

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**

*****November 2002*****

The Rocky Mountaineers Keep on Trekking

No, the Rocky Mountaineers are not the hottest act in town. We do not attract big crowds to our monthly meetings, nor do we usually get a lot of people out on our weekend trips. But we do keep plodding on. Every month we get one or two new people at a meeting or on a hike, or a request to receive a copy of the newsletter.

We are very happy with the large attendance for the two work days at the cabin we held. In October ten people participated and did a lot of work. Ron Pierson carried his chain saw up the hill, and we got the wood bin completely full. We decided not to climb all over the roof, but instead sealed up the holes we could reach from the ladder. The roofing material is only a few years old, and we have heard that it doesn't leak much, if at all - so we will probably let it go for a while. We have talked about putting on metal, but this would be a major project and require a lot of volunteer help plus donations. We didn't hear from the Bitterroot National Forest, so we assume that the fire proofing work we did in late July met their standards. Other workers on October 13th were: Charles Tree, Julie Warner, Mike McMichael, Fred and Eileen Schwanemann, David Kahl, Bret Doucett, Steve Schombel and Matt Galiher. We wish to thank Steve and Pat Niday, who not only renewed, but also made a generous donation to the cabin fund.

Our President, Julie Warner, also announces that the club has received a Federal tax I. D. number to use on the bank account, instead of using an officer's social security number. This is a step on the way to getting tax exempt status, and registering our name.

November Meeting

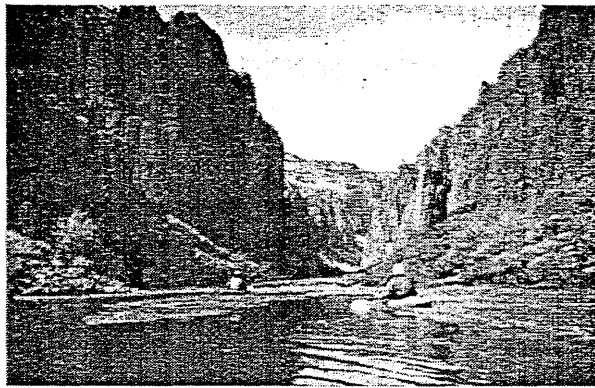
We have several fascinating meetings planned this fall and winter. On November 13th Peter Dayton will present a slide show on an 8-day, 130-mile kayak trip on the East and Main Forks of the Owyhee River. This river runs through remote and spectacularly scenic slot canyons in the high desert south of Boise, and is periodically punctuated with difficult boulder-choked rapids. Although this is one of the finest wilderness whitewater trips in North

America, the upper sections of the East Fork of the Owyhee only get visited by a couple of groups a year. These canyons are one of the little known gems of the Western USA, and Peter's photos are spectacular.

In December Jeremy Lurgio, photographer for the *Ravalli Republic*, will have slides and stories of back country skiing in the Bitter-

roots. In January Wayne Fairchild of Lewis and Clark Adventures will give a program on the upcoming Lewis and Clark bicentennial. Wayne worked with the late Stephen Ambrose, and will have some unique insights. In February we have scheduled Don Carroll, Missoula District Ranger, who will speak on a timely subject yet to be determined. In March or April we hope Bill Meyers will return again. We had an unfortunate bulb burnout that kept us from seeing most of his beautiful slides from the Alps.

We meet in the Court House Annex on Pine Street in the second floor meeting room on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM. Our meetings are free and open to the public, so bring a friend.



Rocky and Art below Widowmaker

TRIP REPORTS

September 15th Lone Tree Pass

We got an early start and made good time on the trail. After leaving the trail we quickly realized how rugged the terrain was. We bushwhacked up and down but did not find the goat trail until we were almost high above the upper end of Turquoise Lake. Here Kirk Arnold and Steve Schombel elected to stop and explore the basin below. Bret Doucett and Mike McMichael dashed up the trail, reached the pass and scouted out some routes up to Sunrise Glacier. We all rendezvoused back at the car just at dark.

