



Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

JULY, 1994

MEETING

Summer meeting schedule. During the summer the Club does not hold formal meetings. However, we may schedule a potluck dinner in a park on the second Wednesday of August.

Fall meeting schedule. Beginning in September, the Club will hold meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 in the County Commissioner's meeting room on the second floor of the Annex (new portion) of the Missoula County Courthouse. Enter the building through the north door.

September program. The program for the September meeting is the traditional potluck showing of slides taken by Club members on outdoor trips during the last year. Dig out your favorite, representative, or scandalous slides and bring them in. This slide show is a great way for persons who are new to the club to find out what kinds of outdoor activities club members pursue.

TRIP CALENDAR

Thursday evenings and Saturdays. Rock Climbing. The rock climbing group will meet on most Thursday evenings and Saturdays. This group usually climbs a wide variety of technical climbs; some easy, some hard, most top-roped, some multi-pitched. Beginners are encouraged to come and gain some experience on the rocks. Rock climbing experience may be a prerequisite for some of the Club's trips this summer. See last month's trip report below. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for details.

Beginning and Intermediate Kayaking. Cheryl Beyer is interested in organizing one or more kayaking outings at the beginning or intermediate level. The specific rivers to float are still to be decided. Call Cheryl at 251-2344 for more information and to arrange a date and place.

July 17. Sunday. Heavenly Twins. This trip has been cancelled due to the Granite Peak trip described below.

July 16-19. Granite Peak. A group from the Club will make a summit attempt of Granite Peak, Montana's highest peak. Call Gerald Olbu for details at 549-4769.

July 23. Saturday. South Mission Mountains. An outdoor group from Yakima, Washington, asked Peter Dayton if they could join the Club for a representative high quality hike in the Missoula area. Peter proposes to take them on a hike and scramble in the south end of the Mission Mountains, such as Grey Wolf Peak, West St. Mary, Kakashe Peak, or something else not too killer. Call Peter at 728-8101 for details.

July 31. Saturday. East St. Mary's Peak. Hike to the top of East St. Mary's Peak in the Mission Mountains. There is a faint trail most of the way through the brush and trees. After one reaches the treeline, the country opens up and one is treated to some magnificent views typical of the Mission Mountains, such as the impressive face of Gray Wolf Peak. The rest of the route follows a rocky ridge with some nice alpine meadows. This will be a moderately strenuous trip. Call Art Gidel at 543-6352 for information.

August 1-5. Mount Rainier. Climb of Mount Rainier via the Katz Glacier route. This is a scenic route which is not travelled too heavily. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for information, although this trip is pretty much all booked up.

August 6. Saturday. Great Burn. Hike in the Great Burn, which is located along the Montana-Idaho border south of Superior. The hike will be about 15 miles in length, not too demanding, and with nice scenery. Call Dave Pengelly at 728-6512 for details.

August 13. Saturday. Mission Mountains. Exploratory hike, bushwack, and scramble up a mountain located east of Pablo in the Mission Mountains. You can see it from the valley, and we are going to confront alders, bugs, disorientation, uncertainty, raw fear, and our personal shortcomings in a courageous effort to reach the top. Call Peter Dayton at 728-8101 for details.

August 14-21 (tentative). Canadian Rockies Climbing Trip. A trip is being planned to climb several peaks in the Canadian Rockies. Most or all of the routes will be over snow and ice, requiring ice climbing ability as well as technical rock climbing ability. Some of the climbs will be day trips from a campground or climbers hut. Other climbs require 3-4 days. We will try to make a base camp and then climb several peaks from that

camp. It will be a potpourri of peak bagging. We may even have time for a pizza break. So far, 4-6 people are scheduled to go on this trip. There is still room for a couple more people. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

Early September (Labor Day?), Grand Teton. Plans are being made to climb the Grand Teton via the Upper Exum route, and also probably the snow couloir on the north face of the Middle Teton. We may also consider other mountains in the Tetons, such as Mount Moran, Teewinot, or Owen. Experience with technical rock climbing and an ice axe is required. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

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

TRIP REPORTS

Rock Climbing, June. The rock climbing group has met on most Thursday evenings and Saturdays. We pretty much play it by ear and select climbs suitable for the people who are present. We have done some beginning level climbs for the benefit of new climbers, and also got the chance to do a multipitch climb for the more experienced climbers. Climbers last month include: Dow Angspatt, Justin Banta, Dan Chisholm, Andy Collins, Dave Gaeuman, Matt Grandy, Elizabeth Holland, Nicole Janow, Chris Krumm, Brian Marino, Gerald Olbu, Tim Page, Glean Parks, Baret Newsome, Dave Siemens, Paul Wilson, and Greg Zlock. -- Gerald Olbu.

