



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**

*****May 2002*****

MOUNT ACONCAGUA

We have a great program to end our 2001-2002 season of meetings. As usual we are meeting on the second Wednesday of the month, May 8th at 7:00 P.M. in the second floor meeting room of the Court House annex on Pine Street. Our meetings are free and open to the public.

This night we will have a trip report and a lot of slides by Mike Juhola from the REI Store in Missoula. He and 15 others travelled to Argentina last January in an attempt to summit Aconcagua, highest point in the Andes. They came from all over the country, but Mike was the only one from Missoula. They spent almost the entire month down there, and 19 days in the Provincial Park around the mountain. This included 13 days at or above the base camp at 13,800'. It snowed eight of these days, the temperature ranged from 30° below to 85° F, and two members had to be flown off with altitude sickness. They experienced the wide range of alpine conditions. January is usually the warmest summer month in the Andes, so these storms were quite unexpected. Some members reached 19,200', but the stormy weather prevented anyone from reaching the top.

In between storms and on the clearer days Mike got a lot of pretty photos of the alpine area and of the park. He was especially enchanted by the city of Mendoza. It seemed like a really nice small town in a beautiful area in spite of the fact that it is a large city with over a million people.

ANNUAL ELECTION

May is here, time for our election. The tempest from a year ago seems to have passed. Admittedly, we have been lax in forming a nominating committee and seeking out members who are willing to serve as officers. But we will take nominations from the floor, and we do need two more officers. We do have two candidates: Julie Warner is willing to serve another year as President, and Steve Schombel is willing to be Vice President and edit the newsletter. The main thing we would like to do in the next year is to keep the club on an even keel. Have regular meetings at the same time and place each month. We also want to offer a variety of outdoor trips, and to keep the leadership and participation as open as possible.

We would also like to offer our members quality outdoor trips. In this spirit we will continue to share information from other clubs. We get schedules from the Glacier Mountaineering Society, from the Bitterroot X-country Ski Club and the Great Burn Study Group. Call us and we'll tell you who to contact. Other clubs are welcome to share information with us.

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 ssbell@montana.com

UPCOMING TRIPS

May 5th Stuart Peak trail wildflowers

We will hike up the trail toward Stuart Peak. Near the first switchback, about 4½ miles up, is an open hillside where the Steers head flowers grow. These don't last long, so we can only hope to spot some. There should be a lot of other flowers along the way. Meet at 9:30 at the Chamber of Commerce and call Lois Crepeau at 728-5321 for information.

May 12th Mount Jumbo

Scramble up this popular and pretty mountain in the morning and still have time for dinner with your mother (or kids). We will meet at the Chamber of Commerce at 9:00 A.M., Call Charles Tree at 549-7547 to confirm the time and for other details.

May 19th Bonner Mountain

Although this mountain is only 6813 ft. there is a long hill and several miles to traverse from the town of Bonner. The route alternates between an open trail and roads, so there should be little damp brush to pass through and not much snow. Call Julie Warner at 543-6508 for information.

May 25 - 27th Missouri Breaks

Camp and explore the Missouri Breaks and the Hell's Creek area along Fort Peck reservoir. There are badlands, white cliffs and some hills to scramble to the top of in the area. And many other points of interest along the way. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for information.

May 26th Babcock Mountain

This trip was rained out in April. Similar to Bonner Mtn at 6350'. The trail switchbacks up a mostly grassy slope, then there are some roads and, perhaps, a little bushwacking to find the top. There is a nice bench for a lunch stop, and good views of the Valley of The Moon below. There is also a herd of bighorns in these hills, so we might see some. Call Fred Schwanemann at 542-7372.

June 2nd Petty Mountain

Petty is one of the high points seen from parts of Missoula. At 7230' it is the high point of the Grave Creek branch of the Bitterroots. There are several trails to the top, so call Julie Warner at 543-6508 for the route and meeting place.

June 9th Welcome Creek

This is a popular hike along a small creek in the Welcome Creek Wilderness. There are some old miner's cabins along the way. It would make for a long 20 mile day, but we could try for the top of Cleveland Mountain at 7179 ft. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686.

June 15th and 16th Open

We left this weekend open because it is the first weekend the road will be open to the cabin trailhead. We really do need to get a work party out this summer. Alternatively, those members who have told me they would like to lead a trip sometime can think about this weekend.

