



# 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**

**\*\*\*OCTOBER 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:** Many members of our club 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. Call the Secretary- Newsletter Editor at 273-2566 to be placed in this special interest climbing/hiking group.

**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.

**October 14<sup>th</sup>, Sky Pilot Peak (8,792ft):** Hike and scramble up this beautiful Bitterroot Peak. Located west of Victor, this peak offers a nice autumn challenge. Call Tami Sabol for more information @ 273-2566.

**October 15<sup>th</sup>, Black Mountain (5,951ft):** Hike up this fine peak located just west of Missoula for some great views of the Mission, Rattlesnake, and Bitterroot Mountains. Call Julie Warner for more information @ 543-6508.

**October 22<sup>nd</sup>, Trapper Peak (10,157ft):** So you don't want to go out to get wild meat to feed your family today? Well join the Rocky Mountaineers for the opening day of hunting season climb of the highest peak in the Bitterroots. The wearing of blaze orange/bright clothing will be mandatory. Call Mafti Grandy for information @ 728-0647.



## TRIP REPORTS

**Bearhat Mountain, August 6<sup>th</sup>:** Next to Cannon Peak in Glacier Park, Rick Hanners and Jim Cossitt took on this peak. Our route included some steep icy snow slopes above Hidden Lake. We found a very interesting 500-foot long by 5-to-20-foot wide icy snow gully that topped off at the summit ridge. It averaged 60 degrees with a 30-foot vertical section that lasts well into late August. It was a beautiful sunny day, saw two pine martens sliding on the snowfields like otters as they scrambled to protect their food cache from the marauders that were only us. We also watched some summertime-hired college students without proper gear losing themselves on various parts of the wrong route...8 hours roundtrip. -Rick Hanners.

**Mt Athabasca, Canadian Rockies, Sept 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>:** The Rocky Mountaineers mounted their annual Labour Day Mount Athabasca trip. (note Canadian spelling...). This year found eight Rocky Mountaineers in Canada; Karen Apland, Trent Ingraham, Tim Sharp, James Banister, BJ Banister, Jordan Shapiro, Erin Shirley, and Matt Grandy. We arrived at the Columbia Icefields to find a fresh coat of snow on the ground, with more falling. The rangers at the Centre remembered us from last years avalanche, remarking "you Yanks always bring bad weather...." We organized into two rope teams, and got an alpine start at 4 am Sunday. We found no other cars at the trailhead, and no parties had logged in for several days...the weather was keeping the mountain untouched. Fresh avalanches had come down in several places. As we moved onto the central part of the glacier, twice members punched through the snow cover and into unseen crevasses. Judging the conditions too severe, we wisely turned around. All in all, it was a very good trip, even though we did not summit. We did some good training though, and made new friends. A good time was had by all! -Matt Grandy.

**Mount Stanton, Sept 16<sup>th</sup>:** Located in Glacier Park, Rick Hanners and Jim Cossitt took a long trail approach but descended via the Edwards guidebook route. The mountain begins right at the shores of Lake MacDonald. Jim Cossitt wants to do a bunch of skiing on this great peak winter. 7 hours slow roundtrip. -Rick Hanners.

**Southwest Climbing and National Parks Extravaganza, Sept 1<sup>st</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>:** Tami and Tony Sabol set off on a Friday afternoon bound for the High Uinta Mountains of Utah. We approached via the north side and bivied  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way up the trail. The next day we made for Gunsight Pass, dropped down slightly on the back side, then took a short cut over and around to the base of **Kings Peak**...the highest in Utah at 13,528 ft. There is water everywhere...so if you go don't be concerned about that. The final ridge offered some fun talus hopping and bouldering. The views from the top were awesome. This is a great alpine trip, with timber groves of lodge pole pine and aspens all the way to 11,300ft. We then continued south to Moab, Utah and spent an afternoon visiting **Canyonlands National Park (N.P.)**. The following day we crossed the highway and went into **Arches N.P.** This park has over 2,300 natural arches spanning distances of 3ft to 328ft. There are many hiking trails which permit folks to get out and see many of these wonders...sorry, there is not much climbing allowed in many of our national parks...do that elsewhere...just visit the parks and enjoy the scenery in an environmentally sensitive way. We did 3 great hikes, spent the night in Moab, then headed for Colorado. We next visited **Mesa Verde, N.P.** This park is the only national park established to protect things built by man...namely the cliff dwellings built by the Anasazi people who inhabited this area from roughly 600AD to 1300AD. The biggest cliff dwellings require a ranger guided hike...we did two. We also were able to do self-guided hikes into many other of the dwellings...set your own schedule. We left Mesa Verde and headed north into the Wilson group of peaks in southwest Colorado. There are 55 peaks in Colorado over 14,000 ft. The majority of them are "walk-ups". The Wilson group, however, are some of the hardest of the 55 peaks. We opted for **Wilson Peak (14,017ft)** due to accessibility and our time constraints. We approached via the north side (from Telluride area) and made our way to a large pass and onto the west ridge. According to Gerry Roach...author of **Colorado's Fourteeners**, this route is a class 3...don't believe him...this is a major sandbag rating! We made it to the 13,900 foot false summit. From here you have to drop down very exposed 4<sup>th</sup> class and very loose sedimentary rock, covered with snow and ice. You then need to climb back up 160 ft of the same type of rock before summiting out. We had left all rock gear and a small rope in the car back at the trailhead, thinking this peak was "just" a class 3. Don't leave your stuff!! We talked to a group coming off the peak who called the route a major sandbag...and rated it high 4<sup>th</sup> class...any slip would entice a 2,000 foot fall down 80 degrees of pain. We retreated and will not underestimate, or place too much faith in any more guide books. We spent a night in Cortez, then made our way to the south rim of the **Grand Canyon**. Of course you know it is beautiful and big...so I won't ramble here. We then proceeded southward to Flagstaff, Arizona. The next day we were up at 3am and pounding out the miles to the highest point in Arizona...**Humphrey's Peak (12,633ft)**. With day time temperatures in the 95degree range, it was nice to be traveling under a full moon with temps in the 60-70's. We arrived at the top to find only an Apache man who had spent the night. Together we watched the sun come up over the Arizona desert...fitting seeing how there is a rising sun on the Arizona state flag. We dropped down to a saddle, then climbed up and over to **Mt Agassiz (12,355ft)**, the second highest



