

AUGUST 2007

# THE MOUNTAIN EAR

*This Issue:*

*3- Glacier Classic*

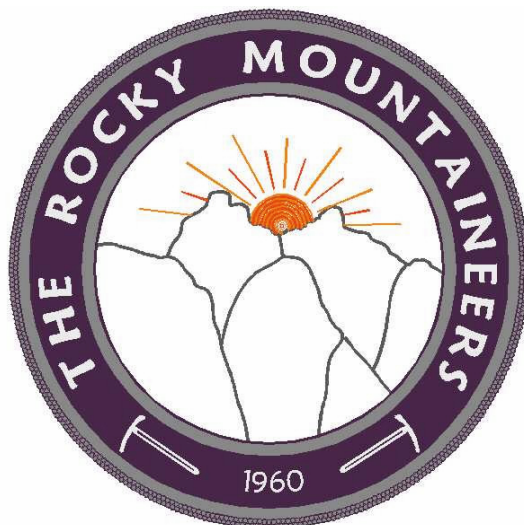
*5- Trip Listings*

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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 Steve Niday a call or email for more information (contact info is on page 2) 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.

## **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 below for more details).

*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)

### ***Saturday August 4th - Missoula Summit Day.***

See Missoula from another perspective! On Summit Day a variety of local outdoor and advocacy groups will engage with their fellow community members on ascents to some well known Missoula area peaks. Choose amongst hikes with levels of difficulty ranging from easy to strenuous. It will be a great opportunity to learn about local conservation efforts; quiet and responsible use recreation; local trails; and in the process, discover some great views. To join in contact: John at 543-6696 or Tim at the Sports Exchange 721-6056

Summit Day includes 3 separate activities to choose from:

1. Stuart Peak Hike/Bike - Mary Dalton 550-1968
2. Mount Jumbo saddle trail - Glenn at Five Valley Land Trust 549--0755
3. Lolo Peak- John Wolverton 543-6696

### **Sunday, August 5 - McCORMICK PEAK (Nine Mile Divide)**

*Rating:* Class 2; *Mileage:* 6-8 miles; *Elevation:* 2500'

*Description:* This is one of the easiest high points along the Reservation Divide, since a logging road goes way up toward the summit and there is a trail all the way to the top. It is not as well known as nearby Chap'au'e'n (Sleeping Woman), but it is the kind of hike members of my family will go on. It is about 3 to 4 miles up a switchbacking trail with 2500' elevation gain to the top. There is some shade but no water along the trail, which runs through forests and grassy slope with little scrambling over rocky scree slopes.

*Note:* I'm hoping for some cooler weather. If the forecast is for triple digit temperatures and high fire dangers then I will cancel this trip. This is the weekend that is supposed to be the "Missoula Summit Day", as proposed by John Wolverton. Although not on John's list, McCormick Peak and other points along the Nine Mile Divide can be seen from the western part of Missoula and Reserve Street.

*Leader:* Steve Schombel – 721-4686

### **Sat-Mon, August 18-20 – (Destination Undecided)**

*Rating:* Class 4, *Mileage:* It Depends *Elevation:* Significant

*Description:* My two top choices are something in the Beartooth's around Grasshopper Glacier, including Mount Zimmer at 11,550' or something in Glacier Park, possibly around and including Nataos Peak at 9476'. If you are interested in a backpacking trip with a hard non-technical climb thrown in, contact me. I can be persuaded to do something else of a similar nature.

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

### **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>
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

### September Meeting and Presentation

**Date: Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**

We begin our monthly meetings once again in September. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month (September-May) at Pipestone Mountaineering at 6:00 PM. Meetings are open to all, and we encourage you to attend. Meetings are all followed by a presentation at 7:00. Every year our September Presentation is a chance for members to show their pictures from their adventures over the past year. A computer with display projector and screen will be provided, so bring your picture files! We ask that everyone keeps their presentation to about 15-20 minutes max. Feel free to show several different trips if so inclined. If you have an adventure or adventures which would require more time, then talk to us about presenting a longer, more exclusive talk at one of our other meetings. Additionally, bring along some food, snacks, beer, soda if you would like!!

