



MOUNTAIN EAR

Monthly Newsletter of the Rocky Mountaineers

May, 2005 Missoula, Montana

The Rocky Mountaineers is a non-profit club organized to promote all types of recreational use of mountainous areas.



Monthly Meeting: Wednesday, May 11th

Place: Pipestone Mountaineering
129 West Front Street, Missoula, MT

6:30 PM Business Meeting and Election
7:00 PM Presentation by Peter Dayton

Kayaking by Peter Dayton

Peter Dayton will give a slide show on two first-descent kayak trips he, Art Gidel, and Rocky Contos did in Mexico. The first was a nine-day unsupported kayak trip on the Rio Atengo. The first half of the trip was a first descent, and the second half was a second descent (Rocky had done a solo first descent two years earlier). The Rio San Nicolas was a four day trip. The first two days were a first descent of the river, and then they paddled for a day and a half along the coast, staying on an island the third night.

The Rio Atengo flows through a deep, remote, and scenic gorge, with house-and hotel-sized boulders choking the river between vertical cliff walls, lots of Class IV-V whitewater, and several hot springs. At one place the entire river went underground beneath a solid granite natural bridge. The San Nicolas was a river a little bigger than the Blackfoot in flatter terrain near the ocean, but the river went repeatedly into small vertical-walled gorges in curiously-fluted white granite which produced Class IV-VI whitewater. In one of these gorges the river pinched down to a slot about five feet wide which was choked with logs. At another place the river descended over several waterfalls into a slot that was so narrow the left bank overhung the right bank in places.



Rocky Contos on the Rio Atengo- above and below.



Upcoming Whitewater Opportunity

June 27-July 10: Montana Rivers- Montana Whitewater Grade III+; Car Camp. Join us for all or part of the "Montana Hook". The "planned" rivers: Stillwater, Yellowstone, Gallatin, Clark Fork, Blackfoot, and Flathead. Class III+ whitewater skill required, wet/dry suits. Learn about Montana river conservation issues. Complete itinerary of trip and dates TBD. Contact trip leaders for details: Rich Krieg, 920-660-3557, eddyout@gmail.com; Phil Johnsrud, Rte 1, Box 97C, Iola, WI 54945, 715-572-4777 Website for the River Touring Section, Wisconsin Sierra Club <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/rts/> Thanks a lot, Rich Krieg Green Bay, WI.

From the President:

THE ANNUAL ELECTION and OTHER BUSINESS

Greetings from President Steve. As my first year as President winds down, I am happy to announce that things are looking very bright for the club. Many of you have noticed the increase in attendance at our monthly meetings. There has also been an increase in people willing to volunteer time to help the club. For the first time in many years we have four people who have agreed to be nominated for the four offices. The candidates are: me, Steve Schombel, for President, Forest Dean for Vice President, Julia Kahl for Treasurer, and Frank Kleschen for Secretary. These are only the nominees – we will take additional nominations from the floor at the May meeting, and have a vote. There are certainly many other members around who could do a great job for the club. The thing to remember is that only members whose dues are current as of May 1st will be eligible to vote.

We have also had a few people step forward to create a committee to help the club, and have organized such a committee, which will be called the Membership and Marketing Committee. In addition to the above officer nominees, Jim Wilson has agreed to chair the committee and Eileen Schwanemann and Bret Doucett will be members. They are looking for more volunteers. They have many ideas to make the club more fun, prosperous and larger.

Some of you may wonder if the above committee is going to replace the board of directors. We feel that the club by-laws allow the creation of such a committee, and allow the officers to take actions without a meeting. We will continue to have a business meeting a half hour before each regular meeting, which will be open to all. The Membership and Marketing Committee will be required to advertise their meeting times and places, which will be open to all members. The next meeting will be at 5 PM on Monday, May 9th at Pipestone Mountaineering. Please join and help out, and if you don't like the idea feel free to voice your complaints before the election at the May meeting.

Another thing we plan to do is improve our website. We agreed to fund a photo gallery and bulletin board page, which will allow people to post their own pictures, trip reports and other information. This should be up and running soon.

