



Mountain Ear

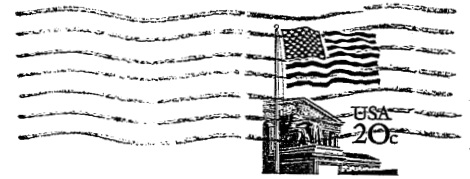
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS
OF WESTERN MONTANA

JANUARY 1985
Volume 23, No. 5

JANUARY MEETING: Wednesday, January 9, 7:30 p.m.
Montana Power Building, 1903 Russell, Missoula

PROGRAM: Lynn Smith will show slides and talk about trekking in Nepal.

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



Dave Line
1135 Whitaker Drive
Missoula, MT 59803

TRIP REPORTS

December 15-16 - Flint Creek Range

Wayne Hecker, John Pierce, Ken Moe and Art Gidel were joined by Ann Gidel and Ken Platt from Helena for this trip up the Dempsey Creek Drainage. Much of the trip was skied on jeep roads, some of which were packed out by snowmobile tracks. Although there was considerably less snow than expected (about 24 inches) it was sufficient if one stayed on the road and trails. The campsite was near the end of the jeep road and featured a barrel stove with a six-foot stovepipe!

Sunday we skied a trail to the saddle west of Mt. Powell. Mt. Powell could probably be skied from the north with several more feet of snow. After some tenuous telemarking on wind-crusting snow, we returned to the campsite and then had an exciting downhill ski to the vehicle.

Access to Dempsey Creek is via private land, and advance landowner permission is required.

--Art Gidel

December 27 - Mid-week outing at Lolo Pass

With only two other cars in the parking lot, perfect temperature, almost-blue skies, and beautiful fresh snow on top of the several feet already there, the Lolo Pass area invited us to hurry up and have a great day skiing. How dismaying, then, to discover a missing baling was going to keep one of us from skiing!

Iлона Hruska kindly broke trail for Charlotte Critchelow and Henrietta Brandon while the so-called "leader" walked around the parking lot, visited with a nice lady from Ohio, and bemoaned her stupidity in not checking her equipment every time.

It was a pleasant but short outing for the three skiers, who skied only a part of the "F" trail rather than tackle the originally-planned longer trip while the "Leader" waited. It was a good lesson for all of us to check equipment and to not plan on using the facilities at Lolo during the week; they're open only Fri.-Mon.

(I did break the trail to the ladies' room -- a good 12" fresh snow.)

--Ethel MacDonald



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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New Members:

Edward Monnig & Jacelyn Waddell-Monnig
518 Evans Avenue
Missoula, MT 59801
Ph: 721-2707

Renewals:

Joe Knotek
Nancy Braun
Sara Stephens
Nancy & Bill DeCou
Sandra Satre
Sue Brownlowe (new address):
1871 E. Broadway, Missoula 59802

Dues: \$5.00 individual, \$7.50 family. (Annual)
Join at any time. Send dues to:

Arnold Finklin, Treasurer
Rocky Mountaineers
Box 4262
Missoula, MT 59806

December 29 - January 1 - New Year's Eve Annual Trip to Little St. Joe Cabin

Nine Mountaineers skied through a snowstorm to reach the fabled refuge nestled high in a sub-alpine wood in order to consume mass quantities of very fresh, knee-to-thigh-deep powder and food. Kudos to Wayne Hecker for breaking most of the trail during the 5½-hour trip for some, while two not-to-be-named "trackers" made the trip in a mere three hours. (Last year it took us 7½ hours.) Those of us along for the ride behind Wayne included Beverly Chin, Ralph Flockerzi (trip leader), Art Gidel, Rosie Jones, Terry Jones, Joe Kipphut, Clarisse Landry, and Robert Logan.

A review of the log book at the cabin showed a remarkable record of 31 weekends of use in 1984.

Terry did a great job of fixing Ralph's binding onto his ski ("Better than the shop!"). Robert had all the tools for the job.

Many thanks to Bob Benson, Charles Hamma, Bill Morgan, and others for making this trip possible with such comforts.


