

MOUNTAIN EAR

Monthly Newsletter of the Rocky Mountaineers

October, 2004

Missoula, Montana

The Rocky Mountaineers is a non-profit club organized to promote all types of recreational use of mountainous areas.



Monthly Meeting with Guest Speaker Mario Locatelli

**Wednesday, Oct. 13th Meeting to be held at
Pipestone Mountaineering at 7:00 PM.**

Mario Locatelli, the "Mountain Goat" of the Bitterroot began climbing mountains near his home near Hamilton some 30 years ago. He first gained recognition for organizing the grueling "Mountain Goat Marathon" cross country races in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Unfortunately, liability became an issue and the race was discontinued. (Steve Niday, our editor, won the first race.)

By age 63 he had climbed almost every peak in the Bitterroot Range, and he set a new goal of climbing the high points of all of the lower 48 States plus Hawaii. Soon he discovered and joined a national club, the Highpointers. Since he had already climbed the 13 tough peaks in the west, it took him less than a year to reach this goal on a whirlwind tour. But he couldn't resist the challenge of Mount McKinley. Last July 5th he reached this goal, completing the 50 high points and also becoming the oldest person to summit Mount McKinley at 71 years and seven months old. Mario also climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa last December.

For our meeting Mario Locatelli would like to show several slides of the Bitterroot backcountry in winter. He wants to talk about avalanche awareness and has many invaluable safety and survival tips for skiers and all other backcountry users. He is very willing to talk about any of his other adventures, as time and interest allows.

Business @ 7 PM, then the show, free & open to all

(The internet attributed most of the above information to the *Missoulian*) Steve Schombel



From the President

Board Meeting- Wednesday, September 29, 2004

We had a very productive board meeting, with several attending. Some of the members may be confused about the board. We really don't have a board of directors, for lack of volunteers. Instead, we declared in the recent revision of the bylaws that each dues paying member is considered to be a board member. Therefore all are welcome at these meetings, which could be called business meetings.

The first item we discussed is the web site. At the September meeting we voted to go ahead, and the web site looks very feasible right now. Alden Wright proposed putting our pages in with the Nordic Ski Club of Missoula, and sharing a website for \$20-30 a year, which he offered to donate. Julie Warner is going to write up a club description for the main page. At first we are going to only post most of the newsletter, the trip reports and upcoming events and meetings. There are still some details to work out, but eventually we would like to have a real calendar where people can post their own proposals for hikes and climbs. For now

More from the President

we will follow the old system where members send their upcoming trips to the newsletter editor, Steve Niday. We also have an e-mail list of several of the members and friends, so if you want to advertise a trip on short notice you can contact Steve Schombel at ssbell@montana.com. And if you want to add your e-mail to the list contact either of the Steves.

Next we discussed club finances. Julie, the treasurer announced that several people renewed and she made a nice deposit of \$147, some gave more than the minimum dues. Thanks to all of them. The other club expenses are the P.O. Box at \$68 /year and the cabin rental at \$55 /year. Add on membership dues to other clubs and our expenses are under \$150 /year. We have a one time commitment to donate \$50 to Brennan's Wave. The website could add up to \$50 more per year, but Alden is donating a lot of this. Another thank you to him. The big item is the newsletter, which Steve Niday projects could cost up to \$720 /year. But we already have 20 people signed up for e-newsletters, which will reduce that cost. After studying the above figures, we, the board, moved to establish new dues of \$10 /year for those who get an electronic newsletter, and \$20 /year for those who want a mailed copy. This proposal will be voted on at the next general meeting on October 13th. We will revise the membership application and trip sign-up sheet if this is adopted.

We also decided to get more strict on the newsletters we send out. We will only send one copy after your membership expires, and only one free copy by request or to trip participants. Another reminder to folks - we do not send out separate notices that your membership has expired. Instead we put the date on the newsletter mailing label and highlight it when the dues are due.

Lastly the cabin, it's great the latrine got cleaned out and the roof patched and the trail cleared. A lot of work was done. We are still talking about replacing the whole roof, which is getting very old. If only we had more volunteers.

