



# Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

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NOVEMBER, 1994

MEETING

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**Time and place.** Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 in the County Commissioner's meeting room on the second floor of the Annex (new portion) of the Missoula County Courthouse. Enter the building through the north door. This month's meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 9.

**Program.** Paul Jenson will present a slide show entitled "Backcountry Skiing in Western Montana, the Canadian Rockies, and the Tetons." Paul will show slides from the Bitterroots, Swans, and Mission Mountains as well as the Canadian Rockies and the Tetons.

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## TRIP CALENDAR

**November 11-13. Friday-Sunday. Mount Jackson.** Three day mountaineering trip to 10,052-foot Mount Jackson in Glacier Park. The first day will be a pleasant hike/ski to Gunsight Lake where base camp will be made. The standard route up the peak is just a scramble, but with a heavy fresh snow cover, it should be interesting. Other routes also exist. This will be an opportunity to experience some brisk weather in beautiful country. Depending on interest and time constraints, another location or a two-day trip may be substituted. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

**November 12. Saturday. St. Mary's Peak.** Ski to 9351-foot St. Mary's Peak in the Bitterroots near Florence. This will be a moderate ski trip. Most likely it will be possible to drive to the trailhead, so the trip will be about 4-5 miles and 2800 feet elevation gain to the peak. There is a lookout tower, open to the public, on the summit. St. Mary's Peak is usually a fun place to ski since the slope is gentle with widely spaced trees. Call Art Gidel at 543-6352 for details.

**November 20. Sunday. South Fork Lolo Creek.** Hike up the South Fork of Lolo Creek which is located in the Bitterroots not far from Lolo. Since the trail begins at a low elevation (3760 feet) and doesn't climb much, this trip should be suitable for hiking. There will probably be enough snow to make the scenery beautiful, but not too much to prevent foot travel. The length of the trip will depend on the conditions and participants interest. Don't forget to wear red clothing! Call Dick White at 251-6430 for more information.

**November 24-27. Thursday-Sunday. Canadian Rockies.** Climbing trip to the Canadian Rockies. The exact mountain to climb is still to be decided. It will depend on conditions at the time. There is interest in staying at an alpine climbers' hut. One possibility is Mount Victoria, an 11,362-foot peak in Banff National Park. Abbot Pass Hut is located at the col between Mounts Victoria and Lefroy and can be reached in a day. The ridge route up Mount Victoria is one of the best classic ridge routes in the Rockies. Avalanche danger should be minimal on the ridge. Technical ice, snow and rock climbing ability is required as well as winter camping skills. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

**December 3. Saturday. Wisherd Ridge.** Wisherd Ridge, which is located a few miles northeast of Bonner, is one of the better easy backcountry skiing areas close to Missoula. The ridge tends to get snow even when the snow coverage in other areas around Missoula is skimpy, and the climb up onto the ridge is easy, much of it on a logging road. Once you are on the ridge, you can either ski the bowls or tour around on top. Come on out and get your skiing skills tuned up for the more demanding trips later in the winter. This trip is fine for beginning and intermediate backcountry skiers with appropriate equipment. Call Peter Dayton at 728-8101 for details.

**December 10. Saturday. Ski Trip.** Art Gidel will lead a moderate day ski trip in the Missoula area. The location will depend on snow conditions but possibilities include: Hoodoo Pass, Sheep Mountain, or some place in the Bitterroots such as Sweeney Peak or Gash Point. Call Art at 543-6352 for more information.

**December 17. Saturday. Holland Point.** Ski trip up 8000-foot Holland Point, an old fire lookout site in the Swan Range northeast of Holland Lake. This will be a moderate trip with 4000 feet of elevation gain in six miles. The route begins on a trail through thick timber and near the half way point gains an open ridge that leads to the summit with spectacular views of the Mission Mountains, Swan Range and Bob Marshall Wilderness. The descent follows the same route with excellent telemarking terrain on the open ridge followed by some trail skiing. Call Jim or Janet Surrena at 549-1386 for details.

After Thanksgiving Skiing. Anyone interested in skiing on a weekend day after Thanksgiving is encouraged to contact Dave Pengelly at 728-6512. The location and date are dependant on the conditions; he'll go where there is good snow.

New Year's Eve at the Rocky Mountaineer Cabin. Plans are being made for an overnight ski trip to the Club's cabin in the Bitterroots. This is usually an annual event where there are lots of fun times and good food. Depending on participants interest, this moderately strenuous trip may be held on New Year's Eve or during Christmas. Contact Art Gidel at 543-6352 for more information.