### Cabin Workday and Club Party

**Date: Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>**

Please consider joining us for our annual Cabin work party. The Rocky Mountaineers cabin is located on Little Saint Joseph Peak and serves as a winter use facility that is free and available to members. We will be cutting firewood for the winter's usage as well as making minor repairs on this day. We promise the work will be easy! No slave- driving here! The more help we get the quicker it will go, so come on along!

This same afternoon/evening we will be having our annual Club Party. Providing the weather is nice, this will take place either at the trailhead to the cabin, or at the Charles Waters Campground (Bass Creek trailhead). (Final details will be in next month's newsletter). This will be a pot-luck/BYO party—i.e. bring whatever you want to eat, plus a dish to share, if so inclined.

# **TRIP REPORTS**

## **July 4- Snowshoe Bend to FR 4200 (Bitterroots)**

On Wednesday, July 4, 2007, Fred and Eileen Schwanemann and Jackie Waring hiked from Snow Shoe Bend, 2 1/5 miles north of Lolo Pass, to 4200 via Trail 289. Trail 289 was difficult to follow. However, with a good map, compass, altimeter, and Jackie's map reading ability, we made it. *Fred Schwanemann*

## **July 8 – Pilot Knob (Bitterroots)**

Sorry to those who wanted to go on this trip, for some reason the date I picked for this trip and the trip article never got associated in either the newsletter or the web page. The date was July 7th and when I realized the error on Fri I changed the trip to Sunday to give people more time. Sunday July 8th Fred & Eileen Schwanemann joined Julie and David Kahl on the trail. David wore his big pack for conditioning for the Bob Marshall trip the following weekend. This roughly 3 mi. trail was steep in places but not particularly strenuous. The 360 view from the knob was impressive on a clear, almost cloudless day. Temps were in the 70's and low down we found plenty of huckleberries to munch on. *Julie Kahl*

## **July 6-8 – The Grand Teton (Grand Teton National Park)**

### *Friday*

Joshua Phillips, Geno Randono, Kevin Ball and Forest Dean met at Kevin's house on Friday morning and hit the road about 8:00 am. We stopped in Dell, MT for a little lunch on the way, and arrived in the park at the Jenny Lake Ranger Station about 4:00 pm. We had made a reservation for the Lower Saddle camping area for Saturday night, but didn't have anything for this evening. We were pleasantly surprised to learn that there was availability at several of the camping areas, and we chose to climb about 3300' to a camp at "The Caves" for this night. After obtaining the permit we drove over and parked at the Lupine Meadows trailhead, got all packed up and started hiking at 5:00 pm. This was a rather warm day (97 degrees at the start of our hike- this was also the day that it hit 107 in Missoula)- and we worked up a sweat pretty quick (actually just stepping out of the car). The

trailhead sits at about 6800' and we had to hike up to 10,100' to get to our camping spot (over roughly 4.5 miles). The trail climbed through the forest and then intersected with a trail that switchbacked up the mountain to Garnet Canyon. Joshua managed to develop some blisters after about a couple miles (note: he did this entire trip in mountaineering boots- the rest of us wore approach-type shoes – none of us ever broke out rock shoes), but after a 2<sup>nd</sup> Skin application, he was good to go. The trail splits at 3.0 miles with a north branch leading to Amphitheatre Lake and the south branch (which we took) leading up into Garnet Canyon. As is typical of the Tetons on an almost daily basis the afternoon skies had begun to grow stormy. The storm seemed to build out over Jackson Hole then back toward the mountains. Halfway up Garnet Canyon, our luck ran out and the storm hit. All of us managed to duck under huge boulders, but not without getting a bit wet. The storm was sort of slow moving and a rather vicious assault of lightning, rain, and hail- took a good half hour to let up. Eventually it did move on though and we did the same, continuing our climb toward the head of Garnet Canyon. The Middle Teton dominates this Canyon sitting right at its head. Nearing its end, we started switchbacks up about a thousand feet to arrive at The Caves about 8:30 PM. This area is so named due to the large gaps that exist under some house size boulders here. We set up our tents and made our dinners under headlamps (the skies were still a bit cloudy). Hit the sack around 10 pm.

