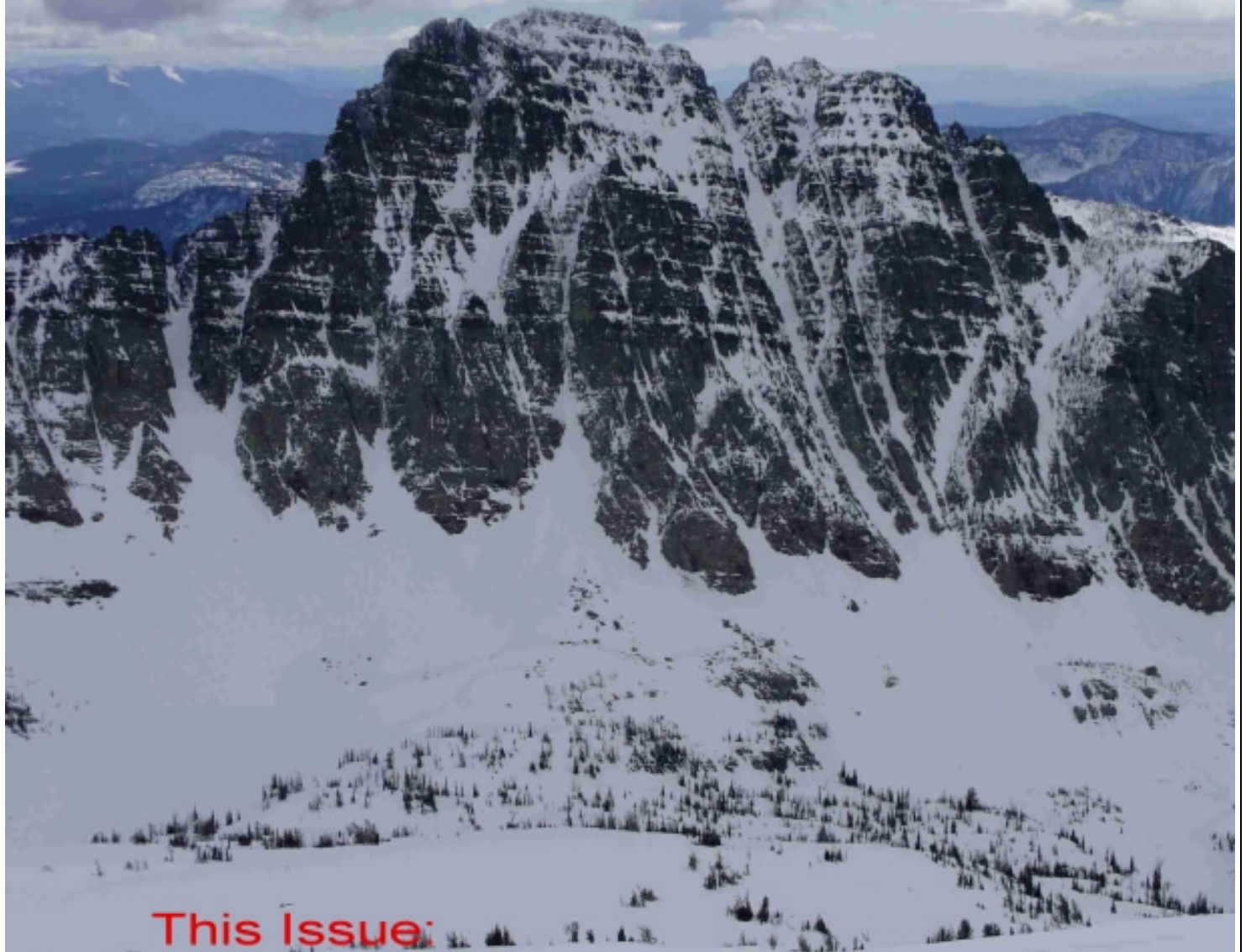


APRIL 2007

# THE MOUNTAIN EAR

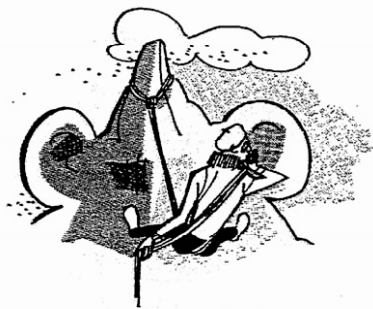


**This Issue:**

- 3- April Presentation
- 4- Trapper Peak
- 5- Upcoming Trips
- 11- Trip Reports
- 13- Topozone.com
- 16- Where am I?

