



# Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS  
OF WESTERN MONTANA

January 1988

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## MONTHLY MEETING

Time and Place: 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 13, at the Montana Power Building, 1903 Russell, Missoula.

Program: Hey, skiing is fun, but remember how tired you were last spring of snow, snow, snow? Now is the time to start planning a spring trip to warmer regions. In order to motivate and inspire you, Peter Dayton will present a slide show on a six-day backpacking trip in the spectacular Maze area of the Canyonlands National Park in Utah. In the course of the presentation, he will reveal the location of the sacred gerbil mating grounds, and the secret routes by which they are reached. Don't miss it.

February's Program: Steve Sheriff will present a slide show on a three-month expedition to the Dufek Massif in Antarctica. Don't miss it either.

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## TRIP CALENDAR

We have lots of trips scheduled, but would like to encourage more people to schedule easy and laid-back trips.

January 10, Sweeney Peak: Ski trip up Sweeney Peak in the Bitterroots. A strenuous trip with 4,800 feet of vertical gain. Call Art Gidel, 543-6352, for details.

January 16, Homer Youngs Peak: Ski Trip up Homer Youngs Peak (10621 feet) in the Bitterroots southwest of Wisdom. If road access is poor the trip will be rescheduled as an overnight trip later in the spring, and we will hit some other new and interesting peak in the area instead. Call Peter Dayton, 728-8101, for details.

January 17, Lolo Pass Area: A moderate ski trip to the Lolo Pass or Granite Pass Area west of Missoula. Call Ralph Flockerzi, 549-9986 or 728-5462, for details.

January 23, Boulder Point: Backcountry telemarking on open slopes above the Boulder Point Lookout, which is southwest of Darby. A moderate trip. Call Ralph Flockerzi, 549-9986 or 728-5462, for details.

January 24: A moderate trip to some democratically selected location. Call Ralph Flockerzi, 549-9986 or 728-5462, for details.

January 31, Gash Point: Ski trip up Gash Point, which is west of Stevensville in the Bitterroot Mountains. A moderately strenuous trip, but not particularly difficult. We are going to keep scheduling trips up there until it isn't snowing and we can see the view. Call Dave Pengelly, 728-6512, for details.

January 30-31, Little St. Joe Cabin: Overnight trip to the club's cabin on Little St. Joe Peak in the Bitterroots. Call Dan Weinstein, 542-0283, for details.

February 7, Stuart Peak: Ski trip up Stuart Peak in the Rattlesnake wilderness area. Call Joe Knotek, 549-2040, for details.

February 8, Koch Peak: Strenuous Ski trip and climb up Koch Peak in the Bitterroots. Now that Steve has finally succeeded in locating this mountain in the summer, he wants to see if he can find it in the winter. Call Steve Niday, 721-3790, for details.

February 17, Wisherd Ridge: A moderate ski trip up Wisherd Ridge, which is northeast of Missoula. Call Dan Weinstein, 542-0283, for details.

February 21, Boulder Peak: Ski trip up Boulder Peak in the Bitterroots, southwest of Darby. May change the trip to Eagle Pass or Mount Harding in the Missions if the conditions aren't attractive. Call Art Gidel, 543-6352, for details.

February 27-28: Overnight ski trip up Trapper Peak in the Bitterroots southwest of Darby. Not too difficult but a grunt. Call Dan Weinstein, 542-0283, for details.

Sometime in March: Overnight ski trip. Call Joe Knotek, 549-2040, for details.

Mount Saint Helens Trip: Anybody interested in climbing Mount St. Helens and touring the crater, probably sometime between late February (when the days get a bit longer) and early April, is invited to contact Peter Dayton, 728-8101. The Park Service finally began to allow people to climb the mountain last May, but the crater and the zone to the north of it will remain closed except when there is snow on the ground. This winter will be the first time that members of the public have been allowed in the crater. It should be quite a trip - the crater walls are cliffs about two thousand feet high, and the lava dome is presently about 900 feet high. The trip should take five (possibly four) days from start to finish, and would involve two nights of camping on the mountain. (Subject to cancellation in case of volcanic eruption).

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#### TRIP REPORTS

Hoodoo Pass, December 20. On Saturday, December 20, Carol Anderson, Beverly Chin, Peter Dayton, Bret Doucett, Ralph Flockerzi, Art Gidel, Dave Pengelly, Wayne Hecker, Martha Yale, and two other people engaged in a little laid-back skiing at Hoodoo Pass, which is in the Great Burn area south of Superior. After piling all eleven people into Wayne's pickup, we were able to drive to within five miles of the pass. Most of the group spent the afternoon telemarking on an open slope about half a mile from the pass, but a few people went up to the pass itself. There was about 1.5 feet of great powder, and skiing was excellent. - Peter Dayton.

