



Mountain Ear

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

JUNE 2000

The Rocky Mountaineers are dedicated to the exploration of Western Montana's mountains and other high peaks throughout the world.

MEETING

CLUB MEETINGS: The Rocky Mountaineers normally meet on the second Wednesday of each month, in the lower meeting room, at the Missoula Public Library. We, however, do not meet during the summer months so that we can take advantage of the prime mountaineering season. We will reconvene in September for our next meeting, followed by the members "potluck" slide show in October. Please take numerous photographs on all of your summer trips, so you can either pass around prints, or give a mini-slide show to our members at the October meeting. Although the club does not meet during the summer, you will continue to receive the newsletter. If you have a trip you would like to list or give a trip report for, please contact the President or Secretary/Newsletter editor.

TRIP CALENDER

Want To Climb In The Middle Of The Week? There are many members of our club who are unable to get out and climb the scheduled trips on the weekends. These folks have free time off during the week, and are often out climbing and hiking on their own on a Tuesday, Wednesday, etc. If you are one of these people, and would like to become part of a "weekday" climbing group, let us know you are interested in finding similar climbers to join on weekday outings. We can publish a list of interested folks, or we can keep your name unlisted, but distributed among similar climbers. Call the Secretary/Newsletter Editor at 273-2566 to be placed in this special interest climbing/hiking group.

June 4th, Saturday, Lolo Peak: Join the Rocky Mountaineers on a climb of Lolo Peak (9139ft), the prominent snowcapped mountain visible to the southwest of Missoula. This will be a training climb to practice ice axe arrests and crevasse rescue techniques. An ice axe will be required. This trip will function as the mountaineering training session for later trips to Mount Rainier and Mount Athabasca. If you desire to go along on any upcoming snow or glacier trips, and you have not previously done a snow climb with the club, attendance on this trip will be mandatory. Bring a harness if you will be practicing for crevasse rescue. Call Penny Palm for further information on this trip, plus info on any other equipment requirements. Penny Palm @ 258-2000.

June 10th, McDonald Peak: Climb the highest peak in the Mission Mountains (9,820ft) on a beautiful Saturday in June. The area around the peak is closed from the first weekend in July through the first weekend in October. This is one of only a few weekends remaining to climb the peak before the summer closure goes into effect. We will climb one of two selected routes, either via the Ashley Creek drainage on the west, or via Island Lake/Cliff Lake from the east. Regardless of the route, the day will be very long with over 6,000ft of elevation to gain. This is not a trip for "M" hikers...it is a trip for people who have been getting out and climbing several peaks with over 5,000 feet of gain each. If you'd like to go, ensure you are in good shape...the climb will be much more enjoyable for you. Bring an ice axe, crampons, and a headlamp. Call Tony Sabol @273-2566.

June? Liberty Ridge, Mt Rainier: This route is very technical requiring good knowledge of glacier travel and technical ice, rope management; self arrest skills, and mountain savvy. The route ascends more than 5,000 feet of 40-50 degree snow and ice. It requires a serious commitment, as generally there is no descending this route. Participants will be required to be in good physical condition, possess appropriate gear, and have steep snow route climbing experience. Dates for the trip will depend upon when the road opens on the northeast side of the mountain, and most likely will be between June 9th-25th. Participation is limited, but we have room on the team for one more. Call if you are interested in this "Classic Climb of North America". Tony Sabol @273-2566.

June 17th-18th, Great Northern & Mt Grant: Hike and strenuously scramble to Great Northern Mountain (8,705ft) near the northern terminus of the Flathead Range, between Glacier National Park and Hungry Horse Reservoir. Participants will scramble and off-trail hike for 7-8 miles round trip, and climb 4,500 vertical feet. Climbers should be prepared for winter-like windy conditions...bring an ice axe and possibly crampons. It may be an option, (depending on how much stuff you want to lug up there), to camp up high on the peak, and then climb the neighboring Mt Grant (8,590ft). Climbers coming from Missoula are welcomed to crash in Kalispell on Jim's floor Friday night. This is a friendly cooperative trip offered by Jim to both the New and the Traditional Rocky Mountaineers. Everybody have a great time! Call Jim Cossit for more information @756-6818.

June 25th, Ranger Peak: Hike and scramble to Ranger Peak (8817 feet) in the Bitterroot Mountains, atop the Montana-Idaho divide. We will hike up the Big Creek drainage approximately 12 miles to Big Creek Lakes and the base of Ranger Peak. From there, we will assess route possibilities and ascend 3000' to the summit. This climb will involve a full 5000' of elevation gain and will be a long, but fun day. From the summit, there should be magnificent views of the Selway-Bitterroot wilderness. An ice-axe will be required for the final summit approach. Call Tami Sabol at 273-2566 for more information.

June 24th-25th, Milwaukee Pass, St. Paul & Chicago Peaks: A short and easy backpack into a high lake in the southern Cabinet Mountains, the area of the proposed Rock Creek Mine. There should be enough time on Saturday for an afternoon scramble up St. Paul Peak. On Sunday, we'll explore the alpine basin and scramble up Chicago Peak, with its multiple summits of rocky knobs. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for info.

July 1st-5th, Mt Olympus, Washington: Join the Rocky Mountaineers for a trip up this marvelous peak located on the Olympic peninsula. At 7,966 feet, this is the highest peak in northwest Washington. Because of its elevation and proximity to the ocean, it receives a tremendous amount of snowfall each year and remains glaciated. Crampons and ice axe will be required. Contact Penny Palm early for information at 258-2000.

July 1st-4th, Mt Joffre, Canada: Mt Joffre is the highest peak between the 49th parallel and Mt. Assiniboine to the north. Located in the Canadian Rockies, this 11,315 foot mountain presents some worthwhile challenges. First are the long approach in, and a bivouac near Aster Lake. The following day we will scramble up a headwall and gain the main glacier. Roping up from here, we will approach the mountain and ascend either the North Face or the East Ridge depending on conditions. Normal to advanced glacier travel skills and gear will be required, as well as the ability to backpack in to base camp. This is an excellent peak to be on, with views of Mt King George and Mt Assiniboine viewed to the north, and the Bugaboos to the west. Call Matt Grandy if interested @ 728-0647.

