



MOUNTAIN EAR

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS OUTDOOR CLUB

HIKING-CLIMBING-MOUNTAINEERING-SKIING-
EXOTIC TRAVEL-EXPLORATION OF PEAKS AND
MOUNTAINS OF MONTANA AND OF THE WORLD

MAY 2001

CLUB MEETINGS: The April slideshow presented by Gray Thompson was awesome. We had over one hundred people attend the show that night, and we picked up many new members as a result. Due to that slideshow, the election of new officers was delayed until this month. The club will meet next Wednesday, May 16th, 7pm at Bonner Park. Bring some picnic goodies to munch on during the meeting. We will have no scheduled speaker, as we will be undergoing the process of electing new officers.

With the newsletter coming out later into the month of May, Julie Warner felt she should be at the library in case anyone decided to come to our somewhat "traditional" meeting time of the second Wednesday of the month. Apparently a few folks from the club did show up, as well as club member Gerald Olbu (former President) and 17 others. The seventeen who did show up presented checks and membership applications to the club. They then told Julie that since they outnumbered the present Rocky Mountaineers, that they would be voting in their own members, and essentially taking over the club. The "election" that followed elected Gerald as the new President, and the other "officers" are unknown at this time. They then took the Clubs' checkbook from Julie, and then departed.

According to Article V, Clause 1 of the most recent set of By-Laws for the Rocky Mountaineers (March 1976), voting members have to have their dues paid by April 30th. This clause is in place to prevent hostile takeovers of the club by non-ethical means. It PROTECTS the club. For example, let's say ANY group of people....Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary Club, Green Peace, Blue Ribbon Coalition, Western Horsemen, Frogs Unlimited, or maybe even some Extremist Anti-Outdoor group wanted to take over the club. They could just show up at the time of elections and vote the club out of existence, seize all the club funds, and make off like banshees. Our preceding members envisioned this opportunity, and therefore put this clause in place, which essentially says that a person should be a member for at least one year prior to being able to vote in the Officer elections. This protects all of us, and our club.

As the above hostile election was held by INELIBILE voters, and was in violation of the By-Laws, their "election" is null and void. The seizure of the check book could be deemed to be theft, as well as other charges brought, possibly to include intimidation, assault, coercion, and fraud. We hope that the "new" treasurer will swiftly return the checkbook to Julie for safekeeping, until after the election next week is finalized. So please, if you have an interest in the club, attend the meeting on Wednesday. We apparently have 17 new people who are willing to join our club, four of which want to be new officers. Hooray! The By-Laws say nothing about a brand new member becoming an officer...so if they wish to volunteer, and if there are no other nominees or willing volunteers from the present pool of Rocky Mountaineers, it is feasible to have the folks elected in the null and void mock election...re-elected under ethical and legal means. SO, please come, support your club, and cast your vote for the people you want to guide the clubs' business.

With the annual election coming up next week, here is a set of revised by-laws from the March 1976 *Mountaineer*. If any present or past members know of a more recent set of by-laws please inform one of the officers. These by-laws reflect that the Rocky Mountaineers are no longer associated with any search and rescue group. Also provision is made for nominations from the floor, and a quorum is set at 20% of eligible members. Some years as few as ten or eleven would be enough for a quorum and a valid election.

In any election there will be winners and losers. Losers should be gracious and willing to work with all officers for the betterment of the club - otherwise don't run. And let's keep complaints and criticism to a minimum. There are better times to air gripes than at a monthly meeting. Let's all try to make the club fun.

BY-LAWS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

revised March 1976

ARTICLE I

Name and Object

1. The name of this organization is the Rocky Mountaineers.
2. It is organized as a non-profit, joint-venture club for the mutual benefit of its members to promote all phases of the recreational use of the mountainous areas, and to encourage the safe use of wooded and alpine areas by the general public.
3. The Club will hold at least eight (8) meetings within a calendar year.

ARTICLE II

Membership and Dues

1. Membership is open to any individual or family upon payment of one year's dues.
2. The amount of yearly dues for active membership will be set annually by the Executive Committee, with the approval of the members.
3. Members who are at least twelve (12) years old and whose dues for the year are paid are eligible to vote on Club matters.
4. "Charter" members of the Club are those whose annual dues were paid as of March 15, 1960. (see attached list)
5. Club activities are entered at the risk of the participant. The Executive Committee will determine the necessity of a waiver of liability.

ARTICLE III

Officers and the Executive Committee

1. The elected officers are President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary.
2. The officer's duties are the ones usually associated with those titles.
3. These officers (Paragraph 1 above), and the most recent Past President constitute the Executive Committee.
4. The Executive Committee has all the powers of the Club in the intervals between meetings except authorizing expenditures in excess of 25% of previous years expenses. This Committee will meet on the call of its Chairman, or on the request of any three members of the Committee; and in any event will hold at least one meeting in every period of four months.
5. The financial records will be audited by a non-executive committee member and reported at the elections meeting.

ARTICLE IV

Elections

1. Elections will be held at the April meeting. Candidates will be presented by a nominating committee and may also be nominated from the floor. An office will be filled by a vote if there is more than one candidate for the vacancy. The candidate receiving the largest number of votes is elected.
2. Each successful candidate assumes office at the close of the meeting when elected and serves until a successor is installed.
3. In the event that an officer does not finish the term of office, a special election shall be held at the earliest meeting possible.

ARTICLE V

Quorum and Amendment of By-Laws

1. A quorum consists of 20% of all Club members eligible to vote as of April 30 of each year.

