



# 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.**

**\*\*\*March 2004\*\*\***

## A YEAR IN NEW ZEALAND

The March meeting of the Rocky Mountaineers will feature a close-up look at New Zealand. Marcy Shrader-Lauinger, senior at Hellgate High School, spent the previous year in Westport, New Zealand, a small town on the west coast of the South Island. She was a participant in the American Field Service, a foreign exchange program. The program will be about her Tramping and Other New Zealand Adventures.

The meeting will be at 7 PM on Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> in the second floor meeting room of the Court House Annex on Pine Street. It will be free and open to the public.



## WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?

The Rocky Mountaineers got another nice gift from the estate of David Line, a package of old black and white photos from the early days of the club. The date on the front is: APR - 61, but unfortunately there is no other label or date on back; just Dave Line's marking.

Do any of our readers recognize these people or know what they are doing? There are more: a few more samples are on page 3.

## TRIP REPORTS

**February 6<sup>th</sup> Rattlesnake Moonlight Ski:** This was a fantastic evening. The trail was in great shape for skiing. The icy and walked-on conditions are a thing of the past. The Missoula Nordic Ski Club deserves a lot of thanks for their great effort. Even though it was cloudy and dark the grooming was so smooth we had no trouble skiing up to the 3 mile marker and back. Participants were: Yong Kim, Julie Warner, Steve Schombel and Fred and Eilene Schwanemann. - Steve

**February 15<sup>th</sup> Chief Joseph Pass:** It was a fine day at Chief Joseph. Too bad others didn't join us. It was snowing a bit, but nice dry snow. The air temperature was quite mild. It was surprisingly uncrowded, and everyone was very friendly.

We felt like an easy day, and spent a lot of time in the new warming hut. First the three of us skied to the end of the continental divide trail, and then Steve and Michael did the Vista View Loop. After a long lunch break Michael discovered a chess board in the warming hut, and spent the afternoon asking everyone if they played. Steve skied over to Sentinel Meadows, and discovered a new trail called Solitude has been cut through the trees.

We would like to go back to this great area later this spring, and concentrate more on skiing the longer loops. The three skiers were Michael Bowles, Cathy Burleson and Steve Schombel. - Steve

**February 18<sup>th</sup> Moose Pass Loop:** On Wednesday, February 18, 2004, Lois Crepeau and Fred Schwanemann skied Moose Ridge Loop at Lolo Pass. At first sight, it looked too wet to ski; but when we put on our skis and skied a little bit, the snow seemed OK. We encountered some rain, some drizzle, and some snow on the fourteen mile loop. The skies cut into the snow about one inch. Visibility was about one half to a mile. It was a good day even though it was a little damp. - Fred

**February 22<sup>nd</sup> Blind Canyon:** It was a bright sunny day and the mountains were shining white. Seeley Lake has to be the prettiest cross country area near Missoula. There were more ups and downs on the main road than we remembered, and the first downhill was icy and very fast. But it got softer and more mellow as the day warmed up. It was a longer distance to the avalanche chute than we remembered, but there were snowmobile tracks to follow all the way. It got a

little steeper near the end, but we took our time and got home before dark.

We saw no other people on this route the whole day. Amazingly, not a single snowmobile passed us. Late in the morning we heard some come down a side road, but they turned toward town. On our way back we heard some behind us, but they didn't come by until after we had loaded the car. This is very unusual for a trail that is obviously used quite regularly.

We had fine weather, fantastic scenery, a quiet day and a good workout, covering between 12 to 13 miles. What more could you ask for? Participants were: Bret Doucett, John Wolverton and Steve Schombel. - Steve

**February 29<sup>th</sup> Lee Creek Trail:** We had a large turnout for this joint trip with the Mission-Bitterroot Group of the Sierra Club, and overall it was fun and successful. Unfortunately the snow was very icy, and had a tricky crust. Every one of us, from novices to experienced skiers, fell down frequently heading downhill. But we all made it down safely, and made good time also.

This was such an interesting day with all the new people that we would like to do joint trips with the Sierra Club on a regular basis. The Montana Chapter would also like to start doing more outings, like the Sierra Club traditionally does. For the next couple of years we would like to go to areas associated with the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. Probably any of our members who have led in the past could offer to do a joint trip, if any of you have bright ideas.

The participants from the Rocky Mountaineers were: Charles Tree, Bret Doucett, Steve Schombel, David Kahl and Fred Schwanemann. From the Sierra Club were: Bob Clark, Libby Hinsley, Josh Burnim, Joel Webster, Chris Trombly, Ted Burton, Bryan Faehner and Margot Higgins.

### CLUB CONTACTS

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## 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.

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).

### WHAT ARE THESE PEOPLE DOING?

Why are they belaying a log? Did the early Rocky Mountaineers assist with logging operations? Or are these photos from an early climbing class, or perhaps search and rescue training. Can any longtime members help us solve this riddle?



**UPCOMING MEETINGS** - In April we will have a power point presentation on Brennan's Wave.

This group has been working to create a white water fun area in downtown Missoula, a wonderful addition to our city. Paul Callahan will give the talk. In May we will have a show by Pat Saffel, head of Fisheries for Fish, Wildlife and Parks Region Two in Missoula. He will give an update on whirling disease and other problems and opportunities with our local water resources. May 12<sup>th</sup> is also the day of our annual election.

## UPCOMING TRIPS

**March 6<sup>th</sup> Cookout and Moonlight Ski:** Come up to Lolo Pass for another tailgate type cookout. Bring your own eats and utensils and maybe a little to share. Then enjoy the abundance of snow and some of the gentle terrain and ski under the full moon. These trips are dependent on the weather, so call Lois Crepeau at 728-5321 to see if plans have been changed.

**March 13<sup>th</sup> Family Day:** Several of us are planning to take our kids to Butte and visit the fine mineral and rock museum on the campus of Montana Tech. There are many other places to stop and see on the way up and back. Call Julie Warner at 543-6508 for more information.

**March 21<sup>st</sup> Hike the Alberton Gorge Area:** The hike will be along National Forest Road #344 starting near the town of Rivulet. We will hike from McGinty to Whiskey Gulches, a round trip distance of about 5 miles. The route parallels the river and stays down low, so we hope the ice will be gone and footing stable. Call Fred Schwanemann at 542-7372 for more information.

**March 28<sup>th</sup> fun day at Lolo Pass:** We want to get in one more good day on the side trails at Lolo Pass. The destination can vary as the rain and snow in the mountains varies during March. Keep in touch with Julie Warner at 543-6508 to see what the plans are. Julie is always willing to organize her trips to accommodate the interests and abilities of the participants.

**April 4<sup>th</sup> Bass Creek Area:** The Bass Creek trailhead is one of the very popular areas near Missoula for dry weather hikes up into the canyon. But did you know that you can walk along the foothills either north or south and stay at low elevation? This hike will mostly follow abandoned roads, and will be about 3 miles round trip to the north, and another 3 miles round trip to the south for those who want more. For the adventurous there is a faint side trail that branches off and climbs toward Crown Point. There is a good possibility of spring vegetation blooming, and the walk is suitable for all ages and should be melted off. This is another joint hike with the Sierra Club. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for information.



**Rocky Mountaineers**  
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**FIRST CLASS POSTAGE**