

A photograph of a snowy mountain landscape. The scene shows a vast, snow-covered mountain slope with scattered evergreen trees. In the lower right, a person is standing on a ridge. The sky is a pale, hazy blue, suggesting a clear or slightly overcast day. The overall tone is serene and wintry.

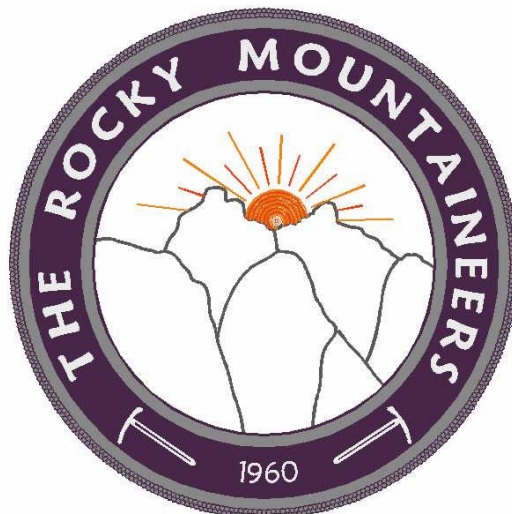
DECEMBER 2010

THE MOUNTAIN EAR

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The Monthly Newsletter of The Rocky Mountaineers



Climb. Hike. Ski. Bike. Paddle.
Dedicated to the Enjoyment and Promotion of
Responsible Outdoor Adventure.

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The Mountain Ear is the club newsletter of The Rocky Mountaineers and is published near the beginning of every month. Anyone wishing to contribute articles of interest are welcomed and encouraged to do so- contact the editor.

Membership application can be found at the end of the newsletter.

ABOUT THE CLUB:

Mission Statement:

The Rocky Mountaineers is a non-profit club dedicated to the enjoyment and promotion of responsible outdoor adventures.

Meetings and Presentations:

Meetings are held the second Wednesday, September through May, at 6:00 PM. Each meeting is followed by a featured presentation or speaker at 7:00 PM.

Activities:

- ☐ Hiking
- ☐ Backpacking
- ☐ Alpine Climbing & Scrambling
- ☐ Backcountry Skiing
- ☐ Winter Mountaineering
- ☐ Track Skiing
- ☐ Snowshoeing
- ☐ Mountain Biking
- ☐ Rock Climbing
- ☐ Canoeing & Kayaking
- ☐ Rafting
- ☐ Kids Trips

Upcoming Presentations

“Avalanche Awareness”

By the West Central Montana Avalanche Center

Please join us for a very important talk about avalanche danger in the winter around here at our meeting on **Wednesday, Jan. 12 at 7 PM**. The West Central Montana Avalanche Center has been putting on these talks for our club for several years now, and we can't thank them enough. They really inform people who attend. It is not just the guys who go way up the mountains who should be aware of risks, avalanches can happen in more popular and accessible areas. They also talk a lot about avalanche rescue, if the worst should happen.

Most of you probably heard the sad news. At a big fund raising event for the Avalanche Center, a copy of the film, “Wintervention”, was stolen. They can use help more than ever. They do a lot of good on a very low budget. If you want to make a donation you can visit the website, www.missoulaavalanche.org. Here you can also find out about other talks and training sessions, and, of course, current snow conditions and advisories.

We hope they can show “Wintervention” at our meeting. I'm sure they will also accept donations from the floor.

In addition, we will have a demonstration of some rescue equipment by Minot Maser. We will probably try to arrange a training day in the field after this meeting, but no firm date has been set. Watch for info in the Jan. newsletter. The meeting will be at the Trailhead on the lower level, and is free and open to all.

Wildwater: a Love Story

A new film about the soul of white water

We are having a special presentation at our meeting in February. Well known paddler from Montana, **Doug Ammons**, will have a presentation based mainly on adventures in his latest book, “Whitewater Philosophy”. Then he will show his new film, “Wildwater”. The titles alone describe the presentation. It is not merely about an athlete overcoming an obstacle. It is about the deeper meaning of Doug's sport. He feels that, once you leave the bank you are in a different realm. You have peace and freedom, but you are also subjected to forces most never experience.

A lot more could be written about Doug Ammons, but, if you are curious he has a website, www.dougammons.com. He will also be selling signed copies of his book, and is willing to stay after the show to answer questions. Proceeds from his book sales and shows go to support two schools in the poorest region of Nepal.