September 22nd Mountain Bike Ride

Since there were no takers on the Holland Lake/ Great Divide Mt. Bike Ride, Lois Crepeau and I, Karen Aplan, opted for a different ride. We parked a truck at the Lumberjack Saloon on Graves Creek Road. We pedaled down to Highway 12 and on up to Howard Creek Road. We enjoyed some small rolling hills until the climb got a little more serious around mile 8. (I may add Lois has some interesting new geological terms for hills that I had never heard before!) We climbed along the ridge between Howard Creek and Graves Creek for about 12 miles, all during this climb we had fantastic views of the Bitterroot mountains and the peaks in the Fish Creek drainage. We had 1 confusing intersection at about mile 18, this intersection was not on the map. After conferring with some grouse hunters, we took a hard right and kept climbing up the ridge. At about mile 20 we hit the top and started on a fast track down the hill. We encountered some sand and ruts but otherwise had a quick cruise down to the truck. What a treat to have warm sunny weather in late Sept. We stopped for beer and burgers at the Lumberjack before heading home.

September 22nd Bass Creek

We thought a lot about Karen and her group humping their way over trails up by Seeley Lake. They had the same beautiful weather and great scenery just as we did up Bass Creek. Fred and Eileen Schwanemann, Nancy Shrader, Steve Schombel, David Kahl, Julie Warner and new comer Mark Bellus hiked about five miles back, above the worst of the trail climbing. None of us had been over the trail since they widened it a few years ago to repair the dam, and most of it was as we remembered except it seemed that there were switchbacks in some of the steeper places now. We discussed routes that previous club trips had used to climb St. Joseph's Peak, and watched for a turn off to Lappi Lake, the former site of the club cabin, but didn't see it. This was a great way to knock off ten or so miles on a Sunday afternoon.

September 28th Highline Trail in Glacier NP

Steve suggested this hike as an alternate to Siyeh Bend to many Glacier Hotel, which required much more driving. Fred, Eileen, Steve, Cathy, and her son Michael started off from Logan Pass about 10AM on a beautiful, cool day in Glacier National Park. The cable had already been removed from the cliff area at the start of the hike. There were icy spots here and on and off for several miles. The spectacular scenery began right away. The mountains above and across from the trail were covered with snow. Combined with the blue sky, clouds and many meadows below us, miles and miles of gorgeous scenery continued to appear. We saw many mountain goats about half way to Granite Chalet. We did not see any bears, but passed several piles of scat along the way. The one surprise while hiking were three joggers who passed us (barely) both going and coming back on their run. We could see Granite Chalet even before the Grinnell Glacier Overlook trail junction. Once to the Chalet, we had lunch on the top deck with super views. On the way down to the Loop we saw a small family of grouse. We finished the hike of 11.6 miles about 5PM and then went back up to Logan Pass to pick up the other car. All agreed it was one of the most beautiful hikes ever done.

October 6th Welcome Creek

Doing this creek the easy way turned out to be complicated. I thought I had scouted out the route to the trailhead, but got confused on the roads while riding up in Nancy's van. We ended up down the hill and about 1 ½ mile farther away than we should have been. But we hiked up the jeep road and found the signs to Welcome Creek. Some unmarked trails branch off, but stay on the road until you reach the Wilderness Boundary sign, which is at the crest of the Sapphires. We took a short side trip north along the ridge and found a large cairn and benchmark on top of Cleveland Mountain, where we had lunch. We returned to the road which soon narrowed to a trail. There were signs to Welcome Creek at each junction. Then it was just a long downhill trek along the creek. The middle section of the trail doesn't appear to get much use, and had some ups and downs. We were glad when we finally reached the other car parked at the suspension bridge. Everyone got back to town before dark except for Steve and Nancy who had to drive way up Three Mile Creek and retrieve the van. But we agreed that point-to-point hikes are worth the extra time and effort. Participants were Nancy Shrader, Fred Schwanemann, Bret Doucett and Steve Schombel, the confused leader.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND LIABILITY WAIVER

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).

TRIP REPORTS cont.