### *Saturday*

We clambered out of our tents around 7:00 am this morning to a warm day with partly cloudy skies. The sun was coming up and shining nicely on the peaks across the valley- Nez Perce, Cloudveil Dome and The South Teton. After eating some breakfast and watching some marmots, we again packed up and hit the trail. Kevin started up first, followed a while later by Forest and then Joshua and Geno. Our goal today was just to get to the Lower Saddle, so the pace was casual. The trail switchbacks steeply uphill above the Caves through open boulder fields until reaching an area known as The Moraines, in which it flattens out a bit. Walking through here great views exist of the Middle Teton and its large glacier on its north side. A lot of skier/snowboarder tracks were evident on this glacier. We started periodically chatting with



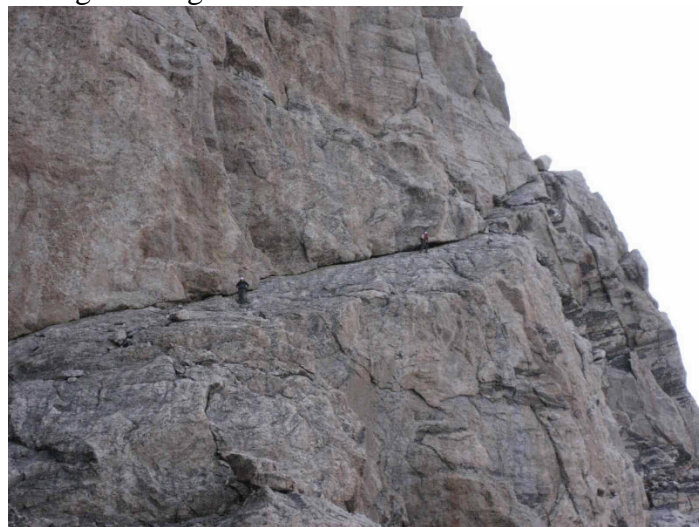
fellow climbers who had climbed yesterday, or been camped up at the saddle when the storm had hit last evening. They all said it had been exciting! Near the end of the moraines and below the Lower Saddle there exists a 30-40' headwall. Here the Park Service has installed a large fixed rope to assist climbers in getting up. It is basically 4<sup>th</sup> class scrambling, but with a large pack on your back, and wet rock....we didn't complain about its aesthetics-lets put it that way (it is ESPECIALLY nice for the descent, which would otherwise certainly require a belay for safety)! Above the headwall we



*Joshua ascending the fixed rope. F. Dean photo.*

switchbacked just a few hundred feet more up to the Lower Saddle where we found a camping area behind a large boulder and mostly out of the wind. We set up our camp, lounged around and checked out the surroundings. Both the Park Service and Exum Mountain Guides have small huts on the saddle, and additionally there is an "outhouse"—that is a toilet seat where you can put your poop bag (you are required to carry it all out up here) when you do your business. Also, the Park Service has installed a hose into the runoff stream coming from the small glacier here at the Saddle, so filtering or

treating water is not needed. The skies had totally cleared and the views of the west side of The Grand including the Exum Route were very clear for us to study. Around 1:00 pm, we decided to head up to scout out the route for tomorrow's climb. We ascended north along the saddle to a large tower called the Needle. Kevin had been up here twice before, so had some recollection of the approach, and we also received some assistance from an Exum guide who was going back to collect some gear he had left while helping a client down. Around the west side of the Needle we went and then up to a notch where we had a clear view of the "Wall Street" Ledge and what would be the beginning of our technical climbing the next day. After a brief rest here at 12,600', we descended back to camp, confident in our ability to find our way back in the dark of the morning. Back in camp we prepared for the next day's climb, had some dinner, spoke with the Rangers (who offered us some very useful advice!!) then prepared for bed. As we hit the sack we heard a few rumbles in the sky, felt a few drops, but it blew over quickly and the skies cleared up through the night.



