

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.

April 2004

Brennan's Wave

WHITEWATER IN DOWNTOWN MISSOULA

The meeting on April 14th will feature a presentation about creating a whitewater play area in downtown Missoula named after Brennan Guth. Brennan was the kind of guy that made his dreams come true. He became one of the world's finest kayakers. He also dreamed of how much outdoor-loving Missoulians would appreciate whitewater downtown. Unfortunately he died in a tragic boating accident in 2001 before he had a chance to work on this project.

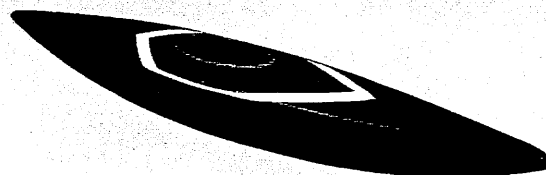
But others have stepped forward to carry on this good work. There are three principals involved; Dr. David Guth, Brennan's father, who has done a lot of fund-raising and has helped start the World Class Kayak Academy. Then there is Trent Baker who is with the Missoula Whitewater Association and has gotten a lot of people behind this project. Last is our speaker, Paul Callahan, a hydrologist by trade. He will do a power point presentation on Brennan's Wave. Paul is not a kayaker himself but fishes mainly. He firmly believes that the more different types of people who actually use an area for recreation the more likely it is the area will be protected and restored.

There will be many benefits from this project. The river bed and banks will be cleared of concrete rubble and decades worth of accumulated debris and trash. The existing dam, which is a safety hazard, will be removed. The project will enhance opportunities for people to observe and participate in river activities. Brennan's Wave will be used by local search & rescue, individuals, and groups as an educational facility for kayaking, rafting,

and river safety/swift-water rescue. The project will improve fish habitat and oxygenation of river water. It will also lend stability to the river bed and help protect the Garden City Islands from erosion. Lastly, Brennan's Wave is expected to generate economic benefits similar to the ones generated by whitewater facilities throughout the country. For example, Golden, Colorado estimates that 1.4 million dollars comes into their community annually from their downtown whitewater facility.

It is hoped that Brennan's Wave will just be the start of the entire stretch of downtown water being cleaned up. Think of what the river is like now and imagine what it could be like with clean beaches and whitewater waves and people playing out in the water. But more needs to be done. Typically, there is a need for fund-raising. The necessary approvals have been granted, but this project competes for attention with several other proposals.

Come to the meeting and learn more. There will only be a little bit of Rocky Mountaineers business before the entertaining presentation. The meeting is on Wednesday, April 14th at 7:00 P.M. in the second floor meeting room of the Courthouse Annex on West Pine Street. It is free and open to everyone.



TRIP REPORTS

March 6th Moonlight Ski: Cathy Burleson, Steve Schombel and Michael Bowles went up to Lolo Pass late in the afternoon and skied the Glade Creek Loop at sunset. It was quite an experience to see this area in a different light. Then we were joined by several others for a cookout. These tailgate parties high in the snow covered mountains are a lot of fun. Next we skied under the moonlight out to Packer Meadows. It was cloudy mostly, but occasionally the moon and Jupiter would shine through a clear patch. We did the short loop on our way back, and the snow was excellent. Participants were Eilene Evans, Fred and Eilene Schwanemann, Steve Schombel and the organizer Lois Crepeau.

March 13th Family Day: The trip to Butte was disappointing because none of the museums nor visitor centers were open. We went to the Berkeley Pit viewing area and walked around the historic uptown a little. Then Julie and Dave took grandkids Mollie, Gharret and Hannah to Fairmont while Steve, Cathy and Michael walked along Silverbow Creek. Butte does have a nice path and series of ponds and wetlands with lots of birds where there used to be a wasteland along the interstate.

March 21st Alberton Gorge area: On Sunday Fred and Eileen Schwanemann, Bret Doucett, Cathy Burleson, Steve Schombel, Michael Bowles, Kerry Miller, Peter Weckesser, Charles Tree, Julie Warner, and Dave Kahl took Trail 344 from McGinty Gulch to Whiskey Gulch and back. We saw a couple of deer, a grouse, a bald eagle, and a lot of woodpeckers. It was a good day.