Boulder Peak, December 27, 1987: On December 27, Steve Niday and Dave Pengelly skied and hiked to the summit of Boulder Peak (9804 feet), which is southwest of Darby. Since last year's trip was aborted due to a small avalanche on the ridge between Boulder Point and Boulder Peak, we decided to try a more direct route. We left the highway at the West Fork Ranger Station and took the Forest Service Road to the 5840 point on the ridge south of Ward Creek. From there we skied straight up the ridgeline to a high point (8000+ feet) at the northwest end of Ward Creek. From there we dropped into the basin below where we started the avalanche last year. This year's snow conditions are much more stable than last year's. We found a fair route out of the basin onto the ridge which forms the southeast ridge of Boulder Peak. From that point on it is a simple ski/hike to the summit. We reached the top at 2:30, and were back at the vehicle by 4:30 (p.m., not a.m.!). The snow was great on north exposures but crusted on south exposures.

For future reference, someone might want to consider a trip that takes advantage of the large open south flank of Boulder Peak. On a clear day like we had, the views to the west and north are spectacular. - Dave Pengelly

ROCKY MOUNTAINEER MEMBERSHIP LIST  
(Revised Jan. 1988)

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	RENEWAL DATE
1. Wilmet, Bill	us University 59801	543-2905	11/88
1. Arguimbau, Carol M.	P.O. Box 2594, Msla. 59806	721-3254	11/88
2. Arguimbau, Ely	1027 N. Jackson, Helena, MT. 59601		5/88
3. Austin, Alice & Briggs	4741 Sundown Rd., Msla. 59301	542-2591	12/87
4. Bantanian, Suzanne	152 Jason Ct., Msla. 59802	549-5690	11/88
5. Delknap, Scott	P.O. Box 2541, Msla. 59806		5/88
6. Dixby, Larry & Jan	Melita Is. Rd., Big Arm, MT. 59910	1-849-5322	
7. Benson, Robt. & Erik	2325 Valley Drive, Msla. 59307	549-1426	11/37
8. Bond, Deborah M.	9355 Singletree Lane, Msla. 59303	251-3077	11/88
9. Braun, Nancy	683 North Ave. West, Msla. 59801	728-6846	12/88
10. Burnett, Edwin	1520 Garfield, Msla. 59801	549-5496	11/87
11. Chapman, Mark	228 N. Higgins Ave., Msla. 59801	549-9934	7/88
12. Chin, Beverly	2903 Highland Drive, Msla. 59802	543-6352	10/33
13. Cunningham, Bill	15990 Mill Cr. Rd. Frenchtown, MT. 59834		5/88
14. Dayton, Peter	1330 Lower Lincoln Hills Dr., Msla. 59802	728-8101	12/38
15. Doerr, Jean	15 Charis Lane, Msla 59802		2/38
16. Doucette, Bret	1819 S. 8th St. W., Msla. 59801	543-4927	1/89
17. Easterling, Allison V.	1924 Dixon, Msla. 59801	728-5145	3/88
18. Farrell, Barbara	520 W. Alder, Msla. 59801	728-5462	8/88
19. Finklin, Arnold	P.O. Box 7795, Msla. 59807	543-8705	4/38
20. Flockerzi, Ralph	1221 S. 5th St. W., Msla. 59801	549-9986	12/83
21. Flodberg, Joyce	520 Plymouth, Msla. 59801	543-4633	11/38
22. Gidel, Art	2903 Highland Drive, Msla. 59802	543-6352	10/88
23. Hamma, Charles G.	625 N. 3rd St. W., Msla. 59801	549-0463	11/88
24. Hecker, Wayne	6117 Hillview Way, Msla. 59303	251-4853	2/88
25. Hunter, Colleen	1330 Lower Lincoln Hills Dr., Msla 59802	728-3101	2/88
26. Jarka, Hannes	741½ Woodford, Msla. 59801	728-3842	10/38
27. Kipput, Joe	420 Woodford, Msla. 59801	721-1564	1/88
Landry, Clarisse			
28. Knotek, Joe	109 W. Central, Msla. 59801	549-2040	1/88
29. Long, Mel	P.O. Box 7372, Msla. 59801		3/88
30. Lawrence, Martha	919 Woodford #2, Msla. 59801	721-2874	2/88
31. Line, Dave	1135 Whitaker Drive, Msla. 59803	549-8444	11/88
32. Logan, Robert	602 Blaine, Msla. 59801	543-8718	2/88
33. Lukonski, Sharon & Tom	4237 Edward, Msla. 59801	728-5260	9/88
34. MacDonald, Ethel	316 W. Central, Msla. 59801	549-9722	1/88
35. Monnig, Ed & Jackie Wedell	518 Evans Ave., Msla. 59801	721-2707	2/88
36. Morgan, Bill & Devi	117 Wedgewood Lane, Kalispell, Mt. 59901	1-752-5047	11/88
37. Miday, Steve & Patricia	Twohig P.O. Box 5193, Msla. 59806	721-3790	2/88
38. Parodi, Jean	220 S. 5th St. E. #2, Msla. 59801	728-6624	10/88
39. Pengelly, Dave	339 Mount Ave., Msla. 59801	728-6512	5/89
40. Pierce, John	737 Locust Ave., Msla 59801	542-2640	2/88
41. Rossignol, Richard & Bobbie	P.O. Box 522, Lolo, MT. 59847	273-2415	2/88
42. Ryan, Dave	519 Whitney Lane, Msla. 59801	549-3612	11/88
43. Shrader, Nancy	1117 Cooper St., Msla, 59802	728-3334	2/88
44. Sillars, Alan	208 Pattee Canyon Dr., Msla. 59303		5/88
45. Siple, Greg & June	717 DeFoe, Msla., 59802	542-2607	3/88
46. Stanton, Laurie & Paul	910 6th St. W. Riverside, Msla 59302	258-6728	2/38
47. Stephans, Sara	500 S. 5th St. W., Msla. 59801	543-7561	11/88
48. Stone, Florence	200 Eddy Ave. Apt. 3-E, Msla. 59801	728-1176	10/88
49. Thomas, Bill	306 Poplar, Msla. 59301	549-0938	11/88
50. Ullrich, Jim	409 Curtis, Msla 59801	721-5629	11/88
51. Wagsland, Rob & Carla	266 St. John's, Lolo, MT. 59847	273-2808	12/87
52. Washburn, David	2316 W. Crescent Drive, Msla, 59803	251-3037	12/87
53. Weinstein, Dan	507 Sherwood, Msla, 59802		11/88
54. Yale, Martha	118 Livingston Ave., Msla. 59801	549-2163	4/88
55. York, James & Kathy	938 Lilac Street, Msla. 59802		11/88
56. Rattig, MARY	3403 S. 7th W Apt #1 59801	721-1491	1/89
57. Thomas, Roy	124 N. 2nd St 59802		1/89

