



Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

January 1991

MEETING

Time and Place: Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the Montana Power Building at 1903 Russell Street in Missoula. The January meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 9, 1991.

Program: Pat Caffrey, a Seeley Lake climber who appears to be getting within striking distance of climbing the tallest mountain on all seven continents, will give a slide show and presentation on a trip to Mount Logan, which at 19,000 some feet is the tallest peak in Canada, and the second tallest peak in North America. The mountain is apparently also one of the largest, if not the largest, mountains in the world by volume. Pat's previous talks have all been spicy and well received, and we expect no less from this appearance before the Rocky Mountaineers.

TRIP CALENDAR

General Contacts for Skiing. If you want to go backcountry skiing some weekend, but can't make (or don't like) the scheduled trips, call Dave Pengelly (728-6512), Peter Dayton (728-8101), Art Gidel (543-6352), or Ralph Flockerzi (549-7150). Chances are good that they can either suggest or organize an unscheduled trip. New skiers are particularly invited to contact these guys.

Lolo Pass Trips. Ralph Flockerzi expects to go on a number of easy trips to the Lolo Pass area during the month of January. The trips will involve track skiing and easy backcountry skiing and telemarking. Call Ralph at 549-7150 for details.

Saturday, January 12, Sweeney Peak: Ski trip up Sweeney Peak, near Florence in the Bitterroot Mountains. Good scenery, safe terrain, and lots of chances to see if you can turn faster than the trees. Call Peter Dayton at 728-8101 for details.

Sat-Sun, January 26-27, ski mountaineering. Steve Niday will lead a two or three day ski mountaineering trip to a location to be determined by snow conditions and the interests of participants. Call Steve at 721-3790 for details.

February, Little St. Joe Cabin Trip. Since all the trips to the Club's cabin on Little St. Joe which were planned for Christmas and New Years got squelched by frigid weather, Ralph Flockerzi will lead an overnight trip to the cabin sometime during February. These trips are a good way to get into winter camping, as their character is somewhere between camping out in a tent and staying in a real cabin. Good telemarking is available on the upper slopes of Little St. Joe. Call Ralph at 549-7150 and let him know when you would like to go.

February or March, Hylite Ridge Trip. A three or four day trip down a high, undulating ridge in the Gallatin Range south of Bozeman. The trip got cancelled last year due to hazardous snow conditions, but we're going to try it again this year, by golly. Access will be easier this year because the road up to Hylite Reservoir is going to be plowed all winter. Call Peter Dayton at 728-8101 for details.

March 9-16, Beckler Canyon, Yellowstone Park. A six day, five night, 40-50 mile ski trip from old Faithful down the Beckler Canyon out the southwest corner of Yellowstone Park to Ashton, Idaho. The route crosses the Continental Divide three times in generally easy rolling terrain, and then heads down the canyon. The group will probably lay over one or two days at hot springs or geyser basins. Call Ed Monnig at 721-2707 for details.

April-May, Mount St. Elias. A three-plus week expedition to the St. Elias Range in Alaska. Call Steve Niday at 721-3790 for more information.

TRIP REPORTS

Lolo Peak (sort of), December 16, 1990. Ralph Flockerzi, Steve Niday, and Dave Pengelly skied up to Lolo Peak. The weather was fairly nasty - high winds, low visibility. We opted for climbing to the saddle below the peak and then made the best of the skiing. The snow was fine in places, crusted over in others. On the way out Ralph took an extra run down off Carlton Ridge towards Mormon Creek. Steve and Dave wimped out. Except for four snowmobilers, we had the place to ourselves. - Dave Pengelly

Gash Point, December 30, 1990. Peter Dayton, Ralph Flockerzi, Art Gidel, Steve Niday, and Dave Pengelly took a break from area skiing and headed up Gash Point, which is located in the Bitterroot Mountains west of Victor, for a day of skiing. Nice things about this trip are that the road is well plowed to within about 3,800 feet of the ridgetop, access to the top can be gained by a safe and gradual ridge, and the upper part of the ridge contains an open bowl and some great open-tree skiing. Unfortunately, on this trip we encountered heavy wind-deposited powder, temperatures around zero, and high winds near the top of the ridge. These were not particularly nice things. We pooped out a few hundred feet below the summit and headed down. Due to the heavy snow conditions our descent was slow, although sometimes not quite slow enough. At one point I felt compelled to deploy my new Moonstone hi-tech self-arrest system, which involved snagging the elastic at the bottom of my parka on a handy branch. A good time was had by all. - Peter Dayton.

St. Mary's Peak, December something-or-other. Beverly Chin, Peter Dayton, Art Gidel, Ralph Flockerzi, and Barb Farrell were lured away from their television sets by sunny and attractive weather, and decided to go four-wheeling on St. Mary's Peak in the Bitterroots. Snow conditions became challenging as we gained altitude; about a foot and a half of tire-rutted snow, with a snowmobile track for added interest. After forcing Art's Itzuzu Trooper as far as it would go in four wheel drive with bare tires, we put on chains and continued up the road. After an exhilarating ride in which we pushed the vehicle to the limits of its capability, we bogged down. Then came the real challenge - turning around. After about an hour of excavating, backing, rocking, and turning, we finally got the nose pointed back down the road. At one point a trapper passed us on a snowmobile, and let us know, with a sneer, that he thought we were pretty dumb to be driving that far up the road. The man was obviously not a real outdoorsperson. After taking a break for a bit of skiing up towards the lookout, we returned to the car for an enjoyable ride home. - Peter Dayton

2386d

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Mail a check payable to
"Rocky Mountaineers" to
Arnold Finklin, P.O. Box
4262, Missoula, Montana

Check one: Individual (\$6.00/year) _____ Family (\$8.00/year) _____ 59807
