



# Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS  
OF WESTERN MONTANA

December, 1985  
Vol. 24, No. 4/5

**DECEMBER MEETING:** Wednesday, December 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Montana Power Building  
1903 Russell, Missoula

**PROGRAM:** Caving in the eastern portion of the U.S.  
by Peter Dayton.

**Announcement:** The membership will vote on a replacement for Nancy Braun, Mountain Ear mailing clerk. Nancy takes the typed newsletter to the printer, folds, staples, stamps and mails it to members. Sharon Lukomski has been nominated for the office.

**Avalanche Seminar:** All members are encouraged to attend the annual avalanche seminar by Dudley Improta on January 9-10, Botany 301, University of Montana, 7-10 p.m. There is an optional field trip on Saturday near Point Six (back of Snow Bowl Ski Area) for intermediate or advanced skiers.

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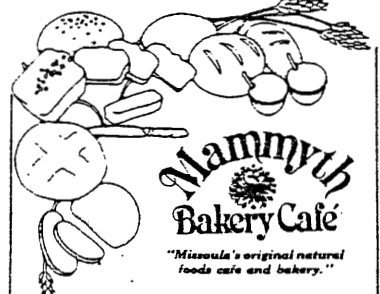
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## TRIP REPORTS

### Saturday, November 9, St. Mary's Peak, Bitterroot Range

Four early-season skiers glided on a good track from the parking lot just below 7000 feet to about 8500 feet. There had been numerous skiers in the area and several were spending the weekend in the lookout station on top. Although the snow level in the parking lot was only about 12 inches, there was 30 inches or more at our high point. The telemarking was absolutely outstanding for about 750 vertical on the east face near our highest point. Above 8500 feet the ridge was wind-swept with exposed rocks and scrub. Since November 9, the snow conditions have deteriorated to hard pack and the trail has been trashed out by a determined horseman.

The participants were Carol Anderson, Wayne Hecker, John Pierce and Art Gidel.

Art Gidel

### Saturday, November 16, Hoodoo Pass.

The road to Hoodoo Pass was plowed to the top. The two to three foot base was great with 18 inches of powder and a grand time was had by all.

John Pierce

### Saturday, November 23, Carlton Ridge near Lolo Peak

In spite of numbing cold, Dan Wienstein, John Pierce and Art Gidel began walking from the Mormon Peak trailhead at about 9:00 a.m. About 750 feet above the packing area we were able to begin skiing, reaching the ridge before noon. We skied part way down to Carlton Lake until the exposed rocks (and Art's cold feet) induced us to head back. The snow level on the ridge was about 24 inches, and the skiing was fair for about 1000 feet on the way down. We reached the car at 1:30 p.m.

Note that the McClain Creek road access from the Bitterroot side has been gated at the "point" at about 4700 feet. The Mormon Creek road will be gated at highway 12 about December 1.

On Sunday, Carol Anderson, Wayne Hecker, Dan Weinstein and Art Gidel skied in the Tom Beal area near the Powell Ranger Station on highway 12 in Idaho. Both the skiing and the temperature were improved from Saturday.

Art Gidel

### Thursday-Saturday, November 28-30, Little St. Joe Cabin

Carol Anderson, Wayne Hecker, Ann Gidel, Ken Platt and Art Gidel skied and log-jumped from the trailhead to the cabin on Thanksgiving Day. Breaking trail was tedious at best with a breakable, heavy crust making the going slow. On Friday, the group skied up the South ridge to the Little St. Joe summit. We returned to the cabin by the North ridge, enjoying good skiing near the top, but the same breakable crust lower down. The lower parts of this ridge and the traverse across the bowl were rocky, needing another two feet of snow for good skiing. The skiing above the cabin, below the "saddle", was poor. We returned to Missoula Saturday, a day earlier than planned.

Art Gidel

## NEW TRIPS

December 14 or 21, depending on snow conditions, Sweeney Peak, Bitterroot Range, strenuous, 4000 feet vertical or more, climbers (ropes or skins) advisable. Call Art Gidel at 543-6352 for details.

December 15, Granite Pass from Lolo Pass, moderate. Call Ralph Flockerzi at 549-9986 for January 3-5, ~~Friday~~, Sunday, annual new year trip to the Little St. Joe Cabin. Some members will probably make it a two day (Saturday-Sunday) trip. Call Ralph Flockerzi at 549-9986 for details.

Other trips will probably be scheduled. Call Art Gidel, 543-6352 or watch the "Around Missoula" column in the Missoulian. Early March, Annual 2-day Lost Trail Ski Outing.

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS ONE!!!!