



MOUNTAIN EAR

Monthly Newsletter of the Rocky Mountaineers

July, 2005 Missoula, Montana

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



Club meetings are held the second Wednesday of the months of September through May, at Pipestone Mountaineering, 129 West Front Street, Missoula, MT.

These monthly meetings begin at 7:00 PM, immediately after a business meeting, which begins at 6:15 PM. Non-members are welcome to listen-in at the business meeting and hear what the club is actively discussing. We typically have a slide show or other presentation on some type of outdoor activity starting at 7:00 PM.

The next monthly meeting will be held on September 14th. Club members are encouraged to bring photos from their summer adventures. Please contact the editor (see last page for contact info.) to arrange for the necessary projection devices and schedule a block of time. We would love to see your slides, but we don't want to make the slide show too long. If you have lots of slides you would like to show, you might consider being a slide show presenter at a monthly meeting.

From the President: The Bitterroot and Lolo Forest are having a series of meetings throughout the summer on forest plan revisions. The Missoula Ranger District meetings are every other Thursday at 7:00 PM, in the large conference room at the Doubletree Motel. The meeting on July 7th will focus on Rock Creek, on July 21st the topic is Lolo Peak, and the areas near Missoula, namely Pattee Canyon, Blue Mountain and the Rattlesnake, will begin on August 4th. Other than the 21st, the schedule is flexible.

People who wish to have a voice in how Forest Service lands are managed for the next 20 years should try to get to some of these meetings, especially if you want to preserve the recreation that exists now. *Steve Schombel*

Upcoming Trips

ROCKY MOUNTAINEER'S CLASSIC SERIES

We are launching a new series of trips aimed at exploring some of the classic areas around western Montana. These trips will attempt to appeal to the greatest part of the membership and community by including prominent destinations and achieving them by standard routes and trails whenever possible. There will be one featured Classic Trip every month. The following is a list of the trips for the next year, starting in August with the Glacier Classic. The dates for these trips will be subject to change, especially if conditions require a change. Also, anyone wishing to lead any of these trips is encouraged to step forward. Forest Dean will serve as the general chair for this series- contact him if you desire to lead one of these trips or if you need further information.

AUGUST: Glacier Classic Weekend (19th-21st)

We are planning a weekend of climbing, hiking and car camping fun in and by Glacier National Park. The plan is to drive up Friday and camp on the Flathead River by Blankenship Bridge near West Glacier (this is on National Forest land- there is no charge to camp here. Pit toilets are available.) Those who would not wish to camp could make other arrangements. On both Saturday and Sunday we have 2-3 hikes and climbs concentrating on the Logan Pass area for different levels of ability or desire. Saturday night would be spent again at the camp on the Flathead River. Participants would be free to stay for both days or just one if so desired. Contact Forest Dean for more information: H: 721-6384, C: 240-7612, email: fdean@midlandimplement.com

ROCKY MOUNTAINEER'S CLASSIC SERIES

AUGUST: Glacier National Park

Saturday- CLIMB: **Going-to-the-Sun Mountain/Matahpi Mtn.** – Forest Dean
West Face Route- Distance to summit: 4 miles (2 by trail); 3700' elevation gain;
Class 3 and 4 climbing; begin at Siyeh Bend.

- HIKE: **Preston Park/Siyeh Pass Hike** – Steve Schombel
- FISH: **Flathead River by camp area**- Frank Kleschen

Sunday- HIKE: **Otokomi Lake**- Fred & Eileen Schwanemann

- CLIMB/KIDS: **Piegan Mountain** - Forest Dean

This is intended as a slow paced climb up Piegan and possibly Pollock if interested-
younger kids are very welcome! Distance to summit is about 1.5 miles; 2800'
elevation gain; Class 2 and 3 climbing; begin at Lunch Creek.

- CLIMB: **Mt. Gould** -Steve Niday

West Face Route- Distance to summit 6 miles, (4 by trail); 3000' elevation gain;
Class 3 climbing; begin at Logan Pass

SEPTEMBER: Warren Peak- Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness- Leader: Jim Wilson, possibly;
Date: Saturday, 17th; Category: Scramble.