One thing that hasn't improved as much as we'd like is leadership and participation in club trips. This is one of the things the Membership and Marketing Committee plans to work on. For those who are wondering what it takes to lead a trip, we have a set of guidelines available. We have also gotten permission from Mountaineers Books in Seattle to send copies of "A Climbing Code," which is on page 17 of the 6th edition of Mountaineering, the Freedom of the Hills, and "Low-Impact Camping" which appears on page 42 of the 6th edition. Remember that these are only guidelines for information, not requirements. If you want a copy send a stamped and addressed envelope to "Climber's Code etc.," PO box 4262, Missoula, MT 59806. Better yet, get a copy of the book yourself for all of the other valuable information it contains.

The election and other business at the meeting on Wednesday, May 11th will not take long. We also have a slide show by Peter Dayton on Kayaking in Mexico which sounds like it could be one of our best ever. And there will be descriptions of trips and other activities coming up in late spring and early summer.

See you there,

Steve Schombel

Upcoming Trips

May 6, Friday: East St. Mary's Pk, Mission Mountains—*Rating: Strenuous (3.5 miles one way, 5400' Gain); Needed: Ski's (with skins) or snowshoes, (Possibly) crampons, Tribal Recreation Permit.* I plan to get an early start and ascend the steep ridge heading NE from St. Mary Lake. Current conditions will dictate whether ski's and/or crampons will be needed. This looks to be quite a strenuous ascent with 4000 feet gained in the first 1.75 air miles. Contact: Forest Dean at 240-7612, 721-6384 or e-mail fdean@midlandimplement.com

May 14, Saturday: Citizen Science and Bird Conservation in Burned Forests- A joint outing with Montana Audubon– Bitterroot National Forest. Recent wildfires in the northern Rockies have heightened awareness of the role natural fires play in maintaining healthy forests and bird communities. Burned forests provide critical habitat for cavity-nesters such as Lewis's, American three-toed and black-backed woodpeckers. Montana Audubon has conducted a volunteer bird-monitoring program in the Bitterroot drainage since 2002 to study the nesting success of these and other cavity-nesting birds in logged and unlogged burned forests. The purpose of the surveys is to gather baseline data that supports pro-active post-fire management that protects critical habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Montana Audubon has arranged a special field trip for Sierra Club members to spend a day learning about the ecology, wildlife, and management of post-fire landscapes while also helping with the bird surveys. Participants will be citizen scientists for the day looking for nests of cavity-nesting birds such as Western and Mountain Bluebirds; Lewis's, Hairy, and Black-backed Woodpeckers; Northern Flickers, Nuthatches, Chickadees, and a few others. We will also be looking for other migratory birds such as Western Tanagers and Lazuli Buntings. This is unique opportunity to experience in a meaningful way the magic and diversity of burned areas. Margot Higgins, Executive Committee member of the Bitterroot-Mission Group will be Sierra Club's trip

leader. We will meet in Missoula on the morning of May 14th to carpool to the study sites in the Mill/Sheafman creek area west of Corvallis. Come prepared with sturdy hiking boots, a lunch, binoculars, field guides, and dressed for all weather conditions possible during a Montana spring. Audubon will provide binoculars and field guides if needed. Be prepared to meet early (sunrise) as birds are most active in the early morning hours. Novice and expert birders alike are welcomed. Call the Missoula Office, 549-1142 for more information.

May 14, Saturday: Heavenly Twins Traverse- Climb out of Big Creek up a steep gully on the southeasterly side of the SE Twin, then over to the NW Twin, back to the first saddle east of the SE Twin, then down a long straight gully to the north to Kootenai Cr. We will need a vehicle at both ends, which means there is the possibility of splitting up and taking a different route out, like over the top of St. Mary's Peak. Elevation gain is 5400', horizontal mileage is 19, climbing will be up to 4th class, with a strong possibility of steep, hopefully firm, snow. An ice axe will likely be necessary, and crampons could be helpful. Contact Steve Niday @ 721-3790, or seniday@yahoo.com

May 22, Sunday: Grant-Kohrs Ranch- This will be a kids trip to the Grant-Kohrs Ranch in Deer Lodge. It happens that they are having their Draft Horse Play days this weekend and in addition to being able to see the working ranch they will be having wagon rides on Sunday. This is an educational trip, as understanding the history of the lands we recreate on is important to being a well rounded outdoors person. Contact Julie Kahl (Warner) at 543-6508 or jawkal@hotmail.com.

