



MOUNTAIN EAR

Monthly Newsletter of the Rocky Mountaineers

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

November 2001

BOB MARSHALL PROGRAM

This year the Rocky Mountaineers are going to try to return to the custom of meeting regularly on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 P.M. We hope to have a regular meeting place—the City Council chambers on the second floor of City Hall on Pine and Spruce Streets. On November 14th we are going to inaugurate these changes with a program by a man who is widely acknowledged in Western Montana as having the most experience in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, outfitter Smoke Elser.

Smoke Elser has been going into the Bob for 43 years and has been running his “Wilderness Outfitters” business for almost 40 years. In his earlier years Smoke was quite an advocate for wilderness protection for this great area so dear to us. He has also been known to speak out against oil and gas exploration and other commercial intrusions into this wilderness area. He is most fondly known as the friendly horse outfitter/guide for all kind of trips: fishing, hunting, or trips to the Chinese Wall. Come out and hear some of his stories and see his slides. This could be a very memorable evening.

And his business continues. Although Smoke himself has passed the actual outfitting along to others, he will be willing to answer questions from those who are thinking of taking this kind of wilderness trip.

CLUB CONTACTS

Rocky Mountaineers
P.O. Box 4262
Missoula, MT 59806
rockymountaineers@hotmail.com

President- Julie Warner 543-6508
Treasurer jawkal@hotmail.com

Secretary- Steve Schombel 721-4686
Editor sshell@montana.com

NEW BY-LAWS FOR CLUB

At the October 10th meeting held at Lois Crepeau's house, the new by-laws were formed from an existing set of generic by-laws supplied by Dave Pengelly. Karen Apland, Lois Crepeau, Brett Doucett, Steve Schombel, Eileen Schwanemann, Fred Schwanemann, and Julie Warner were the people that worked on them. A copy of the proposed by-laws, along with a proposed set of guidelines for trip leaders and participants, will be mailed to each club member for comments. If any member has comments about any of the provisions, please contact us by mail at P.O. Box 4262, Missoula, MT 59806, by phone at 543-6508 or 721-4686, or by e-mail at rockymountaineers@hotmail.com. If we don't hear anything we will presume there are no objections or issues. It is hoped to ratify these new by-laws at the Jan. 2002 meeting.

Below I have explained some issues that we discussed and would specifically like feedback on. When this new set of by-laws is in place we then need to move on to other issues such as getting our tax-exempt status, restructuring our financial base and some problems with the cabin.

By-law Issues:

1) Item 1.1 The mission statement. This is the mission statement from the original by-laws, minus the section establishing a search and rescue organization. The issue is: we want to keep this statement but should we keep the line “with primary emphasis on rock and ice-snow climbing”?

2) Board of directors issue. This club was not established with a board of directors; we had wanted to keep it that way until we found out that we have to have a BOD to get a tax exempt status. The decision was made to declare all dues paying members as members of the board of directors. Why do we need a tax-exempt status? Primarily it is because of our checking account. A person's social security number is required to open
continued p. 3

TRIP REPORTS

Woods Gulch

On Sunday, September 30th, Fred and Eileen Schwannemann and Kathy and her son Michael, age nine, started the hike at Woods Gulch with brisk air and fair skies. We were surprised to see water in the small stream next to the lower trail and on the trail after the first stream crossing. Once up to the ridge there was a good view of Marshall Mountain ski slopes. We then headed south to a high point which allows a great view of the east face of Stuart Peak. Picking up the trail that goes around the North zone of Mt. Jumbo, Fred, Kathy, and Michael continued on the hike while Eileen went back down to the trailhead. University Mtn., Lolo Peak, and Sleeping Woman were among the many views to be seen from the ridge. Much of the brush was turning a crimson color, promising fall is coming.

The Woods Gulch hike ended at the trailhead, completing the figure eight pattern of the hike. For a hike so close, the views are worth the climb.

-Eileen Schwannemann

Illinois Peak

Illinois Peak is an old lookout site, elevation 7690 feet. In 1913 it had a forest service log cabin 1/2 mile south atop the divide, with a pole platform at the summit. In 1938 there was a 72 foot steel tower and cabin. It was gone in 1976.

October 7th Steve Schombel, Karen Apland, Ruth Fisher, Mike McMichael, Fred Schwanemann, Eileen Evans and myself hiked via trail #169, (Cedar Creek Driveway.) There are several ways to access Illinois Peak. I would like to do a different access the next time.

From Superior travel 1.4 miles east on Pierce-Superior road 250 to Cedar Creek road. Turn right and cross the tracks. Proceed to the junction of 320 and 388. Take 388 (left) and follow it to the trail head. The trail is signed and easy to follow. It's an old road walk for awhile, then necks down to a trail. Wonderful views.

Illinois Peak is the highest promontory in the area. Quite often it is very windy on top. Take the time, if you're not freezing, to leave a note in the containers that are tucked in the huge cairn there. It is fun to read some of the trip reports.

We were pretty cold by the time we had a quick lunch. The wind was quite brisk. At first we thought about heading back to the rigs, but the sense of adventure took us over the ridge and down the trail towards Grave Peak. Trail #49 intersects the Stateline Trail in the vicinity of Grave Peak. This trail proceeds to the west into Idaho and eventually meets the St. Joe River. Further information

about this trail may be obtained from the Red Ives Ranger District.

