



# Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS  
OF WESTERN MONTANA

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November 1979



The Rocky Mountaineers of Western Montana, Box 4262, Missoula, Montana, 59806, welcomes all persons interested in hiking, camping, ski-touring, snowshoeing, river floating, bicycling, and technical climbing--summer, autumn, winter, 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

President- Myra Bair.....728-3616  
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Secretary- Les Ojala.....549-5263  
Treasurer- Arnold Finklin.....543-8705  
1st Past Pres.-Jerry Kogan.....721-3286  
Mountain Ear Staff-Myra Bair and  
Virginia Vincent...543- 8078

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\* NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, November 14, 1979 at 7:30 pm. \*  
\* LOCATION: Double Front Cafe basement meeting room, 122 W. Alder \*  
\* PROGRAM: "Beauty, Ugliness, Happiness, Sadness and Man," \*  
\* slide-tape presentation by Peyton Moncure. \*  
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NEW MEMBERS: Art Anderson, Margaret Polland, Paula Mullis and family, Pat Hirst, Dennis McCloskey, Ilona Hruska and family, Thomas Forrest



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Hours: 4:00 p.m. to  
9:00 a.m.

For reservations, write: 600 S. Orange Street  
Missoula, MT 59801  
or call: (406) 728-9799

TRIP SCHEDULE

- Nov. 24 Sat. Stuart (or should that be Stewart) Peak in the Rattlesnakes day hike with Rob Holden, 543-5545. Moderately strenuous.
- Dec. 16 Sun. Ski Wishard Ridge with Bill Morgan, 1-3635339, or call Myra 728-3616. Strenuous.

We need trip leaders for December. Volunteer to Myra Bair, 728-3616 or Katherine "Kate" Peterson, 721-5200.

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Granite Lake in the Cabinets

I told Dave Line I didn't feel like a trip leader, but learned that trip leading is more a matter of having an idea and being a coordinator than being proficient in first aid. So, I decided to lead a trip to Granite Lake near Libby. My father had started with the Forest Service when it formed and was Supervisor at Libby at one time. I had heard my older sisters speak of a marvelous walk in to Granite Lake, and so developed a desire to see it.

When the trip weekend arrived, August 18-19, the others scheduled to go cancelled out. As a fearless leader not wanting to go by herself, I called around and found a willing cohort in Mary Ambrose. We left Missoula in my Toyota-Chinook camper and explored the road from Plains to Thompson River Road, the Libby Dam, and Kootenai Falls before getting to the trailhead in the evening.

The following day we walked an easy six miles into Granite Lake, lunched, and I fished for awhile. We walked out the same day, all under an overcast sky with occassional drizzle. We encountered no insects and there is a nice place to camp with practically no human junk left at the scene. Granite Lake is a typical high mountain lake at the base of "A" Peak. I caught five cutthroat trout in the 5-6 inch range, some with roe. The largest cutthroat in the lake would run 7 inches, and maybe slightly larger in Granite Creek.

After coming out from Granite Lake, we stayed at a campground where the Yaak River enters the Kootenai. The next day we visited the scenes of my father's and grandfather's homesteads a few miles up the Yaak valley. We then came back the fastest road to Missoula, the Bull River Road. We stopped to see Ross Cedars and noted another side of Peak "A", where we had been the day before.

A minimum of four miles of the Granite Creek trail goes through a bottom of truly magnificent cedars. I told Mary that the Granite Creek cedars were so large I didn't think we would stop at Ross Cedars, but we did. They are further apart and slightly larger though probably not as tall as those we saw the day before. I wondered what my sister would have thought of the Granite Creek cedars with 50 years growth. Even the cottonwoods were a joy to behold, tall and large among the cedars.

Allison Easterling













