



Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

FEBRUARY, 1995

MEETING

Time and place. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 in the Missoula County Courthouse. This month's meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 8. **THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE FIRST FLOOR COURT ROOM IN THE OLD PORTION OF THE BUILDING, BECAUSE OUR NORMAL ROOM IS UNAVAILABLE DUE TO CONSTRUCTION.** Enter the building through the north door.

Program. Dee Casey will present a slide show on her recent kayaking trip to Chile and travels in Central and South America. In November 1992, Dee and her group left for Honduras and enjoyed three months relaxing on the Caribbean. She spent another three months in Chile and kayaked nine rivers there and trekked through Patagonia. Dee learned Spanish and became interested in the local cultures as she enjoyed their food and wine. During the slideshow, world beat music will be provided by "Outback."

TRIP CALENDAR

February 11 and 12. Saturday and Sunday. Avalanche Awareness Clinics. Always getting caught in those pesky avalanches? The Missoula Chamber of Commerce Convention & Visitors Bureau is sponsoring two one-day avalanche clinics at Lolo Hot Springs on February 11th and 12th. The clinics will be offered free of charge on a first come - first served basis. The clinics will begin at 9:00 A.M. each day with a 3 hour class session followed by a 4 hour field session. Call 543-6623 to reserve a space. Further information may also be obtained from Winnie Schreiber of the Lolo National Forest at 329-3761.

February 12. Sunday. East St. Mary's Peak. Ski to East St. Mary's Peak, which is in the Mission Mountains southeast of St. Ignatius. The first portion of the trip will involve some bushwhacking up a steep hillside. Once the treeline is reached the ridge opens up with impressive views of the west face of Gray Wolf Peak. From East St. Mary's Peak, one can see the most majestic peaks in the Missions with their winter snow cover. This will be a long and strenuous trip. (If conditions don't look good, i.e. lots of wet brush and very little snow, we may go to the avalanche seminar instead.) Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

February 18-20. Sat-Mon. Glacier Park. Winter mountaineering trip to Glacier Park over the President's Day weekend. The trailhead is near McDonald Lake on the west side of the park. The Sprague Creek trail begins at 3200 feet and after about eight miles, reaches the Sperry Chalet area at 6600 feet where camp will be made. There are several peaks in this area that can be climbed. Possibilities range from 7460-foot Lincoln Peak to 10054-foot Mount Jackson. We will assess the conditions and decide what peak to climb when we get there. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

February 19. Sunday. Lolo Pass. Ski touring trip to the Lolo Pass area suitable for beginning and intermediate-level skiers. Even though there might not be much snow in Missoula, there usually is a lot at Lolo Pass. This is a great opportunity for a casual ski trip in manageable terrain. There are many roads and trails in the Lolo Pass area which are ideal for ski touring. The exact route the group will follow will depend on participants' interest. Call Julie Warner at 543-6508 for more information.

February 25. Saturday. Stemple Pass to Fleisher Pass. Cross country ski trip between Stemple Pass and Fleisher Pass, which are located southeast of Lincoln, and are separated by 12-14 miles of rolling terrain along the continental divide. This door-to-door crossover trip is being coordinated with the outing club from Great Falls. The groups will meet in Lincoln and swap cars, each group will go to a different pass, and the groups will pass each other while heading for their own cars at the other pass. This will be a chance to see some new country and meet some people from out of town, although only briefly. Call Ed Monnig at 721-2707 for more information.

March 5. Sunday. Ice Climbing or Rock Climbing. Enjoy a day of rock climbing or ice climbing, depending on conditions. If we go rock climbing, we will probably go to Kootenai Canyon. If the ice is still good for climbing, then we will go where ever the best ice is. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

March 12. Sunday. Gray Wolf Peak. Who knows what the weather will be like a month from now? If spring-like conditions continue, this may be a good opportunity to do a classic snow climb of Gray Wolf Peak, which is the southern-most peak in the Mission Mountains. The climb of the peak is normally a fourth-class climb, however, with snow it may be more challenging. It will probably be a semi-technical climb. Hopefully, the

snow in the south couloir and the backside of the mountain will be well set up and firm. If there's lots of fresh snow, then we will make alternate plans to do some tele skiing at some other location. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

March 31 - April 8. Green River Canoe Trip. Take a trip during spring break and canoe down the peaceful and scenic Green River in Canyon Lands National Park. Most of the trip will involve canoeing 52 miles down the Green River to the confluence of the Colorado River and then jet boating up the Colorado to the vehicles. This is a family-oriented outing and a couple days will be spent taking short hikes. Call Ed Monnig at 721-2707 for more information. Since many arrangements have to be made, it would be best to call Ed immediately (like, now), if interested.

Telemark Skiing. Anyone interested in skiing on a weekend day 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. A good possible date is Saturday, January 14.

Kayaking. Precious cubic feet per second of water are flowing down the river even as you slouch on your couch reading this newsletter. Get out there and utilize them in that quintessentially macho sporting vehicle, the kayak, before they are lost forever downstream. Call Peter Dayton at 728-8101 or Art Gidel at 543-6352 if you are dumb enough to go boating this early in the season.

