



# Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

August, 1993

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## 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.

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## 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.

Sunday, 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.

Sunday, 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.

Sunday, August 22, Mission Mountains: Climb of Mountaineer Peak or some other destination in the Mission Mountains, depending on the interest and ambition of the participants. Call Art Gidel for details at 543-6352.

Sunday, August 29, Unnamed Peak. Climb an unnamed peak north of Sugarloaf Mountain, which is located in the Bitterroot Mountains southwest of Darby. Call Art Gidel at 543-6352 for details about this moderately strenuous trip.

Sunday, September 12, Heavenly Twins. Climb of the Heavenly Twins, which are located in the Bitterroot Mountains west of St. Mary's Peak and Stevensville. The route will follow the trail most of the way up St. Mary's Peak, then go cross country to the Heavenly Twins. The off-trail portion of the trip is fairly long and involves some route-finding through rock bands, but goes through some quite scenic high alpine country. The peaks themselves can be climbed by various routes ranging from a scramble up boulder fields on the southwest face to some fairly challenging climbing. Call Gerald Olbu for details 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, Grant 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 at 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.

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## TRIP REPORTS

Kakashe Peak, July 18. Despite being grievously out of shape from excessive kayaking, I agreed to lead a climb up Kakashe Peak, which is located north of Mission Falls in the Mission Mountains. During the day before the trip heavy rains pounded the Missoula Valley, and I began to cheer up, thinking that I might be able to duck the trip. In the morning I dressed for soaking wet freezing cold conditions, but was convinced that nobody would be dumb enough to show up for the hike. To my disappointment, Gerald Olbu, Maryanne McClain, Ralph Flockerzi, Brett Doucette, Graham Dewyea, Joe Kipput, and several other people showed up, raring to go. We parked at the east end of Mission Reservoir and bushwacked for a couple hundred feet straight to the top of the ridge north of the reservoir, where we met a well graded and cleared trail which switch-backs gradually up the ridge towards Kakashe. This trail looks like it might be a CCC project from the 1930's. About halfway up the ridge the trail disappeared for a while in some downfall, and we got diverted onto a side trail which traverses to the north and then fades out in the area of an illegal cabin which was burned by the tribal authorities a few years ago. If you find yourself staying level or dropping slightly, you are on the traverse. We returned to the ridgeline and bushwacked uphill until we relocated the trail. After reaching the top of the ridge, we left the trail and dropped several hundred feet into a basin to the north of Kakashe, climbed up a scree slope to the west shoulder of Kakashe, swung around onto the south face, and hiked up to the summit. This is an easy route, with nothing more difficult than boulder hopping and scrambling. From the summit we headed east towards Lucifer Lake. Although we had some difficulty finding a route through a long unbroken cliff band on the east side of Kakashe, most of the route was just a scramble down steep bear grass and avalanche chutes. We hit the Lucifer Lake trail just above Elizabeth Falls, and headed for the cars. The bushes were pretty wet, and we got a few minutes of light rain near the top of Kakashe, but in general the weather and the scenery were great, which was a most welcome surprise. I Just wish I had brought my camera. - Peter Dayton.

Canyon Peak, July 25. It began on a cloudy, wet, drizzly day. Probably no one, deep inside, thought we had a chance at all of reaching the summit of Canyon Peak on a day like that. However, Cheryl Bier, Jon Bonnickson, Jon's friend Paula, Peter Dayton, Graham Dewyea, Bret Doucett, Art Gidel, Gerald Olbu, Rick Rister, and Mel Waggy showed up to give it a try. We split up into two climbing groups. One group headed for the south face, the other group attacked the north ridge. The results were the same in both cases: rock which normally would have been easy to climb in dry weather, was now wet and slippery and impossible to climb on. There is nothing like trying to do friction climbing on wet lichen. Those who spent the time hiking around the lake probably had the best time. The high mountain cirque was quite scenic. If anyone is interested in giving Canyon Peak another attempt, under dry conditions, call me at 549-4769. - Gerald Olbu

Fisher Peak, July 31. Peter Dayton, Brett Doucette, Ralph Flockerzi, Art Gidel, John Kinney, John's friend from Hungary (whose name sounds sort of like "Judy", but is spelled quite differently), Joe Kipput, Jenny Murney, Rick Murney, Doug Webber, and Doug's friend Nancy showed up for Art's trip to Fisher Peak, which is located northeast of Seely Lake in the Swan Range. The west face of this mountain looks very impressive and vertical, but is actually only an exciting non-technical scramble. The approach is short and obvious, as you can drive almost to the bottom of the avalanche chute which comes off the bottom of the face. Most of us scooted straight up the face to the summit; four members of the group headed over to the saddle north of the peak to admire the view as we clambered up the rocks, like ants on a giant smoked ham. We had lunch on the summit and then laid around for a while soaking up the scenery. We descended via the north ridge, which is the easiest way to get up or down the peak. This route looks quite formidable from below, but is actually just a walk-up. Towards the top there is a vertical section of the ridge which requires you to head around to the east face for a while and work your way up through some small cliff bands. Those who feel daunted by the west face route should try this north ridge. The scenery is hard to beat. - Peter Dayton.

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## OFFICERS

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

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

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

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

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

THE MOUNTAIN EAR  
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(STAMP)

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