OCTOBER: St. Mary Peak- Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness- Leader: Forest Dean;
Date: Saturday, 8th; Category: Hike (*Note: Annual Party will follow this hike*)
We reserved the Charles Waters Campground at Bass Creek for Saturday night. The hike to
St. Mary Peak is open to all, the party is for members only. More details to come.

NOVEMBER: Little St. Joseph Peak- Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness- Leader: TBA;
Date: Saturday, 19th; Category: Hike, snowshoe or ski

DECEMBER: Chief Joseph Pass- Chief Joseph Pass Ski Trails- Leader: Alden Wright
Date: December 10; Category: Ski

JANUARY: Lolo Pass- Lolo Pass Ski Trails- Leader: Steve Schombel
Date: Sunday, 15th; Category: Ski

FEBRUARY: Gash Point- Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness- Leader: Steve Niday;
Date: Saturday, 11th; Category: Ski or snowshoe

MARCH: Wisherd Ridge- Rattlesnake National Recreation Area- Leader: TBA
Date: Saturday, 11th; Category: Ski or snowshoe

APRIL: Trapper Peak- Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness- Leader: Alden Wright;
Date: Saturday, 1st; Category: Ski or snowshoe

MAY: Stuart Peak- Rattlesnake Wilderness- Leader: TBA;
Date: Saturday, 20th; Category: Hike

JUNE: Squaw Peak- Nine Mile/Reservation Divide area- Leader: TBA;
Date: Saturday, 24th; Category: Scramble

JULY: Lolo Peak- Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness- Leader: TBA;
Date: Saturday, 22nd; Category: Scramble

Upcoming Trips Continued

July 15-19: MT. STIMSON+, Glacier National Park—Thus far four of us are going- we reserved one site for each night on our itinerary- this reservation allows four people per campsite and is thus full. However, for those interested, at this point the GNP reservation system still shows another reservable site for our dates. Additionally, undesignated camping can be obtained on a walk in basis at time of trip. If you are interested in going contact Steve or Forest and we will figure out a way to make it work.

Friday, July 15- Drive up to Glacier, obtain permits, then hike into Coal Creek Camp.

Sat, July 16- Hike rest of way to Beaver Woman Lake camp- option of afternoon climb up Mt. Pinchot.

Sun, July 17- Climb Mt. Stimson.

Mon, July 18- Options: A) Climb Mt. Stimson today if it was rained out yesterday; B) Climb Eaglehead Mtn.; C) Hike part of the way out; D) Relax and explore Martha's Basin.

Tues, July 19- Hike out and drive home.

Contact Steve Schombel at 721-4686 or Forest Dean at 721-6384 or 240-7612 or fdean@midlandimplement.com

July 24, Sunday: Oregon Peaks- A trip to Oregon Lakes then a scramble up to Oregon Peaks. One interesting aspect would be to hunt for a geocache that's located somewhere up there. It will be a good mixed abilities trip, as the first two Oregon Lakes can be reached by a short (though steep) trail, but the third lake is barely accessible by thrashing through thick vegetation. Alternately, the scramble up Oregon Peak is pretty steep and exposed, though not technical. There are options to make a loop back to the original trailhead or to drop over the ridge to the road near Missoula Lakes. Both descents require some bushwacking. Rendezvous at Durango's restaurant in Superior @ 10:00 AM. Jim Goss, 822-5000.

July 31, Sunday: Morrell Falls- Kid's trip to the third Morrell Falls, this is a continuation of the last two years when we went to the 1st and 2nd falls. The 1st falls is 2 miles back on an easy trail, the

second was about 1/2 mile of steep trail, and we expect the third falls to be the same. We will visit all three. Taking children under 10 to all three may not be advised, though parties who only want to go to either of the first two falls are welcome. Julie Kahl 543-6508

July 29-31, Fri-Sun: Rainbow Peak and/or Mt Carter, Glacier Park- Both of these physically demanding, neither technically demanding if we take the easiest routes. We will likely use a boat on Bowman Lake. Steve Niday 721-3790

