

# Mountain Ear

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

JULY 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 remember to 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.

**July 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, Mt Joffre, Canada:** Mt Joffre is the highest peak between the 49<sup>th</sup> 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.

**July 9<sup>th</sup>, McLeod Peak:** Bike and climb the highest peak (8,620ft) in the Rattlesnake Mountains and Wilderness. We'll bike in approximately 15 miles on the main Rattlesnake trail until we reach the Wilderness boundary. From there, we'll hike and scramble up the southeast ridge of the peak. The views of the Mission Mtns and other peaks should be awesome. Call Tami or Tony Sabol for info at 273-2566.

**July 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, Glacier Park Bike and Hike:** Join Penny Palm on a moonlight ride in Glacier Park. Participants will do a ride to Logan Pass on the 14<sup>th</sup>. A climb of Mt Siyeh (10,014 feet), one of the six ten thousand footers located in the park, will occur on the 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>. Call Penny for more information at 258-2000.

**July 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, Mt Rainier:** Join Penny Palm on a glacier climb up this colossus! Participants will ascend this 14,411 foot volcano via the Emmons Glacier. This is a technical glacier trip requiring gear and knowledge for safe travel. This trip will be a joint climb with the Tacoma Mountaineers. Contact Penny Palm for the beta on this awesome climb. Penny Palm @ 258-2000.

**July 29<sup>th</sup>, Lolo Peak:** Join the Rocky Mountaineers on a hike and climb of this prominent local Bitterroot peak. At 9,139 feet, this peak offers a great time and great views of the Bitterroot's. Please call Julie Warner for more information @ 543-6508.

**August 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, Mt Sir Sandford, British Columbia:** Climb the "King of the Selkirks". This 11,555 ft peak is truly a colossus, second possibly to Mt Robson in overall elevation to gain, plus magnitude of approach. From its true base, the peak rises nearly 9,000 ft. We'll bushwhack up the headwaters of the Gold River until we gain the Goat Glacier. We'll ascend this to Sir Sandford pass, drop down the Sir Sandford Glacier, then set up a base camp near the base of Ravelin Mountain, or continue around to the Great Cairn Hut. The route then ascends more than 5,000 feet of snow, ice, glacier, and low 5<sup>th</sup> class rock. Call Tony Sabol early at 273-2566 if interested in this magnificent excursion...start dates are somewhat flexible depending on participant consensus.

**August 6<sup>th</sup>, St Mary Peak:** Join the Rocky Mountaineers on a hike to this 9,351 foot Bitterroot peak. The trail goes for a bit over 3 miles gaining over 2,400 feet to the scenic vistas of the summit. Please call Julie Warner if interested in this great trip at 543-6508.

**Mid-August, Mt Abruzzi Climb/Reconnaissance, Canadian Rockies:** A century ago, the world's most daring mountaineer was Luigi Amedeo Savoy, the Duke of the Abruzzi. No easy seven summits for him, he just tackled the world's hardest summits (they were not even sure which were the highest anyway...). From his pioneering first ascent of Mt St. Elias, Alaska, to his first ascent of the Ruwenzori in Africa, to his attempt on the Abruzzi Ridge of K2, he climbed peaks which still scare away today's top mountaineers. Mount Abruzzi in Canada is named in his honor. We know nothing about this peak, so we are listing this as a reconnaissance. Expect lots of backtracking on oil and gas well service roads, endless bushwhacking through grizzly infested terrain, mosquitoes, and ice coated rock. Maybe we will reach the summit, maybe we won't. One thing is sure; a good time will be had by all on this historic outing. Call Matt Grandy @ 728-0647.

**August 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, Granite Peak:** At 12,799ft, this is the highest peak in the state of Montana. The peak is located in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness just north of Yellowstone Park. We will backpack in and set up a base camp near Mt Tempest or at Avalanche Lake. Both camps require an 11 mile hike in with over 5,000 feet of gain...a long day! From base, we'll ascend the east ridge of Granite Peak. The route can alternate between 4<sup>th</sup> and low 5<sup>th</sup> class...depending how far you get off route. This is an awesome peak with incredible views in all directions! Call Tony Sabol for info @ 273-2566.

