



# MOUNTAIN EAR

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS OUTDOOR CLUB

HIKING-CLIMBING-MOUNTAINEERING-SKIING-  
EXOTIC TRAVEL-EXPLORATION OF PEAKS AND  
MOUNTAINS OF MONTANA AND OF THE WORLD

\*\*\*DECEMBER 2000\*\*\*

**CLUB MEETINGS:** Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Holidays!!! The Rocky Mountaineers normally meet on the second Wednesday of each month, however a number of events have transpired to prevent this. The foremost event is that our President, Penny Palm, has resigned from that office. Penny has been one of our active trip leaders this past year and previously. She now has to balance a business, ski patrol, plus a challenging return to University. We will miss her. Wish her good luck on her future endeavors! The current Vice President, Tami Sabol, has declined the role of President. Tami has been the Rocky Mountaineers most active trip leader this past year, but now is extremely busy with her career, community and public relation involvements, plus finding time to enjoy all the other multiple recreational opportunities which abound in our area. In light of these circumstances, the remaining officers met to discuss the leadership of our great club. Julie Warner has considerably more free time, plus some excellent ideas for the club. It was agreed by the remaining club officers that Julie would head the Rocky Mountaineers as our President Pro-Tempore. You can read her message to the club located latter in the newsletter.

There will be no meeting this month, December. We will regroup in January to discuss the possibility of new club officer elections versus other solutions. Please attend that meeting to voice your opinion. In light of the U.S Presidency debacle, we can now see that all votes count...so make vote or ideas known!

## TRIP CALENDER

**Open Climbing for interested folks:** Many members of our club are unable to get out and climb the scheduled trips on the weekends. If you are one of these people, and would like to become part of a "weekday" climbing group, let us know you are interested in finding similar climbers to join on weekday outings. Call the Secretary- Newsletter Editor at 273-2566 to be placed in this special interest climbing/hiking group.

**December 17<sup>th</sup>, Idaho-Lolo Pass Ski Trip:** Ready for some great skiing up at Lolo Pass? Join Julie Warner for some cross-country skiing. This area offers on and off trail routes for skiers of all abilities and fitness levels. Call Julie for more information at 543-6508.

**December 17<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, Jewel Basin Trip:** Meet in the parking lot at the Echo Lake Cafe on Highway 83 @ 0830. We may be able to drive to the upper parking lot, maybe not, depending on snow conditions. Plan on a high clearance 4WD vehicle to get up there, or as far as we are able to get. Last year in mid December, we were able to drive within 2-2.5 miles from the upper lot and skied the rest. This trip is planned as a ski/snowshoe outing, depending on conditions. Bring both and we can decide on the day of the trip. Skiers should bring good tele gear or beefy touring skis, skins & related gear. From the upper lot, plan on a climb to radio ridge, Mt. Aeneas & plenty of runs off of both. This trip is offered to both of Missoula's mountaineering clubs. Contact Jim Cossit for more information @ 406-756-4238, or email him at [jhc@abanet.org](mailto:jhc@abanet.org).

**December 23<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday, Snowshoe Trip:** Looking for an opportunity to get out and learn snowshoeing? Then join Steve Schombel for a beginner type snowshoe trip (Steve's one!). If the snow is deep enough, we'll go up Bass Creek for a couple of miles. If not, then one of the side drainages near Lolo Pass should permit us a worthwhile challenge. If you are around and interested this close to Christmas, give Steve a call. Reach him at 721-4686.

## **Greetings Fellow Rocky Mountaineers:**

At a recent board meeting, I accepted the role of **President Pro Tempore** of the Rocky Mountaineers. I feel that the future of our club is a paramount issue, however the problems facing our club are not new, nor even of recent origin. I see three underlying factors for the clubs present circumstances: problems with officers, image, and money.

**OFFICERS:** Most clubs can't exist without some form of committee, board of directors, or officers to help guide a club along. Volunteerism and outright apathy on officerships has long been an issue for our club. The main reason Gerald Olbu was president for most of the 1990's was simply because no one else wanted to do it. Well intentioned people have held that office, but often work conflicts and/or other interests have detracted from it. In addition to apathy, the officers have traditionally not held regular board meetings. Meetings are essential to enhance communication and deal with problems before they become crisis situations.

