



# Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

JULY-AUGUST, 1996

## MEETING

**Meetings:** The Club does not hold meetings in the summer. The next meeting will be on September 11, when we will have our traditional potluck slide show of pictures which Club members took on trips during the prior year. Start assembling your contribution to this slide show now; if you don't have any interesting slides yet, well, get out there and take some!

## CALENDAR

**Thursday Evenings and Saturdays.** The rock climbing group will meet on most Thursday evenings and Saturdays. The group will climb a variety of climbs suitable for beginning- and intermediate-level climbers. This is an excellent way to prepare for some of the Club's mountaineering trips. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for details.

**July 27, Saturday, Kakashe Peak.** Hike and scramble to Kakashe Peak, which is the mountain located northeast of St. Ignatius and to the north of Mission Falls in the Mission Mountains. A well-constructed switchback trail leads most of the way up the ridge to the peak, which is a pretty novel situation in the Mission Mountains. Some boulder-hopping and scrambling is required below the peak. If participants want to spice up the hike, we could also bag the axe-head shaped peak to the northeast, or swing east to Lucifer Lake and return via the trail to Mission Reservoir. Call Peter Dayton at 728-8101 for details.

**August 9-12, Friday-Monday, Kintla Peak.** Climb Kintla Peak (10,101 feet) which is in the northwest area of Glacier National Park. This trip is tentatively scheduled and is limited to four people. The route will begin at Lower Kintla Lake and follow a beautiful and gentle trail for 11-12 miles to Upper Kintla Lake. The climb of the peak is a long and strenuous trip with 5720 feet of elevation gain over snow, rock and glacier. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 or Julie Warner at 543-6508 for more information.

**August 11, Sunday, Three Sisters.** Climb one of the Three Sisters, which are south of Darby and the second highest peak in the Bitterroots. The route begins on a trail along a creek to the base of the peak. The climb of the peak will involve some very steep slab climbing on solid granite. Success in climbing the peak is not entirely guaranteed, however it is a very scenic drainage, so the hike should be pleasant. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

**August 17, Saturday, West St. Mary's Peak.** Hike and scramble to the top of West St. Mary's Peak in the Mission Mountains. This is the saddle-shaped peak which you see to the west of Grey Wolf Peak as you drive north into Arlee. The hike starts at Mission Reservoir, east of St. Ignatius. Five thousand vertical feet of bushwacking later, you reach one of the most spectacular and vertiginous viewpoints in the Mission Mountains. The panorama includes Soneliem Peak, Soneliem Lake, the Garden Wall, Glacier Peak, Kakashe Peak, and Mission Falls. A thousand vertical feet of easy scrambling along the ridge will bring you to West St. Mary's Peak. Call Art Gidel for details at 543-6352.

**August 18, Sunday, Heart Lake and Pearl Lake.** Easy-to-moderate hike to Heart Lake and Pearl Lake, which are in the Bitterroot Mountains south of Superior. The 1 1/4 (1.25) mile trail to Heart Lake does some moderate climbing through various terrain. A 1/2 mile trail around Heart Lake brings one to the Pearl Lake trail, which then climbs a little more steeply for another 1/2 mile to Pearl Lake, which is set in an alpine basin with towering cliffs. If participants chose, another 1/2 mile along a steep trail brings one to the saddle between Pearl and Newton Lakes. The view of the cliffs from above is impressive. It gives one the impression of being on top of the world. Call Julie Warner at 543-6508 for more information.

**September 13-15, Friday-Sunday, Glacier Park.** A three-day trip in Glacier Park is being planned. Details will be in next month's newsletter. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 or Julie Warner at 543-6508 for more information.

**Summer Trips.** Plans are being made for some interesting trips this summer. Mount Rainier, Grand Teton, Canadian Rockies, and a Mission Mountain Trek are good candidates. If interested, make early arrangements with Gerald Olbu at 549-4769.

**Kayaking.** The spring runoff has fizzled out for the year, and the kayaking season is over, so all you people who are clogging up the play spots on the Alberton Gorge can just pack up your toys and go home, so Art Gidel (543-6352) and Peter Dayton (728-8101) won't have to wait in line in the eddies. Call them if you want to go kayaking, even though there actually isn't any good water left, and you really ought to go hiking instead.

