



MARCH 2007

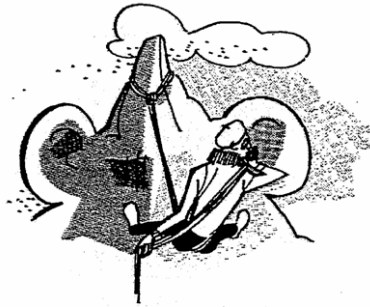
THE MOUNTAIN EAR

This Issue:

- 3- March Presentation
- 4- East St. Mary's Peak
- 5- Upcoming Trips
- 7- Trip Forum
- 11- Trip Reports
- 16- Features
- 20- News

The Monthly Newsletter of The Rocky Mountaineers

The Rocky Mountaineers



Climb. Hike. Ski. Bike. Paddle.
Dedicated to the Enjoyment and Promotion of
Responsible Outdoor Adventure.

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The Mountain Ear is the club newsletter of The Rocky Mountaineers and is published near the beginning of every month. Anyone wishing to contribute articles of interest are welcomed and encouraged to do so- contact the editor.

Membership application can be found at the end of the newsletter.

ABOUT THE CLUB:

Mission Statement:

The Rocky Mountaineers is a non-profit club dedicated to the enjoyment and promotion of responsible outdoor adventures.

Meetings and Presentations:

Meetings are held the second Wednesday, September through May, at 6:00 PM at Pipestone Mountaineering. Each meeting is followed by a featured presentation or speaker at 7:00 PM.

Activities:

- ☐ Hiking
- ☐ Backpacking
- ☐ Alpine Climbing & Scrambling
- ☐ Peak Bagging
- ☐ Backcountry Skiing
- ☐ Winter Mountaineering
- ☐ Track Skiing
- ☐ Snowshoeing
- ☐ Snowboarding
- ☐ Mountain Biking
- ☐ Rock Climbing
- ☐ Canoeing & Kayaking
- ☐ Rafting
- ☐ Kids Trips
- ☐ Terracaching/Geocaching

March Meeting & Presentation

Wednesday, March 14th, 7:00 PM at Pipestone Mountaineering.

World class kayaker and Missoula native Doug Ammons will present a slide show of whitewater from various expeditions around the world. Ammons grew up in Missoula, graduating from high school and the UM, and receiving his Ph.D. in psychology. From the 1980s onward, he was one of the top whitewater kayakers in the world. He has made dozens of expeditions doing first descents on three continents. He started doing first descents in the mountain ranges around Montana, and shifted his attention outward to exotic rivers.

Those rivers include the Shumulja deep in the rain forests of southern Mexico, a jungle river that plummets underground and finally reemerges far downstream, requiring kayaking, climbing and caving to descend. It has only been done one other time. In the same area, he did the first descent in 1993 of another incredible jungle river, the Santa Domingo, with seven different gorges containing huge cascading sets of waterfalls. It was repeated for the first time this last year, 2006. From that extreme, he has gone to the glacial rivers of northern Canada, Alaska, the Himalaya and Andes.

In the kayaking world, Ammons is perhaps best known for his solo run of one of the hardest rivers in the world, the Grand Canyon of the Stikine River in northern Canada. That run has been likened by many as the whitewater equivalent to Reinhold Messner's solo ascent of Everest. The canyon is a deep, committing gorge that the great wilderness proponent John Muir once called "A 60 mile long Yosemite". Sheer canyon walls rise directly out of the water, unclimbable in many places, hemming in huge rapids that in many cases are not portable. Although first done in 1985, the river is still formidable at present: this last season there were four attempts by some of the best young expedition kayakers in the world. Only one of the four teams

made it through the canyon. Ammons is currently about to finish a book on the Stikine, which he considers one of the most spectacular and dramatic places in the world.

He has done seven films for major network television documenting some of these expeditions, including two for National Geographic, one for ESPN and four for the Outdoor Life Network. He wrote the scripts for four of them, as well as working as a cameraman and editing, and even providing classical guitar music for two of the films. Three of the films won Emmy awards, and all are still shown regularly on network television in the US and around the world. Ammons received an Emmy Award for action cinematography for his work on the 1997 film "Bolivia: Andes to Amazon".

Ammons is also a top-notch adventure writer, publishing in many magazines and edited collections. He recently published his own book "The Laugh of the Water Nymph", which was voted "One of the outstanding outdoor books of the year" by the National Outdoor Book awards, and called "Beautiful writing and incredibly impressive" by a former editor of Outside magazine editor. His writing is regularly compared to Joseph Conrad, in that it blends incredible action with thoughtfulness and psychological depth.

Despite the world travel, Ammons' favorite rivers still are those close by, the Blackfoot and Lochsa. He is a full time editor of two large, international psychology journals, and lives with his wife and five children in Missoula.

The Rocky Mountaineers business meeting will be held before the presentation, beginning at 6:00 PM at Pipestone. Any and all members interested are encouraged to attend.

Classic Places

East Saint Mary's Peak

The March Classic Series Trip takes us up to the impressive Mission Mountains for an ascent attempt of East Saint Mary's Peak. This will be the first of three scheduled Mission Range Classic Trips this year, with Grey Wolf Peak (May) and range high point McDonald Peak (October), to follow. East Saint Mary's Peak along with its twin West Saint Mary's Peak and Grey Wolf Peak form the fabulous southern end of this impressive range. As one drives north on Highway 93 up and over Evaro Hill, these mountains never fail to inspire as they come into view.



*East (right) and West St. Marys as seen from the normal ascent route in March 2001.
Photo by Daryl Greaser*

East Saint Mary's Peak at 9425' is one of the bigger peaks in the range. Unlike many of the others, however, the standard route to the summit is fairly straightforward and non-technical with no bush-whacking. In good weather the mile-or-so long ridge walk to the final



West and East Saint Marys, looking northwest from above the standard route (ridge in foreground). A sea of clouds covers the Flathead valley. Aerial photo 30dec06 by D.Greaser.

summit push can be a walk in heaven- mostly flat tundra with incredible views. The final few hundred yards requires a scramble to the summit with no real exposure. But what this peak lacks in technical difficulty, it certainly makes up for in physical output expenditure. As the trail climbs from the start at St. Mary's Reservoir at about 4000' to the long open ridge at 7500' your body tends to get a workout. That 3500' climb is accomplished over the first 1.5 miles (the final 2000' is gained over the last 2 miles). This isn't really a trail in the classic sense either. Switchbacks are few and far between- it mostly just goes straight up the ridge. We did find the trail to be well cleared of brush by some kind soul during a December trip up here. Gaining nearly 5500' in 3.5 miles can be strenuous, but perhaps the most difficult part is realizing you have to lose it again- yes, the descent can be a bit tough on one's body! All said, however, if you are in decent shape, the rewards of getting up above treeline on this peak seem to make all the energy expenditure well worth it.

