



Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS
OF WESTERN MONTANA

JULY-AUGUST 1984
Volume 22, No. 8/10

JULY POTLUCK: Wednesday, July 11 - 6:30 p.m.
Bonner Park, near the volleyball court. (North end of Park)
(Bonner Park is located two blocks east of Higgins Avenue,
between Ronald & Hilda and McLeod & Beverly)

Bring: A "pot" of something or other to share, plus your own
utensils, drinks, etc., and energy to play volleyball
(unless you'd rather just listen to the City Band Concert
at 8:00).

AUGUST POTLUCK: Wednesday, August 8 - same time, place, and particulars.



The Mountain Ear
P.O. Box 4262
Missoula, MT 59806

Dave Line
1135 Whitaker Drive
Missoula, MT 59803

TRIP REPORTS

June 10 - Bear Lake

The threatening sky Sunday morning was probably the reason more people did not show. Had many calls, but only three of us made the hike: Andy Smith, Jerry Sontag, and G. Hamma. The temperature was perfect -- not too hot, but it rained most of the day. Wore rain pants all the way up and back because the wet brush overhung the trail. The log crossings were slimy, as were the eight-foot deep tangles of windfalls after we left the main creek.

-C. G. Hamma

June 30 - Mt. Harding

Eight motivated early risers began hiking the Eagle Pass trail at 6:30 a.m. At about 9:30 a.m. at the 6,800' level the group split into two parties, one to try for Eagle Pass (7,500') and the other for the Mt. Harding south summit (8,881').

Nancy DeCou, Eileen Neill, and Beverly Chin made an unsuccessful, but spirited attempt on Eagle Pass. Due to an unexpected cold snap, the snow was very firm and a bit icy. Step kicking was difficult, and after several ice axe anesths, Nancy, Eileen, and Beverly called it a day.

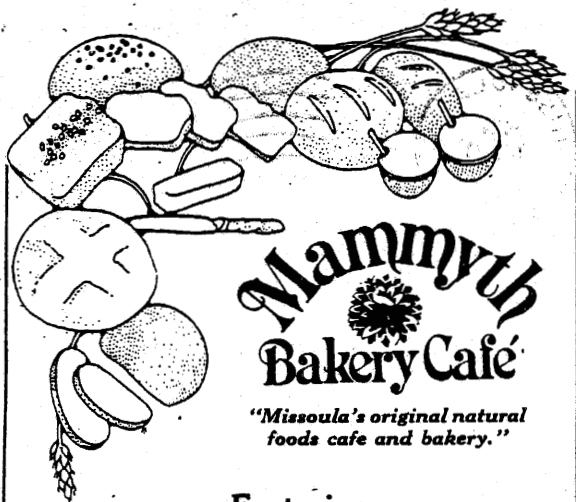
The second party avoided the snow problem by scrambling up the bear grass on the south-facing slope north of the trail. Dave Pengelly, Joanne Hall, Bill Burnett, Brett Dussette, and Art Gidel enjoyed lunch on the south summit while watching three goats scamper across rock and snow towards the north summit. Some improvement in the blustery weather encouraged three of the group to scramble to the north summit at 9,061'. Views there were outstanding.

The Eagle Pass trail was well marked and in fairly good shape. Thanks to Joanne and Dave, we identified numerous wildflowers including valerian, spring beauties, coral roots, blue silky phacelia (near the summit) lady slippers, and alpine buttercups.

A great group and a super trip!

- Art Gidel

NEW MEMBERS:	Bill Burnett 1753 So. 13th W. Missoula 59802 Ph. 549-5496	David J. Fried 1366 E. Dickinson Missoula 59802 Phone 721-4696
RENEWAL:	Marti Crane	



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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 Bushwhacker 122 Birch, Hamilton

June 23-24 - Kerlee Lake

Terry Jones, Dave Fried, Brett Dusette, and Dave ? joined Wayne Hecker for the moderately strenuous weekend hike to Kerlee Lake in the Bitterroots. We left the trailhead at Tin Cup Creek at 10:30 and arrived at Kerlee Lake about 4:30, crossing Tin Cup Creek three times on fallen logs. The last crossing is above a narrow gorge with a small waterfall which was very scenic but not a good place to fall in! We found some patches of bare ground at the lower end of the lake to camp on. The lake is at 7,000' so there was still one to four feet of snow around it. The water was free of ice, though.

Saturday evening Dave and Brett climbed Lonesome Bachelor, elevation 9,185'. They used a rope on the way down as it is difficult. Terry and Wayne climbed one of the the Como peaks which was 9,485' but easier. Sunday morning the climbers traded peaks and had some excellent views of the surrounding country. The skies were clear, the weather hot, and the mosquitoes few on both days. We saw fresh elk and deer tracks around the lake. Snow conditions were good for kicking footsteps between the lake and the peaks.

