


JULY 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



*Clements Mountain*



# 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.

## **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

## **Sunday, July 22 – LOLO PEAK (Bitterroots) – (Classic Series)**

*Rating:* Class 2, *Mileage:* 9.2 miles, *Elevation:* 3770'

*Description:* This month's Classic Series Trip will follow the "standard" trail (1310) off Mormon Peak Road (610) to Carlton Lake and then a scramble to the summit of Lolo Peak (9096'). Total trek time should be about 10 hours.

*Leader:* Fred Schwanemann – 542-7372

## **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).

**Saturday, August 4 – STUART PEAK – Bike/Hike (Rattlesnake NRA)**

*Note:* This trip is part of the Missoula Summit Day (see Trip Forum section).

*Mileage:* 18 miles, *Elevation:* 4400'

*Description:* 18 mile round trip moderately strenuous combination mountain bike/hike adventure. Participants will meet at the main Rattlesnake trailhead north of Missoula at 8 am. The trip begins with an easy bike ride the first few miles (some loaner bikes available), followed by a moderately strenuous hike to the top. Enjoy the views of four mountain ranges from the 7,960 ft summit overlooking alpine lakes. This will be a leisurely all day adventure, bring your own lunch/snacks and plenty of water.

*Leader:* Mary Dalton 550-1968 or [robinsonmjd@aol.com](mailto:robinsonmjd@aol.com)

**Sunday, 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>
July	Lolo Peak	Bitterroots	Hike/Scramble	Fred Schwanemann
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 doing a trip this 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:*

## 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

## Mountain Trivia Challenge!!

*The Editor would like to congratulate Paul Jensen as the winner of last month's trivia contest. Paul correctly answered 4 of 5 questions (and got the 5<sup>th</sup> with a hint) and has earned himself his choice of a couple six packs or a couple bottles of wine. Answers to the questions are below. The next trivia contest will be in the Septemeber issue of The Mountain Ear.*

**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?**

**Nelson Lake**

**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?**

**High Lake**

**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? **St. Mary Peak****

**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?**

**Tamarack Lake**

**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?**

**Mt. Jerusalem**



# **TRIP REPORTS**

## **June 3–Burnt Fork Pinnacle (Classic Series)**

Mary Dalton, Tina Oliphant, Jim McLean, Linda Greiner, Sally Wright, trip leader Alden Wright, and 6 dogs started up the trail at about 10:15 on a very hot day. The trail is mostly through a recent burn, and we soon discovered that there were many many logs across the trail, but the wildflowers were great. After an hour or so, Jim and Linda turned around. As expected, Sally made it just over a mile (and 99 logs to climb over), and waited for us to return. Mary, Alden, Tina, and Tina's 3 Karelian Bear dogs continued on. After another mile and a half (and maybe 200 more logs) we got to an open slope with relatively few logs and a good trail. The trail goes about 100 yards below Burnt Fork Pinnacle, so it was useful to have a GPS so we knew to get off the trail and hike to the "pinnacle", which is just an open spot on the ridge with a great view. Two of the dogs disappeared, perhaps looking for water. There was a snow patch near the top which the one dog enjoyed. About half a mile down, one dog appeared, and to our relief, the last dog came walking down the trail just as we reached the car. We enjoyed the trip despite the logs and the very hot weather. *Alden Wright*

## **June 9-10 – Fred Burr Reservoir (Bitterroots)**

Much thanks to Lois Crepeau who suggested Fred Burr Reservoir as an alternative when it appeared that our original destination (Edith Lake in the Pintlers) was still frozen in due to late May snows (Yea!) This creek sandwiched between Bear and Mill Creeks drains a narrow, low elevation valley with steep cliffs on either side. The wilderness boundary curves west to avoid the dam that forms the reservoir about 4 1/2 miles from a complicated trailhead. The trail essentially stops at the dam, a fishing trail goes from there across old rockslides but the trail becomes indistinct by the Wilderness boundary about 1/2 mile beyond the lake. Rain was an expected feature of the weekend but didn't deter Jean Clark from joining Gharrett Warner (12) on his first backpacking trip, and Julie & David Kahl for the over night stay. Roy Regal joined us for a day hike, exploring the trail past the wilderness boundary and returning to the trailhead

in the late afternoon. A lot of Horse people, bike riders and hikers came to visit the lake during the afternoon and evening despite occasional rain. All were gone by dark. David and Gharrett fished, though the lake margins were too brushy for good fly fishing. We had a nice dinner in a large dry spot under the trees and Gharrett worked at getting a good fire going. Imminent rain at around 9:30 sent us to our tents and an early evening. The night was uneventful and intermittently rainy, but not particularly cold. David and Jean got up early to enjoy the morning. On the way out we encountered a momma and baby moose, the baby was quite small probably only a week or so old. All in all it was nice early June backpack. *Julie Kahl*

## **June 9 – Warrior Mountain (Swan Range)**

It had been raining hard in the Flathead and NW Montana for the last few days and we were skeptical it would improve for this trip. However, when we met @ 0900 at the Goat Creek Road & US 83 for the long & bumpy drive up to the Napa Point trailhead (which sits at 6,400 feet) it was sunny and bright. At the trailhead we unloaded our gear and our 3 canine friends to begin our trip towards Inspiration Pass and Warrior Mountain.

We had a pleasant walk east towards the Swan Divide with stunning views of Swan Peak to the south across the Goat Creek valley. The NE slopes of the big peaks of the Missions shimmered across the Swan valley in the distance. Once we got to Inspiration Pass, the rest of the trip was a snow climb. We tagged Warrior, did some snow school and self arrest practice and headed back as rain squalls started to roll in.

In 2005 and 2007, I advertised this trip as “an easy trail hike” and rated it S for elevation gain (less than 3,000 feet). When we got back to the trailhead 7 1/2 hours later, we checked the Suunto watch and a GPS and confirmed there was a reason we felt it in our legs: we just did 4,669 feet up and down. I had calculated the vertical distance to be 1,500 feet: the mere difference between the trailhead (6,423) and the summit of Warrior (7,903).

This fact confirms something I have noticed since getting the Suunto watch: the amount of intermediate up and down on these trips is significant. Oh

well, I was only off by a margin of 3 (1,500/4,669).

Our group included Nancy Riva, Paul Cogswell, Ronnie Laudati, Jim Foster, Ned Sohl, Jim Cossitt and various bow wows. Woof.  
*Jim Cossitt*

### **June 9 – North Trapper Peak (Bitterroots)**

We made a successful ascent of North Trapper on June 9, 2007. Only 3 of us went – Forest, me, and Nathan, a 30-year old from Salmon, Idaho, who we'd never climbed with before. Everyone else who showed an interest, was forced to bail for one reason or another. Too bad. The weather was close to perfect on Saturday. Not so the next day and the "original" date for the climb. Can you spell "R-A-I-N" ?

Nathan is good at climbing, but generally wanted to take a more difficult line than necessary. I, on the other hand, always look for the "easy" line, unless I'm training or trying to learn something new – conservative in my old age, I guess.

The hike in to the col above Gem Lake was uneventful, though we did stop several times to take pictures and enjoy the mostly blue skies.

The snow in the descent couloir from above Gem Lake was good but there was not enough in the run-out area at the bottom to allow us to glissade. We heel-stepped our descent. I slipped a couple of times and discovered self-arrest is not that difficult on a not-so-steep (40-45 degree) incline – not even scary. Even for me, a first timer.

From the bottom of the descent couloir to the base of the SE Couloir the terrain was a mix of snow fields, grass, and rocks – about 40-60 (*snow, no snow*) by my reckoning. Forest said when he'd been in the cirque last time (*to climb Trapper Peak's northeast couloir*) there was at least 6 feet of snow and very few rocks showing. Quite a difference.

After descending, the 3 of us went our separate ways toward North Trapper – Nathan and Forest wanted to stay on snow as much as possible, I wanted grass and rocks. It didn't prove to be a

problem since we were all fairly experienced and could see or hear each other most of the way. The two of them were finally forced to give up the snow and join me on terra firma for the last stretch to the base of the climb proper.

From the base of the couloir, we had 1,375' to climb to reach the summit. The snow in the SE couloir up North Trapper has very hard – not quite ice, but it will be soon after some more time in the direct sun. A person absolutely could not boot-kick steps, so we went to crampons to keep from slipping.

Once we reached the exit point onto slabs to continue on the Olbu Southeast Face Route, we split up again. Nathan was determined to climb the couloir and tackle the blockage (*he really wanted to use his harness and rope*). Forest decided to go with him.



I exited onto the slabs and ascended the route with which I was familiar. There were a few trickles of water on the slabs near the beginning which were easily avoidable. I recognized "little things" about the terrain which pointed the way toward the black dike and avoidance of fairly treacherous climbing. I



had no problem finding it and followed it to the base of the gully which reached the ridge-crest. By this point it was obvious there was little likelihood I was going to need my helmet, harness, crampons, or ice axe during the remainder of the climb, so I lightened my pack before climbing the gully.

Before continuing, I approached the couloir to look for Forest and Nathan. I saw their tracks disappearing up the couloir. I knew they were above me but had no idea how far. Assuming we would meet fairly soon, I ascended the gully; however I saw no tracks in the small patches of snow to show they'd exited the couloir and realized I had likely managed to climb above their current location. But to make sure, I went the rest of the way to the summit.

On the summit – no Forest or Nathan. I was whipped. During this outing I had consciously carried extra weight (*training for a couple of long summer-season over-night hike/climbs*) and additionally had to learn how to fight snow-covered terrain. Both had taken their toll. I ate, rested, and took pictures. Then I waited, and waited...

It was 15 minutes before I heard a yell from below. Looking down I saw Nathan and Forest approaching my cache of discarded equipment. I yelled instructions about the path they should follow to reach the summit. Forest followed it perfectly, Nathan looked for a more difficult route – no surprise there. Twenty five minutes later, Forest reached the summit, a full 40 minutes behind my arrival. Nathan showed up 10 minutes later.

Although I didn't care for being separated during much of the ascent, I had faith in Forest's abilities in the backcountry, had seen proof of Nathan's climbing skills, and had been on this route once before. I didn't believe there was much chance of a mishap. something which proved to be true. I certainly appreciated the extra rest time to rest on the summit. Here I was, almost twice as old as the other two, trying to keep their pace. For the most part, I managed. But it wore me out – big time.

The descent from North Trapper was uneventful, that is, until we reentered the couloir. The snow had not softened. Back to crampons. We descended on toe points, and, using our ice axes, backed all the way to the bottom. Plunge, step-step,

plunge step-stem, plunge... Generally a descent doesn't require the expenditure of so much energy.

With crampons back off, we walked and glissaded to the base of the couloir leading to the col above Gem Lake. As tired as I felt, that 650' definitely did not look like fun. Fortunately, the snow was soft enough to boot-kick steps – no crampons required. Forest (*and his big plastic boots*) was nice enough take the lead and did his best to keep his steps close together so a short guy like me could use them.

Once we did reach the col, it was an uneventful hike back to the trailhead. 11.5 hours in all, including lots of stopping to change clothes, and in and out of crampons. When we reached the truck, I was pooped – happy to have been successful, but glad it was over. Both young bucks at least had the respect to “act” like they were a tired. *Mike Hoyt*



*Mike, Forest and Nathan on the summit. Mike Hoyt photo.*

### June 23 – Little Spar Lake (Cabinets)

I don't have much of a trip report, but this may be valuable to anyone planning something similar. I discovered that the road leading to the trailhead to Little Spar Lake has a washed-out culvert, so I wasn't able to even get close. The road to the Ross Creek Cedars (an alternative route) also was closed part way up, but was under repair. Steve Schombel

*Cover Photo: Reynolds Mountain in Glacier National Park. Photo by Kyle Dodson.*

## **GENERAL INTERESTS**

### **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 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

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

### **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.***



THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS  
PO Box 4262  
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