

# Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS  
OF WESTERN MONTANA

JANUARY 1981  
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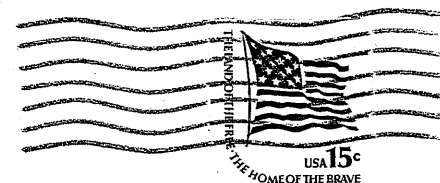
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14: January meeting at the University Golf Course Club House, 515 South Ave. E., at 7:30 p.m. Ian Lange, University of Montana Professor of Geology, will speak on Mt. St. Helens.

Renewed Members:

Art Anderson, Box 9076, Missoula 59807  
Andy Beals  
Bill Beaufait  
Betty Johnson  
Joe Kipphut  
Donald Nisewanger, 1611 Ronald  
Russ Rusunen

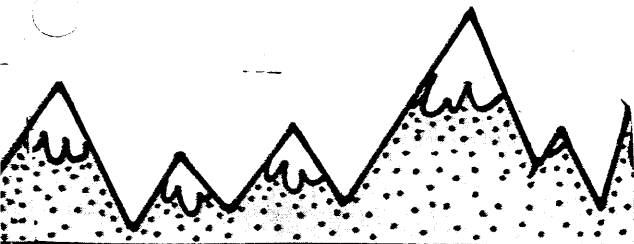
Mary Ann Schipf and Family  
Andy Snyder  
Ilona Hruska and Mark Swanson  
Virginia Vincent  
Eleanor and Bob Weidman  
Kim and Mel Williams  
Martha Yale, 118 Livingston

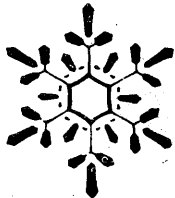
THE MOUNTAIN EAR  
P. O. BOX 4262  
MISSOULA, MT 59806



FIRST CLASS

D. Line  
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WISHERD RIDGE REVISITED AND RECALLED

When the crew of 14 hiked on hard pack and ice, skied on slush, and finally made it to Wisherd Ridge, little did we realize that on December 14 we were "enjoying" the best snow of 1980. The west Twin Creek road was well packed by 4 X 4's, so we were able to drive the first two miles and park on the saddle by the power line. Not much snow, but we put on the boards about half way up the mountain. Weather was overcast, but pleasant, and we had ample time for several "runs" (and cartwheels) down the cirque before returning. A brief but vigorous mini-blizzard moved in as we moved out, giving the only powder we may see this season. As usual, the Wisherd trip was easy going, invigorating, easy to get to, and, as last year, capped off with pizza at the Press Box.

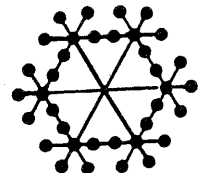
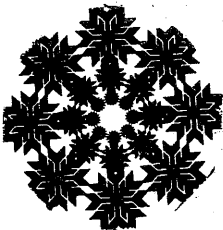
/s/ The Phantom Pencil

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THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS OF WESTERN MONTANA, P. O. Box 4262, Missoula, MT 59806, welcome 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:

EM 11581

- { \$5.00 per year - Single Membership
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- \$2.00 per volume - Out-of-Town Addresses
- 8 issues per volume



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# CALENDAR

January 24, Sat.

Pack Creek ski tour. Easy-moderate, 8 miles in all, beginning at the top of Lolo Pass. Call Allison Easterling at 728-5145 by Thursday, January 22.

January 24-25, Sat.-Sun.

Elk Meadows winter camping. Call Joe Knotek at 549-2040 for details and equipment needed.

Jan. 31-Feb. 1, Sat.-Sun.

Big Mountain for downhill and Nordic skiing. Call the Howes at 543-4200 right away to make reservations.

February 7-8, Sat.-Sun.

Tentative trip to Rocky Mountaineer cabin. Call Jim Ullrich by Thursday, February 5, at 549-2844.

February 8, Sun.