**August 27<sup>th</sup>, Stuart Peak:** The Beartooth mountains too far to go this weekend? Well then, stay local and hike to this prominent peak in the Rattlesnake Mountains and Wilderness. At 7,960 feet with over twenty miles to cover round trip, this is a long rewarding hike to a peak with great views north into the Mission Mtns., as well as the peaks of the Rattlesnake and of the Bitterroot. Call Julie Warner at 543-6508 for more info.

**September 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, Mount Athabasca, Canada:** Join the Rocky Mountaineers for the third annual ascent of this Canadian Rockies classic. This beautiful 11,453 foot peak rests 5,500 feet above the Columbia Icefields Center, located in Jasper National Park, Alberta. From the top, one can see Snow Dome, the mountain at the true triple continental divide. It is from here that the Columbia Icefield melts and begins its descent to the Pacific, Arctic, or Atlantic Oceans. There are multiple routes up this beautiful glaciated peak. Some gear and glacier travel knowledge will be required. Call Matt Grandy @ 728-0647 for more information.

**September 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, Kings Peak, Utah:** At 13,528ft this is the highest peak in the state of Utah. Located in northeast Utah in the High Uinta Mountains and Wilderness, this peak offers a worthwhile climb. Join us on this great trip to one of the great ones. Call Tami or Tony Sabol @ 273-2566 for info.

## TRIP REPORTS

**Mt. Adams, Washington, May 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>:** Tami Sabol and Penny Palm headed to the Cascades over Memorial Day weekend to climb Mt Adams. After the 10 hour drive, and as far as we could go up the still snowed in access road, we strapped on heavy overnight packs and started up the South Spur route of this Washington volcano. Sunshine broke through cloudy skies occasionally and the winds were brisk. As we gained the main ridge above Cold Springs, the wind became even more intense. We soon lost almost all visibility of the mountain and were forced to bivy at 6300 feet to keep shelter from the wind. We dug a tent platform and formed snow walls to shelter us from the wind. It was a long and noisy night. We set the alarm for 4am to start our summit attempt. For one brief moment, we saw stars in the sky and thought the weather had passed. We soon learned otherwise. As we climbed, ferocious winds almost instantly covered up our footsteps. The clouds below us were dark gray and black and billowed up the mountain towards us. Visibility was very poor, but caught several brief glimpses of the false summit through openings in black canopy above. It looked so close, but in reality was still another 4 hours above us under ideal conditions. Both of us wrestled with the thought of turning back after we had traveled so far. We then ran into two other mountaineers, Mike and Brent. With safety in numbers, we opted to climb together to the lunch counter (9500') to reassess conditions there. Many climbers were turning back, but we made it to the lunch counter after doing some crampon footwork on icy slopes. We had lunch while watching the black clouds building and decided there would be another day to summit. We were disappointed...without sun, we didn't even get the famous glissade in. We will return. -- Tami Sabol & Penny Palm

**Gray Wolf Peak, June 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>:** Pat Caffrey, Tami Sabol, and Tony Sabol met late Saturday evening at Twin Lakes in the Mission Mountains set on climbing this wonderful peak. For those not aware, the Reservation has blocked the logging road that used to provide access up to the trailhead. You must now start right at the lakes, so if you go, allow for the additional road time and elevation gain. We took overnight packs up nearly to Riddell Lakes and set up our camp. We enjoyed good stories and some barley water, which Pat provided for extra carbo-loading. We were up early Sunday, packed our stuff and headed up the southwest couloir. Halfway up, we ran into Dave Pengelly and another guy named Collin who were tele-skiing the couloir. We continued up and soon were on top of the south summit. Ladybugs were everywhere! Due to conditions, we opted not to climb to the true summit; rather we enjoyed a great lunch with beautiful views in all directions. --Tony Sabol

