



Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS
OF WESTERN MONTANA

AUGUST 1985
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NEW TRIPS

Art Gidel will announce one or more climbs through the Missoulian "Around Missoula" column during August and early September. Possibilities include St. Nicholas in Glacier Park and El Capitan in the southern Bitterroots. Call Art for up-to-date trip information at 543-6352.

July 27 -- Mill Creek trail in the Bitterroot range. Moderate. Call Andy Graybeal Sat at 542-2496 for further information.

Aug 10-11 -- Great Burn area near Hoodoo Pass. Moderate. Call Ralph Flockerzi at Sat-Sun 549-9986.

Sept Early September, Nelson Lake, Bitterroot range; overnight trip. Good fishing. Call Ralph Flockerzi at 549-9986.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PREVIEWS

Aug 14 -- Potluck dinner, Bonner Park, 6:30 pm. Volleyball after dinner. Bring Wed. a favorite dish, plate, utensils and beverage.

Sept 11 -- "Show & Tell" slide show. Members are encouraged to bring slides of Wed. summer trips to share with other members. Location and other details to follow in September Mountain Ear.

September Cabin Maintenance Trip -- We will cut and store firewood and make necessary repairs to the cabin. Date to be finalized in the September Mountain Ear. Call Art Gidel if interested in participating.

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Fri. evening 'til 8 p.m.
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549-5542

TRIP REPORTS

June 22,23,24 -- George Lake

Bill Nipps and Ralph Flockerzi enjoyed a two-nite trip into George Lake...good scenery, lots of wildflowers and fair fishing. Brett Doucette made a one-day trip out of it and Brett and Ralph climbed Fisher Peak for a great view.

-- Ralph Flockerzi

June 9 -- McDonald Peak: A first ascent of sorts.

John Westernberg, Dave Pengelly and Art Gidel climbed the straightforward, but tiring snow couloir route above McDonald Lake. The route is, of course, not a first ascent, but how many have climbed it with plastic toes? Yes, John Westernberg has proved that high-tech teflon can take on boulder fields, slippery rock slabs, and 55-degree icy snow slopes. This bionic feat required numerous lunches, with the finale on the summit at 1 pm. The ride down to 7000 feet was certainly faster than the plod up, with Dave Pengelly reaching giant slalom speeds without the benefit of either skis or poles. Art pulled in at a close second using the infamous out-of-control butt-glisade technique.

The trio reached the trailhead at 6 pm. Not bad for 6200 feet of vertical by two middle-aged complainers and one plastic-toed marvel.

-- Art Gidel



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TRIP LEADERS NEEDED!!

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MORE TRIP REPORTS

June 28-29 -- North Trapper Peak

Dave Pengelly, Brett Doucette and I left Missoula after work on Friday, arriving at the Bake Lake trailhead by 7 pm. We hiked to the west end of the Baker Lake drainage, reaching Gem Lake before dark. This may be the most spectacular setting within a 3-mile walk in the Bitterroot range. The next morning at about 7 am we hiked over the notch to the north, dropping down to the large basin between North Trapper and Trapper Peaks. We chose to climb the standard route up a ravine and snow chute on the south face. This route generally requires an ice axe for the snow chute and a short section of rope for the climb out onto the face. The remainder of the route is an easy scramble, with the exception of one move near the summit. We reached the summit by 9:30 am and were treated to superb views in all directions. I hope other members did not miss this trip due to lack of publicity. The Missoulian printed the announcement on Thursday, leaving only Thursday evening for interested parties to reach me.

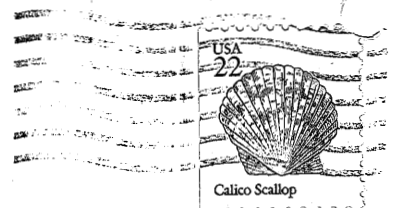
-- Art Gidel

July 7 -- Great Burn Hike Ralph Flockerzi and Dave and Vicki Pengelly drove to Hoodoo Pass on the Idaho-Montana line via Superior and Trout Creek. After the previous days of 95 degrees plus weather, the cloud cover, cool breezes and occasional rainshowers we encountered were a welcome relief. We hiked south on the state-line trail as far as Trio Lakes. Although the wildflower display was not as spectacular as last year's hike, there were still numerous species in bloom. This hike is highly recommended to anyone wishing a relatively painless way to get up to a high elevation with lots of scenic vistas. You can make the hike as long or as short as you wish with several opportunities to make loops down around the numerous lakes on the Montana side of the divide.

-- Dave Pengelly

The Mountain Ear
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FIRST CLASS MAIL



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