--Joe Kipphut

January 5 - Fred Burr Reservoir

Lois Crepeau, Charlotte Critchelow, Henrietta Brandon, John Pierce, and Steve ___? joined leader Martha Yale for this moderate ski trip. It took about two and a half hours to get in. Due to the wind at the reservoir, the group ate lunch a ways down the trail from it -- even had a little campfire. The weather was about right, being a little sunny and a little cold. It was a good trip.

If planning to make this trip, it's a good idea to stop at the white farmhouse at the end of the road, as you have to go through their land and they might appreciate knowing about your trip.

--Martha Yale



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Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
 Fri. evening 'til 8 p.m.
 131 West Main
 549-5542

THE MOUNTAIN EAR is a publication of The Rocky Mountaineers, an outdoor group which is open to new members at any time. Non-members may attend meetings and participate in activities prior to joining.

Complimentary copies of The Mountain Ear will be sent on request.

Officers through May, 1985, are:

Art Gidel, president	543-6352
Cindy Anderson, vice pres.	549-2152
Mary Jane Burns, secretary	721-1276
Arnold Finklin, treasurer	543-8705
Lois Crepeau, Mountain Ear	728-5321
Ethel MacDonald, Mountain Ear	549-9722

IF YOU HAVE IDEAS for future programs for meetings, please call Cindy. If you can organize a trip, or have an idea for one, please give Art a call. And if you have ideas for additional material for The Mountain Ear, please call Ethel.

If you wish to organize a trip after the publication of this newsletter but before the next, check with Art. Arnold Finklin is very good about getting our trips in the Around Missoula column, and we're always glad to add another trip even if it isn't included in the newsletter.

TRIP CALENDAR

- January 12 - Saturday - Ski trip, Jocko Valley, Mission Range. Fairly strenuous. Tribal permit required. Call Art Gidel, 543-6352 for details.
- January 19 - Saturday - Ski trip, Lolo Peak. Strenuous. Call Art Gidel, 543-5352 for details.
- January 26 - Saturday - Ski trip, Anderson Mountain Trail near Chief Joseph Pass. Fairly strenuous, 15 miles round trip. Call Ilona Hruska at 721-3832 for details.
- February 1 - Friday - (Nearly)-Full-moon ski outing up the Crazy Canyon Road to (or towards) Mt. Sentinel. Meet at Crazy Canyon / Pattee Canyon Road at 7:00 p.m. Hot spiced wine or other hot drinks and snacks afterwards at Ethel's. Call Ethel MacDonald at 549-9722, for details.

Note: Garnet Area Trip organizer needed. This is an overnight trip, and the trip date is at the convenience of the organizer, subject to cabin reservation restraints. Contact Art Gidel for information on cabin rental

We still need trip organizers! If you don't see the kind of trip on this calendar that interests you, why not help us out and organize one? Call Art at 543-6352 if you're willing and able!

Apparently a lot of people in the area missed Lois's letter to The Missoulian asking that people not take their dogs on ski trails. One dog at Lolo Pass didn't really seem to be having fun sinking up to his belly, even in the ski track! Is there a nice way to say something to these perfectly nice people who have their dogs with them?

Needless to say (I hope), dogs are not welcome on Mountaineer trips.

(Ethel)

Art made the compilation of suggested emergency gear list available to members at the December meeting. Sorry I didn't think to pick up one and include in this issue of The Mountain Ear.

Sunday, between typing these pages, I escaped Missoula's air pollution alert by taking a quick ski outing up Pattee Canyon where the air was clear, the sky beautiful, the snow sparkling, and the quiet wonderful. Those same conditions (mountains) which make Missoula so susceptible to inversions mean that in less than 10 minutes (5 miles) I can enjoy the peaceful outdoors. If Pattee Canyon isn't close to you, then you must be close to the Rattlesnake, Blue Mountain, or the wonderful Bitterroots. Missoula's air gets us all down, but aren't these beautiful mountains the main reason most of us live here? Happy Outings!