



Mountain Ear

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

JUNE 2000

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

MEETING

CLUB MEETINGS: The Rocky Mountaineers normally meet on the second Wednesday of each month, in the lower meeting room, at the Missoula Public Library. We, however, do not meet during the summer months so that we can take advantage of the prime mountaineering season. We will reconvene in September for our next meeting, followed by the members "potluck" slide show in October. Please take numerous photographs on all of your summer trips, so you can either pass around prints, or give a mini-slide show to our members at the October meeting. Although the club does not meet during the summer, you will continue to receive the newsletter. If you have a trip you would like to list or give a trip report for, please contact the President or Secretary/Newsletter editor.

TRIP CALENDER

Want To Climb In The Middle Of The Week? There are many members of our club who are unable to get out and climb the scheduled trips on the weekends. These folks have free time off during the week, and are often out climbing and hiking on their own on a Tuesday, Wednesday, etc. If you are one of these people, and would like to become part of a "weekday" climbing group, let us know you are interested in finding similar climbers to join on weekday outings. We can publish a list of interested folks, or we can keep your name unlisted, but distributed among similar climbers. Call the Secretary/Newsletter Editor at 273-2566 to be placed in this special interest climbing/hiking group.

June 4th, Saturday, Lolo Peak: Join the Rocky Mountaineers on a climb of Lolo Peak (9139ft), the prominent snowcapped mountain visible to the southwest of Missoula. This will be a training climb to practice ice axe arrests and crevasse rescue techniques. An ice axe will be required. This trip will function as the mountaineering training session for later trips to Mount Rainier and Mount Athabasca. If you desire to go along on any upcoming snow or glacier trips, and you have not previously done a snow climb with the club, attendance on this trip will be mandatory. Bring a harness if you will be practicing for crevasse rescue. Call Penny Palm for further information on this trip, plus info on any other equipment requirements. Penny Palm @ 258-2000.

June 10th, McDonald Peak: Climb the highest peak in the Mission Mountains (9,820ft) on a beautiful Saturday in June. The area around the peak is closed from the first weekend in July through the first weekend in October. This is one of only a few weekends remaining to climb the peak before the summer closure goes into effect. We will climb one of two selected routes, either via the Ashley Creek drainage on the west, or via Island Lake/Cliff Lake from the east. Regardless of the route, the day will be very long with over 6,000ft of elevation to gain. This is not a trip for "M" hikers...it is a trip for people who have been getting out and climbing several peaks with over 5,000 feet of gain each. If you'd like to go, ensure you are in good shape...the climb will be much more enjoyable for you. Bring an ice axe, crampons, and a headlamp. Call Tony Sabol @273-2566.

June? Liberty Ridge, Mt Rainier: This route is very technical requiring good knowledge of glacier travel and technical ice, rope management; self arrest skills, and mountain savvy. The route ascends more than 5,000 feet of 40-50 degree snow and ice. It requires a serious commitment, as generally there is no descending this route. Participants will be required to be in good physical condition, possess appropriate gear, and have steep snow route climbing experience. Dates for the trip will depend upon when the road opens on the northeast side of the mountain, and most likely will be between June 9th-25th. Participation is limited, but we have room on the team for one more. Call if you are interested in this "Classic Climb of North America". Tony Sabol @273-2566.

June 17th-18th, Great Northern & Mt Grant: Hike and strenuously scramble to Great Northern Mountain (8,705ft) near the northern terminus of the Flathead Range, between Glacier National Park and Hungry Horse Reservoir. Participants will scramble and off-trail hike for 7-8 miles round trip, and climb 4,500 vertical feet. Climbers should be prepared for winter-like windy conditions...bring an ice axe and possibly crampons. It may be an option, (depending on how much stuff you want to lug up there), to camp up high on the peak, and then climb the neighboring Mt Grant (8,590ft). Climbers coming from Missoula are welcomed to crash in Kalispell on Jim's floor Friday night. This is a friendly cooperative trip offered by Jim to both the New and the Traditional Rocky Mountaineers. Everybody have a great time! Call Jim Cossit for more information @756-6818.

June 25th, Ranger Peak: Hike and scramble to Ranger Peak (8817 feet) in the Bitterroot Mountains, atop the Montana-Idaho divide. We will hike up the Big Creek drainage approximately 12 miles to Big Creek Lakes and the base of Ranger Peak. From there, we will assess route possibilities and ascend 3000' to the summit. This climb will involve a full 5000' of elevation gain and will be a long, but fun day. From the summit, there should be magnificent views of the Selway-Bitterroot wilderness. An ice-axe will be required for the final summit approach. Call Tami Sabol at 273-2566 for more information.

June 24th-25th, Milwaukee Pass, St. Paul & Chicago Peaks: A short and easy backpack into a high lake in the southern Cabinet Mountains, the area of the proposed Rock Creek Mine. There should be enough time on Saturday for an afternoon scramble up St. Paul Peak. On Sunday, we'll explore the alpine basin and scramble up Chicago Peak, with its multiple summits of rocky knobs. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for info.

