



Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS
OF WESTERN MONTANA

FEBRUARY 1985
Volume 23, No. 6

FEBRUARY MEETING: Wednesday, February 13, 7:30 p.m.
Montana Power Building, 1903 Russell, Missoula

PROGRAM: Bill Weiland will show selected slides from a variety
of mountaineering expeditions.

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Dave Line
1135 Whitaker Drive
Missoula, MT 59803

TRIP REPORTS

EAGLE PASS, MISSION RANGE - Saturday, January 12:

Ralph Flockerzi, Wayne Hecker, Ken Moe, Art Gidel, and Steve Brewer were greeted by perfect weather but marginal snow. The Eagle Pass Trail could be skied from the car, but just barely. The snowpack did eventually reach about 30" but was considerably less than the North Bitterroot Range. After eating lunch at the 6800' level, we skied to Eagle Pass (7800') for a fairly good view to the south. As expected, the potential avalanche danger was high, with the remaining trees having few branches on the uphill side. The skiing was good from the pass to the 6000' level. We reached the car before dark.

--Art Gidel

LOLO PEAK - Saturday, January 19:

With an early start, we reached the 7000' level on Carlton Ridge by 11:30 a.m. We had skied west up the ridge, and after regrouping, the eight members began skiing downhill, presumably towards Carlton Lake. Due to foggy conditions, and a bit of over-enthusiasm, the group ended up on the north side of the ridge instead of the south. About 500 vertical feet below our high point on the ridge, we regrouped to find not eight, but seven members present.

We initiated a search, breaking into teams of two. By following the outskirts of the downhill ski tracks, two searchers picked up the tracks of the runaway skier. After following the runaways tracks for some distance, one searcher, Dave Pengelly, volunteered to follow the tracks and to exit via the Mormon Creek Road on Highway 12. His companion, Ralph Flockerzi, returned to the remainder of the party with this news. After discussing the situation over lunch, Wayne Hecker and Bill Thomas volunteered to be back-up searchers. Much of the combined emergency gear and food was transferred to Wayne and Bill.

After dropping approximately 2500 vertical feet, the runaway skier acknowledged his plight and began skiing back uphill. Dave found him, and led the way out on the Mormon Creek Road. The backup searchers followed their tracks, reaching the highway at 6:30 p.m.

The following are my observations regarding the incident:

1. The screening of participants by the leader was as good as can be reasonably expected.
2. The group was too large for the nature of the trip (strenuous and remote).
3. The leader failed to impress upon the group the importance of staying together, especially while skiing downhill in limited visibility.
4. Sufficient emergency gear was available, with the notable exception of headlamps.
5. The leader failed to go over the planned route, using a topo map, with every member.
6. The decision to exit via Mormon Creek instead of returning uphill and out the ridge was potentially risky.

These observations are necessarily my own, and probably differ from those of others in the group. The participants, excluding the runaway skier were: Dave Pengelly, Wayne Hecker, Bill Thomas, Art Gidel, Ralph Flockerzi, Joe Knotek, and Dave Ryan. Dave, Bill, and Wayne deserve a special thanks for making the exhausting trip out to Highway 12.

--Art Gidel



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TRIP CALENDAR

- February 16 -- Ski trip to Stuart Peak, Rattlesnake Range. Strenuous 20-mile round Saturday trip with 4500 vertical feet. Call Dave Pengelly at 728-6512.
- February 23-24 -- Swan Valley ski touring on groomed and ungroomed trails. Moderate. Sat.-Sunday Accommodations available at Ed Domer's place on Placid Lake for Saturday night. Ski either day, or both. Call Art Gidel at 543-6352 or Ed Domer at 1-677-2715 for details.
- March 3 -- Due to sub-zero temperatures, February's planned moonlight ski trip was Sunday cancelled by mutual consent of all who had expressed interest. If anybody is interested in trying it again, please call Ethel at 549-9722. (Sunday should have more moonlight than Friday.)
- March 9 -- Wilsherd Ridge, Rattlesnake Range. Sixteen-mile round trip with 4,000 Saturday vertical feet. Call Bob Benson at 549-1426 for details.
- March 30-31 -- Ralph Flockerzi has again made arrangements for the Mountaineers' stupendous Sat.-Sunday weekend at Lost Trail for the mere cost of \$12 per person (doesn't include gas reimbursements to those who drive). We will potluck the meals, as we did last year. Ralph must have 25 paid sign-ups by February 25, or the accommodations will be canceled. Call Ralph at 549-9986 for details, or just mail your \$12 to him at 1221 South 5th West, Missoula, 59801. Last year's trip was a huge success. Although this one is a bit later in the year, the spring skiing should be beautiful and the days will be longer so we'll have more of it.

