

MAY 2007

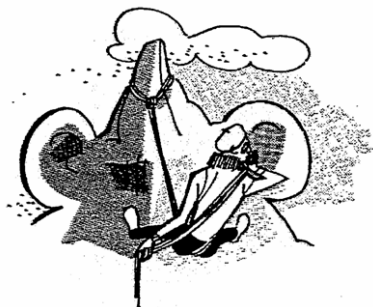
THE MOUNTAIN EAR

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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

May - Meeting & Presentation

Climbing in the Cordillera Blanca – Peru

Join us for a short slide show of one yank and four Canadians during a four week climbing trip in the Cordillera Blanca range of Peru. Jim Cossitt will present what is sure to be an interesting show about his trip to this incredible range. Not to be missed!

Wednesday, May 9th at 7:00 PM at Pipestone Mountaineering.

The Rocky Mountaineers monthly business meeting preceeds the show at 6:00 PM. All are encouraged to attend this as well.



East Chacaraju (6,001 meters) in the Cordillera Blanca. Photo: www.todovertical.com

President's Message

May 9th brings the end of our regularly scheduled general meetings at Pipestone Mountaineering, the show resumes in September. The officers, webmaster, and anyone else who wants to, will continue to get together over the summer to work on business issues. If you are interested in participating, please contact one of the officers, we can always use new blood. May also brings the election of officers, you can vote if your dues were paid by the end of April. More exciting will be the results of the logo contest. I have received 32 votes, out of around 80 members, and we are counting votes until the start of the May meeting. We will adopt the voter favorite at the meeting and then decide what items we want to have produced. The most likely candidates are T-shirts, caps, water bottles, decals, pins, and patches.

We are always in need of trip leaders and general input from the membership. Please consider leading a trip or contributing an article for the newsletter. For our August Glacier Classic gathering, we will have several campsites reserved at Fish Creek Campground, on Lake McDonald. This is a great opportunity to get together with fellow members, go on a hike or two, and tell stories around a campfire. Suggest a trip, or better yet, offer to lead one. Stay in tune to your Club through the newsletter and website:

www.rockymountaineers.com

Steve Niday



NE Ridge of Gray Wolf, Paolo Segre returning from summit. S. Niday

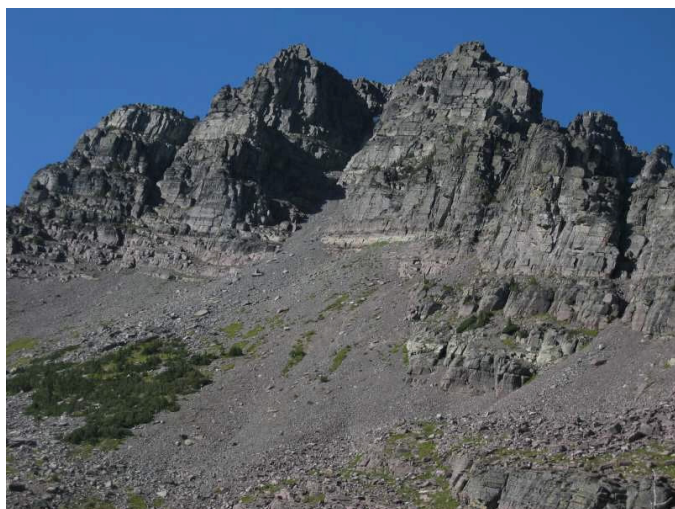
Classic Places

Gray Wolf Peak

This month's Classic Series Trip leads us to the Mission Mountains for a classic spring snow ascent of the south couloir of Gray Wolf Peak. At 9001' Gray Wolf isn't close to the highest in the range, but it may be one of the most interesting and challenging to climb. The following information on this great peak is extracted from "Climbers Guide to Montana" and used with permission from its author (and TRM member) Pat Caffrey:



The west side of Gray Wolf. F. Dean photo



South side of Gray Wolf. S. Niday photo.

