



MOUNTAIN EAR

Monthly Newsletter of the Rocky Mountaineers

September, 2005 Missoula, Montana

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



**Monthly Meeting: Wednesday, Sept. 14,
7:00 PM at Pipestone Mountaineering,
129 West Front Street, Missoula, MT.**

Business meeting from 6:15-7:00 PM.

What you did on your summer vacation.

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. Or, just show up with some pictures and we will try to accommodate you.

From the President: Forest Planning Meeting Wrap-up

The Missoula Ranger District held its last meeting on Lolo National Forest Plan Revisions last Thursday, September 1st. After several meetings all summer long they felt that attendees agreed on only a few changes to the Preferred Option. They are going to expand the corridor along the Wild and Scenic Rivers, namely Rock Creek and the South Fork of Lolo Creek, to ¼ mile instead of 1000' on each side of the stream. There was an area in the Upper Gold Creek drainage that was mislabeled on the map, and it will definitely be a backcountry area. In the Lolo Peak area they are going to expand both the recommended wilderness area and the Research Natural Area to include areas around Upper Miller Creek and Lantern Ridge. They are going to lower the area in Upper

Mormon Creek from high and moderate timber harvest to low timber harvest, and they are going to delete a motorized exception for an isolated road in the Upper Miller Creek area. Maggie Pitman, Missoula District Ranger, also reminded the audience that these are only changes to the preferred option, and there are still several steps to go through before it becomes final, including a 90-day Public Comment Period, which will likely start in November. The Forest Service feels that there were some areas of disagreement which, hopefully, can be resolved during the Comment Period. Some examples were splitting the backcountry designation into two, to have undeveloped areas for both motorized and non-motorized use. And they are thinking about combining the high and moderate timber harvest areas into one classification. They also felt that attendees at these meetings strongly supported an earlier decision to not allow a ski area into lands around Lolo Peak.

Your President, and other club members who attended these meetings, are happy with the results. We would encourage everyone to be alert for the start of the Public Comment Period, and to make your feelings known.

Then they moved on to a discussion of Roadless Areas. Although it covers similar ground, this is a separate process. Our Governor would like to petition for protection of most of our roadless areas, and he has asked the County Commissioners to help gather public opinion. Maggie Pitman gave a brief overview of roadless areas in the Missoula Ranger District, and let Jean Curtis talk about upcoming meetings. The County Commissioners will have a meeting and will start trying to gather public opinion in October. We hope that some of our members will get involved in this process.
Steve Schombel

Upcoming Trips

September 10, Saturday: Heart, Pearl, and Dalton Lakes. Not necessarily in that order, as there are numerous possibilities depending on group consensus. This is a classic hike in Mineral County. Recent trailwork has been done in this area, and there will be a chance to witness some of the damage from the nearby Prospect Fire. Options include hiking from the Heart Lake Trailhead up to the stateline, or starting from Hoodoo Pass, or doing a loop with the assist of leaving a cars at both spots. Rendezvous will be at Durango's Restaurant at 10:00 AM, but do check with Jim Goss first at 822-5000 to get details.

September Cabin Work Party- Tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 25. Help cut wood and maintain the Club's cabin on Little St. Joe. Call Steve Schombel 721-4686.

September 17: Warren Peak- Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness- Contact Jim Wilson for more details. 546-8617

October 2, Sunday: Clearwater River Canoe Trip- Details to follow. Contact Frank Kleschen for details. 728-4793, fkfc98@scn.org

CLASSIC SERIES HIKE & CLUB PARTY

OCTOBER 8, Saturday: St. Mary Peak-Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness- The hike to St. Mary Peak is open to all, the party is for members only. We reserved the Charles Waters Campground at Bass Creek for Saturday night. Bring your own beverages and food. Contact Steve Schombel or Forest Dean for more details, see contact list on last page.