**Wanna lead a trip?** If you are interested in leading a trip, contact Gerald Olbu at 549-4769.

### TRIP REPORTS

**Kayaking in Kanada, July 4-7.** Peter Dayton, Amy Elliot, Art Gidel, Dave Harriton, Dan Hoheim, and Lisa Hollenbeck went kayaking in British Columbia in the area between Fernie and Golden, which is located north of Kalispell and Eureka. We floated the Bull River, the Kicking Horse River, Toby Creek, Lussier Creek, and the White River. Water levels were amazingly high due to heavy rains in the previous week. Some rivers in this area are driven primarily by rain and spring runoff, but other rivers are driven by glacial runoff as well, which means the glacial rivers may still have a lot of water at the end of the summer. There are a lot of great rivers and creeks in this area, and the scenery is outstanding as well. Everybody on the trip is eager to return to British Columbia to try out some more of these rivers. - Peter Dayton

**McDonald Peak, July 5-7.** Dan Chisholm and Gerald Olbu spent the Fourth of July weekend on McDonald Peak, soaking up sun and beautiful scenery. The hike in on the first day was long and hard, but the bushwhacking wasn't too bad. We camped at about 8000 feet elevation, right below the summit. In the evening, when the sun went down, the relentless wind made it downright chilly. We climbed up one of the spur ridges and on top we found a beautiful flat spot over looking Icefloe Lake, Lake of the Clouds and Cliff Lake. It was so beautiful that we spent an hour snacking and napping. We continued on to the main McDonald Peak and spent another hour reading the register; a few names were familiar. We had an excellent view in most directions with a clear blue sky. To the north was Flathead Lake and the snow-capped mountains of Glacier Park. Unfortunately, the Bitterroots were hazy. We didn't want to go down to camp just yet, so we headed over to West McDonald and spent another hour soaking up the sun and taking in the views. In the evening, we climbed and glissaded down a snow field which quickly took us back to our camp, where we enjoyed a fine dinner of curry chicken and vegetables over rice. - Gerald Olbu.

**Shuttle Frenzy on the South Fork of the Salmon.** Forty miles up the Main Salmon River from Riggins, the South Fork of the Salmon River flows into the "River of No Return" section of the Main Salmon. The bottom 31 miles of the South Fork of the Salmon is a scenic and challenging section of wilderness river with lots of Class IV-V whitewater, and there is more terrific whitewater upstream along a road on the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon. Normally we kayak the bottom 31 miles of the South Fork, and then continue 22 miles down the Main Salmon to the end of the River of No Return roadless section. This year, however, we couldn't obtain a permit to float the Main Salmon on a desirable date, so this is what we did instead: from McCall, Idaho, Art Gidel, Dan Hoheim, Dave Harriton, Mike Worrall, and I (Peter Dayton) drove over the mountains to the launch site on the South Fork. Then we drove twenty miles up the East Fork of the South Fork to Johnson Field, a grass airstrip, and left a bicycle there. Then we returned to the launch site on the South Fork, left our car there, and did a two day wilderness kayak trip. On the second night we camped at the confluence with the Main Salmon. On the morning of the third day we paddled about a quarter of a mile up the Main Salmon to the airstrip at Mackay Bar, where we were picked up by an airplane and flown to Johnson Field. Then Mike rode the bicycle twenty miles back down the East Fork of the South Fork to the car at the launch site, and then drove the car back to Johnson Field, leaving the bicycle at a good take-out on the East Fork on the way. Then we loaded everything into the car and drove down the East Fork of the South Fork to a good launch site at Caton Creek. Leaving the car at Caton Creek, we floated down the East Fork of the South Fork to the bicycle. We then rode the bicycle back up the river to the car, drove back to the takeout, loaded up our gear one last time, and drove back to Missoula. All of this on a single three-day weekend. The kayaking was great. - Peter Dayton.

### OFFICERS

Gerald Olbu, President - 549-4769

Julie Warner, Secretary-Treasurer - 728-6512

Peter Dayton, Newsletter Editor 728-8101

Len Broberg, Vice President - 549-0102

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

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

Mail a check payable to  
"Rocky Mountaineers" to  
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