

Mountain Ear

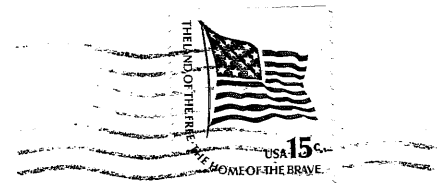
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS
OF WESTERN MONTANA

FEBRUARY 1981
Vol. XX, No. 5

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11: JOHN CATES, well-known wildlife photographer will present a program of wildlife slides, at the February meeting at the University Golf Course Club House, 515 South Ave. E., 7:30 p.m.

*****BILL BEAUFIT is transferring to the San Francisco regional
*****offices of the Forest Service. His colleagues are giving *****
*****him a dinner February 13 at the Elks Club. If you would *****
*****like to make reservations, call George and Sharon Howe by *****
*****Monday, February 9, at 543-4200. *****

THE MOUNTAIN EAR
P. O. BOX 4262
MISSOULA, MT 59801



FIRST CLASS

D. Line
1135 Whitaker Dr.
Missoula MT 59801

BIG MOUNTAIN TRIP

(Jan. 31, Feb. 1)

It was a weekend of unlikelies--an unlikely last minute dump of snow in a nearly snowless year, an unlikely new romance (we suspect), and unlikely compatibility among marvelously diverse personalities from the far reaches of the Inland Empire (even as far away as Moscow, ID!)

Snow was the catalyst that brought the 17 personalities together in MacDonald's condo at Big Mountain. Mid-winter conditions prevailed--hardpack and intermittent sunshine, which encouraged sauna-ing and wine-drinking apres ski, and left energy for dancing at the Lower Terminal and the Bier Stube.

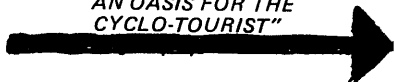
Only nine of the 17 were Rocky Mountaineers: Mary Zimmerman, Arnold Finklin, Ralph Flockerzi, Jeanine Byrne, Phil Poulsen, Barbara McElwain, Sharon, David and I. The other nine were skiing friends from Missoula and Moscow, including Jim Lucke. Happily, the unfamiliarity bred interest rather than friction.

Aside from warming old and sparking new friendships, the weekend boasted two more achievements: Our David finished all FOUR of his Northern Division races, his purpose for spending the weekend at Big Mountain, AND...(I'll let you guess the new romancers!)

By George Howe



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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:

- \$5.00 per year - Single Membership
- \$7.00 per year - Family Membership
- \$2.00 per volume - Out-of-Town Addresses
- 8 issues per volume

- President.....Sharon Howe.....543-4200
- Vice-President.....Jim Ullrich.....549-2844
- Secretary....."Andy" Beals.....542-2357
- Treasurer.....Arnold Finklin.....543-8705
- 1st Past President.....Myra Bair.....728-3616
- MOUNTAIN EAR Staff.....Myra Bair
- Paula Mullis.....44-9551
- Virginia Vincent.....543-8078

TRIP SCHEDULE

- February 8, Sun. Nordic ski instruction at High Park, Snow Bowl. Call Sharon Howe at 543-4200.
- February 14, Sat. Cross-country skiing with Betty Rosenkranz. Call Betty at 543-5510 by Thursday, February 12.
- 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 for reservations ASAP.
- March 1, Sun. Ski mountaineering at Hoodoo Pass. Call Bob Benson at 549-1426.
- March 7-8, Sat.-Sun. Elk Meadows winter camping. Call Joe Knotek at 549-2040 for details and equipment needed.

NEW MEMBERS:

Edward S. Domer, Box 151, Seeley Lake 59868
 Jerrold McCarty, Route 2, Box 139, Stevensville 59870, 777-3646
 George and Lynda Corn, 2309 Foothills Drive, 251-2082

RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS:

Myra Bair, Caroline Eder, Ralph and Lillian Klawitter and Family, Phil Poulson, Jim Ullrich, Mary Jean Ungaretti.

