



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

Summer 2002

Great Burn Proposed Wilderness Area Monitoring

The Great Burn Wilderness Study Group is ready to start their summer season of trail monitoring, and our club has the honor of doing the very first day hike of the season jointly with them. See page 3. To kick off the 2002 season they are throwing a PARTY on Friday, June 21st from 5:00 to 7:00 PM in the grain elevator at 801 Sherwood St. Use the alley entrance. They promise lots of beer and other goodies.

Seriously though, this is an information session and is almost mandatory for volunteers or those who are serious about volunteering for some summer monitoring trips, including our joint trip on June 23rd. They will have a large display map, a schedule and trip leaders and board members. They will tell volunteers what is expected of them and what to look for on the trails, etc. They also said to bring friends - all are welcome.

This Study Group is happy with the results from their first two years of monitoring. Through their documentation, research and reports they have become the eyes and ears for the Great Burn. They have caught the attention of the Forest Service, and have helped the Montana side continue its motorized closures in the face of lobbying from some clubs; and are even making some headway in Idaho. They managed to get a closure on 7 miles of trail in the upper Kelly Creek drainage, for example.

What follows is the bare bones of their summer schedule. For more details go to the meeting on June 21st or contact Bob Clark, Field Studies/Outreach Coordinator at mtclarks@montana.com or call (406)-721-8789. This is a very worthwhile project for our members to volunteer for.

DAY HIKES - 14 mile round trip to Granite Peak on both June 23rd and 27th.

OVERNIGHT TRIPS:

July 5-7 Heart Lake/Hoodoo Pass. Total trail miles: 15

July 12-14 Schley Mountain/Kid Lake. Leader Cate Cambell. Total trail miles: @ 18.

July 19-21? Cayuse Creek/Blacklead Mountain. Trail miles @ 16.

July 26-29 Kelly Creek, Idaho. Leader Matt Ward. Total miles @ 30.

August 2-4 Fish Lake Idaho. Leader Bob Clark. Total miles @ 14.

August 5-7 Toboggan Ridge Road, Idaho. Leader Bob Clark. Day hikes and car camping.

August 9-11 Moose/Pollock Ridge. Mainly monitor trailheads and trails.

August 16-18 Quartz Creek/St. Patrick Peak. Total miles @ 15.

August 23-25? Goose Creek/Steep Lakes Idaho. Total trail miles @ 16.

August 31 Sept. 1 Goose Ridge/Short Point, Idaho. Leader Matt Ward. Total miles @ 14.

CLUB CONTACTS

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UPCOMING TRIPS

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 spearheaded 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.

June 29th Mount Powell

This peak dominates the Deer Lodge Valley, and at 10164' is one of the highest west of the divide. There will probably be a lot of snow, but if we can reach the end of the road it will be about 6 miles with around 4000' gain. A hike to Martin Lake may be substituted. This will be a long day with quite a bit of driving. Call Brett Doucett at 543-4927 or 728-6461 to sign up.

July 7th Petty Mountain

This trip was rained out in June, so we will try again. 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.

July 14th Graves Peak Idaho

This is high point in some remote mountains in the Elk Summit area of Idaho, and it has a neat historic lookout on top. It is a fairly long drive and a long hike mostly on trails, with over 2000' of elevation gain if you add in the ups and downs. Participants will meet at 8:00 AM at the south end of the K-Mart Lot. Call Lois Crepeau at 728-5321.

July 21st Babcock Mountain

Another trip that was rained out and rescheduled. Actually Fred and Ilene hiked the trail portion of this trip in May, and it is a nice trail with an abundance of wildflowers and great views of Rock Creek. Then you run into a maze of logging roads, and have to wander around to find the top. Call Fred Schwanemann at 542-7372 for information.

July 28th Work Party

This is the weekend we are going to do work on our cabin, and we need some volunteers. If there are some people who can only work on Saturday, Steve is willing to lead a group. We want to concentrate on hauling up some pieces of sheet metal and nails and bringing the fireproofing around the stove up to Forest Service standards. If there are enough volunteers we could also obtain a reliable chain saw and cut some firewood. Call Steve at 721-4686 for Saturday or Julie at 543-6508 for Sunday.