That's about it, and remember, if in the future you see an announcement of a board or business meeting, all are welcome. - Steve Schombel

Trip Reports

September 5, Sunday: Eagle Cliff- Fred & Eileen Schwanemann, Carol Anderson, Barbara Ross, Christina Van Roekel, Bret Doucett, Julie Warner, Jim Goss, and Cathy Reich took the National Recreation Trail from Forest Road 342 to Eagle Cliff. As we started hiking, everyone added another layer of clothing. There was extensive mist that lasted until just before Eagle Cliff. We did have a great view of both Diamond and Cliff Lakes. After we cut through the brush up to Eagle Cliff, Jim and Brett scrambled up to the highest point of Eagle Cliff. The view down Dry Gulch was indescribable. Everyone enjoyed the hike in spite of chilly, sometimes rainy conditions. We finished the day with dinner at Rosie's Cafe in Superior. Fred/Eileen

September 11, Saturday: Mounts Tiny, Little Rainbow, Howe- Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness Area- The day prior I was invited by a couple of friends- Ron Oman and Jim Williams for a climb to Little Rainbow Mountain. We arrived at Storm Lake about 8:00 AM then hiked in beautiful weather up to Storm Lake Pass. The original plan had been just to climb Little Rainbow, but looking to the immediate northwest of this pass we figured we might as well scramble up Mt. Tiny (9848'), which we did and were rewarded with far ranging views. Then back down to the pass and a rather easy walk up to the wide dome shaped top of Little Rainbow (9989'). From there the higher and steeper Mt. Howe beckoned to us off to the east, so after about an hour's walk along the crest of the Divide down to a saddle, we were ready to start the climb up the west side- another 45 minutes of scrambling up talus and medium sized boulders- we were at the top (10472'). Again great views in all directions existed. From here we headed back west down to the saddle then dropped down into the Twin Lakes drainage. After some easy cross country travel north through open forest (Jim called this "Bush- wacking for the Sane") we hit a trail which took us back to our vehicle at Storm Lake, completing a loop. Total distance was 9 miles-

took us 8 hrs. Forest Dean

Trip Reports

September 25, Saturday: Cabin Work Day-

Once again we had a lot of willing workers show up, amazing for such a beautiful fall day. Actually, the hike up Little St. Joe's is very pretty, and it feels good to be outdoors instead of in the shop I usually work in. We had four people with chain saws show up this year, twice as many as we needed. We got a lot of firewood cut, the roof patched, the most rusty sections of the pipe replaced and the latrine cleaned out. We accomplished everything we set out to do. In addition, Steve and others cleared the trail on the way down. We probably should replace all of the stove pipe, and still talk about replacing all of the roof. But this can wait until next year. Many thanks to all of the willing helpers who made the day so successful: Eileen and Fred Schwanemann, Ron Pierson, Barbara Ross, Dave Kahl, Julie Warner, Dave Emmons, Steve Niday, Jim Goss, Bret Doucett and Alden Wright - Steve Schombel

September 30-October 3, Thur-Sun: Hilgard

Peak- This trip did not happen, I called a couple people who live in the area and found out there was significant snow on the peak. I will reschedule this trip next summer. Steve Niday

October 1-3, Fri-Sun: Eighteenmile Peak and

Tweedy Mountain- As a substitute for Hilgard, I chose these two peaks, which I thought would be fun even with a bit of snow on them. Eighteenmile Peak, at 11,141', is reported to be the highest point in the Bitterroot Range and the Continental Divide in Montana. The area is west of Dell, north of Monida Pass, in sagebrush prairie. There are very few ranches along the drive in, and several small lakes (Harkness Lakes) near the end of the road at around 7,000'. Four wheel drive is recommended. The peak is mostly a walk-up with some boulders near the top. I left my vehicle around 5:00 PM and was leveling a spot on the summit for my sleeping bag by 7:00 PM. I listened to elk bugling on the way up, I think my very loud breathing and the occasional rock I kicked loose made one of them think I was a potential mate. He finally gave up as I snuggled into my bag, warmed up with some hot chocolate, and watched a beautiful sunset.