October 20th Lee Ridge Trail #295

Finding the continuation of the 295 trail (Lee Ridge) went pretty much as we expected except the walking on logging roads to the top of the ridge was about 2½ miles long. Once leaving the clear-cut where the trail is lost, the trail following the ridge line from there wasn't very strenuous, we came into a burn and the edge of another logged area but the trail was easy to follow in both areas. We came down on a logging road that wasn't on the newer maps, but the trail just crossed and continued down. We had left a car on Elk Meadow's Road and Karen Aplan, Lois Crepeau, Bit's Boone, Dorrit Karasek, and Julie Warner crammed into Fred Schwanemann's car for the 8 mile trip back to the other car up Lee Creek. The day started out cool and sunny, but it was spitting some graupel at us later in the day. All in all nice way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

October 26th Fisher Peak

We got lucky. This year the peak was almost free of snow even at the end of October. We made good time up the lower portions, and headed toward the northwest gully, which usually is a little easier than the climbs up the central ridge or face. But there was enough snow higher up in this gully to be troublesome. Ron elected to turn around here, while Bret kicked steps and clawed his way to the top.

Steve followed in his footsteps. We were rewarded by a chilly wind and the magnificent views of the Missions to the west and the Bob Marshall to the east. We did not want to descend by the same route, and started down the north ridge. But the snow was deeper here. Bret thought about going down the central ridge, but remembered that a gully south of the one we came up appeared to be dry. When we got to the head of the gully we found an easy way to get on the ridge between the gullies. This proved to be a good way to descend.

We have heard of people using this ridge both up and down, and think that it might downgrade this peak to a class 3. We invite other's opinions.

CLUB CONTACTS

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UPCOMING TRIPS

November 3rd Family trip to the Lochsa

This trip will be interesting to children, We will drive to the Colgate Licks, walk the nature trail and learn about the wildlife that use these warm springs. Then we will stop at the Powell Fish hatchery and learn about spawning salmon. The last stop will be the DeVoto Grove of large cedars. Some people will stop for a soak in Lolo Hot Springs on the way home. Call Julie Warner at 543-6508 for information.

November 10th Walman Trail

This is a strenuous hike, or possibly a snowshoe trip, up over a ridge in the Rattlesnake Recreation Area. This is one area where we can hike and safely and courteously avoid the hunters. Call Fred Schwanemann at 542-7372 for information.

November 10th Nyack Mountain

in the Middle Fork Flathead drainage, about 40 miles east of Kalispell and northwest of Great Northern Mtn. Scope it out for backcountry skiing later in the winter. Contact Jim Cossitt at 406-756-6818 or at jhc@abanet.org

November 16 & 17: Overnight trip in Jewel Basin.

Should be able to drive all the way to the trailhead, camp at Picnic or Black Lakes, do some climbing. Probably need snowshoes & standard overnight gear. Contact Jim Cossitt at 406-756-6818 or at jhc@abanet.org

November 17th Fred Burr Cookout

This is a short hike into this low elevation but very

scenic reservoir in the Bitterroots. We will build a fire and have a feast. Bring your own food and utensils. A small stove will be available to heat water. Tentatively we plan to meet at 10:30 near K-Mart, but this is weather dependent. Call Lois Crepeau at 728-5321 for the latest info.

November 24th Alberton Gorge

If it is dry we can drive to Rivulet and hike for several miles along the Clark Fork in the lower gorge. If there is enough snow we can go to the Tarkio Fishing Access and do a level ski tour along the old railroad bed. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for information.

November 28th-31st

Stay warm and dry this Thanksgiving. Call one of the officers (nos. on p. 3) to see if anything's cookin'.

December 7th

Cedar Peak at 5857' and @ five miles up a switchbacking trail from the West Fork Fish Creek road. If it's dry we can do a long loop through Chilcote Pass and down Straight Creek, but bring snowshoes. If the road is snowed in we can try to snowshoe to a lookout site near lower Fish Creek. Call Kirk Arnold at 327-0077 for information.

December 15th

Cross Country ski at Lolo Pass. Julie Warner is more than willing to give beginners some basic instructions, or to show intermediates some lesser known trails in this popular winter sports area. We can hope for a decent base. Call Julie at 543-6508 for information



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P. O. Box 4262
Missoula, MT 59806

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