*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.**

## Club Contacts

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Newsletter Editor: Forest Dean

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

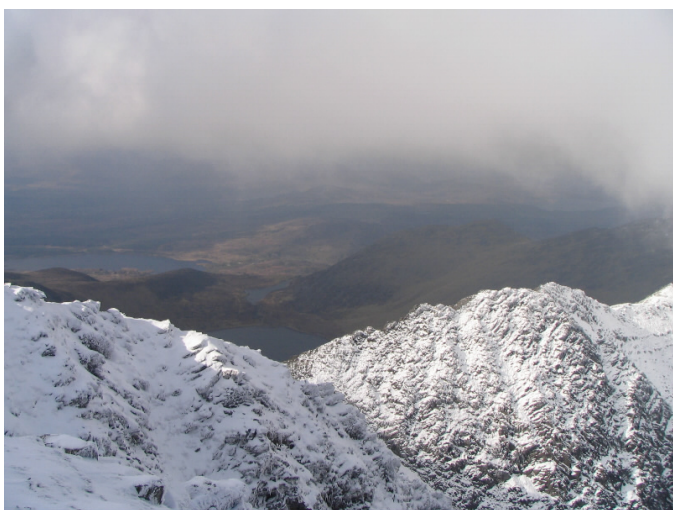


## *March Meeting & Presentation*

### **Mountaineering in Ireland**

One doesn't often hear the words "Ireland" and "mountain climbing" used in the same sentence. But Ireland does have some modest real mountains. In February of 2006 David & Julie Kahl rented a car and spent 3 weeks bumming around Ireland, mostly in the north and west. Two of Ireland's highest mountains were climbed, Mt. Errigal the highest in the northwest, and Tauthail. Tauthail is Ireland's highest mountain, the center piece of the fabled "Ring Of Kerry" in the south west. There were many places that ended up on the "go back and hike someday list." Videos of the two mountain climbs will be presented, along with short clips of other places to hike, which includes most of Ireland's National Parks and the Aran Islands.

**Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM at Pipestone Mountaineering.**



*West ridge of Tauthail. Photo courtesy of Julie Kahl.*



*View from Mt. Errigal. Photo courtesy of Julie Kahl.*

## *President's Message*

The Rocky Mountaineers bylaws specify four elected officers, President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Any member having paid dues for one year, and being at least 18 years of age, is eligible to serve as an officer. Nominations are accepted from the floor at our April meeting. Traditionally a slate of officers is chosen before the meeting, primarily based on a willingness to serve, and brought before the membership for nomination. It is entirely acceptable to offer other nominations, in which case we would actually have to count the votes at our May meeting.

You are eligible to vote if you paid your dues after April 31, 2006. If you paid before that date, we will need to receive your renewal payment by April 31, 2007. If you have questions about your renewal date, please contact Forest Dean, Julie Kahl, or me.

The slate of officers proposed for nomination is as follows:

President- Steve Niday  
Vice-President- Forest Dean  
Secretary- Lorraine Riedl  
Treasurer- Julie Kahl

Forest will continue as newsletter editor, Steve Schombel will continue to schedule presentations for our monthly meeting, and Alden Wright will continue as webmaster. Forest has elevated our newsletter to a new level, Steve continues to find interesting and unique presentations, and our website is in it's second year and getting better all the time. They all deserve thanks for their efforts. Please consider helping them by submitting an article to Forest, suggesting a presentation to Steve, or making suggestions to Alden.

A business meeting is held before each month's general meeting/presentation and is open to all members. If you want to get more involved, this is a good way. In the last year we have dealt with the Club's mission statement, logo, cabin maintenance, Classic Series, Glacier Park summer gathering, brochure, newsletter, website, fund raising, trip rating system, and others. This gathering is in Pipestone Mountaineering's basement, at 6:00 PM.  
*Steve Niday*

*Classic Places*  
**Trapper Peak**



*Left to right: "East" Trapper, Trapper Peak, and North Trapper from the valley.  
Photo courtesy of Steve Sanford*



*From the saddle west of "East" Trapper, the corniced ridge, false summit, and true summit on the right. May 1st, 2005. Photo by Daryl Greaser.*

This month's Classic Series trip is a ski/snowshoe climb of Trapper Peak. At 10,157 feet, Trapper Peak is the highest peak in the Bitterroot Mountains (but not the Bitterroot Range), Ravalli County, as well as the 1.3 million acre Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness which straddles the Montana-Idaho border.

With spectacular 360 degree summit panoramas, a well maintained trail, and easy access, Trapper is a popular weekend summer destination. Several miles of gentle glades make this a prime spring skiing destination as well. The amazing view of the summit massif from Highway 93 south of Darby is enough to entice even the average hiker to attempt the 12 mile journey.

*Text courtesy of Daryl Greaser. Originally written for SummitPost.org website.*

# 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, April 14 – TRAPPER PEAK (Bitterroots) CLASSIC SERIES TRIP**

*Rating:* Class 2-3 terrain, *Mileage:* 8-10 miles, *Elevation:* ~5000'

*Description:* Trapper Peak is the highest peak in the Bitterroots at just over 10,000 feet. We will start considerably below the summer trailhead so the vertical climb will be around 5000 feet. Skis and skins are the usual equipment, but snowshoes or snowshoes/snowboard is also possible. We will leave south Missoula at 6:15 am. There is no avalanche danger and the ski down is intermediate.

*Leader:* Alden Wright at 243-4790 (until 6 pm), 542-1966 (home) or e-mail at [trapper@wrightmontana.net](mailto:trapper@wrightmontana.net).

