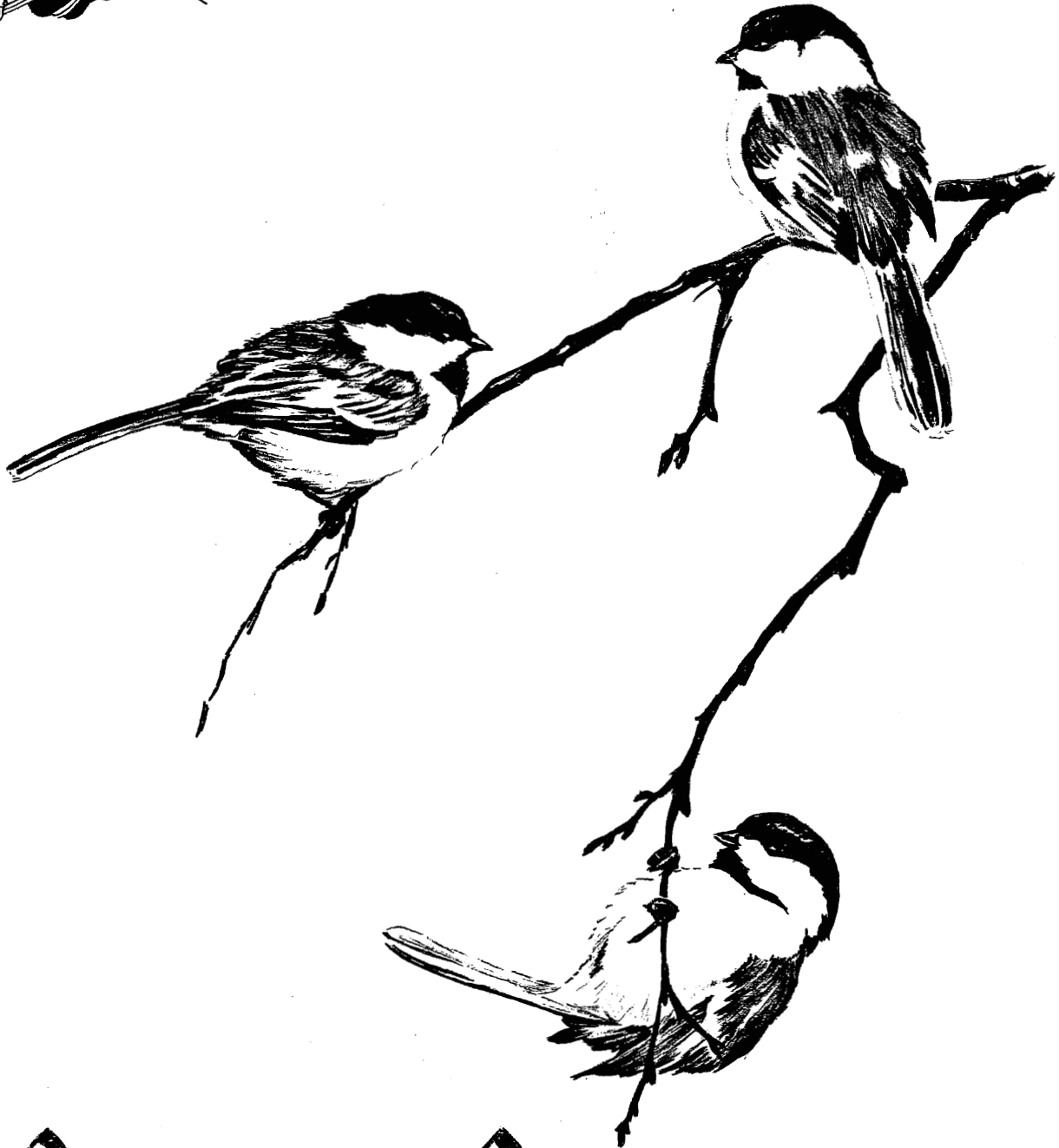




# Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS  
OF WESTERN MONTANA

Volume IX Number 2 December 1969



Season's Greetings

The Mountain Ear is published eight times a year by the Rocky Mountaineers, 2100 South Avenue West, Missoula, Mont. 59801.