Nordic ski instruction at High Park, Snow Bowl. Call Sharon Howe at 543-4200 by Friday, February 6.

February 11, Wed.

February Rocky Mountaineers' meeting, 7:30 p.m., University Golf Course Club House. Program to be announced. (Earlier arrangements at Marshall Ski Area cancelled.)

February 21-22, Sat.-Sun.

Cross-country and downhill skiing at Lost Trail. Stay overnight at Lost Trail Hot Springs Resort. Call Ralph Flockerzi at 549-9986 by Saturday, February 14.

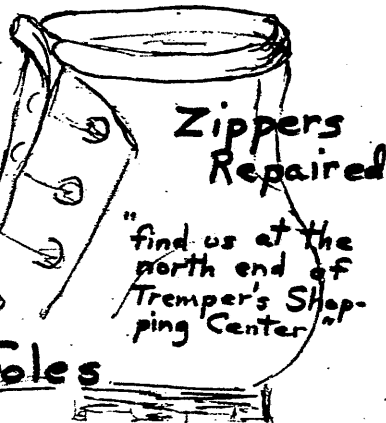
March 1, Sun.

Ski mountaineering at Hoodoo Pass. Call Bob Benson, 549-1426.

SKI BUS TO LOLO PASS: Call UM's "Leisure Services" at 243-2802 for reservations by early Friday afternoons. Bus leaves from UM Field House, K-Mart and Lolo IGA at 8 and 11 a.m., and departs Lolo Pass at 2 and 4 p.m. \$3.50 round trip fee.

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NEW YEAR'S FEAST AND SKIING AT THE CLUB CABIN January 1-3, 1981

By Joe Kipphut

It was not a novice group that assembled on Rob Holden's front lawn at 8 a.m. on New Year's Day, braving sub-40° F. temperatures. No, this was a trip-hardened group of hardcore outdoor enthusiasts. We knew our objectives: To find the cabin; to overeat; to go to the top of Little St. Joe, to re-find the cabin; to return to the valley below; to find the vehicles.

We found the cabin with Bill Morgan and turkey, et al, in it. The turkey was then cooked to perfection by our gourmet chef, Bill. Little St. Joe (the peak) never had a chance. It was bagged each day of the three-day trip; the coup de grace being a pre-dawn ascent on the last morning. Rob's claim to fame was three ascents in three days, combined with an overloaded pack to the cabin; a feat unheard of in the annals of the Rocky Mountaineers.

A busy itinerary was planned for the evenings. The first night we entertained (literally) four unannounced but congenial guests. After dinner, Ralph Flockerzi lectured to us on the moral right to four-wheel drive. Clarisse Landry gave us a quick review in applied supervision. Myra Bair bravely showed us how to survive in the penthouse and how to ski without rope climbers (called walking). Nancy Shrader made us a great turkey stew, then she refused to eat it, or anything else for that matter. Joe Lauinger played Hearts just once previous to the trip, and he did well for a novice.

Highlights of the trip were the snow conditions--"boiler plate" they call it. Neither skis nor snowshoes were needed. Part of the group attempted an early winter ascent of Big St. Joe, but were turned back by the threat of heat stroke.

The trip ended with a return to the clouds and the traditional "Let's-eat-before-we-go-home-even-though-we're-not-really-hungry-because-of-Ralph's-good-gorp" pit stop.

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or call: (406) 728-9799

MOR-PINE CLASSIC competition at Big Mountain, a downhill slalom on cross-country equipment, at 7 p.m. on Jan. 20, Feb. 3 and 17, March 3 and 31, and April 7.

Classified races:	Kalispell	Jan. 17	O. Boveng	755-7447
	Missoula	Jan. 18	E. Dubreuil	543-6966
	Butte	Jan. 31	P. Sawyer	792-0752
	Helena	Feb. 1	D. Armstrong	443-7723

YELLOWSTONE RENDEZVOUS, January 24, marathons of 25 and 50 km. for citizens and world class racers. Write P. O. Box 65, West Yellowstone, MT 59758.