"Approaches are unique and exciting. All routes are technical under less than ideal conditions, or when snow is present. Many climbers head into this one early to catch the snow, either in the broad couloir on the south side of the peak, or in the narrow and often icy couloir on the southeast side. Both routes are approached via Riddell Lakes. Start off on an old logging road above Twin Lakes and follow a ridgetop approaching Riddell Lakes from the southwest. The south couloir is right above Riddell Lakes. Reaching the southeast couloir involves striking eastward from between Riddell Lakes, feasting on huckleberries as you cross a low spot in the ridge, and swinging left (northward) into Scenic Lakes Cirque. Both couloirs require a rope and ice axe. The southeast couloir has more tendency to be icy, but if either one has ice you'll also want crampons. The southeast couloir is only about 10-20' wide, and usually has a moat on each side. It ends in a notch between the main peak and a false summit on the south end of the mountain. Drop out onto the west side of the mountain (you might want to use your rope here) a couple hundred feet, turn right, and find a break up to the summit. If you go up the broad south couloir, cross over the false summit and drop into the notch at the top of the southeast couloir in order to finish out the climb on the west face.

If you happen to be in Dry Creek you can do the entire climb up the west face. Climb the talus slope into the main couloir. Near the top of this large gully, traverse left to avoid an overhang, then work up into the high broad basin and on to the summit. If you descend the west face, consider having a rope along for rappelling. This route is an intriguing one to find, and if you do well you'll have no technical difficulties. A more straightforward route is the northeast ridge, another C-rated route which is great if you have a little extra time to get to it. Finally, there is the north ridge, gained by a couloir from No Fish Lake. The couloir ends in an indentation called the Wind Notch, above which technical protection is necessary."

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, 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

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

Sunday, May 20th – GOAT MOUNTAIN (Bitterroots)

Rating: Class 1-2, *Mileage:* 6.0 miles, *Elevation:* 1600-1700'

Description: We will follow a trail to the top of this smaller mountain in the Roaring Lion drainage of the Bitterroots. Goat Mountain is an easternmost point of a long ridge which goes higher and gets more rugged after the trail ends. This point has an elevation of around 6,000', making a steep three mile one way hike with an elevation gain of 1600'-1700'. We will be joined by Mario Locatelli, who lives nearby and who has a lifetime of stories and adventures in the Bitterroots. According to Mario, those in good shape can sprint to the top in half an hour; one and a half hours would be an average time estimate. We will also encourage people who want to keep a slower pace to come along. It is not a very big mountain and there is plenty to see and talk about on the way. Call Steve to find out about meeting times and carpools.

Leader: Steve Schombel - 721-4686

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

Sat-Sun, June 9-10 – EDITH LAKE (Anaconda Pintler Wilderness)

Rating: Class 1 (trail), *Mileage:* 10 miles

Description: This will be an overnight backpack to Edith Lake in the Anaconda Pintlers as a shake down trip for the Bob Marshall (see below). This is an easy 5 mile hike to Edith Lake just below Warren Peak.

Go in Sat. come out Sun. Those who would like to do it as a day hike also welcome.

Leader: Julie Kahl – 543-6508

Sunday, June 10 – NORTH TRAPPER PEAK (Bitterroots)

Rating: Class 4-5, *Mileage:* 7.5 miles, *Elevation Gain:* 4400'

Description: Will park at the Baker Lake trailhead and use this trail for the approach via Baker, Middle, Gem Lakes, then north over saddle and west to North Trapper. Will climb the southeast couloir and face to the summit (9801'). Return the same way. Expect a long day and we will get an early start. This will most likely be a mixed alpine climb.

Special Equipment: Rope, harness, protection, belay device, helmet. Crampons and ice axe.

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

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

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

Rating: Class 5, *Mileage:* 8 miles, *Elevation Gain:* 7000'

Description: Intended route will be the Upper Exum (5.4-5.5). Group size limit of 4. We will drive down on Friday and possibly hike up to a high camp. We have a reservation for the Lower Saddle for Saturday night. Depending on weather, climb could be done on Saturday or Sunday. Either way we can stay at high camp on Saturday night. Possibly also climb another nearby peak if desired.

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

Leader: Forest Dean, 240-7612 or 721-6384, 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

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 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.