We followed trail 49 which brought us to a little pot hole and a nice meadow. We wanted to hike to St. Joe Lake but realized the trail doesn't go to the lake, and it was getting too late to bushwack, so we headed back to the rigs. We stopped at the Ninemile House for a bite to eat. Very laid back day with a bunch of fun hikers.

-Lois Crepeau

The Sunday, Oct. 14th trip to Boulder Point was rained out.

Graves Peak

The Sunday, October 21st trip to Graves Peak in the Idaho Bitterroots was to be a scouting trip as three of the participants, Steve Schombel, Fred Schwanemann, and Julie Warner were new to the area and were relying on Lois Crepeau to show us around. We started out at about 6400 feet in two to three inches of snow that had accumulated to 4-6 inches at our highest point, about 7100 feet, below Friday Pass and above Swamp Lake. Three of the members had snowshoes and the fourth walked aided by a preexisting trail for most of the trip, but following the snowshoers for the rest of it. This was a nice way to get to know the area, and spend a beautiful day on snow and snowshoes. We topped it off with dinner at the temporary Lochsa Lodge. It was literally a dawn to dusk day.

-Julie Warner

Walman Trail

On Sunday, October 28, Steve Schombel and Fred Schwanemann set off to hike the Walman Trail in spite of foggy, wet weather. We saw a huge grouse on the way up Spring Gulch. Also, there were dozens of piles of bear scat on the Walman trail. The larch trees were yellow and many of their needles covered the trail in most places. There was an intermittent drizzle or light rain most of the hike, which made the air seem cleaner. The cloud formations to be seen coming down the east side of the Walman trail were unique. We stopped by the Beaver Pond towards the hike's end and saw many Wood ducks.

-Fred Schwanemann



UPCOMING TRIPS

Please note: The distances and elevations are estimates of a one way hike. Call the trip leader early in the week to get an idea of experience and gear required. Be prepared to give a definite yes or no as to whether you will be going. It is generally assumed that participants have at least average outdoor skills and know what clothing is needed for different Montana seasons.

Most members also do a lot of outdoor activities that they do not put in the newsletter. Feel free to call other members you may know.

November 10th & 11th Mount Rae

Will drive to West Boulder River area in the Absarokas on Saturday and hike off trail up on the West Boulder plateau. Will camp at high altitude then attempt Mt. Rae at 9237' Sunday. Will also scout out some caves in area. Return late Sunday night or Monday. Call Joe Oliphant at 626-4192 for information.

Sunday, November 18th Hike or Ski

The weather and conditions are so uncertain that the leader of this trip and the one on Dec. 1st will decide what and where a few days before. Lois is leaning toward a ski up the West Fork Butte road in the Lolo Creek area. Call Lois Crepeau at 728-5321 for information.

Sunday, November 25th Spring Gulch to Sawmill Gulch

Another fine Rattlesnake hike. The longest loop here stretches 12 miles with a short section open to hunting. Also, snowshoes may be needed on the ridge top. There are shorter trails, and a vehicle could be shuttled to the upper parking lot. Call Fred Schwanemann at 542-7372 for information.

Saturday, December 1st Ski or Scramble

Once again the destination and type of trip will depend on the weather. A snowmobile assisted ski with a couple of people towed to an open ridge top has been suggested. Call Art Gidel at 251-0203 for information.

Sunday, December 9th Pilot Knob

Snowshoe up a narrow canyon and then along a timbered ridge to this rocky point along the state line. Or, if the access road is snowed in we can try the ridge from the saddle at the head of Fish Creek. The Crystal Theater area closer to Lolo Pass is another alternative depending on snow depths. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for information.

new by-laws cont.

an account. Right now that is my social security number. This can lead to problems with the club's finances and the tax-exempt number will be used instead of the social security number.

3) Item 3.4. Do we need to designate May in this article or just leave it as "a yearly meeting" (May is designated as the month of officer elections).

4) 8% quorum. Is this number acceptable? It was chosen after considerable debate because of the higher number of members that would be needed to take action when the club is larger.

5) Treasurer term limits. The treasurer was given no term limit because the office of treasurer is different than the others, with having to sign signature cards, etc. In general if you have a good treasurer you are better to just keep them rather than change frequently.

6) Item 5.6. This item was left in because it covers such situations as Steve Schombel's family printing business doing our newsletter.

7) This reference to the 501(c)(3) code is the tax-exempt status code.

8) Liability. The issues of liability have long plagued the officers of this club and are dealt with in article 5.7, which waives liability for officers and the Board of Directors (which in this case is all members).

Please feel free to comment on any other section of the proposed by-laws and guidelines for trip leaders and participants. General comments on the whole set are also needed. Another thing we discussed at the October meeting was combining the membership application with a liability waiver. If adopted, then members who join or renew will simultaneously sign off on this liability waiver. Trip leaders can also make copies to hand out to nonmember participants if they desire. Tell us if you like this idea.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND LIABILITY WAIVER

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, forces 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).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Household Yearly Membership: **\$13.00**
Make checks payable to: "Rocky Mountaineers"
and send to: Rocky Mountaineers
P.O. Box 4262
Missoula, MT. 59806

I have read this release and indemnity agreement and have fully informed myself of its contents before I have signed it. When I join or renew my membership I also sign on to this agreement.

Print Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian if Participant is Under 18 Years of Age _____
Date _____



Rocky Mountaineers
P. O. Box 4262
Missoula, MT 59806

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE