

MOUNTAIN EAR

Monthly Newsletter of the Rocky Mountaineers

The Rocky Mountaineers is organized as a nonprofit Club for the mutual benefit of its members to promote all phases of recreational use of mountainous areas.

December 2003

Dinosaurs and Fossils

The meeting on December 10th will be very interesting. Dinosaurs are a subject that appeals to everyone. The speaker, Mary Lynne Swick, is an amateur paleontologist who has studied dinosaurs for twenty some years. She first became interested when she visited a new display at the Milwaukee Natural History Museum. She has given these talks to several groups ranging from school kids to seniors, and will gear the talk toward the audience in attendance. She says we can learn a lot from the past, and hopes to create an interest in science among the listeners.

This talk will be on dinosaurs in general, not just on the ones who used to roam our area. It will cover where and how they lived, and theories on their extinction. It will not go into much detail on specific digging sites. However, if there is some interest, she can touch on fossils in Glacier National Park. There will be models and casts and a few crude fossils to give people an idea of what's out there. There will be time for questions.

The meeting will be at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, December 10th in the second floor conference room, #201, of the court house annex. Please use the entrance on the 200 West block of Pine Street. Our meetings are free and open to all.

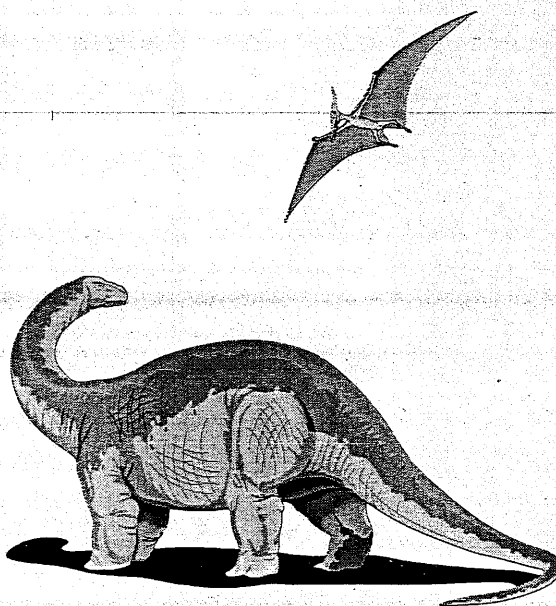
Upcoming Meetings

On January 14th we will have a slide show on grizzly bears. This is a show offered by the Sierra Club, and will focus on the bears and their habitat needs. There will also be ideas on how people and bears should interact. The presenter will either be

Hope Seick from the Bozeman office or Bob Clark from the Missoula office. In February Steve Schombel will talk and show slides from several year's worth of springtime visits to the Southwest. Later there will be a digital presentation about a local high school student who spent a whole school year in New Zealand and who got to see a lot of the islands.

Business Meeting

Our club has not had a business meeting for a while, and some issues have come up. The officers would like some input from members on the following items. We will save some time after the Dinosaur program for discussion. If you can't attend the meeting you can e-mail or call or write to the numbers-addresses on page two. (cont. p. 2)



Trip Reports

November 2nd Lost Lake: Ten intrepid hikers met at Durango's Restaurant in Superior at 9:00 AM. Roads were slick, and one of our hikers witnessed a car go end over end off the highway, so our trip started with a call to 911. We did not let the valley's first snow stop us from a 14 mile drive up a dirt road to the Lost Lake Trailhead; nor a flat tire on the group leader's car.

We kept a pretty brisk pace as we climbed steadily between open meadows and trees. Interestingly, the first view of the lake is from above. After a short descent, we ate a quick lunch at the lake, then began our trip back. We were back to the trailhead by 3:30, and we were rewarded by the sight of a bull moose on the drive down.

Participants were Jim Goss, Steve Schombel, Julie Warner, David Kahl, Bret Doucett, Jeannie Siegler and her dog Max, Lois Crepeau, Karen Apland, and newcomers Peter Weckesser & Kerry Miller. - Jim

November 8th Lolo Pass cookout: It was cloudy, dark and cold, so instead of building a bonfire in Packer Meadows we opted to have a tailgate party under the lights in the parking lot. This gathering was for ringing in the start of a good ski season, and also to celebrate the upcoming marriage of two of the participants: Steve Schombel and Cathy Burleson.

Everyone brought their own food and some to share; so we had quite a feast. Later in the evening the clouds parted and we were treated to a magnificent view of a lunar eclipse. Then we made a vow around a snow trident and had a toast of sparkling cider, and had the couple crush the glasses.

