



Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

October 1990

MEETING

Time and Place: Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the Montana Power Building at 1903 Russell Street in Missoula. The October meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 10, 1990.

Program: Wayne Hecker and Peter Dayton will show videos and slides of a June 1990 trip down the Yampa and Green Rivers in Dinosaur National Monument in Colorado and Utah. The scenery on this float is nothing less than spectacular, and in order to beef up the whitewater aspects of the presentation, Wayne will show some video footage taken on the Snake River south of Jackson Hole during the two days before the Yampa trip. These videos include some spectacular runs and flips in the notorious Lunch Counter Rapid. Don't miss it.

TRIP CALENDAR

October, Little Saint Joe Cabin. The club has been donated a new stove for use in the cabin. If somebody can line up a horse or other beast of burden, we will form a work party to bring it up to the cabin and install it. Call Dave Pengelly at 728-6512 if you can assist in these endeavors.

Early November, St. Mary's Peak. As soon as the snow gets adequate, and possibly sooner, Art Gidel will lead the traditional early season ski-mangling expedition to St. Mary's Peak in the Bitterroots. Dig out your beaters and start off the season with a bang! Call Art Gidel at 543-6352 for the gory details.

Early November, Hoodoo Pass. As soon as the snow gets good, we will start going on trips to Hoodoo Pass, which is south of Superior on the Montana-Idaho state line. This is a good trip to take early in the season, as the road is often not plowed later in the year. Call Art Gidel at 543-6352 for details.

Thanksgiving Weekend, Area Skiing. During the Thanksgiving weekend a group will travel to Targhee, Jackson Hole, Bridger Bowl, Sun Valley, or whatever other ski area in the region has the best snow for a couple of days of area skiing. Get those telemarking skills honed for the winter season by putting in some vertical feet on an area, and nobody will sneer if you want to downhill ski. Call Art Gidel at 543-6352 for details.

TRIP REPORTS

St. Mary's Peak, Mission Mountains, August 4. Five determined members made the hike and scramble up West St. Mary's Peak in perfect weather. Funny how it seemed a lot more work than last year's trip - probably a tectonic plate shift increased the vertical. After our first lunch on a prominent point, we walked the scenic ridge leading south to the summit. Several participants spooked out a female goat accompanied by her two kids, all of which ran non-stop down the extreme East face to an unnamed lake. The view from the top is one of the best. Although one hiker suggested a return by Vacation Pass and Soneliem Lake, leader Art used some car key leverage to 86 this bad idea. So, take a drive up to St. Ignatius, continue east to Mission Reservoir, cross the steel footbridge

at the first campground, then climb due south to the west ridge. A short 5,000 more vertical and you're there. Might want two water bottles for this one. The participants were Ethel MacDonald, Mary Ann McClain, Ralph Flockerzi and Bret Doucette. - Art Gidel.

Mount Harding, Mission Mountains, September 4. Bret Doucette, Bill Burnett and I climbed Mount Harding by the west ridge route. The start of this trip is on private land and I recommend calling the owner prior to doing this climb (I have his name and phone number). With a few suggestions from the landowner, this trip was fairly straight forward with only moderately tedious bushwacking. The scramble near the top is easier than I remembered it from an unsuccessful late season trip several years ago, and with a little route finding it is no more than a Class 3 scramble. Although the weather was a bit threatening, the views on top were still super. We spotted a herd of approximately 10 goats on the east face of the south summit and spooked out a monster goat as we descended the west ridge. Later, we watched this (or perhaps another) goat pull off some serious Class 4 maneuvers until even he was finally stumped on an exposed ledge. This trip is a good work out and a better time. - Art Gidel.

Hells Canyon of the Snake, September 28-October 1. Wayne Hecker led fifteen people, including club members Peter Dayton, Dave and Marilyn Ryan, Pat Ulik, and Cathy and Jim York, on a three-day trip down the Hells Canyon of the Snake, which is located on the border between Idaho and Oregon, north of Boise. We got jetboated from Pittsburg Landing up to the Hells Canyon Dam, and then floated back to the landing in five rafts and one kayak. The jet boat shuttle is fun, fast, not excessively expensive, and avoids a horrendous car shuttle. The weather was outstanding, as was the water, the food, the scenery, and the company. This canyon makes an excellent fall trip, and doesn't require a permit after September 15. Ed Linjala lost two passengers in a huge hole in Granite Rapid after misreading a tongue, an accident that was lovingly recorded on numerous video and still cameras. One of the few negative aspects of the trip was the presence of the "cockleburs from hell," nasty spiny starburst-shaped little buggers that stick right into your fingers when you try to pry them off your clothing. These pests provided one of the highlights of the trip when Wayne Vandenberg (now known as Wayne "Vandeburr") went to blow one off his hand, missed his timing, and accidentally inhaled it. The thing stuck in the back of his throat all night, and didn't wash down his gullet until breakfast the next morning. We are all eagerly awaiting the end of that story. We also came across two mountain bikers who had to abort what was supposed to be a several day trip only a mile above Pittsburg Landing after they used up all their tire patches. - Peter Dayton.

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OFFICERS

Dave Pengelly, President - 728-6512
Steve Niday, Vice President - 721-3790
Arnold Finklin, Treasurer - 543-8705
Colleen Hunter, Secretary - 728-8101
Peter Dayton, Newsletter Editor - 728-8101
Ralph Flockerzi, Refreshments - 549-9986

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Mail a check payable to
"Rocky Mountaineers" to
Arnold Finklin, P.O. Box
4262, Missoula, Montana

Check one: Individual (\$6.00/year) _____ Family (\$8.00/year) _____