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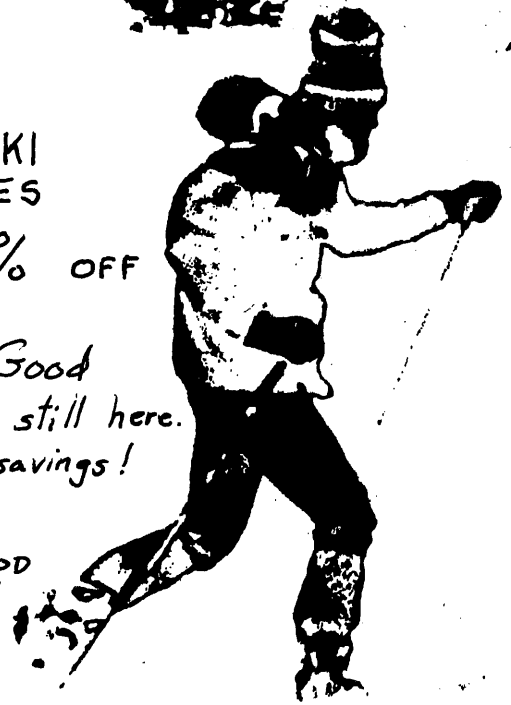
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MISSOULA, MT

Friends of the Juniper Forest
204 Newell
Walla Walla, WA 99362

January 11, 1980

Dear Friends of the Juniper Forest,

You are by now aware of the decision by the Bureau of Land Management not to include part of the Juniper Forest in Franklin County in the Wilderness Study Area as we have desired. We have protested this decision and are now awaiting response from William Leavell, BLM Director for the State of Washington.

Wilderness designation alone would not have adequately protected this unique ecosystem, as only one third of the area is roadless and thus qualifies as wilderness. The rest of the Juniper Forest is the site of the most productive raptor nesting and is much less protected. Currently the BLM is conducting its land-use planning phase for all the public land it manages in Washington. We are seeking your input during this important process to secure some form of meaningful protection for the habitat found, in Washington, only in the Juniper Forest.

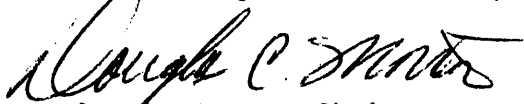
The Friends of the Juniper Forest are recommending that the entire area be classified as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), with the 7800 acre roadless area designated as a Wilderness Area. We are urging the BLM to continue its efforts to consolidate its holdings here via land exchanges and willing seller purchases from adjacent land-owners. We wish to protect the ecosystem which is now seriously threatened by increasing off-road vehicle activity. The Council on Environmental Quality has termed ORV activity as among the most serious land-use problems today. Almost without exception, every study of the effects of ORVs on birds and other vertebrates reveals significant negative impacts, such as decreased numbers, diversity and nesting success. The Juniper Forest does not deserve to become a sandpile, devoid of native flora and richly diverse wildlife. Ferruginous hawks have been found to require a one-mile radius "no-man's land" around their nest to prevent nest abandonment. We are vitally concerned that the attempts to create an ORV park at the Juniper Forest will result in the collapse of this fragile desert ecosystem, one of the ten most unique habitats in Washington. We are adamant that NO ORV activity be allowed at the Juniper Forest.

The land-use plan must also deal with other uses such as oil and gas exploration (our position is against either); grazing (we support judicious and selective grazing permits); fire protection (we support limited fire suppression); camping (not in the enclosure); specimen collection (regulated). The area should be fenced and patrolled to prohibit unauthorized, destructive activities.

By March 15, 1981, the BLM anticipates making its recommendations. Please write to them and let them know that "multiple use" will mean certain death for this area. Here is the address:

Basin Area Manager, Room 551
Spokane District Office
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Court House
Spokane WA 99206
(509) 456-2570

Yours in Caring and Stewardship,


Douglas C. Morton, Chairman
Friends of the Juniper Forest

friends of the juniper forest

