



# Mountain Ear

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

NOVEMBER 1999

*The Rocky Mountaineers are dedicated to the exploration of Western Montana's mountains and other high peaks throughout the world.*

## MEETING

**NOVEMBER'S PROGRAM:** Our next meeting will be on **November 10, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. - Kayaking the Grand Canyon!** Peter Dayton and six others spent thirteen days kayaking 226 miles down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. They were able to get out and do lots of side trips and hikes throughout the trip. Peter says it can take 15-16 years just to get a permit to float, so we all should come and see the many slides he has of the trip.

**ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS:** We are looking for new faces and energetic people to lead trips of all skill levels! Please contact Matt Grandy if you are interested in being a trip leader.

## TRIP CALENDER

**November 7, Sun, Lappi Lake:** Lappi Lake used to be the site of the original Rocky Mountaineers cabin, until the Wilderness Act was established in 1964. The lake is located at approximately 7400' and will involve approximately 6 miles of trail hiking up the Bass Creek drainage. The Bass Creek Crags should be visible, towering above the lake. Contact Matt Grandy for details at 728-0647.

**November 13, Sat, East St. Mary's Peak of the Mission Mountains:** Join Jordan Shapiro on a climb of this great peak, as well as a possible traverse over to West St. Mary's. This will be a strenuous climb involving over 5400 feet of vertical gain. Crampons and an ice axe will be required, as well as a reservation recreation permit. Join Jordan by calling him at 829-9313.

**November 20, Sat, Kent Peak:** Climb the highest peak in the Sapphire Mountains! Kent Peak stands at an elevation of 8999 feet, and is located almost directly east from the town of Darby, Montana. We will begin our jaunt at Coyote Meadows and follow a trail for approximately 4 miles. Upon reaching the Kent Lake cirque, we will scramble through a timbered break and work our way around some cliffs. Upon reaching the ridgetop, we will scramble over boulder slopes to the peak. An ice-axe may be needed. Contact Tami Sabol at 273-2566.

**November 20, Sat, Deadman and Hayes Points:** A pleasant hike through a forested area right outside of Missoula. This will be an 8-13 mile round trip depending if we do one or both points. There is about 1200 feet difference in elevation between Hayes Point and the trailhead, with a lot of up and down added in along the way. This area is very quiet now, due to the seasonal road/gate closure. It is also closed to hunting. The route is relatively low in elevation, so snow should not be a major obstacle. Although "easy" by mountaineering standards, for the average hiker it is a full day to both points. Call Steve at 721-4686 for more information.

**December 5, Sun, Ice Climbing:** Join Matt Grandy on the first ice-climbing adventure of the season. We will hike up the Blodgett Canyon trail to explore Swan Slabs. Depending on weather conditions, there may or may not be ice formed over the rock. If conditions are not suitable for ice climbing, we will explore Blodgett Canyon. Call Matt Grandy at 728-0647 for details.

### TRIP REPORTS

**Boulder Peak, October 9th:** Karen Apland, Heather Cling, Steve Fain, Brigitte Hendrix, Gena Jones, and Tami Sabol started climbing in not-so optimal weather conditions. The skies were gray and there was little visibility. Upon reaching Boulder Point, we were only rewarded with a brief glimpse of Boulder Peak. We ate lunch in the lookout, read the diary log, and then threw our packs on in hopes of better weather ahead. We scrambled through talus (icy in some places) along the east ridge leading to Boulder Peak. We bypassed several false summits, until we came to the highest point on the ridge. My altimeter watch showed we were sitting at approximately 9570 feet. The "summit" is 9804 feet. In the distance, a big summit arose from the earth, but we were now separated from it by a large chasm. It was now apparent that due to poor visibility, we didn't drop to the correct ridge leading to the summit. It was 3:30 p.m., so we decided to tackle the peak another day to avoid coming out in the dark. The skies cleared and we enjoyed a sunny descent - a great trip! - Tami Sabol

**Trapper Peak, October 24th:** On this fine Sunday, four Rocky Mountaineers scaled Trapper Peak, the highest point in the Bitterroot Mountains. As this was the opening day of hunting season, we were all wearing a fine assortment of orange clothing. Climbing up under clear blue skies, we found the peak barren of snow. Enjoying a fine day of this fine mountain were Karen Apland, Bruce Britten, Tami Sabol, and Matt Grandy.

**Squaw Peak, October 30th:** Penny Palm, Tami Sabol, Steve Schombel, Julie Warner, and Sally Wenning started the morning with beautiful sunny skies. We hiked along the Edith Ridge for approximately 4 miles and then tackled snow and ice-covered talus for the last 800' of elevation. We gained the summit and were surprised at the strength of the wind. We then dropped over the other side to a calm, still atmosphere. We ate lunch and enjoyed spectacular views of the snow-covered Missions, Bitterroot, and Rattlesnake Mountain Ranges - Tami Sabol

**Want to Lead A Trip ?** If you are interested in being a Trip Leader for the Rocky Mountaineers, contact Club President Matt Grandy at 728-0647 or e-mail him at [mat\\_hewg@montana.com](mailto:mat_hewg@montana.com).



### CLUB OFFICERS

President	Matt Grandy	728-0647	Treasurer	Julie Warner	543-6508
Vice President	Tony Sabol	273-2566	Secretary	Penny Palm	258-2000
Vice President	Steve Schombel	721-4686	Newsletter Editor	Tami Sabol	273-2566

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Check One: Individual (\$9 per year) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$12 per year) \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to "Rocky Mountaineers"      Rocky Mountaineers  
PO Box 4262  
Missoula MT 59806

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PO BOX 4262  
MISSOULA MT 59806



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