August 4th Windy Point

This is a traditional hike to a great viewpoint on the way to Lolo Peak. It does involve several miles and nearly 3000' elevation gain to this point beyond Carleton Ridge. Willing participants can certainly go on to Carleton Lakes or even scramble up to the top of Lolo Peak. It will be a great chance to learn about Montana Mountains and the Rocky Mountaineers from one of our past Presidents. Call Bill or Vera Meyers at 251-5305.

August 11th Holland Peak

Another traditional scramble to the top of one of the finest mountains in western Montana. It is long, but very doable in one day with good weather. There is a lot of uphill on a steep trail and off trail, and some narrow ledges with exposure. At 9272' it is the high point of the Swan Range and has great views into the "Bob". It is about 7 miles and takes more than 4500' of elevation gain to reach this summit. A great introduction for people new to the mountains. Call Brett Doucett at 543-4927 or 728-6461 or Steve Schombel at 721-4686.

TRIP REPORTS

May 5th Steershead Flowers

May 5th, Fred, Julie, David, Steve and I hiked up the Rattlesnake to view the Steershead flower. This flower is quite small and looks just like it's name, Steershead. This flower blooms in an open area on the Stuart Peak trail right after the snow leaves. Most often you have to hike over patches of snow around the three mile area, and the flowers are about four and a half miles up the trail. They usually bloom around the first part of May and don't have a very long blooming period. It is a must to get down on hands and knees to see this beautiful, delicate flower. You will know when you are in the right area when you come to an open, rocky spot with a view of Missoula. The ticks are usually out at this time also, so it is advised to do a tick check. -Lois Crepeau

May 12th Mount Jumbo

In spite of the fine spring weather only Steve Schombel and Charles Tree did this hike on Mother's Day morning. There were lots of wildflowers and several people to say hi to, and it only took a few hours.

May 19th Bonner Mountain

Glen and Cindy Baumgardner and Robin Young joined Steve Schombel, David Kahl and myself on this exploratory trip of Bonner Mountain. The last time I climbed Bonner it was on a cold rainy day when you couldn't see much and we went up the face above the "B". The purpose of this trip was to find an alternate route. An old map showed a road coming up from the south and we first tried to find that, and not finding it we parked behind the Bonner Post Office and explored from there. The thing with Bonner Mountain is that no matter which way you go there is still an elevation gain of over 3000 ft. in three to four miles. Before the day was out we would hike obscure trails, logging roads, ATV trails and just bushwack up to the 6000 ft. level. We decided to turn back there, it was getting late, and we were low on water (it was hotter than we thought, the prediction was for the low 80's but in town the mercury had set a new record of 91 degrees), but the deciding factor was that several

thunder storms that we had been watching build over the Sapphire's had decided to track due north rather than the usual east. We were well on our way out when the rain started and it felt good. The trip was successful as we now have what is probably the best route up this mountain.

May 25-27th Missouri Breaks

No calls so I drove to the Fort Peck Reservoir area. There was only a little rain and the roads were dry. I saw the breaks and badlands in the Hell's Creek area and more badlands on the east side. I also hiked to three high points mentioned in Pat Caffrey's *Climber's Guide to Montana*; Muggins, Kaminski Hill and unnamed west of Brussett. -Steve Schombel

June 16th Welcome Creek

It was too rainy on the 9th, so we waited a week. Kirk Arnold, Bret Doucett and Steve Schombel hiked the length of the creek in this small Wilderness. We had some tricky creek crossings and had passed our turn around time before we reached some pretty solid snow about a mile short of Cleveland Mountain. Still, it was a full 18 mile day with only a few showers.

May Meeting Wrap-Up

We had a small turnout for our meeting and election in May. We did have more than enough to make a quorum. A motion was made and seconded to continue the present leadership for another year. Motion passed. Julie Warner continues as President and Treasurer, and Steve Schombel continues as Vice-President and Secretary/Editor. This system works well for a small, close knit club; but if we continue to grow we will need some more volunteers to take over some of the above offices.

Then we had a great slide show and talk about Aconcagua by Mike Juhola of REI. We adjourned until September. Second Wednesdays at 7 in the Court House Annex.

We also heard from Bill Goslin, Stevensville Ranger District. Even though no one signed up at the meeting he found several volunteers from other sources to pack supplies into remote dams and do the needed maintenance work.

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).



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