

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-June 2004

Set of Mountain Ears now Available

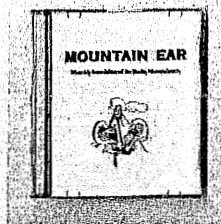
The complete set of Mountain Ear Newsletters from David Line's collection has now been burned onto CD's, and will be for sale soon. These date from October, 1961, through the most recent issues, and are full of valuable information. For instance, the very first trip report was in the November issue, Vol. 1 No. 2; and gives a detailed route description up McLeod Peak from Upper Rattlesnake Creek. A sketch map of trails is included. Now days one has to bike and hike up the creek, but it is still a good approach. In the first year there is also a description of Mt. Harding routes, with credit given to an earlier club called the Montana Mountaineers. There are many tales of winter mountaineering trips to places still difficult to reach, and stories of the construction of the trail to the base of Greywolf Peak, still called the Mountaineers Trail. Other trails were scouted out for backcountry skiing, such as the one from Mormon Point over Carleton Ridge to Lolo Peak, and one along the lip of the canyon to Little St. Joe's. Throughout the volumes are many articles on food and gear, safety tips, reviews of books and films, clothing, first aid, and more. There is also a lot of original artwork, done to illustrate the newsletter. This must have been before it was easy to reproduce photographs.

The 1970's volumes include several route descriptions by J. Gordon Edwards that were later incorporated into his book, *The Climber's Guide to Glacier National Park*. And there are several articles on climbs in Blodgett Canyon complete with sketches of routes up the rock walls. Is there any earlier source of information on Blodgett Canyon?

For those interested in the club itself, the Rocky Mountaineers, there are lists of officers and members, versions of bylaws, a mission statement and more scattered throughout the volumes. There are also some

indexes which we believe were compiled by Dave Line himself. And there are accounts of some of the club's activities. For instance, the Rocky Mountaineers helped organize the very first Earth Day Celebration in Missoula, and they were early protestors to the intrusion of snowmobiles into their favorite areas.

All of the above history, outdoor tips, and local culture is available on one CD for \$20⁰⁰. Steve Niday at 721-3790 and Steve Schombel at 721-4686 will have copies, and we are also going to ask outdoor stores if they would help us sell them. There is one little glitch with the first batch of CD's: you need a good tiff viewer on your computer. There are viewers available to download on-line, Steve Niday recommends the bravo viewer which is free. He is going to try to add this viewer to the CD's, so if you buy one that doesn't work it can be exchanged or a refund will be given.



May Meeting - Whirling Disease

We are honored that Pat Saffel, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Director of Fisheries for Region 2, will be the speaker at our May meeting. Although he was only promoted to his position a few years ago, Pat has made a name for himself. He is one of the leading advocates in favor of removal of Milltown Dam, and sees great benefits to the fishery. His Department has their own opinions on the construction of artificial whitewater parks, and their impact on free flowing streams and fisheries. At our meeting he wants to talk about whirling disease. It hasn't gone away; it only hasn't been in the news much. There are troubling statistics from the Blackfoot, and he will talk for the first time about a recent fish survey on Rock Creek. Pat Saffel is also willing to try to answer questions about any other fisheries related issues. The meeting will be on Wednesday, May 12th at 7:00 PM in the second floor meeting room of the Court House Annex. Free and open to all- use the Pine Street entrance.

MORE UPCOMING TRIPS

June 19th Sheep Mountain: This trip has easy access by car, but be prepared for a big climb, and bring extra water.

We will meet at 9:00 AM at Durango's Restaurant in Superior, then car pool for 15 - 20 minutes to a trailhead, only 2 miles of which is on a well-maintained dirt road. The first couple miles of trail is a steady climb, but then we will take a shortcut up a steep pile of rock with fair footing. You will appreciate the early start because it can get hot on the steep face. We will have some great views from the flank of the mountain before reaching the 6,800 foot summit. The trip back down will be along the actual trail and should be more leisurely and mostly shaded, though quite a bit longer as we skirt around the upper mountain.

Though this climb is not technical, you will need to be sure-footed and prepared for a total of 3,800 feet in vertical gain. Contact Jim Goss at jgoss@bigsky.net or 822-5000. If you want a ride from Missoula call Steve at 721-4686.

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. This is a joint hike with the Bitterroot-Mission Group of the Sierra Club.

Sunday June 27th, Babcock Mountain: This is a fantastic wildflower area in lower Rock Creek near Clinton. There are two options. One is to just do the trail through the best flower meadows with good views of the creek below. It takes a few hours. Or you can walk along a road for several more miles and then scramble to the top for more good views. Call Fred Schwanemann at 542-7372 to participate.

(the Blackfoot Float in the last newsletter has filled up - sorry)

July 3-5th MacDonald Peak: The high point of the Missions is well known. We plan to do a slow and safe backpack and do the easiest route. This is magnificent country to camp out in. A tribal recreation permit with a camping stamp is required. Ron Pierson at 370-5470 and Steve Schombel at 721-4686 are planning to go, so call one of us.

Mid to Late July Mt. Stimpson: As soon as it is practical to ford the Middle Fork of the Flathead we will do a long, multi-day backpack into one of the least visited areas of Glacier N.P., Martha's Basin. From here it is still a long day to summit 10,142' Stimpson, involving a tricky traverse around Mt. Pinchot. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686.