Trip Reports

June 6, Monday: Trapper Peak- Patrick McCarron joined me for a snow climb up the northeast snow couloir of Trapper Peak. We started at the Baker Lake Trailhead at 7:00 am. Hiked the trail up to Baker Lake, then up to Middle and Gem Lakes beyond that (all still frozen). A lot of snow still around Middle and Gem Lakes at this point. Gem Lake is reached at about 2.25 miles. From there we ascended to an obvious col directly up and to the north of Gem Lake. On the backside of this was a narrow steep snow couloir which we butt-glissaded down for over 1000' (great fun!). This placed us in the spectacular and completely snow filled basin to the NE of Trapper Peak. Great views of North Trapper here as well. We contoured a snow field to the west and then southwest toward Trapper. At about 9000' we took a brief rest break before tackling the snow couloir to the summit. The snow was stable, but rather soft. Crampons were not needed. We were post-holing to the knee on most of it, but the primary difficulty was in the steepness- estimated much of it to be 60-70 degrees. We eventually kick stepped our way up and achieved the summit (10,157') at about noon. After soaking in the views we decided to descend to the east along the ridge (used snowshoes) to a couloir to the south of Gem Lake. Here we did some more glissading and were quickly down at the lake. From there it was a hike out as we just got caught by a T-Storm as we were in the woods. This is a great route up Trapper Peak for this time of year with stable snow conditions. Crampons would be needed if the snow was hard. Elapsed time was about 7 1/2 hours. *Forest Dean*

June 8, Wednesday: Lolo Peak- We had had a lot of rain, and the weather forecast was bad. Thus, only Bob Clark from the Sierra Club showed up for the Lolo Peak trip on June 7th. We got lucky on the 8th and the day was mostly cloudy with only a few sprinkles. We had no problem driving to the trailhead. We reached snow at about 7100'. It was about 50/50; we'd go through a stretch of solid snow that supported us well, then a stretch with terribly tiring post holing. We reached Carlton Ridge at 8252' and the viewpoint about 600' beyond it. We could see the lake below, which was partially thawed, and the peak through the clouds. We decided to turn around before the threatening clouds started to storm, and made it back by mid afternoon. *Steve Schombel*

June 16-19, Anaconda-Pintler and the Spires- Our scheduled climbing trip to Mount Shuksan in the Cascades was changed due to a bad weather report. We decided to ski into the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness and travel in a loop following the Continental Divide. The members of this trip were Jim Wilson, Scott Wilson, Steve Niday, Forest Dean, Patrick McKarron, Christian Goss, and Ron Pierson. Thursday night we enjoyed the hospitality of Jim Wilson at his cabin near Georgetown Lake. We found Jim to be a gourmet cook, and enjoyed a superb elk/deer chili, vegetable beef soup, elk roast, and egg/potato breakfasts. Friday morning we started at the Storm Lake Trailhead on skis and traveled up over Storm Lake Pass. Ice axes were used to traverse along the partially snow covered trail along the rock face enroute to Goat Flat. We encountered thunder and lightning, high winds, and a deluge of rain and snow most of the day. We halted on Goat Flat and camped near the Continental Divide Trail. After a night of below freezing temperature we awoke to a cold snowy day. We decided that the weather was too marginal for climbing over Queener Mtn and beyond. We bushwacked down to the Page Creek drainage and hiked out to the trailhead along East Fork Rock Creek. Saturday night we made a tour of the Georgetown nightspots. Next day with a clear sky we drove to the Spires which is east of Butte for a day of rock climbing. The Spires is a classic and popular rock climbing area, with a wide variety of climbs. Jim Wilson established many of

the routes which are listed in the Montana Climber's Guide. We enjoyed this warm beautiful day for a close to a very fun week end. *Ron Pierson*

