



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.

*****October 2003*****

Glacier National Park Slide Show October 8th in the Library

The Rocky Mountaineers are very excited to be able to offer to the public a slide show from recent years of one of our favorite areas, Glacier National Park. These will be done by a well known professional photographer, Chad Harder. Chad is a Missoula-based photojournalist who has worked in more than a dozen countries and many of America's national parks. His work has appeared in scores of magazines, newspapers and books, from Paddler to Redbook, from Montana Magazine to the Fort Worth Star/Tribune, and his work has hung in galleries across the country.

Chad has called Missoula home for most of the last 12 years, leaving briefly to receive a degree in photojournalism from the University of Minnesota in the early '90s. He has logged hundreds of miles exploring Montana's extraordinary mountains, with the Bitterroots and Glacier National Park occupying much of his time. He has received numerous regional and national awards, and was funded through the University of Montana's Hansen Endowment with Ari Levaux last year to document the melting glaciers of the Park. Many of the images appearing in the October 8th slide show will be from that project, with views from Heaven's Peak, Mount Siyeh, the

Ptarmigan Wall, Split Mountain and numerous other excellent vantage points within the park.



Chad also has been writing the *Mountain High* column for the *Missoula Independent*, and would like some feedback. He could offer some observations, and might even have pictures, of how Glacier Park fared after the fires last summer. This meeting will be at 7:00 P.M. Wednesday, October 8th in the large room downstairs at the Missoula Public Library. It will be free and open to all.

Starting in November, the monthly meetings will return to the second floor meeting room in the Court House annex (County Commissioner's Room). We will continue to meet on the second Wednesday each month through May, starting at 7:00 P.M. On November 12th we want to pay

tribute to two club leaders who passed away recently, David Line and David Pengally. We ask all readers who knew them to please bring some stories, slides or photos. Share with us their accomplishments, so that the club can remember its past.

In December we will have a dinosaur researcher, Mary Lynn Swick, talking about her field work, and in January Steve Schombel will have some slides of several year's spring time trips to Arizona and Utah.

Trip Reports

August 31st: Smoke everywhere cancelled the planned Lolo Peak trip and sent everyone scattering to distances further from Missoula to find good hiking. Eileen and Fred Schwanemann, David Kahl and Julie Warner drove above Philipsburg to hike the five mile trail to Edith Lake. First having hiked this about 8 years ago, at that time a new trail had just been put in and I remembered it as a nice trail to a beautiful lake. That's exactly what it still is. The day was beautiful and it was hard to leave the peaceful lake in the shadow of Warren Peak. This head water of Rock Creek had plenty of water in the stream with some beautiful small water falls, because it was getting water from both Edith and Johnson lakes. This Gateway to the Anaconda Pintlar Wilderness is in beautiful country, with some recovering old burns. - Julie

September 14th Fuse Lake: This was planned as a kid's day, but none of the parents were able to make it. But the fires were out and Steve Schombel, Jim Goss and Cathy Reich took their dogs for a walk in the mountains. We could see the scars of recent fires, and drove through some areas that had burned in 2000. Skalkaho Falls had plenty of water. It was a nice 2 to 2 1/2 miles with not much climbing to this pretty lake below some cliffs. The first mile of trail was very badly chewed up. My guess would be that it had been dug out for a fire break. The rest of the trail was in fine shape. The Sapphire Mountains are not as high and rugged as some other ranges, but it is interesting to explore different areas. The weather was perfect and there were only a few others at the lake. - Steve

September 21st McCormick and Josephine Peaks
After taking a closer look at maps and calculating the miles and elevation to be gained and lost, we decided to skip Blackrock and just try for a point to point hike over two peaks. The first thing we noticed after taking the side road to the Josephine trailhead was that this road was quite overgrown and hardly driven upon. When we reached the Kelly hump it looked like there would be several miles to hike along this obscure road before reaching the trail. Someone had a brochure that said this trail was not maintained. Plus we could see a large burned area, probably from Y2000, between us and the summit. But we left a car here and drove on up to the McCormick trailhead, which does have a sign. It would really help to have a map that shows the numbers for all of the roads, unlike the latest Lolo National Forest map.

At least the trail to McCormick is still in good condition, with only a little downed timber. The view from the top is as nice as the one from nearby Shining Mountain, although McCormick is lower and doesn't have as large an above timber rock field. But it's a lot shorter and not visited nearly as much.