Trip Reports

July 30, Saturday: Solomon Creek, Welcome Creek Wilderness Area- This hike involves fording Rock Creek twice, so I waited until the water level got low enough to make wading the creek easy, and I brought along a pair of sandals for use when fording the creek. I first drove up to the Sawmill Creek fishing access and stashed my mountain bike. Then I drove back to the Solomon Ridge trailhead, which is across the

Trip Reports Continued

road from the parking lot for the Spring Creek wildlife viewing area. After fording the creek, I headed up the Solomon Ridge trail. This trail climbs 3,100 feet up Solomon Ridge, which is on the north side of Solomon Creek, to the head of the Solomon Creek drainage. The trail gets very little use, but the trail bed is always visible, except when detouring around downed trees. Then I headed back towards Rock Creek on the Sawmill Creek trail, which runs along the ridge to the south of Solomon Cr. This trail is in somewhat better condition than the Solomon Ridge trail, but also gets very little use. At the east end of the ridge the trail switchbacks down the south side of the ridge to Sawmill Creek. After wading Rock Creek again, I hiked about 3/4 of a mile north to the Sawmill Creek fishing access, and then rode my bike about three miles back to my vehicle. This is a pleasant hike of about 11 miles, with occasional views of the surrounding area. *Peter Dayton*

August 6, Saturday: Sweeney Peak- After the fine day I had on Lolo Peak, I decided to scramble up Sweeney, the next peak to the south. You can hike over half the way on the good trail to Petersen Lake. Somewhere between the spring and the Wilderness Boundary sign, leave the trail and scramble north to the ridge top. The forest here is not brushy and is easy going. Follow the ridge west to the summit. Don't get discouraged by the false summit, because the highest point, marked by a cairn, is closer than it looks. Even though it involves more off trail hiking, I'd say Sweeney is easier than Lolo, mainly because you don't lose and have to regain all that elevation from Carlton Ridge to Carlton Lake. *S. Schombel*

August 13, Saturday: Mink Peak, Selway Bitterroot Wilderness- At 9363', this is the 14th highest peak in the Wilderness. It is approx. 7.5 miles one-way, 5 miles on the Boulder Creek trail, 2.5 miles up the Mink Creek drainage. The off-trail portion up the drainage is delightful. I stayed beside the creek almost the entire way to Mink Lake, affording me the pleasure of drinking at will. The route is mostly on moderate angle slab rock. I climbed from the Lake directly into a notch on the east side of the summit. From the

Trip Reports Continued

Lake I could not determine the high point, there are three candidates. From the notch I started up a small tower to the east, and part way up, the west peak appeared higher. This was a relief, as the climbing was getting a bit difficult. I consulted my altimeter and climbed the peak to the west of the notch. Standing on the west peak and looking at the east towers, it was too hard to call. I climbed back up the tower to the east of the notch and nervously crested it on three large and very unstable boulders. Straddling one of these I gingerly raised to my knees, thus putting my head above the higher boulder, which appeared too unstable to get on. My altimeter confirmed the westerly peak to be the summit. The other tower to the east appeared to be level with me, with more very unstable boulders on top. I had enough fun and headed down. *Steve Niday*

August 27, Saturday: Tarkio Gorge- Rocky Mountaineer Patsy O'Keefe brought friends Kathy Devine and Chelsea Murphy for a float from Tarkio to Forest Grove. Jim Goss' wife Cathy Reich provided us with a shuttle between the two points. To even out weight between the two canoes, Kathy paired up with Jim in his canoe as we floated down to our lunch spot halfway down. Although there was one near tipover at a Class II rapid, we all managed to enjoy our lunch in dry clothes. The major feature of Tarkio Gorge lurks immediately downstream of our lunchspot, in the form of an isolated Class III rapid which can easily swamp a canoe. After a couple of separate test runs by Jim & Chelsea in a small raft, the group tied down articles with Chelsea soloing in the canoe with most of the gear, Cathy and Jim together in a canoe, and Patsy floating the raft. As planned, the diminished weight in the solo canoe led to a successful bid, but Cathy and Jim could not recover from a thorough swamping and tipped in the last part of the rapids. We all enjoyed a good laugh as we swam to shore, and prepared for the remaining trip through mostly quiet water. The weather could not have been better with mid-80s temperature and virtually no wind. *Jim Goss*