**McDonald Peak, June 11<sup>th</sup>:** Weather was horrible on Saturday, so James Jones, Penny Palm, Tami Sabol, and Tony Sabol waited to climb on Sunday. After getting to the Ashley Lake trailhead, we busted up the trail to Ashley Lakes. From there we varied between climbing the headwall to gain the upper aspects of Ashley Creek or to try the ridge to Sheep Head Mtn and the connecting ridge to West/Main McDonald. We eventually ended up going the ridge route. New snow had fallen, and the frequency of fresh grizzly bear tracks slowed us. By 4pm we were at a point on the ridge where we could see McDonald, and see that this particular route would not "go" today. We descended and planned to tackle the peak via another route on another day. --Tony Sabol

**Mt Rainier Liberty Ridge, Washington, June 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>:** Five people expressed interest in going to do this "Classic Climb of North America", however only two committed. Ronnie Attaway and Tony Sabol journeyed to climb one of the steepest and most aesthetic routes on this 14,411 foot volcano. We left the trailhead at 4,400 feet and traveled up over St Elmo's pass, dropped down to the Winthrop glacier, then crossed and set up Camp 1 on the west side of the glacier at 7,400 ft. We didn't have a permit to camp on Curtis Ridge, so we had to make up the extra distance the next morning. Once up on Curtis Ridge, we dropped down to the Carbon Glacier and begin our ascent up the middle towards the base of Liberty Ridge. We encountered several areas heavily concentrated with crevasses. This required us to set several running belays to prevent both of us from being pulled into different crevasses should one of us fall into one. We reached the bottom of the ridge at approximately 8,600 feet and had to ascend some low 5<sup>th</sup> class, very loose, volcanic rock before we could attain the ridge proper. With two ice tools we did a traversing ascent up the 40-degree ice and hard snow to Camp 2 at Thumb Rock (10,800ft). We expected to find 10 other climbers there ahead of us (permits are issued to only 12 climbers/day), however we had the whole snow ledge to ourselves. The skies remained clear, but the wind blew hard all night. The weather radio however gave us a green light, so by 5am we were well on our way...wind was minimal. The slopes quickly steepened and the route continually alternated between 45-50 degrees of good alpine ice. We made it to the bergshroud at about 13,200 feet, found a nice break, put in a belay, then continued climbing towards the top. We soon lost the protection of the Liberty Wall and were blasted by 40-60 mph winds. We stumbled like drunken sailors to the Liberty Cap (the summit of the Liberty Ridge) at 14,112 ft, tagged the top, and then quickly descended to a protected ledge out of the windblast. The true summit lay less than a mile away. We descended to 13,500 feet, found a place to stay, and set up Camp 3 for the night. We awoke with a full moon shining just above Columbia Crest...the true summit at 14,411ft. We packed, and within an hour stood on the summit. The skies were magnificently clear, the sun just rising in the east, and views seen from the volcanoes and peaks of Oregon southward, to the mountains northward into British Columbia, Canada. What an incredible sight to behold! We snacked, then began the long descent down the Emmons Glacier. Just a few hundred feet below the summit, we encountered the first group of climbers coming UP the Emmons...they had left just before midnight to get to the summit by sunrise or just thereafter. Ronnie and I descended...down past Camp Schurman, then down the Inter Glacier to the trail back to the truck and waiting cold beer. What an awesome trip, an awesome route, highly recommended (in good weather, otherwise...!) --Tony Sabol

