

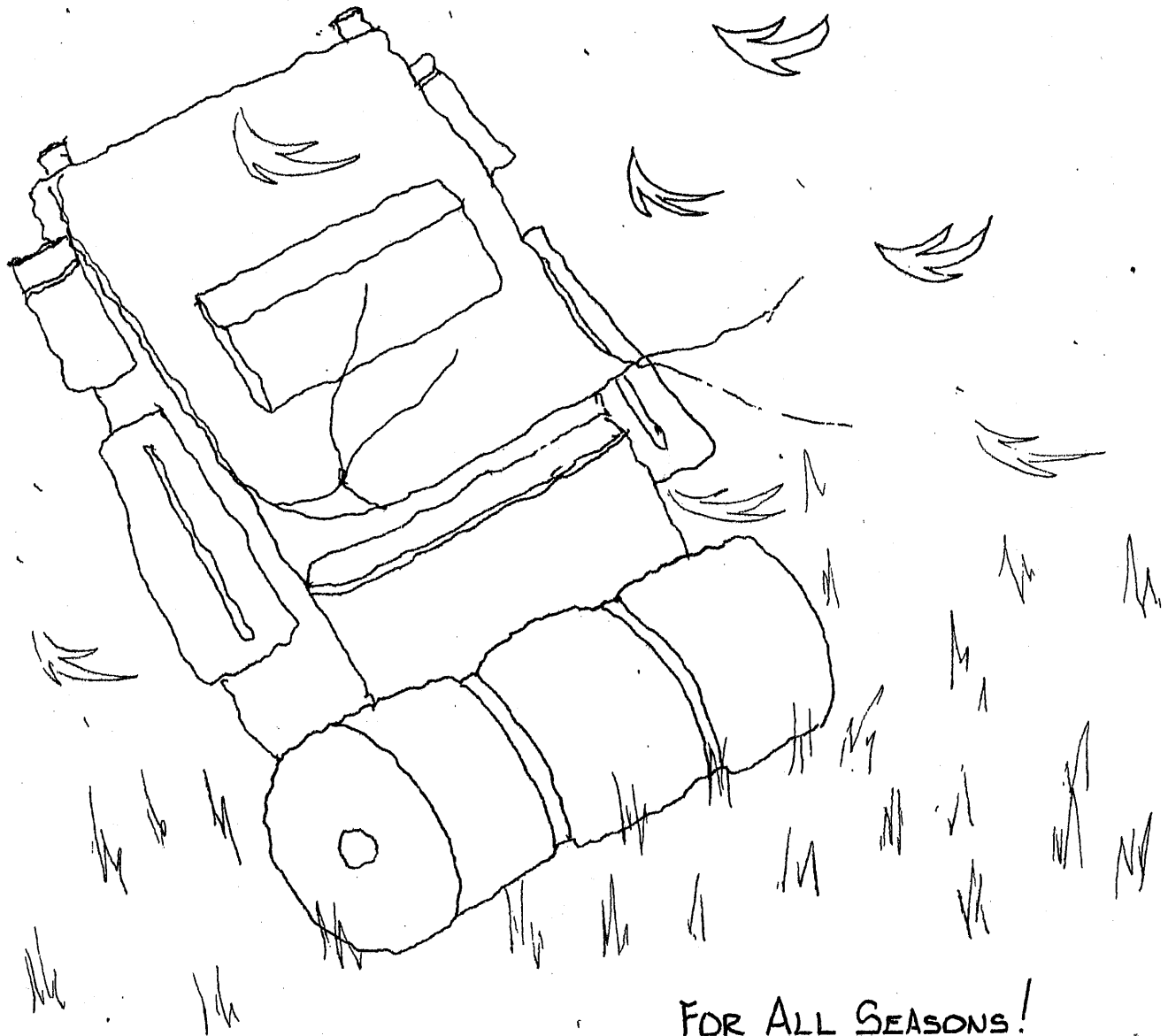


# Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS  
OF WESTERN MONTANA

VOL. XVII No. 1

October 1977



FOR ALL SEASONS!