Leader: Pat Caffrey – 677-2661

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

Notes: Campsite permits have been secured for up to eight persons. Thursday night will be spent at the head of Bowman Lake (beer provided), then we will split between two high-elevation campgrounds. **Spots for six persons are still available. 1st come - 1st Serve. Send \$5.00 to Pat Caffrey, Box 341, Seeley Lake MT 59868 to cover share in reservation processing, and state which campgrounds/climbing objectives you prefer.** A finalized itinerary & Info Sheet found in the March newsletter will be emailed to all participants in July.

Description: Excellent opportunity to attempt Kintla Peak using Boulder Pass as a base camp, or to visit other locales in northcentral Glacier National Park without an exhausting approach hike.

Thursday August 2 – Meet @ Polebridge Ranger Station in the morning to get permits. Drive to foot of Bowman Lake and motorboat 7 miles to our campsite at the head of the lake (4030 ft).

Friday August 3 – Hike to campsites at Hole In The Wall (6400 ft) 8.3 miles and Boulder Pass (7280 ft) 12.3 miles.

Saturday August 4 – Climbing day! Stay at campsites at Boulder Pass or Brown Pass (6255 ft – 6.7 miles from Bowman Lake).

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

Leader: Pat Caffrey – 677-2661, pcaffrey@plumcreek.com.

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

2007 CLASSIC SERIES

*Details about these trips will be listed in the newsletter as the times get closer.
May trip is listed above.*

<u>Month</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Leader</u>
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	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

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:

Pilot Knob

This will be a hike/scramble to this rocky point in the Lolo Pass area of the Bitterroots. More information will follow in next newsletter. Leader: Julie Kahl (543-6508)

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

3rd Annual – Glacier Classic

Dates: August 24-26

Location: Glacier National Park

Camp: Fish Creek Campground on Lake McDonald

We are still putting the details together for this event. A schedule of events with hikes and climbs will be available in the June newsletter. We are currently working on reserving some campsites at Fish Creek Campground. If you would like to attend, please let us know as it will affect how many sites we reserve. All attendees will split the costs of the campsites, so it should be pretty minimal. We hope to have three hikes, climbs, or other activities to list for both Saturday and Sunday. If you are interested in leading a hike or climb, just let us know.

The plan will be to arrive up at the campground any time on Friday, set up camp, eat, drink, and be merry. Then on Saturday you can partake in one of the trips. Back to camp for more revelry on Saturday night. On Sunday partake in another trip (if you want), then drive home (if you want). Here is what we have so far....

Saturday

1 – Reynolds Mountain

2 – Huckleberry Mountain Lookout

3 –

Sunday

1 – Piegan Mountain, Pollock Mountain and Bishops Cap Traverse

2 –

3 –

TRIP REPORTS

April 14 – Trapper Peak (Bitterroots)

As the April 2007 installment of the Rocky Mountaineers *Classic Series* Trips, Alden Wright led a ski trip up the normal route of Trapper Peak. We met at 6:35am in the K-mart parking lot and headed down the 'root. Ron Pierson, Alden and I arrived at the turn off for the Trapper Peak trailhead and found that we were following Brett Doucett up the mountain on our way to the trailhead (a bit of foreshadowing for the coming climb). We parked at the second crossing of Troy Creek (5500') and headed up with our skies on our backs. It had been cold enough the night before to allow us to hike on top of the snow to approximately 8000' before we donned our skis. At one point we were accompanied by some bobcat tracks paralleling our path. We made the summit by 2pm and were joined by two others (that, as it turns out, participated in Alden's trip last year!) The visibility was excellent and we marveled at the array of snow capped mountains that Trapper offers. As the wind intensified and the clouds gathered, our bodies began to chill and we retreated from the summit one by one. It had been a brilliantly sunny day and the snow had softened considerably. The downhill offered mostly wet, heavy snow that was difficult for me to navigate (Alden seemed to do fine)! There was one really good stretch of skiing roughly between 9600' and 8800'. On our way down we met three other skiers who were headed up for a short run. Back at the truck at about 6pm, hungry and tired, we thanked Alden for picking a perfect weather window for leading a great trip. *Joshua Phillips (trip photos by Joshua as well)*



Alden, Brett and Ron on the summit.