Saturday I walked the very gentle divide for several miles to the south and then circled back across the prairie to the vehicle. I drove to the Pioneer Mountains Saturday afternoon and car camped at the end of the road (7400'). The last mile or two is 4-wd or at least a vehicle with good clearance is advisable. I hiked up a good trail for around three miles toward Gorge Lake, which is on the north side of Tweedy. Before reaching the lower lake the main trail climbs towards the upper lake. What appears to be the old main trail diverges to the south and soon approaches a large grassy meadow (8800'). From this point Tweedy (11,154') is in full view. I was relieved to see, that although there was quite a bit of snow, there were lots of routes that would work. This is a very nice area, with lots of routes from technical to easy scrambling. The rock is good and the water is clean. There is no brush and I suspect few people most of the year, I saw no one. Steve Niday

October 3, Sunday: Holland Falls- The first e-mail advertised hike had a decent turnout. Most of us felt like an easy hike on a magnificent fall day. First we had to slow down for a large herd of bighorns coming down Bonner Mtn. near the Blackfoot Trading Post. Then we gathered at the Holland Lake trailhead. We decided to hike to the falls, 1-1/4 miles away after seeing that it was 7 miles to Upper Holland Lake. We stopped several times to enjoy the sun and views, and had a long lunch below the falls, which had lots of water. Then some sharp eyed people saw a large cinnamon colored bear real close to the falls. While we were gaping, it disappeared into the brush. A few wanted to scramble to the upper trail and make a loop, but most of us returned the way we came. A decent sized trout was cruising the shoreline and we kept pace for several hundred yards and watched it rise again and again. A real fine day! Participants were: Bret Doucett, Steve Schombel, Michael Bowles, Cathy Burleson, Julie Warner, Dave Kahl and Fred and Eilene Schwanemann. - Steve Schombel

Upcoming Activities and Trips

October 16, Saturday: Mission Falls- It is an easy stroll of 1 1/2 mile to a viewpoint below this fall, which sits about 1000' above the end of the road. Then it is a steep and brushy scramble to another ledge nearly level with the fall. It is supposed to be even harder to get to the next fall, Elizabeth, which is another 3/4 mile and about 1000' higher. The lakes beyond are tougher yet. Anyone who knows the way is more than welcome. Tribal permits are required, or face a stiff fine. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for information.

October 23, Saturday: Butte-Mineral Museum- A trip to an interesting museum for kids and adults. Julie Warner, 543-6508.

Sawmill Gulch Volunteer Work Day

Saturday, Oct. 23rd 10:00 am at the Main Rattlesnake Trailhead

As many of you may already know, the Bitterroot-Mission Group of the Sierra Club is currently involved in a fuel reduction demonstration partnership project on 77 acres in Sawmill Gulch just north of Missoula. The area located in the Wildland-Urban Interface is adjacent to private homes and a popular National Recreation Area. Local Sierra Club & Society of American Foresters Groups have teamed up on this "Common Ground" project. One component of this project is hand slashing and piling of small diameter trees and brush. This is an excellent hands-on volunteer opportunity! We will work on units 4 & 5 totaling 16 acres. Mostly piling slash. Please bring work gloves and appropriate outdoor work cloths, rain gear, water bottle, etc.. **WE WILL FEED YOU!!!**

Call the Missoula Office, 549-1142 for more information.

October 24, Sunday: Walman Trail- in the Rattlesnake Recreation Area, in no hunting zone. The distance is about eight miles round trip. The elevation gain is about 1500 feet. We'll lunch at the trails summit with a view of Missoula's University area. Call Fred Schwanemann @ 542-7372 for more information.

October 24, Sunday: Native Forest Network's Hikes and Forest Field Tours - Monitoring ATVs in the Badger Two Medicine

Meet at the Summit Trailhead on the south side of Highway 2, east of Marias Pass. We will be meeting with members of the Blackfeet Nation for a five mile round trip hike into the Badger Two Medicine to observe illegal ATV use. With fantastic views of Glacier National Park to the north and the Rocky Mountain Front to the south, the Badger Two Medicine was nearly included in the Great Bear Wilderness in 1978. Without protection, ATV use has consistently grown in the area, spreading from old gas and oil exploration roads to penetrate to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. We will head up from the Summit Trailhead a couple miles into Sawmill Flats, where many ATVs gather, and there spend time observing ATV use and answering questions. Bring water, lunch, binoculars, warm clothes, and a camera.

Registration is requested. To register or for more information, contact Cameron Naficy with the Native Forest Network at 406.542.7343 or cameron@wildrockies.org.

