



MOUNTAIN EAR

Monthly Newsletter of the Rocky Mountaineers

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

*****August-September 2002*****

Rocky Mountaineers' Plans for the 02-03 Year

Budget Woes

In one way the Rocky Mountaineers imitate the State government. We have financial problems. The newsletter expense has gone up, and, coupled with the recent postage increase, will make it difficult to put out a monthly issue this season. We are no longer able to send out a lot of free issues. This will be the last Mountain Ear some of you will receive unless you join or renew. Our biggest expense by far has been trying to get our cabin back into the shape it was a few years ago.

We did manage to get a real good, hard-working crew up there this August, and we give our thanks to all of them. We easily met our main goal, which was to put some sheet metal around the stove to bring it up to Forest Service standards. And we had so many volunteers that we rented a chain saw and cut and split enough wood to fill up the bin under the front. Of course, this ran into a lot of expense for materials and rentals.

Instead of cutting back on club activities we would like to appeal to the generosity of our supporters. Would some of you please make a special donation to our club to reimburse those who paid for the above out-of-pocket, and for other expenses? Unlike State government we are only asking for a few fives or tens of dollars, instead of five or ten millions. Send it to the Rocky Mountaineers, P.O. Box 4262 and either earmark it for the cabin maintenance fund or the general fund.

We'll close by giving a very, very Big thank you to Nicky Phear and Colin Chisolm who have already made a generous donation.

Monthly Meetings

We are planning to hold monthly meetings as usual on the second Wednesday each month, September through May, starting at 7:00 PM. Just like last year we should be able to meet at the same time and place each month, in the second floor conference room of the Court House Annex (County Commissioners meeting room). Watch the newsletter and other sources for changes.

On September 11th we will have our usual relaxed meeting where members are encouraged to bring slides, photos and stories of their outdoor adventures of the past year. We would also like to hear what members do and don't like about programs and trips. And we might have some time to talk about finances. Whether to raise dues or to squeak by should be decided this fall.

Wednesday, October 9th will start our regular programs with a slide show by one of our veteran climbers, Bill Meyers, entitled "A Meek Mountaineer in the Alps." There are shots of the Eiger, the Jungfrau, the Matterhorn, and many other scenes from Europe.

CLUB CONTACTS

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TRIP REPORTS

June 23rd State Line Hike

This trip was led by Bob Clark of the Great Burn Study Group. He was a very knowledgeable host, and knew a lot about wildlife, tracks and scat. He also explained what people should do who want to participate in wilderness monitoring trips. (see Upcoming Trips for the last few monitoring trips of this summer season, and please volunteer.)

On our way up the Oriole Divide we met three guys coming down who had done an overnight trip. They reported seeing some wolves which came close before spooking. We hastened up to the site where we found tracks which, Bob said, were definitely wolf. We proceeded to the State Line, where we found several snowmobile tracks, but nothing recent. We speculated that they came in illegally from the Granite Pass area. We hiked another mile or so along the State Line, but decided that, since the deep snow had slowed us down, we would save Granite Peak for another day. Participants were Louis Crepeau, Bret Doucett, Fred Schwanemann, Carla Green, Steve Schombel and Bob Clark.

June 30th Mount Powell

Saturday, the scheduled day, was cold and rainy, and only three out of several callers showed up. We three agreed to try again, and on Sunday Kirk Arnold, Bret Doucett and Steve Schombel set out for Mt. Powell on a sunny day. We didn't quite drive to the Martin Lake trailhead because of mud, but had a nice hike. The flowers were unbelievable in the high meadows, and we jumped a moose along the trail. Steve and Bret decided to scramble up the steep slope to the top, while Kirk went on to Martin Lake. We were rewarded with a great view of many lakes and peaks in the Flint Creek Range. If you do reach this summit be sure to stroll east to where you can look down into the Crater, the huge cirque between Mount Powell and Deerlodge Mountain.

The Martin Lake approach to Powell is a good one. Although steeper, it has the advantage of being non-motorized and quiet and scenic.

July 7th Petty Mountain

This was an unusual trip for the 'Ears. The Albert Creek Road that was used to access the north trailhead was in worse shape than we remembered it being from the last time we were there seven years ago. The going was slow and then one car over heated so we had to shuttle everyone four miles in the remaining car.

We started on this trail at about 5,500 ft. around 12:30 and summited to wandering thunderstorms at 2 PM, and didn't stay on the top long. New (old) member Nancy Shrader, while hiking ahead of the group ran into a mamma and baby bear. None of the rest of us saw them. On the way back Nancy, Eileen Evens, Fred Schwanemann and myself, Julie Warner, hiked down to

another trailhead, below the stranded car, so only Steve Schombel, David Kahl and Lois Crepeau had to shuttle back. We had just started walking the road to the lower trailhead when Steve picked us up.

July 14th Graves Peak, Idaho

Six of us hardy R.M.'s, Steve Schombel, Ron Pierson, Julie Warner, Nancy Shrader, Bret Doucett and myself hiked to Graves Peak Lookout July 14th. We drove the Elk Summit road (360) to Kooskooskia Meadows road (358) There is plenty of room to dry camp at this trailhead. The trail starts out on an old road, watch for a hard right turn to get on to what will be a trail directly across from a small lake. Follow the trail which is flat for awhile, then the climb begins. You will come to another lake named Swamp Lake. At this point you can see the rocky ridge you will be hiking to. There are switchbacks once you leave Swamp Lake, but it is still a "grunt" to summit the ridge. Once on the ridge the trail is hard to locate, but stay on the Swamp Lake side of it, and head North through somewhat of a notch and you should be able to pick up the trail. At this point, you have a good view of the lookout and can pretty much follow the trail, or go cross country.

