

# Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS  
OF WESTERN MONTANA

September, 1988

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## MONTHLY MEETING

Time and Place: 7:30 P.M. on Wednesday, September 14, 1988, at the Montana Power Building at 1903 Russell Street in Missoula.

Program: Our September program traditionally consists of slides taken by club members on trips during the last year. It's a great way to remind yourself of what went on during the last year, and for new members it's a good way to find out what to look forward to. Everybody is encouraged to bring lots of slides, and we will view them till we are satiated and can't take it no more.

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## TRIP CALENDAR

NOTICE: Some trips scheduled for September may have to be cancelled due to extreme fire danger. If you have any questions about whether a trip has been cancelled, please call Ted Schwinden, work 1-444-3111, or home 1-442-1262.

Sunday, September 18, Swan Peak: Climb Swan Peak in the Swan Range. A long day with a little scrambling at the end, and super scenery. Call Dave Pengelly, 728-6512, for details.

Friday night-Saturday, September 24-25, McCloud Peak: Bicycle up the Rattlesnake Corridor Road on Friday evening and camp at the wilderness boundary. Scramble up McCloud Peak Saturday and come out Saturday evening. Call Bill Burnett, 549-6089, for details.

Sunday, October 2, 1988, St. Joe Cabin Work Party. The cabin on Little St. Joe Peak needs a new roof, and this is when we are going to replace it. The last trip was well attended and the work got done quickly and easily; Let's do it again. Call Art Gidel, 543-6352, for details.

Oct. 30-Nov. 27. Plan on wearing blaze orange at all times during this month. Ted says we can't leave the city limits for recreational purposes, but you can bet that that isn't going to stop all those frustrated sportsmen from hunting.

Saturday, November 12, St. Mary's Peak: Before you throw away your old pair of tele skis, don't forget Art's annual early November trip up Saint Mary's Peak in the Bitterroots. If you are trying to decide whether to buy new skis this year, this trip will help you make up your mind. Call Art Gidel, 543-6352, for details.

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## TRIP REPORTS

Saint Nicholas, Glacier Park, July 4th weekend: Dave "Legs" Pengelly and Steve "Dynamo" Niday convinced leader Art G. that a trip to jolly St. Nick would be a perfect Fourth of July Trip. Art, of course, argued that December would be more appropriate. Dave said, "Why wait," Steve said, "Looks too easy to ski," and so we went. An easy ford of the Middle Fork, a couple of miles by trail, and a few verticals later we were having soup in the shadow of Glacier's famous spire. The next morning the Dynamo freed the classic 5.8+ moves out of the Great Notch. Stunned by this early morning feat, Dave performed these moves off Art's shoulders, and Art, that wimp, juggled on up the rope. After some 5 or 6 pitches of low 5th class climbing we reached the summit in intermittently foggy conditions. A few rappels later the crew was back at camp. The walk (some might say run) out the next morning was refreshingly wet from one of this summer's rare rain storms. A super trip. - Art Gidel.

Blackfoot River, July 9: River Junction to County Line. Beverly Chin, Art Gidel, Ralph Flockerzi, and Bill Burnett were able to get up early and be "intermediate paddlers," whatever they are, for this easy and scenic drift on the Big Blackfoot River. The anticipated rocks turned up, it turns out, elsewhere. Art and Bev got so excited they continued, in record time, on to Roundup Rapids to round up a lazy summer float. - Bill Burnett.

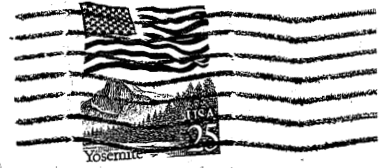
Granite Peak, August 19-21. So just how smokey was it? Like malfunction junction at 5 p.m. in a stage 1 alert, times 3. But, of course, this was natural smoke which is rumored to lead to increased climbing abilities above 10,000 feet. To our surprise the smoke moderated the morning of our climb. Our trio boulder hopped from our camp near Avalanche Lake a couple of miles to the saddle between Tempest Mountain and Granite Peak. We then walked, scrambled, and climbed to the summit. By 2:00 p.m. the old smoke came rolling in again and we raced it back to camp. The next morning we made it to the car by noon, passing several discouraged climbing parties along the way. We informed them of how the smoke had driven us to new heights in climbing performance, but somehow they just couldn't understand. These guys were not from Missoula. I guess a lot of fresh air can really go to your head, you know what I mean? Thanks to Rick Murney and Bill Burnett for a fine trip. - ~~ART GIDEL~~

Swan Front Trips, July 16 and August 6. We took two real nice trips in the Swan Range this summer. Good sized groups showed up for both trips. On the first trip we toured Ptarmigan Point, Ptarmigan Peak, and Wolverine Peak, which are on the front south of Holland Lake. These mountains can be reached by bushwacking up any of the spur ridges to the north-south main ridge. There is great scenery from on top, with occasional scrambling and a few hundred feet of up-and-down as you traverse from one peak to the next. The Holland Peak area is my favorite area in the Swans so far. We first bushwacked up a spur ridge and crossed a bowl to get to Buck Peak, a scenic pyramid about a mile south of Holland Peak. This climb involved a bit of scrambling. Half the group then headed north up an easy ridge and traversed some large slabs above a cliff to climb Holland Peak. The rest of the group swung around to Upper Rumble Lake and lolled around. We then went down the trail from the lakes and back to the cars. If you want to climb Buck Peak, this trail is really the easiest way to get to it. - Peter Dayton.

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