

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**

*****March 2002*****

EVEREST'S NORTH FACE:

**AN ACCOUNT OF THE SUCCESSFUL
AMERICAN TEAM'S EXPEDITION
AND THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN SIGHT OF
THE MOUNTAIN**

BY

LAURA ZIEMER

Laura Ziemer is a mountaineer who has worked and lived extensively with the Tibetan people. A member of the successful, independent 1995 American Everest Expedition via the North Ridge, Laura presents an evening of slides and stories about the Expedition and the Tibetan people. A year after the Everest Expedition, Laura built upon her work in the United States resettling Tibetan refugees, and went to live in Northern India at the residence of H.H. the Dalai Lama and the home to the Tibetan Government-In-Exile. There she did original research on the links between human rights violations and environmental degradation on the Tibetan plateau. Laura is now on the staff of Trout Unlimited, working out of Bozeman, Montana on water issues state-wide.

There is one issue in particular that Laura has worked on that should be of interest to us. She has been involved in the fight to keep enough water in Georgetown Lake for recreational uses and the health of the fishery. In recent years the new owners have wanted to lower the lake drastically to provide water for Flint Creek ranchers. Since we have invited members of the Westslope Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Laura will answer questions about her work.

Our meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month, March 13th, and start at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the Court House Annex on Pine Street.



COMING IN APRIL

Peter Dayton will have a slide show about a 15 day, 310 mile kayak trip which he and Art Gidel did on the Hess and Stuart Rivers in the Yukon in July of 2001.

TRIP REPORTS

February 3rd Mount Fuji

The avalanche danger was very high so the decision was made to not mess around in avalanche prone areas. Instead Lois Crepeau, Karen Apland, Steve Schombel, David Andrus, David Kahl and myself decided to ski up towards Granite Pass on the north side of Hwy 12.

About a mile up is a weather station tucked in among the trees, at two miles the steeper uphill ends and the road tops out on a ridge that you follow back another two miles or so to the first junction. Anyway that's the way it was before the fires and subsequent logging of 2000. Fire burned extensively in this area and now most of it has been logged. The little weather station now sits on a flat surrounded by open ridges. When we got on top of the ridge there were so many snowmobile tracks that we couldn't tell where the road went to follow it along the ridge.

To make the best of the situation we ate lunch on top of the ridge then skied the open slopes down to the weather station, then skied more open slopes below it. Julie Warner

February 10th Gold Creek

February 10th Karen, Steve and myself checked out Gold Creek. It was a beautiful sunny day. We drove up Gold Creek road to the junction with 2112 road. We skied around the locked gate on the 2112 road and continued up the road for several miles. At one point we found a snow mobile track going up a draw so we decided to follow it. We ended up on top of a hill and had lunch there. We worked our way back down the draw and followed the 2112 road for maybe another mile, then turned around and skied back out to the rig. Back to town for a "brewski" at the Press Box. Fun day and good snow conditions. - Lois Crepeau

February 17th Beginners Ski

Several beginners called to go on the trip, but had conflicts come up before Sunday. This

beautiful warm day found Charles Tree, David Kahl and myself skiing up on the east side of Moose Ridge doing what this trail is best known for - great fast downhill runs. - Julie Warner

February 23rd & 24th Cummings Cabin

We happened to have the bad luck of renting this Forest Service Cabin on the weekend that winter returned with a vengeance. The wind was howling enough through Hellgate Canyon to almost blow us off the road. We fought a head wind all the way, and stopped in Lincoln for a hot lunch and some shopping before heading on up into the mountains.

Since it had been so mild and dry for several weeks prior to the 23rd we were able to drive all the way to the end of the driveway into the Cummings Cabin. It was only a short jog in, and we had a sled to haul in quite a bit of supplies for a very comfortable over night stay. We found a really nice little cabin in a gorgeous winter setting. There was a wood stove in one room and a fireplace in the other, and an ample supply of wood. We unpacked and then did a short ski up the trail beyond the cabin. Since it was cold and we had some beginners along we kept this ski short. Then we returned, got the cabin warm, ate and played games by kerosine light.

Overnight it snowed several inches, got very cold and the wind was howling again. We got the fires going, ate, and then decided to make sure we could drive out. Luckily someone had driven into the place upstream, so we got out to the highway with only a little wheel spinning. We drove to Alice Creek, but the cold wind was strong there too. So we decided to check out Seeley Lake on our way home. It turned out to be fairly calm, and the storm was breaking. So three of us had a real nice day skiing on the groomed trail system, while one opted to ski up the snowmobile track toward Monture Falls.