IF YOU CAN ORGANIZE A TRIP, PLEASE CALL ART GIDEL AT 543-6352. THANKS!!

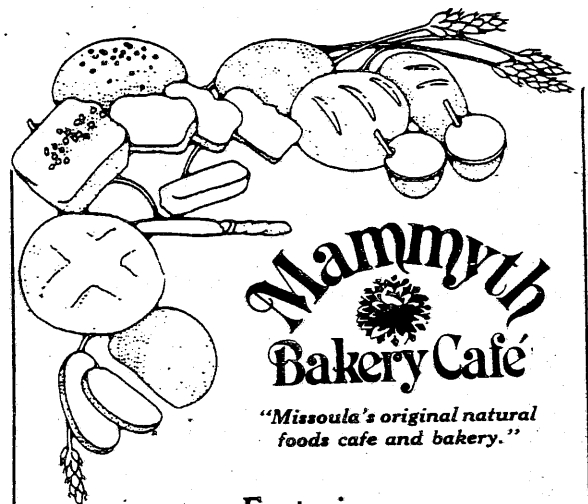
MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Renewals: Alice & Briggs Austin
 Nancy Shrader & Joe Lauinger
 Jean Doerr

Dues: \$5.00 Individual, \$7.50 Family
 Annual Membership. Join at any time.
 Send dues to: Arnold Finklin, Treas.
 Rocky Mountaineers
 Box 4262
 Missoula, MT 59806

THE MOUNTAIN EAR is a publication of The Rocky Mountaineers. Officers are:

Art Gidel, President 543-6352
 Cindy Anderson, V.Pres. 549-2152
 Mary Jane Burns, Secty. 721-1276
 Arnold Finklin, Treas. 543-8705
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 131 West Main
 549-5542

ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS MEMBERSHIP LIST - FEBRUARY, 1985
 (Including Membership Renewal Dates)