South Fork of the Salmon, Idaho, June 11. The South Fork of the Salmon River is located east of McCall, Idaho, and flows north into the "River of No Return" section of the Salmon. The last thirty-five miles of the South Fork and the last twenty-three miles of the River of No Return section provide a really scenic roadless three-day float trip, with pretty exciting whitewater on the South Fork. The best way to see the South Fork is from a kayak, as the whitewater is demanding enough that the river doesn't get rafted very often. Art Gidel, Andy Zimet, Steve Lock, Kitt Lock, Peter Dayton, and Charlie Mabbou did a three-day self-contained kayak trip on these rivers at a moderate water level (3 feet at Krassel). Nobody had any complaints. - Peter Dayton.

Bass Lake, June 26. On an overcast day, Dan Chisholm, Paul Coats, Gerald Olbu, Tim Page, and Greg Zlock set out to climb the Bass Creek Crags. Just as we left the trail to do the messy bushwacking, it began raining. It looked like the rain was going to last for a while, which would make the rocks wet and dangerous for climbing. Also, the brush was miserably wet. We decided to bail out and take a relaxed hike up to the lake on the trail. Even though we were on the trail, the wind, rain, and cold made a nippy trip. - Gerald Olbu.

Lower Salmon Gorge, July 1-4. The Salmon River flows into the Snake River between Hells Canyon, and Lewiston. The 72 mile section between Whitebird, Idaho, on the Salmon, and Heller Bar, Oregon, on the Snake, is mostly roadless, and offers easy whitewater, great scenery, plenty of camping spots, and very tasty rattlesnakes. Mike Worrall, his friend Jim from Colorado, Lisa Hallenbeck, and Peter Dayton did a four-day self-contained kayak trip on this section. At the first camp, while I was off hiking, a rattlesnake could not be dissuaded from joining Mike, Lisa, and Jim in camp, so they terminated it with extreme prejudice, using my kayak paddle. Not wanting to waste the decedent, we skinned it and ate it. A snake is sort of like a long, skinny fish, and tastes, as you might imagine, sort of like chicken. Although there was not really a lot of meat on this particular critter, we kept exclaiming, "this is goooooood snake!" The weather was outstanding, and the Salmon was not very crowded, considering it was the Fourth of July weekend, but once we hit the Snake it was like camping on the interstate, with jet boats up the wazoo. Aside from all the motorized activity, once again nobody had any complaints. - Peter Dayton.

Canyon Peak, July 10. Bill Burnett and Dave Pengelly did an impromptu climb of Canyon Peak, which is located in the Bitterroot Mountains near Hamilton. The weather was great, although the mosquitoes were a bit of a nuisance. We climbed the north ridge, staying on the ridge or veering out onto the east face at times. The climbing is generally 4th class or low 5th class, but there is a fair bit of exposure. We made three rappels off the east face and returned to the car by 10:00 p.m. This climb is a full day, but is quite enjoyable in good weather. - Dave Pengelly.

Grey Wolf Peak. Justin Ivary, Bob Hughes, Greg Zlock, Brett Doucette, Ralph Flockerzi, K.C. Hayes, Mike Spenner, Adam Spenner, and Ralph Flockerzi enjoyed a beautiful day at the Riddel Lakes and at the top of Grey Wolf Peak in the south end of the Mission Mountains. The snow was a little hard going up the couloir, so we put the ice axes to good use. A little snow between the top of the couloir and the summit made it a little interesting to find the route, but we finally made it. Bret led us back and we down climbed two-thirds of the couloir on rock, but finally had to get on snow for two or three hundred yards. We saw three or four goats, and arrived back at the car at 8 p.m. - Ralph Flockerzi.

OFFICERS

Gerald Olbu, President - 549-4769

Peter Dayton, Newsletter Editor 728-8101

Dave Pengelly, Secretary-Treasurer - 728-6512

Rick Murney, Vice President - 543-7586

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mail a check payable to
"Rocky Mountaineers" to
Dave Pengelly

Address: _____

P.O. Box 4262

Check one: Individual (\$6.00/year) _____ Family (\$8.00/year) _____ (9398)

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

(STAMP)