## **Sunday, April 15 – KOOTENAI CREEK (Bitterroots)**

*Rating:* Class 1- Hike, *Mileage:* Approx. 6 miles, *Elevation:* 600' gain

*Description:* This will be a hike along Kootenai Creek in the Bitterroots. This is a beautiful creek with whitewater in a steep sided canyon.

*Leader:* Fred Schwanemann - 542-7372.

## **Sunday, April 15 – BLACK MOUNTAIN**

*Rating:* Class 1, *Mileage:* 8+ miles, *Elevation:* 2300'

*Description:* I believe it has been several years since the club has done Black Mountain as a group. This is the mountain west of town near the headwaters of O'Brien Creek. It doesn't seem to get hiked as often as Blue or Stuart or Sentinel or others close by. There is now a new trail that heads up hill from the parking lot and connects with the road network. Then it can be a long hike following roads as they wind around the drainages, followed by a scramble up the last 1000'. Or there is a shorter way by leaving the road sooner and doing a longer off trail scramble. The one way distance would be at least four miles, with 2300' difference between the car and top. I personally don't think that any of the off trail hiking is tough enough to make it more than class 1, and the brush isn't too bad. We would have the option to drop down the steep hillside to O'Brien Creek on the return, and hiking out the pretty canyon. There is a chance that a fire ecologist may go along and do an interpretive talk – if so I will send out an e-mail.

*Leader:* Steve Schombel - 721-4686



**Saturday, April 21 – COLUMBIA MOUNTAIN (Swan Range)**

*Note:* This trip co-listed with Glacier Mountaineering Society. Limit 12 participants.

*Rating:* Class 2 , *Mileage:* 10 miles , *Elevation:* 4200'

*Description:* A ten mile trail walk with about 4200' elevation gain to the 7234' summit. A good spring tune up for fitness and snow climbing skills. For well-conditioned hikers. Your four-footed friends are invited as well.

*Special Equipment:* Ice ax

*Leader:* Jim Cossitt - [jhckal@yahoo.com](mailto:jhckal@yahoo.com)

**Saturday, April 21 - INTRO TO TERRACACHING ON MT. SENTINEL**

*Mileage:* 8ish mile loop , *Elevation:* 3000'

*Description:* This will serve as an introduction to the sport of TerraCaching. We'll meet at the base of the M Trail at 10am. The planned loop will take us into Hellgate Canyon, up Hellgate 11 to the top of University Mountain, back down to the top of Mt. Sentinel, then south along the ridge line, and finally down to the M Trail and back to the parking area. If all goes well, we'll find 4 caches on the trip.

Anyone who's interested, but looking for a less aggressive hike can accompany the group to the first cache only, and then head back, which would entail about 4 miles round trip and 1000' elevation gain.

*Special Equipment:* No GPS is required for this hike (I'll have mine which will be enough), but if you have one you're strongly encouraged to bring it along.

*Leader:* Jon Garvin - [jon@terracaching.com](mailto:jon@terracaching.com)

**Fri-Sat, April 27-28 – EDWARDS MOUNTAIN (Glacier National Park)**

*Note:* 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.

*Rating:* Class 3 , *Mileage:* 16 miles round trip, *Elevation Gain:* 5800'

*Description:* We will drive up Friday afternoon and either car camp or hopefully hike part of the way in.

Saturday climb the east route to the 9055' summit and return to vehicle and drive home. Trailhead is near Lake McDonald lodge area.

*Special Equipment:* Ski's or snowshoes, crampons, and ice axe.

*Leader:* Steve Niday, 721-3790, [seniday@yahoo.com](mailto:seniday@yahoo.com)

**Saturday, May 5 – GREY WOLF PEAK (Mission Mountains) CLASSIC SERIES TRIP**

*Rating:* Class 4-5, *Mileage:* 8 miles, *Elevation:* ~4200'

*Description:* Will hike up to Riddell Lakes and climb the south snow couloir. This is intended as a snow climb, certain changes to equipment will be dictated by conditions. Participants should have some experience with technical snow and rock climbing, as well as be in reasonably good condition.

*Special equipment:* Tribal recreation permit; ice ax, harness, crampons, helmet; proper clothing.

*Leader:* Forest Dean, 240-7612 or 721-6384, [fdean@midlandimplement.com](mailto:fdean@midlandimplement.com)

**Sat-Mon, May 19-21 – GUNSIGHT MOUNTAIN (Glacier National Park)**

*Note:* This trip co-listed with Glacier Mountaineering Society. Limit 6 participants.

*Rating:* Class 3-4 , *Mileage:* 19 miles , *Elevation:* 6050'

*Description:* For intermediate climbers/backcountry skiers. On Saturday we will hike in and spend the night at the Sperry campground. Sunday, climb Gunsight (9258') crossing the Sperry Glacier & return. Monday, break camp and hike out. This trip may be done as a ski mountaineering trip and the final decision will depend on conditions just prior to the trip.

