



MOUNTAIN EAR

MONTHLY NEWLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS OUTDOOR CLUB

**HIKING-CLIMBING-MOUNTAINEERING-SKIING-
EXOTIC TRAVEL-EXPLORATION OF PEAKS AND
MOUNTAINS OF MONTANA AND OF THE WORLD**

*****AUGUST 2000*****

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 weather for mountaineering, hiking, and our other outdoor activities. We will reconvene September 13th for our next meeting, followed by the members "potluck" slide show in October. Please remember to 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. Members of the **general public are welcomed** to our meetings and on our trips. Please contact the President for more information, or you can mail in the attached membership application and waiver.

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.

August 19th-20th, Mt Abruzzi, Canadian Rockies: A century ago, the world's most daring mountaineer was Luigi Amedeo Savoy, the Duke of the Abruzzi. No easy seven summits for him, he just tackled the world's hardest summits (they were not even sure which were the highest anyway...). From his pioneering first ascent of Mt St. Elias, Alaska, to his first ascent of the Ruwenzori in Africa, to his attempt on the Abruzzi Ridge of K2, he climbed peaks which still scare away today's top mountaineers. Mount Abruzzi in Canada is named in his honor. We will climb this peak via the Robertson/Haig Glacier. Glacier travel experience is required. Call Matt Grandy for more information @728-0647.

August 19th, Rock Climbing: Join Penny Palm for a day of rock climbing. Climbing will focus on skills necessary for alpine and future climbs. Those with experience may wish to volunteer your talents to help those with lesser skills. Call Penny Palm at 258-2000 for more information on climbing or assisting with this climbing excursion.

August 25th-27th, 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 11mile 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! Call Tony Sabol for info @273-2566.

August 27th, Stuart Peak: The Beartooth mountains too far to go this weekend? Well then, stay local and hike to this prominent peak in the Rattlesnake Mountains and Wilderness. At 7,960 feet with over twenty miles to cover round trip, this is a long rewarding hike to a peak with great views north into the Mission Mtns., as well as the peaks of the Rattlesnake and of the Bitterroot. Call Julie Warner at 543-6508 for more info.

September 2nd-4th, Mount Athabasca, Canada: Join the Rocky Mountaineers for the third annual ascent of the 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.

TRIP REPORTS

Mt. Adams, Washington, June 29-30th: Tami Sabol and Tony Sabol journeyed to climb the second highest peak and volcano in Washington. We arrived late Thursday night and camped at the Cold Springs campground. Don't even try to take your car up the road to this place...it is horrendous to all but high clearance vehicles! At over 6,700 feet of vertical to gain, most people climb this peak in two days...we opted to do it in one. Up early Friday morning, we were soon hiking up the trail to the base of the southeast spur. You can opt to take the spur proper up through volcanic rock or up through various snowfields and a small glacier. We followed the spur up to the "lunch counter", a broad flat area on the upper ridge where most folks spend a night. From here the route steepens and climbs Suksdorf Ridge to the false summit, Piker' Peak. We made it to the false summit in clear conditions, however this soon changed to overcast and obscuring conditions. We quickly made our way over and up to the summit (12,276ft), then descended without ever getting much of a view from the top. We returned to the top of the false summit, and this is where the fun begins. Climbers repeatedly use the same spot to glissade this area of the ridge. Over time a deep chute is worn into the snow forming a luge or bobsled track. We sat on our bums and enjoyed a 2,000 foot butt-numbing ride back down to the lunch counter area. From here we enjoyed a fast descent down through snow slopes with more glissades along the way. -T&T Sabol.

South Sister, Oregon, July 1st-2nd: Tami Sabol and Tony Sabol left the Mt Adams area and headed south into Oregon. They originally planned a climb of Mt Hood, however the routes were listed as extremely dangerous this week. Several people had been hurt or killed by rockfall, slips, and widening crevasses and bergshrunds. We spent a night at its base, then continued southward to the Three Sisters...a cluster of three volcanoes in south central Oregon. At 10,358 feet, South Sister is the third highest peak in Oregon. Located within its own wilderness, this area has spectacular scenery including other volcanoes, huge lava beds (measured in square miles and located within forested areas), plus beautiful lakes and alpine vistas. A visit to this area of Oregon is highly recommended if not for the scenery alone. On the trail early Sunday, we made our way to the south ridge. Once on the ridge, it steeply ascends rotten volcanic rock to the crater rim...also a false summit. From there, we made our way across the crater rim to the true summit and spectacular views. We could see Mt Hood, Jefferson, North & Middle Sister to the north, as well as countless peaks and volcanoes to the south. These included Mt Shasta (14,162 ft) located in Northern California, and Mt McLoughlin located near Crater Lake. For those interested in climbing volcanoes, Climbing the Cascade Volcanoes is available from Falcon Books and lists routes on 18 volcanoes in British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and California. -Tony and Tami Sabol.