Afterwards we had a fine dinner in Seeley Lake and a safe drive back to town. Participants were; Steve Schombel, Lois Crepeau, Cathy Burleson and her son Michael. - Steve Schombel

A Little Business ...

Now that the by laws have been approved the next order of business will be the election in May. We should try to form a nominating committee in March and have a slate of officers in April. This is a great way to get more involved and ready to take your turn as leader. The committee also could explore the idea from a year ago of merging two clubs. Please stay after the meeting for this, a treasurer's report and a cabin update.

CLUB CONTACTS

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Treasurer jawkal@hotmail.com

Secretary- Steve Schombel 721-4686
Editor ssbell@montana.com

Trip reports continued:

February 24th Rattlesnake Creek

On Sunday, Feb. 24, Fred and Eileen Schwanemann elected to ski in the Rattlesnake rather than drive on icy roads to Lubrecht. We had checked out conditions at Lubrecht Forest several days before and they were pretty icy. Starting right from the parking lot at Rattlesnake, there was several inches of new snow and several inches of rock solid ice underneath. We decided to do the fishing trail along the Rattlesnake Creek to the Beaver Pond. Almost the entire way, we saw no other skiers. When we stopped at the pond, we saw many ducks and the beavers along the shore opposite to where we were. We skied back along Trail 99. All things considered, the skiing conditions were pretty good. - Fred Schwanemann

March 3rd West Fork Butte Road

Some of us had been busy, and so we did not feel like a long drive. We decided to ski up this road closer to town. It leads to a rental lookout, and usually has some snowmobile traffic. This year it is plowed for logging, and so we pretty much had it to ourselves on Sunday. Only a Road Patrol went up and down. And the skiing was nice and the weather good. The trip downhill was a real blast. The braver people reached some breakneck speeds. Participants were: Karen Apland, Lois Crepeau, Jane Rectenwald, Steve Schombel and Fred Schwanemann. - Steve Schombel

UPCOMING TRIPS

March 10th ski trip

We are going to continue to plan trips by phone spontaneously as weather conditions allow, instead of having a firm destination. Lois Crepeau will be the organizer this weekend, and will cross country ski a place that sounds good. The West Fork of Deer Creek is one possibility, but call her at 728-5321 for the latest skinny.

March 17th Lolo Pass Ski for All

Make some green snow and join Julie Warner for a group ski in one of our favorite areas. This is an invitation for all club members and all participants of trips to get together for a tour of the Lolo Pass area. Call Julie Warner at 543-6508 for information.

March 22 -25th Heart Lake

Just a reminder that the Great Burn Study Group is doing another monitoring trip in this proposed wilderness area. Ski or snowshoe in, winter camp, and record what is going on. This one is a milder trip, and a day trip is possible. Call Bob Clark at 721-8789 or e-mail mtclarks@montana.com for information.

March 23rd Lolo Pass Snowshoe

You may have seen it in the paper. Lolo Pass has some designated snowshoe trails. Jane Rectenwald has done them and has volunteered to lead us on one of them. Call her at 549-4446 for information.

March 24th Beacon Mountain

We may end up slogging through some snow, but we hope to have a nice early spring hike. This time we will go up Crazy Canyon and follow the trail along the ridge at the saddle. This is a long gentle slope with less elevation gain than from the University. Call Charles Tree at 549-7547 for information.

March 30th Who knows?

The uncertain spring weather will be happening, and Karen Apland has volunteered to be the contact person this weekend. It could be a ski trip, a hike or a bike trip, but call her at 542-3737 for information.

April 7th Alberton Gorge Hike

From the Fish Creek area you can hike for several miles down this scenic gorge. There are some rock outcroppings to scramble over, but it is mostly gravel bars and wooded slopes. The snow should be gone, but if it is wet or icy the rocks will be hazardous. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for information.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND LIABILITY WAIVER

Family 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 _____

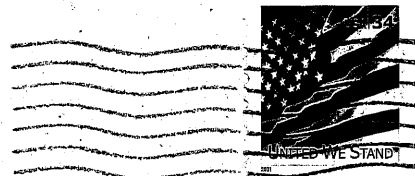
Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian if Participant is Under 18 Years of Age _____

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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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

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Membership Renewal 04/2002