



# Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

October, 1993

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## 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, October 13.

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 southwestern Idaho. These rivers are in extremely scenic and remote high-desert canyons with some challenging whitewater; the trips included eight portages (more portages than these guys had taken in the entire rest of their boating careers). Come see photographic proof that it is possible to pack nine days of food into a kayak and complete the trip with leftovers; come see what kayakers look like after wearing the same clothing for eight days, on and off the river, while paddling through wind, rain, sleet, and snow; come vote on which river has more awesome scenery. The slide show will be in the "dueling slide show" format, with two projectors and two screens going at once.

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## 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, 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.

October 30, Saturday. Hike to Island Lake in the Mission Mountains. This is a 6-7 mile hike mostly on a well-maintained trail through beautiful country. There is a possibility of hiking 2 miles further to Cliff Lake which lies below McDonald Peak and perhaps camping overnight. If we camp overnight, there is an additional possibility of scrambling up McDonald Peak. We will try to make all options available to all participants. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 to make arrangements.

November 14, Sunday. Climb a local mountain or ski on freshly fallen snow depending on weather conditions and participants' interest. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for details.

Note: Due to the hunting season, many of our regular trip leaders are unavailable. Therefore, this month's activities are rather thin. If anyone is interested in doing something on a weekend when nothing else is scheduled, it might be worthwhile to call Gerald Olbu and arrange something. As soon as the snow is suitable, the Club will have many ski trips scheduled. Usual ski trip leaders include Peter Dayton, Ralph Flockerzi, Art Gidel, Gerald Olbu, and Dave Pengelly. It might be worthwhile to call these people and see if they have bagged their limit and are ready for skiing.

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.

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## TRIP REPORTS

Grand Teton, August 30 - September 1. Tom Kenney and Gerald Olbu set out to climb the Grand Teton which was expected to be a relatively easy technical climb. At the base camp we met Didier Mallefer and Beatrice Jaques, who were vacationing from Switzerland and accepted our invitation to join us. The climb began as expected. Wall Street, a wide ledge which narrows to about 6 inches as it rounds the corner of Exum Ridge, was accomplished with no

difficulty. Shortly above Wall Street, we came to a series of chimneys which are the normal route. This year, however, due to the heavy snowfall of last winter, the chimneys were filled with snow and ice. We were forced to deviate from the normal route and climb the ridge, which was much more difficult. Likewise, the "friction pitch" was covered with snow and was much more challenging. Last year there wasn't a speck of snow on the mountain and we only roped up in three places. This year, the entire upper half of the mountain was covered with snow, and we were roped up for all of this. Due to the conditions, our progress was significantly slowed. We reached the summit shortly before sunset. We quickly took the summit photo and roped up for the descent down the north side, which required crampons and ice axes. We made it down about 400 feet when it became completely dark. We were forced to make an emergency bivouac on a rocky ledge. We only had our day clothes with us so we made a rock wall to help protect us from the wind. A weather front was moving in and the wind was 60 miles an hour and nonstop all night long. It was extremely cold. A great way to build comradery is to share shiver fits all night long in a bivouac near the summit of the Grant Teton. The stars shone brightly as did the lights of Idaho Falls. At daybreak we continued. We came to the 120-foot overhanging Owen-Spaulding rapell. As we stepped onto the icy foot-wide exposed ledge we were glad we had daylight. The journey down the snowy couloir to the lower saddle, except for one icy spot, was uneventful.. This was the most intense trip any of us had ever been on. We were in a potentially life threatening situation. In hindsight, we could have avoided the situation, but once we were in the situation, we all handled it very well and made the correct decisions. - Gerald Olbu.

Francs Peak, September 4. We made two attempts on Francs Peak, 13153', in the Washakie Wilderness of Wyoming. The first started on August 14th. Camp was made at 10,600' in Brown Basin. Next morning we hiked up to the monstrous summit plateau, then made 5 miles across the beautiful green peaks and expanses, all above 12,000' and dotted with elk. We turned back 2 miles from the summit. The girls were tired, it was late and storms were threatening - our route back to camp being severely exposed to lightning. We told the peak, Terminator-like, "We'll be back."