Tim Thompson of the 'Missoulian' took pictures of the group part of the way.

March 27th Freezeout Lake: This trip was not advertised. You have to go when the birds are there. Saturday afternoon Robin Young with son Jesse and Steve Schombel and Cathy Burleson with son Michael arrived at the lake just as flocks of geese were leaving. V after v flew over high above. We drove around and saw several pelicans and Canadian Geese, and many different ducks and a couple of swans. There were only a few Snow Geese on one of the ponds. Sunday morning we went back and there were thousands of Snow Geese on the same pond. As we were watching they got noisier, then one end started to lift off, then it was like an eruption; within seconds the huge flock was up in the air. This is quite a wildlife spectacle a few hours away. Karen Apland and Lois Crepeau were also there Saturday.

April 4th Bass Day Trail: There were a lot of people on this fine spring hike. The snow was gone and buttercups, Pasque flowers and Yellowbells were blooming. There were also pussywillows and butterflies along the way. Steve and Janet Harrison took young son Cory on the short Fire Ecology Trail while the rest of us did the 6½ mile outer loop. The others were: Cathy Burleson and Michael Bowles, Janet and Mike Lilley, Fred and Eileene Schwanemann, Barbara Ross, Amanda and Stephanie Rex, Peter Weckesser, Kerry Miller, Julie Warner, Dave Kahl, Bret Doucett, Sharon Dill and leader Steve Schombel.

ANNUAL ELECTION

There will be an election of officers at the meeting on May 12th. The current officers (see below) are willing to serve another year, but the club is getting larger which means more work. It'd be great if we had one person in each office to share duties. Also according to the bylaws it is past due for a new President. Steve especially hopes that someone would either take over the newsletter or serve as Vice President. Please volunteer at the April meeting or call or e-mail us. We will also take nominations from the floor in May. Remember your dues must be paid up by May 1st to be eligible to vote.

CLUB CONTACTS

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THE MOUNTAINEARS

The complete set of our newsletters has now been scanned and will be burned on CD's soon. There may even be some available at the next meeting. There will be an announcement on where and how people can obtain a copy. They are full of interesting information: route descriptions, safety tips, stories, original artwork and more!

We cannot thank Steve Niday enough for volunteering to do this valuable task for our club.

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.

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).

WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE UPDATE

We did get some responses to the questions and photos we ran in the newsletter last March in spite of the fact they were over forty years old. First was the following e-mail from Jim Ulrich, former club leader from the 1970's:

I think the woman in the light colored outfit on page one is probably Cari Day. At the time she was married to or dating Al Day (still in Missoula); Cari is in Seattle (I think). A couple of the other people look familiar, but I cannot recall any names. Al was president around 1970, I was in 1972 or so.

Jim Ulrich

Then your editor had a long phone conversation with Patrick Leonard from Corvallis, who was an active club member in the 1960's and quite a Mountaineer. He knows what the people are doing: these are photos of early day climbing classes. The photo on the front page is of course an early method of rappelling. Not only is the clothing different but the lack of harnesses and braking devices is interesting. He goes on to say that the inside photos involving a hoisted log were a type of belaying training that was featured in a *Summit* Magazine article from the early 60's. The idea was to hoist a roughly 200 pound weight

with two pulleys and have some kind of release device to suddenly drop it. He said this would give a very good idea to a learning belayer what the feeling would be if his partner above took a bad fall. He says the man in the photo going head over heels shows the result of a belayer who is not properly anchored. And he said that his military training included such exercises with countless hours of "drop and catch" training.

Patrick Leonard also thinks that the woman on the left on page one is Shirley Braxton; and the other person was her son Dalt. Although the people were small in the inside photos he thinks the tall man at the base of the tree was Sam Braxton who was quite statuesque and a natural leader. Sam died in the late 1980's but his wife Shirley is still with us.

