

July 2006

Monthly Newsletter of the Rocky Mountaineers

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MOUNTAIN EAR

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

Dear Rocky Mountaineers,

The Rocky Mountaineers cabin up Little St. Joe in the Bitterroots has a shiny new green metal roof thanks to some dedicated volunteers and the generous donation of materials by Tom Hanou. I would like to thank Tom for not only the materials, but also the time he spent with me figuring out all the details involved in putting everything together to get the job done, and spending two days on the roof with me installing it. It took two days of hard labor to carry roofing, 2x4's, shim material, screws, nails, caulking, ladder, hammers, battery powered drill-drivers, chainsaw, and other miscellaneous tools, up 1200 vertical feet over 1.6 miles of trail.

We cut some firewood, but more needs to be cut and split this fall. The firewood supply was nearly depleted over the past winter, which is the first time I have seen this in my 21 years as a member. I don't know if this is anomaly or if this is a sign of change. If you know of individuals who use the cabin, encourage them to contribute, either by taking part in a work party, donating money to the Club, or becoming a member if not one already.

List of volunteers, sorry if I've forgotten anyone:

Tom Hanou

Jim McLean

Ron Pierson

Forest Dean

Paolo Segre

Alden Wright

Julie Kahl

Lorraine Riedl

Mary Dalton

David Kahl

Steve Schombel

Fred Schwanemann

John Wolverton

Doug Kitchen

*Paul Jensen (he's so old he helped **build** the cabin)*

-Steve Niday

Club meetings are held at 7:00 pm on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May, at Pipestone Mountaineering, 129 West Front Street, Missoula, MT.

UPCOMING TRIPS

July 8: Saturday: Edwards Mtn- Glacier National Park - According to J. Gordon Edwards, this is a 17 mile round trip, with a climb of 5800', and moderate terrain. This early though, the snow could make it a little more of a challenge. Bring an ice axe for the climb. Most of the approach is on trail, so those not interested in the climb could still have a fun hike and see some waterfalls and glaciers. I anticipate leaving early and returning late. Call me if you are interested, Steve Niday, 721-3790.

July 15, 2006 Saturday: Siamese Lakes in Great Burn Proposed Wilderness Area

This is a rather long approach, so the plan is to camp at the lower Siamese Lake, in the heart of the Great Burn. We will meet at 10:00 AM on Saturday, July 15 at Clearwater Crossing, 2 miles above the Hole in the Wall Ranch up Fish Creek. The hike is up Straight Creek trail. On Sunday morning, we will make a loop by taking one of two possible trails back to Clearwater. Call Jim Goss at 822-5000 for details.

July 22: Saturday LOLO PEAK Classic Series hike and Summer Potluck Picnic:

On Saturday, July 22, the Rocky Mountaineers will have several walks, hikes, and climbs followed by a potluck picnic at the Larry Creek picnic area. Everyone is welcome to the potluck picnic at 4:30 at Larry Creek. Please bring a food or a beverage to share, and BYOB.

The featured trip will be a hike to the top of Lolo Peak, which will be led by Steve Schombel. Meet at 8:00 am in the K-Mart parking lot in Missoula. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for more info on this hike or details about the day's activities. A short, kid-friendly activity/hike will be lead by Julie Kahl sometime in the afternoon before the potluck. Julie Kahl 543-6508 for info on these activities.

JULY, VARIOUS DATES: Great Burn Study hikes. See attached calendar for dates. Contact Beverly at 240-9901, thegreatburn@yahoo.com if interested.

1August 5-11 Swan Crest Backpack- These are my favorite hikes, routes that stay high crossing much of a range. You can see it all. This one is just a bit shorter than the Teton crest. From Inspiration Pass, it's about 60 miles to Columbia Mt. following the crest of the Swan Range. Mostly we'll be on Alpine Trail #7, but occasionally it fades and a 6 mile section from Sixmile Mt. to Broken Leg Mt. is trail-less. It's a moderately strenuous hike with some up and down and the off-trail part adds to the difficulty. Expect great views and pretty campsites - 2 nights will be in Jewel Basin. We could move the start date a couple of day either way if it works better. Contact Doug Kitchen at 546-0942 if interested.

AUGUST 18-20: Fri – Sun GLACIER CLASSIC - Glacier National Park- Two Medicine Area (details below.)

ROCKY MOUNTAINEER'S CLASSIC SERIES

JULY: Lolo Peak- Selway- Bitterroot Wilderness- Leader: Steve Schombel;
Date: Saturday, 22nd; Category: Scramble (see details above.)

