



# Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

August, 1992

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## MEETING

Time and Place: The club will not hold formal meetings during the summer. In September and subsequent months, meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the Montana Power Building at 1903 Russell Street in Missoula.

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## TRIP CALENDAR

Thursday Night Mountain Bike Rides: Every Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. a group of bicyclers, including several members of the club, go on mountain bike rides around Missoula. Watch the "Around Missoula" column in the Missoulian for details.

Saturday July 25, Holland Peak: Hike and scramble to the Rumble Lakes and Holland Peak, one of the prettiest areas in the Swan Range. A moderately strenuous steep usage trail leads to the lakes, with scrambling thereafter. People who just want to hike to the lakes are welcome to come along. Call Peter Dayton at 728-8101 for details.

Saturday August 1, Mountaineer Peak: Hike past Mission Falls and Picture Lake up Mountaineer Peak in the Mission Mountains. This peak is visible from St. Ignatius, standing at the south end of the Garden Wall. A fairly strenuous 6,000 foot climb on a lousy usage trail followed by some really miserable bushwacking and some moderate scrambling. Weenies may want to hike just to the first lake, which is a memorable hike by itself. Call Peter Dayton at 728-8101 for details.

Saturday August 8, West St. Mary's Peak: Hike and scramble up West St. Mary's Peak, which lies to the right (south) of Mission Falls as you look at the Mission Mountains from St. Ignatius. A fairly strenuous 5,000 vertical foot bushwack will bring you to a point with really spectacular views of Mission Falls, Soneliem Ridge, Soneliem Lake, and other features of the south end of the Missions. A further 1,000 vertical feet along the ridge will bring you to West St. Mary's Peak. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for details.

Sunday August 16, Going-to-the-Sun Mountain: Climb of Going-to-the-Sun Mountain in Glacier Park. Call Steve Niday at 721-3790 for details.

Saturday-Sunday August 22-23, Kerlee Lake: Overnight backpacking trip to Kerlee Lake, which is in the Tin Cup Creek drainage west of Darby in the Bitterroot Mountains. Optional climbs of Lonesome Bachelor and El Capitan, which lie to the north of the lake. Call Dave Pengelly at 728-6512 for details.

Saturday, August 29, Swan Peak: Exploratory trip up a new approach to Swan Peak in the Swan Mountains, coming in from a new logging road to the northwest of the peak. We are currently reconnoitering the approach, which may involve mountain bikes if the logging roads are closed to motor traffic. The climb will follow the conventional west ridge. The bad news: expect a long arduous bushwack with 6,000+ feet of elevation gain and some challenging non-technical scrambling. The good news: this route could be easier than the usual route along the ridge to the north of Squeezer Creek. Call Peter Dayton at 728-8101 for details.

Sunday September 13, Lolo Peak. Last year club members led a hike up Lolo Peak in connection with the Missoula Trails festivities. In case you just moved to Missoula, Lolo is the prominent peak lying to the southwest of town. The hike was very popular, and we're going to do it again. Call Art Gidel at 543-6352 for details.

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## TRIP REPORTS

Grey Wolf Peak/Riddell Lakes, June 28: On Sunday, June 28th, a group of eleven hiked up to the Riddell Lakes Basin on the south side of Gray Wolf Peak. The group included Art Gidel, Brett Doucett, Jim York, Cindy Braun, Ron Uchtyl, Julie Huck, Ralph Flockerzi, Maryanne McClain, Paul Dumond & P.D. (puppy dog), Bonnie Paulo (a visiting student at the U of M from Brooklyn)

and Dave Pengelly. Dave Line left Missoula separately and met the group for the hike out late in the afternoon. The Hike to the lakes was uneventful except for the wet brush and ripe huckleberries. The group leader had trouble controlling some of the newer club recruits who didn't realize it's more fun to try to set a speed record to the summit rather than eat berries and notice the scenery along the route. Once the group arrived at Upper Riddell Lake, we split up along traditional lines. The females stayed at the lake to read books and nap in the sun. The males (and P.D) headed for Gray Wolf Peak for a bit of male bonding. The south couloir was just about bare of snow, which was good since most members of the group didn't bring ice axes. The climb went well. Jim York was so taken with the experience that he vowed to go home, trade in the "Yorkship Enterprise" on an old VW van, and start on a career of rock climbing! While on the summit Brett passed around his binoculars to view the plane wreck which occurred around memorial day just below East St. Mary's Peak. On the hike out we ran into Dave Line, who had missed the group on the way in and took a rather circuitous route into the Riddell Lakes. We gave him a ride back to his car and suggested that he not wait 25 years before his next trip. For those interested, the most difficult part of the trip is finding the trailhead. The elevation gain to the summit is about 4,250 feet, while the gain to Upper Riddell Lake is about 2500 feet. - Dave Pengelly.

Middle Fork of the Salmon, July 3-6: On Monday, June 29, Art Gidel called the USFS office in Salmon and glommed onto a permit to float the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, starting on Friday, July 3. This is a nationally-famous 100-mile wilderness float which runs from near Stanley, Idaho, north to the junction with the Main Salmon at a point about 40 miles west of North Fork. At levels below 2.5 feet, rafters start finding the upper quarter of the river a bit rocky, and this permit was probably turned back in by a group which decided that the river was going to dry up and blow away by the Fourth of July. Fortunately the unexpected "El Nino" rains sustained the river at around 2.5 feet for several weeks longer than expected. Despite the short notice Art Gidel, Peter Dayton, and Chuck Leonard jumped on the opportunity to take a self-contained kayak trip down this great river. We did the float in four days, which required knocking off 25 miles of river a day. It seemed criminal to float such a good river so fast, but we agreed that it was a lot better than not floating it at all. We only scouted one rapid (Tappan Falls), but we did check out most of the hot springs and take side hikes to various points of interest. The weather was cool and rainy the first two days, but real nice the last two. At the Pistol Creek campground we encountered some ground squirrels which were apparently the product of a genetic experiment involving the genes of piranahs, rotwielers, or both. These cute little buggers attacked our food and gear with a vigor, fearlessness, and ferocity which was frightening to behold. If I ever go back to this camp I will bring a shotgun and slaughter every one of these squirrels before I pull my boat up on shore. In Weber Rapid I blundered into a hole and entertained Art and Chuck with an extended demonstration of "windowshading." For those who are unfamiliar with this maneuver, pull down a roller blind, let it fly up rapidly, and you'll get the idea. We are all ready to do this trip again soon, hopefully at a slower pace. - Peter Dayton.

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#### OFFICERS

Art Gidel, President - 543-6352  
Dave Pengelly, Secretary-Treasurer - 728-6512

Peter Dayton, Newsletter Editor 728-8101  
Rick Murney, Vice President - 543-7586

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#### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail a check payable to  
"Rocky Mountaineers" to  
Dave Pengelly  
P.O. Box 4262  
Missoula, Montana 59806

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

THE MOUNTAIN EAR  
P.O. BOX 4262  
MISSOULA, MT 59806

(STAMP)

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