

Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS
OF WESTERN MONTANA

NOVEMBER 1987

MONTHLY MEETING

Time and Place: 7:30 p.m. on November 9 at the Montana Power Building, 1903 Russell.

Program: The long-term weather report for the winter is out, and it looks like we aren't going to have any snow at all this winter, due to "El Nino," so you might as well kiss off the ski season and start planning some good float trips for this spring (preferably trips in areas where it does snow this winter, so there will be enough water in which to float a boat). In order to get you motivated enough to start mailing out applications for river permits, our program this month will be a slide show by Dave Ryan on a raft and dory trip down the Grand Canyon. The show will reportedly include such novelties as sequences of pictures shot by an automatic camera mounted in a waterproof box bolted to the front of a dory while going through major rapids. Be there or be square.

TRIP CALENDAR

Saturdays and Sundays in November: Bicycle rides every weekend until the snow gets too deep. Watch the Around Missoula column for times and places, and call Nancy, 728-5462, or Barbara, 728-5462, for details.

October 25-November 29: Hunting season. Call the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks for details.

November: Day ski trip to Saint Mary's Peak in the Bitterroot Mountains, the first weekend there is enough snow. Call Art Gidel, 543-6352, for more details. The editors of the Mountain Ear wish to publically state that there is absolutely no basis for the rumor that certain local ski shops have been paying Art to lead this trip.

November 21 or 22: Easy day ski trip, at a place to be determined by conditions and those who are interested in going. Call Martha Yale, 549-2163, for details.

Saturday, December 5: Ski trip in the Lolo Pass area. If anybody is interested we can stay and ski after dark by the light of a full moon. Call Ralph Flockerzi, 549-9986, or Barb Farrell, 728-5462, for details.

Thanksgiving or Christmas: If you are interested in going to the Gran Targhee and Jackson Hole ski areas either for five days at Thanksgiving or three days at Christmas, call Art Gidel at 543-6352.

TRIP REPORTS

Grey Wolf Lake - No Fish Basin, August 11-14: After being rained and snowed out in July, Joyce Flodberg and I went back for a second try in August. This time we made it, but still had rain and about eight inches of snow up high. We changed the route and went in by the Scenic Lakes. Just as we were about 500 feet below the summit of St. Mary's Peak a big snow and lightning storm hit the peak. The total whiteout made for some problems finding the right ridge for coming out, but we corrected our mistake and ended up at our car. A good trip. - Martha Yale.

St. Joe Cabin Maintenance Trip, Sunday, October 4: A crew of nine made short work of cutting, splitting, and stacking firewood for the coming ski season. The cabin and outhouse were in good shape, although a roofing job for the North side looks like next fall's project. According to the logbook, the cabin received only light use last winter until about March. From March through the end of April nearly every weekend was booked. In any case, most of the wood that was cut last year was cooked. The trail is in good shape and is cleared of deadfall nearly back to the cutoff point. We had the job wrapped up by about 1 p.m. and were back in town before dinner. Thanks to Carol Anderson, Wayne Hecker, Dave Pengelly, Martha Yale, Bret Doucett, and Steve Niday for a job well-done!

Trapper Peak - Mink Lake - Boulder Creek, October 18: I had originally intended to start this trip at the Boulder Creek trailhead and come out via the Trapper Peak trailhead, but came to my senses and decided to do the trip the opposite way. This

saved Bret Doucett and me 1,800 feet of elevation gain and allowed us to do the trip down and back in one day. Still, with an overall elevation gain of 4,100 feet, it was a healthy twelve hour hike for me. We reached the Boulder Creek trail in daylight and only had one hour of headlamp hiking. - Martha Yale.

Mount Harding, October 18: Art Gidel, Peter Dayton, Dan Weinstein, and Bret Doucett set out to climb Mount Harding in the Mission Mountains via its Northwest Ridge on a beautiful indian summer day. The mountain looks very steep, but this route is only a scramble until the last few hundred feet. The climb starts with several thousand feet of bushwacking up the steep, brushy slopes which lead to the ridge. Once on the ridge the slope is more gradual and the vegetation more open, but we encountered several inches to a foot of snow. Bret had climbed the pitch leading to the summit free in the summer, but the snow on all of the loose rock made the climbing a bit more difficult. We had ropes and protection and scratched at it for a while, but eventually wimped out and headed back down after checking out the view to the East. We didn't make the summit, but we had a fun day. - Peter Dayton

Missouri River, October 31-November 1: Pretty much on the spur of the moment, Colleen Hunter, Mike Hillygus and I decided to float a section of the Wild and Scenic Missouri River and do a little bird and deer hunting. We did the section from Loma Ferry to Virgelle Ferry in two canoes, camping on an island Saturday night. This section of river is only about 21 miles long, but we spent a lot of time messing around on various islands, and ended up paddling out by moonlight. The weather was warm and pleasant, and the river rolls along pretty well, although it is completely flat. We saw lots of upland birds, including a flock of about fifteen turkeys, but essentially no ducks or geese. We had a big Pheasant feast Saturday night, and I bagged a mule deer buck. It was a most enjoyable fall trip. - Peter Dayton

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Address: _____

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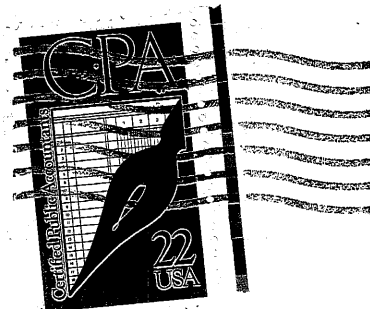
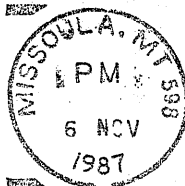
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