AUGUST 18-20: Fri – Sun GLACIER CLASSIC - Glacier National Park- Two Medicine Area. Frank Kleschen will go early Friday to Two Medicine campground to try to secure the group campsite, or individual sites if that fails (thanks, Frank!) Food, drinks, campfires, and camaraderie on Friday and Saturday evenings. List of activities still being put together- *please consider leading a trip!* Contact Forest Dean to submit a trip listing for this event or for more information. (Home: 721-6384, Cell: 240-7612, Email: fdean@midlandimplement.com).

GLACIER CLASSIC WEEKEND SCHEDULE SO FAR:

FRIDAY, 8/18: Arrive and set up camp in Two Medicine Campground.

SATURDAY, 8/19 trips scheduled so far:

Rising Wolf Mountain/Flinsch Peak Will head out from Two Medicine and ascend the south side of Rising Wolf (class III). Once on top it is a walk along the ridge to the summit, then down along another ridge to the west, before ascending Flinsch Peak. Then will take the trail back, over Dawson Pass and descend to the lake and back to camp. Total Distance: 14.5 miles, Elevation Gain: 6000 feet. Leaders: *Forest Dean and Steve Niday*.

Scenic Point: Day hike 3.1 miles up to Scenic Point. Elevation gain: 2,242 feet. Trail ascends the Appistoki valley, then climbs to Scenic Point. We will hike from Two Medicine Road to Scenic Point and back. Total distance 6.2 miles. Moderately strenuous. Leader: *Lorraine Riedl*

SUNDAY, 8/20:

Mt. Rockwell Will hike to Upper Two Medicine Lake, then along south shore to an ascent of the northern side of Mt. Rockwell. (Class III and IV). Will try to catch ferry back across Two Medicine Lake on way out, cutting off the last couple miles. Dinner at Serrano's in East Glacier before drive home. Total Distance: 13-15 miles—Elevation Gain: 4300 feet. Leader: *Forest Dean*.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN GOING ON THE GLACIER TRIP: We are trying to secure the group campsite, so IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN GOING ON THE GLACIER TRIP, PLEASE CONTACT LORRAINE RIEDL (lorrainieriedl@aol.com or 327-0566). We are trying to get an idea of how many people are going. If we end up in individual campsites, they are \$5/person, and can accommodate 1-2 cars. Entrance fee to Glacier is \$25/7 days or \$30/year. Thanks!

TRIP REPORTS

June 24 Cha-paa-qn Peak (formerly known as Squaw Peak)

Mitch Hall, Jim Goss, Katie Guffin, Doug Kitchen, Alden Wright and Lorraine Riedl met at the Ninemile Ranger Station and carpoled to the trailhead 10 miles up Edith Peak Rd. The weather was superb and we got to the top at 12:30. The views were fantastic! -Lorraine Riedl

Pictured here at the top are Lorraine, Katie, Alden, Doug, Mitch, Jim:



June 21-25, Mt. Rainier

Participants: Paolo Segre, Kevin Ball, Paul Jensen, Steve Niday, Forest Dean.

Day 1- We arrived in Packwood just south of the Park around 7:00 pm. We then took FR 52 northwest to a National Forest campground (Big Creek) just to the west of the Nisqually entrance.

Day 2- 9:00 am: Started at roughly 2800'. From the trailhead, we went 3.5 miles up to Round Pass (4000'). We descended a trail east to a junction with the South Puyallup River Trail. We continued hiking east - encountered the Wonderland Trail (this trail makes a 93 mile circuit of the mountain) 2.2 miles after the pass, then arrived at Emerald Ridge 1.8 miles after that (6000'). From this great vantage point the Wonderland Trail descends to the south, but we began our off trail climb here heading east onto the terminal moraine of the Tahoma Glacier. We camped the first night at 6400'. The weather was perfect all day. We enjoyed sublime views of the upper mountain as well as Mt. St. Helens off to our southwest.

Day 3- The first couple of hours the going was straightforward, but at around 7500', we started to encounter steeper pitches, larger crevasses, snow bridges, seracs, etc. The snow became quite soft as well around midday. We had to boot belay each other over a couple crevasse bridges, but no one fell in and we continued up. Around 10,000' we skirted below some large seracs then did a final jaunt up to a beautiful camp at about 10,500'. A couple other climbers from California arrived shortly after and joined us for the night at this sight.

