



Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS
OF WESTERN MONTANA

FEBRUARY 1984
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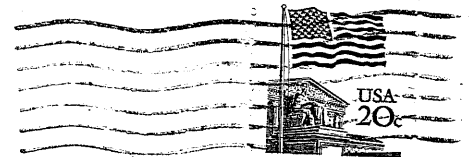
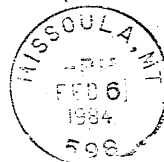
FEBRUARY PROGRAM:

Wednesday, February 8 - 7:30 P.M. at CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY

Steve Jorgenson will present a program about a trip to the Ama Dablam in the Himalayas. A six-member team made the ascent to this 22,494 elev. peak in November-December, 1982. Sounds like an exciting program!

NOTE THE CHANGED LOCATION PLEASE - THE FEBRUARY AND MARCH MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY on East Main and Washington Street. We have to be out of the library by 9:00, so this means WE MUST START PROMPTLY AT 7:30 AND KEEP THE BUSINESS MEETING SHORT in order to have plenty of time for the program. Thanks for being on time.

The Mountain Ear
P.O. Box 4262
Missoula, Montana 59806



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Dave Line
1135 Whitaker Drive
Missoula, MT 59803

TRIP REPORTS

January 14 - Carleton Ridge

Because nobody called before Saturday morning, just Art Gidel, his sister, ^{her husband,} and myself went. We were able to get a long way up the road with a four-wheel drive. The weather was clear and cold and there was excellent skiing once we gained some altitude. The lower part of the trip had scanty snow. From the top of the ridge we had an excellent view of Lolo Peak and other Bitterroot peaks. We made it back to the car by dark.

In May, after the Mormon Creek Road is opened, the access to Lolo Peak is much better and it is a much shorter trip. We went in on the McClellan Creek Road.

--Dan Weinstein

January 15 - Low Gap

After cancelling the January 15 Low Gap ski trip due to warm temperatures and the accompanying slush and ice, Ilona Hruska and I quickly changed plans when the weather cooled and new snow fell late in the week. Five skiers -- Sue Brownlow, Bill DeCou, Ralph Flockerzi, Betty Rosenkranz, and Joan Schweinsberger -- joined Ilona and me for the 14-mile loop around the base of Mt. Fuji. Clear blue sky and sub-zero temperatures greeted the group at Lolo Pass. The snow was too cold for good gliding at first, and freezing fingers and toes were a concern. However, the sun warmed us and the snow, and the 5½-hour trip was relaxed and pleasant. We were fortunate to find that someone else had been over much of the route so that Ilona had to break trail for only a short distance.

--Nancy DeCou

January 22 - Blue Point

Dan Weinstein, Ken Moe, and Wayne ? and I left for Blue Point around 8:00 a.m. and were back by around 2:30. The trip starts at the Marshall Ski Area where you can take logging roads for about half of this approximately ten-mile round trip. Parts of the trip are a little strenuous, as there is a vertical gain of about 3,000 feet with the highest altitude 7,000 feet. It's steep enough coming down that you need to be able to do some turning or stop and zig-zag.

The skiing was really good. However, Wayne's bale broke about 3/4 of the way up so he made a makeshift binding with some nylon cord and came back down while the rest of us went on up. The moral probably is to carry things like nylon cord for these kinds of events!

--Art Gidel

January 29 - Granite Ridge to Lolo Hot Springs

The snow was excellent with a firm base and fresh powder, and we made the top of the ridge then skied to a point above Granite Pass. Both my no-wax and other people's wax skis worked well in both climbing and gliding. The snow was so good we took a run down to the pass and then skied back up to the ridge for lunch. After lunch we continued along the ridge, stopping to play on some nice north slopes for too short a time. Climbing back up the hill on a firm base was easy, and the downhills were good also. We continued along the ridge where the trail went through woods and open areas. The terrain was hilly with many ups and downs. After awhile, the ridge started dropping. In the open areas the trail was hard to find, but we skied through many nice slopes.