We had a new question from Randy Alford, a former member of the campus group in the 1960's. He remembers going on a hike to the Lappi Lake Cabin which was led by Sam Braxton. Last summer he took his son to this site, but only found a pile of burned timbers. He was wondering when this cabin was burned and why. Can any of our readers provide the answers?

UPCOMING TRIPS

April 17th Snow Climb to something in the Selway-Bitterroot. The most likely candidates are a gully on the south side of St. Joseph Peak, gully on the south side of the east Heavenly Twin, or the north side of the east Como Peak. I anticipate a steep snow climb and an ice axe will likely be necessary, with crampons optional, dependent on conditions. I will not be carrying a rope. Since I have not led a trip for the Rocky Mountaineers in many years I would like to offer the following comments. By "leading" the trip, I mean I will act as the coordinator for transportation and make sure everyone has a ride home. I will not act as a shepherd, and will not require that you go my way. If you want to go faster than me, great, you can break trail. I do not expect you to wait on me. The converse is also true. If the weather sucks, I am not going. If conditions dictate, I will pick a different objective. Steve Niday 721-3790 or seniday@yahoo.com

April 18th Mt. Sentinel Area: We will hike from Pattee Canyon to the Kim Williams Trail via Crazy Canyon. Shuttling some vehicles will be necessary. For more information call Fred Schwanemann at 542-7372

April 24th Lolo Trail: Springtime "get the kids out" Lewis and Clark/Lolo Trail hike. We'll pick a section near Lolo Hot Springs for an easy day of hiking, appropriate for children 8 and up. We'll be watching for springtime Pasque flowers, Buttercups and Glacier Lilies.

Afterwards hikers may want to soak and swim at the springs. A joint venture with the Rocky Mountaineers and Sierra Club. Call John Wolverton 258-6477 or Julie Warner 543-6508.

May 1-2nd River Trail: Camp out along the lower Clark Fork and shuttle vehicles Sunday Morning, then hike the 12 mile level River Trail from St. Regis to the highway bridge. Or meet at the St Regis Travel Center at 10 AM. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for directions or if you live downstream e-mail Jim Goss at jgoss@bigsky.net

Low Impact Fair - May 22nd

This Fair will be at the Main Rattlesnake trailhead from 11 AM to 4 PM and will be a great opportunity for all types of recreationists to learn how to minimize impacts on the outdoors. There will be five stations with specialists at each to give tips and answer questions. The stations are: 1. Leave no trace backpacking and camping 2. Low impact stock use 3. Bear awareness 4. Leave no weeds - noxious weed education 5. Low impact mountain biking.

This event is free and you may come and stay as you please. It is sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, Low Impact Mountain Bikers of Missoula, Back Country Horsemen, Missoula County Weed District, and Brown Bear Resources.

Sierra Club Outings: Sunday June 20th, Fathers day. A two mile day-hike to Packer Meadows to see the Camas in bloom. One hour southwest of Missoula at Lolo Pass where the Corps of Discovery camped on their west and eastbound treks. A great day trip for families and photography buffs. During late June the meadows are covered with blue camas and western spring beauty. Contact: Margot Higgins at 543-0702

Sunday June 27th, Blackfoot River Float. NE of Missoula. We'll canoe, raft, kayak, cold-tube! Float a stretch of the Blackfoot which parallels Meriwether Lewis's return route in July 1806. Suitable for all age swimmers. If you can: BYO Boat and PFD ("Life Vest") and we'll try to borrow or rent a raft and extra equipment as needed. Contact: John Wolverton: 258-6477 or co-leader Liz Rantz at: Mitkayakdoc@aol.com, 542-0289

For more information on Bitterroot Mission Groups' outings or if you'd like to lead some trips, please contact John Wolverton at 258-6477 or Margot Higgins at 543-0702. Be aware that Sierra Club Outings have their own rules. For instance, group size may be limited, or preference given to members. Please call the leader well in advance for the details.



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Membership Renewal 11/2004