Little St. Joe Cabin, January 1-3, 1988. On Friday, January 1, Beverly Chin, Art Gidel, Martha Yale, Wayne Hecker, and Ralph Flockerzi enjoyed an easy trip into the Rocky Mountaineers' cabin on Little St. Joe Peak in the Bitterroots near Florence. On Saturday, January 2, they were joined by Bill Wilmot and Carol Anderson. everybody enjoyed the skiing and had a great dinner Saturday night. The menu was turkey (Art and Bev), baked potatoes with butter and sour cream (Ralph), tossed salad with dressing (Bill), cranberries (Martha), chocolate mouse cake and cheese cake (Wayne), and wine (Carol). -Ralph Flockerzi

Scapegoat Mountain, January 1-2, 1988: To start the New Year off right, Steve Niday and Dave Pengelly skied into the Scapegoat Wilderness Area and climbed Scapegoat Mountain. We left Missoula early on New Year's Day and drove to Benchmark. There wasn't much snow, only about six inches at the trailhead. We left the car at 10:45 a.m. and skied up the Straight Creek Trail. Snowmobiles had packed the first mile, but after that the only tracks we saw were made by wildlife. Although the trail is primarily through heavy timber, we got occasional glimpses of the surrounding mountains. We were able to average about 2.5 miles per hour, breaking trail in rotation. We arrived at the Green Fork Guard Station, which is about 10.5 miles from the trailhead, around 2:30 p.m. Rather than ski any farther with our full packs, we decided to camp near the station and to go farther the next day. On January 2nd we got started by daylight and headed up Green Fork Creek. The trail was fairly obvious for the first couple of miles. Then it heads up the creek bottom, which has been burned, and we lost it for the remainder of the trip. After 2.5 miles of bushwacking up the creek bottom and through heavy timber, we took off our skis and scrambled up through the headwall at the head of Green Fork Creek. This headwall is part of the northeast face of Scapegoat Mountain, which extends for seven or more miles, presenting a spectacular view from below. The Halfmoon Park area, which is just east of Green Fork Creek, is reputed to be one of the most beautiful in all of the Bob Marshall/Scapegoat complex. Once we got above the headwall, we left our skis and walked the remaining 1300 vertical feet to the summit, which is at 9202 feet. Except for a few places, the top was blown bare. Judging by the wind we had on top, it would be pretty difficult for any snow to even hit the ground, much less stick. After a brief stop for photos, we scurried down to our skis, slid down through the headwall, and skied back to our camp. Since we arrived so early, 2:45 p.m., we decided to pack up and head out. With a trail broken, we were able to ski out the 10.5 miles in 2.5 hours, arriving at the car by dark. After a stop in Augusta for dinner and a call home so we wouldn't surprise our families, we made it home by 10:00 p.m.

This trip would probably be better in the spring, when the snow is a bit more consolidated and the temperatures are a bit warmer. To somebody that wanted to do the ski but not the climb, a trip over to Halfmoon Park would undoubtedly be nice. - Dave Pengelly

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

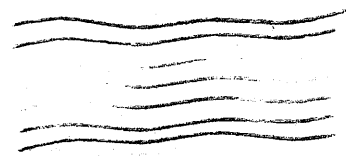
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail a Check payable to  
"Rocky Mountaineers" to  
Arnold Finklin, P.O. Box  
Missoula, Montana 59807

Check one: Individual (\$6.00/year) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$8.00/year) \_\_\_\_\_

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