



# **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.**

**\*\*\*Summer 2003\*\*\***

### **More Sad News for the Club**

As most of you know, another former leader of the Rocky Mountaineers is no longer with us. On June 13<sup>th</sup> David Pengelly died in a climbing accident on Reynolds Mountain in the North Cascades. Many of those who have been around for awhile fondly remember his leadership style. They feel the club was friendlier, less formal, and more like a group of equals going out to have fun in the outdoors. Although few of the currently active members can match the stamina and skills of Dave and his group of companions, we are trying to bring this spirit back into the club. We also greatly appreciate the advice, legal and otherwise, he would freely give whenever asked. We hope to have a longer article from a long time friend of Dave's in the next newsletter.

On the brighter side we have several interesting trip reports, and quite a variety of hikes and other activities for the rest of the summer. It's great to have a lot of members participating in, and even offering to lead trips.

We've also reserved the large room downstairs at the Missoula Public Library for our first fall meeting on Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. This is normally a photo potluck where all members are asked to bring slides, stories, souvenirs or pictures of their outdoor activities during the previous year.

The Rocky Mountaineers have received contributions in memory of David Line from Lois Crepeau and Steve Schombel, and a donation to the cabin fund from Richard and Josh Hurd. We give a most hearty Thank You to all of the above.

#### **CLUB CONTACTS**

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## More Trips:

**July 25 - 27<sup>th</sup> Great Burn, Montana/Idaho:** Hike from the headwaters of the Lochsa River across the high meadows and granite ridges of the southern Great Burn - one of the largest unprotected roadless areas in the northern Rockies. This route parallels, some 5 miles to the north, the Nez Perce (me-ne-pooh) Trail with excellent views of Lewis & Clark wild country. It's a three day backpack of 18 miles, point to point. Moderate to strenuous. Trip Leader; Bob Clark. Trip will begin Friday morning July 25<sup>th</sup> near Lolo Pass and end at Blacklead Mountain on Sunday afternoon July 27<sup>th</sup> where a car shuttle will be arranged. For logistics and other information contact the Missoula office of the Sierra Club at 549-1142 or e-mail [sierrabob@wildrockies.org](mailto:sierrabob@wildrockies.org)

**August 3<sup>rd</sup> Morrell Falls:** This is a very pretty hike near Seeley Lake and very popular. This is another day to spend outdoors with kids, visitors and people of all ages. Only a few miles with little climbing. And there is food and ice cream in town later. Call Julie Warner at 543-6508 for more details.

**August 10<sup>th</sup> Graves Peak 7360' :** This hike begins at 6,000' Hoodoo Pass, a 50 minute drive from Superior. Most of the hike will be along the Stateline trail through a roadless area to the Northwest of the Great Burn Proposed Wilderness. 7,360' Graves Peak will be reached after several miles (5-6) of good trail, with some ups and downs. There should be great views of St. Joe Lake, the headwaters of the St. Joe River, and surrounding 7,000+ foot peaks of the Northern Bitterroots. Contact Jim Goss at 822-5000 or by email at [jgoss@bigsky.net](mailto:jgoss@bigsky.net). Meet at Durangos Restaurant in Superior at 9:30 AM or call Steve at 721-4686 for Missoula carpool information.

**August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Mt. Siyeh 10,014':** This is called the easiest of Glacier's 10,000' peaks, but it is a full day across talus, up a narrow gully, and then a whole lot of scree on the large summit. There is about 4500' elevation gain in 5 or 6 miles. It will require camping out as close to the base as possible. There is also a long loop trail from Siyeh Bend to Sunrift Gorge and back up the St. Maries River. Call Steve at 721-4686 or Bret at 728-6461 to participate.

**August 22-25 Missouri River/White Cliffs Canoe Trip:** Paddle 47 miles on a Wild and Scenic section of the Missouri River from Coal Banks to Judith River. We should have plenty of time for side hikes and extricating our "mockersons" from the mud. BYO gear, food, canoe, etc.; or rent canoes from outfitters @ Ft. Benton. First evening: camp, set shuttle, prep at Coal Banks. Put-in on 23rd. Trip Leader: John Wolverton, 406-258-6477 or contact the Missoula office of the Sierra Club at 549-1142 or e-mail [sierrabob@wildrockies.org](mailto:sierrabob@wildrockies.org)

**August 24<sup>th</sup> Silver King Lookout 7771':** This is an interesting lookout with great views in the mountains northeast of Lincoln. It is about 6-7 miles of trail from Indian Meadows. You have to wade the Landers Fork enroute, but it should be small and shallow in late summer. Call Lois Crepeau at 728-5321 to participate.

**August 31st Lolo Peak 9139':** The mountain in Missoula's back yard. There is a good steady trail up to Carelton Lakes, then pick a good line to scramble up to the large, round false summit; and on to the top after catching your breath. It's probably 7 or 8 miles, mostly on trail but with over 3500' gain considering the drop to the lakes. Call Julie Warner at 543-6508 for meeting time and place and other information.