This route and peak sit entirely in the Mission Mountain Tribal Wilderness, the first and only such designation of its kind in the country. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes require a \$15 recreation permit to use this land. The permit can be purchased at most stores that sell fishing or hunting licenses. Please be aware that an annual permit expires at the end of February (the same as MT fishing licenses).

UPCOMING TRIPS AND ADVENTURES

Trip Notes:

Please contact the trip leader for more information regarding any listed trips.

Mileage listed is round trip mileage. Elevation listed is gain only. For information on Class Rating see below:

Class Rating System

CLASS 1 – HIKING Mostly on trails, but may also include some easy cross country travel.

CLASS 2 – EASY SCRAMBLING Rugged off trail hiking, no hands required.

CLASS 3 – SCRAMBLING Use of hand to ascend some sections of rock. Little to no exposure; a fall would not likely cause serious injury.

CLASS 4 – CLIMBING Easy climbing, great exposure; a fall would quite possibly cause serious injury. Use of a rope and protection at times possible.

CLASS 5 – TECHNICAL CLIMBING Use of rope, protection and belay are a must.

CLASS 6 – AID CLIMBING Use of equipment to support your weight as you climb.

Saturday, March 3 – LOLO PASS MOONLIGHT SKI (Bitterroots)

Description: If anyone is interested in a moonlight ski on the next full moon. I'm thinking of taking a stove to Lolo Pass, having a bite to eat, then a short ski, perhaps the short loop and out to Packer Meadows.

Leader: Steve Schombel - 721-4686

Sunday, March 4 - BLUE MTN via DEADMAN GULCH (Blue Mountain Rec. Area)

Rating: Class 1 or 2 terrain, *Mileage:* 4.8 miles one-way, *Elevation:* 3000' gain.

Description: A different way to the top of Blue Mtn. The route starts at 3400', but since it is in a relatively steep-sided valley, I am hoping to be on snow (ice) at the beginning. If we're lucky, and it snows some more, we'll be on snow most of the way.

Special equipment: It wouldn't hurt to bring some ice grippers for your boots for the lower section and ski's with skins, or snowshoes.

Leader: Steve Niday 721-3790 or email seniday@yahoo.com

Saturday, March 10 – LOLO PASS AREA SKI/SNOWSHOE (Bitterroots)

Mileage: 5.0 miles roundtrip, *Elevation:* 500'

Description: This will be a ski/snowshoe trip on Forest Road 4283, off Rt. 12 three plus miles north of Lolo Pass. It will be two and one half miles up and back for a round trip total of five miles. Going further is possible.

Leader: Fred Schwanemann- 542-7372 for further details.

Saturday, March 17 – STARK MOUNTAIN (Nine Mile area)

Rating: Class 2 terrain, *Mileage:* 8-10 miles, *Elevation:* 3800'

Description: Stark Mountain is a 7350 foot peak with a lookout on the south side of the Nine Mile Valley. The trip will follow the trail that goes up the east side of the peak. Elevation gain:

Special Equipment: Skis with skins or snowshoes.

Leader: Alden Wright - 243-4790 days, 542-1966 evenings, starkmtn@wrightmontana.net.

Sunday, March 18 - LARRY CREEK LOOP TRAIL (Bitterroot Valley)

Description: This is a nice hike that stays low, and may be snow free. There are several trails in this area, with the longest being about 6 miles with 600 to 800' elevation gain. The Buttercups come out early in this area, and there may be some other Spring flowers.

Leader: Steve Schombel – 721-4686.

Sat-Sun, March 24-25 – FREEZEOUT LAKE (Choteau area)

Description: Steve Schombel and his family are heading over to see the Snow Geese. If you haven't seen it, this is one of the most spectacular wildlife displays in our area. We will get a room in Choteau. This is not a hike or climb, just something of general interest.

Leader: Steve Schombel – 721-4686.

Saturday, March 24 – EAST ST. MARY'S PEAK (Mission Mountains) (Classic Series Trip)

Rating: Class 3, *Mileage:* 7.0 miles, *Elevation Gain:* 5400'

Description: Will depart Missoula at 7:00 am. Route will begin at St. Mary's Lake and follow the steep ridge up to the north. Climb gains 3500' in first 1.5 miles, following a very steep trail- participants need to be in good physical condition. Trip will probably take around 8 hours. If time and interest permits, we can attempt traverse to West St. Mary's or Peak X, as well.

Special Equipment: Ski's or Snowshoes for travel. Crampons, ice ax recommended. Avalanche gear likely needed. Tribal recreation permit required.

Leader: Forest Dean-H: 721-6384, C: 240-7612, email: fdean@midlandimplement.com

2007 CLASSIC SERIES

Details about these trips will be listed in the newsletter as the times get closer.

March trip is listed above.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Leader</u>
Mar	East St. Mary's Peak	Missions	Ski/Snowshoe	Forest Dean
Apr	Trapper Peak	Bitterroots	Ski/Snowshoe	Alden Wright
May	Grey Wolf Peak	Missions	Snow Climb	Forest Dean
Jun	Burnt Fork Pinnacle	Reservation Divide	Hike	Alden Wright
Jul	Lolo Peak	Bitterroots	Hike/Scramble	Steve Schombel
Aug	3 rd Glacier Classic	Waterton NP	Various	Steve Niday
Sep	Warren Peak	Pintlers	Scramble	Jim Wilson
Oct	McDonald Peak	Missions	Climb	Forest Dean
Nov	Chief Joseph Pass	Bitterroots	Ski	Steve Schombel
Dec	Sweeney Peak	Bitterroots	Hike/Ski/Snowshoe	Forest Dean

Trip Forum

Thinking about a trip this coming summer, but no definite dates yet? Looking for partners to plan some big adventure? Well here is the place to do it! The Trip Forum section serves as a "bulletin board" for those grand plans circling around in your head. Once you firm up dates and details, the trip can then be moved into the "Upcoming Trips and Adventures" section, if you so choose. Feel free to submit your ideas! The following is a sampling:

Goat Peak.

Planned for sometime in late April. There is a short but steep trail to the top of this small mountain. It is supposed to be real rugged country with spires and cliffs. Mario Locatelli said he would meet us and show us the way. It's about 6 miles with roughly 1750' of gain. No firm date has been set, so watch for more details in next month's newsletter. Steve Schombel, 721-4686.

Square Butte, Round Butte (E of Great Falls) and maybe Haystack Butte.