Subscription: by membership in the club--\$4/yr. single, \$5/yr. family. For those unable to take part in activities, you may receive the newsletter for \$1.50 per volume.

The Rocky Mountaineers were formed in 1960 by those interested in the out-of-doors. Activities now include hiking, climbing, backpacking, canoeing, float trips, ski touring, winter camping, snow shoeing, bicycling, conservation, and just arm-chair mountaineering.

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 1970 NOW PAYABLE.

Membership is open to anyone who is interested in the above activities.

Meetings are held monthly--lectures, discussions, instruction, displays, and good entertainment for the whole family. Come and bring a friend.

Outings are arranged formally and informally by members. We are in desperate need of people to volunteer to lead some trips. If you are going out, won't you let us know your schedule so it can be put on the calendar.

THREE SPECIAL EDITIONS will appear in January, May and September. We need black and white pictures, write-ups on your rock climbing expeditions, that summer back-pack trip, times and miles of interesting bike trips, short or long, equipment notes, etc. Won't you take a few minutes and write about your trips. One of the advantages of being a member of this club is to exchange information, and we would like to hear from everyone. Send, bring or tell your story to Virginia Vincent, Kern St. or Barbara Honkala, 2718 South Ave. West.

CLUB OFFICERS

President	Vice President	Secretary-Treasurer
Dave Line	Bill Myers	Bob Benson
4949 Whitaker Drive	2308 Cloverdale Dr.	2325 Valley Dr.
549-8444	549-3606	543-8629

Equipment Chairman is Stan Cohen who has the club climbing equipment stored in the basement of his Montana Sports Shop 1407 South Higgins.

**FLASH!** Word has been officially received from the Board of Geographical Names by the Rocky Mountaineers that the peak in the Mission Mts. they proposed be named Lowary Peak after the late Thad Lowary is now so designated.

NEXT MEETING --Wednesday, Dec. 10th

7:30 P.M.

where- southside Federal Savings and Loan Bldg. across from the BIG T.

program - Highlights of Some Winter Trips by our members.

There will be an equipment display and some interesting publications and books to look at afterward.

BRING A FRIEND,

YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR '70

and

COME AND DO SOME ARM-CHAIR MOUNTAINEERING

- Dec. 6th - Missoula's Hellgate Ski Club will hold their annual membership party and dance at the American Legion Hall on Ronan St. By joining the local ski club you are supporting your Northern Division and organized skiing. All skiers should know that with your membership you receive Free a book of tickets good throughout the Division for reduced rates on lift tickets, meals, and lodging worth a great deal more than the membership fee. For information call President Floyd Wilkerson, 549-4275.
- Dec. 7th - The Snowshoe and ski tour to Packers Meadows must be postponed until after the Holidays. Leader Bob Benson checked out the area a few days ago and found no snow.
- Dec. 9th - Hellgate Ski Club is sponsoring a SKI MOVIE NIGHT. Members admitted free at the University Center. Call 549-4275.
- Dec. 10th - Mountaineers MONTHLY MEETING - 7:30 p.m. Western Federal Savings and Loan Bldg. on the southside. Slide program and winter gear display plus books, maps and publications.
- Dec. 14th - SKI FAIR at the Junior Achievement Bldg. at the County Fair Grounds. Things of interest to all skiers. Exhibits, demonstrations, SWAP & SELL, so bring your old equipment and get some newer things. Ski instructors and Ski Patrol will be on hand to check over your equipment, and give you advice if you ask them. Time: 1:00 P.M. on.

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MT. CLEMENS (July 5, 1969)  
by Keith Yale

Last summer Greg Lee and I made an interesting climb of Mt. Clemens which is located just south-west of Logan Pass in Glacier National Park. We climbed the East (North-East?) Face direct and since this route is not described in Gordon Edwards' guidebook it is appropriate to give a brief description here.