June 18, Saturday: Trail Lake- (near Hoodoo Pass). The dirt road from the Trout Creek Road was OK but requires a car with good clearance. (The Wright's Subaru Outback lost some plastic under the engine compartment.) Sally and Alden Wright, Eileen and Fred Schwanemann, and Renee Lund left the trailhead at 11 am. There were a couple somewhat challenging creek crossings, including one where we took our shoes off and waded. There was no real snow on the way to the lake, and the lake was thawed. The lake is very nice. Alden scrambled up to the peak to the south of the lake, and then found the old trail (not maintained) on the way down. Alden tried fishing for a few minutes-no sign of any fish. The wildflowers were nice: we learned Piper's Anenome and Jeffrey's Shooting Star. *Alden Wright*

June 25, Saturday: Little St. Joe Cabin- the trip to fire proof the cabin went well, though plans to stay overnight were rained out. Among Fred and Eileen Schwanemann, Brett Doucette, and Julie and David Kahl, we carried 9 fire shelters up. Steve Schombel and Michael Bowles followed us shortly. Steve took on the most demanding job of digging up Beargrass clumps, Fred had the hardest job of raking the area around the cabin. Julie did the most obnoxious and dirty job of removing firewood from under the cabin and raking out a fire shelter full of duff. David, Brett, Eileen and Michael helped with restacking the firewood and other tasks. The fire shelters were like large tubs of aluminized fabric and we packed last years cut of firewood into two of them, and covered it with a third. Eileen filled one with kindling. David used one to haul the duff away and that was one of the four that we cut up into various sized pieces to wrap anywhere the wood of the cabin touched the ground, fastened with either duct tape or nails. We left one fire shelter there unused. It was a long day, but nice. It rained a bit when we first got there and was starting again when we left about 6:00 PM. Thanks everybody for your hard work! *Julie Kahl*

Trip Reports

June 25-26, Cathedral Peak, Glacier Park- I took the McDonald Creek Trail from Packer's Roost (3680') to the Flattop Mountain trail and camped for the night. When I left my camp at 5:00 AM I was in the clouds, with very poor visibility. I had seen fresh bear diggings and grizzly tracks near my camp, and had my pepper spray at the ready. Sure enough I spotted a bear about 100' up the trail and he immediately hid behind some brush to check me out. I detoured around him without further encounter, and continued to the Fifty Mountain Trail to the Fifty Mountain Camp (12 miles), at which point I encountered continuous snow. From this camp the Waterton Valley trail begins, and there is a foundation built of large rectangular stones at the 7000' pass. From here I went up a snow gully to the top of the northwest ridge of Cathedral Peak. There was a cloud layer streaming over the ridge and I could not choose a route. I put all my clothes on and lay down to minimize exposure to the wind and hoped for at least a brief clearing to see which way to proceed. I started shivering and had to try something, even if I got turned back. The way was fairly easy and I eventually topped out on what I thought was the summit. I checked my GPS and it said I had 250' more to climb, but I could not see anything through the clouds. Again I waited for a break and eventually spotted my objective to the east. I got just a brief look, and it looked very imposing. I really considered quitting and wished I had not looked at the GPS and just left when I thought I was at the summit. A minor internal struggle ensued, and I won. I continued on up some steep intermittent snow on the east side of the peak and finally reached the summit. On a warm clear day with a companion, this would be a pretty easy climb. Alone, in the wind and clouds, with no prior knowledge of the route, it was not a walk in the Park. *Steve Niday*

Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area Peaks over 9000', not all names are official. For unnamed peaks I used the nearest named geographical feature to identify the peak, usually with a direction from that feature. If you know of a different name for one of these peaks please let me know. I also used a prominence requirement of 400' from the nearest peak to distinguish it as a separate peak, and not just another high point on a ridge. I am working on all peaks over 8500', and will soon have a spreadsheet of these peaks, with latitudes and longitudes. *Steve Niday*

