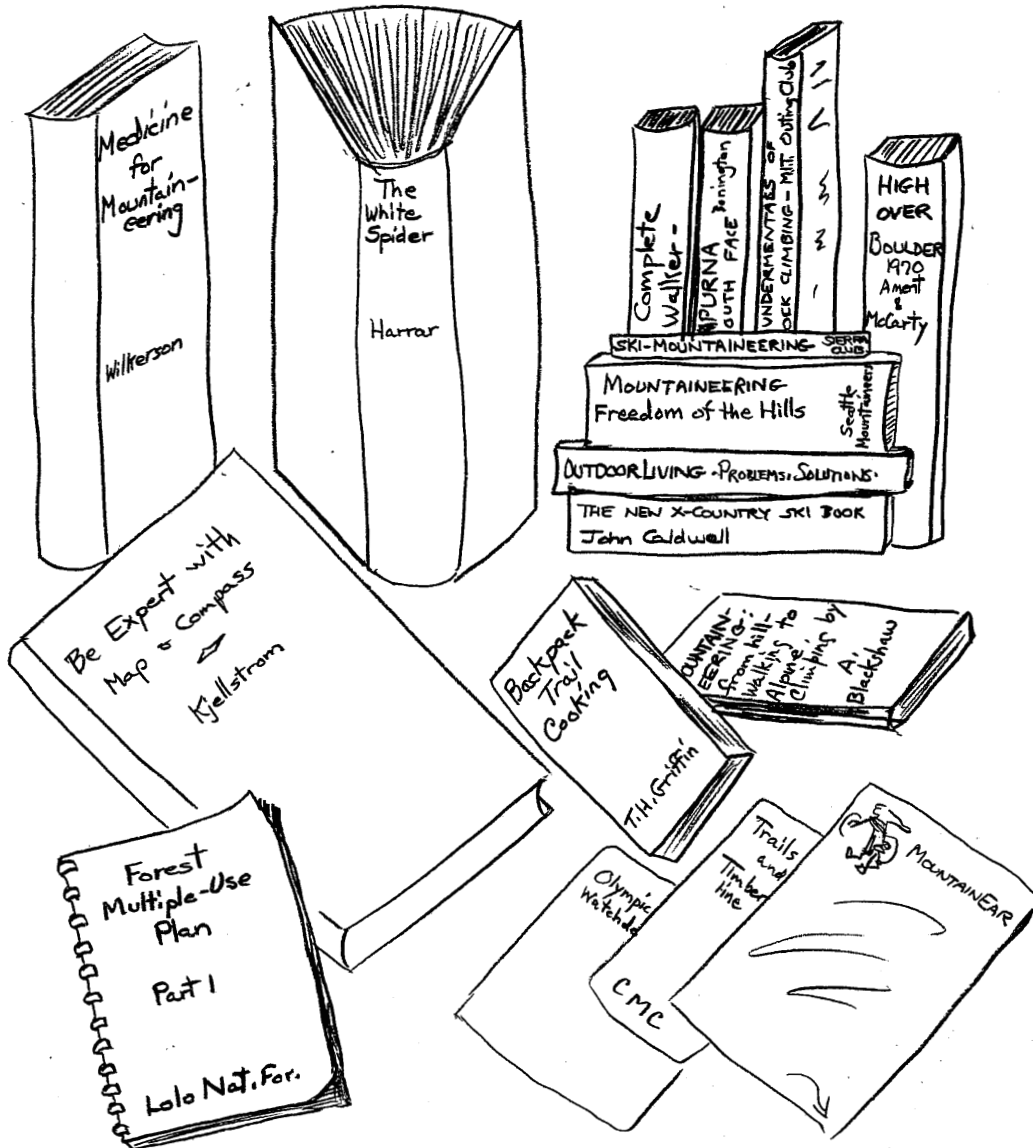


Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS
OF WESTERN MONTANA

FEB. 1973 Vol. XII No. 5

WINTER READING



Most mountain-equipment catalogs offer a variety of topical books. Check also, local + college bookstores. Rocky Mountaineers have a selection of publications other organizations (see Dave Line).

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Jim Ullrich - President 549-2844
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Mavis Lorenz - Secretary 543-6276
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Snow Travel: Bob Benson 543-8269
Trail Travel: Bill Myers 549-3606
River Travel: Roger Lund 542-2747
Climbing: Al Day 258-6993
Editor: Sue Bembem 542-2637

February 14, 1973

Our next meeting will be held February 14, 1973, Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. at the Western Federal Savings and Loan building on Highway 93S (time and temperature sign). Jerry Coutant of the U.S. Forest Service will present a program describing the plans and progress of the Five Valleys Park Project. This proposed park system will include the banks of the Clark Fork through Missoula and out to the junction with the Bitterroot.

SCHEDULE ???

Due to the peculiar winter around Missoula, we can hardly decide where to go, when. However, we offer a list of leaders and dates for you to call. Decisions of where to go will be made during the week prior to the dates listed.

- Feb. 18 Snowshoe &/or ski-tour with Charles Hamma 549-0463
- Washington's Birthday weekend
Bob Benson (543-8629) proposes ski-mountaineering/winter-camping trip
- Feb. 24 Saturday tour to some mountain
Pete Geyer at 543-5659 after 3 P.M.
- Mar. 3 Easy ski tour lead by Jane Benson (543-8629)
- Mar. 11 Sunday outing on skis or snowshoes - call Virginia Vincent at 543-8078

Watch newspaper for other trips.

FLASH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

For CROSS COUNTRY SKI TOURERS...

Ideal Terrain -- Ideal Conditions Found on St. Mary Peak Road in the Bitterroot Mountains. February 3, 1973; this snow-less year, we were able to drive up 5.5 miles from the county road using studded tires. The road had snow throughout its length. We parked about 4 miles from the trail head. This upper portion of road is very gradual, so much so that one would need the very most efficient running wax for the down trip. We found dry "sugary" snow, only slightly wetted in sunny spots. The route crosses three clearcuts which afford vast views to the east across the smoggy Bitterroot River Valley to the Sapphire Mountains and beyond. There was very little snowmobile evidence (one machine came up behind us and provided us a packed track for our return trip!)

Access to the St. Mary Peak Road is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of the Stevensville junction on Highway 93. There is a small USFS sign. Along the county road there are several signs designating the route.