Then we descended toward Josephine. This trail was surprisingly faint for a trail that's supposed to be a main thoroughfare along the Reservation Divide all the way to Siegal Pass. But when we got close to the low point of the saddle we entered a terrible brushy area with a lot of deadfall tangled in. After struggling for several hundred feet we stopped to consider that we had another mile and over a thousand feet to the top of Josephine. And, based on what we saw in the morning, we thought it would be tough to find the other car from there, and decided to turn around. We got back with out any difficulties. Some of us would like to return and try Josephine from the lower trailhead before trying the two in one day again. Participants were: Fred and Eilene Schwanemann, Bret Doucette, Jim Goss, Brian Moore and - Steve Schombel -

September 27th Cabin Work Day: It's amazing how we always have enough people to do what needs to be done, even on a picture perfect day with so many other tempting things to do. Julie and Steve really thank all the participants, regulars like Bret Doucette who go up year after year and help. And then there are new people like Karl Sutton and Darci Jones who haven't even used the cabin yet but who pitched in and did more than their share of the splitting. And there was young Gharret Warner who spent a couple of hours in the bin making neat stacks of wood. We especially thank Jim Goss who furnished the chain saw and did the cutting.

Unfortunately, there are a lot of bigger projects that need to be done. The roof is getting very brittle, the latrine is about full, and the chimney needs a good scrubbing. These projects will take some money and a lot of dirty labor. Regular users of the cabin should think long and hard about participating if it is to remain a pleasant winter time experience, and not become a slum. People have to realize that the Rocky Mountaineers are a small group with low dues and no cash reserve. We have to get more help from users, or else we are going to have to let the cabin deteriorate. (cont. p 3)

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).

August 12 - 16th Missouri Breaks:

This trip had been planned for May, but the cold and wet weather forced a cancellation. Then the fires indirectly caused the Missouri Breaks canoe trip to be cancelled - the leader was called to guard duty. Steve Schombel decided to go explore what he could by car and on foot, and at the same time get out of some of Missoula's smoke.

The Missouri Breaks Scenic Byway crosses the lower end of the Missouri Breaks National Monument. The west end starts at Winnifred, which can be reached from Lewistown or over Judith Landing. It gets into some wild and rugged country. There are some spurs out on ridges with viewpoints, and down to the river bottom. The scenery is magnificent, and no lights at all at night. There are no trails now, but lots of places to hike down draws. Some of the area is in a wilderness study area, closed to motorized vehicles. You can camp anywhere there is public land, except during fire restrictions. There is one primitive campground along the river down one of the roads. These roads are dirt and get steep in places and would be totally impassable if the weather was slightly wet.

Next I went to Ball Rock Point, farther east on the north side of Fort Peck Reservoir. There is a good gravel road to the UL Bend fishing access. On top of the ridge there is a dirt road that leads 10 miles into an area even more remote than the Missouri Breaks. Then you reach another wilderness study area, and it is another eight miles hike along an overgrown road to this hill that looks down on Fort Peck and across hundreds of miles of bad lands. There are a lot of deer and elk in the area. Without the wilderness it would just be a boring drive along rough roads - in dry weather.

CLUB CONTACTS

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Upcoming Trips

October 12th Stark Mountain Lookout: This will be the last weekend to drive all the way to this lookout. Even if the gate is closed it is only a few miles of hiking along the road to the top. There are also trails and a long ridge to explore after seeing the lookout. This is another trip geared toward kids. Call Julie Warner at 543-6508 for information.

October 19th Turquoise Lake: This is a good six or seven mile hike into one of the most scenic areas on the east side of the Mission Mountains. The first part of the trail is new, with a gentle grade and many switchbacks. The last couple of miles have many branches and rocky areas, with some other lakes along the way. Turquoise is a little hard to find but well worth the effort. There are many other great areas nearby, for the stronger hikers who may want to follow Bret deeper into the mountains. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 or Bret Doucette at 728-6461 for more information.

October 25th The Walman trail in the Rattlesnake: This is a good hike on a crisp fall day. Here is some reassurance for some of our careful members: it will

be in a no hunting zone and will be the day before opening day. Join the good company and see some of Missoula's back yard. Call Fred Schwanemann at 542-7372 for more information.

November 2nd Lost Lake: This lake is relatively low in the Superior area. It is about 45 minutes up a dirt road, then a three mile hike with 1000 - 1500' gain, roughly. The trail is interesting and loops around a ridge instead of heading up a drainage. The country is very open for exploring around or above the lake. Bring warm clothing, and a lunch. Hunters orange is strongly recommended. We will meet at Durangos Restaurant in Superior at 9 A.M. Call Jim Goss at 406-822-5000 or e-mail jgoss@bigsky.net for information. Steve at 721-4686 might have carpool information from Missoula.

November 8th Alberton Gorge: It is a very pleasant off trail hike along the upper end of the gorge. The first part along Fish Creek is steep and can be slippery. Then there is another mile or so along cobbles, some sandy beaches and up and over rock outcroppings. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686.



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