Trip leader Alden Wright on the descent.

April 21- Columbia Mountain (Swan Range)

On a sunny & brisk late April Saturday morning, 7 of us kicked off the 2007 GMS season on Columbia Mountain. After the usual long traverse around the base of Columbia, we started the climb. At the 5,600 foot level (where the trail switchback meets the big gully on the right of the trail) we began to encounter intermittent snow (it had been storming in the Flathead valley for the 2 days preceding our trip). From about 6,000 feet to the summit (7,234) it was a tough snow climb, with a breakable crust and about 14-18 inches of unconsolidated snow underneath. Many calories were expended by the group during the final 1,200 feet to the summit.



Climbing towards the summit. Jim Cossitt photo.

Trip stats according to my Suunto watch: 5, 089 feet up, 5,082 feet down and 7:34 elapsed time. We started about 0830, summited about 1230-

1300, departed the summit around 1330 and got back to the trailhead around 1600.

As we were starting our hike, we saw Linda Soper at the trailhead who advised us she had started at 0415 or so and just returned to her car. Sounds like a good cure for insomnia

Our group included Dennis & Shirley Twohig, Frank Weslowski, Nancy Riva, Keith Kratzer, Ned Sohl, Jim Cossitt and the star of the trip: Vidar. Vidar traveled at least twice as far and twice as much vertical as the rest of us ! Woof !

Jim Cossitt



Summit photo! Jim Cossitt photo.

April 21 - Mt Sentinel TerraCaching Hike

Patricia and Lorraine joined Jon on the Intro to TerraCaching hike. After a quick trip back to the house for warmer clothes by a hiker to remain nameless, and a (maybe too) brief tutorial on how to use a GPS, we got started at 10:30 and headed up the Kim Williams trail toward the junction with Hellgate 11, then on up the mountain.

We reached the first cache part way up the mountain at about noon, and the ladies looked around for the cache for a little while until Jon was able to confirm the cache wasn't where it was last time he was here.

Wallowing in the despair of starting the trip with a no-find, we ate some lunch. Lorraine had to get back home claiming better things to do, so she headed back and Patricia and Jon pressed on.

Our next cache was on the top of University Mountain, but on the way up we happened to run into the hider of the previous missing cache on his way back down the mountain, so we chatted for a while and Jon reported the missing cache.

There were a couple inches of snow on top this morning, which can make finding a small container a little more challenging. Patricia looked high and low, but not having been to this cache in over 2 years, Jon wasn't sure himself where it was. So, at 2:30pm, we were 0 for 2.

Back down we went toward the summit of Mt. Sentinel, where an easy find was to be had. This was a virtual cache where the finder was required to count the number of holes, bolts, and washers in an iron post apparently placed just off the summit ages ago to keep the mountain from walking away. Patricia spotted the requisite item from 50 feet away.

From there, it was a nice walk south along the ridge to our final cache. After about 3 minutes of checking likely looking spots, Patricia found an ammo can with a log book, pencil, and a handful of plastic dinosaurs. She signed the log, noted the confirmation code she needed to submit a find to the website, and off we were back down to the trail head. We reached the parking lot again at 5:15pm.

Jon managed to shoot some video of the trip, and posted a short movie "Trip Report" to...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hHVi7Ojq9g>

Jon Garvin



Patricia and Jon on University Mtn. J. Garvin photo.