Timothy Allwine	1830 $\frac{1}{2}$ Trail St., Missoula 59801		10/85
Mary Ambrose	1012 Washburn, Missoula 59802	543-7566	8/85
Cindy Anderson	802 Ronald, Missoula 59801	549-2152	4/85
Alice and Briggs Austin	4741 Sundown Road, Missoula 59801	542-2591	12/85
Myra Bair	519 Woodford, Missoula 59801	728-3616	5/85
Robert & Erik Benson	2325 Valley Drive, Missoula 59802	549-1426	11/85
Cyndy Braun	1301 Phillips, Missoula 59802	728-7808	2/85
Nancy Braun	682 North Avenue West, Missoula 59801	728-6846	12/85
Bonnie Brewer	Box 8861, Missoula 59807		8/85
Sue Brownlow	1871 E. Broadway, Missoula 59802	251-5229	1/86
Jim & Mary Jane Burns	104 Camelot Court, ^{#4} Missoula 59801	721-1276	4/85
Sandy Burton	303 Preston, Missoula 59801		8/85
Bill Burnett	1753 South 13th West, Missoula 59802		7/85
Dr. & Mrs. Chris Buzan	108 Bridger Court, Missoula 59803	251-4206	2/85
Jeanine Byrne	Cordova #27, 27361 N. Sierra Highway Canyon Country, CA 91351	(805) 252-2950	2/85
Beverly Chin & Art Gidel	2903 Highland Drive, Missoula 59802	543-6352	10/85
Lois & Joe Crepeau	2222 Woodlawn Avenue, Missoula 59801	728-5321	1/85
Marti Crane	105 Mary Avenue, Missoula 59801	728-9388	7/85
Charlotte Critchelow	112 Glenney, Hamilton, 59840	1-363-3156	10/85
Wm. & Nancy DeCou	Box 8674, Missoula 59807	728-5376	12/85
Susan C. Dodd	Box 526, Victor, 59875	1-642-3170	8/85
Jean Doerr	2217 Gilbert, Missoula 59802	721-7582	2/86
Ed Domer	Box 151, Seeley Lake, 59868	1-677-2715	2/85
Allison V. Easterling	1924 Dixon, Missoula 59801	728-5145	3/85
Arnold Finklin	P.O. Box 7795, Missoula 59807	543-8705	4/85
Ralph Flockerzi	1221 S. 5th St. West, Missoula 59801	549-9986	12/85
Dave Fried	1366 East Dickinson, Missoula 59802	721-4696	7/85
Andy Graybeal	625 Whitaker, Missoula 59803	542-2496	12/85
Joanne Hall	4614 Aspen Drive, Missoula, 59802	728-8167	4/85
Charles G. Hamma	625 N. 3rd Street West, Missoula 59802	549-0463	11/85
Clint Hansen	P.O. Box 2742, Missoula 59806		4/85
Wayne Hecker	6117 Hillview Way, Missoula 59803	251-4853	2/85
Ilona Hruska & Mark Swanson	630 Evans, Missoula 59801	721-3832	1/85
Joe Kipphut & Clarisse Landry	420 Woodford, Missoula 59801	721-1564	10/85
Ralph & Lillian Klawitter	104 39th Street, Missoula 59803	728-4778	4/85
Joe Knotek	109 West Central, Missoula 59801	549-2040	1/86
Mel Long	Box 7372, Missoula 59807		2/85
Joe Lauinger & Nancy Shrader	1117 Cooper, Missoula 59802	728-3334	1/86

ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS MEMBERSHIP, Cont.

Martha Laurence	919 Woodford, # 2, Missoula 59801	721-2874	4/85
Dave Line	1135 Whitaker Drive, Missoula 59803	549-8444	11/85
Sharon & Tom Lukomski	4237 Edward, Missoula 59801	728-5260	9/85
Ethel MacDonald	316 West Central, Missoula 59801	549-9722	11/85
Cindy Mish	1760 S. 8th St. West, Missoula 59801	728-1735	2/85
Ed Monnig & Jacelyn Wedell-Monnig	518 Evans, Missoula 59801	721-2707	1/86
Bill & Devvi Morgan	117 Wedgewood Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901	1-363-5339	11/85
Cindy Muller	2000 Montana St., Missoula 59801	721-3764	6/85
Dave Pengelly	339 Mount, Missoula 59801	728-6512	5/85
Phil Poulsen	P.O. Box 965, Kamiah, Idaho 83536		3/85
Jim & Doris Pullen	5345 Mockingbird Way, Missoula 59803	251-4787	12/85
Mary Rettig	3403 South 7th West, #1, Missoula 59801		2/85
Betty Rosenkranz	415 East Kent, Missoula 59801	543-5510	9/85
Sandra Satre	13 6th Street, Cheney, WA 99004	(509) 235-6068	1/86
Mary Ann Schipf	3100 Bancroft, Missoula 59801	728-2995	12/85
Andy Smith	1715 South 9th West, Missoula 59801	721-1385	12/85
Sara Stephens	500 South 5th West, Missoula 59801	728-4605	4/86
Florence Stone	200 Eddy Avenue, Apt. 3-#, Missoula 59801	728-1176	10/85
Bill Thomas	806 Poplar, Missoula 59801	549-0938	12/85
Virginia Vincent	907 Kern, Missoula 59801	543-8078	12/85
David Washburn	2316 West Crescent Drive, Missoula 59803	251-3087	10/85
Bill Weiland	9165 Keegan Trail, Missoula 59802	728-3530	6/85
Dan Weinstein	P.O. Box 429, Thompson Falls, 59873		10/85
Martha Yale	118 Livingston, Missoula, MT 59801	549-2163	4/85