GLACIER CLASSIC WEEKEND- **August 19-21**

This was the first installment of our new Classic Series and the first annual Glacier Classic Weekend. The weather was perfect all weekend, the camp area worked out great and everyone enjoyed some activities in this awe inspiring National Park. On Friday the 19th, most of us arrived at the Blankenship Bridge camp location west of West Glacier and north of Coram on the Flathead River (Frank and Zeita Kleschen had enjoyed the day there, then decided to camp at Apgar in the Park). We enjoyed a nice evening of socializing, eating, drinking and sitting by the river watching a brilliant full moon come up. The next day we arose and headed our separate ways for some various activities (see accompanying trip reports for more detail): Steve Schombel, Cathy and Michael went on a hike to "Three Falls"; Angie Dean took the kids (Frankie and Karya) to some activities around Logan Pass and St. Mary Lake and attempted to make Junior Rangers out of them; Bill Martin, Brett Doucett, Jim Goss and Forest Dean climbed Going-to-the-Sun Mountain and Matahpi Peak. Most of us camped at Blankenship again on Saturday night (more eating, drinking, etc.)- Steve Niday drove up to join us as well. A couple of our planned trips on Sunday were cancelled due to trip leader injuries: Steve Niday's Mt. Gould climb and Fred and Eileen Schwannemann's Otokomi Lake hike. Jim Goss, Bill Martin and Brett Doucett decided to hike back to Snyder Lakes on Sunday. All in all a great weekend- hope to have more of you join us next year!

Going-To-The-Sun Mountain- Aug. 20

We got started from the Siyeh Bend trailhead at about 10:15 AM. Hiked about 2KM to a junction with the Piegan Pass trail. Took this for roughly another 2KM. Passes over two mostly dry streambeds then headed off trail east towards the saddle between Going-To-The-Sun and Matahpi (large open area). We followed a dry watercourse almost all the way to a first set of



ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS of WESTERN MONTANA

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Letterhead from 20+ years ago.

cliffs in which we found a series of easy breaks to get through. Then ascended slightly higher to a second cliff band which was slightly more of a challenge, but easily attained. These same cliffs presented some problems on the descent- not for their rock climbing difficulty, but simply for trying to find the way back down through them- not easy to see from above. We then ascended toward the saddle then angled up toward the prominent Diagonal Chute that can be seen from Logan Pass. We ascended this very interesting feature, although it took awhile- it is a 40 degree slope of extremely loose scree and talus. Only 20-30 feet wide in most places. It ascends about 800 vertical feet. At the top you could look thousands of feet down the east side of the mountain. We then scaled some class 4 rock to get up on the summit ridge which leads along to the south and a final climb up some class 3 rock to the summit (9642'). Great views in all directions. The descent went well except for the aforementioned cliff bands and the fact that somehow we missed Jim on the way down (although fortunately he saw us and arrived back at the cars only about five minutes after us). The climb ascends roughly 4000' from Siyeh Bend and took us about 7 hours. Bill Martin, Brett Doucett and Forest Dean summited Going-To-The-Sun, Jim Goss did Matahpi Peak. *Forest Dean*

Matahpi Peak- Aug. 20

Near the saddle between the two peaks, Jim Goss decided to head immediately to Matahpi 9,365' with the expectation that the remainder of the group would meet up with him after

summitting Going-to-the-Sun 9,642'. Jim proceeded up the ridge above Sexton Glacier alternating between solid boulder chunks and scree. Matahpi afforded a fine 360 degree view with a good look at the trail at Siyeh Pass, which was originally one of the objectives of the group. Jim took a slightly different course down the peak away from the ridge, but still trying to keep in sight of the group as they made their way down from their objective. Distances can be deceiving, however, and neither party saw each other's descent. Jim arrived at the car only 10 minutes after the rest, and claimed not to be worried, as he was the one with keys to the car.