*Special Equipment:* Climbing harness; winter camping gear

*Leader:* Jim Cossitt - [jhckal@yahoo.com](mailto:jhckal@yahoo.com)

**Sat-Mon, May 26-28 – HUMBUG SPIRES MEMORIAL WEEKEND BASH (Humbug Spires)**

*Description:* This trip is intended for all by hopefully appealing to different interests and ability levels. Feel like a simple hike/backpack? Maybe some backcountry fishing? Off trail adventure? Technical rock climbing on some of MT's best rock? Or maybe just a good social time? Well, come along! If you are new to backpacking, this could be a good intro. Plan is to drive down (located about 26 miles south of Butte) on Saturday morning, backpack in to a basecamp (approx. 4 miles), then enjoy your choice of activities until hiking back out on Monday. Kids more than welcome. Some gear assistance can be provided if needed.

*Leaders:* Forest and Angie Dean – 721-6384, 240-7612, [fdean@midlandimplement.com](mailto:fdean@midlandimplement.com)

**Fri-Sun, June 8-10 – SQUARE BUTTE/ROUND BUTTE (East of Great Falls)**

*Description:* I've tentatively set the date for the Square Butte -Round Butte trip for June 9-10th. We will save Hay Stack Butte for another time. The plan is to go over Friday night, camp or stay somewhere in the area, and climb Square Butte early in the morning on Saturday. Then climb Round Butte either in the evening or Sunday morning and then drive home. Accommodations are available in Fort Benton.

*Leader:* Julie Kahl – 543-6508

**Saturday, June 9 – WARRIOR MOUNTAIN (Swan Range)**

*Note:* This trip co-listed with Glacier Mountaineering Society. Limit 10 participants.

*Rating:* Class 2 , *Mileage:* 10 miles , *Elevation:* 1500'

*Description:* Trailhead is at Napa Point in the Goat Creek State Forest (elevation 6,423). The trip is an easy trail hike, about 10 miles round trip, along the southern part of the Alpine Trail to Inspiration Pass and on to Warrior Mountain (7903'). There will be abundant snow on the N & E slopes and an mountain ax is required (the slopes are not steep, but can be very slippery). Dogs are welcome on this non-technical trip. For hikers and intermediate climbers.

*Special Equipment:* Ice ax

*Leader:* Jim Cossitt - [jhckal@yahoo.com](mailto:jhckal@yahoo.com)

**Fri-Sun, July 6-8 – GRAND TETON (Grand Teton National Park)**

*Rating:* Class 5 , *Mileage:* 18 miles, *Elevation Gain:* 7000'

*Description:* Intended route will be the Upper Exum (5.4-5.5). Group size limit of 6. Likely plan is to drive down Friday morning, then hike up to camp at Lower Saddle. Climb on Saturday and hike out. Ability to obtain a camping permit or weather could change this plan slightly. Some technical rock climbing experience is necessary.

*Special Equipment:* Rock climbing gear, possibly crampons, ice ax, backcountry camping gear.

*Leader:* Forest Dean, 240-7612 or 721-6384, [fdean@midlandimplement.com](mailto:fdean@midlandimplement.com)

**Fri-Mon, July 13-16 – PYRAMID PASS to YOUNGS PASS (Bob Marshall Wilderness)**

*Description:* The Pyramid Pass to Youngs Pass trip in the Bob Marshall Wilderness is tentatively scheduled for July 13-16th. The 1st day would be trailhead to Pyramid Lake (5 mi); 2nd day Pyramid Lake to Jenny Creek (5 mi); the third day Jenny Creek to trailhead, 7 miles, but the last 4 miles are all down hill. Anyone interested in training hikes over the coming months should contact me also.

*Leader:* Julie Kahl – 543-6508

### **Sun-Thurs, July 22-26 – BLACKFOOT MOUNTAIN and WALTON MOUNTAIN (Glacier National Park)**

*Note:* This trip co-listed with Glacier Mountaineering Society. Limit 6 participants.

*Rating:* Class 3-5

*Description:* For intermediate to advanced climbers. On the 22nd we will hike in and set up base camp near the toe of Jackson Glacier. We will climb on the 23rd and 25th; the 24th will be a rest day at base camp. On the 26th we will break camp and hike out. Both Blackfoot (9597') (11 hours, 5,700 vertical) and Walton (8926') (14 hours) are long days. For more info, see trip description in 2003 GMS Journal, pp 24-25.

*Special Equipment:* Glacier gear; backcountry camping gear.

*Leader:* Jim Cossitt - [jhckal@yahoo.com](mailto:jhckal@yahoo.com)

### **Thurs-Sun, July 26-29 – WALLOWA ODYSSEY (Eagle Cap Wilderness – NE Oregon)**

*Notes:* A more detailed trip description can be found in the March newsletter.

*Description:* July 26<sup>th</sup> (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 27<sup>th</sup> (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 28<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) – Climb one or both of the two highest peaks in the Eagle Cap Wilderness, Matterhorn (9826 feet) and/or Sacajawea Peak (9838 feet), 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) – Descend to Wallowa Cr Trailhead & return to Missoula.

