



Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

JANUARY, 1996

MEETING

Meetings: Club meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the Missoula County Commission's meeting room, which is located on the second floor of the annex (newer portion) of the Missoula County Courthouse. Please enter through the north door. This month's meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 10.

Program. Dudley Improta will present a slideshow of some excellent backcountry skiing in the scenic Selkirk Mountains of British Columbia as well as great skiing in several favorite locations in Western Montana. This will be a professionally engineered dissolve show with two slide projectors and music and should be a very pleasant entertainment experience. Dudley is the director of outdoor programs at the UM Outdoor Recreation Center and has taught many classes at UM, including rock climbing, kayaking, and avalanche awareness.

CALENDAR

January 9, Saturday, Daly Peak. Daly Peak is located north of Ovando. It looks like it ought to have some great open slopes for telemarking, but I've never had a chance to check it out properly because both times I visited the peak, I encountered a whiteout. Is the third time really a charm? Inquisitive minds can join us and find out. This will be a moderately strenuous back country ski trip. Call Peter Dayton at 728-8101 for details.

January 21, Sunday, Lolo Pass. Beginning/intermediate-level ski touring in the Lolo Pass area. There are many trails in this area providing an array of opportunities. Lolo Pass usually collects a lot of snow, creating great ski conditions. Transportation will be provided. Call Julie Warner at 543-6508 for details.

January 26-28, Fri-Sun, Glacier Park Ski Festival. Enjoy a weekend of great skiing in the beautiful Many Glacier area of Glacier Park without carrying a backpack. Leave Friday afternoon and drive to the campsite. On Saturday, skiers, in groups of two or more, can go off in any of several directions. There should be great opportunities for touring, telemarking and skiing of all experience levels. Skiers will return to camp and enjoy a feast. The imagination and creativity campers display at dinner is always impressive. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

February 4, Sunday, Ice Climbing. Enjoy a day of technical ice climbing suitable for beginning- and intermediate-level climbers. The exact location will depend on ice conditions at the time; possibilities include: Mission Falls, Como Falls, or Swan Slabs. Two ice axes and crampons are required, however, some equipment may be borrowed or shared. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

February 11, Sunday, Gash Point. Backcountry ski trip to Gash Point (8886 feet), which is west of Victor in the Bitterroot Mountains. The bowls on the east side of Gash Point make this one of the better places in the Bitterroots for telemark skiing. This will be a moderately strenuous trip for the average skier. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

February 17-19, Sat-Mon, Warren Peak. Overnight ski trip in the beautiful Anaconda Pintler Wilderness. On the first day, we will ski eight miles with 1900 feet of elevation gain along a road and trail to Edith Lake (about 7850 feet), which is a mile southwest of Warren Peak (10,453 feet). The peak will be approached from the southwest face or the west ridge, depending on conditions. Endurance and winter camping skills are required. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for details.

February 18, Sunday, 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 trip is being coordinated with the outing club from Great Falls. This will be a chance to see some new country and meet some people from out of town. The popularity of this trip has made it an annual event. Call Ed Monnig at 721-2707 for more information.

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

TRIP REPORTS

Lolo Pass, December 17. Only one beginner went along, Laura Anderson, a UM student. She had done some downhill skiing and after a loop around the base of Mt. Fuji, she was comfortable enough on skis to take a more difficult route up the side of Moose Ridge. After whacking through some blow down, we had lunch. Laura got a chance to try out a pair of skins on a steeper hill. We climbed back through the blow down and skied the Glade Creek Loop back to the parking lot. A very nice afternoon's ski. - Julie Warner.

Wishard Ridge, December 17. On Saturday, December 17, Art Gidel, Ralph Flockerzi, Peter Dayton, Dave Pengelly, and some other folks went backcountry skiing on Wishard Ridge. What started out as just a typical day in on the slopes ended up as a demoralizing and thought-provoking experience. It all started when I reached the top of the ridge on one run, and a snowmobile pulled up and dropped off two skiers, one of whom was Gray Thompson. Gray is an internationally known alpinist and all-around outdoors person, and one of my heros, so I was taken aback to see him demeaning himself by accepting a ride up a hill, and on a SNOWMOBILE. Then I was told that Rick and Jenny Murney, formerly an archetypical pair of yuppie outdoor athletes, have recently purchased a matched set of snowmobiles. Then Dave Pengelly started ruminating about how nice it would be to have a snowmobile so you could get in to the base of Pyramid Peak easily. Then, as I was slogging back up to the top of the ridge for another run, I started thinking, well, maybe in a couple of years the soft cushioned seat of one of those turbocharged snowmobiles will look pretty good. And that was really a depressing thought. - Peter Dayton.

OFFICERS

Gerald Olbu, President - 549-4769

Dave Pengelly, Secretary-Treasurer - 728-6512

Peter Dayton, Newsletter Editor 728-8101

Dave Siemens, Vice President - 549-0102

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

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

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