Bag the Central Mountain. Trio Baker Monument is also in the area. If interested contact Julie Kahl 543-6508

Bob Marshall Backpack

Enter via Pyramid Pass, exit via Youngs Pass. 3 day trip, Payramid Lake (5 mi.) 1st day, Youngs Creek to Jenny Creek 2nd day (6-8 mi. ?) Jenny Creek to Youngs Pass and out - 6-8 Mi. We also need to recruit drop off (and maybe camp over night) drivers for this trip. If interested call Julie Kahl 543-6508

Grand Teton- I am planning to climb the Grand on one of the first two weekends in July. Will be a three day trip from Missoula and will do one of the easier standard routes. If things go well and time permits, we could climb something else in Cathedral Group or Garnet Canyon as well. This would be my first climb in the Tetons, i.e. I am not a guide. I always like to stop at the Snake River Brewing Company when finished (here I can guide!). Firm details should be available in April newsletter. Forest Dean, 240-7612 or fdean@midlandimplement.com

Humbug Spires

Memorial Day Weekend we are planning on heading over to the Humbug Spires (south of Butte). Intention is to backpack in a ways and set up a basecamp on Saturday, then rock climb, boulder, hike, fish, explore and relax. Hike out on Monday. Any and all ages and abilities are welcome. For those with little or no backpacking experience this would be a great time to be introduced to such an activity. I would be happy to assist with basic know-how or gear help, if needed. This is a great area for rock climbing. Contact Forest or Angie Dean- 721-6384.

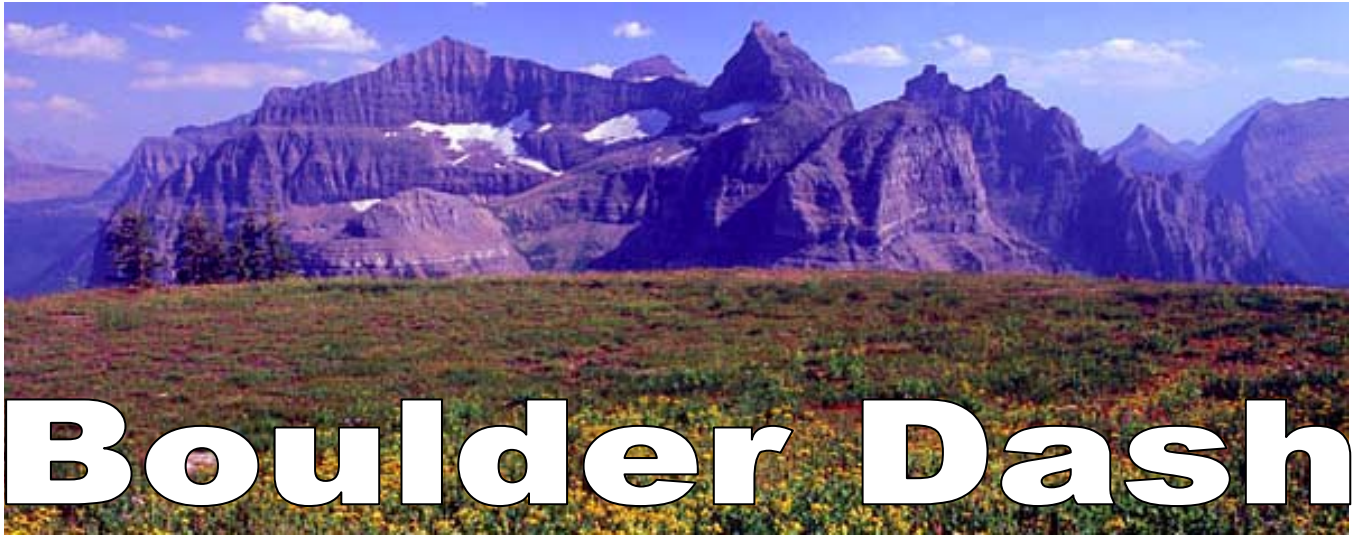
Missoula Summit Day

The Bitterroot-Mission Group of the Sierra Club is looking for outdoor groups to join in Missoula Summit Day set for Saturday, August 4th. Groups who practice quiet use recreation can lead a hike to their "adopted" local peak and give the public an opportunity to experience an outing to one of our local high places. In the process our community can become more familiar with the groups who routinely explore, enjoy and protect our wildlands. Thus far the Sierra Club has "adopted" Lolo Peak, the UM Outdoor Club plans to do Sleeping Woman Peak and the Back Country Horsemen are considering a ride up Mount Jumbo. Mary Dalton has expressed interest in leading a Rocky Mountaineers trip to Stuart Peak and would like for anyone interested in co-leading to call her at 550-1968.

Along with the trip descriptions each group will have the opportunity to attach a few sentences about their mission statement, activities, meetings and contact information. The Sierra Club will handle the local publicity, flyering and overall coordination for this event. For more information contact the Bitterroot-Mission Group's Outings Chairperson John Wolverton at 543-6696 or yodelingdog@hotmail.com

Note:

Sudden urge to go do something this weekend and want some fellow club members to do it with? Anyone wishing to submit last minute trips can do so by either calling or emailing the editor. A mass email can then be sent out to the membership. Call Forest @ 240-7612, 721-6384 or email: fdean@midlandimplement.com



Climb remote northern Glacier National Park without an exhausting approach hike.

You can choose to attempt the following peaks:

Thunderbird Mountain 8790 ft	Chapman Peak 9406 ft Mount Custer 8882 ft	Rainbow Peak 9891 ft Mount Carter 9843 ft
The Sentinel 8835 ft	Boulder Peak 8528 ft	Numa Peak 9003 ft
The Guardhouse 9336 ft	Kintla Peak 10,101 ft	

Kintla is very feasible from Boulder Pass. Drop to 6000 ft west of the pass, then leave the trail.
Carter-Rainbow can be done in a day using the connecting ridge (long day, 6000 feet above camp)

No postponement due to weather. Advance campsite reservations will be made in April. \$15 per person camping fees, plus \$30 advance registration fee split between participants.

To view an area map, go to <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=48.93084&lon=-114.11855&s=200&size=l&u=4&datum=nad27&layer=DRG>

Thursday August 2 - Meet @ Polebridge Ranger Station 2 p.m. to get permits. Drive to foot of Bowman Lake & motorboat 7 miles to our campsite at the head of the lake. Campfire permitted here if fire danger allows. Beer will be provided.

Friday August 3 - Dash to Boulder Pass or other reserved campsite, **Or**
Go alpine style from Bowman Lake.

Upcountry Campsites and distance from the Bowman Lake campsite are:

Brown Pass (6255 ft) 6.7 miles	Hole In The Wall (6400 ft) 8.3 miles
Hawksbill (5600 ft) 8.2 miles	Boulder Pass (7280 ft) 12.3 miles
Lake Francis (5255 ft) 8.8 miles	(just west of the 7470 ft pass)

Saturday August 4 - Climbing Day

Sunday August 5 - Return to Bowman Lake. Ferry to vehicles @ foot of lake. Return home.

Wallowa Odyssey

A climbing trip into the Eagle Cap Wilderness of northeastern Oregon.



Ice Lake. Matterhorn is left center. Photo courtesy of Pat Caffrey.

