



# Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

OCTOBER, 1996

## MEETING

**Meeting:** Club meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the County Commissioner's conference room on the second floor of the new portion of the Missoula County Courthouse. Please enter through the north door. This month's meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 9.

**Program.** Missoula attorney and outdoor adventurer, Jack Tuholske will present a slide show of his trekking and climbing trip in the Himalayas in Pakistan near K2 in 1995. Jack has also climbed extensively in Alaska and the Canadian Rockies.

**Notice:** At the September meeting, Club members voted to raise membership dues to \$9.00 for individuals and \$12.00 for families. This was necessary to offset the increased cost of postage and photocopying for the newsletter. But despite the increase in cost, membership in the Rocky Mountaineers is still a screaming good deal.

## CALENDAR

**October 12-14, Saturday-Monday, McDonald Peak.** Three-day trip over the Columbus Day weekend to McDonald Peak (9820 feet), which is the highest peak in the Missions and perhaps the most scenic. The approach to the peak will be a lot of work but shouldn't be too brushy. We will try to camp at about 8000 feet, and should expect it to be cold and windy with possible snowfall. Under reasonable conditions, the peak is an easy fourth-class climb. Hopefully we will have lots of time to lounge around on top like we did in July. Reservation permit required. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

**October 19, Saturday, Heavenly Twins.** Climb the Heavenly Twins (9282 and 9243 feet), which are the majestic twin peaks west of St. Mary's Peak in the Bitterroots. The route will follow a trail for a short distance, then go off-trail along a ridge top and through some very scenic high alpine country with white rocks and deep-green alpine firs. It is a long hike to the base of the Heavenly Twins. If some participants wish, they can skip the climb of the peak, and just do the hike. The climb of the peak involves a small amount of fourth-class climbing. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

**October 27, Sunday, Trapper Peak.** Third annual hiking trip to Trapper Peak (10,157 feet) on the first day of hunting season. This has become a tradition for us to observe the hunters in action (not). The route follows a six-mile trail with 3800 feet of elevation gain to the peak. At this time of the year, participants need to be prepared for the possibility of some early season snow near the summit. Orange required, but hunters usually don't go up the trail toward the peak. Call Matt Grandy at 728-0647 for more information.

**November 2, Saturday, Bass Creek Crags.** Climb one of the Bass Creek Crags (8411 feet) which are the spires easily visible from Highway 93 south of Florence. This will be a fourth-class climb with moderate exposure, more or less, depending on the amount of snow we may encounter. In the past year, we have climbed Crown Point (the highest) and the crag next to it; who knows which one we may climb this time. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

**November 3, Sunday, Lee Ridge Trail.** Hike along Lee Ridge on an eight-mile loop trip beginning at Lolo Pass and ending at the Lee Creek Campground. This is one of our favorite places to ski and one of the purposes of this trip is to check on conditions (there have been rumors of lots of blowdown). Orange required. This should be a very pleasant hike and afterwards we may take a dip in the hot springs. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for more information.

**November 9, Saturday, Ski Trip.** Early season backcountry ski trip to a location yet to be determined depending on conditions. Hoodoo Pass and St. Mary's Peak are good candidates. Call Art Gidel at 543-6352 for more information.

**November 9-11, Saturday-Monday, Jewell Lake.** Three-day backpack trip over the Veterans' Day weekend to Jewell Lake which is in the Missions near Turquoise Lake. It is about six miles, mostly along a trail, to Jewell Lake. On the second day, we have plans to hike off trail to Lake of the Clouds, which is perhaps the most beautiful lake in the Missions. Mode of travel, ski or hike, will depend on snow conditions. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

**November 16, Saturday, East St. Mary's Peak.** Hike to East St. Mary's Peak (9425 feet) which is in the southern portion of the Missions. The

route is mostly off trail with about 5400 feet of elevation gain. The first portion is through heavy timber and brush, but after tree line is reached, one will have spacious views of adjacent mountains in the Missions with their early season snow. Depending on the weather, this could be an opportunity to experience winter conditions with wind, cold and blowing snow and breath-taking scenery. Call Dan Chisholm at 542-1266 for more information.

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

#### TRIP REPORTS

**Eagle Pass, September 8.** Under a beautiful blue sky, Brett Doucett, Andre Duran, Jo Ellen Lyng and I (Gerald Olbu), ventured to the Missions for a scenic loop hike over Eagle Pass. Since the weather was great and we were making good time, we were able to take several long breaks at the waterfalls, the lake and the pass and relax and enjoy the scenery. We even had time to have pizza back in Missoula. - Gerald Olbu.

**Lolo Peak, September 14.** Rain fell Friday night and continued to fall Saturday morning. Faced with hiking through thick, wet brush, climbing steep, wet rock, and probably not making the summit, Dan Chisholm, Brett Doucett, Gerald Olbu and Steve Turnbaugh decided to hike to Lolo Peak rather than climb Gray Wolf Peak. The rain stopped when we hit the trail. After we reached the summit of Lolo Peak we traversed along the ridge to the slightly higher south summit. The sky was partly cloudy and the wind was blowing hard when we reached the peaks. We watched as the cloud passed between the mountains below us. The rain started again as we descended but stopped as we reached Carlton Lake. - Dan Chisholm.

**Road hunting, September 14.** Many outdoor sports provide opportunities to combine various diverse activities. For example, you can combine canoeing and fishing, kayaking and photography, hiking and hunting, or backpacking and climbing. An activity common to all of these pastimes is driving, as you usually have to put miles on your odometer before you can put miles on the trail. A couple of weekends ago, while motoring down a road outside Superior, I encountered an unexpected opportunity to combine driving and hunting, and bagged a nice buck. Unfortunately, I bagged it with my brand new Toyota 4-Runner, rather than with a rifle or a bow. This incident cost me (actually Safeco Insurance Company) about \$4,300, and I didn't even get to keep the deer. Ironically enough, I was on my way to go hunting at the time. The next weekend I got a bear, with a rifle this time, which in my opinion puts me back in the lead with respect to the head count (I have scored two animals, the animals have scored one car). However, economically I'm still way behind. - Peter Dayton

**Cabin Work Party, September 28.** It was good to be back at the cabin and much work needed to be done. The energetic labor of Dan Chisholm, Brett Doucett, Jo Ellen Lyng, Steve Schombel, and myself (Gerald Olbu) accomplished a lot. We patched the roof, chinked between the logs, and hauled out lots of debris. Unfortunately, we didn't cut any firewood because our chainsaw didn't arrive. We have plans to go again soon and chop some firewood. - Gerald Olbu.

#### OFFICERS

Gerald Olbu, President - 549-4769  
Julie Warner, Secretary-Treasurer - 543-6508

Peter Dayton, Newsletter Editor 728-8101  
Len Broberg, Vice President - 549-6031

#### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

Check one: Individual <sup>9</sup> (\$6.00/year) \_\_\_\_\_ Family <sup>12</sup> (\$8.00/year) \_\_\_\_\_ (9398)

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

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

(STAMP)

FIRST CLASS MAIL