



# Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS  
OF WESTERN MONTANA

JUNE 1984  
Volume 22, No. 9

JUNE POTLUCK: Wednesday, June 13 at 6:30 p.m.  
at Cindy Anderson's, 802 Ronald, Missoula.

During the summer the Mountaineers traditionally have potlucks rather than meetings. No program. Please come and talk about hiking, etc. Bring any kind of dish, plus your own utensils and, if desired, beverage.

(Ronald is two blocks east of Higgins on the south side of the river. Cindy's house is located on the east side of the street between 6th and Eddy. It's easy to find and in a central location, so let's have a good turnout!)



The Mountain Ear  
P.O. Box 4262  
Missoula, MT 5980

Dave Line  
1135 Whitaker Drive  
Missoula, MT 59803

## TRIP REPORTS

Sunday, May 13 - St. Mary's Peak

Mother's Day found five somewhat hardy souls skiing up St. Mary's Peak. Unlike past trips this late in the season, there was sufficient snow to ski all the way to the top of the peak. The day was so pleasant and the view so spectacular that we tarried too long at the top, letting the snow get a little mushier than desirable. Still it was enjoyable and not that bad of skiing. Joining the leader were Larry Johnson, Bill Weiland, Linda Ambelang and Donna Slocum.

--Bill Morgan

(Unofficial Mountaineer Trip)

As a result of a hasty discussion Friday evening, Art Gidel and prospective new member Tom Sutton climbed McDonald Peak on Saturday, June 2. The route is the classic snow couloir so spectacularly prominent from Highway 93 just north of St. Ignatius. To minimize avalanche and rock fall danger, and still do the climb in one day, we got an early start from the McDonald Lake trailhead (5 a.m.). After walking several miles along the trail we bushwacked south into the canyon leading to the permanent snowfield at the base of West McDonald Peak. The headwall at 5200 ft. is best surmounted by scrambling up the slabs on the left side of the southernmost creek. The snow was firm with an icy crust, making for superb cramponing. Snow slopes vary from 10-65 degrees. Avalanche and rock fall danger could be severe in warmer conditions; a helmet is probably worth its weight.

We enjoyed a perfect view and our second lunch at noon on the summit (9,820 ft.). Waiting an hour or more for the snow to soften, we glissaded to the 7,000 ft. level. We reached the parking area at 6 p.m. with high spirits but very sore feet. This is a strenuous trip with 6,200 feet elevation gain.

--Art Gidel



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Fri. evening 'til 8 p.m.  
131 West Main  
549-5542

## HEAP CHEAP

**CHECK THESE PRICES on top-quality U.S. made camping gear and river equipment.**

Therm-a-Rest sleeping pads, 48" self-inflating, list \$38.80 ..	\$29.00
Diamond Dome Tent, sleeps 2-3 .....	\$120.00
Diamond "Minikin" 2-person Tent, (pictured) 4 lbs., complete with fly, compare at \$175. ....	\$129.00
Camp 7 Appalachian Trail Sleeping Bag, rated to 25°, list \$99 (one only) .....	\$70.00
Twin Peaks "Glacier" Sleeping Bag, rated 0° .....	\$98.00
22"x41" Waterproof River Bags .....	\$11.25
"Wave" Cordura Fanny Pack .....	\$15.00
Diamond "Switchback" frame pack, compare at \$70 .....	\$50.00
Diamond Large Daypack with detachable pockets .....	\$30.00
15½' Navy Surplus Raft, with inflatable floors, ropes, pumps, and canopy (we use ours on the Salmon) .....	\$389.00

This is just a partial list of quality backpacking, camping, and whitewater gear in stock or available. Call for low, low prices on packs, sleeping bags, lifejackets, soft luggage, kayak and raft gear, mini-kayaks, and other gear. The quality is high, but not the markup. Low overhead does the trick.

Phone evenings or weekends 363-5468.

**The Bushwacker**

**122 Birch, Hamilton**

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New members: Cindy Muller  
2000 Montana Street  
Missoula, MT 59801  
721-3764

Bill Weiland  
9165 Keegan Trail  
Missoula, MT 59802  
728-3530 (Grantland)

Address change: Tom and Sharon Lukomski  
2498 West Central  
Missoula, MT 59802

Renewal: Joanne Hall

The Rocky Mountaineers welcome all persons interested in outdoor activities in all seasons. One complimentary copy of the Mountain Ear will be sent upon request, and non-members may attend meetings and participate in activities prior to joining.


OFFICERS: President: Art Gidel, 543-6352  
V. President: Cindy Anderson, 549-2152  
Secretary:- Mary Jane Robinson, 721-3832  
Treasurer:- Arnold Finklin, 543-8705  
Social:- Mary Ambrose, 543-7566  
Mountain Ear: Ethel MacDonald, 549-9722 and Lois Crepeau, 728-5321.

