



# MOUNTAIN EAR

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS OUTDOOR CLUB

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

\*\*\*MAY 2001\*\*\*

**CLUB MEETINGS:** The April slideshow presented by Gray Thompson was awesome. We had over one hundred people attend the show that night, and we picked up many new members as a result. Due to that slideshow, the election of new officers was delayed until this month. The club will meet next Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at Bonner Park. Bring some picnic goodies to munch on during the meeting. We will have no scheduled speaker, as we will be undergoing the process of electing new officers.

With the newsletter coming out later into the month of May, Julie Warner felt she should be at the library in case anyone decided to come to our somewhat "traditional" meeting time of the second Wednesday of the month. Apparently a few folks from the club did show up, as well as club member Gerald Olbu (former President) and 17 others. The seventeen who did show up presented checks and membership applications to the club. They then told Julie that since they outnumbered the present Rocky Mountaineers, that they would be voting in their own members, and essentially taking over the club. The "election" that followed elected Gerald as the new President, and the other "officers" are unknown at this time. They then took the Clubs' checkbook from Julie, and then departed.

According to Article V, Clause 1 of the most recent set of By-Laws for the Rocky Mountaineers (March 1976), voting members have to have their dues paid by April 30<sup>th</sup>. This clause is in place to prevent hostile takeovers of the club by non-ethical means. It PROTECTS the club. For example, let's say ANY group of people....Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary Club, Green Peace, Blue Ribbon Coalition, Western Horsemen, Frogs Unlimited, or maybe even some Extremist Anti-Outdoor group wanted to take over the club. They could just show up at the time of elections and vote the club out of existence, seize all the club funds, and make off like banshees. Our preceding members envisioned this opportunity, and therefore put this clause in place, which essentially says that a person should be a member for at least one year prior to being able to vote in the Officer elections. This protects all of us, and our club.

As the above hostile election was held by INELIBLE voters, and was in violation of the By-Laws, their "election" is null and void. The seizure of the check book could be deemed to be theft, as well as other charges brought, possibly to include intimidation, assault, coercion, and fraud. We hope that the "new" treasurer will swiftly return the checkbook to Julie for safekeeping, until after the election next week is finalized. So please, if you have an interest in the club, attend the meeting on Wednesday. We apparently have 17 new people who are willing to join our club, four of which want to be new officers. Hooray! The By-Laws say nothing about a brand new member becoming an officer...so if they wish to volunteer, and if there are no other nominees or willing volunteers from the present pool of Rocky Mountaineers, it is feasible to have the folks elected in the null and void mock election...re-elected under ethical and legal means. SO, please come, support your club, and cast your vote for the people you want to guide the clubs' business.

With the annual election coming up next week, here is a set of revised by-laws from the March 1976 *Mountaineer*. If any present or past members know of a more recent set of by-laws please inform one of the officers. These by-laws reflect that the Rocky Mountaineers are no longer associated with any search and rescue group. Also provision is made for nominations from the floor, and a quorum is set at 20% of eligible members. Some years as few as ten or eleven would be enough for a quorum and a valid election.

In any election there will be winners and losers. Losers should be gracious and willing to work with all officers for the betterment of the club - otherwise don't run. And let's keep complaints and criticism to a minimum. There are better times to air gripes than at a monthly meeting. Let's all try to make the club fun.

# BY-LAWS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

revised March 1976

## ARTICLE I

### Name and Object

1. The name of this organization is the Rocky Mountaineers.
2. It is organized as a non-profit, joint-venture club for the mutual benefit of its members to promote all phases of the recreational use of the mountainous areas, and to encourage the safe use of wooded and alpine areas by the general public.
3. The Club will hold at least eight (8) meetings within a calendar year.

## ARTICLE II

### Membership and Dues

1. Membership is open to any individual or family upon payment of one year's dues.
2. The amount of yearly dues for active membership will be set annually by the Executive Committee, with the approval of the members.
3. Members who are at least twelve (12) years old and whose dues for the year are paid are eligible to vote on Club matters.
4. "Charter" members of the Club are those whose annual dues were paid as of March 15, 1960. (see attached list)
5. Club activities are entered at the risk of the participant. The Executive Committee will determine the necessity of a waiver of liability.

## ARTICLE III

### Officers and the Executive Committee

1. The elected officers are President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary.
2. The officer's duties are the ones usually associated with those titles.
3. These officers (Paragraph 1 above), and the most recent Past President constitute the Executive Committee.
4. The Executive Committee has all the powers of the Club in the intervals between meetings except authorizing expenditures in excess of 25% of previous years expenses. This Committee will meet on the call of its Chairman, or on the request of any three members of the Committee; and in any event will hold at least one meeting in every period of four months.
5. The financial records will be audited by a non-executive committee member and reported at the elections meeting.

## ARTICLE IV

### Elections

1. Elections will be held at the April meeting. Candidates will be presented by a nominating committee and may also be nominated from the floor. An office will be filled by a vote if there is more than one candidate for the vacancy. The candidate receiving the largest number of votes is elected.
2. Each successful candidate assumes office at the close of the meeting when elected and serves until a successor is installed.
3. In the event that an officer does not finish the term of office, a special election shall be held at the earliest meeting possible.

