



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

MARCH 2001

CLUB MEETINGS: BIG SLIDESHOWS! For this month, we have Brett Doucett showing his great slides of his many years of climbing throughout western Montana. Brett has countless pictures of the Mission and Bitterroot Ranges. Come see his show at 7pm, Wednesday, March 14th, Lower meeting room, Missoula Public Library.

1ST ANNUAL MOUNTAINEER FEST: Come gather for the premier event of this year. Our local climbing guru and internationally famous mountaineer GRAY THOMPSON will be showing slides highlighting the past 40 years of his adventures. Gray will focus on his FIRST ASCENTS in the Himalayas, Canada's Mt Logan, Denali and other mountains in the Alaska Range, Canadian Rockies, and other peaks worldwide! The show is slated for April 18th, 7pm, Large Urey Lecture Hall, University of Montana. This will be an awesome show...don't miss it, tell your friends to mark this one on their calendars.

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.

March 25th, Sunday, Last Ski Trip: Come join us for probably the last ski trip of the season. Julie Warner will be going to Lolo Pass to cross country ski. Call her at 543-6508 for more information.

March 17-24th, Arizona Desert Backpack Trip: I am going to hook up with a friend from Cibique for a week in Arizona. He is going to check backpacking and camping in the west end of the Grand Canyon on the reservations. If these are full, or if it's too cold, we will head farther south for some desert backpacking. Sorry if this is vague, but if you know me well enough to spend a week together call Steve at 721-4686 for more info.

TRIP REPORTS

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.

We thought it might be interesting to Rocky Mountaineers to reread some of the articles from the early days of the club, when new routes were being discovered. ~~Here is one~~ from J. Gordon Edwards, of *The Climber's Guide to Glacier National Park* fame, published in our March 1972 *MountainEar* (condensed and updated version in 1995 *Climber's Guide*). Back then J. Gordon Edwards was a regular contributor and member of the original, and only club which has the right to call itself *The Rocky Mountaineers of Western Montana*.

Route to Gem Glacier

Hike the Garden Wall trail until 1/4 mile north of Haystack Butte, to the highest point of that trail (about 6900 ft. elev.) A broad, "U"-shaped notch in the top of the Garden Wall is directly above this point, and a broad rocky couloir extends up to it. After 100 yards of scree and herbs, the first cliff is reached. Go to the south side of the couloir and climb the class 4 pitch up that low cliff, then ascend the center of the couloir for a while. When it becomes steep and dangerous, angle up toward the north side of the couloir and continue up easier little scree gullies to the notch in the top of the wall. Walk through that great "U"-shaped notch on a heavily-traveled goat trail to reach the large meadows at the foot of the steep snows making up Gem Glacier. Josephine Lake, Grinnell Lake, Swiftcurrent Lake and Sherburne Lake are stunning from this vantage point, strung together in the deep green valley 3,000 feet below. The tall, narrow Garden Wall blocks much of the view toward the northwest and Grinnell Mtn. obscures the northern panorama, but it is still a marvelous place to visit!

Climbers may desire to continue northward along the great goat trail that is encountered at the "U"-shaped notch, and mountain goats and bighorn rams are often encountered there. The trail is very good for several hundred yards, but eventually a huge steep snowbank is encountered that cannot be safely descended without ice axes. Just beyond that snowbank is another deep notch in the Garden Wall, and a good trail leads from there to the "Grinnell Glacier Overlook" (a maintained human trail leads down from there to the Garden Wall trail near Granite Park Chalets). It is possible to descend to the Garden Wall trail before reaching the huge snowbank, of course, but the descent is not easy and is not pleasant and there is a chance that persons on the trail below might be endangered by your rolling rocks. The recommended route down is the same as the route of ascent, and you are also strongly reminded that persons may also be on the trail below the great couloir. Look very carefully before risking that descent, to be sure there are no hikers below you, then stop climbing at any time persons do appear on the trail below. The responsibility is largely yours!

From the meadows below Gem Glacier there are two routes to the summit of Mt. Gould. One begins in the deep, narrow couloir near the northwest corner of the mountain, starting from the other notch in the wall above the meadows. The other begins with a traverse entirely across the north face of Mt. Gould, then ascends near the northeast corner of the mountain. The first of these is described in the *Climber's Guide*, and the second is described adequately in the guide to the "Traverse of the North Face of Mt. Gould."

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.



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 it 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