Trapper Peak	10157
El Capitan	9983
The Shard	9883
Boulder Peak	9804
N Trapper Peak	9801
Como Peak West	9624
St Joseph Peak	9587
Sugarloaf Peaks	9586
Como Peak Middle	9530
Chaffin Peaks	9486
Como Peak East	9485
Bare Peak E	9459
Bare Peak N	9439
Mink Peak	9363
Mount Jerusalem	9355
Saint Mary Peak	9351
Heavenly Twins	9282
Trapper Lake W Peak	9260
Lonesome Bachelor	9185
Mount Jerusalem N	9169
Whites Mountain	9162
Sweeney Peak	9161
Canyon Peak	9155
Ward Mountain	9119
Lolo Peak	9096
Whites Mountain E	9095
Koch Mountain	9072
North Lost Horse N	9018
Trapper Creek Peak	9012
W St Joseph Peak	9003

Topographic Mapping Software Revisited

by Jim Ullrich

I have been using Delorme's TOPO USA for several years and have found it quite helpful in planning trips. There are two versions, one for the entire USA on one DVD or multiple CDs for about \$100 and there is a western states only version for about \$40. The topo maps produced by this software are not as detailed as the 7½ minute topo maps supplied by the USGS, which are available at local stores, but they seem quite adequate on most trips. The human interface to the software is similar to that of their other products – Delorme Street Atlas and AAA Map'n'Go 7.0. I did try a couple other mapping programs at one time, but liked Delorme's best – probably because I knew the human interface. Like most computer languages, the one you learn first is automatically the best. The Delorme's software does come with the advantage of also displaying satellite images at 10 meter resolution and scanned images of the USGS 7½ minute topos in 2D or 3D form alongside the original maps. These extra data sets cost about \$100 each for Western Montana. These I have found very useful. Additional pluses include the ability to use UTM as well as latitude / longitude, and to display grid lines on the maps. There is also the ability to print larger maps on multiple pages of paper for joining with transparent tape. Finally, one can use the "routes" function to see the horizontal distance and vertical profile of any trip you might wish to make. Routes can be uploaded to most GPS units and downloaded from the GPS unit to the computer.

A small note about maps, last summer I took a solo hike up Babcock mountain east of Rock Creek. I had with me; a WAAS enabled GPS in tracking mode, paper copies of the 10-meter satellite images from the TOPO USA add-on, a USGS 7½ minute map, and the Forest Service map with a scale of one inch to one mile. I uploaded my trek and found each of the maps had some deficiency in the form of non-existent trails, trails not on the maps, etc. I am reminded of the fact that a person with two watches never knows what time it is. Also, never depend exclusively

on a GPS – once one of my older GPS units "froze up" waiting for a software upgrade after some wrong buttons got pushed on a dark, moonless night. It is hard to perform a software upgrade on the continental divide in the middle of the night.

There is another source, which I have not tried, of one-line 7 ½ minute scanned topographic maps, but which does appear to offer a number of advantages to hiking in a less familiar spot for about \$15.00: www.mytopo.com and www.mapcard.com. These appear to be the same firm and are located in Billings and Red Lodge and seem to cover the whole USA.

There are two sets of satellite images that are quite impressive. www.teraserver.com and www.google.com maps both have satellite images. Terraserver has black and white images of lots of places at a resolution of 10-meters. Google and it's affiliated program Keyhole LT have a "fly" in capability which is fun to watch. You may have seen the professional version on the TV news. Keyhole's resolution varies from 3 inches(!!!) in Cambridge to 1km elsewhere (around Denali). Around my house and in Glacier National Park the resolution seems to be about one meter. At that resolution, one can easily spot a car and its color in a driveway. Unfortunately, no grid lines are displayed and the roads which can be superimposed are off by a bit.

Finally, I'd like to suggest that Rocky Mountaineer's trip leaders take GPS readings for the start, finish, and significant features of each trip. These could be published and very useful for future trips by others.

Editor: Jim provided some sample images from his TOPO USA software. Including these images in the paper newsletter would not have adequately portrayed the actual image quality, and in the e-newsletter, would have made the file size too large. Most topo software companies provide sample images that can be downloaded from their website. If you have a different software, I would encourage you to share with us your evaluation.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND LIABILITY WAIVER

Family Yearly Membership: ☐ \$20.00 - paper newsletter

Family Yearly Membership: ☐ \$10.00 - electronic newsletter

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).

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