

MOUNTAIN EAR

Monthly Newsletter of the Rocky Mountaineers

The Rocky Mountaineers is organized as a nonprofit Club for the mutual benefit of its members to promote all phases of recreational use of mountainous areas.

April 2003

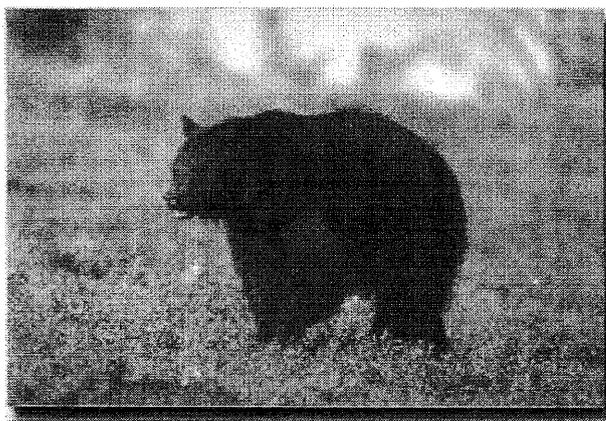
Informative Programs are Scheduled this Spring

We are going to offer thee more meetings this spring. Two of them will have a lot of valuable information for our members and for the public who use the outdoors. We have reserved the large meeting room downstairs at the Missoula Public Library for two of them. All outdoor users should be interested in how to recreate more safely and with less harm to the environment; and there is room for all.

The first meeting is on Tuesday, April 8th at 7:00 PM. Members note - this is a different day and place for our monthly meeting. The speaker is Jamie Jonkel, officially called a Wildlife Conflicts Specialist, but best known for his work with grizzly and black bears. Jamie has been employed by the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks for seven years. Before that he spent six years with the Hornocker Wildlife Research Institute, studying big cats - mountain lions, tigers and leopards, etc. Before that he spent 10 years in Yellowstone with the Inter-agency Grizzly Study. Early in his career he spent some time in Idaho and Maine.

Jamie's program will be on "Safety in Bear Country." He will have slides and lots of handouts and will end with a video, leaving a lot of time for questions. He will talk about the safest way to travel, and will also have tips on how to camp and handle food. He will also talk some about mountain lions and other large animals. For instance, it is much more likely for a person to have a dangerous encounter with an elk with a calf or deer with fawn

than it is to meet a grizzly. There will be a lot of new things to learn, plus reminders of what one has forgotten. Bring your family and friends.



Fish, Wildlife and Parks photo

Next on the schedule is a special meeting. Allen Byrd with the Lolo National Forest has volunteered to do a program on "Leave no Trace Backcountry Use"; and the Rocky Mountaineers are very happy to host this meeting. We are still trying to arrange an evening and room for this meeting, but look for the announcement next month. Unfortunately the Public Library is

all booked up. We all camp out quite a bit, either backpacking or around our vehicles. Here is a great opportunity to learn how to do it properly, with minimal harm to the outdoors and few problems for other users, both human and animal.

Our last meeting this spring will be a more traditional entertaining slide show. It will be at the normal time, 7:00 PM on the second Wednesday, May 14th. But it will also be downstairs in the Public Library.

The speakers this evening will be Rich Anderson and friends who spent seven days floating and fishing a small river in the wilds of Alaska in light weight pontoon boats.. They saw wildlife galore - countless grizzlies, lots of wolves and streams full of salmon in stages of spawning and decay. This river is a popular fly in destination for guests at some of Alaska's Fishing Lodges. Come learn about a cheaper way to experience some of the best of the Alaska wildlands.

