



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

FEBRUARY 2001

CLUB MEETINGS: There will not be a formal program for the month of February. We will be meeting February 14th to discuss current club business, future climbing trips, future programs, etc. Meet in the lower meeting room, Missoula Public Library, 7 pm. The last meeting was held at Finnegans restaurant. We wish a great many thanks to John Barltmas for use of his facilities. At the January meeting, Julie Warner signed a new 10-year lease for the Rocky Mountaineers Winter Shelter/Cabin. The forest service is presently pleased with our stewardship of the facilities. Please continue to use the cabin for winter use, but please continue to pack in/pack out all refuse, maintain fire safety, and please notify the President of any problems or maintenance items you may identify while you are at the cabin.

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.

Open Cross-Country Skiing: Need a partner to go do some skiing? Julie Warner loves to get out and ski. Call her to arrange a time/place at 543-6508.

February 10-18th, Isla Espiritu Santo-Baja Mexico, Kayak Trip: Join Sally Wenning for a kayak excursion through beautiful waters and inlets along the coast of Baja. This trip is a formally guided trip sponsored by WILD WOMEN. There are fees required. Call Sally for more information at 549-8567.

February 18th, Sunday, Lolo Pass Ski Trip: Join Julie Warner for a ski trip near Lolo Pass. Participants should be greeted with great snow conditions and great views. Get out and get a work out with Julie and other outdoor activists. Call her at 543-6508 for arrangements

January 21st, Sunday, Beginners Level Cross-Country Ski Trip: Join Julie Warner for a beginner level cross-country ski excursion. Participants will be able to enjoy some mild terrain at a location near Missoula. Call her to arrange for the trip. Reach her at 543-6508.

February 24th, Saturday, Lolo Pass Beginners Ski Trip: Come join Julie Warner on a beginners level cross-country ski trip near Lolo Pass. Participants should be greeted with great snow conditions and great views. Get out and get a feel for this spectacular sport with Julie and other outdoor enthusiasts. Call her soon at 543-6508 for arrangements.

February 25th, Sunday, Howard Creek Snowshoe Trip: Join us for a snowshoe trek in the Howard Creek Drainage downstream from Lolo Hot Springs, or higher toward the pass if snow is still thin. We will follow the North Fork Trail, which is long and gentle and eventually tops the ridge between Lolo and Petty Creeks. It is about 4 1/2 miles

with steady uphill the last 1 1/2, which will be a full day to do the whole thing. The farther you go the less footprints, do! poop, etc. and the more winter beauty you encounter. For more information call Steve Schombel at 721-4686.

March 2001, Arizona Desert Backpack Trip: Late March, I am going to join a friend in Arizona for a backpack in the desert. We'll be going to Chiricahua, Salt River, or some other less frequented spot. Perhaps we'll bag a peak or two. There is limited space for someone to share gas and driving. The exact week will depend on when my friend can get time off, not necessarily spring break. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for more info.

TRIP REPORTS

Blue Mountain Snowshoe Trip, January 13th: Steve Schombel and Fred Schwanemann took advantage of new snow in the valley and went to Blue Mountain, instead of the advertised spot, for a vigorous half day of snowshoeing. We slogged up to the motorcycle parking lot, and then made our own tracks down to Hayes Creek and up the trail to the Hayes Point lot. We came close to the point but the powder was deeper and it was the agreed upon turnaround time. Returning to the Blue Mountain Road we met Bill and Vera Myers skiing up the road. Bill wondered where we came from and said some younger people were following them but turned back. Fred and I took the easier and quicker route back to our car down the road. We had a tiring but satisfying day. -Steve Schombel.

Ski Trip, Lee Creek Saddle, January 21st: Although I had several calls from beginners, none showed up at the meeting place, so Fred Schwanemann, Charles Tree, David Kahl, and Julie Warner skied back toward the Lee Creek Saddle to check-out the road, which still was being used by loggers. We got in a discussion over which peak it was you could see from the saddle, Sleeping Woman (Squaw) Peak or Lolo Peak. A line drawn on a map when we got home revealed it to be Sleeping Woman Peak. The day was beautiful, and it was warmer than in town. The snow conditions were great. On the way back to the Visitor's center, we stopped to climb up and ski down a hill. -Julie Warner.

