



Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS
OF WESTERN MONTANA

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"Well, it was there."

Punch, November 1969

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OFFICERS

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Bill Ballard - Vice-Pres. 549-5097
Mavis Lorenz - Secretary 543-6276
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Trail-travel: Bill Myers, 549-3606
River-travel: Roger Lund, 542-2747
Climbing: Al Day 258-6993
Editor: Sue Bemben 542-2637

One of our members, Mr. Lloyd Mark, owner of Lloyd's Shoe Repair, was killed in a hunting accident recently. We extend our sympathy to his family.

NOVEMBER 8th
* MEETING *

Wednesday, November 8, 1972, at
7:30 p.m. in Western Federal Savings
and Loan Building on Highway 93S.

During the meeting, Roger Lund, who is preparing a management proposal for the Forest Service on the Petty Mountain area, would like some input from us on alternatives for the area.

Clancy Gordon will show his film, "The Terrible News" and talk with us on the implications of power plant construction in eastern Montana.

★ ★ ★ Safety Hint ★ ★ ★
Always wear something made of
fluorescent orange material while
hiking during hunting seasons.

ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED

November 4, Saturday - Bear Creek - Family hike. Weather and interests will determine how far group or individuals will want to hike on this pleasant trail. Must call leader, Bill Ballard, 549-5097 for further information.

S*O*S The 5th annual Safety On Skis Fair, sponsored by the Hellgate Ski Club and the Missoula Ski Patrol, will be held Sunday, November 12, 1972, 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. in the basement of the First National Bank building on Higgins Avenue. There will be a used equipment sale from 12-7:00 p.m. Items for sale should be brought to the bank on Saturday from 9a.m. to 6p.m., and there will be a 10¢ per item listing fee. A free binding release check will be available. The junior racers will provide a ski base repair and waxing service. A member of the Mountaineers will display ski-touring equipment.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: The Missoula Public Library has a complete set of past issues of the "MountainEar". Have a look at them the next time you are browsing in the library.

YOU CAN HIKE TO PILOT KNOB... On the Mont.-Id. border NW of Lolo Pass (actually W of Lolo Hot Springs) are several forested ridges, one with a knobby summit of rounded granitic rock. For several years I've looked at Pilot Knob from various directions, intrigued by the pinnacles and possible views. The maps show small roads in the Granite Cr. drainage and trails west of the "Fish Cr." road.

There are several turns but the roadbed is fine for passenger cars, and the trail is easy to follow on the whole. Using either of the two roads leaving the Lewis & Clark Hwy. near the hot springs, one finds the Granite Cr. Rd. well-marked. (Do not take the Granite Ridge Rd.) A little over a mile on the Granite Cr. Rd. there is a fork marked Section 1 Rd. Take the left fork arriving at another fork .7 mi. further on. The signs here run parallel to the roadbed but on the right fork is a small sign reading North Fk. Granite Cr. (North Cr. on maps). Drive up this .9 mi. keeping to the right where a fork goes up the hill. Around a bend is a good sign designating a junction with the Sec. 2 road. Turn left, go .6 mi. to the trail sign which is at a junction with a rough woods road. All this route is good except for a few wet spots.

On foot, follow the woods road where they are actively logging; watch carefully for old blazes and a well-worn path. This area is not extensive. The trail parallels the creek perhaps a hundred feet north of the water. Signs indicate distance to Pilot Knob as $2\frac{1}{2}$ mi. but we feel it is more like three. Maps vary as to where in Sec. 4 Trail #314 crosses North Cr. but it is marked. A fairly steep section of trail reaches a ridge and levels out until one reaches a lively stream tumbling through a narrow gully. A steep $\frac{1}{4}$ mi. climb brings the hiker into a lodgepole-covered basin. All the water appears to come from springs. In this area the trail is easily lost a couple of times due to short zig-zags but there are old blazes. As one comes to two large boulders look to your right and see Pilot Knob looming up. One can leave the trail and proceed cross-country to the foot of the knob. Gain the summit in any of several ways. To the south is the easiest.

The State Line Tr. #46 traverses the outcrops which lie at 7200'. The view to the west is of Granite Pk., Shale Mtn., and the Crooked Fk. drainage in Idaho.. To the SE one gazes at the Bitterroot Mtns. stretching to the south horizon. Persons making the trip Oct. 21, 1972 were Mike Chessin, Charlotte Gill, Jean Pfeiffer, and your author, Virginia Vincent. Though we made it leisurely (6 hrs. of botanizing, picnicking, hiking) it is a good short-day outing. Allow about $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. driving each way.



