

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**

*****April 2002*****

EVEREST'S NORTH FACE:

We have a very special speaker coming to Missoula for our meeting on Wednesday, April 10th. She is Laura Ziemer from Bozeman, who was unable to appear last month. The meeting will be at the normal time and place, 7:00 P.M. in the second floor meeting room of the Courthouse Annex on Pine Street.

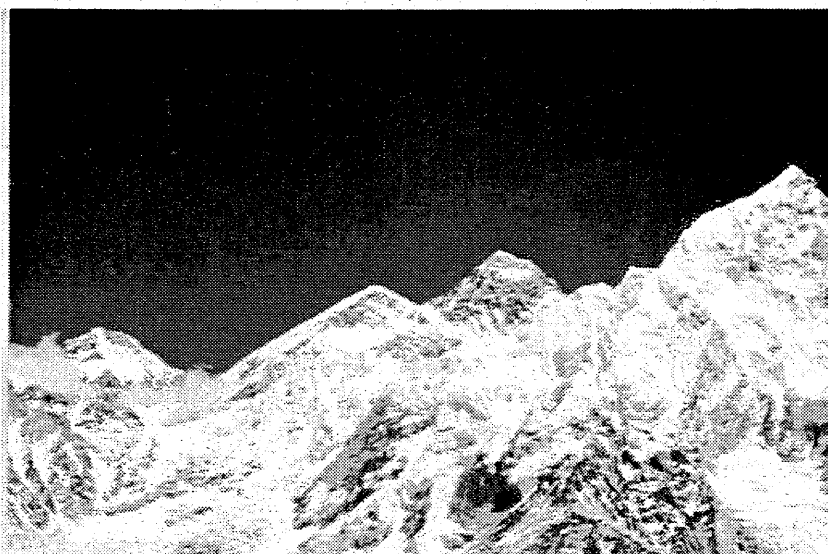
Laura is currently the Director of the Montana Office of Trout Unlimited's Western Water Project. We are having a joint meeting with the Westslope Chapter, our local Trout Unlimited Chapter.

Laura will start the evening with a talk about drought planning and management. Unlike some other states, here Trout Unlimited and other groups have had quite a bit of success and cooperation working with irrigators in various drainages. They have helped maintain a healthy fishery without severe problems for other water users. Unfortunately, it looks like we are entering our fourth successive year of drought, and both agriculture and wildlife are under severe stress. Laura will explain what has been planned and what needs to be done to prepare for another hot, dry summer.

Then she will show the slides that we wanted to see last month:

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

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



Mt Everest and Nuptse

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.

Our meetings are free and open to the public. Laura only asks that some of you would consider making a donation; for either the human rights work she is involved in, or for Trout Unlimited's work. There will be donation jars available.

TRIP REPORTS

March 10th Lolo Pass to East Fork

We decided to do a long point to point ski on this fine winter day. We skied east from Lolo Pass on the main road to the two mile marker, then followed the snowmobile route up to the ridge along the State Line. We passed the approach to the shelter hut but decided not to climb the steep hill. Instead we had lunch and then did the long glide down to the East Fork of Lolo Creek. The last few miles on this level road were slow and tiring, but all in all it was a great day. Participants were Lois Crepeau, Fred Schwanemann, and Karen Apland.

March 17th Lolo Pass Ski

The weather had been bad and the forecast was lousy, so the big ski day was cancelled. Instead Steve Schombel took his niece Ginny Andrus up to the pass for a beginners type ski. Joining us was Fred Schwanemann. The day turned out to be beautiful and sunny. It did cloud over and snow and blow for a little while. We had fun on the groomed loop, and Ginny caught on well enough for us to ski up the first part of the A trail. We had plenty of time to relax in the warming hut.