July 26th (Thursday) – Leave Missoula 8 a.m. Travel to Joseph, Oregon. Meet @ Mt Howard Tramway at 1 p.m. (Pacific Time). Take the tram (\$15 per person) to the summit restaurant @ 8150 feet for a European style lunch on the patio. Sample the local “Terminal Gravity” microbrew. Enjoy the view & blubber about climbing. Visualize prospective routes on our destination peaks. Optional short hikes on mountaintop trails. Descend tram by 4 p.m. Hike from nearby West Fork Wallowa River Trailhead (4645 feet) 2.8 miles up the Wallowa Ck Trail. Camp @ Ice Lake Trail Junction (6040 feet).

July 27th (Friday) – Hike 5.1 miles to Ice Lake (7850 feet). Late arrivals, climbers in good shape who only have 3 days for the trip (skipping Day 1), or those who had too much beer on Mt. Howard should be able to catch up from the Trailhead.

July 28th (Saturday) – Climb one or both of the two highest peaks in the Eagle Cap Wilderness, Matterhorn (9826 feet) and/or Sacajawea Peak (9838 feet), 6th & 7th highest peaks in Oregon. Both are scrambles, but Matterhorn is easier. The ridge connecting the two has some Class 4 outcrops, but it does go. Return to camp @ Ice Lake. **Warning:** Pat will not be packing beer to Ice Lake.

July 29th (Sunday) – Descend to Wallowa Cr Trailhead & return to Missoula.

Alternative Trip Dates (in event of bad weather): August 9th - 12th.

Topographic Map: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=45.24358&lon=-117.25974&s=200&size=1&u=4&datum=nad27&layer=DRG>



Matterhorn from Sacajawea Peak, showing the connecting ridgetop.



Sacajawea Peak ridge, approaching the Class 4 outcrops.

CONTACT INFORMATION: The “Boulder Dash” and “Wallowa Odyssey” are both being led by Pat Caffrey. Contact him at 677-2661 for more information.

TRIP REPORTS

January 13-16, Third Annual MLK Ice Climbing Trip – Radium Hot Springs, BC

We knew our third annual MLK Canada Ice Climbing Trip was off to a good start when the weather turned arctic cold. When temperatures are below 0°F for extended periods the ice forms fast and hard making climbing more hazard free but much more difficult to place protection. Our group this year included Jim Cossitt, Deborah Pratt and Jim and Deborah Foster and extended from January 13th to the 16th.

On Sunday the group climbed Gibraltar Wall. After gearing up Cossitt, Pratt and J. Foster headed up the 10 minute approach to the base of the ice fall. Deborah Foster stayed down near the cars to do some cross-country skiing. The temperature was roughly -6°F. Jim Cossitt took the lead up WI-2 & 3 ice to just short of a full 60 meter pitch. The cold ice made it difficult to place a tool or screws. Pratt and Foster tied into the ends of the ropes and Cossitt belayed us up. With all of us up to the anchor of the 1st pitch, Cossitt led out again and climbed the second tier of ice to a large cave formed by an overhanging rock shelf adorned with 10 foot icicles – it looked like we were in the mouth of a saber-toothed ice fall. With the cold ice and cold air, we took stock of our energy levels, the next pitch of ice and the clock and decided we had had enough. It took two abalakovs to get us back down on the ground and heading to the hotel.

That night we visited the famous Radium Hot Springs to sooth sore muscles. The air temperature was -10°F which was a trifle uncomfortable as you soak in 105°F water while your head freezes. Deb Foster was smart and wore a hat.

The next day Pratt & Cossitt went to Louise Falls via Laggan's Bakery. Set at the end of Lake Louise, this picturesque climb was deserted (perhaps due to the fact the high was 0 F or colder ??). Cossitt lead the 1st pitch into some slushy, mushy garbage ice that was impossible to get good protection into for an anchor. After much angst and alternatives, an suitable anchor was finally forthcoming. Pratt practiced with her new leashless mixed tools and Fosters appeared below on skis. It was so cold

there was only one thing to do: back to Laggan's Bakery !



Photo by Jim Cossitt.

On the final day of our trip we went back to Gibraltar Wall. Foster led out on WI-3 ice with two ropes to just short of a full pitch. The temperatures were considerably warmer than our previous climb, however, the route chosen was in the shade and still had iron-ice to contend with. Cossitt tied into both ropes and was belayed up to the anchor. At this point we studied the second tier of ice directly in front of us. The ice was 20 to 60 feet of dead vertical before laying back into more congenial terrain. In addition it had developed lots of chandeliers which make climbing very difficult. Both Jim's tried different sections of this tier and both downclimbed about 8 feet due to how difficult and wet the climb was. We decided to use our time and top rope the ice from where we had the anchor built. We spent the next hour and a half doing laps up 50 meters of ice before rappelling off and heading home. All-in-all an excellent weekend both in the weather, the quality of ice and safe climbing. *Jim Cossitt*

January 27-28, Schley Mountain (Bitterroots)

Schley Mountain is located about 15 miles north of Lolo Pass, about three miles from the Montana-Idaho border. A road runs from the Fish Creek road up Surveyors Creek to a trailhead at a saddle half a mile north of the summit, and continues for a couple miles towards the border. Art Gidel, Dan Hoheim, and I (Peter Dayton) snowmobiled about 12 miles and 3,300 vertical feet to the trailhead and set up camp there for the weekend. There's an outhouse at the trailhead, so we felt decadently comfortable. The weather was sunny and mild all weekend. From the ridgetops in this area we saw miles of open slopes and bowls glistening in the sun, but it hadn't snowed for a week or so, and everywhere the sun was hitting was covered with a nasty and barely skiable crust. We had to stick to shady north facing slopes all weekend. I want to return to this area when the snow conditions are better. *Peter Dayton*

January 27-28, Chief Joseph Pass Ski (Bitterroots)

We couldn't have asked for better weather for a weekend of skiing at Chief Joseph Pass. It was cold, but uncomfortable so, it kept the trails fast, with no gummy snow. Participants stayed at either the Sula Store or The Broad Axe. Julie Kahl & Steve Schombel had skied here before but it was new territory for Fred & Eileen Schwanemann, Kathy & Mike (13) of Steve's family and David Kahl. Fred and Eileen made good use of their time, probably exploring most of the trails in the two days. They and Julie & David skied 5-6 hrs on Sat. Julie and David topping it off with a very fast run down Chief Joseph's signature trail -Bannshee. Steve & Family joined up for dinner at The Broad Axe restaurant and we all skied for several hours on Sunday afternoon before everybody headed back to town. Both days we had lunch in the Bitterroot Ski Club's legendary new "warming hut" actually a three story "house." It was comfy and hard to leave. *Julie Kahl*

February 3-4, Diamond Lake and Cliff Lake area (Bitterroots)

Art Gidel, Greg Zlock, and I (Peter Dayton) decided to spend the weekend checking out the area around Diamond Lake and Cliff Lake, which are at the head of the Dry Creek drainage on the Montana-Idaho border, west of Superior. It hadn't snowed much for the last couple of weeks, so we figured the skiing wouldn't be very good, but we wanted to

check out the back country skiing potential of the area. We parked at a bridge across Dry Creek, a short distance after the end of county road maintenance, and snowmobiled about ten miles into Diamond Lake, hauling our camping gear in trailers. At lower altitudes the canyon sides are heavily wooded, with no skiing potential. The USFS map shows a campground at Diamond Lake, but it's just a trailhead with an outhouse. Diamond Lake is pretty, and there's a steep southeast-facing 600-foot bowl above the lake that offers some great skiing terrain. However, a bunch of avalanches had run down into the bowl from the rocks near the ridgeline, so you might want to stay off the steep portions of the bowl during times of elevated avalanche danger. One of the avalanches started with a fracture line about four feet high and exposed bare ground. At the bottom of the bowl I found a large hunk of snow leaning against a tree with a layer of ice on the bottom of it which was streaked with mud from where the slab of snow slid down the mountainside.