Day 4- 6:00 am. We started up the upper Tahoma Glacier route- also known as the “hourglass.” The route ascended pitches of 45-50 degrees at times. Around 13,000’ it started getting quite windy as we started to get on more gentle terrain. *At about 10:30 we topped Rainier at 14,410 feet!* The views were amazing without any clouds- Mt. Baker, Mt. Shuksan, Glacier Peak to the north, Mt. Adams, Mt. Hood, Mt. St. Helens to the south, the Olympics and Seattle/Tacoma to the west. We arrived back at camp at 1:30 pm, headed back down the glacier about 3:00pm. About 7:30, we finally arrived at the end of the glacier at the Wonderland Trail high point and spent the night. A beautiful sunset followed, then everyone slept well.

Day 5- Awaking once again to a fabulous morning, we ate our final breakfast, packed up, and hit the trail. We descended south on the Wonderland, then west on the abandoned Tahoma Creek trail. This trail is washed out completely in places and has a lot of deadfall, but it was still quite a bit quicker than the Round Pass way we went in. We all arrived at the vehicles between 10-11 am after a 2-3 hour hike out. Paolo parted ways with us here- headed for Portland and a job interview. The rest of us piled our wet, stinky gear into Steve’s car, headed up to Paradise, and then back to Missoula. Kevin bought us a fine Mexican dinner in Yakima (thanks again, Kevin!), and we arrived back in Missoula about 10:00 pm. Tough to end a trip like this- great weather, a very compatible group, and success on a big mountain- makes it tough to go back to work! *Forest Dean*

Mount Shuksan June 28, 2006

Each year I spend the last week in June climbing in the Cascades. I try to plan the trip with several close friends making it an annual event for all of us. This year’s trip was planned for Mount Shuksan in the North Cascades. Mount Shuksan lies across the valley east of Mount Baker and can be seen on a clear day from Puget Sound. The peak itself is 9,127’ high and is the tenth highest mountain in the Cascade Range, but has some of the most incredible cliffs and views offered by any mountain.

My son Scott and I were picked up by Tim Ballweber and his son for the drive over. We were to meet two close friends from the coast, Dr. Derek Boyden from Gig Harbor and Peter Way, a ship wrecked Australian from Portland.

We were to meet at a restaurant in a town called Concrete. Arriving first, we pitched a plan with the waitress to refuse service to Peter. Her reason was that her boss did not like Australians because of a bad experience with them in the war, and now did not allow any Aussies in his restaurant. Upon hearing this explanation Peter abruptly said, “Bring the boss down here so I can have some words with the chap.” Peter’s smile was a dead give away, and we all had a good laugh over it.

Much to the dismay of our 14 and 16-year-old boys, we had an alpine start in the morning. By 6:00 am, we started the hike through the tall cedars and beautiful Douglas fir rain forest. By late afternoon we had reached the glacier and set up a camp at around 6000’. The clouds that had hung around all day had now cleared exposing an incredible view of Mt. Baker directly across the valley. We had a comfortable evening and dinner and then crawled into our sleeping bags early, for another alpine start in the morning.

At 5:00 the next morning, we packed up and headed up the Sulphide Glacier towards the summit ridge. It was the first time either one of the kids had used crampons and a rope, so the going was a little slow. Once we found our rhythm, the pace increased and before to long we were at the base of the final cliff that made up the summit pyramid. From this point, we climbed a 60-degree snow gully to the summit. I was especially careful to always make sure we had a good belay just in case one of the boys slipped. We made it to the summit on my son Scott's 14th birthday. We made the hike out to the car the same day and found ourselves eating Salmon at the Kiawanas benefit luncheon in the town of Sedro Woolley. As I look back on the trip I can't help but feel privileged to have the opportunity to offer my son an experience that will be unlike anything else he will do and something that will be in his memories from this time forth. —*Jim Wilson*

ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND LIABILITY WAIVER

Family Yearly Membership: _____ \$20.00 for paper newsletter
_____ \$10.00 for electronic newsletter

Make checks payable to 'Rocky Mountaineers' and send to:

The Rocky Mountaineers, PO Box 4262, Missoula, MT 59806

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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/Guardian if Under 18: _____

Club Contacts

Website: www.rockymountaineers.com **Email:** rockymountaineers@hotmail.com

Mailing address: The Rocky Mountaineers, PO Box 4262, Missoula, MT 59806

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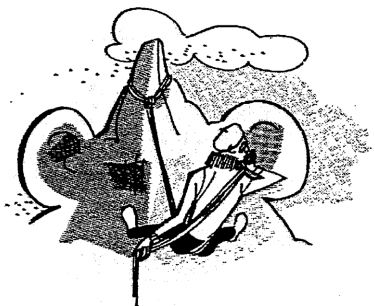
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