After the long hike out -- about nine miles -- the group had a well-deserved dinner in Darby before heading home. The trip was very scenic and we were able to take some good photos.


- Wayne Hecker

July 2 - Burnt Fork Lake (titled "Thwarted Again by Snow")

An easy six-mile loop hike to Burnt Fork Lake in the Sapphire Mountains east of Corvallis was not completed due to snow blocking the road just beyond the Willow Mountain Lookout turnoff. Nancy Shrader, Joe Lauinger, Julia, Clarisse Landry, Joe Kipphut, Robin, and Allison Easterling walked through snow and a bit of mud on the road for two miles to the Palisade Mountain Trail (#44). There we wandered about, with several of us hiking to a bare pile of rocks north of Palisade Mountain. All along the way (walking and driving) we had a beautiful view of the Bitterroots on the first day of July.

Don't attempt this trip before August, due to snow. Also, it's probably not worth the drive to get so close to Burnt Fork Lake. It would be a very nice hike up trail #300 to the lake with far less driving.

-Nancy Shrader



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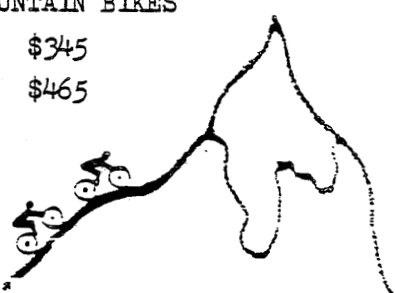
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JULY-AUGUST TRIP SCHEDULE

- July 14-15 - East and West Pintlar Peaks in the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness. Start
Sat.-Sunday at the trailhead on the Middle Fork of Rock Creek about 25 miles southwest of Philipsburg. The trailhead is at 6200' and we'll hike 5 miles to Phyllis Lake at 8200' and camp overnight. We can climb to East or West Pintlar Peaks (9500') on Saturday or Sunday. We'll return via Falls Fork of Rock Creek past Johnson Lake on Sunday (8 miles). This is a loop trail. Call Wayne Hecker at 251-4853 if interested in going.
- July 15 - North Trapper Peak. This is a strenuous climb and scramble. Call
Sunday Art Gidel at 543-6352 for information.
- July 21 - St. Mary's Peak in the Bitterroot. This is a ten-mile round trip
Saturday with a gain of about 2,000 ft. in elevation. Moderate. Call Cindy Anderson at 549-2152.
- July 28 - Hoodoo Pass. This is a 10-16 mile hike along the Great Burn Divide.
Saturday Moderate. Call Dave Pengelly at 728-6512.
- July 28-29 - Quigg Peak Loop. This will be a 20-mile overnight loop trip in a
Sat.-Sunday little-used proposed wilderness area east of Rock Creek. We will start at Ranch Creek Trailhead and end up either at Butte Cabin Creek or Hogback Trailhead. Moderately strenuous, there is a 4400' elevation gain in over ten miles with no lakes, fishing, or encounters on the trail with anyone except our group. Call Joe Kipphut at 721-1564 by July 26.
- August 4 - Pyramid Peak. This 10-12 mile round trip includes approximately 3,000'
Saturday elevation gain (no beginners, please). We'll hike to Pyramid Pass on the border of the Bob Marshall and take the trail to Pyramid Lake. We'll bushwack from the lake to the top of Pyramid Peak (8,390') where we'll have views of the Swan Range, Bob Marshall Wilderness, and Mission Range. Call N. DeCou at 728-5376 for details.
- August 5 - Stark Mountain. This is a moderate hike in the Nine Mile area west
Sunday of Missoula, and will probably include a visit with Virginia Vincent at the Stark Mountain Lookout. Elevation is 7,349'. Call Mel or Kim Williams at 543-8598 for details.
- August 11-12 South Fork Lolo Creek-Bass Creek. 20 miles. We'll make camp overnight
Sat.-Sunday 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. This is moderately strenuous, with over 4,000' elevation gain. Call Joe Kipphut at 721-1564 by August 9.
- August 18-19 Little Rock Creek. This is a moderate backpack up the Little Rock Creek
Sat.-Sunday drainage which originates at the base of El Capitan in the Bitterroots and eventually drains into Como Lake. There is a 1,700' elevation gain in about four miles to Little Rock Creek Lake, and another 800' gain in two miles to the lakes at the base of El Capitan. Includes some climbing over windfalls, etc. on a not-well-maintained trail. Call Bill Morgan at 1-363-5339.
- August 25 So far, nothing is scheduled for this weekend. Any volunteers? We
August 26 plan to get the September Mountain Ear mailed early enough in August to include this weekend. Please call Art Gidel at 543-6352 in early August if you can lead a trip on either or both of these days. Also start thinking about September trips, and give Art a call.

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