July 1st-5th, Mt Olympus, Washington: Join the Rocky Mountaineers for a trip up this marvelous peak located on the Olympic peninsula. At 7,966 feet, this is the highest peak in northwest Washington. Because of its elevation and proximity to the ocean, it receives a tremendous amount of snowfall each year and remains glaciated. Crampons and ice axe will be required. Contact Penny Palm early for information at 258-2000.

July 1st-4th, Mt Joffre, Canada: Mt Joffre is the highest peak between the 49th parallel and Mt. Assiniboine to the north. Located in the Canadian Rockies, this 11,315 foot mountain presents some worthwhile challenges. First are the long approach in, and a bivouac near Aster Lake. The following day we will scramble up a headwall and gain the main glacier. Roping up from here, we will approach the mountain and ascend either the North Face or the East Ridge depending on conditions. Normal to advanced glacier travel skills and gear will be required, as well as the ability to backpack in to base camp. This is an excellent peak to be on, with views of Mt King George and Mt Assiniboine viewed to the north, and the Bugaboos to the west. Call Matt Grandy if interested @ 728-0647.

July 9th, McLeod Peak: Bike and climb the highest peak (8,620ft) in the Rattlesnake Mountains and Wilderness. We'll bike in approximately 15 miles on the main Rattlesnake trail until we reach the Wilderness boundary. From there, we'll hike and scramble up the southeast ridge of the peak. The views of the Mission Mtns and other peaks should be awesome. Call Tami or Tony Sabol for info at 273-2566.

July 14th-16th, Glacier Park Bike and Hike: Join Penny Palm on a moonlight ride in Glacier Park. Participants will do a ride to Logan Pass on the 14th. A climb of Mt Siyeh (10,014 feet), and one of the six ten thousand footers located in the park, will occur on the 15th/16th. Call Penny for more information at 258-2000.

July 21st-23rd, Mt Rainier: Join Penny Palm on a glacier climb up this colossus! Participants will ascend this 14,411 foot volcano via the Emmons Glacier. This is a technical glacier trip requiring gear and knowledge for safe travel. This trip will be a joint climb with the Tacoma Mountaineers. Contact Penny Palm for the beta on this awesome climb. Penny Palm @ 258-2000.

August 3rd-7th, Mt Sir Sanford, British Columbia: Climb the "King of the Selkirks". This 11,555 ft peak is truly a colossus, second possibly to Mt Robson in overall elevation to gain, plus magnitude of approach. From its true base, the peak rises nearly 9,000 ft. We'll bushwhack up the headwaters of the Gold River until we gain the Goat Glacier. We'll ascend this to Sir Sandford pass, drop down the Sir Sandford Glacier, then set up a base camp near the base of Ravelin Mtn or continue around to the Great Cairn Hut. The route then ascends more than 5,000 feet of snow, ice, glacier, and low 5th class rock. Call Tony Sabol early at 273-2566 if interested in this magnificent excursion.

August 26th-28th, Granite Peak: At 12,799ft, this is the highest peak in the state of Montana. The peak is located in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness just north of Yellowstone Park. We will backpack in and set up a base camp near Mt Tempest or at Avalanche Lake. Both camps require an 11 mile hike in with over 5,000 feet of gain...a long day! From base, we'll ascend the east ridge of Granite Peak. The route can alternate between 4th and low 5th class...depending how far you get off route. This is an awesome peak with incredible views in all directions! Come one, come all. Call Tony Sabol for info @273-2566.

September 2nd-4th, Mount Athabasca, Canada: Join the Rocky Mountaineers for the third annual ascent of this Canadian Rockies classic. This beautiful 11,453 foot peak rests 5,500 feet above the Columbia Icefields Center, located in Jasper National Park, Alberta. From the top, one can see Snow Dome, the mountain at the true triple continental divide. It is from here that the Columbia Icefield melts and begins its descent to the Pacific, Arctic, or Atlantic Oceans. There are multiple routes up this beautiful glaciated peak. Some gear and glacier travel knowledge will be required. Call Matt Grandy @ 728-0647 for more information.

September 1st-4th, Kings Peak, Utah: At 13,528ft this is the highest peak in the state of Utah. Located in northeast Utah in the High Uinta Mountains and Wilderness, this peak offers a worthwhile climb. Join us on this great trip to one of the great ones. Call Tami or Tony Sabol @273-2566 for info.

January/February 2001, Aconcagua, South America: At 22,841 feet, this peak is the highest in the western hemisphere, and the highest of any peak not located in the Himalayas. We will ascend the direct route on the Polish Glacier. Continued planning for this trip will revolve around the political arena in the area. This has been a global hotspot, so we see how planning goes. Contact Tami or Tony Sabol if you are interested in this fascinating mountain. Ph#273-2566.