One leaves the car at Logan Pass and heads directly for the prominent snowfield at the center of the base of the mountain. The snow is climbed and one exits into a berschrund to the left approximately thirty yards from the extreme top of the snowfield. (The snow is quite steep near the exit point - 50° to 55° - an ice axe is essential and crampons are very desirable).

The first rock pitch, led by Greg, is very hard and relatively unprotected. Fortunately a fall here would probably only send one half way back to Logan Pass on the snowfield. Fifteen or twenty feet of delicate balance moves on imaginary holds(5.7-5.8) brings one up a small wet face rising from the bergschrund onto an ample gravel covered ledge just below a prominent open book crack. This four to five inch wide crack is easily climbed except for a difficult, wet and unprotected exit onto a huge ledge about thirty feet above the snow.

From the ledge one works left, then right, eventually upwards and finally traverses left into the main couloir on the face(class 3-4). The lower part of the couloir requires care but one soon meets the standard East Face route(Cf. Edwards' guide) and a few more minutes of climbing puts one on the grand staircase to the summit. The descent is by the west ridge route and Edwards' guide is very helpful for the route finding can be tricky. The ascent takes about 4 hrs. and the descent 3 hrs.

BOULDER CREEK - a grand and beautiful canyon. So aptly named with its bouldery stream and glacier scoured rock. This canyon drains into the West Fork of the Bitterroot River just west of Trapper Peak. One of the USFS super-horse-highways makes access up the gently rising drainage a pleasure for even the most inexperienced walkers.

Oh ye who would only walk to the most easily accessible spots must see this area! Make Boulder Creek Falls your goal. The low-grade, high-speed, trail threads its way through forests of giant ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir, then out into grassy openings and through jumbled rock falls. When visited in the autumn of 1969 the creek still had plenty of water. To contemplate the likes of this stream during spring run-off takes the breath away.

I say "high-speed" trail for the more experienced hiker. On Nov. 8, Martha Ward, Keith Yale and Virginia Vincent explored this wide, steep-sided canyon and found mileage and timing to be one of the easier trips with tantalizing scenery. About 4 miles up from the road end, one gazes up into a large cirque over which Boulder Peak looms. This blocky mountain has three large chimneys rising above a perpetual snow field. It was estimated that a full day's backpack would bring one into the cirque under the peak. However there are many fine camping spots in Boulder Creek (plus the established campground on the access road). On the east wall of Boulder Canyon are several "Bugaboo" like spires with smooth sides nicked with jam cracks ----- a challenging rock practice area.

Log: 8 1/4 miles Missoula to Boulder Creek.

1 1/2 to 2 hours depending on weather and road conditions.

Hiking speed - variable; we hiked out 5 miles in under 2 hours.

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AT The Last Meeting - a resolution was passed by the majority of members present asking the Secretary to inform the supervisor of the Flathead National Forest that the Rocky Mountaineers of Western Montana favored a Wilderness classification for the Mission Mountains Primitive Area. Members were also encouraged to write individual letters giving in more detail their individual desires. Beautiful slides of the Bridger Wilderness in Wyoming were viewed for the remainder of the meeting.

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Day Ski Tour Equipment for Convenience and Safety  
Compiled by Sam Braxton

Moleskin	Water bottle	Air or wire spint	Lunch with sour
Matches	Lashing cord	Rescue sled	drops, high
Knife	Survey tape	Skins	protein candy
Scraper(windshield)	Kleenex packet	Screw assortment	bars.
Combi-pliers	Flashlight or	Spare pole basket	Extra clothing,
Goggles	Headlanp	Spare cable	Outerwear:
Ski Wax	Glacier cream	Ski "keepers"	overmitts
First Aid Kit	Fire starters	Avalanche cord	liners, gaiters
	Flint stick		wind shirt,
			head covering.

Inner clothing should be several layers of light weight garments that can be easily removed to adjust to temperature.

Some of the above items may be carried for group use, the weight can be divided among the participating individuals.

