



Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

April, 1993

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 April meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 14.

March Program: Doug Webber, a Missoula emergency-medicine physician, will present a slide show on a climbing and hiking trip in Bolivia.

TRIP CALENDAR

Tuesday Night Mount Sentinel Hikes: If you're bored with the stair machine at the club, meet in the Mount Sentinel parking lot at 5:30 p.m. each Tuesday for a more interesting climb.

April-May, Rock Climbing: If you are interested in participating in beginning to intermediate rock climbing at Kootenai Canyon, Lolo Pass, and other areas on evenings and weekends, call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769.

April-November, Boating. You may have been wondering why some of the Club's active trip leaders haven't been scheduling ski trips and hikes. Wonder no more; those who are not heading for Mount St. Elias in Alaska have been boating their brains out. If you are interested in joining the boaters on kayak, raft, and canoe trips, call Peter Dayton at 728-8101 or Art Gidel at 543-6352. Brains are optional.

Sunday, April 18th, Trapper Peak. Ski trip up Trapper Peak, which is located southwest of Darby in the Bitterroot Mountains. Potentially great spring skiing on open, moderate angle slopes, with great scenery. Call Gerald Olbu for details at 549-4769.

Sunday, April 25, Como Peaks or MacDonald Peak. Climb of the Como Peaks in the Bitterroot Mountains or MacDonald Peak in the Mission Mountains, depending on snow conditions. Call Gerald Olbu for details at 549-4769.

May, Grey Wolf Peak: Non-technical climb of Grey Wolf Peak in the south end of the Mission Mountains. Great scenery, moderate difficulty. Date, route, and mode of travel (on skis or on foot) dependent on conditions.

Sunday, May 9, easy day hike: An easy day hike up to Mission Falls, up Bass Creek, or a similar location. Call Gerald Olbu for details at 549-4769.

Wanna lead a trip? If you are interested in leading a trip, help is only a telephone call away; Art Gidel, 543-6352, will be delighted to sign you up.

TRIP REPORTS

MacDonald Peak, March 21. MacDonald Peak, which is located east of Ronan, is the tallest mountain in the Mission Mountains. Persons attempting MacDonald Peak in the spring usually do so on foot; the thick trees in the first couple thousand feet and the headwall below the southwest couloir usually discourage even the most rabid skiers. However, persons attempting the climb on foot need to do so when the snow conditions are firm, or they won't make it to the top, due to the discouraging tendency of persons on foot to sink into the snow. Peter Dayton, Bret Doucette, Art Gidel, Gerald Olbu, and Dave Pengelly encountered this discouraging tendency on a March 21 attempt to climb MacDonald on foot. The ground was bare as we started around MacDonald Reservoir. Although we were slowed up by some soft deep snow in the bottom of the canyon above the reservoir, most of the snow disappeared as we headed up the side of the canyon, slipping and sliding on a greasy mixture of wet branches, steep frozen ground, and loose bark. However, the snow reappeared for good in the basin below the headwall, and it was bottomless. Despite creative route-finding efforts, we were sinking in to the middle of our thighs, and deeper when we got into bushes which created air pockets. We finally bogged down near the base

of the headwall, admitted we were defeated, and headed out. The high point of the trip was a bold and audacious lead by Gerald Olbu across MacDonald Creek on a log covered with about a foot and a half of snow. I would rate it about a 5.10. - Peter Dayton.

OFFICERS

Art Gidel, President - 543-6352
Dave Pengelly, Secretary-Treasurer - 728-6512

Peter Dayton, Newsletter Editor 728-8101
Rick Murney, Vice President - 543-7586

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

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

Mail a check payable to
"Rocky Mountaineers" to
Dave Pengelly
P.O. Box 4262
Missoula, Montana 59806

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

(STAMP)

FIRST CLASS MAIL