April 22 – Kootenai Creek (Bitterroots)

Eileen & Fred Schwanemann, Steve Schombel, Julie & Dave Kahl, and Barbara Ross took Kootenai Creek trail to the Wilderness Boundary and back. We had many Earth Day surprises. Early on we spotted a very tiny Winter Wren which was perched close to the ground. After about an hour of hiking, we started seeing many flowers which included Yellow Bells, Shooting Stars, Trillium, Glacier Lilies, and Indian Paintbrush. There were many more Trillium than the few raindrops at the hike's start. The sun came out at lunch and on the way back. The sun brought out the butterflies. We saw at least five species including the Morning Cloak, the MT butterfly. *Fred Schwanemann*

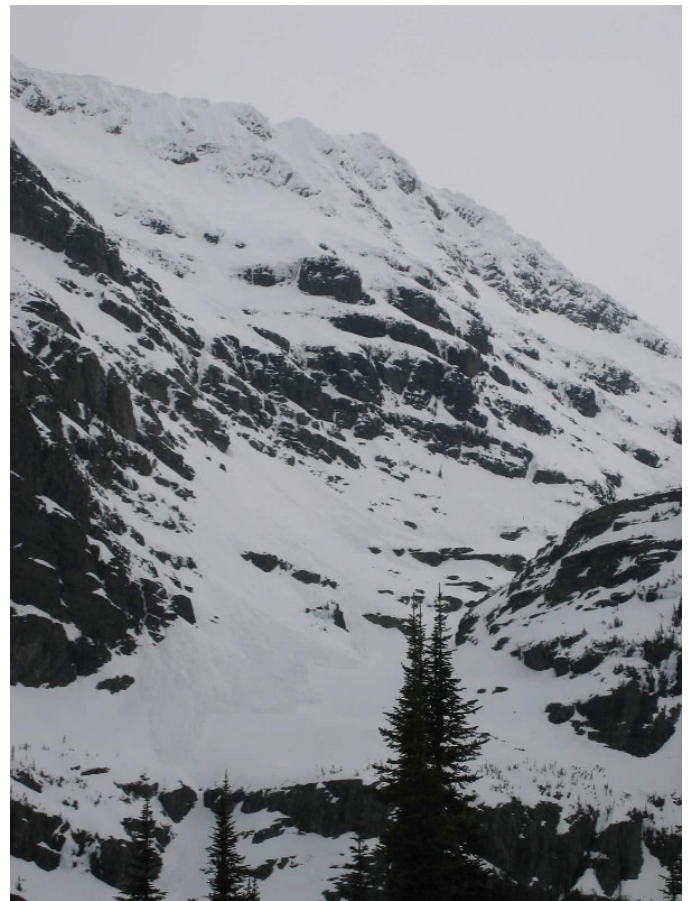
April 27-28 - Edward Mtn (Glacier N.P.)

First there were five, then there were two. Forest and I started up the Sperry Chalet trail in the early afternoon and put our skis on at around two miles and 4300'. We camped in the lower Glacier Basin at around 6000'. At 6:20 AM on Saturday, we were moving toward our objective. Less than a mile later, and a mere 700' higher, we called it quits. Forest's energy was not enough to offset the reality that the snow conditions would not allow a safe summit bid. The weather system that deposited snow on the foothills around Missoula recently deposited over a foot of new snow in this area of Glacier Park. The new snow slid easily on the older snow, we witnessed several big spontaneous slides late Friday afternoon. When it got steep and we removed our skis, we sunk. Progress would have been too slow to summit and return while the snow was still stable. The options were to climb on and spend the night high to allow the snow to solidify for a safe descent on Sunday morning, or turn around and head home. We opted for the latter. We did visit Sperry Chalet and could have easily skied onto the roof, there's still at least 7 feet of snow. In the upper Glacier Basin, where Sperry Chalet is located, we saw one set of elk tracks and one set of wolf tracks, one following the other. Lower down I saw a flash of fur and when we got to where I saw it, there was a very fresh wolf track deeply embedded in the mud in the trail. Following the trajectory of the track there was a large expanse of snow and no tracks. We surmised the wolf saw

us, hit the brakes hard, and abruptly reversed course. Does that count as a wolf sighting? Under better conditions, this looks like a good early season climb, not too hard, and not too easy. *Steve Niday*



Forest at our high point (6700'). S. Niday photo.



Edwards Mountain. S. Niday photo.

GENERAL INTERESTS

LOLO PEAK FILM

Monday, May 7 - 7:30 PM, Missoula Children's Theater

One of Missoula's long time independent film makers has completed his latest project. It is titled "Oh No Lolo" by Gene Bernofsky. It runs for 43 minutes and advocates the protection of Lolo Peak. A \$6.00 donation is requested.