Photo by Peter Dayton

Cliff Lake is about half a mile away from Diamond Lake and 500 feet higher. It's really scenic, as a wall of cliffs runs along the southwest side of the cirque. One section of the cliffs had a lot of ice on it, and may have some ice climbing potential. The snow had been hammered by sun and wind, and wasn't very good, but the 900 foot high slope to the northwest of the outlet of Cliff Lake has great skiing terrain with nicely spaced mature trees. This would be a relatively safe area to ski when avalanche danger is high. We also checked out

the wooded slopes to the southeast of the outlet of Cliff Lake. For the adrenaline junkies there's a very steep open bowl to the west of Cliff Lake, which I didn't even think of trying. The tree skiing between the two lakes isn't bad. This area is definitely worth visiting, both for the scenery and for the skiing.



*Cliff Lake- Looking south across lake at Eagle Cliff.
Peter Dayton photo.*

At the end of the day, Greg headed back to Missoula. Art and I had planned to camp at the outlet of Diamond Lake, but the area was like a wind tunnel, so we retreated about half a mile down the road and set up camp for the night. The next day we checked out some burns and partially regrown clearcuts at the head of Fourth of July Gulch. We didn't find anything worth returning to in that area, due to excessively thick trees and terrain which tends to push you into gullies. However, we did find a recent clearcut on the south-facing slope above Fourth of July Gulch which offers about 400 feet of good skiing. *Peter Dayton*

February 15-18, Mt. Jackson attempt (Glacier National Park)

I didn't get any takers on this trip, but being that I had listed it last month as well, I figured I better not abandon the idea twice. I had scheduled the vacation days and so decided to go for it. I left Missoula at 8:30 on Thursday morning and had an uneventful trip up to St. Mary's- arriving at 12:30. Distance up there was 227 miles.

Day 1

I checked in with a ranger at the St. Mary's ranger station when I got there. She promptly handed me the weather report. HIGH WIND WARNING jumped out at me (as if I couldn't tell by the horizontal snow outside)- 75 mph WIND GUSTS, HIGHER NEAR THE DIVIDE. Do I really want to do this? I seriously questioned it for a few minutes, but then decided to give it a try. She wrote up my permit and I headed up the road to Rising Sun. Here I lingered in my truck putting on my clothing, etc. as long as I could, once again questioning my sanity. The wind was rocking my truck just sitting there. The first five miles would take me down the Going-to-the-Sun road and right into that wind. But I was here, so at 1:45 PM I strapped on the ski's and got started. As far as I could tell it wasn't really snowing- the wind was just carrying snow off the peaks. Visibility was poor- there were times when I couldn't see across the lake. As I headed up the road certain portions were better than others- as I got off the lake a bit and in trees it wasn't so bad. Then I would come around a point and literally almost get knocked over. A few portions of the road were swept clean and I had to walk. Carrying my ski's on these portions was even tougher as they added resistance. Eventually I made it to the end of the lake and took the St. Mary's Falls trail down into the forest and finally out of the wind! Here I followed the trail downhill to a junction with the Piegan Pass Trail and then west to a junction with the Gunsight Pass Trail. I arrived here at about 5 PM (approximately 6.5 miles from start) and set up a camp by Deadwood Falls. Although not windy in here, the snow continued to fall and with the warmer temps (32 degrees), things started to get a bit wet. Had some dinner and jumped in the tent for a long winters nap. During the night the snow turned to sleet and coated my tent with a nice layer of ice.

Day 2

Rolled out of the tent about 8:00 am. Had some breakfast, packed up and hit the trail about 10:00. Crossed Reynolds Creek to start (suspension bridge there removed in winter). Skied up the Gunsight Pass Trail. Going was difficult all day. This area had recently received about 8" of new snow and with last nights sleet there was a nice crust layer to break through in addition to the powder underneath. Wind had died down a bit today, and visibility was better. As I skied up the St. Mary River valley

towards Gunsight Lake, I got some nice views of Little Chief Mtn, Dusty Star, Citadel, and Logan as well as views back to the east of Going-To-The-Sun Mtn. and Matahpi Peak. Mt. Jackson was visible except for its upper 1000' or so. I never did glimpse Blackfoot Mtn. on this trip at all. The sun even poked out a couple of times. The trail breaks out onto the lower portion of Fusillade Mtn after a while and crosses some steep slopes on its way to Gunsight. It crosses numerous avalanche chutes, but everything seemed quite stable. I kept my eye on Jackson as I got closer, looking for possible routes. The weather never managed to fully cooperate though- the northeast ridge (my intended route) stayed hidden for the most part. Arrived at the Gunsight Lake backcountry camping area at about 2:00 PM. Wind was a bit stronger up here, but still not as bad as yesterday. I got my camp set up, had some dinner, and hit the sack early wondering if I would be able to make a go at it tomorrow.



A stormy Mt. Jackson. Photo by F. Dean.

Day 3

Well the wind decided to really pick up again overnight, and I awoke to it blowing like crazy. I could barely make out the top of Fusillade Mtn (under 9000')- it looked quite nasty up there. I slowly moved out of bed and had a small breakfast. The conditions looked terrible and I was by myself thinking of climbing a 10,000 remote GNP mountain. So I did the only practical thing I could think of. I decided to go for it! I left camp at 9:00 (nice alpine start), and ascended up through trees. The fluffy snow continued to be a battle, but at least I was in trees and out of the brunt of the wind. I thought this just might work. Then about at 6200'

(nearly 3800' below the summit), the trees run out. And the wind takes over. After it blows me over (literally), I decide that this would be a fun mountain to climb in August. I retreat. Looking back through the day (and the next day, too) the upper 2000+ feet of the mountain never does reveal itself. What fun is a summit without views anyway? So, I headed back down then skied west along Gunsight Lake just to check it out. Massive amounts of frozen waterfalls ringed the cirque at the head of the lake. Got back to camp about 11:30, had some lunch then packed up and started back down the valley. Skied lower on the slopes this time. Near the east side of Fusillade Mtn., I decided to contour around its base and go check out Florence Falls. It was frozen (imagine that!), and not much to see. Snow was getting extremely mushy by now and had to fight it and get wet as I skied back toward my first nights spot at Deadwood Falls. Figured I would utilize my hardened snow platforms here rather than create new one's. Arrived back here at 4:15, as it started to sleet again. Tried to stay dry as I made dinner and jumped in the tent early for several hours of book reading.