*Leader:* Pat Caffrey – 677-2661

### **Thurs-Sun, August 2-5 – BOULDER DASH (Glacier National Park)**

*Notes:* A more detailed description of this trip can be found in the March newsletter. For those wanting to participate: Send \$5.00/per person advance registration fee to Pat Caffrey, P.O. Box 341, Seeley Lake MT 59868 by April 13<sup>th</sup>. Thursday night reservations will be made for camping at the head of Bowman Lake. State your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> choices where you wish to camp Friday & Saturday night. Include your phone number.

*Description:* 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; Hawksbill (5600 ft) 8.2 miles; Lake Francis (5255 ft) 8.8 miles; Hole In The Wall (6400 ft) 8.3 miles; Boulder Pass (7280 ft) 12.3 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.

*Leader:* Pat Caffrey – 677-2661



### **Sun, Sept 2 – HEAVENS PEAK (Glacier National Park)**

*Note:* This trip co-listed with Glacier Mountaineering Society. Limit 10 participants.

*Rating:* Class 3-4 , *Mileage:* 6 miles , *Elevation:* 5000'

*Description:* For intermediate climbers. A long day with over 5000 feet in elevation gain. We will cross McDonald Creek, ascend the Glacier Wall, traverse across the base of the mountain and ascend from there. Summit is 8987'.

*Leader:* Jim Cossitt - [jhckal@yahoo.com](mailto:jhckal@yahoo.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>
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 <sup>rd</sup> Glacier Classic	Logan Pass	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

### **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](mailto:fdean@midlandimplement.com)*

# Trip Forum

*Thinking about a trip this coming summer/fall or even next winter, 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 May.* 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.

## **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](mailto:yodelingdog@hotmail.com)



*Lolo Peaks from the summit of Sweeney Peak. Photo by Mike Hoyt.*

# **TRIP REPORTS**

## **March 3, Lolo Pass Moonlight Ski**

The idea of skiing in the dark doesn't appeal to everyone. They wouldn't even consider it. But some people really like it. Such was the case Saturday night, 03/03/07, at Lolo Pass. One of the participants remarked that it was the best ski trip of the season in their opinion. Everyone else really enjoyed it. The temperature was unusually mild, so we had a nice time cooking some bratwurst and other things in the sheltered overhang at the pass. Then we skied around the short, easy loop; and talked a lot about what else to do. The snow conditions were great with good grooming on the trails. The consensus was that the group preferred to stay on groomed trails, so we skied down the longer loop to the end of Packer Meadows, then returned to the visitor center. Participants were: Lois Crepeau, Michael Bowles, Mary Dalton, Jim McLean, John Wolverton, Robbie Liber and Steve Schombel, leader. *Steve Schombel*

## **March 4, Blue Mountain**

No, it's not difficult to "climb", you can drive to the top in the summer. It's been sliced and diced by past and present logging and road building activities. Snowmobiles, motorcycles, equestrians, bikers, and hikers routinely make it to the summit via many different routes.

Understandably, no one showed any interest in accompanying me on a ski trip with little snow. Yet, by taking advantage of the terrain, I was able to leave my vehicle at 3400' and stay on snow all the way to the top. The route starts in Deadman Gulch, across from the old weigh station between Lolo and Missoula. The road is a public road well up the canyon and don't let anyone tell you it isn't. The snow was understandably sparse in areas, but some of the upper slopes had good skiable snow. The whole drainage is currently being worked by a mountain lion, which added an element of wildness to an otherwise tame area. This is a worthwhile area to explore in our backyard, and under better conditions, would provide 3000' of good ski terrain. *Steve Niday*

## **March 10 – Lolo Pass Area**

Fred and Eileen Schwanemann, Steve Schombel, and Gina Pasini took Forest Road 4283 past the gate. Eileen elected to ski boot hike rather than X country ski. We followed FR 4283 up past where snowshoe tracks stopped and then came back down and took the second left off FR 4283 and went up this road which took long switchbacks up the "brae" until past where the snow shoe tracks again ended. Steve and Gina continued on up the road after Fred and Eileen turned around. We're not sure what number this road is, since it branched off from the road we parked on, and headed NE and then headed toward the pass. It paralleled the lower road, and looked like it would go far enough to be an alternative to the A or B trail as a point to point ski from the pass. The farther Steve and Gina got from human snowshoe tracks the more animal tracks they saw. There were some very fresh tracks of what might be a Pine Martin, or other fox sized critter with dog like prints. The temperatures were very mild, especially when the sun peeked through clouds. It was pretty slow going back down, but all in all a very pleasant day. *Fred Schwanemann*