Mt. Joffre, Canadian Rockies, July 1-4th: On July 1, two Rocky Mountaineers, Matt Grandy and Tim Sharp, headed north to climb Mount Joffre in the Canadian Rockies. This high peak is located in the new "Height of the Rockies Wilderness" and climbing permits are now required (contrary to what the guidebooks say...). At the ranger station we soon found that this is an unusually high snow year up north, and the avalanche rating on the approach was rated "Severe". We signed the appropriate waivers and were granted a climbing permit anyway. We hiked around Upper Kananaskis Lake until we could see up the route. What we saw was horrifying. An entire winter's snowfall still clung to the west face of Mount Sarill, directly above the approach route where it climbs the scree field around Fossil Falls. Our attempt of Mount Joffre was officially cancelled at that point. End of Day One. Day Two found us climbing Mount Indefatigable (I love these names!) It starts at the dam separating Upper and Lower Kananaskis Lakes. A steep tourist trail ascends about halfway up the mountain to a vista point. From there, it is a Class 3 scramble with a scary Class 4 crux skirting a cornice at the very top. What a view from the summit! We looked straight across at our initial objective, Mount Joffre, with its dense snowpack shining brightly in the snow. It was so windy up there we almost could not stand up. The descent was uneventful. Day Three started with us thirsting for some glacier climbing so we headed up the Burstall Pass trail headed for the Robertson Glacier. We had hopes to ascend to the col and either climb Mount Sir Douglas or cross over to the Haig Glacier. There is no trail up that side drainage, but it was easy to tell where to turn, not every drainage has an

normous glacier staring you in the face. After some easy cross country travel we roped up and began climbing the glacier. About two-thirds of the way up the Robertson Glacier we encountered several huge seracs teetering above us, and fracture lines across the snow faces of both Mount Robertson and Mount Sir Douglas. With avalanche conditions still rated as severe, we wisely retreated. On the decent of the glacier, Tim broke through a small snow bridge and landed knee deep in a stream flowing beneath the surface of the glacier. This reinforces the importance of roping up and proper glacier technique, as this section looked very safe and free of crevasses. Under more favorable conditions, this would make an excellent climb, and we both agreed to come back to this glacier someday soon. The traverse over the col and onto the Haig Glacier would be an incredible experience. Day Four found snow and sleet falling all throughout the Canadian Rockies, so we packed up and headed for the states. A mountaineering trip to Canada is always fantastic, and a great time was had by all. Matt Grandy

Holland Peak, July 1st: Steve Finnerty and Bob Koca camped at the lookout tower and got an early start on the 4,900' gain, 5 mile hike to 9,356' Holland Peak despite ominous, yet high clouds incoming from the SW. The weather held and we were able to spend an hour on the summit before heading back. Shortly off the peak, we encountered Rick Hanners on his way up. Upper Rumble was still mostly covered with snow, while lower Rumble is one of the most picturesque places in Montana.

McLeod Peak, July 9th: Heather Cling, John Indrehus, Tami Sabol, and Tony Sabol mounted their valiant bicycles and began the grueling pedal ride up the Rattlesnake drainage. The day was hot despite an early start and it took several hours to reach the wilderness boundary...15 miles up the trail. From there we stored our bikes and located a highly overgrown trail, thick with Alder and various man hating vegetation. We bushwached our way up this for a couple miles before crossing a stream and stream to get on the south east "ridge" of McLeod Peak. The "ridge" is nothing more than a broad expanse of ups and downs, bushwhacking, and route finding. By late afternoon we had the peak in site, yet still had to drop down a drainage, then climb some 4th class looking cliffs to get up on the actual "ridge" for final approach to the peak. It began to thunder and storm clouds were approaching, so we opted not to get caught in the open under those conditions. We retreated and enjoyed a fun, albeit bumpy, fast ride for 15 miles downhill to the trailhead. -Tony Sabol.