July 30th - August 1st (Fri. - Sun.) Great Burn, Montana/Idaho: 3 day Backpack Trip. Distance: 16 miles, point-to-point. Difficulty: Strenuous at times; with some trailless travel. Vehicle shuttle will be arranged.

Hike the headwaters of the Lochsa River across the granite ridges and high meadows of the Great Burn - one of the largest unprotected roadless areas in the northern Rockies. The Great Burn is slated for Wilderness protection in both Montana and Idaho's Lewis & Clark proposal. This route runs just north of the Nez Perce/Lolo Trail across the spectacular Bitterroot Mountains. In route, there will be opportunities to scramble to the summits of Granite, Rhodes, and Williams Peaks with vast unspoiled drainages unfolding in all directions. This is extremely wild and rugged country. Trip Leader: Bob Clark 549-1142

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 or Steve Schombel at 721-4686

CLUB CONTACTS

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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.

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.

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

Sunday, April 18, 2004: Fred and Eileen Schwanemann, Steve Schombel, Cathy Burleson, Michael Bowles, Patrice Favreau, Jane and Mike Lilley, and Bret Doucett hiked from Pattee Canyon to Hellgate Canyon via Crazy Canyon. We saw glacier lilies and buttercups. When we got to the ridge below Mt. Sentinel we had lunch and saw several woodpeckers including a pair of Pileated woodpeckers and a Turkey Vulture. Down on the Kim Williams Trail by the river, we saw a pair of Osprey, one on the nest and the other hunting for food. Somehow we missed the rain that was forecast. - Fred

Saturday, April 24th: Twenty people enjoyed the combination Rocky Mountain Ears, Sierra Club, and kids trip along the Lolo Trail from Lolo Hot Springs to Bob Cat Creek. Milo McLeod, Lolo Forest Archeologist, Brenda Yankoviak, Lolo Forest's Lolo Trail director and Melissa Sladek of Travelers Rest State Park joined us to give us information about the uses of the trail. They showed us some peeled trees, pointed out several branches of the trail, and were very willing to answer all questions.

Cool weather in the 60's made the hike more pleasant. The participants were: Susan Morgan, Roy Curet, Rachel Morgan Curet, Lilli Morgan Curet, Brenda Yankoviak, C. Milo McLeod, Annie Hamilton, Gharrett Warner, T. Lukomski, Sharon Lukomski, Cali Marti, Dralle Snyder, Barbara Ross, Julie Warner, David Kahl, Steve Schombel, Nikol Stirling, Anne Hamilton, Ron Stirling and Melissa Sladek. Some of us soaked in Lolo Hot Spring for a while afterwards to finish off a great day. - Julie (sorry for misspellings-editor)

Sunday, May 2nd: Only Fred Schwanemann and Steve Schombel drove down to St. Regis Sunday morning to meet up with Jim Goss from Superior. We found the trail to be as advertised, very level for the Northern Rockies, and well maintained. We kept up a brisk pace while moving, took a long lunch break and another late afternoon break, and still reached the lower end by 4:30. We estimated the distance to be about 10½ miles, based on an old wooden sign about a mile from the trailhead. There were a lot of different flowers along the way, including some dark pink Lady Slippers and several Clematis out early. - Steve

UPCOMING TRIPS

SAVE THIS NEWSLETTER! WE HAVE A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES WELL INTO SUMMER.

May 16th Grant Creek to Rattlesnake Trailhead: This is a very nice point-to-point hike just outside of town. There is a new trail with a steady uphill grade. You get up fairly high with great views all around, but if you keep a steady pace it only takes half a day. Call Fred Schwanemann at 542-7372.

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.

May 23rd Kid's Hike to Deadman's Point: A short hike in the Blue Mountain area close to town. It does involve quite a bit of uphill along a rocky trail, and may be tough for pre schoolers. Deadman's Point sits right above the Bitterroot River and US 93, and it is neat to watch the little cars zip by below. There are many branches, such as the trail to Hayes Point, for those who want to do a longer hike. Call Julie Warner at 543-6508.

May 23rd Como Peaks: Climb one of the beautiful peaks above Como Lake in the southern Bitterroots. Physically demanding with up to low 5th class climbing. Call Steve Niday at 721-3790 or seniday@yahoo.com for details.

May 30th Trask Lakes: These are a beautiful group of lakes about 6 to 7 miles by trail above Rock Creek Lake in the Flint Creek Range. It is a long drive. We may car camp or leave early enough to allow time for a little fishing or a longer hike to the pass above the lakes. For more details call Bret Doucett at 728-6461 (d) or Steve Schombel at 721-4686 (n).

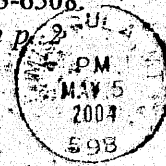
June 6th Destination to be determined: This trip leader has a lot of experience. Lookouts, old cabins, flowers and waterfalls; she knows them all. She does not like to set a definite destination far in advance, but usually thinks of something in the middle of the week. Call Lois Crepeau at 728-5321 to find out what's on tap this weekend.

June 12 & 13th Overnighter for families at the cabin: It is a fairly steep 3 miles by trail then a little bushwhacking, and you have to carry a sleeping bag and some food and water, but this is a good opportunity to introduce youngsters to a sleep out in the wilds. Adults in the group will try to make a real good assessment of repairs that are needed. Hopefully there will be some snow up higher to play around in before hiking down on Sunday. Call Julie Warner at 543-6508.

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Membership Renewal 11/2004