May 22, Sunday: Babcock Mountain- This is a nine mile round trip with a 3,000 ft. elevation gain. This can be a fantastic wildflower area on the lower switchbacks. One can opt for just the lower part or go to the top of Babcock Mtn. for extra views of Lolo Peak to the West, the Sapphires to the Southeast, and the Missions to the North. Call Fred Schwanemann @ 542-7372 for more info.

Upcoming Trips

May 27 – 30, 2005; Mount Hood. We will drive part way on Friday afternoon. On Saturday we'll check in at the Climber's hut and haul camping gear partway up. Sunday will be an early start and an attempt to summit by way of one of the easier routes on the south side. It involves roughly 5500' of elevation gain in less than three miles, but no extremely steep snow. This trip will be limited to those who have the gear, training and/or experience to do a glaciated peak. Other participants must be willing to team up and climb independently of the leader's team. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for more information.

June 5, Sunday: Trapper Peak (NE Snow Couloir), Bitterroots—*Rating: Strenuous (3.8 miles one way, 3150' gain); Needed: Crampons, Ice Ax.* Plan is to hike in past Baker, Middle, and Gem Lakes, ascend saddle to north of Gem Lake, descend, hike/climb SW to snow couloir, ascend this (with crampons), then scramble to summit. Will need to leave Missoula early. Contact: Forest Dean at 240-7612, 721-6384 or e-mail fdean@midlandimplement.com

June 7, Tuesday: Lolo Peak- This trip is mainly for the benefit of weekend workers. If we can drive all the way to the trailhead there is still 3500' of elevation gain, with 1500' off trail over rocks and snow. Depending on the snowpack conditions, this could be shortened to a hike along Carlton Ridge or to Carlton Lake. Either way we will stop and think about how a major ski resort will change this area forever. It will be a joint trip with the Montana Sierra Club. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for the meeting time and place.

July 15-19, Friday-Tuesday: Mt. Stimpson- First night at Coal Creek, then 3 nights at Beaver Woman Lake Campground. Surprisingly, some of these campgrounds filled up fast for late July. The trip description was in the last newsletter. We have room for one more, possibly two, people. Others who want to join later will have to make their own camping arrangements with Glacier NP. For info. call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 or e-mail sbell@montana.com

Trip Reports

April 10, Sunday: Woody Mountain- It was a beautiful spring day, and almost everyone made it up and down this small summit near Missoula. It clouded up and the wind was blowing higher up, showing why you should bring some extra layers. There was also about a foot of winter snow left on the very top, and some new to wade through. Quite a few flowers were also out, some species very early. It was a good workout and a fun day. Participating were: Julia and David Kahl, Roger and Linda Holtom, Bret Doucett, Cathy Burlison, Michael Bowles, Barbara Ross, Jim Goss, Fred Schwanemann and Steve Schombel, leader.

April 17, Sunday: Rattlesnake Hike- This trip was rained out again. This will be an important hike to schedule if we need rain in the future. Fred Schwanemann

April 23, Saturday: Mount Sentinel- We may have had one of our youngest "hikers" ever as newcomer Patsy O'Keefe joined Gharrett (11) and Hannah (8) Warner, Julie and David Kahl and Eileen and Fred Schwanemann. Patsy amazed everyone by making it to the top carrying her 19 month old granddaughter Lily, in a kids pack. Lily enjoyed the scenery and most of Hannah's grapes. Hannah collected tumbleweeds and looked for flowers. Gharrett collected bugs. Every one had a good time on this not overly strenuous hike. Julie Kahl