The Rocky Mountaineers of Western Montana, Box 4262, Missoula, Montana, 59807, welcomes all persons interested in the outdoor activities of hiking, camping, ski-touring, snowshoeing, river floating, bicycling, and technical climbing--summer, winter, autumn, and spring. Subscription to the Mountain Ear is by membership: \$4.00/yr., single; \$5.00/yr., family; or \$2.00/volume to out-of-town addresses. Eight issues per volume.

#### OFFICERS

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Mountain Ear Staff: Virginia Vincent,  
 Annette Walker, Pat Washburn

\* \* \* \* \*

NEXT MEETING: October 12, 1977, at 7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Hellgate High School Cafeteria

PROGRAM: John Briggs, Conservation Media Group of Missoula, will present "Wind, Water and Wildness," a photographic journal of a 2,000 mile cross-Canada canoe journey.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Note from the editors:

Hi! Hope you all had an enjoyable summer with plenty of outdoor fun. We'd like to hear about your adventures and share them with other Mountaineers through articles, stories, or trip reports. We're also happy to receive poetry, recipes, "healthful hints," for sale ads, or general announcements related to activities which the Mountaineers support.

A new membership list was not available by printing deadline, so in next month's issue we will officially welcome new members who joined this summer.

After much discussion, our executive council has decided to move our meeting place to the Hellgate High School Cafeteria. Western Federal has always provided fine facilities for us, but recent remodeling which reduced the size of our meeting room and limited the number of chairs available to us, brought the decision to seek a larger hall. See you at Hellgate High on Wednesday. And welcome back.

## NOT FOR SPRING: GREAT FOR AUTUMN

If you want to wade, go during spring runoff. But the route to Granite Lake near Skookum Butte will be more enjoyable in late summer or autumn. The trip via East Fork of Lolo Creek is just right for a short day hike and length depends on how far one desires to ram a vehicle up the old road.

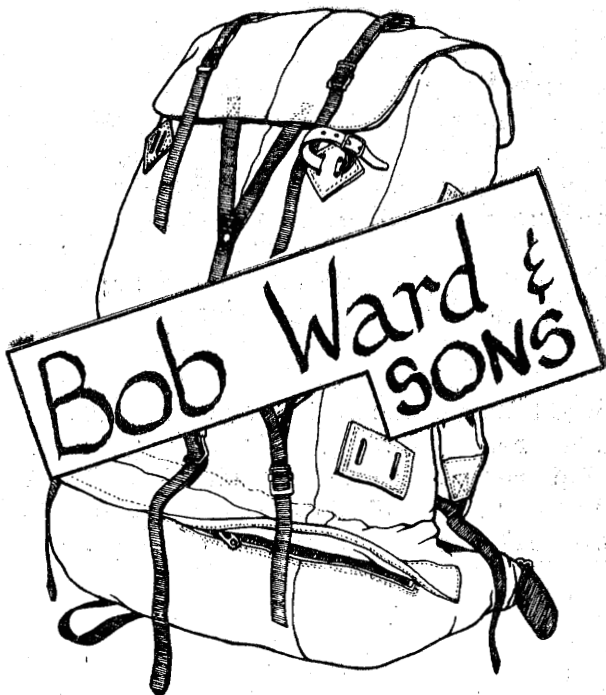
Turn left off the highway about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles beyond Lolo Hot Springs at a sign for the East Fork Lolo Creek Road. It is a well-used (logging, presently) dirt road following a small creek. At the sign for Lost Park Road bear left and the roadbed is pretty good for another mile, but gets progressively more chuck-holed and rutted with culverts missing.

