



Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS
OF WESTERN MONTANA

VOL. XIV NO. 6
MAR. 1975

TRACKS TO WATCH FOR



WEASEL

-fairly common

These Mustelid footprints are approx. natural size as seen in hard snow or barely wet mud. Note one small, or obscure, toe pad & crescent-shaped foot pad. characteristic of the family.



MINK

fairly rare
along streams



MARTEN

forest-dweller



FISHER - rare;
in some of the
high, remote valleys



WOLVERINE

-extremely rare, but returning
to some of the high places

The Rocky Mountaineers of Western Montana, Box 1575, Missoula, Montana 59801 welcomes all persons interested in the out-of-door activities of hiking, camping, ski-touring, snowshoeing, river floating, bicycling, & technical climbing - summer, winter, autumn, & spring. Subscription to the Mountain Ear is by membership: \$4./yr. single, \$5./yr. family, \$2/vol. to out-of-town address. Eight issues per vol.

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Benjamin R. Engelking-) Renewed
 Edward W. & Lynda L. Kieres-) Memberships
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Alert !!

The decision is with the Board of Natural Resources to issue, or not, a permit to allow Colstrip 3 & 4 to be constructed. On March 10 the public hearing, which they must conduct, is to be held. There is still time to write expressing your views on the advisability of allowing the further development of power generation at this time. Contact:

Board of Natural Resources
 32 S. Ewing St.
 Helena, MT. 59601
 or
 call toll free 1-800-332-2272
 the Citizen Advocate

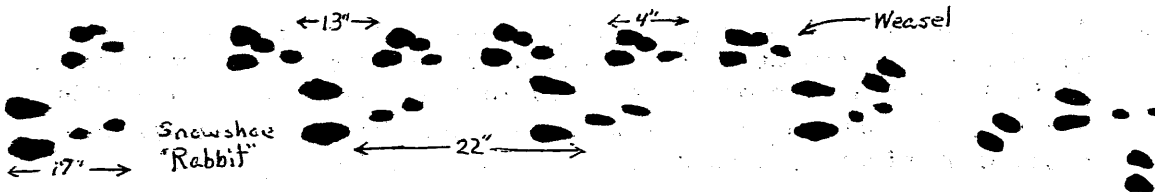
MEETING *** MARCH 12 *** 7:30 p.m.

W.Fed. Savings & Loan, Hwy. 93 S at the time & temperature sign

PEYTON MONCURE will show slides of Angel's Bathing Pool and views from several National Parks in the SW states.

Announcement !! April is election-time. We hope those of you interested in furthering the activities of our club will step forward with the offer to take an office. Please contact Pres. Dave Line, 549-8444. Duties spread around the four officers & members of the executive council are to: plan programs for monthly meetings (numbering 8), schedule trips, take minutes & care of correspondence (small to moderate amount), pay bills & accept dues, conduct the 8 monthly meetings, & initiate new projects.

SCHEDULE - Two ski-tours have been proposed for March by Bob Benson. He can be reached evenings at 549-5325. One will be to Hoodoo Pass (S. of Superior) for overnight, t'other a day trip to Lt. St. Jo Pk., site of the touring cabin.



Herewith: answers to the WINTER SURVIVAL - PRETEST published in the Feb. '75 Mountain Ear. These questions were posed with the idea of discussion on the subject, not to give complete coverage on subject.