Glacier Park, July 14, 15 and 16: Sally Zimmerman, Karen Aplan, Sally Cannata, Bitsy Singer, Rick Hanners, Denise Small, and Penny Palm headed up to Glacier Park for a weekend of fun. Friday night Sally C., Karen and Penny rode up Logan Pass at midnight on our bicycles for the Moonlight Ride. The moon was full, but the clouds were thick and heavy, so we did not get to ride in the moonlight. It was a pleasant ride, though and we reached the pass in an hour and 40 minutes. Sally Z. and Denise were waiting for us there with blueberry pancakes and hot chocolate. We got back to camp at about 4:00 am. Saturday, all but Rick headed up to the Highline Trail and hiked to Haystack Butte. The mountain goats have small kids at this time of year and we saw many of them along the trail. They were so cute. The views from the Highline Trail are remarkable and we took our time and a lot of pictures. If you have never done this hike, I highly recommend it. It is not at all difficult, but the views are incredible and the wildlife is abundant. Sunday, Rick, Denise and I headed up Mount Siyeh. This is a 10,000 foot pile of loose rock and cliffs mixed with plenty of exposure. We hiked up the trail for about 2 miles to the base of the peak, then headed up the scree angling east when we hit cliffs and technical climbing. There is a spot at about 8500 feet where a couple of 5th class moves are unavoidable. We all negotiated that without incident. About a thousand feet from the summit, we chose to turn around and descend rather than climb the remaining very exposed, very loose rock. If people are comfortable with exposure and scree on top of loose boulders, this is not a difficult peak, however, it is not a peak for beginners and it is important for the group to stay together. We will make another attempt on this peak in the future. Penny L. Palm

Rocky Mountain Peak, July 15th: Steve Finnerty and Bob Koca hiked to Headquarters Pass and around the peak, the tallest in the Bob Marshall Wilderness at 9,392 ft. Once on its west facing slope, we watched a family of mountain goats frolicked below. From there it was an interesting scramble to the peak. As one would guess, awesome views in all directions entertained us for hours. We descended the east and then north ridges back to the main trail. Rocky Mountain is worth a visit as its geology, topography, and vegetation contrasts with that closer to Missoula. -Bob Koca.

Kerlee Lake Hike, July 16th: Tami and Tony Sabol decided to explore the route to Kerlee Lake as it is a great access point to the Como Peaks, Lonesome Bachelor, and El Capitan...peaks located in the Bitterroots. The tricky part is finding the exact place to cross Tin Cup Creek and then locate the trail to the lake. The trail is not shown on newer forest service maps, so consult an old map if you plan to go. Once across the creek, we enjoyed the steep 1,500 feet of gain in smoking hot temperatures before topping out at Goat Lake. From here, it was an easy traverse over to Kerlee Lake. We spent a leisurely day at the lake before returning towards the trailhead. It was about 6:30 pm and we were pounding out the miles along Tin Cup Creek. All of a sudden there was a crash, and as

Tony spun his head around to the noise (behind and to his left), a huge cow moose burst from the trees and was in full charge at less than 12 feet away. He had only time to yell and then dive off the trail and roll behind a tree for cover. Luckily our large dogs were able to distract the cow for a few fractions of a second for him to reach cover, then the cow was out and surveying her victims. Tony yelled "moose" to warn Tami (behind on the trail), then the moose whirled and took off down the trail...soon followed by her calf. We were very lucky to have survived this...it happened in seconds. We strongly advise people to carry pepper spray as we have had multiple run-ins with moose this year, however this encounter was nearly fatal or at a minimum life-threatening. Enjoy the outdoors, but realize we share it with natives...bears, moose, mountain lions, and other creatures. -Tony Sabol.

Mount Borah, July 21-22nd: This weekend, Nathan Stephenson, Eric Jansen, Steve Finnerty, Tami Sabol, Frank Maus, Rick Rister, and Penny Palm were supposed to climb Mount Rainier. However, after a little glitch with reservations and a few discussions with the climbing rangers, we determined that the route up the Emmons route was too risky right now. There were 2 accidents on the 20th, and there was still a rescue going on at the InterGlacier which was the beginning of our route. The freezing level has not been below 13,000 feet for over a week and the snow and snowbridges were very slushy and unstable. Crevasses were opening up everywhere and people were not summiting due to snow conditions. So...Tami, Frank and I headed up to the highest peak in Idaho, Mount Borah, 12,660 ft. We left on Friday and after being temporarily detained on the wrong road and having Frank's old car Spitzel die on us on the pass, we finally got to the climbers campground at the base of the peak. This is a high desert area and the lack of water and heat was amazing. About 30 or so people were camped here and the only water was a trickling spring. Due to the intense midday heat, we decided to climb very early in the morning and tried to get to bed early. As we bedded down, Steve Finnerty showed up and joined our group. We got up at 3 am after a sleepless night, due to loud campers around us, and headed to the summit at 4:30. The sun came up at 6:00 as we gained the ridge. This peak climbs 5,300 feet in 3.5 miles and is unrelenting. Once we traversed the ridge, some 4th to 5th class climbing is encountered and the pucker factor rises. You then reach a 5th class downclimb onto a snow bridge that is no more than 2 feet wide. A misstep sends you on a 1,000 foot or more slide straight down the gully to nothing but hurt and pain. As we stepped onto the snow bridge, about 40 mile an hour wind gusts slam into us. After this obstacle is negotiated, the trail is pretty straight forward with steep talus and scree trail to the summit. The views from the top are spectacular and the mountains are rocky and barren, very different from our mountains here. The downclimb took as long as the climb up, due to the exposure and the steep grade of the trail. Those with bad knees will not be happy on the downclimb. When we got back to camp, the heat was sweltering and we drove to Mackay Reservoir for a much needed swim and bath. Penny L. Palm