Wherever you give up, just start walking along the road till it peters out. The grade is easy as it wends its way into a forested basin where cattle graze. Here seeps and streams give wetness even after our dry summer of '77. Trail is fairly easy to follow and soon becomes drier and easy to find as it starts up a shallow gully. From here on it is fine, perhaps a mile and a half to the ridge. At the saddle, a few steps bring one to a view of Granite Lake which is in Idaho.

There seem to be campsite possibilities here among the lodgepole pines. Another route would be to drop down the ridge from Skookum Butte and return to the Elk Meadow Road via the valley of the Brushy Fork.

--Virginia Vincent

## BACKPACKING HEADQUARTERS



Sheep Mountain Hike (Aug. 7): Five people went on this hike, a relatively easy one. The logging road to the starting point, 9 or 10 miles, may be the roughest part (on the car), if one is not on guard for some thumping rocks. Weather was sunny and mild. We reached top around noon and enjoyed 2 hours there with panoramic view. Air temperature in low 60's with very little wind.

--Arnold Finklin

Healthful Hint: The tiny pores in polyethylene bottles can and do absorb sugar, flavors, and chemicals and can harbor bacteria. Sugar drinks especially aid bacterial growth, and drinking directly from a polyethylene bottle may contaminate it with mouth bacteria. To be certain your plastic bottles are clean for the next backpack trip, soak them in clorox water, rinse well, dry, and store with the cap off.

HIGHWAY 93 AT SOUTH AVE.

## AUTUMN-WINTER ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE, 1977

Trip Classification: Easy--generally under 8 miles round trip and suitable for family participation. Moderate--approximately 8-16 miles; may include steep terrain or some off-trail travel; some overnight backpacking; recent experience desirable. Difficult--(toughies!) long, steep, or indefinite mileage; rough trail or bushwacking; prepare for unpredictable conditions; experience outdoorsperson in good physical condition.

It is advisable to contact leader in advance to determine trip conditions, meeting place, and degree of difficulty of trip. The leader has the option of limiting the number of participants on the trip.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Leader(s)</u>	<u>Details</u>
Oct. 15	Paul Jensen 543-7033	Lolo Peak via Lantern Ridge. Leave Western Federal (southside) parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Call in advance if you plan to go. Moderate to difficult, 12 miles round trip.
Oct. 22	Jim Schultz 549-0523	Ghost town. Leave from Tempo (Eastgate) parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Bring Lunch. Easy.
Oct. 29	Martha Yale 549-2163	Day trip to an undetermined location, dependent on weather. Details available later.
" "	John & Annette Walker 549-0286	Halloween costume party. All Mountaineers invited! BYOB. 8:00 p.m., 621 Woodford.
Oct. 30	Virginia Vincent 543-8078	Eagle Point, Skalkaho Game Refuge. Meet at Western Federal (southside) at 8:00 a.m. for day hike. Moderate to difficult, 10 mi. round trip.
Nov. 5-6	open	
Nov. 9	-----	Regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., Hellgate High Cafeteria
Nov. 12	Charlotte Gill 543-8454	Hemlock Lake in the Missions. Leave Eastgate parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Moderate, 4 miles one way.
Nov. 12-13	John & Annette Walker 549-0286	Tentative plan to go to Glacier to view the eagles. Call if interested.
Nov. 19-20	open	
Nov. 26-27	open	
Dec. 3	Dave and Pat Washburn 543-5678	Sleeping Child Hot Springs. Call for details.
Dec. 4	Sharon Weeks 728-2942	Lolo Pass cross-country skiing. If no snow, hike to Jerry Johnson Hot Springs.
Dec. 14	-----	Regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., Hellgate High Cafeteria.
Dec. 17	Andrea Hartman	Day trip to undetermined location. Probably cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.
Christmas-New Years	?	Elkhorn Hot Springs for cross-country, downhill skiing, snowshoeing, swimming. Details later.
Jan. 7-8	Mary Jean Ungaretti 728-0026	Downhill skiing at Big Mountain. Details later.