Ski Trip, Lee Creek, February 4th: The Lee Creek road was still being used, so Cynthia Tillman, Roberta Chapman, Mary Retting, David Kahl and Julie Warner decided to instead ski Pack Creek. It's about the same distance, except mostly down hill. The road was packed by snowmobiles the mile and half down to the Pack Creek Bridge. From there we had to break our own trail, which Cynthia was more than glad to do. This however made the going slow and didn't give us much enthusiasm for getting any good speed on the nice steep sections of the lower half of the road. After lunch, (our half way point time wise), we still had 3-4 miles to go. Suddenly a young man on a snowmobile pulled up, and seeing us, was going to turn around out of courtesy for us. We however, encourage him to continue on in front of us, to give us some sort of packed trail. He obliged, and we got in a few nice runs on the downhill sections. The weather was fair despite the snow, which fell most of the day, and the scenery was beautiful. -Julie Warner.

Want to Lead A Trip? We are looking for individuals, young or well seasoned, to lead hikes, backpack trips, climbs, 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 Julie Warner at 543-6508 or email her at jawkal@selway.umt.edu.



CLUB OFFICERS

President Pro Tempore
Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Julie Warner

Tami Sabol

Julie Warner

Tony Sabol

543-6508

273-2566

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273-2566

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Household Yearly Membership (\$13.00)

Make checks payable to "Rocky Mountaineers"

Rocky Mountaineers

PO Box 4262

Missoula MT 59806

LIABILITY WAIVER-INDEMNITY AGREEMENT: In today's legal environment, liability for accidents is always a concern. It is very sad, but it is a reality of our times. Many of our members will not lead trips for fear of legal action being directed against themselves and their families. In order to help alleviate some concerns regarding this matter, we have sought the advice from a major mountaineering organization. We have been provided with an indemnity and release statement, which any member of a Rocky Mountaineer sponsored trip will be required to sign and have on file prior to going on a trip. Extra copies will be provided to trip leaders to have available for signing for any members of the club or public who have not had the opportunity to sign one. You can never sign away negligence, but you can sign away the many acts of God or Nature, which are inherently present in the outdoors. If you are actively participating in trips, please sign your copy and send it to the Rocky Mountaineers P.O BOX so it may be placed on file. Thank you so much for any cooperation in this matter.

I, (print name) _____ hereby state that I wish to participate in courses and/or activities offered by The Rocky Mountaineers, a non-profit organization. I recognize any outdoors activity may involve certain dangers, including but not limited to the hazards of traveling in mountainous terrain, accidents or illness in remote places, force of nature, and the actions of participants and other persons. I further understand and agree that without some program providing protection of its assets and its leaders, the Rocky Mountaineers would not be able to offer its courses and activities.

In consideration of and as part payment for the right to participate in the activities offered by The Rocky Mountaineers, I agree to RELEASE, HOLD HARMLESS, AND INDEMNIFY The Rocky Mountaineers and its members from any and all liability, claims and causes of action arising out of or in any way connected with my participation, or the participation of any minor that I am signing on behalf of, in any activities offered by The Rocky Mountaineers. I personally assume all risks in connection with these activities. If I am signing on behalf of a minor, I further agree to RELEASE, HOLD HARMLESS, AND INDEMNIFY The Rocky Mountaineers and its members from any liability, claims and cause of action, which the minor may have arising from the minor's participation in activities. The terms of this agreement shall serve as a release and indemnity agreement for my heirs, personal representative, and for all members of my family, including any minors. (Parents or Legal Guardians must sign for all persons under eighteen (18) years of age).

I have read this release and indemnity agreement and have fully informed myself of its contents before I have signed it.

Print Name

Signature

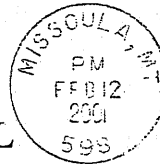
Date

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian if Participant is Under 18 Years of Age

Date

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Membership Renewal 04/2001