



# Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

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SEPTEMBER, 1998

## MEETING

**Meeting:** Club meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month in the lower-level meeting room at the Missoula Public Library. This month's meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9.

**Program:** Traditionally, the program for the September meeting is a potluck slideshow by Club members of their trips during the last year. All members are encouraged to bring some slides and run them through the projector, or photos to pass around, for the entertainment those attending the meeting. The club has been very busy this summer and we should have a great time.

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## CALENDAR

**September 12, Saturday, Mount Harding. (\*\*\*\*)** Climb Mount Harding (Mount Calowahcan) (9061 feet), which is the northern most interesting mountain in the Missions. The route will follow the northwest ridge and is a fourth-class climb. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

**September 13, Sunday, Lightning Peak.** Scramble up Lightning Peak (7440 feet), which is located in the proposed Great Burn Wilderness south of Superior. The route will follow a trail for about two miles to Pearl Lake, then about two more miles along the ridge top to the peak. Call Julie Warner at 543-6508 for more information.

**September 19, Saturday, Daughter of the Sun. (\*\*\*\*)** Climb Daughter of the Sun Mountain (8777 feet) which is located in the Missions near Turquoise Lake. This will be a fourth-class rock climb. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

**September 26, Saturday, Red Mountain.** Scramble up Red Mountain (9411 feet), which is located near Lincoln and is the highest point in the Bob Marshall/Scapegoat Wilderness complex. It is a long drive and a medium distance hike, but a very easy scramble, almost a walk-up after reaching the ridge top. The mountain really is red, and you get a bird's eye view of the intense North Fork fire damage from a few years back. It is very isolated; it is over 100 miles in any direction to a higher peak, so you really get a "top of the world" feeling. As a bonus, you get to drive past the proposed Seven-Up Pete mine site. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for details.

**September 26, Saturday, Holland Peak. (\*\*\*\*)** Climb Holland Peak (9356 feet) which is located in the Swan Range, 25 miles north of Seeley Lake. The first portion of the route follows a trail, then goes off-trail and involves easy fourth-class climbing to reach the summit. Overall elevation gain is 4800 feet. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for details.

**October 3, Saturday, McDonald Peak. (\*\*\*\*)** Climb McDonald Peak (9820 feet), which is the tallest peak in the Missions. We climbed this peak on July 12, but by popular demand, we'll do it again. This is the first weekend the area is open after the annual closure for grizzly bear conservation. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for more information.

**October 10, Saturday, Warren Peak. (\*\*\*\*)** Climb Warren Peak (10,453 feet), which is one of the taller peaks in the Anaconda-Pintler Range. The route will involve an easy fourth-class climb of the east face. Call Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 for details.

**(\*\*\*\*) Note.** Dates for trips marked with (\*\*\*\*) are best guesses. The exact date and location will depend on the weather and participants' interests. So, if interested, make early arrangements. Also, we have a couple of simple rules, since these are respectable mountaineering trips: 1) the group sticks together and 2) these are low impact trips. As always.

**May/June 1999, Mount McKinley.** A trip is being planned for Mount McKinley (20,320 feet) in Denali National Park, Alaska. If interested, contact Gerald Olbu at 549-4769 or Tony Sabol at 728-7221 to express an interest.

**Want to lead a trip?** If you are interested in leading a trip, contact Matt Grandy at 728-0647, or e-mail him at [matthewg@montana.com](mailto:matthewg@montana.com).

### TRIP REPORTS

**Mount Joffre, August 21-23.** On August 21 thru 23, nine mountaineers were scheduled to climb Mount Joffre (3,449 meters, 11,250 feet) in the Canadian Rockies. It is located in the area called Kananaskis Country and is the highest point between the U.S. border and the Banff area to the north. It is a very remote and impressive mountain, towering above everything else in the surrounding area. We had four people bail out at the last minute, forcing us to shuffle around with cars, ropes, etc... On a trip like this, car arrangements and group gear need to be planned well in advance, so those individuals who bailed out at the last minute will be remembered. One rope team called and cancelled, and another rope team had someone show up at the designated place in Missoula to announce he was not going. The original plan was for the three rope teams to drive up independently and pack in to base camp at Aster Lake. On Friday night only two climbers were at base camp. Bright and early Saturday morning, Matt Grandy and James Crawford were ready for the climb, but a rapidly approaching storm, combined with the safety issue of only two climbers on the rope in a very remote area, dashed our hopes of the summit. A wise choice it was as by 6:30 a.m. a violent rain and hail storm hit the mountain and we were safe in camp. By 10 a.m., the storm broke and we lounged around Aster Lake camp and wondered where everyone else was. Suddenly, three climbers moving very fast were seen on the other side of the lake headed for a summit attempt. We yelled and waved our arms but these guys were moving very fast to take advantage of the break in the weather. We were not sure if they were part of our party or not. It turns out they were. Dan Brown, Frank Dwarack, and Silas Liétz had gotten lost the day before on the way to Aster Lake and bivied short of the lake. When they woke the next morning, they were far off the trail, so they missed our camp by a wide margin. They never saw us or our camp. They hit the gravel flats at the end of lake and made the left turn around Mount Marborough and ascended the gullies on the moraine of the Mangin Glacier. They found the glacier very heavily crevassed and the ice very hard (even in the afternoon sun). They headed up the center of the glacier until a giant bergschrund blocked their path. They then cut to the left and headed for an obvious gully leading to the summit ridge. This gully was the crux of the climb. Eighty feet of 60-degree thin ice and rocks made for a scary time. Amazingly, the gully had been bolted. They gained the summit without difficulty from there. They made it back to Aster Lake just before dark. Here are some lessons learned: #1) Use a haul road labeled "Forestry Truck Road" from the town of Coleman to the Kananaskis Country. It is a haul road for the gas wells in the area and cuts over 200 miles off the trip. #2) The trail to Aster Lake is not marked at all; be prepared to use map and compass. #3) Good communication is essential; two way radios would have guided the lost rope team into Aster Lake (too remote for cell phones). #4) Take ice screws for protection on the hard ice of the glacier. #5) Take quickdraws for the bolts on the crux gully. Overall Mount Joffre is a great climb. We are all going back next year; join us! -Matt Grandy.

### OFFICERS

Matt Grandy, President - 728-0647  
Tony Sabol, Vice President - 728-7221  
Steve Schombel, Vice President - 721-4686

Julie Warner, Secretary-Treasurer - 543-6508  
Gerald Olbu, Newsletter Editor - 549-4769

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

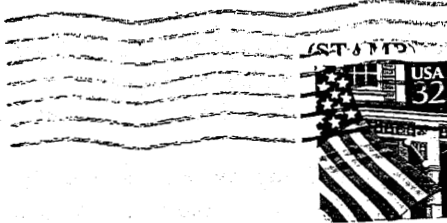
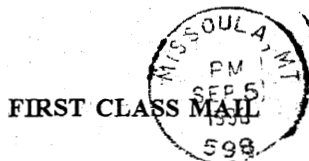
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Check one: Individual (\$9.00/year) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$12.00/year) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail a check payable to  
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