As we lost altitude later in the afternoon the snow became wet and heavy and there were some difficult sections in the woods where route finding was also a bit of a problem. When we reached the road a little farther down the ridge we were able to make good time on corn snow. Although the snow was wet, it was firm, and it was a fast, easy ski to the Fish Creek Road.

The weather was warm and beautiful and we had excellent views from along the top of Granite Ridge. Skiing was excellent except for the short section of difficult snow conditions.

--Dan Weinstein

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Renewals:

Mary Jane Robinson
Lynn Paul
Joe Lauinger & Nancy Shrader
Joe Knotek

Ilona Hruska & Mark Swanson
Mary Ann Schipf
Sandra Satre

New member: (actually a renewal of a lapsed membership)

Sue Brownlow
2310 57th
Missoula, MT 59803
Phone 251-5229

Thanks to Ilona, a current membership list is included with this Mountain Ear. It's nice to know not only who is in the group, but to have the phone numbers of all these potential partners for hiking, skiing, or other outdoor activities. Thanks again, Ilona!

The Rocky Mountaineers welcome all persons interested in outdoor activities in all seasons. One complimentary copy of the Mountain Ear will be sent upon request, and non-members may attend meetings and participate in activities prior to joining.

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

To volunteer to lead hikes, ski trips, or organize any activities, call either Martha or Dan. To suggest programs or activities, call Ilona.

DUES: \$5.00 Individual; \$7.00 Family. Join at any time.

Send dues to Arnold Finklin, Rocky Mountaineers, Box 4262, Missoula, 59806 or bring them to the February meeting. Renewal notices are included with each Mountain Ear. Members will be dropped from the mailing list after two notices.

--REMEMBER -- THE FEBRUARY AND MARCH MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY --

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.....
Friday special
MEXICAN DINNER
.....

Feb. 11-12 - Saturday-Sunday, with a Monday option

Ski trip to the Rocky Mountaineers' cabin. A long trip. Climbers, such as ropes or skins, are needed. Call Don Baty (273-2770) for details.

February 11 - Saturday

The Second Ovando-Seeley Citizens' Race (OSCR), a 50 K, low-key cross-country race, begins at Two Creek Ranch in Ovando and ends at Seeley Lake. Specifics are available at the Trailhead in Missoula.

February 18 - Saturday

Easy trip in Lolo Pass area with a stop at Lolo Hot Springs afterwards. Call Mary Jane Robinson (721-1276) for details.

March 3-4 - Saturday and Sunday

Mountaineers will have this weekend at Lost Trail, thanks to the good planning of Ralph Flockerzi. Plans include a potluck dinner and, if participants wish, a potluck breakfast. Send a \$15 deposit no later than February 15 to Ralph at 1221 South 5th West, Missoula, 59801. Maximum: 27 people.

It's hard to get enthusiastic about leading trips when snow conditions are so unfavorable, but remember, if conditions improve and you want to volunteer to lead a trip, Arnold can get it into the Around Missoula column. Please call Dan Weinstein (543-4783) or Martha Yale (549-2163) if you are willing to lead a trip either in late February or in March.

APOLOGIES from the editor to CLARISSE LANDRY, who sent in a beautiful write-up of the New Year's trip to the cabin, but which was not printed in the Mountain Ear. Unfortunately, it didn't arrive here until after the Mountain Ear was printed and mailed (and after the editor had called other people to find out the details, not knowing that Clarisse was busily writing a good article.)


Please mail your trip reports to Ethel MacDonald, 316 West Central, Missoula, 59801 no later than the first Friday of the month. If time is limited, call me at 549-9722 and I'll write while you dictate. Too much delay occurs if reports are mailed to the Mountain Ear box number. Thanks!

Thanks to the February trip leaders for writing up good reports or calling me with them. It was nice to just type them up without having to track them down!

It's getting close to time to elect new officers. If you're interested in serving on the nominating committee, please get the word to Ilona. Better yet, start thinking about which office and duties you might be willing to take for a year. Ilona says there will definitely be a new president next year. Let's hope we have a volunteer as willing and able as Ilona has been.

REMEMBER -- FEBRUARY MEETING -- Wednesday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. at CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY.

REMEMBER to send in reservations for the Lost Trail weekend!!



Lloyd's

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