

Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS
OF WESTERN MONTANA

OCTOBER 1980
Vol. XX, No. 1

NEW MEETING PLACE !

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, we will meet at the University Golf Course Club House, 515 South Avenue East. (Adjoins Elliot Village housing, just off South Avenue, opposite its intersection with Hilda.) Mark Swanson will show his slides of day hiking in the Tetons. Look forward to seeing you at our new meeting place at 7.30 pm

THE MOUNTAIN EAR
P. O. BOX 4262
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Our newly-elected officers take the Rocky Mountaineers of Western Montana into its 21st year!

President.....Sharon Howe.....543-4200
Vice-President.....Jim Ullrich.....549-2844
Secretary....."Andy" Beals.....542-2357
Treasurer.....Arnold Finklin.....543-8705
1st Past President.....Myra Bair.....728-3616
MOUNTAIN EAR Staff.....Myra Bair
Paula Mullis.....549-9551
Virginia Vincent...543-8078

The Rocky Mountaineers of Western Montana, P. O. Box 4262, Missoula, MT 59806, welcome all persons interested in hiking, camping, ski-touring, snowshoeing, river floating, bicycling, and technical climbing--summer, autumn, winter and spring. Subscription to the MOUNTAIN EAR is by membership:

\$4.00 per year - Single Membership
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- October 11, Sat. Day hike to Cedar Log Lakes for 2½ miles one way, or chance to stay on the ridge for 5 miles to Admiral Peak. Call Virginia Vincent at 543-8078.
- October 11-12, Sat.-Sun. Overnight in the Rattlesnakes, Mosquito Peak. Call Myra Bair at 728-3616.
- October 25, Sat. Bass Creek crags climb. Call Jim Ullrich at 549-2844.
- October 31, Fri. HALLOWEEN costume party at the home of Paula Mullis. Come as something or somebody other than yourself. Bring snacks to share and your own beverage. 8 p.m. 438 North Ave. W., 549-9551.
- November 7-9, Fri.,-Sun. Early bird skiers' and eagle watchers' trip to Glacier National Park. Drive up Friday after work. Plan to ski up the road to Logan Pass if the snow is there. Cold weather camping. Call Rob Holden at 543-5545.
- November 12, Wed. Rocky Mountaineers monthly meeting. Program tentatively scheduled for geology of local area, i.e., Glacial Lake Missoula. Meeting at 7:30 p.m., University Golf Course Club House.
- December 13 or 14, Sat. or Sun. Wisherd Ridge ski run. Moderate skill and strength at least. Call Bob Benson at 549-1426.
- December 20-21, Sat.-Sun. Winter solstice weekend at Lochsa Lodge. We hope there will be snow for ski touring or snowshoeing. Call Ilona Hruska at 721-3832 before December 13.
- January 1-4, Thurs.-Sun. New Year's feast and skiing at the Rocky Mountaineers' cabin on Little St. Joe. Call Myra Bair at 728-3616.

JUST A REMINDER:

Plan to share gas expenses. Leaders should be able to advise participants of approximate mileages. Club policy advocates using as few vehicles as possible per trip.

* * * * *

SHEEP MOUNTAIN HIKE 8-10-80

By Arnold Finklin

Nine persons went on this hike and got to enjoy the view from the top. Weather was mostly sunny and mild. Our start was much lower down than planned, due to a wrong turn on the access logging road. But after some steep cross-country, we finally met the upper road leading to the trail. It turned out that the greater distance (a little over ten miles round trip) and vertical of 3,000 feet made for a more satisfying hike. Among the participants were: Sharon and Tom Lukomski, Juliette Crump, Alice Austin, Ralph Flockerzi, Arnold Finklin and three guests.

New Members:

Ralph Matuska Family
1550 South Avenue West
721-1550

Sandra Satre
102 Cohosset
251-3489

Mary C. Poore
220 North Avenue East
728-0135

Shirley Torgerson
214 Hastings
549-3592

Cherie Alderson
1111 MacDonald, #410

Clarisse Landry
737 Locust
721-1564

Juliette T. Crump
2500 Raymond
728-2774

Ralph Flockerzi
1221 South 5th West
549-9986

Mary Louise Hartwig
2912 W. Central Avenue
549-0509

Subscriptions:

Charlotte Gill
3063 Lois Drive, #605
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 277-5378

Carol Butterbaugh
P. O. Box 1422
Durango, CO 81301

Renewals:

Jack Hennessy
1701 South 7th West
543-6346

Kaye Lyons and Michelle

Jeanine Byrne

George Votruba

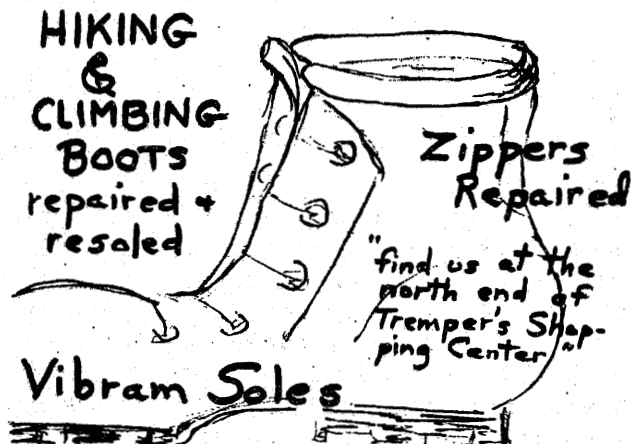
Alice and Briggs Austin
4741 Sundown Road
542-2591