Jim Goss

Three Falls Hike- Aug. 20

My family didn't want to do a hike as long and hard as Siyeh Pass, so we got out a guide book and chose one called "Three Falls Hike". You leave from Sun Point and hike along St. Mary's Lake, past Baring Falls and St. Mary Falls and take the fork to Virginia Falls. The total distance is 6 miles, with not much elevation gain except up to Virginia Falls. The shores of St. Mary's Lake are beautiful, and each fall is different. There were several places we could see Going-to-the-Sun, Piegan, and other mountains, and we wondered how others in the club were doing. Only myself and my wife and son went on this hike. *Steve Schombel*

Snyder Lakes- Aug. 21

Jim Goss, Bill Martin, and Bret Doucett decided on hiking from Lake McDonald eastwards 2,000

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hiking

backpacking

snowshoeing

canoeing

cycling

ski-touring

Peaks over 8500' in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness

NAME	ELEV. FT	NORTH UTM27 METER	EAST UTM27 METER
Trapper Pk	10157	5085149.9	709733.4
El Capitan	9983	5097960.4	701610.0
<i>The Shard</i>	9883	5092440.1	706447.4
Boulder Pk	9804	5080288.0	706391.2
N Trapper Pk	9801	5086363.0	710257.7
<i>W Como Pk</i>	9624	5097480.3	705142.7
Saint Joseph Pk	9587	5164338.3	710314.1
Sugarloaf Pks	9586	5090883.0	708751.9
<i>Middle Como Pk</i>	9530	5097455.9	705750.0
<i>Chaffin Pks</i>	9486	5090019.8	705350.0
<i>E Como Pk</i>	9485	5097830.3	706623.0
<i>Bare Pk SE</i>	9459	5079782.5	702733.9
<i>Bare Pk NW</i>	9439	5080594.6	701193.9
<i>Mink Pk</i>	9363	5085907.0	706281.5
Mount Jerusalem	9355	5077479.3	697293.3
Saint Mary Pk	9351	5154371.0	711474.1
Heavenly Twins	9282	5154514.1	707348.7
<i>Trapper Lk W</i>	9260	5087176.3	702809.4
Lonesome Bachelor	9185	5097179.6	703411.2
<i>Mount Jerusalem N</i>	9169	5079041.2	696565.3
Whites Mtn	9162	5105194.6	700118.8
Sweeney Pk	9161	5169589.9	712702.0
Canyon Pk	9155	5124449.3	704058.9
Ward Mtn	9119	5116206.7	709605.5
Lolo Pk	9096	5172486.2	710840.0
<i>Whites Mtn E</i>	9095	5104811.7	701354.0
Koch Mtn	9072	5105797.4	703685.6
<i>N Canyon Pk</i>	9042	5125356.1	704179.4
<i>N Lost Horse N</i>	9018	5115885.8	704543.8
<i>Trapper Cr Pk</i>	9012	5086185.9	702133.2
<i>Bass Lk N</i>	9003	5164221.1	708390.0
Castle Crag	8984	5133936.5	702380.9
<i>Ward Mtn W</i>	8936	5115627.3	706470.2
<i>Canyon Lk W</i>	8922	5081357.9	698134.6
Gash Point	8886	5145476.6	705915.7
Pyramid Buttes	8869	5167283.7	709909.9
Bass Pk	8855	5161521.6	705539.2
<i>Sweathouse Pk</i>	8839	5146886.1	703855.1
<i>Sugarloaf E</i>	8820	5091074.5	710524.8
Ranger Pk	8817	5152928.6	699579.3
<i>Hauf Lk E</i>	8807	5129987.1	707002.1
Vance Mtn	8793	5087130.9	694507.5
Sky Pilot	8792	5145681.4	702267.5

