



Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS
OF WESTERN MONTANA

January, 1989

MONTHLY MEETING

Time and Place: 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 11, 1989, in the Montana Power Building at 1903 Russell Street in Missoula.

Program: Pat Caffrey, the author of The Climber's Guide to Montana and a climber with a substantial amount of international expeditionary experience, will give a slide show on a climb of Aconcagua in the Argentine Andes, which at 22,835 feet high is the tallest peak in South America. However, he says he will also throw his slide show on Mount Vinson, the tallest mountain in Antarctica, into the car, in case we would rather watch it. It might be worth taking Pat to somebody's house, plying him with liquor and pizza, and prevailing on him to show the Antarctica slide show after the meeting - after all, unless you are willing to take out a \$20,000 second mortgage on your house to finance the trip, like Pat did, you will probably never get to see Mount Vinson in person.

Next Month's Program: The program for the February 8th meeting will be a presentation on avalanches by Bill Putnam, an avalanche expert and hydrologist with the Forest Service who moved to town a few months ago.

TRIP CALENDAR

Saturday, January 14, Sweeny Peak: A moderately strenuous ski mountaineering trip up Sweeny Peak in the Bitterroot Mountains. Call Art Gidel, 543-6352, for details.

Sunday, January 15, Stuart Peak: A moderately strenuous ski mountaineering trip up Stuart Peak in the Rattlesnake Wilderness Area. Call Joe Knotek, 549-2040, for details.

Sunday, January 22, Gash Point: A moderately strenuous ski mountaineering trip up Gash Point in the Bitterroot Mountains near Victor. Great bowl skiing and skiing through open subalpine larch slopes up on the top. However, based on past experience, the mountain will be completely fogged in, and we won't get even a glimpse of the spectacular views. Call Dave Pengelly, 728-6512, for details.

Saturday, January 28, Squaw Peak: A fairly long but not too difficult tour to the top of Squaw Peak, which is northwest of Missoula. Call Ralph Flockerzi, 549-9986, for details.

Saturday, February 4, Daly Peak. A moderately strenuous ski mountaineering trip up Daly Peak in the south part of the Scapegoats near Ovando and Coopers Lake. Last time we tried this mountain it was socked in and we didn't see much, but it looks like there should be some good open-slope and tree skiing up there. Call Peter Dayton, 728-8101, for details.

Sat-Sun, February 11-12, Tweedy Peak. Moderately strenuous overnight ski trip to climb Tweedy Peak (11,154), the tallest mountain in the East Pioneers, which are northwest of Dillon. Or, depending on snow conditions and the interests of

participants, we could do a trip across the range from the Dillon area to Elkhorn Hot Springs, climbing other peaks on the way. There are thirteen peaks over 10,000 feet high in the East Pioneers. Call Peter Dayton, 728-8101, for details.

Thurs-Sun, March 23-26, Selkirk Mountains: Ski trip to the Creston Nordic Club's large cabin in the Selkirk Mountains in British Columbia, about 80 miles north of Sand Point. Access is easy, as the cabin is only about 800 feet in altitude above a major road, and the area usually has good backcountry snow conditions, with copious amounts of stable snow. Excellent telemarking and touring opportunities are available from the cabin. Call Dan Weinstein, 549-6844, for details.

Christmas, 1989, Mount Kilimanjaro, Kenya: If you would like to be featured in the slide show on the highest mountain on each of the seven continents that Pat Caffrey appears to be preparing, you can join Pat on a two-week trip to Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa. He estimates a total cost, door to door, of about \$3,000.00. Call Pat at 677-2661 for details.

TRIP REPORTS

Boulder Peak, December 18, 1988: Dave Pengelly, Ralph Flockerzi, Peter Dayton, Steve Niday, Art Gidel, and Dan Weinstein crammed into Art's Wagoner and drove down southwest of Darby to climb Boulder Peak in the Bitterroots, which is the mountain to the south of Trapper Peak. The weather was uncharacteristically good, with clear blue sky in all directions (upward, at least). We followed the route which Pengelly and Niday successfully pushed last year. This route basically goes up the spur ridge to the southwest of Boulder Point and the Boulder Point Lookout. Last year Dave and Steve went right up the nose of the ridge and ended up doing some rock climbing, but we went up a couloir a bit to the west of the nose and encountered no rock. The south side of the mountain is primarily a long, fairly open slope much like the south side of Trapper Peak. The most significant avalanche hazard is in the couloir we went up and on the steep open slopes just above it. After a bit the slope becomes more moderate, and should provide some outstanding skiing in good snow conditions. Unfortunately we encountered pretty mediocre snow, and had to take off our skis and walk the last half mile or so, as the wind had exposed the rocks on the ridge. However, the views made up for the cruddy snow. - Peter Dayton.

Little Saint Joe Cabin, December 31, 1988-January 2, 1989. Art Gidel, Beverly Chin, Dave Pengelly, Ralph Flockerzi, Peter Dayton, and Dan Weinstein, bearing a turkey dinner, headed up to the club's cabin on Little Saint Joe in the Bitterroots for the traditional New Year's Eve ski trip. We were able to drive up to about half a mile from the trail head, and made it up to the cabin in plenty of time to get in a couple of runs to the top of the mountain that afternoon. The snow was outstanding, with about a foot of new powder. When we got back to the cabin we found that we had been joined by Pat Clark (the photographer who did the "Montana - Land of Beginnings" poster) and Kathy Inman, both of Missoula. They had hiked and skied all of the way up from the campground. We welcomed them with open arms, particularly as they were carrying two (2) bottles of champagne. Dinner was outstanding, and after sitting around in the dark for a couple of hours telling tall tales and asking "what time is it?" every ten minutes, we went to bed early. There was about four inches of new snow on New Year's Day, so conditions were again excellent, and we took a number of runs. Art managed to break a rivited-on bail on one of his ski bindings, and ended up borrowing Beverly's skis for the rest of the day. Dave wimped out and headed down that evening, but everybody else stayed for a second night and took two more runs before packing it in. The trip out was straight forward and without heroics, as everybody wisely put on ropes and walked out through the dense trees below the cabin. Yet another memorable New Year's Eve trip to the cabin. - Peter Dayton. (1305d)

THE MOUNTAIN EAR
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11/89

Mountaineers try to improve on perfection

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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

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