Looking back at Going-To-The-Sun Mtn. Photo by F. Dean.

Day 4

Awoke a bit earlier today (7:30)- still warm and sleeting. My lighter wouldn't work, so had a cold breakfast, packed up my wet gear and hit the trail. Soon the sleet turned to snow, and it came down hard. Wind was not too bad though today. Skied back down the trail and joined the GTTS road. Trip out was pretty uneventful. Still no views of the peaks today. Thought about going out on the lake

to Wild Goose Island (how many people can say they have been there???), but realized that was stupid and childish. Took a picture instead (as has every other GNP visitor that has ever driven by that outlook). Arrived out at my truck at 11:30. NPS Ranger Pete Webster pulled up just as I was leaving and I discussed the conditions and my trip with him for a bit. Snow was falling hard- was almost a foot of new stuff on the road as I drove back to Browning. Even though the conditions weren't the best, overall it was still a good trip and a good experience. Actually its hard to imagine four days in Glacier being anything but a good experience!

Forest Dean

February 19, Moose Ridge Loop (Lolo Pass)

There were four of us on the 4th annual Moose Ridge Loop ski. On Monday, February 19, 2007, Fred Schwanemann, Steve Schombel, Michael Boyles, and Roy Regel took turns breaking trail through four to six inches of snow on the Moose ridge Loop at Lolo Pass. The temperature was steady, with a high in the 20's to low 30's. It snowed all day even though there were patches of blue in the sky. There was a slight wind. About half way around the Loop we ate lunch on the run. After nine miles, some snowmobiles made tracks with easier skiing for us. *Fred Schwanemann*

February 24, Shoo Fly Meadow area (Rattlesnake).

During the last full week of February, some areas around Missoula received almost two feet of snow. To keep both the avalanche danger and the work of trailbreaking down to a dull roar, Art Gidel, Greg Zlock, and I (Peter Dayton) decided to ski at a lower altitude than usual, so we headed for the Shoo Fly Meadows area, which is on the divide between the Gold Creek and Rattlesnake drainages. To reach this area, we snowmobiled about six miles from the Gold Creek Road up to the divide. As you approach the divide, you can see an open south-facing bowl in the drainage to the north. At the divide, the road forks, with the left fork going down to Shoo Fly Meadows, and the right fork going up to Mineral Peak. To get to the top of the bowl, follow the road towards Mineral Peak for about a quarter mile. When you reach a burned area, head up the low-angle slopes to the ridgetop, and continue down the other side of the ridge to the

bowl. This bowl offers great skiing, although you need to fade towards the left in the lower half of the bowl. If the avalanche danger is high, you can ski through burned trees on the north side of the ridge.

The weather was sunny and warm, and we spent the afternoon decorating the bowl with S-curves. During the afternoon a group of snowmobilers stopped on the road to watch us ski down the bowl. On our way out, we ran into the group. One of the sled-heads asked me how we got back to the top of the bowl after each run. I told him that we put skins on our skis and hiked up. He gave me an incredulous look, snorted, and said we had more ambition than he did. *Peter Dayton*



Art and Greg making turns in the bowl. Peter Dayton photo.

FEATURE ARTICLES

Summitpost.org – A (very) Short History

By Mike Hoyt

What is **SummitPost**? At its simplest, little more than a place to store information (*text and pictures*) which is connected in some way with hiking, climbing, or skiing to and from summits. It is a web site open to any and all who wish to visit. As is stated on the site's home page...

"SummitPost is a collaborative-content community focused on climbing, mountaineering, hiking and other outdoor activities. This site is built by its members, and we welcome you to contribute:

(1) Post photos, trip reports, events, logs, and albums.

(2) Share your expertise by submitting how-to articles and informational pages.

(3) Shape the content of the site by voting on other people's work. The bad submissions get buried, and the good stuff rises to the top."

Appearing on the internet on March 19, 2001, SummitPost was an experiment that grew at a phenomenal rate with each passing year. Simply known as "SP" among its ever-increasing ranks of members, within a few short years the little dot-com became a powerhouse of mountaineering information, unlike anything the internet had ever seen.

There is no doubt that the way SP is designed and managed has played a major role in its success. But it is the members' unfailing support which has made SummitPost THE mountaineering and hiking web site to visit, reference, and belong to. According to many users, nothing else even comes close. The members uphold their favorite web site with a sense of pride, and are quick to defend it. Nowhere else is such devotion among members so apparent. Despite some differences, SP's members dearly love their web site, shortcomings and all.

Casual web surfers, looking for information about their next outing, usually stumble onto one of SummitPost's mountain pages. They check out the information and a few pictures, and, if they're lucky, begin to wonder what they've found. They begin looking around and soon realize they're at the tip of the proverbial iceberg. If the stunning photography by SP's talented members doesn't win them over, SummitPost's massive database quickly becomes evident, overwhelming any newcomer. Before they realize it, most are hopelessly hooked.

Since its humble beginnings, when the first members were "recruited" with email, SP has blossomed to over 35,000 members. The meager catalog containing several hundred mountains in 2001 has since exploded to over 6,200 entries, as well as canyons and other unique destinations. SP's mountain-related database is staggering, including the almost 3,400 detailed trip reports. That such a wealth of information and experience should be located in one place is impressive.

Roughly 700 of the members are regular visitors and have contributed to the site's collection of material in some way. About 300 of those are regular contributors and are active on a routine basis, with 100-200 members checking in daily. When it comes to information output, SP's membership is a prolific group of mountain climbers who also happens to be adept at their computers.

The SP community is like most communities. Certain folks don't get along, debates and arguments sometimes erupt into chaos, adding to SP's growing pains. In the past underhanded dealings by members using multiple IDs thwarted SP's voting system for **Photo of the Week**. Verbal altercations in the forum led to vengeful voting practices on members' submitted material. Email threats were becoming a problem and the staff was overwhelmed with a system that was, for all intents and purposes, broken and limping along. A refit to the site appears to have remedied most of the symptoms; however tweaking of the system is ongoing, and debate of the design parameters will certainly continue. SP is an evolving web site which may never be perfected, but if perfection is a destination, many would say SP is pointed in the right direction.

Despite all the differences and flaws, there is no doubt the membership is focused on SP's primary goal: To be the ultimate, all encompassing mountaineering web site on the net. A survey of a cross section of membership verifies that statement. When asked if they thought SP was the best mountaineering site in the world, most responded with an emphatic "yes!" With the arrival of 2007, SummitPost is now the most visited and most popular mountaineering and hiking web site in the world. Quite an accomplishment for a 6-year old!