**Great Northern Mountain, June 17<sup>th</sup>:** This fine Saturday Rick Hanners, Tiffin Hall, Steve Finnerty, Bob Koca, Jim Day, and Jim Cossitt (&boys) met at the 3 Forks Ranger Station in Hungry Horse. They carpoled 15+ miles down the east side road to the trailhead and got started at 0900 on a damp, slippery, and "unrelentlessly steep" trail. After 1½ hour, they broke out of the trees and began the long ridge walk ascending the north ridge of Great Northern. It was a fantastic day: clear weather, puffy white clouds, sunny, cool air and stunning views in all directions. The South and Middle Forks of the Flathead, the snowy east face of the Swans, the Missions gleaming on the southern horizon, the mass of mountains in the central Bob Marshall, and the northern horizon dominated by the peaks of Glacier National Park. We were a well-matched group and summited at 1300 or so after negotiating some small snowfields. We had a nice meal and break on top, then got back to the trailhead by 1700 with 8+ miles round trip, and 4,600 feet of vertical gain under our belts. -Jim Cossitt

**Homer Youngs Peak, June 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>:** Penny Palm, Katrina Ruhmland, Tami Sabol, and canine friends, spent the weekend at Miner Lake in the Beaverhead Mountains near Jackson Hot Springs. We had the campground all to ourselves. On Saturday evening, we saw 3 moose cross the road near our camp. On Sunday morning, we started our ascent to Homer Youngs Peak. We gained the prominent ridge above the Miner Lake area and followed the Kelly Creek drainage up to Heart Lake. From there we gained the summit ridge and scrambled over blocky talus to the top. At the top, we experienced breathtaking views of the Lemhi and Big Hole valleys. We also looked directly at the east side of the Lemhi Range in Idaho...looks like some good technical climbing, but probably avalanche prone in the winter. Our trip consisted of about 16 miles and a little over 4000 feet of elevation gain. We had great weather! Tami Sabol

**Ranger Peak, June 25<sup>th</sup>:** Penny Palm and Tami Sabol set out early to get a good start on our 23 mile round trip ascent and 5000' of elevation gain. We followed the never ending, flat trail up Big Creek to Big Creek Lakes. It seemed like it took forever to gain any elevation. After about 8 miles, we started doing some significant uphill. The lake was full and spilling over the outlet adjacent to the dam. Good thing we brought sandals, although they were intended for blister prevention on the way out. We waded across and hiked to the west side of the lake...saw fresh Grizzly scat along the way...big scat! From there, we intended to work our way straight up the face of the peak. We encountered Class 4 and low Class 5 rock with wet slabs. The rock climbing was time consuming and we questioned route finding for the downclimb. At 2pm, we decided to head out...it would have been midnight if we continued on. This is one of those trips that require a 4-5am start time to summit in one day. All in all, it was a great conditioning day. We will plan the trip again and either camp the night before or come in from the Idaho side. - Tami Sabol

**Want to Lead A Trip?** We are looking for individuals, young or well seasoned, to lead hikes, backpack trips, climbs, mountaineering excursions, or other outdoor adventures. Please lend us your talents and volunteer to lead at least one trip per year. You can lead anything from beginner level to the most extreme. You don't have to be in cutting edge shape to be a leader. Simply possess sound judgment and be upfront with any participants as to the type of trip you will be leading. Our club members and others can benefit from the fruits of your efforts. Give it a try. If you are interested in being a Trip Leader for the Rocky Mountaineers, contact Club President Penny Palm at 258-2000 or e-mail her at [Psquard@email.msn.com](mailto:Psquard@email.msn.com). For faster turnaround time, please also forward to the Newsletter Editor at [mtsabol@bigsky.net](mailto:mtsabol@bigsky.net) or call 273-2566.

**Would You Like Your Newsletter Faster?** For those of you who would like to receive your newsletter faster, and/or to save the club some mailing and photocopying costs, email is alive and well. Notify the newsletter editor of your email address, and you will receive your newsletter as a "WORD" attachment via the net. Warning: For those with Works, Mac software, and/or other older word processing software, we cannot guarantee the format you will receive.