## ARTICLE V

### Quorum and Amendment of By-Laws

1. A quorum consists of 20% of all Club members eligible to vote as of April 30 of each year.

## 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 new Secretary- Newsletter Editor to be placed in this special interest climbing/hiking group.

**May 20<sup>th</sup>, Heart and Pearl Lakes Hike:** Located south of St. Regis, this hike will be about 4 miles one-way. This area had some fires last year, so it will be interesting to see the after effects. Call Julie Warner at 543-6508.

**May 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, Memorial Day, Ear Mountain:** Scramble up Ear Mountain west of Choteau. At 8580' it looks like the high point of the Sawtooth Range, that first range that rises so abruptly from the plains along the Rocky Mountain Front. There will be about 3500' elevation to gain in five to six miles, but from the parking area it looks like a lot of scrambling on slippery, shaley scree. Classic one step back for every two forward terrain. If there is too much snow up high we can substitute Haystack Butte, 6821', southwest of Augusta. Some people may want to head home Sunday evening, or we can use Monday to explore more of the Front. There are some fantastic canyons to hike in. Call Steve Schombel for information at 721-4686.

**May 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, Mt Rainier:** Climb this awesome 14,411 foot glaciated volcano via one of two routes. We will either be going up the Emmons or the Kautz Glacier Icefall. Glacier travel skills and equipment are a must. Call Tony or Tami Sabol at 273-2566 for more information.

**June 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, Chicago and St. Paul Peaks:** This 7,714-foot peak located near Noxon is a short and easy backpack (less than one mile) to a pretty little sub-alpine lake. Both peaks are easy scrambles. For the more ambitious you can try to cross a ridge and drop into a basin with a larger lake reputed to have lots of cutthroats. As many of you know, there is a large silver mine proposed for this area, which is well on the way to being permitted. This might be the last summer to visit this area while it is still fairly pristine. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for more information.

## TRIP REPORTS

**Arizona Backpack trip, March 17<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>:** Charles Tree and Steve Schombel spent a week in Arizona. Most of the time we spent sight seeing Hoover Dam, west side of the Grand Canyon, the Painted Desert, and the Petrified Forest National Monument: things like that. Our friend Mark, from Arizona, showed us the Apache Trail, a scenic drive along the north edge of the Superstition Mountains, and other nice places near Phoenix. The desert was really green and had the best flower blooms in 20 years, or so the locals said. We did a backpack in the central highlands between Phoenix and Flagstaff. We hiked up Fossil Creek into the Mazatzal Wilderness Area. In March at least, the quiet and solitude and stars at night were comparable to most Montana wilderness areas. Of course the topography and vegetation were quite different. Fossil Creek has carved out a nice canyon with small falls and several BIG swimming holes. Unfortunately it was also spring runoff in Arizona and so the water was too cold for more than a quick dip. It was very warm at night, Mark and I slept outside the tent. All in all, a very enjoyable trip. -Steve Schombel.

**Black Mountain, April 15<sup>th</sup>:** When you look at Black Mountain from Missoula, you can see logging roads. I have often had people ask me if you can hike to the top on logging roads. I knew that you could, but didn't know exactly where the logging roads went, so the purpose of this trip was to explore the logging roads and hopefully (unsuccessfully) keep out of the ticks. Eileen and Fred Schwannemann, Steve Schombel, and David Kahl joined me in this endeavor on a beautiful day. We explored the logging roads on the southside of the peak to a point where they met with logging roads from the east, which I already knew about. The result of these two routes, a longer route that the less skilled could follow to climb Black Mountain, and a second route that would be the best way for those who just want to go straight up to follow without going on logging roads. -Julie Warner.

**Earth Day, April 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Four people went for a hike up the cross-country ski route from the South Fork of Lolo Creek toward the West Fork Butte lookout. The hikers were Fred and Eileen Schwannemann, Brett Doucett, and Steve Schombel. We did approximately four miles, about halfway. We saw four kinds of wild flowers; buttercups, blue and yellow bells, and an early bloom of shooting stars. During the four hours we were hiking, we had four distinct kinds of weather, starting with bright sun and mild temperatures, then overcast, breezy with occasional sprinkles. At the turnaround there was a howling wind and stinging snow, followed by overcast and warm; and frenzied affiliations of the aforementioned. A fabulous way to spend earth day. -Steve Schombel.

2. These by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting by a simple majority vote of the entire voting membership; or, if the amendment was submitted in writing to all members prior to the meeting, then the by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those voting, a quorum being present.

## ARTICLE VI

1. Situations not covered by these by-laws will follow the authority of the latest edition of "Robert's Rules of Order"

### ROCKY MOUNTAINEER CHARTER MEMBERS

Gil Averill

John E. Stromnes

Loren Butler

Charles Travers

Robert M. Catlin

Archie (Scott) Tunnock

Tom Collins

Dick Dillingham

Jim Fredericks

Joanne Golden

Wayne Graff

John Green

Joe Gutkoski

Gary L. Hall

Lionel Hall

William Harryman

Garth L. Haugland

George Heliker

Betty Heliker (wife)

Russell Heliker (son)

Louann C. Layman

David Line

Thad A. Lowary

Evelyn Marks

Steve McIntyre

Gardner B. Miller

Mary Miller (wife)

Brock Miller (son)

Larry L. Rose

Doug K. Smauin

## 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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MISSOULA MT 59806

FIRST CLASS MAIL

