



Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

September, 1993

MEETING

!!! ATTENTION: NOTE THE NEW MEETING PLACE !!!

Time and Place: Club meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the Birchwood Hostel, which is located at 600 South Orange Street in Missoula. The September meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 8.

September Program: The program in September will be the traditional retrospective slide show of Club trips during the previous year. You are each invited to bring a selection of your favorite slides from the last year.

October Program: Art Gidel and Peter Dayton will present a slide show on their kayak trips this summer on the Owyhee, Bruneau, and Jarbidge Rivers in Southern Idaho.

More Nazi Slide Torture: On Wednesday, September 29, Art Gidel and Peter Dayton will present a slide show on multi-day wilderness whitewater float trips in Idaho. The slide show is being sponsored by the University of Montana Outdoor Recreation Program, and will be presented in the social sciences building at the University.

TRIP CALENDAR

Tuesday Night Mount Sentinel Hikes: If you're bored with the stair machine at the club, meet in the Mount Sentinel parking lot at 5:30 p.m. each Tuesday for a more interesting climb.

Thursday evenings and Saturdays, Rock Climbing. If you're interested in beginning, intermediate, or advanced rock climbing at Kootenai Canyon, Blodgett Canyon or Lolo Pass on Thursday evenings or Saturdays, call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769.

Sunday, September 12, Heavenly Twins: Climb the Heavenly Twins, which are located in the Bitterroot Mountains west of St. Mary's Peak and Stevensville. The route will follow the trail most of the way up St. Mary's Peak, then go cross country to the Heavenly Twins. The off-trail portion of the trip is fairly long and involves some route-finding through rock bands, but goes through some quite scenic high alpine country. The peaks themselves can be climbed by various routes ranging from a scramble up boulder fields on the southwest face to some fairly challenging climbing. Call Gerald Olbu for details at 549-4769.

Sunday, September 19, Unnamed Peak. Climb an unnamed peak north of Sugarloaf Mountain, which is located in the Bitterroot Mountains southwest of Darby. Call Art Gidel at 543-6352 for details about this moderately strenuous trip.

Sunday, September 26, Trapper Peak. Hike to the top of Trapper Peak, the tallest peak in the Bitterroot Mountains (10,157 feet). This is a moderately difficult hike; the route will follow a 6-mile well-maintained trail and will climb 3,800 feet. Other than the spectacular views one enjoys from the top of the ridge, its very impressive how the vegetation changes to adapt to the climate as one approaches the summit. From the top of Trapper Peak, one has an incredible view of the rugged, jagged, rocky peaks of that region; looking down the 600 foot headwall of Trapper Peak, the shear cliff faces of North Trapper Peak, El Capitan, and many other peaks and ridges. Call Gerald Olbu for details at 549-4769.

Sunday, October 3, Cabin Maintenance. If you think that you might want to use the Club's luxurious sub-alpine cabin on Little St. Joe Mountain in the Bitterroots this winter, you ought to feel morally obligated to show up for the annual cabin maintenance trip. If you don't know where this cabin is located, the maintenance trip is one way to find out. This trip should be short and relatively painless, as all we need to do is lay in some firewood. Call Art Gidel for details at 543-6352.

Sunday, October 17, Canyon Peak, Mount Harding, or other peak. Climb Canyon Peak, Mount Harding, or some other suitable peak in the Bitterroots or Missions, depending on the

participants' interest and the weather. Call Gerald Olbu for details at 549-4769.

Wanna lead a trip? If you are interested in leading a trip, help is only a telephone call away; Gerald Olbu, 549-4769, will be delighted to sign you up.

TRIP REPORTS

Turquoise Lake, August 8. After the challenging climb of Fisher Peak the week before, John Kinney, Judit Vizer, Sheila Lindquist, and Gerald Olbu were ready for a more relaxing hike, filled with scenic beauty. We hadn't hiked very far when we came upon a hillside full of huckleberries. Feasting seemed to be the thing to do. We took a break only to console the man who came running down the trail looking for his lammas which escaped the night before. Turquoise Lake was as beautiful as ever with its deep color. We contemplated climbing Panoramic Peak, but instead decided to jump into the lake. - Gerald Olbu.

Tobacco Root Mountains, August 15. On Saturday, Art Gidel and Peter Dayton kayaked the Bear Trap Canyon of the Madison River, which is located north of Ennis. We camped Saturday night at Potosi Creek Campground, which is located southwest of Pony. The next morning we drove up the creek a ways, climbed Potosi Peak (10,125), and then followed a rolling ridgeline to Horse Mountain (10,222) and Mount Jefferson (10,513). We could have continued along the ridge to Hollowtop Mountain (10,604), which is the prominent mountain at the north end of the Tobacco Roots, but ran out of ambition. The hiking on the ridge is pretty easy and the scenery is real nice, although there are a lot of roads and signs of mining activity. This range contains a lot of hiking and climbing opportunities, if you are willing to put some extra miles on your car. - Peter Dayton.

Mount Rainier, August 20-22. David Bixby, Rick Henderson, Gerald Olbu, Eric Reiland, and Greg Wider climbed Mount Rainier. We wanted to do a less travelled route so we chose the Kautz Glacier route. This was a great choice; we saw no one on this popular mountain until we were close to the summit. Each day had its highlights. On the first day, we descended onto the Nisqually Glacier, then picked our way through a maze of crevasses as we traversed the Nisqually and Wilson Glaciers. Crossing below a threatening ice wall and climbing an ice chute got everyone's adrenaline up on the second day. On the last day, even though a few of us were feeling the effects of the high altitude and the pace was very slow, we reached the summit. We descended the fast and popular Camp Muir route. The crevasses on this side of the mountain were quite beautiful with their intricate contours, icicles, and deep blue color. We were glad we had the time to spend two nights on the mountain. This allowed us to camp in two excellent campsites on top of dry ridges. We had extra time to demonstrate our mountaineering skills chasing after a sleeping bag which rolled down the mountain and fell into a crevasse. The weather was great. Most of the time we had a blue sky above us and a blanket of clouds fogging in the valleys below. - Gerald Olbu.

Mount Rainier, August. Dave Pengelly, Ralph Flockerzi, and two folks from Butte also climbed Mount Rainier in August.

OFFICERS

Gerald Olbu, President - 549-4769
Dave Pengelly, Secretary-Treasurer - 728-6512

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

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
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