Wanna lead a trip? If you are interested in leading a trip, contact Gerald Olbu at 549-4769.

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#### TRIP REPORTS

Cabin Maintenance Party, October 1. On the first of October, about seven individuals hiked to the Little St. Joe cabin to cut firewood and clean up the place. However, since there was little use of the cabin last winter, very little firewood was needed. We did cut up a few downed snags to top off the wood storage area under the cabin. Thanks to all those who helped out, and I hope you can do a trip this winter. The road closure has definitely affected winter use. The good news: if you head to the cabin, it will probably be unoccupied. - Art Gidel.

Warren Peak, October 8-10. After some very strenuous trips this summer, we were looking forward to a mountaineering trip where we could relax a bit and enjoy the company of the people we've been climbing with this summer. Climbers on this trip included: Jack Bell, Willow Foster, Matt Grandy, Jeff Holiday, Justin Ivary, Eric Moles, Gerald Olbu, and Wendy Phillips. We made a great camp in a secluded area near Carpp Lake. On Sunday, we attacked Warren Peak. The north side looked very attractive; it was steep with a little snow. We climbed about 100 feet up an "open book." The climb was challenging with a near vertical face and snow in all the handholds. Everyone's hands were quite cold from clutching onto icy rocks. Then, the climbing got more difficult and there was no end in sight. We decided to down climb and try a different route. We traversed around to the east face, where we found the climbing to be easier. It wasn't quite as steep, the handholds were better, and there was no snow. We climbed straight up the east face and after a short while, we topped out right on the peak. Views from the top were magnificent: East Goat Peak and the continental divide as it weaves through the Pintlers, Lost River Range (?) in Idaho to the south, and to the north -- Trapper Peak, El Capitan, and we think we could see Squaw Peak. The weather was a beautiful Indian summer day with a clear sunny sky. We made it back to our camp at dusk. We relaxed the next day and enjoyed our favorite activity: either fishing, hiking to a meadow, or climbing a nearby peak. --Gerald Olbu.

Lolo Peak, October 15. David Monnig and I hiked to the east ridge of Lolo Peak, south of Carlton Lake. Due to the wintery weather, trip participation was limited; what is this stuff, rain? Snow? Where is the (expletive deleted) sunshine? About ten inches of the white stuff was in Carlton Basin, making hiking on the scree slopes kind of like fun, only different. We had excellent views of some high flying fog, and after ten or fifteen seconds on the breezy ridge, we headed down. Thanks to David, I got a good workout (those young kids can really move along, folks). On the way down, we ran into Mountaineer member Bret Doucett, who got a later start than us. Bret hiked to the top of "False Lolo Peak", which is to the north of Lolo Peak. This is the Peak you see super-imposed on Lolo Peak from Missoula. A fun trip - you should have been there! - Art Gidel.

Trapper Peak, October 23. On a journey to sink our feet into the first snow of the season, Kim Phillips, Matt Grandy and Gerald Olbu set out for Trapper Peak. The previous week, a group of us checked out the conditions on Trapper, and even though we brought our skies, we found very little snow. This week, expecting no snow, we left our skies at home. Guess What? There was snow up to our knees!!! Sometimes I just can't figure out the mountain. A couple of us had snowshoes and we did make it to East Trapper which was our destination. The weather was beautiful -- cloudy in the morning and clear in the afternoon with a slight wind. We all enjoyed a relaxing trip. --Gerald Olbu.

Pilot Knob, October 29. Early snow changed a moderate hike to a more strenuous effort to summit Pilot Knob (7262 feet) on the Montana-Idaho state line. Nevertheless, Greg Reggie, Joan Bader, Charolet Castle, Suzi Wiseheart and Richard White plowed through up to two feet of virgin snow to the knob. Above 6400 feet, the snow was deep enough for trail cross country skiing, but too shallow for tele skiing. The sun broke through periodically in the afternoon. --Richard White.

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#### OFFICERS

Gerald Olbu, President - 549-4769

Peter Dayton, Newsletter Editor 728-8101

Dave Pengelly, Secretary-Treasurer - 728-6512

Dave Siemens, Vice President - 549-0102

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#### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Mail a check payable to  
"Rocky Mountaineers" to

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

Dave Pengelly  
P.O. Box 4262

Check one: Individual (\$6.00/year) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$8.00/year) \_\_\_\_\_ (9398)

Missoula, Montana 59806

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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