Three weeks later we made a 4-mile 2,000' climb with packs to set camp closer to the peak in the very pretty Meadow Creek Basin, 10,200'. Next morning we got on the plateau and made good progress towards the peak. Once again the horizon developed dark sections. As before, the Grand Teton to the west remained visible, but the sky over the Wind Rivers to the south was black as an Amish fashion show. I found the scale and weirdness of the surrounding mountains reminiscent of the dry Andes. The kids toughed it out as they could see the top getting close. The summit ridge, with its elk trail and long cornice, was a classic. We took pictures on top, but the wind got nasty and we didn't get our summit snack or time to enjoy the view. On the way down, before leaving the plateau as sleet and thunder were closing in, we said goodbye to the peak: "We won't be back. Hasta la vista, baby." Getting their climbing altitude records were Daniel, 9, and twins Sarah & Jannah, 7. - Pat Caffrey.

Granite Peak, Labor Day. Dave Pengelly, Steve Sheriff and Chris Brick drove to Cooke City after work on September 3, 1993, via Yellowstone Park. At about 11:00 p.m. Steve negotiated a discount for three cinnamon rolls at a cafe that was closed and we drove out of town and crashed for the night in a clearcut. On Saturday we drove up the Goose Lake jeep trail to near Mud Lake. We then took off partly on trails and partly cross-country to the Zimmer Creek Lakes drainage. We had beautiful weather all day and eventually picked out a campsite near one of the upper lakes with a good view of Skytop Glacier (the campsite we chose is actually one of the photos in the coffee table picture book on Montana called "Last Best Place"). On Sunday we headed for a buttress on the south side of Granite Peak that leads directly to the summit. After a few moderate 5th class pitches we sat on a ledge for an hour and contemplated the weather which was fairly unstable - spitting snow. After awhile we decided it was worth continuing but decided to traverse to the east and complete the climb on a ridge that allowed us to climb unroped to the summit. The views weren't too great but we had the place to ourselves. We downclimbed the route that we used to finish the climb and returned to camp before dark. On Labor Day we hiked over a pass and descended to Upper Aero Lake and then out past Lower Aero Lake, Zimmer Creek, and back to the car. All in all, a beautiful trip and a highly recommended place for backpacking as well as climbing. - Dave Pengelly.

Hells Canyon, Labor Day weekend. Beverly Chin, Mark Connell, Peter Dayton, Art Gidel, Wayne Hecker, Colleen Hunter, Chuck Leonard, Ed and Shari Linjala, Al Silars, Pat Ulik, Stan Zimet, and a couple other kayakers floated Hells Canyon on the Snake River over Labor Day weekend. The trip started with a jet boat ride up to the launch site below Hells Canyon Dam. Since there were only two rafts on the trip, the kayakers carried much of their gear. Weather and scenery were great all three days, and a good time was had by all. - Peter Dayton.

St. Mary's Peak, September 12. Cheryl Bier, Jack Bell and Gerald Olbu attempted to climb the Heavenly Twins. There was fresh snow fall from the night before; about 2-3 inches at the

trail head and about 6 inches at St. Mary's Peak. We all knew at the trail head that we weren't going to reach the Hevenly Twins due to the slippery snow, so we decided to make St. Mary's Peak out destination. The hike up to the peak was very pleasant and it felt great to be out during the season's first snowfall. At the lookout, we came close to rousing three overnight campers out of bed. They hadn't been up very long before we arrived. We got back to the trail head very early in the day, probably the shortest trip the Rocky Mountaineers have ever done. - Gerald Olbu.