Cameron Naficy
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www.nativeforest.org

October 29-31, Fri-Sun: Destination to be determined based on conditions. Most likely it will be something in the eastern or northeastern part of Glacier Park. Call if you are interested and we will figure something out. Steve Niday

November 14, Sunday: Trail 99 and Fishing Trails- This trail is in the Rattlesnake Recreation Area and in the no hunting zone. Distance is about 7 miles and the elevation change is negligible. We'll lunch along the Rattlesnake Creek. Call Fred Schwanemann @ 542-7372 for more information.

Newsletter CD's for sale:

All back issues of the Rocky Mountain Ear are available on CD for the low price of \$20.00. All proceeds to go directly into the club's treasury.

Digital Newsletters

Digital copies of this and future newsletters are available to members. If any member would prefer digital newsletters only, please let me know. This option would save printing and postage costs. We currently have 15 members signed up for e-newsletters, for a cost savings of about \$12 per month.

Website

www.rockymountaineers.com

Alden has established the linkage to the Nordic Club server and placed a brief statement on our home page. We hope to spend some time developing the site in the near future. If you have abilities in this area, or suggestions, contact one of the contacts shown below.

We need more trip leaders. Be bold, take a chance, it's really not very hard.

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).

Club Contacts

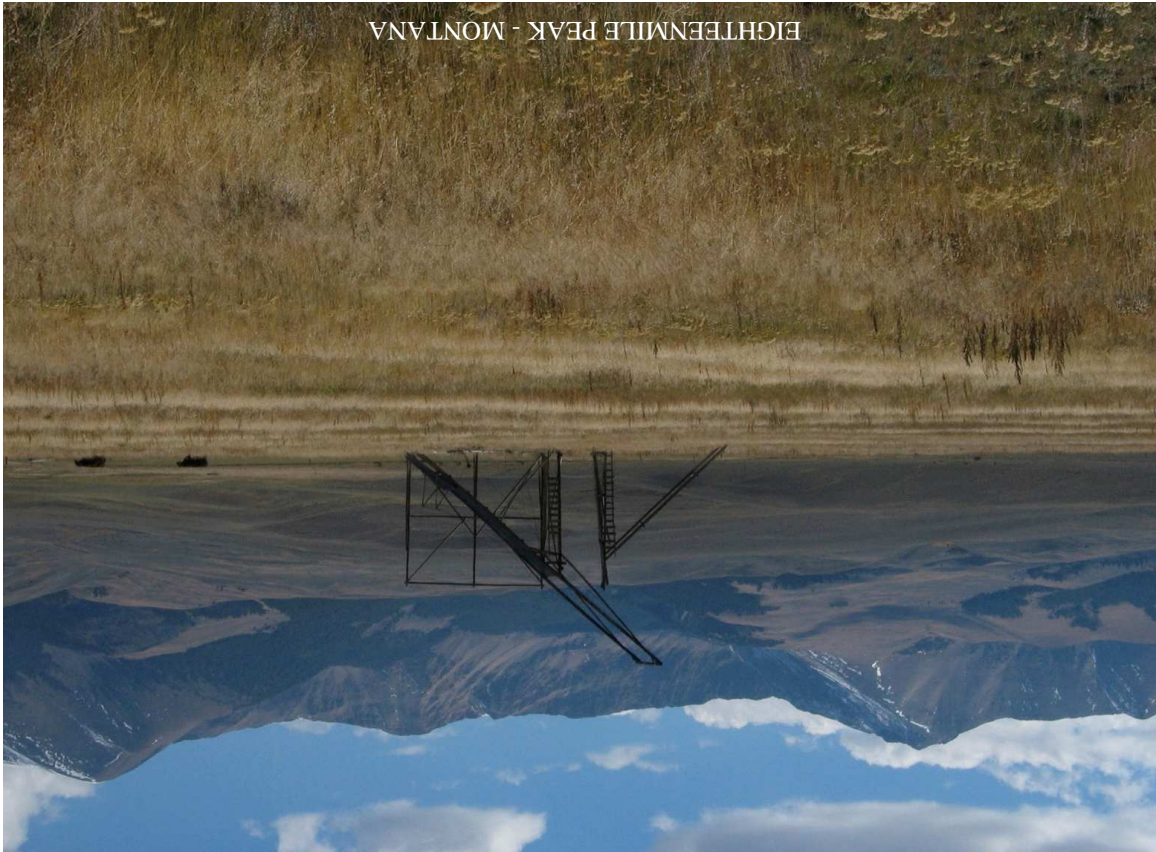
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