April 24, Sunday: Stuart Peak- Steve Schombel, Ron Pierson, Brett Doucett, and I headed for Stuart Peak in the Rattlesnake Wilderness. The snowshoes were a good choice for this trip. Brett & Steve went back on the trail, Ron & I went around a rather large summit cornice to descend the northeasterly ridge into the Farmers Lakes basin and down High Falls Creek. The terrain is varied and the drainage is generally not very steep nor brushy. There are some very steep sections, including three surprisingly impressive waterfalls, which can be circumvented easily by paying attention to the game trails. When we reached the main Rattlesnake Creek we quickly found a log jam and were able to cross the trail, then 10 miles out for a total of 24. Steve Niday

Trip Report

April 30, Saturday: Blodgett Canyon-

Surprisingly, only Bret Doucett joined me for this hike up Blodgett Canyon on a nice spring day. We agreed to turn it into a longer hike. We stopped at the bridge, and again at the waterfalls about four miles up. We were probably five miles up the canyon before we encountered snow. At the six mile sign, the turnoff to High Lake, the snow was continuous, and I decided to turn around. The creek was roaring, the falls were spectacular and there were a lot of flowers. Most of the surrounding peaks were sparkling white. It was a good hike.

I apologize to those who left messages whom I weren't able to get back to. One word to the wise: most Rocky Mountaineer trip leaders use their home phone numbers, so it is better to call an evening or two ahead of time. We usually don't send a meeting time and place with the trips that are listed in the paper. Once again it is best to call the trip leader a day or two before to make sure you have the correct information. – Steve Schombel

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND LIABILITY WAIVER

Family Yearly Membership: \$20.00 - paper newsletter
Family Yearly Membership: \$10.00 - electronic newsletter
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.

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).

Club Contacts

Website: www.rockymountaineers.com
e-mail: rockymountaineers@hotmail.com

Mailing Address: Rocky Mountaineers
PO Box 4262
Missoula MT 59806

President/Secretary: Steve Schombel 721-4686
ssbell@montana.com

Vice-President/Treasurer: Julie Kahl 543-6508
jawkal@hotmail.com

Newsletter editor: Steve Niday 721-3790
seniday@yahoo.com

Webmaster: Alden Wright
alden@wrightmontana.com

Club Bylaws

ARTICLE 1 - IDENTIFICATION

- 1.1 **Name.** The name of the organization is The Rocky Mountaineers.
- 1.2 **Location of offices.** The principal office of the organization will be located in Missoula, Montana.
- 1.3 **Fiscal year.** The fiscal year of the organization will be the calendar year.

ARTICLE 2 - EDICTS

- 2.1 **Mission Statement.** The Rocky Mountaineers, hereafter referred to as the Club, is organized as a nonprofit Club for the mutual benefit of its members to promote all phases of recreational use of mountainous areas.
- 2.2 **Discrimination.** There shall be no discrimination against any member by sex, race, religion, age, place of origin or skill level.
- 2.3 **Authority.** This set of bylaws, dated _____, supersedes all previous bylaws.
- 2.4 **Trips.** All Club sponsored outings (trips) are without fees and open to the public. Trip leaders must be at least eighteen years of age. All trip leaders possessing adequate skills can not be denied the right to lead trips. A trip leader can deny any participant the right to participate in a given trip, at his or her discretion. But the leader must inform the participant briefly, clearly, fairly and honestly why permission is being denied. The participant may request the denial in writing if they so desire. And the participant may bring the matter before the officers for resolution if they so desire. Participants under eighteen years of age are required to bring a signed liability waiver from a parent or guardian, or have one on file annually with the Club.

ARTICLE 3 - MEMBERS

- 3.1 **Eligibility.** Any person over eighteen years of age who is interested in furthering the purposes for which the Club has been formed is eligible to become a member. Younger people will be part of a family membership.
- 3.2 **Classification of members.** The board of directors may establish as many classes of membership as it considers desirable, and may establish annual dues or contribution requirements for each class of membership.
- 3.3 **Rights and responsibilities.** All dues paying members are considered members of the board of directors. Members are entitled to vote on all issues that the officers deem appropriate. Members will not be liable for any of the debts or other obligations of the Club.