



Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

OCTOBER, 1994

MEETING

Time and place. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 in the County Commissioner's meeting room on the second floor of the Annex (new portion) of the Missoula County Courthouse. Enter the building through the north door. This month's meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 12.

Program. Mark Watkins, an accomplished local climber, will present a slide show of some of his many mountaineering adventures in the western USA and Canada. Some of the regions he has climbed and will present include the Tetons, Sierras, Cascades and Canadian Rockies.

TRIP CALENDAR

October 15, Saturday, Lolo Peak. Hike to Lolo Peak, which is the prominent peak southwest of Missoula, depending on snow conditions. If there is too much snow on Lolo Peak, another more manageable local peak, such as Stuart Peak, will be substituted. This will be a great opportunity to witness early season snow in the mountains. Regardless of the destination, this will be a moderate-level hike. Call Art Gidel at 543-6352 for details.

October 23, Sunday, Trapper Peak. Ski to Trapper Peak, a 10,147 foot peak in the Bitterroots southwest of Darby. This is the first day of hunting season so we may confront many hunters. This shouldn't be a problem since the skiers will be off the road and very rarely do the hunters go up the trail more than a short distance. The scenery should be very interesting with the first snow of the season. Hopefully there will be fresh powder on the peak, but probably also a few rocks. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for details.

October 29 Saturday, Pilot Knob. Hike to Pilot Knob which is a 7200 foot peak on the Montana-Idaho border near Lolo Pass. This will be a 9-mile loop trip on a maintained trail with about 2600 feet of elevation gain. Part of the route follows the State Line Trail. Depending on the weather, this may be the last chance to hike this year before the snow gets too deep. This will be an easy-to-moderate-level hike. Call Dick White at 251-6430 for more information.

November 5, Saturday, Columbia Mountain. Hike to the top of Columbia Mountain, a 7255-foot peak near Columbia Falls. The top of the mountain is mostly a flat alpine meadow which may be covered with snow. Views from the peak should include Glacier Park, Hungry Horse Reservoir, Bob Marshall Wilderness, and the Flathead Valley. This will be a moderate-level hike on a somewhat steep trail which climbs 4100 feet in 4 miles. Call Cheryl Beyer at 251-2344 for details.

November 11-13, Friday-Sunday, Mount Jackson. Three day mountaineering trip to 10,052-foot Mount Jackson in Glacier Park. The first day will be a pleasant hike/ski to Gunsight Lake where base camp will be made. The standard route up the peak is just a scramble, but with a heavy fresh snow cover, it should be interesting. Other routes also exist. This will be an opportunity to experience some brisk weather in beautiful country. Depending on interest and time constraints, another location or a two-day trip may be substituted. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

Wanna lead a trip? If you are interested in leading a trip, contact Gerald Olbu at 549-4769.

TRIP REPORTS

Turquoise Peak, September 18. Early in the morning, eight climbers set out on a long journey to climb Turquoise Peak, including: Cheryl Beyer, Dan Chisholm, Dave Gaeuman, Jeff Holiday, Brian and Mara Mariano, Gerald Olbu, and Greg Zlock. Turquoise Peak is located in the South Mission Mountains at the north end of the Garden Wall. The trip went mostly as planned. We hiked past Mission Falls and Lucifer Lake. Bushwhacking past Lucifer Lake wasn't too bad. After a lot of work, we reached the peak and enjoyed some great views of the Missions. On the return trip, we couldn't find our easy, almost-brush-free route, so we had extra bushwhacking on the way back. We made good time, only 13-1/2 hours on the trail, and we almost made it back before dark. - Gerald Olbu.

Loneman Lookout, September 25. Sunday, September 25, was a perfect day to cross the Middle Fork of the Flathead River and hike up to the unmanned lookout at 7181 feet on Loneman Mountain, perched above the Nyack/Coal Creek Wilderness in Glacier National Park. The river and

creek crossings were easily maneuvered and the trail, which wound completely around the mountain in the last few switchbacks, was in excellent shape. Marvelous views greeted us in every direction, from glacier-clad Great Northern to the south, upper Harrison Creek drainage, Blackfoot Mountain and Mount Jackson to the north, and Threesuns, Mt Stimson and Mt St Nicholas to the east. Smokey fires were smoldering up the North Fork and on the east side, but our views into central Glacier Park were clear. Enjoying this wonderful day were Bill and Devvi Morgan of Kalispell, Lewis Kogan, Clark Kogan, and Cheryl Beyer. - Cheryl Beyer.

Nyack Creek, September 3-4. The Labor Day weekend backpacking trip to Glacier Park was a good example of how plans must be changed. Originally Cheryl Beyer, Dan Chisholm, Julie Warner, and Steve Schombel planned to make a three day loop starting at Kintla Lake and ending at Bowman Lake. But a fire near Kintla Lake closed this area of the park, so we decided to hike up Nyack Creek. The wet and gloomy weather made us hike out after one day at the lower campsite on Nyack Creek. This trip was enjoyable because of the pleasant companionship of people trying to keep spirits up through the rain, and the great vegetation in the forest primeval in southern Glacier. Also it was the first backpack in Glacier for two of the attendees. - Steve Schombel.

Kootenai Falls, October 2. On Sunday evening, October 2, Peter Dayton and Colleen Hunter joined Merrill Streep, Kevin Bacon, and various other movie stars at the Cinema 6 in Missoula for a run of the "River Wild." The story is pretty dorky, but there is a lot of great whitewater footage, much of it taken from the rafts. Streep does quite a lot of actual paddling, although the producers wisely replaced the high-priced talent with crazed river rats and crash test dummies when the going really got tough. The shots taken in Kootenai Falls definitely got my attention, and took away most of the sting of the ticket price. When you think about it, this is a situation when viewing the movie is actually better than running the river, since you will probably live through the movie. - Peter Dayton

OFFICERS

Gerald Olbu, President - 549-4769

Dave Pengelly, Secretary-Treasurer - 728-6512

Peter Dayton, Newsletter Editor 728-8101

Dave Siemens, Vice President - 549-0102

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Mail a check payable to
"Rocky Mountaineers" to

Dave Pengelly
P.O. Box 4262

Check one: Individual (\$6.00/year) _____ Family (\$8.00/year) _____ (9398)

Missoula, Montana 59806

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