



MOUNTAIN EAR

Monthly Newsletter of the Rocky Mountaineers

The Rocky Mountaineers is organized as a nonprofit Club for the mutual benefit of its members to promote all phases of recreational use of mountainous areas.

May 2003

FISH AND WILDLIFE IN REMOTE ALASKA

On Wednesday, May 14th the Rocky Mountaineers meeting will be in the large room downstairs at the Missoula Public Library at 7:00 PM. We have a fine slide show by Richard Anderson, one of Missoula's avid fly fishermen and former fly fishing shop owner. He and his companions spent a whole week floating down a small river in Alaska, out in the wilds. Here is how Rich describes the trip:

"The American Creek, approximately 90 miles of class II, III and IV water, flows out of Hammersly Lake and winds its way through Katmai National Monument to Lake Colville. Although the river is floated occasionally, we did not encounter any one else, nor did we see signs where anyone had been there that year. From Hammersly to Colville the river drops approximately 1500' in elevation. It is a torrid float.

The river is located about 400 air miles southwest of Anchorage, and is accessed by float plane from King Salmon, approximately 40 minutes flying time to Hammersly Lake.

The trip took seven days - August 18 through August 24, 2001.

The weather was typical Alaska, highs in the 50's, lows in the 30's with periods of rain and wind. Even in mid August there was snow fringing Hammersly. If one encounters problems, there is no easy way out. There are places a helicopter could get to you, but they are far and few.

Although the river holds many large rainbow that migrate in and out of the lakes we did not encounter them. We did catch arctic char to 8-9 lbs.

We encountered 37 bears, large, Brown bear (grizzly), with a number of females with cubs. One of the highlights of the trip was a close encounter with a large, blond wolf at 30 yards.

Kathy and I took an extra three days and drove to

Denali where we saw moose, more wolves and grizzlies, and caribou, Dall Sheep, eagles, etc.

The trip cost was approximately \$1,400 / person for everything, including motels, tickets and the trip to Denali.

Trip members - Dave Levison. Rich Anderson. Kathy Frantzreb and Bob Proctor."

This show will be very interesting to those who have dreamed of the fish and wildlife in wild Alaska. There will also be valuable information for those who are interested in the backcountry but don't like the expense of lodges and outfitters. Our meetings are free and open to the public, so come on out!

THE ANNUAL ELECTION

At the May 14th meeting we will also have our annual election. Julie Warner is willing to serve one more year as President and Treasurer, And Steve Schombel will serve as Vice-President and edit the newsletter. They share the duties of maintaining the membership list and arranging the monthly meetings. We will take nominations from the floor, and it would be nice if some others would be willing to take over eventually. But it really isn't too hard to run a small club of people who like each other and get along well.

The other thing to remember is that only members of our club, the Rocky Mountaineers, will be eligible to vote. They are defined in the bylaws as those whose dues are current as of the last day of the month prior to the month the election is held in. The election shouldn't take long, then we will have the entertaining show.

Also note that this newsletter has Trips and Other Events through the end of June. You will not get another newsletter until the end of June, with summer activities.

TRIP REPORTS

April 6th Bear Dance Trail

We had great weather and a decent turnout for this hike. The trail climbs steadily uphill through a nice forest, but is not too steep. There are a lot of views of Flathead Lake below. We did encounter deepening snow for about the last mile, and stopped to eat and turned around at the first logging area. The participants were: Fred Schwanemann, Bobbi Ewing, Will Butler, Julie Warner, Lois Crepeau, Karen Aplan, and leader Steve Schombel. Watch for the Bear Dance Trail sign and parking area on Highway 35 between Yellow and Woods Bay. - Steve

April 13th Crazy Canyon

It looked like the spring skiing would be poor, so Karen Aplan, Julie Warner, David Kahl and myself hiked up Crazy Canyon with a side trip up the steep trail to the top of Mount Sentinel, then down what I believe is the Hellgate Canyon trail to the Kim Williams trail. It rained most of the day and with the fog rolling in and out on Mount Sentinel we didn't have many Kodak moments. It was a fun day though. - Lois Crepeau

April 20th Rattlesnake Creek

Eileen and Fred Schwanemann hiked along Trail 99 in the Rattlesnake Recreation Area to Fraser Creek. We had lunch there and were joined by Bobbie Ewing. We all hiked about a half mile plus further down Trail 99. On the way back, we took the Fishing Trail to see the beaver pond and house and a second beaver house down from the pond. We saw two hawks and a whitetail deer. We found the Pasque wildflowers that had started to bloom. We ended up hiking about eight miles. - Fred

April 27th Nine Pipes and Bison Range Kids Day

In attendance were youngsters Michael, Mollie, Gharret and Hanna and adults Julie, Dave, Steve and Cathy. At the bird refuge we saw many varieties of ducks, grebes, geese and goslings, swans and a juvenile coyote. In the distance were some large trees that were rookeries, full of birds and nests. After lunch we stopped at Nine Pipes Museum with some of the West's best bead work and a life-size diorama of wild animals. Then we drove to the National Bison Range and saw bison, antelope and a few elk. All in all the day was packed with wildlife.
- Cathy Burleson

April 27th Steershead Bloom

Late in the week Lois called several people and told them that the Steersheads were out but fading fast. Fred and Eileen Schwanemann were hoping to join some others, but went up together and found only 7 blooms that were pretty wilted. But the weather was great, and areas along the trail were carpeted in trillium or glacier lilies, or both. They had a real nice hike.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 31st Trailhead Educational Fair

This event is sponsored by the U. S. Forest Service, and is free and open to all. We think it is the kind of learning experience that will be interesting to our members and their friends and family. It will run from 11 to 4 at the main Rattlesnake trailhead.

