

# Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

December, 1991

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## 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 December meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 11.

Program: The program will be a slide show by Jim Wilson, the owner of Pipestone Mountaineering in Butte, on climbing in the northwest. Jim is an active rock and ice climber. There is no truth to the rumor that he will be giving away free samples from his store at the meeting.

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## TRIP CALENDAR

December-January, Float Permit Applications. While it may seem like the wrong time of year to be thinking about floating, remember that this is the season to apply for boating permits, like for the Selway River, the Middle and Main Salmon Rivers, Hells Canyon and other major wilderness floats. If you win the lottery and glom onto a permit, but don't know anything about floating, just contact your newsletter editor, who will be glad to put you in contact with many friendly and helpful boaters.

Sunday, December 15. Art Gidel will lead a moderately difficult backcountry ski trip up Sweeney Peak in the Bitterroots, a bit south of Lolo. Call Art at 543-6352 for details.

Christmas or New Year Weekend. Scheduling trips at Christmas and New Years will be a bit awkward this year, since both fall on Wednesdays. Nevertheless, Art Gidel would like to schedule a two or three day trip to the Club's cabin on Little Saint Joe (despite the new Forest Service road closure) over Christmas or New Years. Call Art at 543-6352 about scheduling and details.

January or February, Mt. Cleveland Traverse. Steve Niday is interested in organizing a five-day winter ski tour in Glacier Park, with an optional climb of Mt. Cleveland if conditions are good. The trip would start at Waterton Lakes, go over Stoney Indian Pass, and come out the Belly River. Those not interested in attempting Mt. Cleveland are welcome to come and ski in the area during the climb. Contact Steve Niday for further information.

January 12, Gash Point. Art Gidel will lead a ski trip to Gash Point, which is located in the Bitterroot Mountains west of Victor. A good trip for beginning and intermediate backcountry skiers, with some of the best telemarking in the Bitterroots. Contact Art Gidel at 543-6352 for details.

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## TRIP REPORTS

Hoodoo Pass, November 24. Carol Anderson, Peter Dayton, Art Gidel, Mary \_\_\_\_\_, Martha Yale, Rick Murney, and Jenny Murney hit Hoodoo Pass, which is located on the Montana-Idaho border south of Superior, Montana, on a super early-season day. The tension was palpable as we headed up Trout Creek through scanty snow conditions, dodging suicidal deer as we drove, and stayed intense until we were within a couple miles of the pass, at which point the snow depth suddenly increased to a more than satisfactory level. The rock coverage was excellent, and the powder was fluffy and well over our ankles. From the pass we followed the ridge to a point to the south, and did a bunch of great runs down the open bear grass slopes to the southwest. During the day we encountered quite a few downhill skiers, telemark skiers, and snowboarders, who stared goggle-eyed at us as we hiked uphill with our skis on. "What are them things on the bottoms of your skis?", they asked in astonishment, obviously never having seen skins before.

bottoms

Eventually it commenced to blow and snow, so we retreated to our vehicles and headed home. The high point of the trip came in the convenience store in Superior, when Jenny Murney got body-checked by a hostile and possibly psychotic woman who apparently needed to get to the cash register very badly. - Peter Dayton

OFFICERS

Dave Pengelly, President - 728-6512  
Arnold Finklin, Treasurer - 543-8705

Peter Dayton, V.P. and Newsletter 728-8101  
Your Name Here - Trip Leader (hint, hint)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

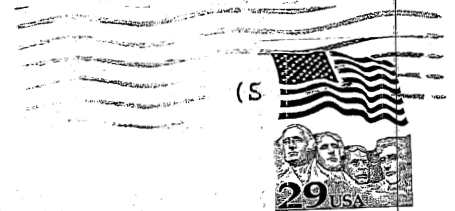
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mail a check payable to  
"Rocky Mountaineers" to  
Arnold Finklin  
P.O. Box 4262  
Missoula, Montana 59807

THE MOUNTAIN EAR  
P.O. BOX 4262  
MISSOULA, MT 59806

FIRST CLASS MAIL



DAVE LINE  
1135 WHITAKER DRIVE  
MISSOULA MT 59803

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