*Wall Street ledge. Joshua Phillips photo.*

### *Sunday*

We arose at 4:30 to clear skies. Looking up towards the Needle and our route we saw a steady stream of headlamps working their way upward. The Park Rangers had told us that the Exum parties mostly began between 4:00 and 4:30, so our decision to wait until 5:00 proved a good one. At 5:00 it was basically light enough to hike without headlamp, and we did just that up to, around, and through the Needle. Kevin and Forest arrived at



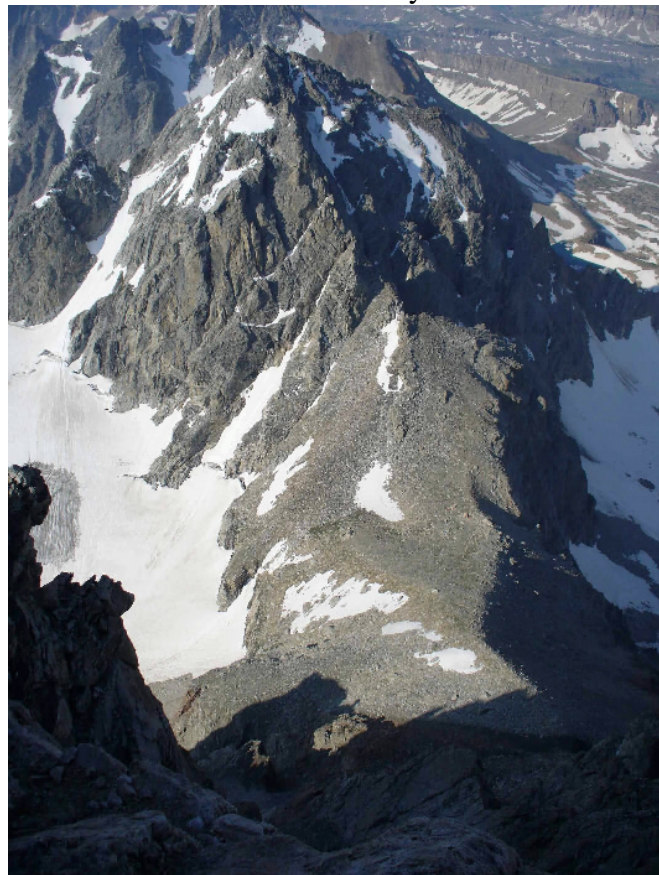
Wall Street first, ascended the ledge, and set up a belay. Wall Street ledge tapers to nothing at its end and involves a rather simple step around to a large platform behind a boulder. What it lacks in difficulty, however, it makes up for with major exposure- as you step around, you can look down and see probably a thousand feet of air. Our method in climbing was two two-person rope teams. Kevin and Joshua being the much more experienced rock climbers led all pitches. Forest teamed with Kevin and Geno with Joshua. The next pitch led us up an easy 60' section called The Golden Staircase, and then we (Kevin and Forest) unroped and scrambled up the next few hundred feet including an area known as The Wind Tunnel (which wasn't windy at all today). Meanwhile, Joshua and Geno shortened their rope and used a technique known as simul-climbing. Near the top of the Wind Tunnel and at the start on a pitch called the Friction Pitch, Joshua and Geno ended up passing Forest and Kevin as their chosen method proved to be a bit



*Geno on the Friction Pitch. Joshua Phillips photo.*

faster. The Friction Pitch (5.5) is known as the crux of this whole route, but we all got through it with little problem. Above here it was another couple hundred feet of scrambling to the last real roped

pitch- the V-Pitch. Views down from here were fantastic as it is located right at the top of the west wall of The Grand. We could see down to the Lower Saddle and our tents very far below. Above



*Lower Saddle from the V-Pitch. F. Dean photo.*

the V-Pitch we scrambled east up a very short left leaning crack, then class 3 and 4 scrambling all the way to the summit. The last horizontal section before the blocks to the summit traverse the very top edge of the glacier on the south side of the mountain. Geno and Joshua arrived first at about 9:05, followed by Forest and Kevin at 9:20. The views from this 13,770' summit were magnificent in every direction! The wind was real calm while we rested on top as well. We snapped pictures and were joined by a couple climbers from Bozeman who arrived a few minutes after us. After getting our fill of this "grand" place we all started down about 10:00- descending the Owens-Spalding Route, which is the most common way to descend. After downclimbing for about 15 minutes we reached our first rappel. The guys from Bozeman (Dave and Eric) joined us on the rappels and soon we were down and scrambling down to our second a final rappel- this is a double rope job- about 120' and dropped us right down on the Upper Saddle.