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.

Would You Like Your Newsletter Faster? For those of you who would like to receive your newsletter faster, and/or to save the club some mailing and photocopying costs, email is alive and well. Notify the newsletter editor of your email address, and you will receive your newsletter as a "WORD" attachment via the net. Warning: For those with Works, Mac software, and/or other older word processing software, we cannot guarantee the format you will receive.



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 Rate Increase: With the increases in postage rates, as well as the cost of photocopying newsletters, it has become necessary to raise membership fees. The present rate of \$9.00 per individual just barely covers the cost of the stamp and photocopying of an individual newsletter (\$0.71/each) twelve months of the year. There are no monies left over to fund complimentary copies of the newsletter, which are dispersed at outdoor stores around our area. Complimentary copies are necessary to provide a way for the public to see what it is we do, to offer an invitation to the public to come on these trips, and to recruit new members. In addition, the mountaineers cabin (available to any club member) requires an annual lease payment of \$60 to the U.S. Forest Service. The cost of a yearly membership is little more than a pair of movie tickets! Your yearly membership permits you the opportunity to go on all sorts of excursions, to lead trips you would like to do, to report and have published your outdoor activities, as well as help to promote the teamwork and camaraderie associated with mountaineering. Please help the club continue to provide these services to you as well as to members of the public.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Household Yearly Membership (\$13.00)

Make checks payable to "Rocky Mountaineers"

Rocky Mountaineers

PO Box 4262

Missoula MT 59806

LIABILITY WAIVER-INDEMNITY AGREEMENT: In today's legal environment, liability for accidents is always a concern. It is very sad, but it is a reality of our times. Many of our members will not lead trips for fear of legal action being directed against themselves and their families. In order to help alleviate some concerns regarding this matter, we have sought the advice from a major mountaineering organization. We have been provided with an indemnity and release statement, which any member of a Rocky Mountaineer sponsored trip will be required to sign and have on file prior to going on a trip. Extra copies will be provided to trip leaders to have available for signing for any members of the club or public who have not had the opportunity to sign one. You can never sign away negligence, but you can sign away the many acts of God or Nature, which are inherently present in the outdoors. If you are actively participating in trips, please sign your copy and send it to the Rocky Mountaineers P.O BOX so it may be placed on file. Thank you so much for any cooperation in this matter.

I, (print name) _____ hereby state that I wish to participate in courses and/or activities offered by The Rocky Mountaineers, a non-profit organization. I recognize any outdoors activity may involve certain dangers, including but not limited to the hazards of traveling in mountainous terrain, accidents or illness in remote places, force of nature, and the actions of participants and other persons. I further understand and agree that without some program providing protection of its assets and its leaders, the Rocky Mountaineers would not be able to offer it courses and activities.

In consideration of and as part payment for the right to participate in the activities offered by The Rocky Mountaineers, I agree to RELEASE, HOLD HARMLESS, AND INDEMNIFY The Rocky Mountaineers and its members from any and all liability, claims and causes of action arising out of or in any way connected with my participation, or the participation of any minor that I am signing on behalf of, in any activities offered by The Rocky Mountaineers. I personally assume all risks in connection with these activities. If I am signing on behalf of a minor, I further agree to RELEASE, HOLD HARMLESS, AND INDEMNIFY The Rocky Mountaineers and its members from any liability, claims and cause of action, which the minor may have arising from the minor's participation in activities. The terms of this agreement shall serve as a release and indemnity agreement for my heirs, personal representative, and for all members of my family, including any minors. (Parents or Legal Guardians must sign for all persons under eighteen (18) years of age).

I have read this release and indemnity agreement and have fully informed myself of its contents before I have signed it.

Print Name

Signature

Date

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian if Participant is Under 18 Years of Age

Date

THE MOUNTAIN EAR
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

2200

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2299 APPLEWOOD LANE
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Membership Renewal 04/2000

2173 3-8-00

LAST NEWSLETTER - PLEASE RENEW!