The elevation of the lookout is 8282 feet. The view is wonderful and well worth the hike. On the way home we stopped at the new Lochsa Lodge for food and refreshments. Nice day guys, thanks.

July 21st Babcock Mountain

Fred Schwanemann and Steve Schombel took Trail #10 in the Sapphire Mountains early on a fine summer day. The asters were blooming around 5,000' altitude and there was fireweed around 6,000' altitude. One grouse was the only wildlife we saw. It took a few hours to get up and a couple of hours to get down. We had lunch on top of Babcock Mountain and were glad we found our way through the maze of logging roads.

July 28th Work Party

We had a great turnout and give a big thank you to the participants: Julie Warner, Bret Doucett, Dave Kahl, Steve Schombel, Ralph and Mary Ann Flockerzi, Fred Schwanemann, Nicki Phear and Nancy Shrader. Most of us cut, split and stacked wood, while Fred, who had studied the specs, engineered the fireproofing around the stove. With so much help we got a lot done and got down well before dark. Fred and Steve are out some money for chain saw rental and materials, so would you please make a donation. We are also planning a work day late in September to clean up and stockpile wood. Those of you who use the cabin should help out, either with a contribution or with labor. Otherwise in the future you will travel up there without honor or luck.

UPCOMING TRIPS

August 18th Stonewall Mountain

Stonewall mountain lookout summit is 8270 feet. It is in section 23 T15N R9W on the National Forest map. It offers great views, and is a grunt to get there. The current L.O. was built in 1991 to replace a 1936 built 15 foot pole L-4. Elevation gain to the summit is 2800 + feet. We will drive about 7 miles out of Lincoln to the Copper Creek camp ground sign, hang a left and take that road about 8 miles to Snowbank Lake. The trail starts at Snowbank Lake. Meet at the chamber of commerce in Missoula at 7:30 A.M. Hope to see a bunch of you "gut buster Mountaineer's. Call Lois Crepeau at 728-5321 for information.

August 25th Trapper Peak

At 10,157 ft. this is the high point of the Bitterroots. There is a road that switchbacks way up, leaving about 3500-3750' gain and 4-5 miles to the top. There are great views of North Trapper and other surrounding mountains. To make the day less onerous the leader and some of her friends are planning to camp at the trailhead Saturday night. Plan on joining them or leaving town early enough to start hiking at 7:30 AM. Call Julie Warner at 543-6508 for information.

August 31st - Sept. 3rd Glacier Backpack

The goal is to do a long 16-mile backpack and climb Mt. Stimpson in about the most remote area of Glacier Park. This trip would take more than three days. If no one wants to do such a long trip we could try something shorter, like Swiftcurrent Pass. All of Glacier is magnificent. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 to make some plans.

September 8th Stuart Peak

This is one of the mountains looking down on Missoula that seems to ask people to reach the top. It is a nine mile hike along a steady uphill trail, with over 3000' gain, then a half mile scramble. Since the one spring along the way might be dry we also plan to drop down to Twin Lakes and refill our bottles. We will probably plan on meeting very early in the morning at the Rattlesnake Trailhead, but call Fred Schwanemann at 542-7372 for the details.

September 15th Lake of the Clouds

We will hike and scramble to Lone Tree Pass and look at this lovely lake in the Mission Wilderness. The Grizzly Bear closure will not allow us to drop down to the shore. Another destination is nearby Sunrise Glacier. People who want to do the easier, but still beautiful, hike to Turquoise Lake are welcome. Call Bret Doucett at 543-4927 or 728-6461, or Steve Schombel at 721-4686 to sign up.

Late September - Firewood

We are saving the last two weekends for another wood cutting day at the cabin. We cut so much in August that this one should be an easy day. However, we did leave a big pile of long small poles to clean up. We have also heard that the roof leaks a little, and need to brainstorm on how to fix it permanently. Please, anyone who has a chain saw to lend contact us and save us the rental expense. Call Julie Warner at 543-6508 or Steve Schombel at 721-4686.

Great Burn Monitoring Trips

Bob Clark sends an e-mail thanking all volunteers who have participated so far in monitoring trips. He says that the monitoring objectives are being met. There are trips scheduled the last three weekends in August, so please think about volunteering for this worthwhile project. The trips are:

August 16-18 Quartz Creek/St. Patrick Peak. Total miles @ 15

August 23-25? Goose Creek/Steep Lakes Idaho. Total trail miles @ 16.

August 31-Sept. 1 Goose Ridge/Short Point Idaho. Led by Matt Ward. Total miles @ 14.

To find out more about these monitoring trips or to sign up contact Bob Clark, Field Studies/ Outreach Coordinator at mtclarks@montana.com or call (406)-721-8789. Remember, a small stipend is available for hiking in the mountains.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND LIABILITY WAVIER

Family Yearly Membership: \$13.00

Make checks payable to: "Rocky Mountaineers"

and send to: Rocky Mountaineers
P.O. Box 4262
Missoula, MT. 59806

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

I have read this release and indemnity agreement and have fully informed myself of its contents before I have signed it. When I join or renew my membership I also sign on to this agreement.

Print Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

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

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, forces 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 its 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).



Rocky Mountaineers
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