After we all descended this we packed up ropes and began the descent back to the Lower Saddle. Kevin and Forest stayed to the west here and descended a couloir that brought us right back to where we had started on the west side of The Needle earlier this morning. We arrived back in camp at 1:00 PM. Joshua and Geno ended up in the eastern couloir (Wall Street Couloir). This would have been fine; however, the view of the Wall Street ledge is sort of obscured when in the couloir so as a result they ended up missing the route out of the couloir and descended too far. Soon they were in an area too low that dropped down over cliffs. We had brought two-way radios with us; after a bit of communication Forest and Kevin were able to locate Joshua and Geno from their view of the couloir from the camp. Guiding them back up hill, they were soon able to locate the route back up and through the Needle. Radios certainly helped save the day! They arrived back in camp shortly after 2:00. After snacking and packing everything up, we started the descent back to the trailhead at about 3:00 pm. The hike out was quite tiring- we had already expended a lot of energy on the climb and the hot afternoon sun sapped much of the rest of it. Of course it was all downhill and visions of beer and food were dancing in our heads, so it wasn't all that bad. Forest and Kevin arrived out at 6:00, with Geno and Joshua showing up an hour later. We saw a mother bear with cub right at the trailhead. We then all packed up and headed into Jackson. The mandatory stop at the Snake River Brewing Company put the finishing touches on an awesome trip as we filled up on salads, pizza and hefeweizen (which Joshua and Forest think might just be the best ever!). Hitting the road at 9:00 pm, Kevin took the reins and drove us all the way home- arriving in East Missoula at 3:00 am. A great weekend, great weather and, most importantly, great partners, on this climb of a classic route on one of North America's classic mountains. *Forest Dean*



*Geno, Joshua, Forest, Kevin on summit of The Grand.*

### **July 13-16 - Pyramid Pass to Youngs Pass (Bob Marshall Wilderness)**

Nancy Shrader volunteered to be the shuttle driver for this trip, for Jean Clark and David & Julie Kahl. Fri. evening we dropped off our car at the Youngs Pass trailhead -5 to 6 horse trailers parked there (when in the past there may have been 1) confirmed that a new trail around an old blow down had indeed been put in since my last visit. Then we drove the Cottonwood Lakes Road to Seeley Lake and drove to the Pyramid Pass trail head. We camped there with a grill and big tent and other stuff that Nancy took back out with her. We shared the trail head with a private horse packing group from Sidney who were trying a new route into The Bob. The weather was hot & sunny, with a few sprinkles from a T-Storm Sun. night. In this -the least used area of the Bob, -the camp sites of Pyramid Lake & the mouth of Jenny Creek, though not far apart, were chosen because on other visits to these areas I had wanted to camp there someday.

Sat. and Sun. mornings we did our hikes early in the morning to be off the trail by the hottest part of the day. We arrived at both destinations by around noon on both days. The Pyramid Pass trail had some great overlooks of the Seeley-Swan Valley area and the "backside" of the Mission Mountains, but a significant haze in the air had them hard to see. There was new trail in some places that worked around some of the more challenging sections of the



