



Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

DECEMBER, 1997

MEETING

Meeting: Club meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the lower level meeting room at the Missoula Public Library. This month's meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 10.

Program: Pat Caffrey, a club member and Seeley Lake resident, will present a slide show of a snow and ice climb of Mounts Shasta and Adams he did with his son and daughter. Pat is the author of *A Climber's Guide to Montana*, the most authoritative book of its kind, and is a world-class mountaineer who has climbed the tallest peak on five of the seven continents as well as several other notable peaks such as Mt. Robson. Plus, he gives excellent and lively slide shows. Pat is manifestly qualified to answer some of the most difficult climbing questions, such as "how can I persuade my banker and my wife to let me take out a second mortgage on my house so I can go out and have some serious fun?" and "what are some really fun things to do if I get stuck taking care of my little tiny kids for a weekend?" Considering the kinds of trips that Pat has been taking his kids on, he may be trying to train them up so they can haul him up Mt. Everest.

CALENDAR

December 12, Friday, Lolo Pass Moonlight Ski. Enjoy a moonlight ski trip in the Lolo Pass area under the full moon. There are several ski trails in the area to choose, depending on participants' interest. If you don't like the hustle and bustle of the crowds and snowmobiles, this is a great opportunity. In previous trips, we have seen no other people. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for more information.

December 20-21, Saturday-Sunday, Cabin Trip. Enjoy an overnight trip to the Club's back country cabin in the Bitterroots. A moderate-length ski or snowshoe trip will take one to the cabin where a warm wood stove will provide all the comforts of home. [Editor's comment: this is a slight exaggeration.] For entertainment, one can play a game of Monopoly, ski or snowshoe in the vicinity of the cabin, or go for the gusto and climb a couple of nearby mountains. Call Willis Lambertson at 327-0399 for more information.

December 28, Sunday, Ice Climbing. Enjoy a day of technical ice climbing suitable for beginners and intermediates. The location will depend on conditions, but Como Falls, Swan Slabs and Mission Falls are possibilities. Heavy boots, crampons and two ice axes are required, however some equipment may be borrowed or shared. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

January 3-4, Saturday-Sunday, Trapper Peak. Winter camping trip to Trapper peak (10,147 feet), which is the tallest peak in the Bitterroots. We may be able to drive up the road most of the way to the trailhead at 6300 feet. From the trailhead, it is a moderate ski/snowshoe trip along the ridge to the campsite at 8000 feet. On Sunday, we will ski/snowshoe to the peak and take in the views of the snowcapped Bitterroots. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

January 10, Saturday, Moonlight Ski. Enjoy a moonlight ski trip under the bright light of the full moon with sparkling snow crystals. The location depends on snow conditions. We will probably go to Blue Mountain or the Rattlesnake if there is enough snow, making it a short drive back to Missoula. If snow is sketchy near Missoula, we will go to Lolo Pass where the snow is always excellent. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 or Julie Warner at 543-6508 for more information.

January 18, Sunday, Ice Climbing. Enjoy another day of technical ice climbing similar to the December 28 trip. Some participants may wish to make this a two-day event and camp near the climbing area. Ice climbing ability may be a prerequisite for some of the snow climbs later in the spring. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

May/June, Mount McKinley. A trip is being planned for Mount McKinley (20,320 feet) in Denali National Park, Alaska. If interested, contact Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 to express an interest and also participate in the several training sessions we will have. For training this winter, we will do a lot of ice climbing and winter camping. Also, a shake-down trip is being planned to Mount Rainier (probably in January) which will be a week-long trip and will involve camping on top of the summit.

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

TRIP REPORTS

A Bugaboo Experience, August 30-September 2. A fast four day trip was in order for Rocky Mountaineers Tom and Terry Collins into the

Purcell Range in British Columbia, which is better known as the "Bugaboos." The Bugaboos are large, mostly 1,000 plus feet granite spires that rise out of the Bugaboo and Vouwell Glaciers. Jessica Murphy, Tory Albertson, and Zack Vanderwall accompanied them on this 2 day rock climbing foray. Day one involved travel and the hike into the Cain Hut. Day two saw the summit of East Post Spire by all five of the party. This is a fourth class climb of tremendous views and moderate difficulty. The descent gave opportunity to practice self arrest on a glacier. Day three was a 22 hour long push in order to climb the classic northeast ridge of the Bugaboo Spire. This is a 10 pitch, mostly 5.6/5.7 climb. There was one 5.8 variation, which we couldn't resist. The exposure was exhilarating, and the weather was unusually clear. The approach and return across the Crescent Glacier in the dark was a treat. It started to rain within 20 minutes of our return to the hut. Day four provided a late breakfast and leisurely hike down to the car. - Tom Collins.

Trapper Peak, October 26. Six mountaineers embarked on the Fourth Annual Opening Day of Hunting Season Climb of Trapper Peak. Clad in blaze orange and carrying snowshoes were Libby Bella, Dan Brown, Matt Grandy, Willis Lambertson, Gerald Olbu and Chris Stout. It is interesting to do these trips on the same weekend of each year. This year there was very little snow on the route and the snowshoes were not needed. It was cold and windy at the summit and we enjoyed our lunch while taking in the beautiful view. In the four years we've done this trip, we've needed snowshoes two years and not needed them two years. The trip back down to the trailhead was uneventful and we were back in Missoula before dark. Reviewing last year's trip report for the Third Annual Trip, we made the comment "it looks like this will be a big year for snow." What an understatement. - Matt Grandy.

Heavenly Twins, November 16. It's a long journey to the Heavenly Twins, even in summer, but Bill Gaeuman, Dave Gaeuman, Gerald Olbu, Julie Peterson, Marcus Reddish, Rick Rister and Trevor Van Vliet decided to give it a try. We had excellent weather conditions; even though it was cold, we had a clear blue sky with very little wind. The traverse along the ridge top was both very scenic and a lot of work as we trudged through 1-2 feet of snow in places. We could have used snowshoes. We made it to Disappointment Peak which is a beautiful peak with white granite rock not far from the Heavenly Twins. We decided to turn around since we had a long traverse to get back to the trail and the daylight hours were quite short. As usual, the climb up the 1000-foot slope at the end was good for the soul. We got back to the trailhead shortly after dark. - Gerald Olbu.

More hunting. In a trip report in the November newsletter I noted some differences between hiking and hunting. This month I read Jon Krakauer's excellent book *Into Thin Air*, about the carnage on Mt. Everest in 1996, and decided that a similarity between hunting and mountain climbing is that sometimes getting back to camp is harder than getting to the summit. After a number of days of ambling more or less aimlessly around in the woods this fall, I finally encountered a wapiti, and in accordance with the powers vested in me by the Montana Fish and Game Commission as a volunteer wildlife population control officer, I arrested it. Then the work really started. First I quartered and boned it, which was a lot of work. Then I carried it out of the woods in three trips, hauling ninety pounds of wapiti on each of the last two trips. That was also a lot of work. Then I spent the next week turning the wapiti into steaks, hamburgers, and jerky. That was really a lot of work. Towards the end of the process I came down with a case of the flu, and spent all night dreaming about endlessly cutting and packing meat. When I woke up, I realized that I was going to be cutting and packing meat all day as well. I felt sort of like Jon Krakauer as he staggered back down Mt. Everest towards Base Camp. - Peter Dayton.

OFFICERS

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

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Rocky Mountaineers Outdoor Club
P.O. Box 4262
Missoula, Montana 59806

Check one: Individual (\$9.00/year) _____ Family (\$12.00/year) _____ (9398)

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