

Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS
OF WESTERN MONTANA

VOL. XIX No. 3
December 1979



The Rocky Mountaineers of Western Montana, Box 4262, Missoula, Montana, 59806, welcomes all persons interested in hiking, camping, ski-touring, snowshoeing, river floating, bicycling, and technical climbing--summer, autumn, winter, and spring. Subscription to the Mountain Ear is by membership: \$4.00/yr., single; \$5.00/yr., family; or \$2.00/volume to out-of-town addresses. Eight issues per volume.

OFFICERS

President- Myra Bair.....728-3616
Vice-Pres- Katherine Peterson.....721-5200 work
Secretary- Les Ojala.....549-5263
Treasurer- Arnold Finklin.....543-8705
1st Past Pres.-Jerry Kogan.....721-3286
Mountain Ear Staff-Myra Bair and
Virginia Vincent...543-8078

* NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, December 12, 1979 at 7:30.
* LOCATION: Double Front Cafe basement meeting room, 122 W. Alder.
* PROGRAM: Ralph Klawitter will present his slides taken climbing Donali this
* past summer. Afterwards, help Bill Morgan celebrate his birthday.
*

NEW MEMBER: Bill Jacko, 403 S. 1st W. 728-7829.
RENEWALS: Charles Hamma, Jim Schultz, Virginia Vincent, Mary Jean Ungaretti,
Andrea & Dave Kiebler



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ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS COMING EVENT SCHEDULE:

- Dec. 12 Wed. Monthly meeting 7:30 at the Double Front basement. Ralph Klawitter's slides of climbing Donali and Bill Morgan's birthday.
- Dec. 16 Sun. Ski Wishard Ridge with Bill Morgan. Strenuous. Meet 8 am at the Tempo parking lot. 1-363-5339 or call Myra 728-3616.
- Dec. 19 Wed. Trailhead's cross country ski movies at the shop, 7 pm.
- Dec. 22-24 Sat.-Mon. Long ski weekend at Lochsa Lodge. Rob Holden needs your reservations by DEC. 1, if possible. Motel rooms are \$29 per 4 people, cabins are \$18 with wood heat, no water. The Lodge serves meals from 6 am to 10 pm and the bar is open until 1 pm. Get away from the holiday rush.
- Dec. 30-Jan. 1 Sun.-Tues. HOLIDAY FEAST at the club cabin on Little St. Joe. Call Myra Bair, 728-3616 to see which part of the feast you can contribute. The skiing is sure to be good.
- Jan. 2 Wed. Trailhead's Full Moon Ski Tour. Meet at the Trailhead 6:30 pm.
- Jan. 5 Sat. Easy to moderate skiing at Lubrecht with Charles Hamma. Meet at the Tempo parking lot 8:30 am. 549-0463.
- Jan. 9 Wed. Monthly meeting at the Double Front basement. "Spirits on Wings" movie by the Fish and Game Dept., Bill Thomas.
- Jan. 12 Sat. Explore MARSHALL BOWL with Bill Morgan. Moderate. 1-363-5339 or 728-3616.
- Jan. 13 Sun. Enjoy Lolo Pass and Lolo Hot Springs coming over Wagen Mountain down Lee Creek with Rob Holden, 543-5545.
- March 8-9 Sat.-Sun. LOST TRAIL HOT SPRINGS and SKI, both downhill and cross country overnight at the resort. Myra Bair 728-3616.
- April 5-6 Sat.-Sun. EASTER weekend at the club cabin. Myra, 728-3616.
- April 19-? After-tax-season-long-trip to Yellowstone maybe. Myra.
- July 4 Five days sailing through the San Juan Islands on a 30 foot Catalina sailboat with Ben Engelking. The boat sleeps 7, has a galley, head, etc. and costs about \$90/day. Write Ben at 14956 NE 31st Circle, Redmond, WA. 98052.