1. The will to live has proven to be the most important factor for survival in extreme conditions.
2. (b) is the correct answer. Evaporative cooling from wet clothing at either 30° or 40° F. is more likely to result in hypothermia than dry clothing at 20° F., although the amount and type of clothing will be a factor.
3. 3" of steel wool would provide the most insulation. Experiments with various materials have proven that insulation value is directly proportional to the thickness of dead air as long as the density is below 4 lbs. per cubic foot.
4. Either 3" of steel wool or the 2" of foam can be accepted as answers. The foam would be preferable, as it would be a better vapor barrier and a nonconductor. Wool or down would transmit moisture. Wool has advantages as a top covering or for clothing as it has insulating qualities when wet, but it isn't suitable for a pad on wet ground.
5. Either the wool shirt with a repellent coat or a foam-lined ski parka is an acceptable answer. Down is unsuitable for wet weather unless worn under waterproof clothing. Cotton with only a water-proof coat would be too cold if inactive, and would result in sweating followed by chilling from moisture evaporation when active.
6. One of the body's heat preservation systems is vasoconstriction; i.e., reduction of the blood supply to extremities and the skin to conserve heat. The head has a rich blood supply and no vasoconstriction, and is the primary radiator of body heat. Putting on your hat is the correct answer. Eating a candy bar can increase your body heat metabolism, but it will take some time. Alcohol results in vascular dilation and an increased flow of blood at the surface of the body where it will be chilled.
7. An injured passenger at high elevation where oxygen is scarce will have his body heat-producing metabolism reduced; therefore, external heat will be needed for survival in extreme cold. Insulation can only preserve heat the body is producing.
8. Cold air drains into valleys and depressions; at night it usually is warmer midslope than on the ridgetop or valley bottom. Shelter under a tree will reduce heat loss due to radiation.
9. Recent research on Mt. Rainier climbers has proven that intake of water is the most critical factor. Considerable water may be lost through the lungs as a result of breathing cold dry air.
10. A snow cave is the only incorrect answer. At 30° F. you will get wet digging a snow cave and it would be too damp to be comfortable. NOTE: It is possible on a clear day that air temperature could be 30° F. with much colder snow temperatures. If the air temperature dropped at night, a snow cave might be suitable.

SURVIVAL CONTINUED

11. Only superficial frostbit should be treated on the trail. Once a severely frozen foot or toe is thawed the patient becomes a litter case. Very serious loss of tissue will result from walking on thawed feet or toes. On the other hand, patients have walked for 3 or 4 days on completely frozen extremities with almost no loss of tissue, provided good treatment was received once thawing commenced.
12. Superficial frostbite is treated by thawing in warm water or by other means. Hot air or hot water should not be used. Rubbing or exercising could result in tissue damage.
13. A frostbite victim's body should be warmed. Aspirin may be necessary for the pain when thawing is underway. Never give alcohol. Exercising or movement may damage thawed tissue.
14. The most prudent course would be to stay at the plane since a search will be made after the plane is discovered missing. Shelter will be necessary as the search may be delayed by the approaching storm.

Only a strong individual with proper clothing and footgear should hike 5 miles through loose snow and it would be risky.
15. The signal "A" means "require medical supplies." Wallet size cards with standard air/ground signals are available & should be part of one's survival equipment.
16. Statistics indicate that a buried avalanche victim's chances of survival decrease rapidly with time. There is only a 50% chance after 1 hr. Therefore, it is important to expend all effort on searching for the victim.
17. At a ski area, the judgment must be made if help can be obtained within an hour; if so, send one for help while the other searches. However, having both survivors search still might be best.
18. Treat for suffocation, bleeding, shock, & hypothermia in that order. The victim will not live very long if he isn't breathing!
19. The correct answer is (d). An 18" snowfall is likely to create avalanche hazard, but 80-90% of avalanches occur during or directly after storms. At 30° F. settlement, hence stability, will be taking place. At 10° F. as in (a), stabilization will be slower. In the case of (b), the sudden warming may create the danger of wet snow slides. For (c), the high winds will deposit snow on lee slopes creating avalanche potential & the low temperatures will delay stabilization. A warm rain on recent snow creates a potential for wet snow slides, but it will take a great deal of rain with warmer air temperatures for much avalanching to take place. In many instances, the hazard under (e) would not be different from (d).
20. The county sheriff.

BACKPACKING
HEADQUARTERS

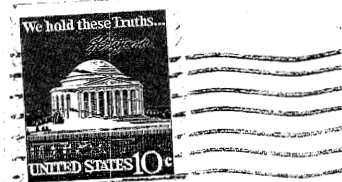
BOB WARD &
SONS

Highway 93 at South Av.
Missoula

4.



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FIRST CLASS

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