



# Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS  
OF WESTERN MONTANA

April, 1988

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## MONTHLY MEETING

Time and Place: 7:30 P.M. on Wednesday, April 20, 1988, at the Montana Power Building at 1903 Russell Street in Missoula. NOTE THAT THE MEETING IS NOT ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH; IT HAS BEEN MOVED TO THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH TO AVOID A CONFLICT WITH A SLIDE SHOW BY KEN WARREN WHICH IS BEING OFFERED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA OUTDOOR RESOURCES CENTER.

Program: Mike Johnson, the winner of numerous national, regional, and state canoe racing championships and a triathlete, will give a talk on canoe racing. Come find out what canoe racing is all about and how it is done from a word-class competitor.

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## TRIP CALENDAR

Saturday-Sunday, April 9-10, 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.

April 14, 21, and 28 and May 5, Thursday Evening Mountain Bike Rides: They're starting up again! Watch the "Around Missoula" column for times and meeting places, or call Ralph Flockerzi or Barb Farrell, 728-5462, 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.

Saturday-Sunday, April 23 or 24, Ski Trip: One or two day ski touring trip. Call Dan Weinstein, 542-0283, for details.

Sunday, May 1, St. Mary's Peak: Ski(?) trip up St. Mary's peak in the Bitterroot Mountains. Call Dan Weinstein, 542-0283, for details.

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## TRIP REPORTS

Little Saint Joe Cabin, March 12-13: Ralph Flockerzi, Robert Logan, and Al Sillars made an overnight trip to the Rocky Mountaineers' cabin on Little Saint Joe Peak. The trip started slow, as Robert had to be pulled from bed and forced to come along. The delay worked to our advantage, because by the time we got underway at 10:30, another party had broken trail all the way to the summit. We made one trip to the summit on Saturday and two the following day. The views were spectacular and the skiing was good, with several inches of fresh powder on top of a seemingly stable base. By the second trip down on Sunday, however, the snow had become windblown and crusty much of the way down. Other than the wind, the weather on Sunday was ideal - mild and sunny. On the final three miles out we followed the tracks of an off-road vehicle down the road from

near the summer trail head. The icy ruts provided a fast, out-of-control ride down somewhat like an Olympic luge run. All in all, it was an excellent trip. - Al Sillars.

Bitterroot River, March 20: Colleen Hunter and Peter Dayton broke in a new canoe with an easy float trip on the Bitterroot River starting at the Woodside Bridge at Corvallis. The river was low and slow, and braided around in wide expanses of gravel. This actually made the trip a bit more interesting, as we had to do more maneuvering. There were a number of sweepers, logs, and similar obstacles to avoid, and we portaged a large diversion dam with several feet of drop. Don't try to run that baby! The weather was warm, and it was a pleasant and laid-back way to begin the floating season. - Peter Dayton.

OFFICERS

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