<i>Soda Springs Lk Pk</i>	8787	5078288.9	699723.4
<i>Triple Cr Pk</i>	8785	5093477.6	701236.5
Watchtower Pk	8780	5077933.1	693352.9
<i>Lake Lomo W</i>	8774	5124477.0	701017.2
<i>Soda Springs S Pk</i>	8740	5077711.0	701097.5
<i>Lookout Lk E</i>	8740	5104777.6	697867.9
<i>Little Rock Cr Lk W</i>	8712	5099814.1	703580.8
<i>Stormy Pass NE</i>	8702	5153943.4	703500.5
Downing Mtn	8690	5123291.3	708174.6
<i>Romney Ridge</i>	8685	5125641.4	705992.5
<i>Printz Ridge W</i>	8663	5129557.1	701555.5
<i>Sheafman Pks</i>	8652	5134770.5	704728.1
<i>Mill Point W</i>	8650	5129792.0	708442.2
Blodgett Mtn	8647	5127313.6	695410.0
<i>Esplin Pk</i>	8641	5075121.3	693345.6
<i>Capitan Cr S</i>	8636	5094654.1	700559.0
<i>Two Lakes W</i>	8628	5141903.3	699938.3
<i>Lappi Pk</i>	8624	5160854.6	710505.5
<i>Hidden Lk Pk</i>	8618	5148553.9	705714.3
<i>El Capitan S</i>	8605	5096062.4	701685.6
<i>Big Grizzly Pk</i>	8601	5100308.8	695075.6
<i>Glen Pk</i>	8600	5148539.2	707336.7
<i>Sears Pk</i>	8587	5129829.8	703168.6
<i>Downing Mtn W</i>	8573	5123643.0	706453.4
<i>Tin Cup Pass N</i>	8570	5091909.4	700837.8
<i>One Horse Pk</i>	8564	5172283.7	714668.7
<i>Tin Cup Pass S</i>	8546	5090162.1	699177.5
<i>S Kootenai Pk</i>	8535	5155306.7	704997.9
<i>Bass Lk S</i>	8533	5161950.8	708190.0
<i>N Lost Horse Pk</i>	8528	5115661.2	700740.5
<i>Lake Capitan S</i>	8523	5096088.2	695511.1
Totem Pk	8521	5138665.5	700566.6
<i>Blodgett Pass NE</i>	8520	5128593.8	698274.3
<i>E Como Pk E</i>	8517	5098219.2	708293.5
<i>Ingomar Lake W</i>	8505	5120844.5	699027.3

Peaks with a name on USGS maps are in bold. For peaks with no name on the USGS maps, I gave a name, in italics, which reflects the nearest named prominent feature. The name, "The Shard", third highest in the Wilderness, comes from a guide book. I have no doubt there are errors and omissions. Please notify me of any you find.

I have this data in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet and an annotation file for my topographic mapping software, and can custom configure a file for your software application or GPS receiver.

Steve Niday

Continued from page 4

vertical feet to the first Snyder Lake. The trip was straightforward and quick, with a great lunch spot on a rock where Bill took pictures of the small but plentiful cutthroat trout with the aid of a polarizing filter. The Falcon Guide to Hiking Glacier and Waterton Lakes mentions a bushwack up a rock slope to reach the upper Snyder Lake, but provided no real detail of the actual route to take. After some dead ends a way was found by Bret and another hiker that was not with our group. The four of us scrambled up a short but steep slope, crossed a meadow, and reached the shore of the second lake which is up against a dramatic glacial cirque. The return trip was much easier with the benefit of now knowing our route down. *Jim Goss*

August 21, Sunday: Piegan Mtn.- At the last minute (late Saturday night) I was able to jump up and "attend" Forest's climb of Piegan Mtn. Beautiful day, no clouds, no Rocky Mountaineers. I waited around on the summit for awhile but finally ran out of beer and was compelled to descend. *Pat Caffrey*

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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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