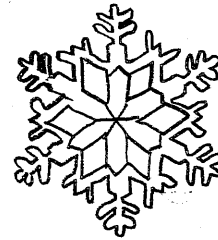


Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS
OF WESTERN MONTANA

Vol. XI No. 6 March 1972

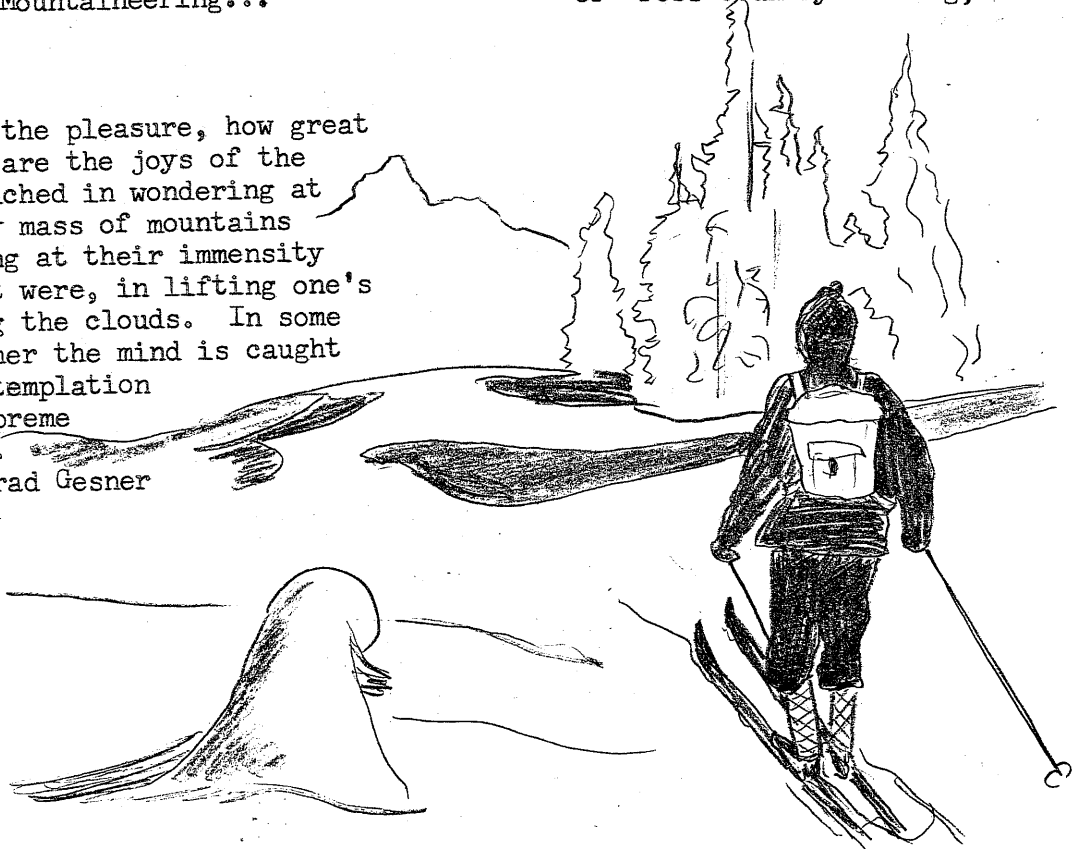


Be it Ski-Mountaineering...

or Cross-country Touring,

How great the pleasure, how great
think you are the joys of the
spirit touched in wondering at
the mighty mass of mountains
when gazing at their immensity
and, as it were, in lifting one's
head among the clouds. In some
way or other the mind is caught
up in contemplation
of the supreme
architect.

Conrad Gesner



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Many, many thanks to Sue and Joe Bemben for putting us together and editing the January and February issues of the Mountain Ear.

This is a club newsletter. YOUR participation will keep it going. It's up to YOU. We need notes on trail conditions, routes, maps, equipment information, recipes, black & white photos (any size), what have you (?). Please send to Virginia Vincent, 907 Kern St. Missoula, or see her at meetings.

MONTHLY MEETING March 9

7:30 p.m.

W. Fed. Savings & Loan
Hwy. 93 S across from
Tremper's Shopping Cen-
ter (Time-Temp. sign)

Dan Burden will
present a program on
BICYCLE TOURING
Slides and a movie -
future plans



SCHEDULE



Bob Benson is planning ski-touring and snowshoe hikes for Sat. March 4th and March 11th. Please call him for information, as weather and accessibility will govern areas visited. His phone: 543-8629.



<p>BE AWARE ! Even with warmer weather in the valley, snow pack is still building up in the high country. Avalanches are even more likely now that there is thawing and freezing. An informative brochure can be obtained at the USFS Info. desk (Pattee St. entrance) on this subject.</p>	<p>Our club has a committee to investigate ski-touring shelter sites. Members are Dick Behan, Bob Benson, Al Day, Rick Graetz, Dave Line, Bill Myers and Will Selser. They have been determining existing cabins, & exploring potential winter foottravel areas.</p>
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MEMBERS

New:

- Andy Butcher - hiking, backpacking, climbing, canoe & kayaking, bicycling, ski-touring, winter camping
- Steve & Yvonne Jorgenson - hiking, backpacking, climbing, canoeing, snowshoeing, winter camping
- Eric Powell - backpacking, climbing, canoeing, ski-touring, snowshoeing, winter camping

Renewals:

- George & Betty Heliker (Russ, Cindy)
- Joe & Margaret Kaiser (Tim, Diana, Ruth)
- John McCabe

see December '71 issue for detailed member list.

