



Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

July, 1993

MEETING

Time and Place: The Club does not hold meetings during the summer. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 8. The program in September will be the traditional retrospective slide show of Club trips during the previous year, so start choosing your favorite slides.

TRIP CALENDAR

Tuesday Night Mount Sentinel Hikes: If you're bored with the stair machine at the club, meet in the Mount Sentinel parking lot at 5:30 p.m. each Tuesday for a more interesting climb.

Thursday evenings and Saturdays, Rock Climbing. If you're interested in beginning, intermediate or advanced rock climbing at Kootenai Canyon, Blodgett Canyon or Lolo Pass on Thursday evenings or Saturdays, call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769. A report on last month's climbs is set forth below.

Kayaking and rafting. A lot of the rivers in the region are pooping out, but there is still whitewater to be found. If you are interested in kayaking and/or rafting trips, call Peter Dayton at 728-8101 or Art Gidel at 543-6352.

July 18, Kakashe Peak. A spectacularly scenic loop trip in the southwest corner of the Mission Mountains, climbing Kakashe Peak from Mission Reservoir, and returning via the sloping rocky basins to the southeast of the peak, Lucifer Lake, and Mission Falls. There is a well-cleared switchback trail which runs up the ridge to the north of Mission Reservoir to near Kakashe, and another trail from Lucifer Lake back to Mission Reservoir, so the trip will involve an unusual amount of on-trail hiking for the Missions. Nevertheless, there will be enough bushwacking, scrambling, and altitude gain to satisfy the masochists. Call Peter Dayton at 728-8101 for details.

July 15-18 (approx), Granite Peak Climb. Climb Granite Peak, Montana's highest peak. We will climb the peak from a base camp on Frozen To Death Plateau. This is a semi-technical climb featuring both snow and rock climbing. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for details.

July 25, Canyon Lake, Canyon Peak. Easy to moderate 6-mile hike to Canyon Lake in the Bitterroot Mountains west of Hamilton. Highlights of the trip will include 500-foot Canyon Falls. For those interested, a technical climb of Canyon Peak will be possible. Rock climbing and rope handling experience will be required of the climbers. For details call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769.

July 31, Swan Peak. Climb Swan Peak in the Swan Mountain Range, or some other suitable destination. An arduous but very scenic trip. Call Art Gidel at 543-6352 for details.

August 8, Turquoise Lake. Easy to moderate 7-mile hike to Turquoise Lake in the Mission Mountains from the Swan Valley side. Turquoise Lake is the most beautiful of the large lakes in the Missions. It will be apparent why it's called "Turquoise" Lake. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for details.

August 15, Lucifer Lake, Turquoise Peak, Mountaineer Peak. Hike and climb in the Mission Mountains near St. Ignatius. We will hike along Mission Creek and Mission Falls to Lucifer Lake, which will require 2-3 hours. It may be possible for some hikers to stop and spend the day at Lucifer Lake. Climbers will continue to Turquoise Peak, then proceed across the Garden Wall to Mountaineer Peak. To get back to Lucifer Lake will require some horrendous bushwacking. Due to time constraints, Mountaineer Peak may be omitted. Mission Falls, Elizabeth Falls, and the Garden Wall are the spectacular scenery visible from the highway. For more information call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769.

Summer Mountain Climbing. Interest has been expressed in climbing several regional mountains this summer. Prime candidates are: Granite Peak, Mount Rainier, Mount Hood, Mount

Olympus, Grand Teton or other peak in the Tetons, Gannett Peak or other peak in the Wind River Range of Wyoming, and a peak in Glacier Park. If interested, make early arrangements with Gerald Olbu 549-4769.

Wanna lead a trip? If you are interested in leading a trip, help is only a telephone call away; Gerald Olbu, 549-4769, will be delighted to sign you up.