Unnamed Peak, Bitterroot Mountains, September 19. On September 19, five hikers walked about six miles along Chaffin Creek to Hart lake, which is north of Sugarloaf Peak. Beverly Chin and Colleen Hunter explored the larger lake farther up the trail while Bret Doucette, Paul Dumond and I continued north to the 9,883' peak. The peak is probably the third highest in the Bitterroot Range, after Trapper and El Capitan Peaks. The summit ridge includes three pinnacles; the true summit is the center spire. Once above Hart lake, the western spire is hidden from view, which can lead to route uncertainty. Fortunately, Bret's memory is better than mine, and following his lead we arrived on the true summit about 2 p.m. The climb involved primarily hiking with some third and fourth class moves near the summit. We noted that the south face of the eastern spire is a more difficult climb. The climb may have been the first summer ascent by a dog (PD). We rate the climb Dog 5.8, A1. The views were outstanding. Some spires to the west look like fun for a future trip. - Art Gidel.

Trapper Peak, September 26. The most notable thing about this trip was that there were 18 participants; Lisa Albanese, Jack Bell, Rita Brockhausen, Katheline Cain, Carol Covahan, Lois Crepeau, Eilene Evans, Jamie French, Tim Green, Perri Knize, Zona Lindamann, Tim Lovely, Ivan Marin, Paul McClain, Myrtle Miller, Paul O'Connor, Gerald Olbu and Laura Peterson. The weather was great: clear blue sky, no wind, warm t-shirt temperature. Many participants were members of WOW (Wednesday Outdoor Women) who go on weekly hikes. An incredible 16 out of 18 participants made it to the top. The two who didn't were from the California coast and weren't used to hiking up to 10,000 feet. Even though there were a lot of people on this trip, we spread out on the trail so no one got crowded. Everyone enjoyed the hike and at the summit there were plenty of laughs and good stories. Afterwards, many of us went out for pizza. It was great to meet so many interesting people. - Gerald Olbu.

Rock climbing, September. After taking a month off to allow a certain unnamed person to climb Mount Rainier, climb the Grand Teton, wreck his car, and break a bone, the rock climbing group has come back with renewed vigor. Participants last month include: Ronnie Addleway, Lynn Armour, Meredith Barton, Jack Bell, Sandy Lauren, Freddie Malzacher, Ivan Marin, Gerald Olbu, Tim Page, Abe Risho, Orion Russell, David Schmetterling, Jennifer Vogel, and Mel Waggy. We spent most of the time climbing in Kootenai Canyon on beginning-level climbs. However, we also have a group of regular climbers who are more advanced and have climbed some relatively difficult climbs, some multi-pitch climbs, and even Canyon Peak. It seems we have something for everyone. We plan on doing more of the same next month. - Gerald Olbu.

Canyon Peak, north ridge, October 2. After rock climbing much of the summer, Gerald Olbu, Jack Bell, Ronnie Addleway, and Bob McCleod decided to climb a technical peak. None of us had climbed this peak before, so we didn't know what to expect. What we found was a BEAUTIFUL climb with seven pitches. It wasn't very difficult. The most difficult section was a slab about mid way up. Toward the top, the ridge narrowed to a knife edge and we straddled it. In places we traversed on ledges on the west side and had a great view looking down the 1000-foot vertical wall. The climb went like clockwork and we reached the summit in less than 3 hours. After lunch and much jubilation at the summit, we down climbed the south face and crossed through a notch to the Canyon Lake side. This was a very enjoyable climb and I wouldn't mind doing it again. - Gerald Olbu.

Cabin Maintenance Trip, October 3. On October 3, Steve Niday, Bill Carey, Daphne Tuthill, Bret Doucette and I hiked to the cabin on Little St. Joe to cut and store firewood. The cabin is in good shape and only about half the prior year's wood had been used. We left a new register book and some wicks for the kerosene lamp, and hauled out trash. The closure date for the gate (below the old Commune) is now October 15. Therefore, frequent use by hunters is unlikely. I believe the closure date was December 1 last year. We were back in town by 3 p.m. Thanks to the participants, especially Steve who supplied the chain saw. - Art Gidel.

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OFFICERS

Gerald Olbu, President - 549-4769  
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  
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Missoula, Montana 59806

THE MOUNTAIN EAR  
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(STAMP)

FIRST CLASS MAIL