

Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

May 1991

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 May meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 1991.

Program: Peter Dayton will present a slide show on a canoe trip which his Grandparents took down Glen Canyon in 1957, just as construction was beginning on the Glen Canyon Dam. This will be a chance to see Glen Canyon, which is now deceased, through the eyes and camera of Williard and Florabel Dayton, who are also now deceased. If you are interested in the canyon, you better come see the slide show, because the trip is no longer available.

TRIP CALENDAR

General Contacts for Floating. We are in the gap between good skiing and good hiking, which just happens to be a great time to go floating. The club does not schedule many float trips, a number of its members float frequently, if not excessively. Call Peter Dayton (728-8101) or Art Gidel (543-6352) if you are interested in getting out on the rivers.

Sat-Sun, May 18-19, McDonald Peak. A one or two day climb of McDonald Peak, the tallest peak in the Missions, from the east. Call Steve Niday at 721-3790 for details.

May, Teton Traverse. Martha Yale wants to organize a north-south ski traverse of the west side of the Tetons, through Alaska Basin and Hurricane Pass. Call Martha at 549-2163 for more information.

July or August, Ptarmigan Traverse. Martha Yale wants to organize a backpacking trip along the Ptarmigan Traverse, a 5-7 day high traverse in the North Cascades in Washington which involves glacier travel, with opportunities for peak bagging en route. Call Martha at 549-2163 for more information.

TRIP REPORTS

Deschutes River, April 20-22. Art Gidel and Peter Dayton took a three-day self-contained kayak trip on the Deschutes River, which is located in north-central Oregon, south of The Dalles. This is more of a remote rural trip than a wilderness trip; a railroad and some roads run along the river, and there are some houses, private property, and agricultural activity on its banks. A long section of its west bank is part of an indian reservation and is posted against trespassing by non-members. However, the scenery is quite good, and there was plenty of whitewater. We did the section of the river between Trout Creek and Sherars Falls, which flows past Maupin. Our boats performed well despite being stuffed with gear, and we played pretty aggressively. Most of the rapids listed as Class II's in our guidebooks would be referred to as Class -III or III in this area, although the Class IV's seemed about right. We were fortunate to have warm and sunny weather, and did a lot of hiking in the evenings. If you accept the river for what it is and don't try to compare it to the Middle Fork of the Salmon or the Grand Canyon, it's a pretty nice trip. - Peter Dayton

Rogue River, April 23-25. After getting off the Deschutes, Art and Peter took a three-day self-contained kayak trip on the Rogue River, which is located near Grant's Pass in southwest Oregon. This is a nationally-known and very popular wilderness float, the use of which is controlled by a permit system from June through September. We didn't get a permit in the lottery, so we decided to float the river before the permit season began. It was a great trip. We decided that the float entirely deserves its national reputation, and rank it as one of the best trips that we have taken. The whitewater is excellent and frequent, the scenery is outstanding, and there is very little development along the river. The vegetation is lush, and everything is covered with moss and other plants, almost like a rain forest. Although the river is pretty crowded later in the summer, we didn't run into any other floaters on our trip. The only negative aspect of the trip is that it rained pretty much the whole time. We spent our evenings hunkering under a rainfly, and didn't do any hiking. This is a trip we will certainly try to repeat. - Peter Dayton

Klickitat and Wenatchee Rivers, April 26-27. After spending an evening drying out at the house of Peter's parents, Art Gidel and Peter Dayton fled to the dryer climate of central Washington for two days of boating. The Klickitat, is a small creek-like river with non-stop class II-III action and great scenery. The Wenatchee is a larger river with a lot of development on its banks, but with plenty of moderately large whitewater. It was nice to see some new rivers, and they broke up our trip home. - Peter Dayton.

Lower Salmon River, April 25-28. Dave Ryan, Terry Jones (who now lives in Red Lodge), and five other people took a four-day raft trip on the Lower Salmon River from Whitebird to the Snake River near Asotin. The water was quite low, but the weather could hardly have been better. - Peter Dayton.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Mail a check payable to
"Rocky Mountaineers" to
Address: _____ Arnold Finklin, P.O. Box
4262, Missoula, Montana
Check one: Individual (\$6.00/year) _____ Family (\$8.00/year) _____ 59807

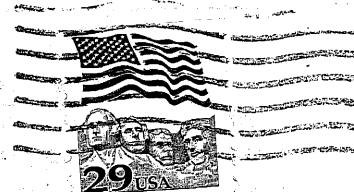
OFFICERS

Dave Pengelly, President - 728-6512
Arnold Finklin, Treasurer - 543-8705

Peter Dayton, V.P. and Newsletter- 721-3790
Your Name Here - Trip Leader (hint, hint)

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FIRST CLASS MAIL



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(11/91)