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March 23rd Lolo Pass Snowshoe Trail

Four hardy souls plowed through the new snow left by the mid-March winter storm on the Lolo Pass snowshoe trail. Snowshoe trail signs clearly marked the beginning of the trail near the parking lot, but those signs disappeared once we reached the trees. Fresh snowshoe tracks headed off in the wrong direction so we forged a new trail in the general direction of the correct one - up! The over-the-knee, warming snow and the steep uphill grade gave us a good workout until we reached the top of Packer Ridge and sat down for lunch. Nice views of the Bitterroot mountains and other peaks in Idaho, good company and a bright March sun provided a delightful break.

The trip down through unbroken snow in shirt sleeves was fun. We returned back to the parking lot via the Pack Creek Road and appreciated the packed surface to give our muscles a rest. Participants were Steve Schombel, Fred Schwanemann, Ron Johnson and leader, Jane Rectenwald.

March 24th Beacon Mountain

Another trip that was done pretty much as planned, except we were hiking through snow most of the way. After passing the saddle we had to break trail through deep snow. Toward the top we were sinking in to our knees, but we made the top in three hours. After resting we slogged back down to the car in two hours and fifteen minutes. Joining me, Charles Tree, was Brett Doucett.

Special thanks to:

Kathleen Mauer, who made a contribution to our cabin fund. For your generosity you will receive a copy of this and subsequent newsletters.

Nothing new on the cabin, except that we have the sheet metal for fireproofing. We plan to wait until the road is open to pack things up, and will also probably clean and cut wood.

WORKERS WANTED

Bill Goslin of the Stevensville Ranger District is in the process of hiring a contractor to do some work on dams back in the wilderness in the Bitterroot National Forest. This work is tentatively scheduled for late summer or next fall. It will mainly consist of packing materials up into the mountains. For now he is trying to get a list of interested or available people. It is not known at this time if this work will be paid or voluntary. For information you can call Bill Goslin during the day at 777-7419. We will provide more information in our next newsletter, and will have a sign up sheet at monthly meetings.

OTHER BUSINESS

Since we are having a joint meeting with Trout Unlimited in April we will try not to get bogged down with business before the show. The President of the Westslope Chapter may want to speak. Laura Ziemer has a lot of ground to cover in one evening. Seating may be limited, so please arrive on time.

The big item of business we would normally cover in April is preparation for the election in May. We have two officers willing to run again, Steve Schombel and Julie Warner. We should have four. If any of you want to volunteer please call Julie at 543-6508 or e-mail at: jawkal@hotmail.com. We also could use some more trip leaders. If only a few more members would volunteer, especially for the summer hiking and climbing season, then we would have a lot more variety and fun. If interested call Steve at 721-4686 or e-mail at ssbell@montana.com.

COMING IN MAY

On May 8th Mike Juhola, manager of the REI store in Missoula, will have a great slide show and talk. Last year he and some friends spent a few weeks in Argentina and climbed Aconcagua. The meeting will be at the normal time and place.

UPCOMING TRIPS

April 14th snowshoe trip

Explore another area near Lolo Pass or somewhere else with good and sufficient snow. One preference would be the hill north of the parking lot. Perhaps we can drop down and find a way up Wagon Mountain from there, or make a loop back near the A trail. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for information.

April 21st Babcock Mountain

Scramble up a trail and then up to the top of this mountain in lower Rock Creek east of Valley of The Moon. This is a very pretty hike with views of the creek below. There is a bench and a nice glen near the top, a good lunch spot. Call Fred Schwanemann at 542-7372 for more information.

April 28th Mount Fuji

This climb was cancelled in January due to the avalanche danger. Ski or snowshoe to the top of this mountain that dominates the view from Lolo Pass. A long day but a rewarding way to end the ski season. Call Julie Warner at 543-6508 for information.

If you want to plan ahead:

There are tentative plans to travel to Eastern Montana over Memorial Day weekend. Explore some badlands and fossil beds around Fort Peck and scramble up a couple of hills in the Missouri Breaks area. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for information.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND LIABILITY WAVIER

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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