MORE FROM GLACIER NAT. PARK...

ROUTE TO GEM GLACIER by J. Gordon Edwards

Hike the Garden Wall trail until $\frac{1}{4}$ mile north of Haystack Butte, to the highest point of that trail (about 6900 ft. elev.) A broad, "U"-shaped notch in the top of the Garden Wall is directly above this point, and a broad rocky couloir extends up to it. After 100 yards of scree and herbs, the first cliff is reached. Go to the south side of the couloir and climb the class 4 pitch up that low cliff, then ascend the center of the couloir for a while. When it becomes steep and dangerous, angle up toward the north side of the couloir and continue up easier little scree gullies to the notch in the top of the wall. Walk through that great "U"-shaped notch on a heavily-travelled goat trail to reach the large meadows at the foot of the steep snows making up Gem Glacier. Josephine Lake, Grinnell Lake, Swiftcurrent Lake, and Sherburne Lake are stunning from this vantage point, strung together in the deep green valley 3,000 feet below. The tall, narrow Garden Wall blocks much of the view toward the northwest and Grinnell Mt. obscures the northern panorama, but it is still a marvelous place to visit!

Climbers may desire to continue northward along the great goat trail that is encountered at the "U"-shaped notch, and mountain goats and bighorn rams are often encountered there. The trail is very good for several hundred yards, but eventually a huge steep snowbank is encountered that cannot be safely descended without ice axes. Just beyond that snowbank is another deep notch in the Garden Wall, and a good trail leads from there to the "Grinnell Glacier Overlook" (a maintained human trail leads down from there to the Garden Wall trail near Granite Park Chalets). It is possible to descend to the Garden Wall trail before reaching the huge snowbank, of course, but the descent is not easy and is not pleasant and there is a chance that persons on the trail below might be endangered by your rolling rocks. The recommended route down is the same as the route of ascent, and you are strongly reminded that persons may also be on the trail below the great couloir. Look very carefully before risking that descent, to be sure there are no hikers below you, then stop climbing at any time persons do appear on the trail below. The responsibility is largely yours!

From the meadows below Gem Glacier there are two routes to the summit of Mt. Gould. One begins in the deep, narrow couloir near the northwest corner of the mountain, starting from the other notch in the wall above the meadows. The other begins with a traverse entirely across the north face of Mt. Gould, then ascends near the northeast corner of the mountain. The first of these is described in the Climber's Guide, and the second is described adequately in the guide to the "Traverse of North Face of Mt. Gould".

Something New!! The first week of May is to be proclaimed as Montana Bikeecology Week. More will be forthcoming - there are plans for a city-wide workshop on bicycle maintenance... Everyone will be urged to participate in a day of biking or walking (no fumes!)

Earth Week
coming soon?
Think

For rubber rafts and Viking
Explorer canoes (square-
ended, all purpose vessel),
See Bob Ward & Sons, Hwy 93
and South Av.

3,

Summer is ahead → PLAN

BACKPACKING WITH BARROW

280 West 6th
Whitefish, Mt. 59937
Ph. (406) 862-3100

Offering 3, 6, and 9 day
backpacking trips into the
Bob Marshall Wilderness Area.
Equipment furnished - Limited
to 6 to 12 persons per party.

ELECTIONS '72

coming up

All Day will be appointing a
nominating committee which
is charged with presenting a
slate of officers to be voted
upon during the April meeting.
Nominations may be made from
the floor.

Summer Session Recreation
Program at Univ. of Montana
Missoula, Mt. 59801

For credit:

Family Camping & Outdoor Recre-
ation Workshop July 10-15 &
July 24 - 29

Backpacking and Wilderness
Camping - 2 one-week courses
River Floating and Camping
Techniques - 2 one-week courses

Tour through Siberia & Russia
15 to 20 day tour

PRE-REGISTRATION required

Write to Dr. W.C. Schwank
Dir. of Summer Session
Univ. of Montana
Field House 201
Missoula, Mt. 59801
for brochures

An outing group is being organized in Helena and we want to greet them and wish them success. There has been some discussion as to whether our club and theirs should be one. As it stands we feel the two groups can probably function best as separate entities, with perhaps similar names, similar publications, and an exchange of trips and information.

BOOK & LIBRARY COMMITTEES -

It has been decided to buy a mountain-
eering or out-door book each year to
be donated to one of the libraries.
Del Wolff and Sue Bemben will research
the possibilities.

Dave Line has charge of the
club's exchange publications
and several books on mount-
aineering. These may be
borrowed by members and are
available at meetings.

Close-to-town Ski-Touring...

Try going to the end of the Rattlesnake Rd. north of Missoula. That is, make the left turn as if to use the now-locked road. Park (if there's room) at the gate, but tour up the somewhat plowed Sawmill Gulch road. About $\frac{1}{4}$ mi. further is an old roadbed taking off to the left. This leads back toward town and overlooks the old Montana Power Park and dam area. (See Sec. 35, T 14 N, R 19 W on Forest Service maps) After about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mi. of curving road one breaks out of the trees on the ridge that leads down (several more miles) to Waterworks Hill. On Feb. 26 we found evidence that this route is little used by snowmobilers, and much used by deer.

Virginia Vincent