in this range and the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in Arizona. We topped out quickly, then descended to Flagstaff. From there we motored to the **Meteor Crater** Natural historic site... a high priced tourist trap, but worth it to see this monster of a hole created from an ancient meteor impact. We turned north again, and made our way back into Utah and home of **Zion N.P.** Zion is one of the most beautiful, in my humble opinion, of all the thirty-some national parks and monuments I have seen in my travels. Its beauty and popularity is rapidly growing necessitating a busing system within the park. The system works great though, very convenient, dropping hikers and tourists off at countless stops within the park at intervals of every 6 minutes. We did two great hikes including one to Observation Point. The (rated: strenuous) trip to the lookout takes hikers up through numerous sedimentary layers and colors. At the top one can look down into Zion Canyon...home of one of North America's hardest sport climbing routes...Necessary Evil at 5.14c. We left Zion and continued northward to **Bryce Canyon N.P.** This park host thousands of red and white towers of sandstone all jammed together to form cities and castles of sandstone. There are great hikes here... between the lookouts (rim trail), or beneath the rim down among the formations. We left here and spent just a short time at **Capitol Reef N.P.** before making our way westward into Nevada. In Nevada, we made our way to **Great Basin N.P.**...home of the Lehman Caves, **Mt. Wheeler** (13,063ft), and the oldest living things on earth...Bristlecone Pine Trees. There are a few trees here that date between 4,900 and 5,000 years old! Mt Wheeler used to be the highest peak in Nevada. At some point in time though, someone found that **Boundary Peak** (13,140ft) lay more in Nevada than in California...so it took over the top spot. Mt. Wheeler, at number two, however is still a great trip. We stayed at the upper campground just below Wheeler. The trail starts at 10,000 ft so our hike to the top was not overly strenuous. We topped out early in the day, so we dropped down to a saddle then climbed up to the summit of **Jeff Davis Peak** (12,771ft). In reading through the register here, we found a friend of Paul Jensen's had been to the top recently. Tom Sewell of Whitefish had left a Kingdom of Nepal Rupee in the register...Tom frequently climbs and hikes in Nepal (his wife is from there). The next day we headed for Montana and home, having climbed nearly 6 peaks, been over 13,000 ft three times and over 12,000 ft three times in 2 ½ weeks, plus visited 7 of our best National Parks. It was quite a trip. -Tony Sabol.

**Trapper Peak (10,157ft), Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>:** Fresh back from their southwest vacation, Tami and Tony Sabol opted for an autumn trip up the highest peak in the Bitterroot Mountains. From the top we were able to get great views and photographs of huge portion of the burned areas. This is an easy hike with only a short scramble, but the trip is always fun and scenic. -Tony Sabol.

**El Capitan, September 29<sup>th</sup>:** Karen Aplan and Tami Sabol started very early on a cloudy, windy, and dark looking morning, hoping the weather would improve. We began our hike up the Tin Cup Creek drainage under a light mist of rain. Unfortunately, about 4 miles up the trail, the light mist turned into a torrential downpour. As soon as our feet were soaked, we opted to turn around. On the way out, we met two other Rocky Mountaineers headed in. First, we met Bruce Britton and canine friend Angus, determined to make it to at least Kerlee Lake. Later, we met Brett Doucette near the trailhead. Brett also opted to continue to Kerlee Lake. Karen and I decided to save our energy for a power mountain bike ride up the Rattlesnake on Sunday. - Tami 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.





### 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
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

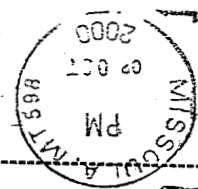
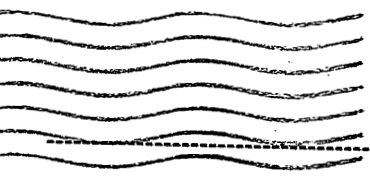
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Signature

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Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

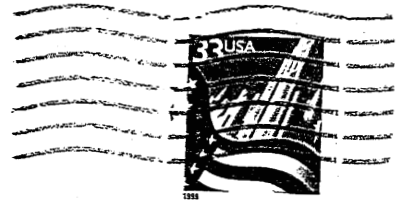




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