## **March 17 – Stark Mountain**

To get to the east-side trailhead, you go up the road on the west side of Nine Mile creek to the Remick Creek road (5511). After about 4 miles, you turn onto forest road 5515, and go about 5 more miles. I checked out the road 2 weeks before. The first 5 miles of 5511-5515 had been somewhat plowed to a house, and the last 4 miles was unplowed. I made it over this road in a Subaru Outback with good snow tires, but then got stuck turning around. By March 17, the road was no problem for a 4-wheel drive. Alden Wright, Jim Goss, Jim McLean, and 2 of Jim McLean's dogs left the trailhead at about 10 am. Instead of going up the trail, we went up the ridge. About half way up, Jim McLean was concerned about his dogs in the deep snow since one of them had previously torn its Achilles tendons in deep snow, so he turned around. Jim Goss and Alden proceeded on snowshoes and got to the top at about 2 pm. Skiing was fair and we had a good time. Lower down in the trees, we switched back to snowshoes. We followed the trail down and found that the lowest part of the trail in the Cedar Creek



bottom was very obstructed by windfalls, so we wished we had gone down the ridge the way we went up. *Alden Wright*

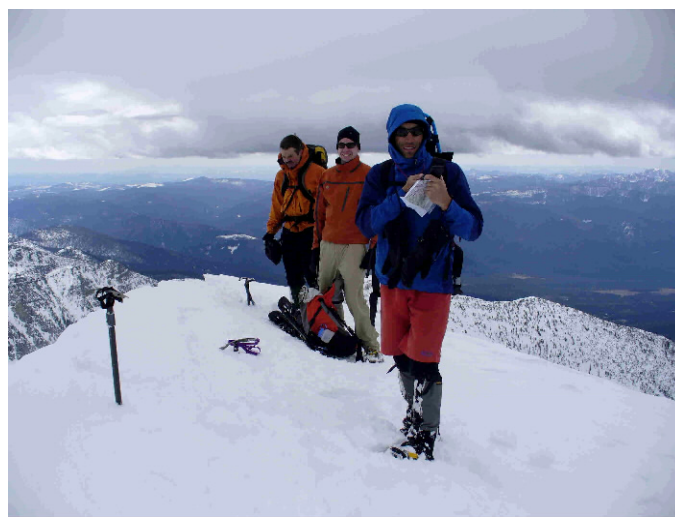
### **March 18 – Larry Creek Loop Trail (Bass Creek area)**

Bass Creek Day Use Trail, March 18th, 2007: Fred and Ilene Schwanemann joined Steve Schombel, Cathy Burleson and Michael Bowles for a real nice spring- time hike. The weather was near perfect, and we were amazed at how good of shape the trail was in. There was no ice on the trail anywhere, and only a few patches along the creeks we crossed. Even the muddy sections were not bad. And the Buttercups were blooming - a few here and there; with a few places with a whole lot. These were the only flowers we saw, but we saw many ground plants greening up, including Mullen. The bugs were out along with a few butterflies, and birds were chirping in the trees. We finished the longer loop in less than half a day. Many other people were out doing the same on foot or on horse. It was a nice way to make the transition from skiing to hiking. Afterward Steve, Cathy and Michael went over to the Lee Metcalf Wildlife Refuge, where we saw lots of ducks of various species, some Canada Geese, and, way off on one pond, several swans. This is a fitting lead in to Freezeout Lake next weekend. *Steve Schombel*

### **March 24 – East St. Mary's Peak (Mission Mtns)**

Geno Randono, Scott Doherty and Kevin Ball met me at 6:30 am on the west side of Missoula on Saturday morning and we piled in my truck and headed north to the Missions. Arriving at St. Mary's Reservoir we got ready and started up the trail a bit before 8:00 am. The trailhead sits at about 4000' and was devoid of any snow. We hiked straight up this non-switchbacking trail to about 6000' before we encountered enough snow to warrant putting on skis and snowshoes. In some areas the snow was supportive enough to walk on, but mostly not. We encountered a couple guys up there who were trying for the summit just by walking- they quickly became frustrated and turned around, opting to spend the night at about 6500' and try early the next morning when perhaps the snow would support them. Anyway, we proceeded up to gain the long southeast ridge rather uneventfully.

The skies were mostly cloudy, but they were high enough to permit views of the entire area. The ridge was quite windy and rather cold as we traveled along to the final summit climb. We shed skis and 'shoes for this last several hundred foot climb and arrived at the 9425' summit at a few minutes before 1:00 pm. After a few pictures and a rest we descended back down along the wind swept ridge. We took our time on the way down trying to soak up views and enjoy the spring weather. Several great butt-glissades and a steep descent on the trail got us back to the truck (and a cooler filled with beer) just before 4:00 pm. Round trip of 8 hours and about 7 miles with 5425' of elevation gain (and loss, of course). *Forest Dean.*