Dues: \$5.00 individual, \$7.00 family. Join at any time. Send dues to Arnold Finklin, treasurer, Rocky Mountaineers, Box 4262, Missoula, 59806.

Want to lead a trip or suggest where one ought to be led? Call Art at 543-6352.

Got a suggestion for a program for next year? Call Cindy at 549-2152.

Want to put something in the Mountain Ear? Call Ethel at 549-9722. Send trip reports to Ethel at 316 West Central, Missoula 59801 no later than the first week of the month for inclusion in that month's newsletter.



# Lloyd's

SHOE REPAIR  
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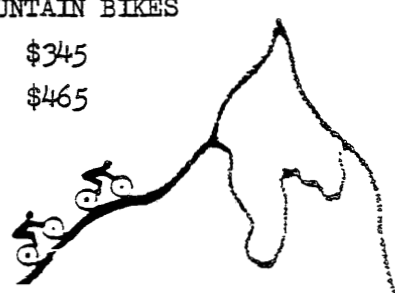
## BRAXTON BIKE SHOP

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Missoula, Montana 59801      Phone (406) 549-2513

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--thru June with this ad--

## TRIP CALENDAR

- June 17 trip to Bear Creek Overlook has been canceled.
- June 23-24 - Curly Lake. Call Wayne Hecker, 251-4853, for more information.  
Saturday-Sunday
- June 30 - Mt. Harding. This 9,000 foot peak in the Mission Range is a fairly  
Saturday strenuous hike and climb with about 5,000 feet of elevation gain in  
7 miles. Views of Western Montana should be spectacular. Call  
Art Gidel at 543-6352 for details.
- July 1 - Burnt Fork Lake. Call Nancy Schrader at 728-3334 for more information.  
Sunday
- July 7-8 - Glacier Lake - Turquoise Lakes. This is a moderate trip of about  
Saturday-Sunday 15-16 miles on a generally good trail that is steep in places.  
The plan is to leave Ed Domer's place on Placid Lake at about  
7 a.m. on Saturday (possibility of camping there Friday night for  
an early start Saturday) and drive for about an hour toward  
Condon to the trailhead. Go as far as Turquoise Saturday and  
camp there. On Sunday go over the ridge for about a mile (no trail)  
to Island-Hart and Crescent Lakes and join the trail there which  
leads out to Glacier Lake and the trailhead. This is scenic  
country with fishing in some of the lakes. Led by Ed Domer, 1-677-2715.
- July 8 - Gash Point (8886') in the Bitterroots is a moderate day hike of  
Sunday about 4 miles with an elevation gain of 3500 feet. It lies west of  
Victor and offers a spectacular view of Sky Pilot and the surrounding  
area. Call Bill Morgan at 1-363-5339 if interested.
- July 28-29 - Quigg Peak Loop. This will be a 20-mile overnight loop trip in  
Saturday-Sunday a little-used proposed wilderness area east of Rock Creek (east  
of Missoula). We will start at Ranch Creek Trailhead and end  
either at Butte Cabin Creek or the Hogback Trailhead. There is  
4400' elevation gain in over ten miles with no lakes, no fishing,  
no encounters on the trail with anyone except our group. Moderately  
strenuous. Call Joe Kipphut at 721-1564 by July 26.
- August 11-12 - South Fork Lolo Creek-Bass Creek Loop. 20 miles. We'll make  
Saturday-Sunday camp overnight in the high lakes of the headwaters of the South  
fork Lolo Creek, then climb over the divide and drop down to  
Bass Lake and out to the C.M. Waters Campground. Over 4,000 ft.  
elevation gain and loss. Moderately strenuous. Call Joe Kipphut  
at 721-1564 by August 9. (This is the same trail which was the  
subject of Kim Williams' infamous article two years ago.)
- August 18-19 - Little Rock Creek. This is a moderate backpack up the Little  
Saturday-Sunday Rock Creek drainage which originates at the base of El Capitan  
(Bitterroot's) and eventually drains into Como Lake. The trail  
is not well maintained so expect to do some climbing over windfalls  
and other diversions. The distance is about 4 miles (elevation  
gain 1,700 feet) to Little Rock Creek Lake and then another two  
miles (and 800 feet elevation) to the unnamed lakes at the base  
of El Capitan. Call Bill Morgan at 1-363-5339 if interested.
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We have some other possibilities for trips in July and August, and there will be at least one more newsletter this summer. Also, watch the Around Missoula column in the Missoulian for changes or additions.