"ADVENTURES IN THE BITTERROOTS"

In case you missed it, Mario Locatelli is giving a second showing of his slides about his "Adventures in the Bitterroots." Mario has spent 30 some years hiking every peak, ridge and drainage in the Bitterroots, and has many spectacular slides. This time his show will be followed by a shorter show about winter skiing on Lolo Peak by Jeremy Lurgio. Some of you may remember a great skiing show Jeremy did at one of the Rocky Mountaineers meetings a few years ago. This will be followed by a presentation on the recent activities of the Bitterroot Resort, and information on why many people would like to keep Lolo Peak and Carleton Ridge wild and undeveloped. This show will be at the Lolo Community Center on Thursday, May 17th, at 7:00 PM, and is free. The Lolo Community Center is on Highway 93 just south of the junction with Highway 12, and is on the right (west) when you're headed south.

PENGELLY DOUBLE DIP

Saturday, June 16, 2007 – 10:00 AM

This is year **FOUR** for the Double Dip, an epic trail run to benefit Youth Homes, a non-profit that is committed to caring for children in need.

Course options:

One Dip: A 4.6 mile circle up the M trail, along the fire road and returning to the Univeristy of Montana oval.

Two Dips: The 12.5 mile challenging mountain run. This course winds its way up Mount Sentinel peaking at the University Beacon. It consists of steep terrain and scenic views atop Missoula's most popular mountain! Create a relay team or be a daring individual.

Monte Mile Fun Run: The course uses the oval and will not run along any streets. All kids received a participant ribbon and fun run number. Strollers welcome!

NEW THIS YEAR! A 5K flat ground run/walk on the Kim Williams Trail. Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Clark Fork River as this course starts and finishes at the oval on the UM campus!

<http://www.youthhomes.com/doubledip/index.html>

Note: This event is named in honor of the late Dave Pengelly, TRM Member, one time President, and friend to many.

APRIL BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes 4-11-07

1. Called to Order 6:08

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

3. Minutes: Approved with no changes

4. Correspondence: Steve N. heard from Becky Richards about the club helping with a remembrance for her son, Ben Richards who died recently in the Gallatin N.F. She is thinking about a speaker next year from the Gallatin on avalanche awareness, combined with youth outreach and maybe a training course. Forest will contact Becky to see if she would suggest someone, and we could provide the time and place and publicity. No other correspondence.

5. Treasurers report: \$720.08 balanced on 4-11.

6. Club Business

A. Slate of officers: Dave Wright was talked into running for secretary instead of Lorraine. Forest brought up the issue that this will be his 3rd year as V.P., which violates the bylaws. Steve N. will ask the members later if there are any objections to making an exemption. (None were raised). Other nominees remain: Steve Niday as President and Julia Kahl as treasurer. (None from the floor later.)

B. Other clubs: We did not feel we would like to have joint meetings with the Grotto, but maybe a few times a year, and alternate speakers. We should try to limit presentations to 1 hour, and Steve S. will inform upcoming speakers. There are some problems with GMS having a member's only policy and having some of their trips listed as joint trips. Jim Cossit is going to ask the GMS board to allow us to go on their trips. Forest wants this cleared up before listing more trips, and more info on their sign up policy. No problems seen with Sierra Club and

summitpost is just a few employees who may go to Glacier, not a club to club connection.

C. Logo contest: Steve N. went to a shirt shop to see which designs would work well. They happen to be the ones we favor. He also wants us to think about approving money up front from treasury to start merchandizing. He will send an e-mail with the three favored design and a description and number for a vote. We will take the final vote at the May meeting.

D. Trips: Glacier Classic- the reservation system was down but Steve N. will try again for a group site or 3 adjoining sites at Fish Creek. Cabin Work Day- the date, Sept. 29th, was picked last month, and it was suggested and approved that we have the picnic at the overlook. Lolo Peak- Dave may not be able to lead it, but Alden is interested. He would like to do the Westside route.

E. Achievement Awards: Not enough time for much discussion, but Steve N. is thinking of a list of categories to send to members for comments.

