

# Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS  
OF WESTERN MONTANA

March, 1988

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## MONTHLY MEETING

Time and Place: 7:30 P.M. on Wednesday, March 9, 1988, at the Montana Power Building at 1903 Russell Street in Missoula.

Program: If you read "Outside" Magazine, you will probably remember a recent cover story about a well-known mountaineer's attempt to climb Mount McKinley in Alaska last spring. It was sort of a "Fear and Loathing Below Denali Pass" sort of article. Well, Art Gidel, President Emeritus of the Rocky Mountaineers, also tried to climb Mount McKinley last spring with a friend from Arizona, and has been prevailed upon to give a slide show about the trip. So come see slides of the very things that you read about in "Outside". A highlight of the show will be several rolls of blank slides, and some pungent comments on the subjects of point and shoot cameras. (Art's camera, or pieces of it, can currently be viewed on and in the north wall of his living room). Fortunately, Art's companion also had a camera, so not only do you get to see a complete slide show, but you get to see lots of pictures of Art. Don't miss it if you can avoid it (whatever that means).

April Program: It looks like the University of Montana's Outdoor Resources Center has done it to us again. They scheduled a slide show by Ken Warren about his famous ill-fated 1987 raft expedition on the Yangtze River in China on the same day as our April meeting, and everybody, including the speaker, has again requested that we move our meeting. Thus we will probably move the April meeting to the third Wednesday of the month, April 20. This is what your editor was griping about last month when he said that we would see Art's slide show in April, "assuming nothing better comes up." The comment was not a slur on Art's slide show, it was a complaint about the conflicts that have been occurring.

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## TRIP CALENDAR

Saturday and Sunday, March 12-13, Little Saint Joe Cabin. Overnight trip to the club's cabin on Little Saint Joe Peak in the Bitterroots. Trip limited to eight. Call Alan Sillars, 721-6279, or Ralph Flockerzi, 728-5462, for details.

Sunday, March 13: Trip to be announced. Call Dave Pengelly, 728-6512, for details

Saturday, March 26, Grey Wolf: Ski trip and climb up the south side of Grey Wolf Peak in the South Mission Mountains. Crampons, ice axe, and basic mountaineering skills required. Call Art Gidel, 543-6352, for details.

Friday-Monday, April 1-4, Mount Saint Helens. Trip to climb Mount Saint Helens and visit the crater. Leave Friday afternoon or evening and drive to the area, trudge in Saturday and camp, visit the scenery on Sunday, trudge out and drive home on Monday. Not a particularly difficult trip, with no more than 5,000 feet vertical rise, so don't be intimidated. Call Peter Dayton, 728-8101, for details.

Saturday or Sunday, April 2 or 3, Bass Lake. Ski and/or hike up Bass Creek and try for Bass Lake. Call Martha Yale, 549-2163, for details.

April, El Capitan. Ski trip and climb of El Capitan (in the Bitterroots, not Yosemite). Date depends on snow conditions, but tentatively April 16-17. Call Art Gidel, 543-6352, for details.

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TRIP REPORTS

Boulder Peak, February 21, 1988. On February 21st, 1988, Ralph Flockerzi, Jim Pizzarelli, Bill Cunningham, Bruce Farling, Al Sillars, and Dave Pengelly attempted to ski up Boulder Peak by the same route that Dave and Steve Niday followed in late December. Several unexpected events as well as high winds and heavy wet snow cut the trip short. We stopped in Hamilton to awaken some people whose chimney was spewing flames - they were quite unconcerned. Then, a whitetail doe jumped out of the bushes and bounced off Dave's car, rolled down the highway a couple of times, and took off into the brush, apparently more scared than hurt. She didn't even leave a dent in the vehicle. Once we got to the West Fork Ranger Station, we tried to drive up the road, knowing that four-wheel drives can go anywhere. They actually did for about half a mile. After turning around and parking the vehicles, we finally got started by 9:00. At noon we reached a ridgetop at about 8,000+ feet, due south of Boulder Peak. The wind was so strong it was actually blowing people over. After a few attempts at pictures, we turned around and headed out. Al broke a pole and Bruce's boot was coming apart, so combined with heavy wet snow and high winds, it didn't seem prudent to proceed any further. The ski out was fairly good under the conditions. - Dave Pengelly

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Arnold Finklin, Treasurer - 543-8705  
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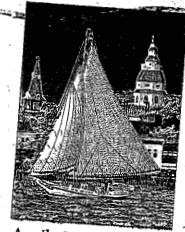
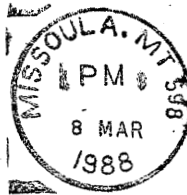
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