



# Mountain Ear

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

JANUARY 2000

*The Rocky Mountaineers are dedicated to the exploration of Western Montana's mountains and other high peaks throughout the world.*

## MEETING

**CLUB MEETINGS:** The Rocky Mountaineers normally meet on the second Wednesday of each month, in the lower meeting room, at the Missoula Public Library. This month we are meeting on January 12th at 7pm.

**JANUARY PROGRAM:** Ice-climbing is good around Missoula, as we've finally had some cold temperatures. Many members are curious about this type of climbing. This month we will have a film covering ice-climbing, as well as various gear and tools to look over. This will be a great opportunity to meet fellow members of the club or public who may share your abilities and interest on ice.

**ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS:** We are looking for new faces and energetic people to lead trips of all skill levels! Please contact Matt Grandy if you are interested in being a trip leader.

## TRIP CALENDER

**January 22, Sat, Lolo Pass Moonlight Ski:** Join the mountaineers on a moonlight ski trip of the Lolo Pass area with all of its charms. This trip is scheduled the day following a full moon, so conditions should provide an exciting ski experience. Contact Steve Schombel at 721-4684 for more information.

**January 22-23, Sat-Sun, Rocky Mountaineers Cabin:** Join the mountaineers for the first winter trip to the club cabin in the Bitterroot Mountains. The area nestled below Little St. Joseph Peak provides beautiful views of the Bitterroot Valley, as well as great skiing and snowshoeing opportunities. This will be an overnight trip. The cabin wood supply is stocked and there should be plenty of snow! Please call Penny Palm at 258-2000 for more details.

**January 29, Sat, Pintlar Cave:** Join Jordan Shapiro on an exploration trip to a cave in the Pintlars. The trip will involve about 2-3 miles of snowshoeing or skiing to the cave. We will spend about one hour in the cave, so a headlamp and spare batteries will be required. Call Jordan at 829-9313 to be part of an exciting adventure.

**January 30, Sun, Lee Creek Ski Trip:** Join the mountaineers on a cross-country ski trip in the Lee Creek area of Lolo Creek. This trip will be approximately 8 miles on cross-country ski trails. Call Julie Warner at 543-6508 for more information.

**February 19-20, Sat-Sun, Winter Overnight Trip/Avalanche Training:** Practice building a real snow cave and using avalanche tracers in the back-country. This trip will most likely be held in the Lolo Pass area and will offer skiing or snowshoeing opportunities to the back-country camp site. Please call Tony or Tami Sabol at 273-2566 for more information.

### TRIP REPORTS

**Como Peaks Area, Bitterroot Mountains, December 12<sup>th</sup>:** Penny Palm, Tami Sabol, and Jordan Shapiro planned on climbing Dome Mountain in the Sapphire Mountains. We arrived at the gate at the bottom of the Skalkaho Pass area to find the road locked for the winter season. Therefore, we decided to attempt East Como Peak in the Bitterroot Range. The trip proved to be an adventure early on – and proof that an overhand knot does work! Due to a broken seatbelt in Jordan's car, Tami Sabol tied an easy overhand knot in the seatbelt strap for travel safety. However, by the time we parked the car, the seatbelt and cinched itself down tight. We tried every possible body pretzel combination to remove Tami from Jordan's car, but all attempts proved unsuccessful. Penny finally resorted to a pocketknife and cut the fellow mountaineer from the car. Once free, the three mountaineers strapped on snowshoes and started the climb under snowy skies. The snow was all fresh powder and we post-holed almost continuously for approximately 3 miles to a false summit. High winds blew in and the sky turned black overhead. Visibility was poor, but we could make out another false summit in the distance, before the true peak. Since it was close to 3:00 p.m., we decided to try our summit attempt again another day when show conditions were more packed. The trip was a true cardiovascular workout and exercise in balance to avoid post-holing. We all had a great time and took in several brief views of the Bitterroot Valley to the East – Penny Palm

**McClellan Peak, Sapphire Mountains, December 19<sup>th</sup>:** Penny Palm and Jordan Shapiro picked McClellan Peak as their destination for the day, with their canine companions and a pack of friends' dogs. Unfortunately, the trip was aborted early, due to an injured dog – Jordan Shapiro

**Lolo Pass Moonlight Ski, December 18<sup>th</sup>:** A few interested people called about the moonlight ski trip, but Julie Warner was the only mountaineer that showed up for the meeting. We decided to ski Sunday instead and skied from Lolo Pass to Moose Pass, a total of 10 miles. The pass should have good skiing for the next several months – Steve Schombel

**Want to Lead A Trip ?** If you are interested in being a Trip Leader for the Rocky Mountaineers, contact Club President Matt Grandy at 728-0647 or e-mail him at [matthewg@montana.com](mailto:matthewg@montana.com).



### CLUB OFFICERS

President	Matt Grandy	728-0647	Treasurer	Julie Warner	543-6508
Vice President	Tony Sabol	273-2566	Secretary	Penny Palm	258-2000
Vice President	Steve Schombel	721-4686	Newsletter Editor	Tami Sabol	273-2566