TRIP REPORTS

Eagle Pass, June 20. The Eagle Pass hike was quite scenic and exciting as the nine participants will testify; Sheila Lindquist, Joe Kipput, Clarisse Landry, Ralph Flockerzi, Maryanne McClaine, Reha Ashmore, Brett Doucette, Jon Bonickson, and Gerald Olbu. The first obstacle we came to was a slippery log across a raging creek at the base of a large and spectacular waterfall. As we continued on, we passed several beautiful and peaceful lakes. Soon we were in snow; more than we expected. The snow hid the trail so we hiked cross country. A cliff band above Summit Lake proved to be quite challenging. The trail went across a ledge, however it was covered with snow and very exposed. We found two other routes; one went up a chute of loose rocks with small alders to hang on to, and the other route went through a bergschrund between a snow field and the cliff face which required a 10-foot climb to get out of the bergschrund. Later we came to a couple of steep snowfields which required more courage from the already exhausted group. It was a relief and joy when a short time later we reached the pass. Everyone was quite proud of themselves (and quite deservedly so) and enjoyed the scenic view of Summit Lake, Elk Pass and Mount Harding to the east, and the Flathead Valley to the west. This was truly an accomplishment in a beautiful place. The hike down the west side of Eagle Pass was scenic, but long and uneventful. In typical fashion, we reached the trail head at dusk. - Gerald Olbu

East St. Mary's Peak, June 27. East St. Mary's Peak is one of the most accessible peaks in the Mission Mountains, although most people don't know where the trail head is located. Six hikers embarked on this journey: Joe Kipput, Leanne Parker, Ralph Flockerzi, Maryanne McClain, Graham Dewyea, and Gerald Olbu. The trail began in thick timber and brush, which was wet on this particular day. It was a lot of work hiking up the steep hillside, but promises of spectacular views kept everybody going. Great views indeed! West St. Mary's, East St. Mary's, and Grey Wolf Peaks were quite impressive with their winter snow remnants reminding everyone of the harsh climate. A small ice covered lake below West and East St. Mary's Peaks and the valley between us and Grey Wolf Peak was picturesque and typical of the high alpine Mission Mountain terrain. The hiking became easier as the ridge became less steep, and in places was truly enjoyable where the ridge was covered with a blanket of alpine grass. The last 200 feet of East St. Mary's Peak was capped with snow which was perfect for the climax of the trip. The weather held out. It threatened to turn nasty, but there was no precipitation. The hike back was uneventful. It was remarkable that we got back three hours before sunset. - Gerald Olbu.

More of the same old kayaking, June 1993. Art Gidel and Peter Dayton tried out a bunch of new rivers in June, with trips down the Canyon and Stairstep sections of the South Fork of the Payette, which is north of Boise; the Little Salmon, which flows into the Main Salmon at Riggins; the South Fork of the Salmon, which flows into the Main Salmon at MacKay Bar; and the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon, which flows into the South Fork of the Salmon east of McCall. Return trips to the North Fork of the Clearwater, White Sands Creek, and various sections of the Lochsa rounded out the month, and put further mileage on our vehicles. These are all great rivers with lots of gusto boating, but the high point of the month was the three-day 55-mile self-contained kayak trip on the South Fork of the Salmon, a very scenic and challenging wilderness trip. Our only complaint; why can't those spud-heads come up with more distinctive and aesthetically pleasing names for their rivers? - Peter Dayton.

Rock Climbing, June 1993. The rock climbing group has met on most Thursdays and Saturdays. We still do easy climbs for beginners as well as more challenging climbs for experienced climbers. Some of us do lead climbing and we have done a few multi-pitch climbs, which are great fun. Climbers last month include: Cheryl Bier, Justin Cunningham, Ralph Flockerzi, Donna Gaukler, Tony Johnson, Tom Kenny, Maryanne McClain, Gerald Olbu, Theresa Ostrander, and Mel Waggy. Next month we plan to progress to more difficult climbs and longer multi-pitch climbs, but will still so easy climbs for beginners. - Gerald Olbu.

OFFICERS

Gerald Olbu, President - 549-4769
Dave Pengelly, Secretary-Treasurer - 728-6512

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Check one: Individual (\$6.00/year) _____ Family (\$8.00/year) _____ Missoula, Montana 59806

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

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

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