



# 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

\*\*\*SEPTEMBER 2000\*\*\*

**CLUB MEETINGS:** The fires have really put a damper on folks getting out to enjoy the great wilds. Due to fires and poor climbing conditions there will be no September meeting. We will reconvene October 11<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, Missoula Public Library, for our next meeting. In October, we will have our "potluck" slide show. Please bring your trip photography from your summer trips, so you can either pass around prints, or give a mini-slide show to our members. Show off all of your great trips. Please also contact the club secretary to have any trips you have done listed in our "trip report" column...let others know about the fruits of your efforts in the wilds.

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

**Open Climbing for interested folks:** There are many members of our club who are unable to get out and climb the scheduled trips on the weekends. 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.

**September TBD, Blackfoot Mountain, Glacier N.P:** Climb this beautiful peak via a mixed route. We'll approach about 11 miles one-way, mostly on trail. The technical part involves glacier travel all the way to the summit. There is a great bergschrund that can be bypassed in a number of exciting ways. Interested climbers will need to contact Rick Hanners to coordinate a date/time for this trip. Climbers will need appropriate clothing, overnight gear, glacier as well as some ice/rock equipment, and some experience with similar routes/terrain. The climb is estimated as a Grade III by North Cascade standards. Please get a hold of Rick at 257-6691 (msg. Phone) or e-mail at fknott@digisys.net.

**September 30<sup>th</sup>, El Capitan (9,983ft):** No, we ain't headin for Yosemite! This is the second highest peak in the Bitterroots located just west of Darby. We'll approach via Tin Cup Creek...many miles of ground pounding, then hike up to Kerlee Lake. From here, will ascend the southeast ridge, via the saddle just northwest of the lake. Days are getting short, so expect an early start. Call Tami Sabol for the beta @273-2566.

**October 7<sup>th</sup>, Saint Joseph Peak (9,587ft):** Hike up Bass Creek with the Rocky Mountaineers, then turn and bust butt up the south flank of this big Bitterroot peak. Near the top we'll take the southeast ridge, plus do some very interesting scrambling. Snow may be present and the days will be short. Bring appreciate clothing, and expect an early start on this one also. Call Tony Sabol at 273-2566.

**October 8<sup>th</sup>, Rocky Mountaineer Cabin Spruce Up:** The R.M.'s maintain a cabin in the Bitterroots. It mainly serves as a winter shelter for backcountry skiing, snowboarding, and mountaineering. A yearly clean up, some low maintenance, and some wood cutting/splitting are necessary to ensure a pleasant winter stay. Please volunteer either your time and/or send a check (for those pledging financial support) c/o the CABIN FUND to the R.M. post office box. We'll need some chainsaws, axes/splitting mauls, strong backs, humor, and good attitudes. Come give us a hand and support your cabin. Call Penny Palm at 258-2000 to get on the list.

## TRIP REPORTS

ing  
ght at  
ep ro  
ne ro  
trave  
the  
c

**Sleeping Woman Peak, July 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Fred Schwanemann, David Kahl and Julie Warner had a nice, perfectly ordinary hike to the summit. The weather was nice and the different type of terrain the trail meanders thorough was beautiful. We had some great views on all sides with no smoke to obscure the vista. The only thing I found unusual was the lack of snow around the peak. -Julie Warner

**Brewer Buttress, Mt Sir Douglas, Ghost River Wilderness-Alberta, Canadian Rockies, July 27-Aug 4:** Canada may be another country but it's not that far away. In 8 hours Ronnie Attaway and Katrina Ruhmland were produce shopping in Banff and getting route information at Mountain Magic. Our first objective was to climb the classic Brewer Buttress on Castle Mountain, 11 pitches, 5.6. We hiked to the hut Fri. night, a steep 3 hour jaunt but much easier to find than the book described. The 5.3 break in the one area of rock band was loose but short, and we were VERY careful so we didn't belay. Arif and Alexis from Calgary joined us for the evening at the hut, an outhouse-sized shed that was cabled down on a ledge about 5 feet from the cliff edge. Going to the hut is an experience in itself and well worth the time...especially for the view from the modern, but very open-aided outhouse... which also rests right on the edge of the cliff!! We all left the hut about 6:00 AM with very stormy skies. The climbing was awesome, and the weather got better as the day progressed. The rock quality was what I would call "somewhat" loose (not knowing what was to come in the days ahead!), and there were lots of opportunities for good gear. The route finding was also very easy. We recommend the hassle of stopping in at Mountain Magic in Banff for photocopies of the route. These are different than what's in the Selected Alpine Climbs guidebook. We linked pitches 3 & 4 and 6 & 7 together and did it in 9. Finding the descent gully wasn't bad. You do need to do 4 rappels. A 60meter rope is worthwhile but not necessary. Look for the HUGE rock cairn and enter the gully on the west side of it. We hiked all the way out and said good-bye to our new Canadian friends and headed back to Banff to meet Rob McLeod and Paul Jensen.

The next day, we all hiked in and camped at the base of Mt Sir Douglas to climb the East Ridge, a Grade III, 5.6. There is a short glacier climb at the base of the rock. We bailed after a few "extremely" loose, rank pitches (we got about 1/3 of the way up).