*Kevin, Geno and Scott on the summit.*



*Geno and Scott snowshoeing up the SE ridgeline.*

## FEATURE ARTICLES

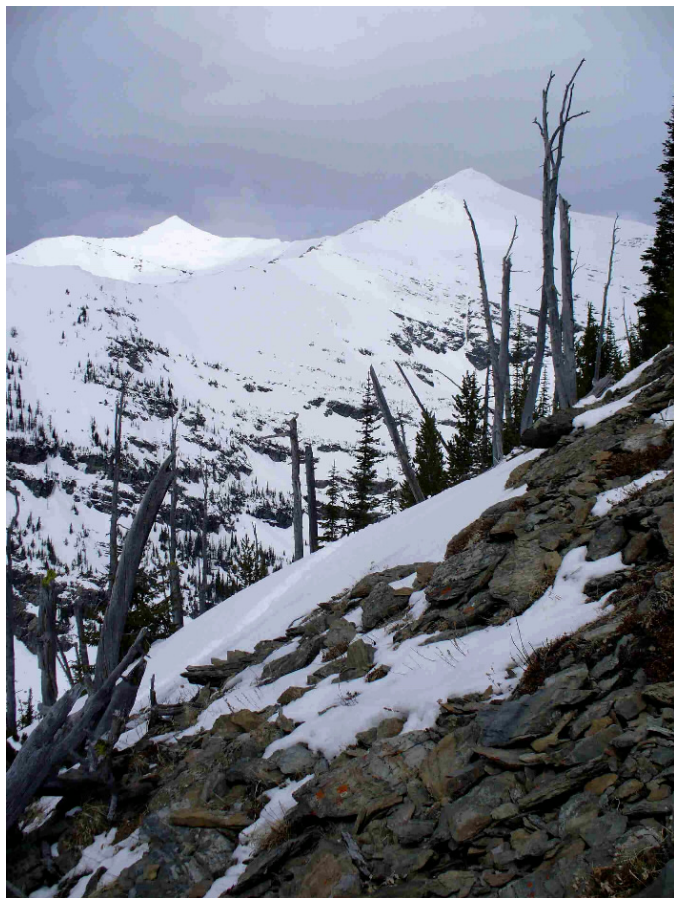
### Topozone

Before I get to the subject of hills in Montana I would like to put a word in for the website topozone.com. Like Summitpost, Topozone is a very useful free site which concentrates on making topographic maps and aerial photo available for viewing online. They also sell maps and photos with online orders. If any of the readers out there read my article last month carefully, and are wondering why several of the summit elevations I listed are different than the ones in Pat Caffrey's *Climbers Guide to Montana*, it is because I checked all elevations with the latest figures available on Topozone.

There are other nice features included in Topozone. You can click on the State you want, and then sort by geographical features, such as waterfalls, ridges, etc. When you sort by Montana/ranges you come up with a list with a lot of duplication to the one I made last month based on the Montana Climbers Guide and my own investigations. This list does not include the highest point of each range. Among the larger groups of mountains the only omission I see on Topozone is the Rattlesnake Mountains.

There are some interesting names on Topozone. The mountains around Butte and Helena are called the Boulder Mountains or Boulder Hills, instead of Boulder Batholith area. But unanswered is where to separate them from the Lewis Range. There are also the Flathead Alps, a familiar name; but is this a small group of mountains way back in the Bob, or a larger group which would encompass Silvertip and the Three Sisters? The Horn Mountains is apparently another name for the Henry's Lake Mountains. Red Mountain northeast of Lincoln is listed in the Lewis and Clark Range, but again, no separation is explained from the Lewis Range. There is a Sawtooth Range near Rocky Mountain in the Front, and a Wilson Range around Mount Cleveland in Glacier National Park. There are also many groups of hills listed on Topozone. So, what is the difference between hills and mountains? Listing all of the ranges in Montana and their highest point is not as simple as one might think.

Steve Schombel



*West and East St. Mary's Peaks from the SE ridge route.*

### **March 24-25 – Freezeout Lake**

It turned out to be not the best weekend for waterfowl viewing at Freezeout Lake. Saturday afternoon was decent for us. We saw several hundred or possibly as much as a thousand Tundra Swans on one of the ponds. And we saw several groups of a few dozen to many dozen taking off and landing for a couple of hours. But it was nowhere near like those years when the lake is totally covered with geese, and when they take off they explode in a great mass. Later on Saturday Eileene Evans, Lois Crepeau, Fred and Eileene Schwanemann, Julie and Dave Kahl, Cathy Burleson, Michael Bowles and Steve Schombel met for dinner at one of Choteau's fine establishments. On Sunday Steve, Cathy and Michael returned to the ponds to find far fewer birds, while the rest were planning a hike along the Rocky Mountain Front.

*Steve Schombel*

## MARCH BUSINESS MEETING

### **Minutes 3-14-07 (first draft)**

1. Called to Order 6:08

2. Attendance: Steve Niday, Julie Kahl, Dave Wright, Steve Schombel, Forest Dean, Lorraine Reidl, Jim Wilson

3. Minutes: No changes. Approved unanimously. No Brochures left and no plans to print more. Maybe some more pads of Classic Series Schedule, will discuss at a future meeting.

4. No correspondence in the PO Box. Steve N. had announcements for two presentations on 3/15/07 which he will make at the general meeting.

5. Treasurers report: \$700.73 balanced on 3/14. More revenues and bills were submitted to treasure.

#### 6. Old Business

A. Logo Design: We had several good submissions. One in particular with some modifications. Steve N. will contact artist about changes. Some other good designs could use a little work. We will wait at least a month for more submissions and modifications, and then try to narrow it down to three choices for a vote by members. We did eliminate some designs.