old trail. We spent a mostly pleasant afternoon trying to avoid the sun and the mosquito's at Pyramid lake. Jean took a dip. There was one other camping party and a solo young man who was going to photograph the sunrise from Pyramid Peak and a family that came & spent the day then left. The Young's Creek, Jenny Creek & Lodgepole Creek areas had burned within the last few years and most of Sun. hike was in the recovering burn area with some shade and good views including some nice avalanche chutes coming off of Leota & Crimson peaks above. The crossing of Young's Creek wasn't strenuous but refreshing. We set up camp at the Junction of Young's and Jenny Creek's trails, moving it to a better spot a few hours later. The only other people we saw were a couple pack trains that went through in the late afternoon. In the evening we had it to ourselves and with gusty winds could hear snags toppling in the old burn areas around us. Monday turned out to be the day we weren't expecting. We started early again, on a trail that I thought once we reached the south Young's Pass would be all down hill next to Lodgepole Creek. I knew they had put in a new trail on the Jenny Creek side, which was a nice trail, but they had also put in new trail on the Lodgepole Creek side. The area had burned but not recovered enough to have much shade and the new trail wound up and down rolling hills with lots of up hill sections added. It turned into a long hot day with us arriving at the trail head at 3:30 then heading back to town. Despite the mosquito's, heat and not being able to have campfires it was still a great, peaceful trip.

*Julie Kahl*



*The rocky shore of Pyramid Lake. Photo by J. Kahl*

### **July 26-29 – Wallowa Odyssey (Eagle Cap Wilderness)**

I left Missoula Thursday morning in spite of no other members of the Club in attendance, and was therefore immediately looking forward to experience what everyone else would be missing. Four hours later I hit Lewiston, 100 degrees and the air hazy from forest fires, and turned south for a quick 90 miles to a little town called Joseph and the Wallowa Lake trailhead. Two and a half hours is not quick. Turns out the highway is typical of roads in the Snake River country, climbing out of one great valley only to dive into another, in this case the Grand Ronde, with 20 miles of switchback curves and a lemonade stand in the 103-degree heat at the river crossing. Then up and into northeastern Oregon's Wallowa Valley, which I had never been to before because it's not on the way to anywhere. What a stunning place. The mountains soar immediately from 4000 to nearly 10,000 feet in an arc around the south and west sides of Joseph which, with its combination of ranching/farming, historical touristy storefronts, and imposing mountains reminded me of Red Lodge. I headed directly for the Mount Howard tramway, quickly checked the parking lot for other members of the Club showing up impromptu, then hopped on the gondola, immediately upon arrival at the 8000-foot open-air restaurant deck ordering up the local microbrew (faithful to the trip itinerary, you can count on me). As I settled in to enjoy the view, I became aware of agitation in the servers and customers. Must have had something to do with all the lightning and the shades of dark black materializing in the surrounding clouds. I quickly ordered a burger. Rain did then commence, wind blew, a server mentioned horrible things relative to the conductivity of the tramway cable, and all my new friends abandoned me to wolf down my burger and beer in the squall. Some people just don't appreciate the mountain experience. A general evacuation soon ensued. Once at the bottom, nothing for it but to find the trailhead into the Eagle Cap Wilderness and gain 1000 feet in three miles to camp at 5600 feet. The country turned exceptionally rugged, resembling the Bitterroot Range in many ways. Next day was spent moving camp up a relentlessly climbing trail in moderating temperatures to Ice Lake at 7800 feet. The lake has trout and is popular locally, so I had plenty of company. It's an unusually pretty lake, with groves

of Whitebark Pine interspersed with meadows of alpine flowers of patterns and colors I've never seen in Montana. Next day a four-hour scramble got me above the fire haze to the 9826-foot summit of Matterhorn, a white dome-shaped mass of a limestonely exfoliatingly granitely excruciatingly folded kind of rock, its summit ridge sculpted by wind into amazing forms. It's called Matterhorn because the west face drops nearly vertical for 3000 feet, creating a visual from the other side similar to the Swiss peak. I sat down on a wind-sculpted stool and cooked up an MRE on a similarly wind-sculpted picnic table. I could see fire smoke in three states, but otherwise there were no clouds, and the surrounding wilderness was a 360-degree panorama of glaciated peaks and hanging lakes. It had been many years since I'd overcome a vertical mile to reach a summit, and I knew that meant a long slog out, but it was well worth the effort to find and explore yet one more out-of-the-way mountainscape. The Club's best trip of the year.

*Pat Caffrey*



*Matterhorn from the south. Credit: Brian Jenkins*

## 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:

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