



# Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS  
OF WESTERN MONTANA

OCTOBER 1984  
Volume 23, No. 2

OCTOBER MEETING: Wednesday, October 10, 7:30 p.m.  
Montana Power Building, 1903 Russell, Missoula

PROGRAM: WILDERNESS AND ZEN  
Dexter Roberts, U of M and Wilderness Institute

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Dave Line  
1135 Whitaker Drive  
Missoula, MT 59803

## TRIP REPORTS

Labor Day Weekend, Bighorn Crags Area of the River of No Return Wilderness

Beverly Chin and Art Gidel joined leader Dan Weinstein for a 3-day trip in this spectacular area west of Salmon, Idaho. The area can be easily reached by driving about 50 miles of dirt road. There is a car campground at the trailhead, and the road is good.

The terrain is very near that in the high Sierra, with numerous exposed granite crags and spires. The elevation gain is nominal, unless one-day hikes down 5,000 vertical feet to the Middle Fork of the Salmon River are taken.

Dan and Art scrambled numerous ridges, and made one short, unroped, nerve-racking ascent of a nearby crag. Numerous technical climbs are possible in the Bighorn Crags. The only detraction from this trip were signs of heavy use and the very extensive trail system. Outhouses are in place along several lakes.

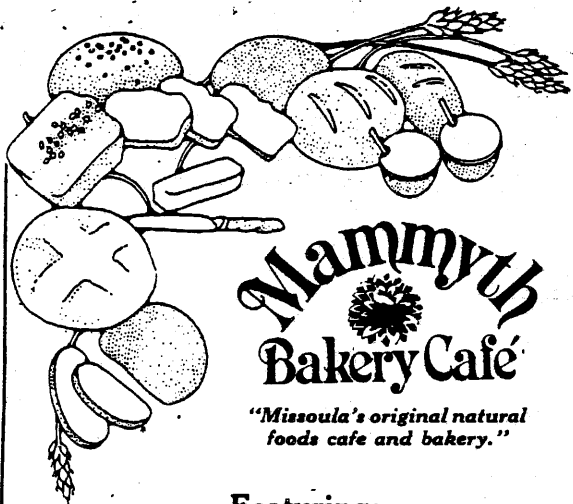
--Art Gidel

Saturday, Sept. 15, Mountaineer Peak in the Mission Mountains

Iлона Hruska, Mark Swanson, Brett Dusette, and Art Gidel began walking the Mission Creek Trail at 6:30 a.m. A few miles later and 2,500 feet higher found the group taking off their footgear to ford the outlet creek to Lucifer Lake. So just how cold was it, Iлона? Bushwhacking south of Lucifer Lake to above Picture Lake was somewhat tedious, but with Mark's spirited enthusiasm, the group took it all in stride. Although Mountaineer Peak has an easy walk-up route, the group chose to scramble directly up the west face. Some Class 4 moves are involved on this route. After taking an unplanned detour, leader Art Gidel met the other members on top for a late lunch. (Next time, wear bear bells, Iлона, so I don't get lost.)

After a wearisome bushwhack to Lucifer Lake, the group raced darkness back to the trailhead. Darkness won. As advertised, this is a strenuous day trip.

--Art Gidel

**Featuring:**

- fresh breads, bagels, pita
  - luscious pastries
  - homemade soup & sandwiches
  - hot vegetarian entrees
  - Mexican dinner Friday evening
  - salad bar
  - fresh juices & smoothies
- and much more!

Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-6 p.m.  
 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..	<b>'29.00</b>
Diamond Dome Tent, sleeps 2-3.....	<b>'120.00</b>
Diamond "Minikin" 2-person Tent, (pictured) 4 lbs., complete with fly, compare at \$175.....	<b>'129.00</b>
Camp 7 Appalachian Trail Sleeping Bag, rated to 25°, list \$99 (one only).....	<b>'70.00</b>
Twin Peaks "Glacier" Sleeping Bag, rated 0°.....	<b>'98.00</b>
22"x41" Waterproof River Bags.....	<b>'11.25</b>
"Wave" Cordura Fanny Pack.....	<b>'15.00</b>
Diamond "Switchback" frame pack, compare at \$70.....	<b>'50.00</b>
Diamond Large Daypack with detachable pockets.....	<b>'30.00</b>
15½' Navy Surplus Raft, with inflatable floors, ropes, pumps, and canopy (we use ours on the Salmon).....	<b>'389.00</b>

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**

The mountain slopes crawl with lumberjacks,  
 Axing everything in sight--  
 Yet crimson flowers  
 Burn along the stream.