F. Other business: Julie showed a calendar she made of Ireland photos and would like to make one for us for merchandizing. Other members will be encouraged to submit photos.

7. Meeting adjourned at 6:58



Sunset on Mount Rainier (Left to Right: Sunset Amphitheater, Tahoma Glacier, Point Success)

Photo courtesy of Kevin Ball

Deep Thinking....

"In light of the rising frequency of human/grizzly bear conflicts, the Department of Fish and Game is advising hikers, hunters, and fishermen to take extra precautions and keep alert for bears while in the field. We advise that outdoors men wear noisy little bells on their clothing so as not to startle bears that aren't expecting them. We also advise outdoors men to carry pepper spray with them in case of an encounter with a bear. It is also a good idea to watch out for fresh signs of bear activity. Outdoors men should recognize the difference between black bear and grizzly bear droppings. Black bear droppings are smaller and contain lots of berries and squirrel fur. Grizzly bear droppings have little bells in them and smell like pepper." — *Grizzly bear notice.*

"Solo climber: One climber falling.

Alpine style: Lots of climbers falling, tied together.

Bouldering: One climber falling and missing a thick mat.

Trad: One climber falling on another climber."

"Was that 'on belay' or 'off belay' ?" — *Common climbing last words.*

Mountain Trivia Challenge!!

This Month: Where (in the Bitterroot Mountains) Am I?

Last month I either made this too challenging or nobody cared! So to increase interest I figured I better give away a prize. Anyone answering the following questions correctly will be entered into a drawing. The winner will receive their choice of either (2) six packs of Big Sky beer or (2) bottles of wine. Deadline for emailing or calling me with your answers will be May 25th. Good luck! All answers are places that can be found in the Bitterroot Mountain. (Note: I said the Bitterroot Mountains- not the entire Bitterroot Range)

1 – The lake I am camped at is a result of a massive landslide let loose from the 4th highest peak in the Bitterroot Mountains. The slide created a rock dam which in turn created the lake. Where am I?

2 – The lake I am now camped at is the first one I could have possibly camped at after hiking up this drainage that has several prominent spires and buttresses with Native-American names. Where am I?

3 – The view from this pit toilet just feet from the summit of this 9000+ foot peak is incredible! Surely having a chance to sit on such a throne must be the reason why this peak is one of the more popular climbs in these mountains. Where am I?

4 – I am camped at a lake named after a species of tree. To my north/northwest lies a peak without an official USGS name, but nevertheless one of the top 10 highest in the Bitterroot Mountains. Another top 10 highpoint lies to my south/southeast (this one is named). Any idea what lake I am at?

5 – “There must be some way out of here, said the joker to the thief.” I sing this opening line from a song written by Bob Dylan and famously covered by Jimi Hendrix. Why? Because the name of the peak almost due west of the 9000+ foot peak where I now sit is part of the title of that song. Where am I?

Last Month's Answers:

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?

Stuart Peak (Rattlesnake)

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 range's highest point. Maybe it's the 10,000' + air! Where am I?

Warren Peak (Pintlers)

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?

Grand Teton (Grand Teton National Park)

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?

Blue Mountain (Blue Mtn Rec Area)

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?

Mt. Cleveland (Glacier National Park)

This month's cover photo: Shoshone Spire in Blodgett Canyon- Bitterroot National Forest. Photo by Forest Dean.

THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual Membership Fee: _____ \$20.00 for paper newsletter
_____ \$10.00 for electronic newsletter

Note: Membership includes all members of a family or household.

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

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

Name: _____

Additional Family Members Names: _____

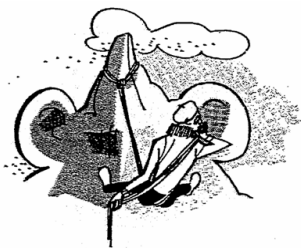
Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone (optional): _____

Email: _____

Additional Email (optional): _____

*Joining or maintaining your Rocky Mountaineers membership has never been easier! **PayPal** is now available on the Rocky Mountaineers website. Click on the membership link on the main page.*



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