Shlomo Libeskind and Ron
728-2587

Nancy and Bill DeCou

Arthur P. Shigley
4200 S.W. 107th, Apt. 2305
(Rankin Square)
Beaverton, OR 97005

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BRING ICEAXE AND ROPE

On Saturday, August 9, we left Missoula bound for the Mission Mountains. Our specific goal was McDonald Peak, highest point in that range. On the way, however, we were forced to stop in Seeley Lake for an early morning cup of coffee and freshly baked cinnamon rolls from Kneaded Goods bakery. After this short delay, it was on to Kraft Creek Road, which we followed to its end and the trailhead. Shouldering our backpacks, we proceeded (at a somewhat unreasonable pace) up the trail past Crescent Lake and Heart Lake and a lot of huckleberries. At Heart Lake we veered left around the lake on the assumption that the trail which continued to the right would not lead us to Island Lake, our next goal.

This was something of a mistake, as we soon learned. There ensued two hours of bushwhacking in heavy brush over a ridge to Island Lake, where we found the trail which had gone to the right at Heart Lake. Undaunted, we continued on the trail over a short but incredibly steep climb to the last divide. On the other side lay Cliff Lake, McDonald Peak, and an even steeper descent.

Upon reaching Cliff Lake we chose one of several suitable campsites and settled down to enjoy dinner in complete solitude. As an aperitif, we ambled up the canyon to its head, passing on the way three lakes of surpassing beauty, (sic) each different from the others, but all very pretty and very "alpine" in nature.

Next morning we arose at the "crack of dawn," gobbled a quick breakfast, and were off on our trek up McDonald Peak. Although we carried iceaxes and a rope, the ascent was essentially non-technical, simply an arduous 3,000 foot climb over boulders, across scree slopes, through a few short bands of rock, and then along the final ridge to the summit.

Lunch at the top was enhanced by views of the Mission Valley, the other peaks in the range, Cliff Lake below us, and Lake of the Clouds in its high cirque across the canyon. Our solitude remained unbroken from the previous night, giving an impression of being in a true wilderness.

Our route of descent was a little different than that of our ascent, and our iceaxes and rope proved valuable as we were forced to cross a near-vertical field of very hard snow. We belayed one another across--a wise idea it turned out, when one person slipped and was stopped only by the rope. The remainder of the descent was uneventful. We returned to camp, packed up, and proceeded to labor up the divide separating us from Island Lake. At Island Lake, we elected to take the trail to Heart Lake rather than bushwhacking again.

One member of our party, notorious for his pace in descending trails, sped off in the direction of Crescent Lake. Somehow he apparently lost the trail and ended up bushwhacking around the LONG side of Crescent Lake. Not realizing what he had done, we were surprised and a little worried when we reached the trailhead and he wasn't there before us. However, shortly thereafter he arrived and what had happened became clear. Retrieving a sixpack of beer which we had stashed in the creek, our trip was over.

A quick summary:

- 1) At Heart Lake, stay on the trail around the right side of the lake.
- 2) After dinner, be sure to visit the lake above Cliff Lake.
- 3) Bring an iceaxe and a rope.
- 4) Don't go rushing ahead if you don't know which side of Crescent Lake the trail is on.

The participants in this venture were::

Ilona Hruska (one-who-slides-on-snow),
Mark Swanson (author of this piece),
and (fearless leader) Jim Ullrich.

WARREN PASS TRIP 9/14/80

By N. J. DeCou

Weather predictions for Sunday, September 14, were ominous--rain in the valleys, snow at higher elevations. The sky was the color of lead on Sunday morning. However, six mountaineers, including Charles Hamma, Martha Yale, Jim Schultz, Andy Beals, Peggy, and I, plus one dog, R.B., decided to take a chance on a trip to the Pintlars, and were rewarded by a delightful hike on a pleasant September day. The sun broke through the clouds as we reached the trailhead for Warren Pass.

Ground cover along the trail was already turning yellow and red. The larch was golden on the ridges above us. The trail climbs steadily, but gently, for about five miles past the three Carp Lakes to Warren Pass. We stopped at each lake to savor the views of Warren Peak. After a leisurely lunch at the Pass, we hiked down into Maloney Meadows, and lost the trail in the first meadow! After some minutes of confusion, we located the trail (keep RIGHT coming out of that meadow) which is easy to follow from that point on.

In contrast to the wildflower display we saw in the meadows on last year's trip in July, we found a wide variety of fungi along the trail this time. We startled three does in the lower meadow and stopped to watch them bound into the trees.

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