This may be the first or second showing of the film in Missoula. We will be renting a bigger room for this special event. The presentation will be at the **Urey Lecture Hall** on the UM Campus. Also, instead of our usual second Wednesday of the month, we will move it one day to **Thursday, February 10 at 7 PM**. Watch our newsletter or website, www.rockymountaineers.com for the latest updates.

Cover Photo: Winter camp high in the Mission Mountains. F. Dean photo.

The Rocky Mountaineers Christmas Party
December 17, Friday, 6:00 PM
The Pressbox, Missoula, MT

<http://www.pressboxsportsbar.com/index.php>

We have a reserved section on the main floor. Food and drink will be from the menu. This has been a well attended event and a good time to connect with old friends and meet new ones. Stay for one drink or many. New faces are particularly appreciated.

UPCOMING TRIPS AND ADVENTURES

Trip Notes:

Please contact the trip leader for more information regarding any listed trips.

Mileage listed is round trip mileage. Elevation listed is gain only. For information on Class Rating see below:

Class Rating System

CLASS 1 – HIKING Mostly on trails, but may also include some easy cross country travel.

CLASS 2 – EASY SCRAMBLING Rugged off trail hiking, no hands required.

CLASS 3 – SCRAMBLING Use of hand to ascend some sections of rock. Little to no exposure; a fall would not likely cause serious injury.

CLASS 4 – CLIMBING Easy climbing, great exposure; a fall would quite possibly cause serious injury. Use of a rope and protection at times possible.

CLASS 5 – TECHNICAL CLIMBING Use of rope, protection and belay are a must.

CLASS 6 – AID CLIMBING Use of equipment to support your weight as you climb.

Tuesday, December 21 – EAST ST. MARY'S PEAK (Mission Mountains)

Rating: Class 3, Mileage: 7.0 miles, Elevation Gain: 5400'

Description: Will depart Missoula (Muralt's at the Wye) at 5:30 am. Route will begin at St. Mary's Lake and follow the steep ridge up to the north. Climb gains 3500' in first 1.5 miles, following a very steep trail- participants need to be in good physical condition. Trip will probably take around 8 hours. If time and interest permits, we can attempt traverse to West St. Mary's or Peak X, as well.

Special Equipment: Ski's or Snowshoes for travel. Avalanche gear. Tribal recreation permit required. Maybe and ice axe and crampons.

Leader: Forest Dean-240-7612, email: mtnear1@gmail.com

TRIP REPORTS

November 14- Blue Mountain Recreation Area

On Sunday, Nov. 14th I took a nice hike in the Blue Mountain area with some good friends. It had snowed and rained all morning, but had dried up by afternoon. It was cloudy and foggy and colder than we were acclimated to, but it was nice to be out. We saw lots of fall colors, and some green leaves and even a few flowers - a sign of the unusually long and warm Indian Summer we had. I was the only one who brought a dog, Sandy, and the others were: Julie Kahl, Dave Kahl, Lois Crepeau, Fred & Eileen Schwanneman. *Steve Schombel*

November 28- Spring Gulch (Rattlesnake NRA)

The weather put some crimps in our plans, and after much discussion, on Sunday the 28th, Lois Crepeau and Julie Kahl did an afternoon snowshoe loop of Spring Gulch in the Rattlesnake. There was plenty of snow and it was warm, skiers were complaining of sticky snow. Lots of people were taking their dogs out for one last run before the no dog rule goes into effect on Dec. 1st. When it's got enough snow the Rattlesnake is a friendly place for an afternoon's run. *Julie Kahl*

December 4- Lubrecht XC Ski

This trip was originally scheduled to go to the Chief Joseph ski trails, but was rescheduled to Lubrecht. Helena Koelle, Roy Regel, Sally Wright, and Alden Wright enjoyed skiing at the Lubrecht Forest Ski Trails. There was 2-3 inches of new snow over packed trails. Sally skied the C loop while Helena, Roy, and Alden skied the D loop which included traversing some downed logs. Alden managed slow himself down enough to mostly ski with Helena and Roy. *Alden Wright*

THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual Membership Fee: \$10.00 for electronic newsletter

Note: Membership includes all members of a family or household.

Make checks payable to 'The Rocky Mountaineers' and send to:

The Rocky Mountaineers, PO Box 4262, Missoula, MT 59806

Name: _____

Additional Family Members Names: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone (optional): _____

Email: _____

Additional Email (optional): _____

Joining or maintaining your Rocky Mountaineers membership has never been easier!

PayPal is now available on the Rocky Mountaineers website. Click on the membership link on the main page.