TRIP REPORTS

Mt. Sentinel, April 30th: It was a beautiful sunny day, but cool enough to make for a nice leisurely hike up the east side of Mount Sentinel for Eileen and Fred Schwanemann, Steve Schombel, and myself. After a lunch and a great view from the north summit, we decided to wander over and explore the south summit as well before a leisurely walk back down. This was a nice tour of the newly acquired Cox property on the south summit. Missoula is lucky to have this area so close to town! Only one tick was encountered. – Julie Warner

Kent Peak (8,998ft), May 6th: Saturday morning started out with a bang on this beautiful day. Before reaching the starting point for Kent Peak, I was charged by a bull moose (nice 3-point in velvet). Luckily, since still driving, averting the moose was a simple step on the gas pedal. I continued up the main road to Coyote Meadows until a giant snowdrift was encountered. I wasn't about to let a beautiful day pass by without a climb, so therefore decided on an alternate approach up Skalkaho Creek. I hiked up the Skalkaho Creek trail for approximately 6 miles to the ridge that connects Fox, Congdon, and Kent Peaks. Shortly after gaining the ridge, a snowstorm started dropping white flakes all around. At this point, visibility was little to none. Therefore, I started the descent on snowshoes and decided to try again next weekend. On the way out, I heard a sharp crack below the trail and saw a large moose standing just 50 feet away. What a beautiful day! – Tami Sabol

Kent Peak (8,998 ft) May 13th: Penny Palm, Tami Sabol, and Tony Sabol enjoyed a great Saturday climbing the highest peak in the Sapphire Mountains. We struck out up Skalkaho Creek of the Bitterroot and hiked about 6 miles to the Congdon-Kent divide. We enjoyed a sunny lunch before climbing to Point 8632, at which time we received the first unobstructed view of Kent Peak. From here, we had to lose 300 feet elevation before beginning our snow scramble up our selected snow rib. The route quickly steepened, and our ice axes became essential for a safe ascent. After traversing some tricky snow, we reached the summit ridge and peak. We had great views of all the nearby ranges, but the most impressive was Warren Peak and others in the Anaconda/Pintlar Range. Moose were again seen on our way out. This is a great peak with little to no traffic. There are several nice bowls and clear areas for any of you backcountry skiers/boarders looking for some new terrain. –Tami Sabol

Lolo Peak Complex (9,096ft and 9,139ft) May 20th: Tami and Tony Sabol had a short day to get out and do a climb. Lolo Peak seemed like a good option, now that the road is open to the usual trailhead. This route is just under 4,000 feet of elevation gain...if you go to both summits, otherwise it is less. We therefore loaded up heavy packs to get a good workout...in preparation for several hard route and peaks we will soon be attempting. We met all sorts of folks along the way and on the summits...people snowboarding, people telemark or alpine skiing, as well as folks like us on snowshoes just out for a hike. The wind was howling, but the views were grand. We ran into some fellow Rocky Mountaineers on the summit and they shared some beer with us once back at the trailhead. –Tony Sabol

Bass Peak (8,855ft), May 21st: This trip was originally listed for Mt Powell, but we decided on a longer climb given the beautiful climbing weather. At roughly 22 miles round trip, with over 5,000 feet of elevation gain, this peak round trip in one day is not for sleek pampered climbers. Penny Palm, Tami Sabol, and Tony Sabol decided to do a conditioning hike to get ready for some "big" trips that are upcoming this summer. We took our 3 canine friends and enjoyed a beautiful approach up through spectacular alpine scenery in the upper Bass Creek drainage. We didn't encounter much snow until arriving at the dam on Bass Lake. From there we followed the "trail" around the west side of the lake, then selected our approach up the snow packed Bass Peak. The snow was firm and we did not need the snowshoes we had packed in so far on the trail. The sun came and went, and the wind picked up as we topped out on the summit. We had incredible views in all directions...to Lolo Peak, where we were at yesterday, to the Heavenly Twins and El Capitan southward, as well as views into the Selway Wilderness. The descent was fun, including losing over 1,000 feet quickly, as we bum-slid down some slopes as steep as 45 degrees! It is like being a kid all over again! We headed out around the east side of the lake, then down Bass Creek to the truck. We saw 3 beautiful mountain goats along the way. Fun, and sore feet, were had by all. –T.T.&P

Want to Lead A Trip? We are looking for individuals, young or well seasoned, to lead hikes, backpack trips, climbs, mountaineering excursions, or other outdoor adventures. Please lend us your talents and volunteer to lead at least one trip per year. You can lead anything from beginner level to the most extreme. You don't have to be in cutting edge shape to be a leader. Simply possess sound judgment and be upfront with any participants as to the type of trip you will be leading. Our club members and others can benefit from the fruits of your efforts. Give it a try. If you are interested in being a Trip Leader for the Rocky Mountaineers, contact Club President Penny Palm at 258-2000 or e-mail her at Psquard@email.msn.com. For faster turnaround time, please also forward to the Newsletter Editor at tntsabol@bigsky.net or call 273-2566.

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CLUB OFFICERS

President	Penny Palm	258-2000
Vice President	Tami Sabol	273-2566
Treasurer	Julie Warner	543-6508
Secretary/Newsletter Editor	Tony Sabol	273-2566

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-Mail: _____

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

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