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

TRIP REPORTS

Peak 6758. Sally Ridge. January 7. Once again, it proves better to be lucky than skillful. The cold snap broke, and new snow fell just in time for an excellent day of ski touring. There is less snow now than when I scouted the trail in early December. The East Fork Road is now gated so one must ski about 1 km on a snowmobile trail from the gate to the trailhead. Steve Schombel and I skied up the jeep trail about 5 miles to a saddle where the jeep trail meets the hiking trail. We encountered no one on the trail; and in fact, it looks like no one has used it since my scouting trip. There were, however, lots of game tracks, especially moose or elk. The tracks seemed large for elk, and suggested the clumsy destructiveness I associate with moose. The trail is an easy up and back, gaining about 1000 feet, with an easy glide down. - Richard White.

Winter Camping. January 7-8. A group of five energetic and ambitious climbers, Tom Collins, John Nelson, Gerald Olbu, Paul Wilson, and Greg Zlock, set out with the lofty goal of climbing Gray Wolf Peak. The first day was spent carrying our heavy packs, loaded with climbing gear, up a steep ridge in deep snow. We made camp just above tree line near Riddle Lake. It snowed 2-3 inches during the night and all of us stayed quite warm. The next morning we assessed the conditions. The mountain was covered with lots of fresh snow which would make climbing hazardous. We decided to modify our plans and climb a nearby knob instead. It was a beautiful winter day. The sun was out for a while, then some interesting weather moved in. We had some great views of Gray Wolf from the knob. - Gerald Olbu.

Lolo Pass. January 15. I got several phone calls on the trip. But only Mary Lou decided to go. She hadn't skied in several years. We skied on the road to get her used to it again, then turned off onto a somewhat less travelled trail, with some slight up and down hill. She did well, and we all had a good time. - Julie Warner.

Ice climbing. January 22. A group of several climbers, Gerald Olbu, Tim Page, Brian Smith, Judy Stack, Tina Summer, and Greg Zlock, enjoyed a day of ice climbing. A short hike up the trail took us to Mission Falls. This is always a beautiful area with Mission Falls raging and giant mounds of faint blue ice at its base forming an ice bridge. Across the creek was a large, ice-filled, 45-degree chute with an extensive wall of ice on its left side. The ice we wanted to climb was near the top of the chute. Part of the fun was crossing the ice bridge and climbing the chute. We set up a 60-foot climb on a nearly vertical ice falls. Even though, from a distance, the ice looked smooth, we found that it had a lot of texture. It was ripply which made for some interesting ice ax placements. The ice was more brittle than we would have expected from the air temperature. We all enjoyed climbing on the ice. - Gerald Olbu.

Alberton Gorge. January 22. The mission statement of the Missoula Chapter of Kayakers Anonymous states that one of the organization's goals is to organize kayaking trips in every month of the year. January of 1995 began with the rivers in the area heavily iced up. However, after the middle of the month a period of moderate weather cleared off the ice, and a meeting was scheduled for Sunday, January 22. The day began overcast, windy, and cold; at midmorning the official temperature was only 14°F. However, macho pathological addictive behavior is a powerful force, and despite the inclement conditions the meeting was called to order in the parking lot of a mini-mart on Reserve Street with the usual introductions: "My name is Mike Worrall, and I'm a kayakaholic." "My name is Art Gidel, and I am kayak-dependent." While putting on our gear at the Purple Cliffs launch site above Triple Bridges, we were surprised to see two other kayakers float past, neither of whom we had ever seen before. There are so many people out there secretly harboring irrepressible urges to kayak who we need to reach with our message. The temperature was below freezing throughout the trip, but the river was not blocked by any ice bridges. The "Lizardhead Rock" in the middle of the river at Split Rock was turned into "Beaverhead Rock" by a fringe of icicles which looked just like a set of beaver incisors. We got many endos at this play spot, although none of us was particularly eager to get dumped on our head. The cold water gave us a lot of incentive to develop our corkscrew pirouette brace maneuvers. Art Gidel showed magnificent disregard for the season while repeatedly side surfing in Ice Box Hole, Tumbleweed, and Geeks Hole. During the last half of the trip a lot of ice formed on our gear. Mike had a particularly nice fringe of icicles hanging

from his visor. This may all sound kind of icky, but it really was fun, and thanks to our dry suits we stayed warm, dry, and comfortable throughout the trip. I drove home in the same clothing I wore under my dry suit. - Peter Dayton

Alberton Gorge, January 29. Doug Kolwaite, Lisa Hallenbeck, Art Gidel, and Peter Dayton attended the second January meeting of the Missoula Chapter of Kayakers Anonymous. In the course of the meeting, a motion was made to amend the mission statement of the chapter to state that one of the organization's goals is to organize kayaking trips in every weekend of the year, not just every month of the year. The motion was returned to the kayaking committee for further consideration during the month of February, and the committee was asked to report on the feasibility of the proposal at the end of the month. The surfing in the big waves at Cliffside II Rapid was particularly good during this trip. - Peter Dayton.

OFFICERS

Gerald Olbu, President - 549-4769

Peter Dayton, Newsletter Editor 728-8101

Dave Pengelly, Secretary-Treasurer - 728-6512

Dave Siemens, Vice President - 549-0102

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 EAR
P.O. BOX 4262
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(STAMP)

FIRST CLASS MAIL