B. Merchandise: Forest is ready to move ahead on merchandise when we have a new logo.

C. Update on trips discussed last month:

a. Tobacco Roots; Alden was going to try to visit the area, but was absent. Julie sent an e-mail for more information but got no response.

b. Pat Caffrey's Glacier Weekend: we decided to let this be a trip led by Pat Caffrey and to have our Glacier Classic Weekend later in August.

c. John Wolverton's proposal: Mary Dalton has volunteered to lead a Stuart Peak hike on that weekend for the Rocky Mountaineers.

d. Julies "Poker Run". She was thinking about a x-country ski event, and will flesh out the idea for some future date.

#### 7. New Business

A. New Trips

a. Glacier Classic will probably be at a campground that accepts advance reservations, Apgar or St. Marys, to avoid backcountry logistics. We are leaning toward late August, but Forrest will send an e-mail out to ask for a preferred date.

b. We decided to move the picnic to the fall, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, and have it after a cabin work day.

B. Newsletter: we applauded Forest's efforts to make a bigger and better newsletter. We discussed who should receive a paper copy, and helpful tips were given to prepare a copy for mailing. Most felt that costs were not a big issue at this time, and progress is made to minimize the number of paper copies.

C. Election: Steve S. reminded us to put the names of the candidates in the April newsletter, along with a statement about the elections being open and that any member can run for office. We also take nominations from the floor in May. Steve Niday, Forest Dean and Julie Kahl are willing to serve another term as President, Vice President and Secretary. Lorraine Reidl is willing to be Secretary. It is anticipated that the other voluntary positions will remain the same.

8. Meeting adjourned at 6:57.

The Rocky Mountaineers would like to thank Ray Brassington for his \$5.00 cabin donation.





***Kintla Peak and Kinnerly Peak, Glacier National Park***

*Photo courtesy of National Park Service*

## **Deep Thinking.....**

*"Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. SO...get on your way."* **Dr. Seuss**

*"Marry a mountain girl and you marry the whole mountain"* **Irish Sayings**

*"I've climbed with some of the best climbers in the world, more importantly, to me, they are some of the best people in the world. That's another reason why I climb."* **Jim Wickwire**

*"The best climber in the world is the one who's having the most fun."* **Alex Lowe**

*"Climbing may be hard, but it's easier than growing up."* **Ed Sklar**

## **Mountain Trivia Challenge!!**

### **This Month: Where Am I?**

**I am looking to the north and see some lakes below me. My altimeter says 7960 feet as I rest on this summit. A SNOTEL site is nearby. Thinking about running the 10 miles back to the trailhead. Where am I?**

**Elsewhere in this range a “Little \_\_\_\_\_” Mountain is higher than “\_\_\_\_\_” Mountain (\_\_\_\_\_ is the same name). As I sit here on this summit I ponder this oddity; I also enjoy the views to the east/southeast of this ranges highest point. Maybe it’s the 10,000’ + air! Where am I?**

**If my feet were 34’ above where they are right now I would be at the highest point of the state I am currently in. But my feet are here. Do you know where?**

**I know where I am! I am enjoying some nice cold “samplers” at the Big Sky Brewery tasting room! I love free! Worked up this thirst when I followed some (unnamed) trip leader up a mountain that we could have just driven to the top of. As I step out of the tap-room, I look south and see where I was. Where was that?**

**As I sit here on this summit I think about the book I just read about a group of five climbers who died on this same mountain. Where am I?**

*Sorry, I don’t have any prizes to give out for answering all these correctly. Maybe something to consider for the future though! Perhaps we can go over the answers at this month’s meeting. Or feel free to email your guesses and I will let you know if you are right or need to keep working at it. Here is a clue—all answers are located somewhere in THIS newsletter! Good luck!*

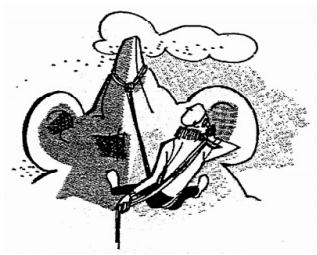
*This month’s cover photo: Looking at the west side of Grey Wolf Peak in the Mission Mountains. Photo by Forest Dean.*

As I wrap up my fourth newsletter of the year, I would once again like to re-iterate a few things. Number one: please continue to send contributions! We have had a couple nice articles over the past couple months. Don't be afraid to compose something yourself that you think may be of interest to the membership. This is not a professional publication- perfect writing not required! Number two: remember to offer your comments on this newsletter. It belongs to the Club and all ideas influence its design. Number three: send pictures! I am constantly searching for good photos for content as well as the cover

Within the next month we hope to have our final logo options selected for all of the members to vote on. If anyone has a desire to design something, or know of someone who would like to, its not too late. We will be discussing the submittals at the next meeting, so please submit by then.

## THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION





THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS  
PO Box 4262  
Missoula, MT 59806