## TRIP REPORTS

**Babcock Mountain:** On May 25, 2003, Eileen Evans, Lois Crepeau, Will Butler, Eileen and Fred Schwanemann, Steve Schombel, and Cathy and Michael Burleson went up Trail # 10 towards Babcock Mountain which is by Rock Creek and Valley of the Moon. There were about twenty-five different varieties of wild flowers and some signs of elk, deer, and mountain lion. We had lunch on top of Babcock Mountain which was covered with hundreds of glacier lilies. The skies threatened while we ate lunch and on the way back down the mountain, but we finished the hike without any significant rain. - Fred

**Cascade Creek Trail:** On June 8<sup>th</sup> new members Jim and Cathy Goss joined Steve, Cathy, Michael, Bret, Fred and Will for the 12 mile or so trek up to the Nine Mile Divide along an old lead-ore haul road. Lots of big pines, wildflowers and fleeting views of the Clark Fork River below were seen along the 3500' ascent to the divide. Bret and Michael collected some sap and made some interesting fire starters - a fairly messy procedure as Michael was to discover. The weather was humid with a sprinkle or two but not unpleasant. After the hike we had dinner at a restaurant in Superior recommended by Jim and Cathy who live in the area. - Will

**Pikes Peak:** On June 14<sup>th</sup> Bret Doucett, Steve Schombel and Ron Pierson summited this 9,359 foot peak in the north end of the Flint Creeks. The road from Deerlodge to Rock Creek Lake was passable, and the steep trail to Dolus Lakes was in good shape. Then we angled up the talus on the south slopes to the top. We did encounter some snow, especially on the way down, but luckily one of the group had thought to bring crampons and kicked some good steps. Bret knew a good ridge to follow down back to the trail junction. We saw no other people the whole day at the lakes or on the slopes. The views were great and the weather cool but dry. - Steve

**Rogers Pass Wild Flower Surprise:** Father's Day was a day that saw us, Julie and David, driving to Simms, just the other side of Rogers Pass on family business. Not to totally waste the day we stopped at the top of Rogers Pass and hiked a short ways on the Continental Divide Trail north of the highway. The trail switchbacked up the face of a ridge and we saw just about every type of wild flower we'd see on a hike this time of year. Yet as we went up we found newly blossoming dog tooth violets and Pasque flowers. But it was the first rocky scabbly high point we reached that held the greatest surprise, it was like a mosaic carpet of primary deep blue forget-me-nots interspaced with white, yellow and pink flowers framed by scragged wind blown white bark pines. The view was stupendous, we could see way out into the plains, and back into the Scapegoat and Bob Marshall. The flower "bag" of the trip was leopard lilies which I have only seen once before in all my hiking. There were no bitterroots over there. - Julie

**Rock Creek Weed Pull:** Congratulations to the Westslope Chapter of Trout Unlimited. On June 22<sup>nd</sup> they had about 40 people show up who put in several hard hours pulling weeds around Valley of the Moon. Then they provided a fine lunch. Afterwards Fred and Ilene Schwanemann joined Steve Schombel and Cathy and Michael Burleson for a hike up Ranch Creek. This was a pretty valley, but we were too tired to go more than a couple of miles. It was a cool day with clouds and wind, but only sprinkles. Another club member at the work day was Will Butler. Let's hope we did some good for a small part of Western Montana. - Steve

## Upcoming Trips

**June 29<sup>th</sup> Burdette Creek:** This pleasant creek is in the upper Fish Creek drainage over the saddle from Lolo Hot Springs. It's a fairly level hike for several miles, and some can climb a hill at the end to the ridge between Fish and Petty Creeks Call Julie Warner at 543-6508 to participate.

**July 6<sup>th</sup> The Canoe Trail:** Bring your own or rent a canoe in Seeley Lake. We'll glide down the Clearwater River and paddle across the upper part of Seeley Lake. From the landing there is a trail back to the parking lot. This should be a fun day for all, friends and family. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for information.

**July 12-13<sup>th</sup> McDonald Peak 9820':** This high point of the Missions is closed for Grizzly Bear protection after July 15<sup>th</sup>. Steve did a steep rock route near Duncan Lake, while Bret has gone up the snow east of Ashley Lakes. The route will depend on how much snow remains. We have talked about pitching tents as far as we can drive on Saturday. This is a long, tough day requiring a group that stays and works together, plus a tribal recreation permit is mandatory, including a camping stamp if we sleep out. Snow gear and warm clothes would be a good idea. Call Ron Pierson at 370-5470 for details.

**July 20<sup>th</sup> Rattlesnake to Grant Creek** We are going to explore this relatively new branch off of the popular trail to Stewart Peak which allows access to Grant Creek. It used to be a steep track straight up a narrow ravine, but we have heard that the trail has been rebuilt and has some nice switchbacks. This sounds like a wonderful addition to the trail system near Missoula. We hope to shuttle enough vehicles to make it a one-way hike, but people who just want to go a little ways and turn around are welcome. Call Fred Schwanemann at 542-7372 for the details. *cont. p. 2*



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