Note: This short piece was gleaned from three very extensive articles (*listed below*), written by Aaron Johnson for SummitPost. I highly recommend them as a more in-depth source of information. Aaron, one of SummitPost's "original" members, is one of the site's most prolific contributors and among the best of its writers. Most of the words in this piece are his. I thank him profusely for giving me permission to use them in our newsletter.

SummitPost – Part One

<http://www.summitpost.org/article/188606/summitpost-org.html>

SummitPost – Part Two

<http://www.summitpost.org/article/191984/summitpost-org-part-two.html>

SummitPost – Part Three

<http://www.summitpost.org/article/197550/summitpost-org-part-three.html>

In the last issue of *Mountain Ear*, Steve Niday, club President, wrote an article about Achievement Awards. One award proposed would be for Montana Mountain ranges. This is one goal I have been working toward for the past few decades. I'd like to publish my list of ranges, not because I want an award, but for others who may be interested or who have a similar goal.

What is a mountain range? I feel it is a group of mountains with distinct geographical separation from other mountains. This can be a valley or narrow canyon of a large river, or a wide and low pass. Or it could be a wide expanse of rolling terrain, like in eastern Montana. I started this project in the mid 70's, and spent a lot of time studying maps and searching for other lists of ranges. Then in 1986 Pat Caffrey published the *Climbers Guide to Montana*. I liked his list of ranges. It corresponded with my own ideas, and defined many other ranges I hadn't thought of. Pat's book has 34 chapters, and, with a couple of exceptions, each chapter describes one range. Here is a list of the chapters, with the highest point in each range:

1. Purcell Mountains – Northwest Peak 7705'
2. Cabinet Mountains – Snowshoe Peak 8738'
3. Salish Mountains – Baldy Mountain 7464'
4. Coeur d'Alene Mtns – Sleeping Woman 7996'
5. Whitefish Range – Nasukoin Mountain 8095'
6. Glacier National Park – Mt. Cleveland 10466'
7. Mission Range – McDonald Peak 9820'
8. Swan Range – Holland Peak 9356'
9. Rattlesnake Mountains – McLeod Peak 8620'
10. Bitterroot Mountains – Trapper Peak 10157'
11. Sapphire Mountains – Kent Peak 8998'
12. Flint Creek Range – Mt. Powell 10168'
13. Anaconda Range – West Goat Peak 10793'
14. Pioneer Mountains – Tweedy Mountain 11154'
15. Beaverhead Mtns – Eighteen Mile Peak 11141'
16. Flathead Range – Red Mountain 9411'
17. Rocky Mountain Front – Rocky Mountain 9392'
18. Garnet Range Area – Black Mountain 8338'
19. Boulder Batholith Area – Table Mtn 10233'
20. Elkhorn Mountains – Crow Peak 9414'
21. Tobacco Root Mtns – Hollowtop Mtn 10604'
22. Ruby River Ranges
23. North Prairie
24. Big Belt Mountains – Mt. Edith 9507'
25. Little Belt Mountains – Big Baldy 9175'

Montana Mountain Ranges

By Steve Schombel

26. Snowy Mountains – Greathouse Peak 8681’
27. Bridger Range – Sacagawea Peak 9665’
28. Crazy Mountains – Crazy Peak 11209’
29. Madison Range – Hilgard Peak 11316’
30. Gallatin Range – Electric Peak 10992’
31. Absaroka Range West – Mt. Cowan 11206’
32. Absaroka Range East – Tumble Mtn 11323’
33. Beartooth Range – Granite Peak 12799’
34. Lower Yellowstone Area

In the book, Pat Caffrey also split most of the above chapters into sub-chapters. I feel that many of the sub-chapters describe groups of mountains that could be considered separate ranges. Here is a list of such ranges, along with their high points. The numbers refer to the chapters above.

2. West Cabinets/Scotchman Peaks – Unnamed 6933’; separated from main Cabinets by Lake Creek/ Bull River valley
4. Western Coeur d’Alene – Cherry Peak 7352’; the Clark Fork River divides them from the Nine Mile area
4. Northern Bitterroots – Quartz Point 7770’; common name for mountains along Idaho border south of Clark Fork River
6. Glacier National Park is a difficult area to separate into ranges. The Livingston Range in the NW part is divided by the Waterton River/ MacDonald Creek trough, with Kintla Peak, 10101’. Perhaps Logan Pass/ Saint Mary’s Lake could divide the mountains around Mt. Cleveland from those to the south, including Mt. Stimson, 10142’
11. John Long Mountains – Peak 2 Miles East of Quigg 8468’; Rock Creek divides them from Sapphires, is it big enough?
14. North Pioneers – Mt. Fleecer 9436’; small group east of main Anacondas and north of Big Hole River
15. Northern Beaverheads – Homer Youngs Peak 10621’; Bannock and Lemhi passes is a wide lower area which splits this range
15. Lima Peaks – Garfield Mountain 10961’; group surrounded by low rolling ground with Monida Pass to east
15. Tendoy Mountains – Dixon Mountain 9674’; another group with miles of lower ground between it and the Beaverheads
16. Flathead Range: The Bob Marshall Complex is another area tough to separate into ranges. It is the area between the South Fork Flathead and Middle

Fork Flathead/ Sun River. Does Red Mountain belong in this range? North of the Spotted Bear River is Great Northern Mountain – 8705’. South, but north of the headwaters of the South Fork of the Flathead and the North Fork of the Blackfoot is North Peak of the Three Sisters, 8900’.

17. The Front is also called the Lewis Range. Haystack Butte, 6817’, is the highest of the outlying buttes.

18. Garnets west of Nevada Creek/ Ovando Valley – Old Baldy Mountain 7511’

19. Mountains between Butte and Helena – Jack Mountain 8739’

19. Haystack Mountain 8821’ is off to the east, separated by Deer Park and the I-15 corridor

19. Bull Mountains-Bull Mountain 8609’, are separated by Whitetail Park and Boulder River Valley

19. Table Mountain is in a group called the Highlands

19. McCartney Mountain, 8364’, is to the south, surrounded by lower rolling country

20. There are groups of hills south of the Elkhorns; Doherty Mountain 6395’ and London Point 6326’

22. The Ruby River Ranges are separate ranges in their own right.

Ruby Range – Ruby Point 9391’

Blacktail Mountains – Blacktail Mountain 9477’

Snowcrest Range – Sunset Peak 10581’. Hogback Mountain has no listed elevation, but goes above 10560’ contour

Gravelly Range – Black Butte 10545’

Centennial Mountains – Mt. Jefferson 10196’

23. There are three island ranges in the North Prairie, and many hills.

The Sweetgrass Hills – West Butte, 6983’

The Bears Paws Mountains – Baldy Mountain 6916’

The Little Rockies – Antoine Butte 5743’

25. Highwood Mountains – Highwood Baldy 7670’; separated from Little Belts by wide valley along highway 200

26. Two island ranges north of the Big Snowies Moccasin Mountains – South Point 5798’. The North Moccasins are separated by a valley with Point 5602’

Judith Mountains – Judith Peak 6428’

28. Castle Mountains – Elk Peak 8566’; very distinct from the Crazy Mountains

29. The Lionheads, aka Henry's Lake Mountains – Point 10609'; south of the Madison River/ Hebgen Lake, west of the Gallatin River

31 & 32. The Boulder River divides the West and East Absaroka Mountains

34. Two Island Ranges in the Lower Yellowstone: Bull Mountains – Dunn Mountain 4732'

Pryor Mountains – Big Pryor 8786'

And the Bighorns, extension of a range in Wyoming, with Point 9257' just north of the State Line.