--Chin-doba

## THE ELUSIVE HOLE

A story by Ilona Hruska

The nine hearty crew members who had gathered on September 29 for the annual Little St. Joe cabin work party were all aware of the Rocky Mountaineers' directive for this year: construct a small shelter to adequately store the Mountaineers' treasured collection of Montgomery Wards catalogs. Bill Morgan, knowing of our mission, had mailed Bob Benson an elaborate blueprint which Bob was busily showing to the crew in the K-Mart parking lot for comment and approval. The only flaw in Bill's design seemed to be an elusive hole to accommodate the "used" catalogs.

Undaunted, we left the parking lot and made the trek to the cabin, trudging through ankle-deep snow. Ralph, who had seemed unusually quiet (he was pondering the problem of the elusive hole), was out in front. Nearing the cabin, he suddenly halted and we could see him peering deeply down. After a moment he quickly turned around and ran back to the rest of the crew.

"I've found it! I've found the hole! Our design is saved. We can build our shelter!"

Little did Ralph know, however, that it would be five long hours later before the final board would be lashed into place.

The construction of our catalog shed was a wondrous feat. Using the materials of the land, 20 feet of wire Art had in his back pocket, and spikes that had been salvaged from the old Missoula Brewery, the crew constructed a magnificent structure, one Bill Morgan will certainly find pleasure in. Our very hearty crew also split and stacked enough wood to keep us all warm on our winter excursions, did a quick repair job on the stove piping, and remodeled the cabin interior under Cindy's expert supervision. Our return to Missoula found us tired but satisfied, knowing we had accomplished our mission.

Cindy Anderson, Art Gidel, Ralph Flockerzi, Bob Benson, Ilona Hruska, Bob Logan, Joe Knotek, Wayne Hecker, and Steve Crowley participated in this memorable event.

The MOUNTAIN EAR is a publication of the Rocky Mountaineers, an outdoor activities group which welcomes new members at any time. Dues are \$5.00 per person or \$7.50 per family per year. Send dues to Arnold Finklin, Treasurer, Rocky Mountaineers, Box 4262, Missoula, Montana 59806.

OFFICERS:	Art Gidel, President	Phone	543-6352
	Cindy Anderson, Vice Pres.		549-2152
	Mary Jane Robinson, Secty.		721-1276
	(or is that Burns?)		
	Arnold Finklin, Treasurer		543-8075
	Ethel MacDonald, Mountain Ear		549-9722
	Lois Crepeau, Mountain Ear		728-5321

If you have ideas for articles, etc. for the Mountain Ear, please mail to Ethel at 316 West Central, Missoula 59801, or give me a call at 549-9722.

If you wish to run an ad in the Mountain Ear, call Lois at 728-5321.

If you wish to send or receive a complimentary copy of the Mountain Ear, please tell any officer.

Non-members are welcome to participate in Mountaineer activities prior to joining. Watch the Missoulian's Around Missoula column for reminders of scheduled trips or for new trips.

"That man is the richest whose pleasures are the cheapest."

--Henry David Thoreau

- Saturday, Oct. 13 - Second cabin maintenance trip to finish outhouse. Call Art Gidel at 543-6352.
- Sunday, Oct. 14 - Sheep Mountain, from the Blackfoot Canyon. Moderate family hike led by Nancy Shrader. Call Nancy at 728-3334 for details.
- Saturday, Oct. 27 - Moderately strenuous hike and scramble in the Rattlesnake Mountains. Point Six to Mosquito Peak. Call Art Gidel at 543-6352.
- Saturday, Nov. 17 - Second annual early season ski trip to St. Mary's Peak in the Bitterroot Mountains. Bring old skis! Moderate trip. (Snow conditions permitting.) Call Art Gidel at 543-6352.

As you can see, scheduled trips are sparse, and volunteers are needed to plan and lead hikes. Please call Art at 543-6352 if you can help make the Mountaineers a more active group.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New Members:

Sandy Burton  
303 Preston, Missoula 59801  
721-7632

Bonnie J. Brewer  
Box 8861, Missoula 59807

Renewals:

Ralph Flockerzi  
Mary Ambrose  
June and Greg Siple



**Lloyd's**

SHOE REPAIR  
1230 West Kent

(N. end of Tremper Shopping Center)

- \*Hiking boot collars repaired
- \*All types of boot and shoe repair
- \*\*"Vibram"
- \*Accessories
- \*Zippers
- \*Leather care products

**BRAXTON  
BIKE SHOP**

"AN OASIS FOR THE  
CYCLO-TOURIST"

SPECIALIZING IN BICYCLE ASSEMBLY,  
WHEEL BUILDING, FRAME BUILDING &  
REPAIR, SANDBLASTING, PAINTING  
REPAIRS PARTS ACCESSORIES

2100 South Ave. W.  
Missoula, Montana 59801

Sam, Shiri, Bart & Dait Braxton  
Phone (406) 549-2513

SPECIAL PURCHASE

TURBO TRAINER EXERCISER

REG. \$189.00 NOW \$159.00

KEEP IN SHAPE

RIDE YOUR BIKE ALL WINTER