There were so many participants it was hard to keep track, but they included Lois Crepeau, son Joe, daughter Michelle with friends, kids and spouse; Fred and Eilene Schwanemann, John Wolverton, Dave Kahl and Julie Warner with two of her grandkids, and Michael Bowles. It was a memorable night. - Steve

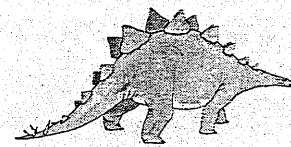
Sunday, November 16, Rattlesnake Hike: On this crisp winter day Fred Schwanemann, Chris Mullaney, Steve Schombel, and Susan Smith trekked the Stuart Peak Trail to the start of the hunting zone and back. The trail was 80% knurled ice with ¼" of new powder on top. At the three mile limit, hunting zone, the trail was packed powder. We ate lunch under the evergreen trees which were covered with snow and then hiked back to the trailhead. - Fred

Business Meeting (cont.)

The first item is the cabin. We have been running a survey in the newsletter. So far we have gotten two responses, and both of them would like to see the cabin stay maintained. We would like more ideas, and would like to try to get a larger base of cabin users willing to make donations and participate in work days. There are some things that have to be done soon if the cabin is to remain usable.

Next is the gas money that is paid to drivers on our weekend trips. Some clubs use a corporate mileage rate to reimburse drivers to club activities. It seems more common for purely recreational clubs to expect passengers to pitch in and help pay for the gas that is actually used. This would require the driver to have a good idea of his gas mileage, and check the odometer for miles travelled, multiply the price per gallon, then divide by the number of people in the car. To avoid misunderstandings we would like to adopt one of the above and make the policy clear to all participants.

Last is a happy announcement. On November 28th two of our members who met on a Rocky Mountaineers hike got married. The club has received well over \$100 in donations in lieu of gifts. We now have a nice cash reserve instead of going month-to-month. Or we have money to put into a cabin fund, or perhaps to save toward a slide projector. We ask the readers for more ideas. Steve Schombel and Cathy Burleson thank everyone very much for their generosity.



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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.

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).

"Me Generation" Mountaineers

Here is a quote to reflect upon. It is from Ron Moody, who writes a column called "Nimrod's Trace" in *Montana Wildlife*, the newsletter of the Montana Wildlife Federation:

"The idea that hunters should assertively seek more local programs to involve young people in healthy firearm activities gets my applause. This can and should happen.

A major roadblock is that the current population of adult hunters is a ME generation caught up in self serving pleasure and can't be bothered with social or political leadership. This is how hunters have defined their identity and they face extinction because of it."

With this thought in mind, we ask our members to please answer the following questions about the club's cabin. The mailing address is on back of this half page.

The problem is that regulars in the club, the ones who lead trips, arrange meetings, etc., are not the ones that use the cabin. With few exceptions the ones that show up on the fall work days are not the ones who use the cabin. We would like to get an idea from this survey of how our members feel about the cabin
Names are optional.

(yes/no)

Do you use the cabin? _____

How often? _____

Would you be willing to join a work party? _____

Would you help on bigger repair projects? _____

Would you make a contribution? _____

Should the club continue to cut firewood and do repairs? _____

Should the club continue to lease the cabin? _____

Upcoming Trips

December 6th Moonlight Ski: There will be plenty of light from an almost full moon if it is not cloudy. These trips always depend on the weather. Lolo Pass looks like it will have the best snow. There will be a stove available for those who want to cook some food before skiing. Call Lois Crepeau at 728-5321 for details.

December 7th Lolo Pass Ski: There is lots of snow at the pass for a good ski tour. This day will be oriented toward beginners, with some youngsters along; so please bring yours. Often the group catches on fast enough to get a taste of the many less traveled trails in the area. Call Julie Warner at 543-6508 for information.

December 14th Ski Day in area: The destination for this cross-country day will be determined by the amount of early season snow. It would be nice to ski close to town. A Christmas tree hunt is another possibility. Get in the loop and find out about more destinations in our area. Call Lois Crepeau at 728-5321 to join in.

December 21st Hole-in-the-Wall: The road is plowed to this lodge up the West Fork of Fish Creek, and the bar should be open for a warming place. There is about 1½ mile of unplowed road, then a few miles of fairly level terrain on several trails to tour. For info, call or e-mail Jim Goss at 822-5000, jgoss@bigsky.net

December 28th Lee Creek Interpretive Trail: This is a good trail to snowshoe from the Lee Creek parking lot. It climbs to the top of a long ridge, then descends to the campground. Call Fred Schwanemann at 542-7372 to participate.

January 4th Lubrecht Forest: This will be a carpool day, where people can go explore the trails on their own instead of following the leader. We'll agree on a time to meet back at the cars. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686.

February 18th Moose Pass Loop: This 14 mile loop with its ups and downs takes some ski conditioning. Since it is on a Wednesday we are giving advanced notice. Fred Schwanemann is the leader at 542-7372.



Rocky Mountaineers
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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE