

### January 20<sup>th</sup> "A" Trail

It is our turn to show people in the Bitterroot one of our favorite ungroomed trails from Lolo Pass. Ski along the groomed trail for about a mile, then about 1½ miles of gentle uphill and 4½ miles down to the Lee Creek lot. This is very popular and there are good tracks to follow. And those who leave their cars below do not need a parking pass. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for information.

### January 26<sup>th</sup> Miller Creek

This area close to Missoula is mainly known for its groomed snowmobile routes. Lois and her friends have found a neat trail off to the side which is great for skiing and which they want to show to others. Meet at K-Mart at 9 AM or call Lois Crepeau at 728-5321



### January 27<sup>th</sup> Pack Creek

This is another great ski, mostly downhill about eight miles from Lolo Pass to the Brushy Fork lot. The route follows a groomed snowmobile trail, but it usually isn't very heavily traveled and is a fun and easy glide all the way down into Idaho. Call Fred Schwanemann at 542-7372.

### February 3<sup>rd</sup> Mount Fuji

Strap on your skins and ski-climb this mountain south of the Lolo Pass area. This used to be the classic telemarking area at the pass, but trees have a nasty habit of growing in unmaintained areas. It is still a very rewarding trip with views from the top. And we do know of some roads you can cruise down instead of crashing through the trees. Call Julie Warner at 543-6508 for information.

### CLUB CONTACTS

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buttoned it up at about 11:00 PM. Thanks to all for a fun time and have a wonderful New Year 2002.

Those on the outing were my son Joe and his wife Valerie and their kids Allison, Jack and Amber & great grandson Noah, My daughter Michele from Helena. Grandson Jer (Michele's son) and his friend Eric. Judy, Marlys, Zona and Eileen (Wednesday's Outdoor Women) Julie, Dave, Steve, Charles, and David (Rocky Mountaineer's) My good friend Jim from Stevensville, and Mike and daughter Jessica, and myself, the instigator of this outing. Thanks to all. Stay tuned for a January "Full moon ski"

- Lois Crepeau

### Special Thank you

To Michael L Schmitt who contributed \$20.00 to our cabin fund. We have talked about needing contributions to install more fireproofing around the stove and other repairs. Thank you for taking the initiative and getting the ball rolling on this project.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND LIABILITY WAIVER

Household Yearly Membership: **\$13.00**  
Make checks payable to: "Rocky Mountaineers"  
and send to: Rocky Mountaineers  
P.O. Box 4262  
Missoula, MT. 59806

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read this release and indemnity agreement and have fully informed myself of its contents before I have signed it. When I join or renew my membership I also sign on to this agreement.

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian if Participant is Under

18 Years of Age \_\_\_\_\_

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, forces 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 its 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).



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