



# 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**

**\*\*\*NOVEMBER 2000\*\*\***

**CLUB MEETINGS:** Hey, it is time for the November meeting! **PROGRAM:** Paul Jensen, a very long time member of the Rocky Mountaineers, will give a slide presentation on the countless peaks and mountains Paul has climbed around Montana. Paul has climbed and hiked on 5 of the world's 7 continents, and has 3 of the 7 Highest Continental Summits to his credit. Members of the **General Public are welcome!!!** Please attend!!! The presentation will be held at the **Missoula Public Library, Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 7pm in the lower meeting room.**

## 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.

**November 12<sup>th</sup>, Idaho-Lolo Pass Excursion:** Looking for a day just to go out hiking and exploring? Julie Warner will have something planned for this area, depending on the weather. Hunting season will be over in Idaho by then, so you won't have to dodge any lead. We may ski if there is enough snow by then, or we will just hike and scramble to some peak tops. Call Julie for more information at 543-6508.

**November 18<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, Welcome Creek/Peak Hike:** Welcome Creek is a beautiful stream located up Rock Creek in the Welcome Creek Wilderness. There is a nice trail for a long way up this canyon, plus bridges across the lower creek crossings, and a scattering of some old mining cabins. At the upper end one can climb Mt. Cleveland...about 10 miles from the trailhead. Snow, and the short amount of fall/winter light, will probably make us turn back sooner. Call Steve Schombel for more information at 721-4686.

**December TBA, ICE CLIMBING!!** Are you interested in getting out to do some ice climbing this season? We'll be starting as early as possible...depending on weather and ice formations. Dates for climbs will be in the next newsletter, or climbs will be impromptu. If you have an interest, call Tony Sabol @273-2566 for more information, and to coordinate some climbs.

**Trip Leaders???** We are looking for people to lead all varieties of winter trips and excursions. Call the newsletter editor if you are interested in leading ice climbing, backcountry skiing or snowboarding, cross-country skiing, hiking, peak climbing, and snow-shoeing...to name but a few. The sky is the limit! Call 273-2566 now to be a trip organizer!

## TRIP REPORTS

**El Capitan, September 29<sup>th</sup>:** Karen Apland 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

**Rocky Mountaineer Cabin Trip, October 8<sup>th</sup>:** It was time for the yearly maintenance check and firewood cutting party up at the cabin. Penny Palm, Karen Aplan, Sally Cannata, and Brian Cannata headed up on a beautiful fall morning. They found the cabin to be in good shape and the wood supply in good order. They completed some maintenance work and certified the cabin as ready for another Bitterroot winter- Penny Palm.

**The Sleeping Giant, October 9<sup>th</sup>:** Located north of Helena, this prominent ridge and mountain resembles a true giant reclining back and taking it easy. Steve Schombel hiked up to the chest, the high point of the aptly named Sleeping Giant. You leave I-15 at Gates of the Mountains and take back roads to the locked gate in Towhead Gulch. From here it is a steep hike for perhaps a mile and then a more gradual ascent along the ridge for perhaps 2 miles to the shale covered top. I was rewarded with great views of Helena, Holter Lake, and the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness, including a view of the “gates”. One could drop way down for a tougher ascent of the Giant's nose and lips, but there are shorter approaches with landowner's permission. –Steve Schombel.

**Sky Pilot, October 15<sup>th</sup>:** Bridgett Hendrix and Tami Sabol hit the trailhead to this one and encountered snow at 6300 feet. As we hiked further and further, the snow began to deepen. In fact, by the time we were at 7500 feet, we were post-holing above our knees! I've never seen this much snow so early in the season! Looks like a great year ahead for back-country skiing. When we were 10 miles in, the mountain was clearly in view and in our grasp, but we knew it would be at least another 1½ hours to the summit – putting us back at the truck at close to 10:00 p.m. Since we both had to work early the next morning, and already exhausted and yearning for snowshoes, we began the long hike out. With daylight hours getting shorter, we made it back to the truck just before we were going to need headlamps. The fall colors were in full glory, and in contrast with the snow, there was not a place either of us would have rather been at that time. A great trip! – Tami Sabol.

**Black Mountain, October 15<sup>th</sup>:** Just because it's close to town and not a very big mountain doesn't mean that it can't be challenging! B. J. Schmidt, Jim Schultz, Fred Schwanemann, Abram Boise, Steve Schombel, David Kahl and Julie Warner climbed Black Mountain by a mostly off trail route that had an elevation gain of about 1000 feet per mile. The weather was nice and the views were great. It was nice not to have smoke obstructing the view of the peaks and valleys. –Julie Warner.

**Trapper Peak, October 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Karen Aplan and Tami Sabol celebrated the opener of the general hunting season in Montana with a climb of the highest peak in the Bitterroots. The climb went off without a bang (no hunters on the trail), and soon we had great views of all the burned areas in the Sula/Valley/Mussinbrod/Skalkaho areas of fires. There was a beautiful snow-dusted mountain range directly to the east, which are the Pintlars. We're definitely going to put them on the list for next year! We encountered about 2 feet of snow on the ridge to the summit! –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.



Date

Signature

Print Name

# 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

Signature

Date

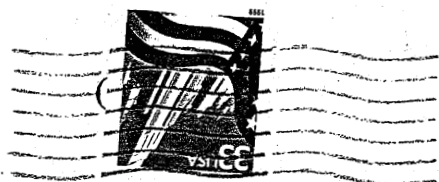


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