The purpose is to provide education that helps reduce impacts to our wildland recreational areas, and to promote the "share the trails" concept.

There will be five stations. You can learn the proper way to reduce impacts from horseback riding, camping, and mountain biking. The other two stations are on bear awareness and weed control and education.

People are welcome to come and go as they please, and to spend as much time as they want at each, or all, of the stations. There will be people to talk to, answer questions, and give live demonstrations at each of the stations.

For more information you can call Allen Byrd at the Lolo National Forest, 329-3936.

The Practical Ethics Center at The University of Montana presents *Sheer Decency: Ethics of Climbing & Mountaineering June 2 - 7, 2003*

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What is climbing "by fair means"? What do climbers owe each other? What are their responsibilities toward their environments and those who support their climbs?

This course will bring together the words of climbers and the wisdom of philosophers to examine such issues, and to reflect on the endeavor of climbing itself. From climbing for personal exploration to commercialized peak bagging, ascending the rock is increasingly raising questions of ethics.

Information can be downloaded directly from our website, www.umt.edu/ethics <<http://www.umt.edu/ethics>>. or contact the Practical Ethics Center: 406-243-5744 or ethics@selway.umt.edu <<mailto:ethics@selway.umt.edu>>.

June 22nd Rock Creek Weed Pull

The Westslope Chapter of Trout Unlimited has adopted the Valley of the Moon Area as part of an "Angler's Against Weeds Program." They are hoping for a lot of participation from everyone for this first of an annual event. There will be botanists to give information, followed by 2-3 hours of work. Participants will receive a t-shirt and a free lunch, but you must notify coordinator Diana Six at 243-5573 or six@forestry.umt.edu so she has enough food. Meet at the Valley of the Moon at 9:30 or call Steve below if you need a ride.

If anyone has energy after lunch Steve Schombel would like to hike up Ranch Creek. This large side canyon to Rock Creek looks very interesting, and the first few miles of trail should be gentle. You can call him at 721-4686 or talk to him at lunch.

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).

DAVID LINE REMEMBERED

David Line crosses through The Great Pass to the Forever Trails.

David Line, one of the founding members of the Rocky Mountaineers in 1960, passed away on April 3rd, 2003. David lead one of the club's first trips, to McLeod Peak on October 15th, 1961. This was a time when articles on the Mountaineer's adventures appeared in the daily newspapers on a regular basis; both upcoming events and trip reports. David had a long history of leading trips, as members from the 1980's fondly remember trips with David as their leader.

David served as treasurer and president of the Rocky Mountaineers from October of 1967 until 1970. During this time he spent considerable time preparing a guide to short hikes for summer students at the University of Montana. He authored a memorial about Thad Lowery, for whom the Mission Mountain Peak is named. He also had compiled a complete collection of all the Mountain Ears and other club papers, including the three sets of bylaws, during his life long membership in the club.

In this respect he was an invaluable resource.

David's interest in hiking remained into his 70's and he remained an undaunted enthusiast of 2-footed activities. We can only honor him today by continuing in the groundwork he laid for us and renew his vision for the club. - by Virginia Vincent and Julie Warner

We would like to note that, so far, the club has received \$38 in donations in David Line's memory. We thank these people and will list all the contributors in the next issue.

CLUB CONTACTS

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UPCOMING TRIPS and other EVENTS

May 17th First Lake up Bass Creek

The first small lake up Bass Creek is about 1¼ miles up a good trail. There is some uphill, but kids and people of all ages can make it with not much trouble. There are also some rocks and rapids along the way to interest them. Call Julie Warner at 543-6508 if you're interested in a family outing.

May 25th Babcock Mountain Trail

Trail #10 leaves the Rock Creek Road just upstream from the Valley of the Moon Bridge and switchbacks up the hillside on the east. Last spring the wildflowers were out-of-the world along the trail, and they should really be blooming again this time of year. Later last summer two of us returned and followed logging roads for several more miles and then scrambled up to a wooded hilltop we are pretty sure was Babcock Mountain. We had views of the small mountains around Rock Creek, but the best part of the trail is the lower part. Call Fred Schwanemann at 542-7372 for information.

May 31st "Trailhead Educational Fair"

June 22nd Rock Creek weed pull with Trout

Unlimited - see page 2 for information on these "other events."

June 8th Cascade Trail, Lower Clark Fork

This is a nice and scenic trail that starts from a paved highway along the "St. Regis Cutoff" area. It is about five miles of steady uphill to where you reach a ridge top with great views in all directions. Call Will Butler at 543-6744 to participate.

June 14th Doney Lake and Pike's Peak

This is a nice hike into a scenic basin then a scramble up a gentle open ridge to the summit. It looks to be 6 or 7 miles and a little over 3,000' gain. The Flint Creek Range has a whole lot of lakes to look down on. Call Bret Doucett at 728-6461 or Steve Schombel at 721-4686 to join in.

June 28th Pony Lake and Union Peak

On the map it looks like this would be a short hike, But - the newer forest service maps do not show a trail to Pony Lake. Union Peak looks like it's not as steep as Swan. But, the organizer and other participants have not been in this area before, and it is rated "C" in Pat Caffrey's *Climbers Guide to Montana*. We are going to prepare for a long and difficult day. Ron Pierson is the organizer, at 370-5470, but if you want to go along be willing to stay with and work with the group.



Rocky Mountaineers
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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE