

A dramatic photograph of a snow-capped mountain peak, likely in the Rocky Mountains. The mountain's rugged, dark rock faces are partially covered in patches of snow and ice. In the foreground, a small, calm lake reflects the surrounding landscape. The sky is overcast, with a soft light source visible behind the mountain's peak.

JUNE 2007

# THE MOUNTAIN EAR

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*The Monthly Newsletter of 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



## **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual – Glacier Classic**

**Dates:** August 24-26

**Location:** Glacier National Park

**Camp:** Fish Creek Campground on Lake McDonald

The Rocky Mountaineers would like to invite all members, guests and anyone else interested, to join us for our third annual Glacier Classic. This is a fun event that features hikes and climbs for different abilities or interests, camping, eating, drinking, socializing, and quite simply having a good time! All in one of the world's most spectacular settings – Glacier National Park!

The plan is to drive to Glacier and Fish Creek Campground on Friday. Early arrivals, late arrivals, Saturday arrivals – all and any are welcome. If you don't want to camp but want to participate in some of the activities, that is fine too. Fish Creek Campground is located just north of Apgar on Lake McDonald. Campsites can be shared by several people- all attendees can split the costs of the sites. Car pools, etc. can be arranged from Missoula or elsewhere.

Friday evening can be spent eating, drinking and (hopefully) sitting around a campfire. On Saturday there will be several hikes or climbs to choose from, or feel free to do something on your own if it inspires you. Saturday evening we will return to the camp for more revelry and tales of the days adventures. On Sunday we again have some hikes/climbs to choose from. Depart whenever you so choose (or stay!).

Please give either Steve Niday or Forest Dean a call or email for more information (our contact info is on the previous page) or to tell us you want to come! The last two "Classics" have been a lot of fun and we want to continue to grow this event by getting more of you involved. Hope to see you there!

### **Saturday, August 25**

#### **REYNOLDS MOUNTAIN**

*Rating:* Class 3, *Mileage:* 6.5, *Elevation:* 2500' gain

*Description:* This will be a slow moving hike and scramble up the southern side of this very prominent Logan Pass peak. Hike starts at the Logan Pass visitor center, proceeds up the boardwalk toward Hidden Lake, then veers south and around the east side of Reynolds before ascending easy cliff bands and scree slopes to the 9,125' summit. All are welcome to attend- including kids (at least one 8 year old will be in the group!) No special gear needed.

*Leader:* Forest Dean

#### **CLEMENTS MOUNTAIN**

*Rating:* Class 4+, *Mileage:* 2 miles to summit, *Elevation:* 2300'

*Description:* East Face Couloir Route. Start at Logan Pass, hike to the saddle between Clements and Oberlin. Ascend Clements' northeast ridge. As you approach the high cliffs, a narrow ledge traversing to the left provides access to the great couloir in the center of the east face. Class 4+ pitches are low in the couloir, including one chest high mantle with poor holds. As one ascends, the route becomes easier. Descent will be via the west ledges to Birdwoman Pass. Could consider Cannon Mountain from Birdwoman Pass if there is interest, time and/or energy remaining.

*Special equipment:* Helmets

*Leader:* Dean Stensland

## **HUCKLEBERRY MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT**

*Rating:* Class 1, *Mileage:* 12.0, *Elevation:* 3400'

*Description:* This is a trail hike to a lookout on the summit of Huckleberry Mountain in the Apgar Mountains. The trailhead is about 6 miles north of Apgar. The trail climbs rather steeply through forest then continues to climb as it breaks out of the forest and follows the ridge crest for the final 1.5 miles to the lookout.

*Leader:* Steve Schombel

## **Sunday, August 26**

## **PIEGAN MOUNTAIN, POLLOCK MOUNTAIN, BISHOPS CAP TRAVERSE**

*Rating:* Class 3 (maybe some 4), *Mileage:* 7 miles, *Elevation:* 4500'

*Description:* Trip will begin at Logan Pass. We will walk down the GTTS road to Lunch Creek then ascend to saddle between Piegan and Pollock. Scramble up class 2 ridge to Piegan (9220') then back to saddle. Will ascend the Great Cleft Route to the summit of Pollock (9190'). Then follow ridge north and ascend Bishops Cap (9127') before dropping back down to Highline Trail and back to Logan Pass.

*Leader:* Forest Dean

## **MT. BROWN LOOKOUT and/or MT. BROWN**

*Rating:* Class 4 (to summit), *Mileage:* 12 miles, *Elevation:* 5300'

*Description:* Start at Lake MacDonald Lodge, hike 4.7 miles by trail to the Mount Brown fire lookout. For those wishing to continue on to the summit, there is an additional mile of off trail with an elevation gain of 1,500 feet. From the lookout follow goat trails, Class 4 pitches may be encountered on the way to the summit.

*Leader:* Dean Stensland

## ***President's Message***

Fellow members,

In case you were not at the last meeting, we took care of a couple of business issues. The Club's officers were elected and the new logo was adopted. The officers are shown at the beginning of this newsletter, along with the new logo. We are in the process of developing a selection of items with the new logo, which will be available for purchase. Regular meetings are suspended during the months of June-August, and will resume in September. Stay in touch with your Club through the newsletter and website, and enjoy your summer.

**Steve Niday**

# 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.

## **Sunday, June 3 – BURNT FORK PINNACLE (Classic Series Trip) (Nine Mile Area)**

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

*Description:* The Rocky Mountaineers classic series hike for June will go to Burnt Fork Pinnacle. Despite the name, this is a trail hike, not a technical climb. Burnt Fork Pinnacle is on the north side of the Nine Mile valley. It is about 8 miles round trip with a 2300' elevation gain. Dogs are OK. We will meet at Deano's on Reserve just south of I90 at 9 am. I would prefer to hear from those planning to go.

*Leader:* Alden Wright - Phone numbers: work 243-4790 until Friday at 5, home 542-1966, cell 531-0477 (Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday morning), or e-mail [rocky@wrightmontana.net](mailto:rocky@wrightmontana.net)

## **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)

## **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. Group size limit of 6.

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

*Leader:* Forest Dean-H: 721-6384, C: 240-7612, email: [mtnear1@gmail.com](mailto:mtnear1@gmail.com)

**Sat-Sun, June 23-24 – LITTLE SPAR LAKE (Western Cabinet Mountains)**

*Rating:* Class 1-3, *Mileage:* 9+, *Elevation:* 1700'+

*Description:* Saturday we will backpack up to Little Spar Lake in the Western Cabinet Mountains. The trail climbs steadily for about 4½ miles along a canyon and gains about 1700' to this pretty lake at 5239' elevation. On Sunday there is an option to scramble out of the basin and follow a ridge for about 4 miles to an unnamed point at 6933'. I believe this is the highest Montana point in the West Cabinets. Other than bushwhacking there don't appear to be any tough climbing or obstacles.

*Leader:* Steve Schombel - 721-4686.

**Wednesday, July 4 – HIKE from SNOWSHOE BEND to FR 4200 (Lolo Pass Area)**

*Rating:* Class 1, *Mileage:* 8-10 miles, *Elevation:* 1000'

*Description:* This will be a hike from Snowshoe bend to Forest Road 4200. The hike will be a point to point. We will need an even number of cars half full. The length of the hike is 8-10 miles, the change in altitude will be 1000 feet (4500-5500). Snowshoe Bend is on Route 12 about 2.5 miles North of Lolo Pass. Forest Road 4200 and/or Trail 289 runs parallel to Route 12 about 1 1/2 miles to the NW at Snowshoe Bend.

*Leader:* Fred Schwanemann - 542-7372

**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. TRIP IS CURRENTLY FULL. 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, [mtnear1@gmail.com](mailto:mtnear1@gmail.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 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:* 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. 1<sup>st</sup> come - 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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>
June	Burnt Fork Pinnacle	Reservation Divide	Hike	Alden Wright
July	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: [mtnear1@gmail.com](mailto:mtnear1@gmail.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



*Gray Wolf Peak and environs from Riddell Lakes basin.*

## TRIP REPORTS

### May 6 – Gray Wolf Peak (Mission Mountains)

Joshua Phillips and Kevin Ball met me at Muralt's at 5:15 AM and we headed north for the Missions. The day was dawning with clear skies and all indications were for a great day. Too great, unfortunately (get to that in a minute). Much as I had done back on a trip to East St. Mary's Peak in December, I managed to miss a couple of turns on the maze of roads east of Arlee and soon found ourselves well east of the "trailhead". Soon, however, we discovered the road I had almost got hopelessly stuck on back then, and we were able to proceed back to the trailhead located near Twin Lakes. The unmarked climbers trail begins off a logging road after traveling about 1.2 miles up it from a turnoff by the bridge by the lake. Confused yet? Anyway, we got underway at about 6:45 at an elevation of about 4,400 feet. Almost immediately we were in a few inches of snow that had just fallen this past week. Walking on the trail was fairly easy until around 5,300 feet where we decided to strap on snowshoes. From here we essentially lost the trail, but since the ridge narrows all the way to the top, we just kept slogging uphill without concern. At about 7000' the trail breaks out above the trees and we caught our first glimpse of the top of the south summit of Grey Wolf. Within the next twenty minutes, our intended route plan of climbing the south couloir of this mountain was thrown out the window. Sidehilling across a 40 degree slope on our way to the Riddell Lake basin, we discovered that this area had received 6-12" of new snow a few days ago. Below that was a hard crust layer. We could tell that the day before as temps had warmed, the new snow was sloughing and avalanching everywhere. We made it across the slope and as we got our first glimpse of the south couloir, our plan change became final- several massive snow slides had occurred in there the day before. Plus, the temps were warming and starting to rapidly mush up the snow which was starting to make a steep ascent non-appealing. We continued on up to Upper Riddell Lake, then decided to go take a look at a possible northeast ridgeline ascent. We snowshoed up to the saddle separating the Riddell Lakes and Scenic Lakes basins, then lost all that hard gained elevation by dropping down into the scenic basin. From there we once again ascended;

this time up the ridge on the east side of this basin. Lots of ups and downs. Tiring (especially in mushy snow). The view of Grey Wolf from either of these basins is very impressive. Also impressive was the opportunity to watch all the avalanching going on on this southeast face. One slide after another brought nearly all the recent snow crashing down the mountain side. We topped out on this ridge and started traversing along its crest back toward the northeast ridge of Gray Wolf. At about 8200' and a few hundred yards from the final ridge we stopped and contemplated. A major notch exists right at the base of this ridge. We had a rope and climbing gear, so this wasn't the main concern. However, our next 300-400' above this cliff would be on steep terrain with this snow that had showed it wanted to move. Sliding here would likely mean being swept over the cliff. So we took some pictures of ourselves at our "high point" and tucked our tails between our legs and headed back! A bit disappointing, but we all agreed it was the definite right decision. The way out was tiring, especially on the ascent portions. We took a bit of a different line back out through the Riddell basin to avoid the steep slope that we crossed on the way in. Several stops to take in views and soak up the sun. We arrived back at the truck at 5:30 PM, tired, but all feeling of a day well spent. The mountain will always be there.....

Stats: 10.0 miles roundtrip, 5100' elevation gain, 11 hours. (and I didn't get lost on the way home!!!)

*Forest Dean*



*Kevin and Joshua at our "high point". Gray Wolf Peak in background. F. Dean photo.*



### **May 20 – Goat Mountain (Bitterroots)**

I had a lot of interest in this hike in the Bitterroots with Mario Locatelli. And, in spite of the cool and cloudy morning, about three fourths of the callers showed up. Mario told me that there was a faint trail to this point when he first started hiking in the area a few decades ago, and after much use it has become very distinct. This trail doesn't seem to be well known in Missoula, and I hate to publicize it a lot, but Mario seemed very eager to show people one of his favorite places. Most of the participants agreed that it was as advertised, a lot steeper than trails they are used to. But most were able to keep up with the moderate pace set by Mario. A few of us were slower, but we all made it to the top and had lunch and shared some stories and observations. Participating were: Fred and Eileen Schwanemann, Bret Doucett, Lois Crepeau, Ron Pierson, Jackie Waring, Dawn Dodge, Michael Bowles, Karen Apland, Mike and Linda Hoyte, Kate Humphries and leaders Steve Schombel and Mario Locatelli. The views were nice and there were a lot of wildflowers. It didn't start raining until we were back at the trailhead. *Steve Schombel*



*Balsamorhiza on Goat Mountain. Mike Hoyt photo.*



*Lupine and Arrowleaf. Mike Hoyt photo.*

### **May 19-21 – Gunsight Mountain (Glacier NP)**

On an overcast Saturday, Jim Cossitt, Frank Weslowski and Jim Schroeder shouldered up their packs with overnight and climbing gear and started up the Sperry Trail towards Comeau Pass. A light rain / mist began and at around 5,000 feet intermittent snow started to cover the trail. At the 6,000 foot level the trail was totally covered with snow and the Sperry Chalet complex / are had about 6-8 feet of snow on the ground.

*(continued)*

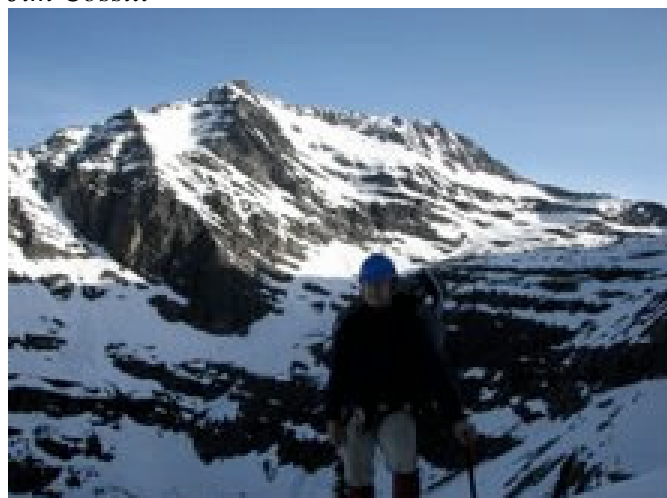


We camped near the Sperry Chalet complex, had supper in the rain and went into the tents thinking this was going to be a short trip due to the uncooperative weather. However, at 0600 the next morning, the sky was clear and we were out of camp by 0730 or so. We climbed up the ridge that extends (east ?) off Lincoln Peak – up a good steep gully / snow climb that required protection and belaying. After gaining the ridge, we began a long climb east up the ridge, approaching Gunsight from the southwest side, with frozen Lake Ellen Wilson far below us. After a long traverse around the SW side of Gunsight, we came to a spot where the choices were to descend at least 1,000 feet to cross a basin to Gunsight's main summits or head up and look for a route over the top. We headed up to about 9,000 feet and concluded the route over the top wasn't going to go either. We also noted the dark clouds rapidly approaching from the west.



We retraced our steps back to the gully, down climbed and got back to camp about 1630 or so but without any rain: it was snowing by now. The remainder of the trip was spent trying to stay warm,

eating, sleeping and hiking out on Monday AM.  
*Jim Cossitt*



### **May 26-28 – Humbug Spires**

I had sort of planned on doing this trip for several of the last few Memorial Weekends, but the weather never seemed to cooperate. Having never been to this area before, I really wanted to just do an exploratory mission. It became a family backpack trip, then decided to invite anyone else who wanted to join us. Steve Schombel, Michael Bowles and Alden Wright did just that, joining me, my wife Angie and our kids Frank and Karya. We drove down Saturday morning, arriving at the trailhead at about 12:30 PM. Takes about 2 hours to get there from east side of Missoula. Under perfect sunny skies we packed up our gear and began the hike in. The trail is very good, gains very little elevation and is quite scenic in a different sort of way. Rock spires and boulders are everywhere. Sort of tough for the kid in me to not just drop pack every few yards and climb! Our camp goal was the end of the trail at a huge spire called The Wedge. This is about 4 miles in and 1000' of elevation gain from the trailhead. The remains of an old cabin are here, as well as a spring. We set up our tents nearby, then explored, relaxed, ate dinner, built a campfire, etc.  
*(continued)*



## Hills in Montana

Written by Steve Schombel



*Preparing dinner and relaxing. F. Dean photo.*

Much more of the same the next day. Steve, Michael and Alden hiked out that afternoon. Clouds had moved in and thunderstorms as well. Frank and I had done a bit of top rope climbing on some spires uphill from our tent. We watched a couple of individuals tackle a nice route on The Wedge. The next morning we hiked out (for the first mile we were hiking in snow). The weather turned nice again halfway out and we arrived at the trailhead under clear skies once again. A very nice area, quite different from the mountainous areas of Montana. Great rock climbing area in a place that apparently doesn't see much traffic. *Forest Dean*



*Frank and The Wedge. F. Dean photo.*

This will be a brief article to complete the series I wrote about "Mountain Ranges in Montana." I don't believe there is a source that lists all of the hills in Montana. Just think of all the vast vistas of rolling terrain in Eastern Montana, and all the smaller hills interspersed in the ranges of Western Montana. Then there is the question of "what is a hill?" For example, Topozone has both the North and South hills in its list of ranges in Montana. Many of us would think of them as benches next to the Rattlesnake and Sapphire Mountains.

I used Pat Caffrey's Climbers Guide to Montana to find some of the hills. He has a subchapter on "Outlying Buttes" in the Rocky Mountain Front chapter, with Haystack Butte the highest at 6821'. Then he has two chapters on the "North Prairie" and the "Lower Yellowstone Area" that cover most of the rest of Eastern Montana. Besides the obvious Island Ranges along the highline is the Marias River Area, the Larb Hills between Malta and Fort Peck Reservoir, and hills near Opheim and Scobey. The Lower Yellowstone includes such features as the Sidney Buttes, The Bull Mountains, Big and Little Sheep, the Pine Hills, the Wolf Mountains, and others out by Ashland, Broadus and Ekalaka. There are others mentioned in other chapters, such as the Missouri Breaks and the Musselshell River area.

Topozone also has several hills on its list of Montana Ranges. Several of them are near Opheim, with another group in the Ekalaka Area. Then there are some in the Butte-Helena area that may be of more interest to Missoulians. These include the Spokane Hills west of Canyon Ferry, the Limestone Hills SW of Townsend, the London Hills near Lewis and Clark Caverns and the Horseshoe Hills E of Toston Dam.

Then there are hills on neither of the above lists, such as the Apgar and Belton Hills to the W and E of West Glacier, and the Scratchgravel Hills near Helena. It would take many years to define all of Montana's hills and determine the high point, let alone to visit each of them. And many of them are on private land.

## GENERAL INTERESTS

### 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 University 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.*

### GREAT BURN STUDY GROUP TRIPS

Hello Everyone and happy spring!

I'm writing to share with you the 2007 Volunteer Monitoring Schedule. We hope you'll be able to join us on one of these trips which are sponsored by GBSG, the National Forest Foundation and other partners. However, if you venture out into the wilds of the Great Burn or surrounding roadless areas on your own this summer, we'd love to hear about your experience, so please contact us to tell us all about it!

Enjoy the beauty of the northern Rockies and help protect public wildlands. Volunteers needed for summer field projects. Please join experienced leaders for 2-4 day trips in the Great Burn and surrounding roadless backcountry. We will be monitoring weeds, wildlife, trail conditions, signs, and other information critical to the understanding and management of northern Rockies wildlands. Please contact Beverly Dupree at 406-240-9901 or [thegreatburn@yahoo.com](mailto:thegreatburn@yahoo.com) for more information or to sign up. Dates and locations are listed below. Sponsored by the Great Burn Study Group, the National Forest Foundation and other partners.

Great Burn Study Group 2007 Summer Monitoring Schedule

JUNE 15-17 Cache Creek, MT

JUNE 22-24 Burdette Creek, MT

JULY 6-8 Fish Lake, ID

JULY 13-15 Petty Mountain, MT

JULY 20-22 Goat Lake/Blacklead, ID

JULY 27-29 Pollock Ridge, ID

AUG 10-12 Sheep Mountain ID

AUG 17-19 North Lochsa Slope, Idaho

AUG 24-26 Weir Post Office, ID

Hope to see you on the trail!

Beverly

## APRIL BUSINESS MEETING

### **Minutes 5-9-07**

1. Called to Order 6:09

2. Attendance: Steve Niday, Julie Kahl, Alden Wright, Steve Schombel, Forest Dean, Jim Wilson, guests Patricia Peterson, Will Farrington, Dean Stensland

3. Minutes: Approved with no changes

4. Correspondence: none

5. Treasurers report: \$725.28. Balanced on 5-09; no newsletter bills, we have 78 members, 68 with e-newsletter and 10 with paper copy according to Forrest; Forest had one check to submit

#### **6. Club Business**

A. Slate of officers: Steve Niday, President; Forest Dean, VP, David Wright Secretary and Julia Kahl Treasurer. We agreed to follow the usual procedure of announcing this slate and asking for nominations from the floor. If none, then ask for a motion to elect the entire slate.

B. Other clubs: Jim Wilson reported that the Grotto wants to keep their own meetings and discuss their own business. But they are very open to the idea of having one or two joint meetings a year. Julie suggested that we might ask them about having a joint October meeting.

C. Logo contest: We got a large vote via e-mail: 22 to 12 to 1. Since the winner was so clear Steve N. announced that we would not take a vote at the general meeting-he would announce the winner. The winner was the round one or the round with State outline. Runner up was the line of climbers on a mountain. Jose' Hornitos was the designer and the winner of a gift certificate.

D. Trips: Glacier Classic- The reservation system will not allow us to reserve specific site, but told us that the campground is rarely full at the end of August. Steve and others will go up early on Friday and try to find some of the best sites. We talked about several trips: Dean Stensland will lead one, had several suggestions:

Clements east side, Mt Brown; Forest proposes Reynolds on Saturday and a Piegan-Pollock-Bishops Cap traverse on Sunday; Steve S. will hike to Huckleberry Lookout on Saturday; Julie suggested a peak above autumn Creek; a suggestion was made to ask Pat Caffrey to lead a trip; and a call was made to make posters and do other publicity for this event.

Cabin Work Party and Picnic Sept 29<sup>th</sup>: Some people will run up beforehand to see what needs to be done. We will definitely take a close look at the new roof to see how it is performing, and we will cut firewood and do some cleanup. Other suggestions were to install a new window, haul one up and cut a spot; cut off the logs extending out front and shore up the foundation on the lower end; and to think about installing a second, backup, cable on the uphill side. We also agreed to try to round up some people willing to do the picnic part, to prepare the few picnic tables near the trailhead.

June Classic Trip: Alden announced a tentative date of June 3<sup>rd</sup> for the Burnt Fork Pinnacle and had some elevation and distance details. Here is another thing we should publicize.

E. Summer business meetings: we agreed to do some as needed, and to send out an e-mail notice. Steve S. said we would need one before the Glacier Classic. We will also have monthly newsletters; perhaps not as big and ambitious as the recent ones.

F. Merchandise: Steve N. got prices from the Shirtshop for t-shirts, cotton were less at \$8 short sleeve and \$11 long sleeve with the new logo. Embroidered caps are \$11. There is a setup charge of \$135 for silk-screens and \$65 for embroidery. Steve will get a few shirts made in different colors to use as advertising. Steve S. will compare prices with another local business and Alden will look at an online source. We also talked about stickers, labels; sew on patches and other items, and about investigating other vendors.

7: Meeting adjourned at 6:57



## **Mountain Trivia Challenge!!**

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

*I am extending this contest for another month. Submit your answers and if correct you will be entered into a drawing. Once again, 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 (Forest Dean) with your answers will be June 25<sup>th</sup>. Feel free to email me for hints! 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 possible 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?**



**Bonus Question: Where is this little fellow located???**



## 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.*

*Cover Photo: South Vulture Peak in the Livingstone Range of Glacier National Park. Steve Niday photo.*



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