I had come up this small nameless canyon in the heart of the Centennials without expectations, climbing slowly with the contours, my jacket knotted at my waist. Just at the point where the grassy slopes gave way to the crowded pines was a rocky knoll. It was a good place to stop and look back to where the land sloped away into Odell Creek and to sit on a rock and think about these Montana mountains. The Centennial Range, anomalously running east-west, overlooks to the north Upper and Lower Red Rocks Lakes, sanctuary of the Trumpeter Swan. To the northeast can be seen the Madisons, and stretching out to the south is the expansive pleistocene basalt flow that makes up the Snake River Plain with East, Middle and Big Southern Buttes off in the distance, directing the mind across the lavas to Craters of the Moon. To the southeast is my favorite view of the Teton Range with the spectacular trio--the South, Middle and Grand Tetons--jutting skyward.

I had been sitting on the rock for several minutes. It was then I heard the Sandhill crane whose call, a primeval "rattle," snapped me back into some mindless, wild past. He was coming down through the trees, unaware of my presence, his long legs moving among the shrubs, his head low. He called constantly, as if encouraging someone further behind that the path was clear. "Don't be afraid," he said (quite plainly). "There aren't any humans here! Come on down! Come on down!" In a moment the female emerged from among the bushes. She was lighter in color and smaller and didn't say anything, but with more care and caution she picked a path through the sage, following her mate past my unmoving form. They sauntered down into the draw and up the other side.

After some time I decided to leave, and, slowly, one muscle at a time, rose and started for the cover of the trees. Immediately both cranes began loudly and excitedly complaining. I made a fast getaway into the bushes, then sat down on a log to wait for the cranes to go back about their business. But the complaining continued. Then I saw the colorful red-capped head of the male appear as he stalked up the slope, calling, his head turning from side to side, looking, looking...for me! (I supposed.) I lay low. Then the female appeared. She also was angrily calling, and looking around intensively. I kept my mouth shut. Not much to say at this point.

I'd like to go back to Mad Crane Canyon...to quietly sit on my rock and listen for the crane's primal call. And to think about these Centennial Mountains and the wild view they command.

Chery Beyer

GLACIER PARK REVISITED

The Second Annual Eager Beaver Frosty Toesies Dribbling Nosies award goes this year to those of the four club members and five guests who on Veterans Day weekend charged up to Glacier Park and started to ski up the highway to Logan Pass. There was even less snow than last year, but no matter. Three members and one guest attained the pass and came back down to the cars the same day. The pass was windy as usual, not as cold as last year, but a reminder of what winter has in store for us. The weather at the pass has a way of making eagle watching seem like a very attractive alternative activity. Second Annual E.B.F.T.D.N. highest award winners were Joe Knotek, Myra Bair, Rob Holden, and guest John Peterson.



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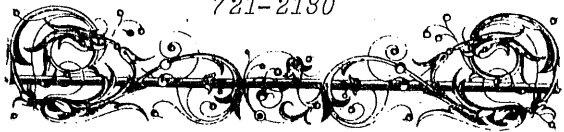
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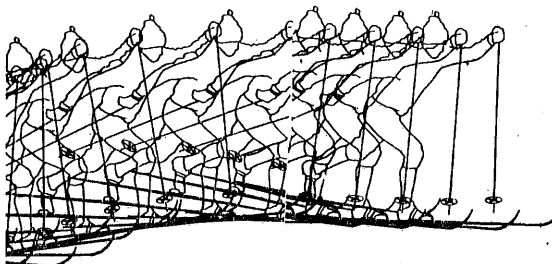
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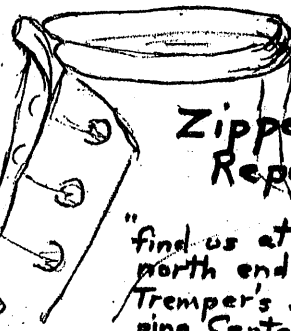
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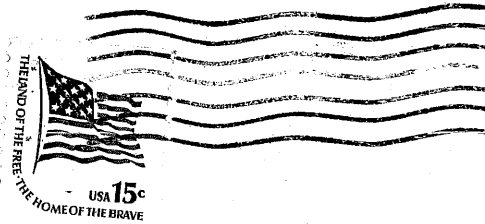
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