There are also some sub-chapters in the book, and some names on maps which I feel do not qualify as separate ranges. This is very subjective, and I would welcome other's opinions.

2. Cabinets south of Vermillion River – Mt. Headly 7427'; no clear separation from main Cabinets

3. Northern Salish – McGuire Mountain 6991'; is the relatively lower land along US Hwy 2 enough to separate them?

5. Galton Range – Poorman Mountain 7832'; is Graves Creek enough to separate them from Whitefish Range?

8. Neither Northern Swans – Gildart Point 7945' or South Fork of Flathead Area – Goat Mountain 8845' has distinct separation from the Swan Range

10. Grave Creek Range; north of Lolo Creek is a spur of the Bitterroots. East of Petty/Grave Creeks is Petty Mountain, 7270'

Bitterroots South of West Fork – Allan Benchmark 8909'; no clear separation

14. West Pioneers – Stine Mountain 9490'; very debatable. Are the Wise River/ Grasshopper Creek enough to separate them?

15. east of Beaverheads and south of Pioneers is Bloody Dick Peak, 9817'

16. Scapegoat – 9202' is prominent, but is not distinctly separated from Red or Rocky Mountains

22. There is a small group around Sheep Mountain – 9697' in the Ruby River Area called the Greenhorn Range

24. Adel Area: between Helena, Great Falls and White Sulphur Springs is Sieben Point – 7093' south of I-15, and Campbell Point – 7097' closer to the Eden Bridge Road; but both are spurs of the Big Belts

Grassy Mountain – 7687' to the south is separated by Deep Creek and Sixteen Mile Creek

25. West of Belt Creek/ Monarch Pass – Porphyry Peak, 8192'; not a good separation

26. Little Snowies look like a separate range from the south, but are not well separated from Big Snowies. Point 6378'

28. Crazies north of Shields River – Loco Peak 9239'; not well separated

29. The Spanish Peaks – Gallatin Peak 11015'; Jack Creek/ West Fork Gallatin, is this enough separation?

30. Gallatins near Bozeman – Boles and Chisholm Peaks, 10333'; does Ramshorn Pass or some other area qualify as a separation?

33. Granite Range – Mt. Woods 12661'; another label on maps north of West Rosebud Creek, but not well separated

East Rosebud Creek/ Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone separate Castle Mountain, 12612'. Not very distinct.

And this is my list. I would welcome feed back about corrections, additions and subtractions. Several of the above are in a grey area as to whether they are separate ranges. I'd especially like to hear about other lists and attempts to define Montana Mountain Ranges.

More to come: "What about them hills out east?"



The north face of Montana State Highpoint Granite Peak. Photo by Alan Ellis.

GENERAL INTERESTS & NEWS

Note: Neither of these presentations are presented or sponsored by The Rocky Mountaineers. They are listed here for the general interest they may hold to our club members.

Climbing in China: Trouble at 18,000 feet

This special presentation will take place at Pipestone Mountaineering at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, March 7th:

Dave Johnson and Dave Susanj traveled to the Pamirs in the remote western desert of China to climb Mustagh Ata at 24,700 feet. Located within a few hundred miles of Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Kyrgystan, Mustagh Ata is noted as a beginners's high-altitude climb.

The presentation will focus on not only the rigors of preparing and climbing at altitude, but also the cultures of the Uighur, Kyrgyz and Han people.

The presentation is free but donations to the Central Asia Institute will be accepted. CAI is a non-profit organization based in Bozeman and run by climber, Greg Mortenson. The institute helps to promote and provide community-based education and literacy programs, especially for girls, in remote mountain regions of Central Asia.

A Lifetime of Adventures in the Bitterroot Mountains

Join the Sierra Club for an evening of slides and stories - Journey with 74 yr. old Mario Locatelli through the Bitterroot high-country, backpacking, ridge-running, alpine skiing, and photographing mountain goats.

Over the span of 35 years, Mario has hiked the entire Bitterroot crest from Lolo Peak to Nez Perce Pass and every drainage and ridge in between. Mario is a former record holder of the oldest person to climb Alaska's Denali – North America's highest peak.

Attendees will also hear an up-date on the Lolo and Bitterroot Forest Plans and the effort to prevent ski resort development on Lolo Peak. *Free and Open to the Public.*

WHAT: Adventures in the Bitterroots, Slide show

WHERE: University of Montana, University Center Rm. 330

WHEN: Thursday March 15th, 7:00 PM



Wild Goose Island, St. Mary Lake, Glacier National Park

Photo by Forest Dean

Deep Thinking.....

"To those who have struggled with them, the mountains reveal beauties they will not disclose to those who make no effort. That is the reward the mountains give to effort. And it is because they have so much to give and give it so lavishly to those who will wrestle with them that men love the mountains and go back to them again and again. The mountains reserve their choice gifts for those who stand upon their summits."

- Sir Francis Younghusband

"What do you want me to do with your tent if you don't come back?" **–Unknown**

"You cannot stay on the summit forever; you have to come down again. So why bother in the first place? Because what is below does not know what is above, but what is above knows what is below. One climbs, one sees, one descends, one sees no longer, but one has seen. There is an art of conducting oneself in the lower regions by the memory of what one saw higher up. When one can no longer see, one can at least still know." **-Rene Daumal**

Thank you to those who have listed and led trips these past couple months. It seems like we are headed in the right direction with getting a few more listed. I continue to call for more, however! If you haven't led one just remember that you are NOT needing to be a guide for that trip, but merely a trip organizer. Spring and summer are just around the corner, so think about trips you would like to do and send me an itinerary!

Sometimes as we hustle and bustle through life we start to take certain things for granted that have been generously provided to us. So without further delay, on behalf of The Rocky Mountaineers, I would just like to thank fellow member Jim Wilson for his continuing support of the Club by allowing us to use his store, Pipestone Mountaineering, to hold our meetings and feature presentations. For those who enjoy these events please consider supporting Jim's business when opportunities for purchasing or renting outdoor clothing and gear arise. Thanks, Jim!

Forest Dean

22

Cover Photo: The majestic Mt. St. Nicholas in Glacier National Park. Photo courtesy of Kyle Dodson.



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