



Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

MAY, 1997

MEETING

Meetings: Club meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the lower level meeting room at the Missoula Public Library. This month's meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 14.

Program. Jon Webb and Trent Baker, two very active Missoula outdoorsmen who also work at the Trailhead store, will present a slideshow of their recent (two weeks ago) trip down the Grand Canyon. They had the rare opportunity to be boatmen for a semi-organized, private group of 16 people and five boats from Phoenix, whose leader had a special knack at obtaining the highly sought-after permit. Jon and Trent enjoyed many sites as they floated the inner Colorado River Gorge including: red wall caverns, slot canyons which were good for hiking, wildflowers, old cabins, Indian ruins, Bert Lopper's crashed boat, and more.

Business: WARNING: At the May meeting, elections of Club officers will be held. Persons who do not attend the meeting risk being elected to an office in the Club.

CALENDAR

Wednesday evenings, 6:00 p.m., Mount Sentinel. Need a little bit of mid-week exercise? Meet at the trail head at 6 p.m. for a leaderless tour of Mount Sentinel, or call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for a forecast.

May 18, Sunday, East St. Mary Peak. Snowshoe trip to East St. Mary's Peak (9425 feet), which is in the Mission Mountains near St. Ignatius. The first portion of the route will go up a steep and heavily-forested slope until the treeline is reached. From there, hopefully, it will be a beautiful snow-covered and windswept ridge to the peak. Call Dan Chisholm at 542-1266 for more information.

May 24-26, Saturday-Monday, Trapper Peak. Three-day ski/snowshoe trip over the Memorial Day weekend to Trapper Peak (10,157 feet), which is southwest of Darby and the tallest peak in the Bitterroots. The route will begin with some road and/or off-trail skiing until the trailhead is reached, then the trail will be followed through moderate backcountry terrain. There will probably be extra time on the second day to explore for possible routes on the north and east sides of Trapper Peak. This is a moderately strenuous trip and endurance and winter camping skills are required. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

June 1, Sunday, St. Joseph Peak. Snowshoe/ski trip to St. Joseph Peak (9587 feet) which is in the Bitterroots north of Bass Creek. The first portion of the trip follows a trail, then the route goes off-trail, up a ridge directly to the peak. One option is for individuals to stay on the trail, continue to Bass Lake and meet up with the rest of the group on the way down. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for details.

June 8, Sunday, St. Mary Peak. Ski trip to St. Mary Peak (9351 feet) which is in the Bitterroots west of Stevensville. Hopefully, we will be able to drive most of the way up the road and not have to ski much of it. From the trailhead to the peak, the route goes through moderate backcountry terrain with gentle slopes and widely spaced trees. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for details.

Summer Mountaineering. Plans are being made for a few multi-day mountaineering trips this summer. Trips being considered include: Mission Mountain trek, Mt Jackson, Mt Rainier, Mt Baker, Grand Teton and a Canadian Rockies trip. If interested, make early arrangements with Len Broberg at 549-6031, Gerald Olbu at 549-4769, or Steve Schombel at 721-4686.

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

TRIP REPORTS

East and West St. Mary Peaks, April 20, 27. Springtime in western Montana is filled with many wonders. James Banister, Gerald Olbu, Rick Rister and Tony Sabol met on April 20 for a hike/snowshoe/ski trip to East St. Mary Peak in the Missions. It was raining as we drove down the highway. It was raining as we began the trip. It continued to rain. After about an hour, we asked ourselves if we were enjoying our adventure, or if perhaps we had other things to do. We headed home. Then, on the next weekend, Gerald and Rick were even more determined to make West St. Mary Peak. The weather was better this day; it was only a light drizzle. We began bushwhacking up the hill. The light drizzle turned to a heavy drizzle. We continued on, telling ourselves how fortunate we were and how it could be worse (e.g. the brush isn't as thick as it was last weekend). After four hours of nonstop rain, which was quite heavy now, we began asking serious questions. We were half way up the mountain, but up ahead were dark gray clouds and buckets of rain. We hated to retreat, but we did. - Gerald Olbu.

OFFICERS

Gerald Olbu, President - 549-4769

Peter Dayton, Newsletter Editor 728-8101

Julie Warner, Secretary-Treasurer - 543-6508

Len Brober, Vice President - 549-6031

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mail a check payable to

"Rocky Mountaineers" to

Address: _____ Rocky Mountaineers Outdoor Club

P.O. Box 4262

Check one: Individual (\$9.00/year) _____ Family (\$12.00/year) _____ Missoula, Montana 59806

THE MOUNTAIN EAR
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