**CLUB OFFICERS**

President	Penny Palm	258-2000
Vice President	Tami Sabol	273-2566
Treasurer	Julie Warner	543-6508
Secretary/Newsletter Editor	Tony Sabol	273-2566

**Membership Rate Increase:** With the increases in postage rates, as well as the cost of photocopying newsletters, it has become necessary to raise membership fees. The present rate of \$9.00 per individual just barely covers the cost of the stamp and photocopying of an individual newsletter (\$0.71/each) twelve months of the year. There are no monies left over to fund complimentary copies of the newsletter, which are dispersed at outdoor stores around our area. Complimentary copies are necessary to provide a way for the public to see what it is we do, to offer an invitation to the public to come on these trips, and to recruit new members. In addition, the mountaineers cabin (available to any club member) requires an annual lease payment of \$60 to the U.S. Forest Service. The cost of a yearly membership is little more than a pair of movie tickets! Your yearly membership permits you the opportunity to go on all sorts of excursions, to lead trips you would like to do, to report and have published your outdoor activities, as well as help to promote the teamwork and camaraderie associated with mountaineering. Please help the club continue to provide these services to you as well as to members of the public.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Household Yearly Membership (\$13.00)

Make checks payable to "Rocky Mountaineers"

Rocky Mountaineers  
 PO Box 4262  
 Missoula MT 59806

**LIABILITY WAIVER-INDEMNITY AGREEMENT:** In today's legal environment, liability for accidents is always a concern. It is very sad, but it is a reality of our times. Many of our members will not lead trips for fear of legal action being directed against themselves and their families. In order to help alleviate some concerns regarding this matter, we have sought the advice from a major mountaineering organization. We have been provided with an indemnity and release statement, which any member of a Rocky Mountaineer sponsored trip will be required to sign and have on file prior to going on a trip. Extra copies will be provided to trip leaders to have available for signing for any members of the club or public who have not had the opportunity to sign one. You can never sign away negligence, but you can sign away the many acts of God or Nature, which are inherently present in the outdoors. If you are actively participating in trips, please sign your copy and send it to the Rocky Mountaineers P.O BOX so it may be placed on file. Thank you so much for any cooperation in this matter.

I, (print name) \_\_\_\_\_ hereby state that I wish to participate in courses and/or activities offered by The Rocky Mountaineers, a non-profit organization. I recognize any outdoors activity may involve certain dangers, including but not limited to the hazards of traveling in mountainous terrain, accidents or illness in remote places, force of nature, and the actions of participants and other persons. I further understand and agree that without some program providing protection of its assets and its leaders, the Rocky Mountaineers would not be able to offer it courses and activities.

In consideration of and as part payment for the right to participate in the activities offered by The Rocky Mountaineers, I agree to RELEASE, HOLD HARMLESS, AND INDEMNIFY The Rocky Mountaineers and its members from any and all liability, claims and causes of action arising out of or in any way connected with my participation, or the participation of any minor that I am signing on behalf of, in any activities offered by The Rocky Mountaineers. I personally assume all risks in connection with these activities. If I am signing on behalf of a minor, I further agree to RELEASE, HOLD HARMLESS, AND INDEMNIFY The Rocky Mountaineers and its members from any liability, claims and cause of action, which the minor may have arising from the minor's participation in activities. The terms of this agreement shall serve as a release and indemnity agreement for my heirs, personal representative, and for all members of my family, including any minors. (Parents or Legal Guardians must sign for all persons under eighteen (18) years of age).

I have read this release and indemnity agreement and have fully informed myself of its contents before I have signed it.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Print Name

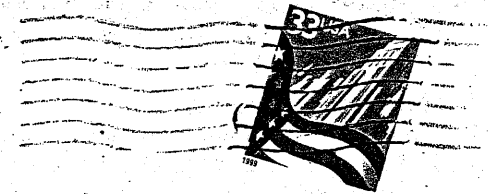
\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian if Participant is Under 18 Years of Age

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

**THE MOUNTAIN EAR**  
**PO BOX 4262**  
**MISSOULA MT 59806**



**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Stephen Schombel  
2200 Applewood Lane  
Missoula, MT 59801

Membership Renewal 4/2001