



# Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

June, 1992

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## MEETING

**Time and Place:** The club will not hold formal meetings during the summer. In September and subsequent months, meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the Montana Power Building at 1903 Russell Street in Missoula.

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## TRIP CALENDAR

**Thursday Night Mountain Bike Rides:** Every Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. a group of bicyclers, including several members of the "club," go on mountain bike rides around Missoula. Watch the "Around Missoula" column in the Missoulian for details.

**Saturday June 27, Eagle Pass:** Hike in the Mission Mountains from McDonald Lake up Post Creek Trail to Eagle Pass Trailhead. A moderately strenuous on-trail loop trip, approximately 14 miles long with 4,000 feet of elevation gain. Reservation permit (\$5.00) required. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for details.

**Sunday June 28, Greywolf Peak:** Hike to the Riddell Lakes in the Mission Mountains, which lie directly south of Grey Wolf Peak; a moderately strenuous on-trail hike with 4,500 feet of elevation gain. Those who are interested can climb Grey Wolf Peak by its south couloir, a moderately difficult scramble or climb. Others can poke around in the attractive area around Riddell Lakes and the Scenic Lakes, which lie to the southeast of Grey Wolf. This trip would be a good way to learn how to find the trail head for this hike, which is kind of obscure. Reservation recreation permit (\$5.00) is required. Call Dave Pengelly at 728-6512 for details.

**Saturday-Sunday July 11-12, Cabinet Wilderness:** A moderately strenuous hiking tour and peak bagging trip into the Cabinet Wilderness Area. The trip could be extended to 3 or 4 days if participants are interested. The weekend of July 18-19 is an alternate time for this trip if inclement weather or schedule conflicts are encountered on July 11-12. Call Eric Jones for details at 728-0218.

**Sunday, July 19, Anaconda-Pintlar Hike:** Traverse loop from Storm Lake to Mt. Howe, Mt. Evans, Lake of the Isle, Twin Lakes, and back to Storm Lake. Moderately strenuous. Call Art Gidel for details at 543-6352.

**Saturday July 25, Holland Peak:** Hike and scramble to the Rumble Lakes and Holland Peak, one of the prettiest areas in the Swan Range. A moderately strenuous steep usage trail leads to the lakes, with scrambling thereafter. People who just want to hike to the lakes are welcome to come along. Call Peter Dayton at 728-8101 for details.

**Mountaineer Peak:** Hike past Mission Falls and Picture Lake up Mountaineer Peak in the Mission Mountains. This peak is visible from St. Ignatius, standing at the south end of the Garden Wall. A fairly strenuous 6,000 foot climb on a lousy usage trail followed by some really miserable bushwacking and some moderate scrambling. Time to be arranged; call Peter Dayton at 728-8101 if you are interested.

**Swan Peak:** Exploratory trip up a new approach to Swan Peak in the Swan Mountains, coming in from a new logging road to the northwest of the peak. We are currently reconnoitering the approach, which may involve mountain bikes if the logging roads are closed to motor traffic. The climb will follow the conventional west ridge. The bad news: expect a long arduous bushwack with 6,000+ feet of elevation gain and some challenging non-technical scrambling. The good news: this route could be easier than the usual route along the ridge to the north of Squeezer Creek. Time to be arranged; call Peter Dayton at 728-8101 if you are interested.

**Floating:** Due to drought conditions most of the whitewater rivers in the area are pretty much history, except for the Alberton Gorge, Buffalo Rapids on the Flathead, the Middle Fork of the Flathead, and the Salmon. Call Peter Dayton, 728-8101, or Art Gidel, 543-6352, if you want to get out kayaking, canoeing, or rafting during the weekends or on weekday evenings.

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TRIP REPORTS

McLeod Peak: On Saturday, April 23, Bill Burnett and I pedaled up the Rattlesnake corridor en route to McLeod Peak. Upon leaving the bicycles a new wilderness boundary sign was spotted approximately one mile beyond the fork of the corridor and the logging road access to Gold Creek. Two stream crossings brought us to a ramp leading diagonally right up out of the clear-cut. We passed numerous bear scat as we gained the wooded ridge. Midway along the ridge we encountered snow in shady patches. Where the trees opened to afford close views of the peak, snow predominated. Kicking steps up banks and scrambling over ridgelets brought us to the foot of the east ridge proper. Leaving one pack at its base we scrambled up to an increasing panorama of the Swan Range and the rest of the Rattlesnake. While traversing the summit westward we enjoyed clear views of Grey Wolf and the rest of the southern Missions. The summit was breezy but warm, and after twenty minutes we descended the south scree slope. Snow lower down allowed some excellent glissading. Upon reaching the clear cut a black bear-like shape proved to be a burnt stump, to my dismay. All in all a good outing in good weather with good company. - Henry Hodgeman.

Middle Fork of the Flathead: On Friday afternoon, June 5, Art Gidel and Peter Dayton drove up to Kalispell and flew into Schaefer Meadows in the Great Bear Wilderness for a self-contained kayak trip on the Middle Fork of the Flathead. This river flows out of the Bob Marshall Wilderness area and hits the southernmost point of Glacier Park about five miles upstream from Essex. No permit is required for this Class IV wilderness float trip. We were able to get ourselves and all our gear into one Cessna 206, with us squatting on the floor among our gear. The flying service shuttled our car to Essex. This float trip can be squeezed into two days, but by flying in on Friday evening we kind of stretched it back out to three days. Although the river was very low and rocky already, the rapids were fun, and the scenery was great as usual. We climbed Bradley Peak on Saturday night. Although we passed one camp, we didn't see anybody else on the river until we hit the road at the Glacier National Park boundary. This river makes a great weekend wilderness float trip. - Peter Dayton

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OFFICERS

Art Gidel, President - 543-6352  
Dave Pengelly, Secretary-Treasurer - 728-6512

Peter Dayton, Newsletter Editor 728-8101  
Rick Murney, Vice President - 543-7586

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Check one: Individual (\$6.00/year) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$8.00/year) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail a check payable to  
"Rocky Mountaineers" to  
Dave Pengelly  
P.O. Box 4262  
Missoula, Montana 59806

THE MOUNTAIN EAR  
P.O. BOX 4262  
MISSOULA, MT 59806

(STAMP)

FIRST CLASS MAIL