The rockfall was horrendous, and Ronnie got a divot in his helmet and a big bruise on the leg from one cascade. On our way down, one of the rappel anchors, a slung boulder about the size of a washing machine started sliding when Ronnie weighted it. Thankfully it stopped, along with everyone's hearts, when he took his weight off of it. Rob and I were anchored to it and had to unclip ASAP...safer by far. We cut about a half dozen slings off of the block so no else would attempt to use it. Lesson to be learned; don't trust a rappel station EVEN if it looks like it has been used for years. We were the last straw. That route is off our list, although the N. West face looks really good. Our group split once again, Rob and Paul going off to climb Mt Victoria near Lake Louise, and Ronnie and I off to the Ghost River Wilderness to climb more. At the "Ghost", the limestone is "awesome" and there are many sport and trad routes, long and short. We did several sport routes, but lack of time and weather prevented doing the long routes we'd planned. The drive in is long and a 4X4 is almost a necessity. It is a very remote area but the camping is beautiful and free! We are going back before Oct. -Katrina Ruhmland.

**Lolo Peak, July 29<sup>th</sup>:** Congratulations to Fred and Eileen Schwanemann on their first major summit! Together with them, David Kahl, and Julie Warner, the summit was reached. With temps of 100 degrees in town, Lolo peak wasn't a bad place to be...it probably didn't get hotter than 70 degrees, and there was a nice wind. We all gave the heat plenty of respect, drinking lots of water and spending pleasant amounts of time resting in shade. We didn't have to worry about thunderstorms in the afternoon, but we could see distinctive layers of smoke in the atmosphere below us. -Julie Warner.

**Going-to-the-Sun Mountain / Mataphi Peak-Glacier National Park, Aug 12:** Can't go climbing around Missoula? Head north! Bob Koca and Steve Finnerty headed to Glacier in search of a summit. We decided Friday night on Going-to-the-Sun Mountain. It was a great climb. The weather was clear and beautiful, no smoke! The climb involved a lot of scrambling with a few Class 4 pitches that were quite exciting. The views from Sun Mtn. were awesome; words will not do them justice. After descending back to the saddle, we decided to climb Mataphi Peak, only 1000 feet more gain from where we sat. -Steve Finnerty.

**Canadian Rockies Excursion, Aug 26-27:** Rocky Mountaineers Tim Sharp and Matt Grandy escaped the smoke and headed for Canada. A Canadian fire at Crowsnest Pass prevented a climb of Mount Abruzzi, so we went to Alberta's Kananaskis Country instead. In the grand European tradition, we attempted a high traverse of three glaciers, the Robertson, the Haig, and the French. We parked at the Burstall Pass Trailhead and ascended up the drainage. We made good time and in two hours were on the Robertson Glacier. About two-thirds of the way up the glacier, we encountered

Something very unexpected. A large grizzly bear was also making the same traverse, only backwards. He was coming straight at us, right down the middle of the glacier!!! The Robertson Glacier is only about a quarter of a mile wide, with steep rock walls on both sides. We saw him first, he was not paying much attention, and he abruptly sensed us at about one rope length's distance. With not much else to do, we just stood our ground, and he went around us. Apparently, he was traversing from the Haig Glacier to the Robertson Glacier. We had planned to spend the night at a bivy site in the col. As the col is only about 50 feet wide, we chose to camp short of the col in case any more of his grizzly buddies decided to come through the col. Sunday morning we climbing the short 45 degree pitch to the col, finding butt-skid marks where the bear descended. He was pretty good at avoiding crevasses, as the glacier has several which we saw him skirt around. The view from the col is amazing. (This is the bivy used to climb Mount Sir Douglas...). The return trip to Missoula was uneventful. Matt Grandy

**Hyndman Peak, Pioneer Mtns, Idaho, Aug 26-27<sup>th</sup>:** At 12,009 feet this is the highest peak in the Pioneer Range, and the last of the nine peaks in Idaho over 12,000 feet. Located just east of Ketchum/Sun Valley, the trip down to the peak is worthwhile in and of itself. We took the long way, heading over Lolo Pass, following the Lochsa and Clearwater Rivers to the western side of Idaho. From there, we meandered south along the lower Salmon River. The rivers and creeks on this side of the state are near full!!! Yes, the boaters were galore...kayakers, rafters, drifters, etc...all out enjoying hot temperatures and plenty of water. We continued around the bottom of the state...over the Sawtooth Mountains to pick out some awesome peaks in that range to climb in the future. We arrived late in Ketchum, made our way to the trailhead, and crashed for the night. Up early, we began pounding out the miles up to the basin below Hyndman Peak. You climb up through high desert sage into lush alpine country and strikingly beautiful rock cliffs. We had been worried about water...don't...there is plenty of it all the way to the peak (via the east ridge route). The wind started to build as we started up towards the Hyndman-Old Hyndman saddle. By the time we reached the saddle, we could barely move without getting blasted one way or another. Navigating the talus in this gale was no fun. We retreated to creek below for a late lunch...intent on going back to this great peak. -Tony Sabol.

**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](mailto:Psquard@email.msn.com). For faster turnaround time, please also forward to the Newsletter Editor at [tntsabol@bigsky.net](mailto: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 Year f Age

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date