



# Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS  
OF WESTERN MONTANA

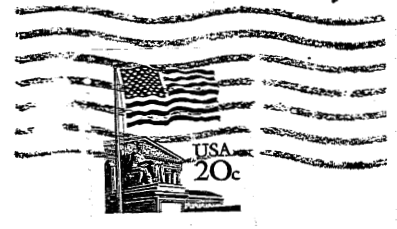
MAY 1983  
Vol 21 No. 14

MEETING  
May 11, 1983

7:30 p.m.  
Montana Power Co., 1903 Russell Street

Program: HIKING IN THE TETONS  
Slide show by Nancy DeCou

THE MOUNTAIN EAR  
P.O. Box 4262  
Missoula, MT 59801



FIRST CLASS

Dave Line  
1135 Whitaker Drive  
Missoula, MT 59803

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Elections on April 13 gave the Rocky Mountaineers an almost new slate of officers -- almost because Ilona has agreed to another term as club president and Arnold will retain his stalwart post as club treasurer. The '83-'84 officers are:

- President: Ilona Hruska (721-3832)
- Vice Presidents: Martha Yale (549-2163) and Dan Weinstein (543-4783)
- Secretary: Mary Jane Robinson (721-1276)
- Treasurer: Arnold Finklin (543-8705)
- Mountain Ear: Ethel MacDonald (549-9722), Lois Crepeau (728-5321) and Jim Burns (549-5375)
- Social: Andy Graybeal (542-2496)

The club extends thanks to the outgoing officers for a good year. The club has prospered, good programs have attracted a nice turnout at meetings, and in spite of a rather "tropical" winter, some good outings were held

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New Members

JoAnn Hall  
 4614 Aspen Drive  
 Missoula, MT 59802

Clint Hansen  
 P.O. Box 2742  
 Missoula, MT 59806

Rejoined

Marti Crane  
 212 Mary Street  
 Missoula, MT 59801

Renewals

Mel and Kim Williams  
 Greg and June Siple  
 Bill Bishop  
 Allison Easterling



# Lloyd's

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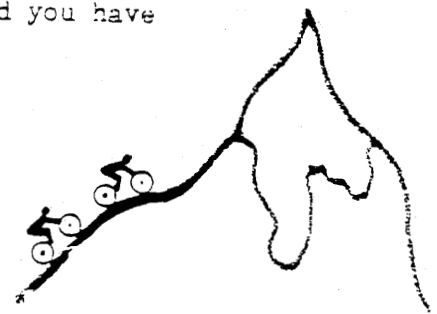
2100 South Ave. W.  
 Missoula, Montana 59801

Sam, Shirli, Bart & Dait Braxton  
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## KLUB KALENDAR

(the first, last, and only time your outgoing editor will use that korny korraption of the English language)

- May 11  
Wednesday Club meeting -- IMPORTANT! Bring your ideas for hikes and other outings to this meeting -- where you'd like to lead an outing, and the date (with an alternate, if possible). This will greatly help the vice-presidents who will be coordinating a trip schedule. The June Mountain Ear will have the summer trip schedule. Let's fill the calendar!
- May 14  
Saturday The Wilderness Institute will sponsor "Wilderness Awareness Day" at the U of M oval. Displays of outdoor gear, information booth, and other materials are available from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- May 15  
Sunday St. Mary Peak ski trip. Moderate. Call Bob Benson, 549-1426.
- May 15  
Sunday Early morning hike up Mt. Sentinel to be followed by potluck brunch. Leave at 6:30 a.m. from base of Mt. Sentinel. Call Ilona Hruska, 721-3832 for final details.
- May 20  
Friday Potluck, 7:00 p.m. More details at the May 11 meeting, and watch the Around Missoula column. Call Myra Bair, 728-3616.
- May 22  
Sunday Trip to Gem Lake. A moderate trip, with part of it on skis or snowshoes. Call Martha Yale, 549-2163.
- May 28-30 A three-day weekend with no trips scheduled. Perhaps someone will fill this in at the meeting?
- June 4-5  
Sat. & Sun. Hike to North Fork cabin. Call Myra Bair, 728-3616.
- June 11-12  
Sat. & Sun. Craggs-Stanley Hot Springs overnight backpack, approximately 16 miles round trip. Call Dan Weinstein, 543-4783.
- June 18  
Saturday Glen Lake trip. Call Bill Morgan. See June Mountain Ear for more details.

This issue of the Mountain Ear was written by that "outgoing editor," Bob Benson, with typing and mailing assistance from the new trio. It takes three of us to replace him, but we'll do our best to keep up the high quality of journalism. Our thanks to Bob for a good job.

**MAMMOTH  
BAKERY CAFE**

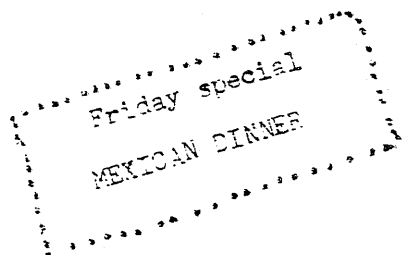
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## FLOATING TIME IN WESTERN MONTANA

Unless we get some heavy spring rains, the light snowpack in the area will probably mean an abbreviated floating season this year. The good news is that a low runoff doesn't put as much debris into rivers like the Bitterroot and Clark Fork. The bad news is that by August we'll need roller skates on the bed to get over gravel bars. But as always, the spring run is cold and the currents are strong.

The following are the headings of the safety tips developed by the American Whitewater Association. (The same rules pertain to kayaks, and it's all good information.) The more detailed rules are available from the association or in a neat little book "Basic River Canoeing" by Robert C. McNair. It also has some good instruction on paddling.

**FOR YOU:** Never boat alone -- be a competent swimmer -- wear lifejacket -- know your boating ability -- beware of cold water -- be suitably prepared and equipped -- be practiced in self-rescue.

**FOR YOUR BOAT** (canoe, kayak, raft): Test new equipment -- boat in good repair. -- spare paddle -- install flotation (foam, tube, air bag) -- have bow and sternlines ("grab rope") -- use spray cover -- carry repair kit -- have a throw line (for group travel).

**FLOAT TRIP LEADER:** Have full knowledge of river -- don't allow anyone to participate beyond their proven ability -- know water and weather conditions -- leader's decision is final -- designate support jobs.

**FOR THE GROUP:** All must know plans, hazards, etc. -- lead boat sets route and isn't passed -- rear boat has rescue and safety equipment and always stays last -- each boat keeps track of others -- keep party compact.

**IF YOU SPILL:** Hold onto your boat -- be aware of your responsibility to assist people in water -- leave boat if it improves your safety -- stay upstream of your boat -- be calm.

**ON LARGE WATER** (Flathead!): Don't go beyond a returnable distance -- know weather -- secure tide information -- have front-rear-side guards to keep party compact -- know eskimo roll or self-righting procedures

There are a lot of good floats around -- the book "Floater's Guide to Montana" by Hank Fisher is a real boon because it describes rapids and hazards. Even local "easy" rivers have hazards -- trees in the Bitterroot, Bandman Rock on the short float from Milltown to Missoula.

ENJOY THE FLOATING -- SAFELY

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