**IMAGE:** The By-Laws of the Rocky Mountaineers clearly state that we were to be a group of people of ALL skill levels. During the 1980's, this club had the image of hard-guy, death march climbers. Though this image was "cool" at the time, in the long term it was disastrous for our club. Climbing is a mentoring business...those with more complex skills took on the younger and less skilled to pass knowledge and skills along. The cycle repeated itself with each upcoming group of folks helping along the folks behind them, and so on. The death-march image of the 80's disrupted this process...the less skilled were just shut out of the process...and for those hardy souls that persisted into the 90's, the subtle message that beginners and "just hikers" weren't good enough caused many of them to pick up and leave the club altogether. This left a huge gap in the "passing on to a new group" aspect that is affecting the group, now, 15 years later. All we can do at this time would be to restart the process and hope for the best. We have interest from many new members, so we aren't completely without a future.

**MONEY:** The problem with money is that we don't spend any. We have limped along for years on dues that just cover the newsletter, post office box, and the cabin fees. A free, but not always consistent meeting room seems like a nice idea, but a consistent meeting room that we may have to pay for has its advantages. Paying for speakers, having a web page, phone book listing, or other ways to communicate our existence to the public are some long term strategies. What it comes down to is that a club is like everything else in the world, it is only as good as the money you put into it. What we have now is the best club that our limited investment would buy. Raising our dues and investing some money are other options for the club.

I need the members of our club (and I apologize to the new members) to kindly tell me what it is you would like to do. Would you like to hold more elections before May...and if so would we do that at the January meeting or by mail? Would you be willing to lead trips or suggest any other strategies that may help the club. We will meet in January to discuss these issues, but please give me your input any way that you can. Contact me at [jawkal@selway.umt.edu](mailto:jawkal@selway.umt.edu) via email, regular mail at 1705 S 3<sup>rd</sup> St W, #16, Missoula, Mt 59801, or by phoning 406-543-6508. Message space is limited on the voice mail, so please just leave your name and phone number and I will call you back ASAP.

President Pro Tempore Julie Warner.

## **TRIP REPORTS**

**Lolo Pass Ski, November 12<sup>th</sup>:** Eric Kreilick, Eileen Schwaneman, Fred Schwaneman, and Julie Warner took their cross country skis to Lolo Pass and were greeted with over 18 inches of fresh snow. Eric was just learning, and he took to it like a pro. We had a great time on this early season trip. -Julie Warner.

**Welcome Creek Hike, November 18<sup>th</sup>:** This great Saturday Brett Doucett, Bob Koca, Fred Schwaneman and Steve Schombel hiked up Welcome Creek in the Rock Creek drainage. It was a beautiful day for early winter, sunny and about 30 degrees. The trail was in good shape for the first couple of miles, with footprints to follow. Near the Cinnabar Cabin, even the deer tracks disappeared, and we had to break trail. The snow was only a few inches deep, but was tiring. When we reached the Carron Cabin, between 4 and 5 miles from the car, we decided it was far enough. Brett built a fire and we warmed up briefly, then hiked back out without any trouble. We saw no one else on this trail, and heard no rifle shots all day. Everyone enjoyed the day. Even for those not in the best of shape, leading a hike can be a lot of fun and you can meet some fine people. Some of you other club members should give it a try! -Steve Schombel.



**Want to Lead A Trip?** We are looking for individuals, young or well seasoned, to lead hikes, backpack trips, climb, mountaineering excursions, or other outdoor adventures. Please lend us your talents and volunteer to lead at least one trip per year. You can lead anything from beginner level to the most extreme. You don't have to be in cutting edge shape to be a leader. Simply possess sound judgment and be upfront with any participants as to the type of trip you will be leading. Our club members and others can benefit from the fruits of your efforts. Give it a try. If you are interested in being a Trip Leader for the Rocky Mountaineers, contact Club President Penny Palm at 258-2000 or e-mail her at [Psquard@email.msn.com](mailto:Psquard@email.msn.com). For faster turnaround time, please also forward to the Newsletter Editor at [tntsabol@bigsky.net](mailto:tntsabol@bigsky.net) or call 273-2566.



**CLUB OFFICERS**

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Vice President	Tami Sabol	273-2566
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