June 23rd Granite Peak (Idaho)

Granite Peak at 7551', is located along the Montana/Idaho border in the southern portion of the proposed Great Burn Wilderness approx. 30 miles west of Missoula. Experience this beautifully unique country while learning about an on-going trail monitoring project spear-headed by the Great Burn Study Group. In addition to the beautiful scenery hikers will look at trailhead & trail conditions, recreation use patterns, and evidence of motorized use in this proposed wilderness. The hike begins at Oriole Divide near White Mountain and involves mostly ridge-line hiking. Round trip approx. 14 miles - Bring plenty of water. Bob Clark, Field Studies Coordinator for the Great Burn Study Group will lead the hike. Meet at the south end of the K-Mart parking lot at 7:30 am. Contact Bob @mtclarks@montana.com or 721-8789.

continued P. 3

TRIP REPORTS

April 7th Alberton Gorge

It was a cool, clear and very quiet day. There were no people or boats, no traffic noise and few trains. The water was high, so it was a little tricky to get to the mouth of Fish Creek. The small waterfall was flowing fast. From there it was easy going along the Clark Fork, over rocks and beaches and up through the forest. We made it around the bend near Rivulet and decided to save the lower part for another day. We climbed up to the tracks, discovered a closer place to park, and took a level route back to the cars. Participants were Dave Kahl, Fred Schwanemann, Mike McMichaels, Julie Warner and Steve Schombel the coordinator.

April 18th and 25th Evening Hikes

Here is an example of the kind of evening hikes we have advertised. First, Fred and I hiked from Crazy Canyon lot to the top of Mount Sentinel. The snow was almost completely gone and we had the great view of town. And we got back well before dark. A week later we hiked up Sawmill Gulch over the ridge and down Curry Gulch, and got back before dark. Springtime is great here in Missoula with the long evening hours. Think about joining us and telling us about one of your favorites hikes near town.

April 28th Mount Fuji

Everywhere in Lolo Canyon it was spring, but previous experience said that there would still be plenty of snow at the pass, even though there wasn't much even a mile below the pass. There was plenty of corn snow and Tracy Feickert, Steve Schombel and Julie Warner had brought both skis and snowshoes not knowing what conditions to expect. It was dropping an occasional snowflake and cloudy so skis were decided on. We climbed Mt. Fuji by my favorite route up the timbered gully just east of the summit. Then we had lunch on top in a bare spot. As we retraced our steps, Tracy took off the skins and showed us her downhill skills, cutting nice turns. Steve and I both kept our skins on all the way down but still got up some good speed. The weather varied from snowing to sunny and warm, and it was a great last ski of the season. - Julie Warner

WORKERS WANTED

Bill Goslin of the Stevensville Ranger District is compiling a list of people who would be willing to pack supplies and materials into dams in the wilderness. You will be working for the dam owners, irrigators in most cases. Your compensation will depend on the owner.

The main purpose would be to minimize helicopter landings and other impacts to these high wild areas. In some places the snow is too deep or the terrain too rugged, making human packers necessary. The work will probably be done late summer or early fall.

We will have a sign up sheet at the May meeting. Or you can call Bill Goslin days at 777-7419 for information or to sign up.

GREAT BURN MONITORING

The Great Burn Study Group is planning to have a presence in this proposed Wilderness Area this summer. They have not yet scheduled any monitoring trips, but should have some in the summer *Mountain Ear*. They are mainly trying to spot and report illegal motorized activity in closed areas and trails, and also to document damage done by vehicles in open areas which will be hard to restore when this area does become wilderness. Individuals are encouraged to report what they see. Diaries and photographs would be valuable. You may file your reports at mtclarks@montana.com or call Bob Clark at 721-8789. Bob is leading a trip in June, see page 2.

upcoming trips cont.

June 29th Mount Powell

This peak dominates the Deer Lodge Valley, and at 10164' is one of the highest west of the divide. The trip leader is still thinking about the best approach. If there is lingering snow a pretty hike to Martin Lake will be substituted. This will be a long day with quite a bit of driving. Call Brett Doucet at 543-4927 or 728-6461 to sign up.

Thursday Evening Hikes

Mt. Sentinel, the Rattlesnake, we hike in many places close to town. Good way to meet people for longer weekend trips. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 or Fred Schwanemann at 542-7372

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND LIABILITY WAIVER

Family Yearly Membership: \$13.00

Make checks payable to: "Rocky Mountaineers"

and send to: Rocky Mountaineers
P.O. Box 4262
Missoula, MT. 59806

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

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 _____

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 its 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).



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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE