

SEPTEMBER 2007

# THE MOUNTAIN EAR

*This Month:*

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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

## *Presidents Message*

Welcome back kids. I hope that you all enjoyed your hot smoky summer and are now ready to come back to our monthly meetings. Our first meeting on **Sept. 12 at Pipestone Mountaineering** will allow you to share some of your favorite moments from the past year. I encourage everyone to bring a selection of images to share. The preferred image is digital, on CD or USB flash drive. We will have a laptop with CD drive, digital projector, and screen available. We will also have a Kodak Carousel projector and empty carousel available. Print photos are so old school. This will be an impromptu event, and depending on the amount of participation, you may be asked to expand or contract your offering. We also typically have a beer and a snack during and/or after, so bring something if you want.

As usual, we will hold a business meeting starting at **6:00 PM** in the basement immediately preceding our **7:00 PM** general meeting. You are welcome to attend this business meeting as spectator or participant. We have several items on our agenda for the upcoming year, and welcome all input from our members. Some of the items are as follows:

- Cabin work day and party-
- Future speakers and presentations-
- Classic Series new schedule-
- Logo merchandise-
- Collaboration with other clubs-
- Incentives/recognition for trip leaders-
- Newsletter contents-
- Awards-
- Electronic bulletin board or website group-
- Educational/safety programs-
- Leveraging our Club to obtain discounts for services and merchandise-

Hope to see you all at our upcoming monthly meetings.

*Steve Niday*

## *Cabin Workday and Club Party*

**Date: Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</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). This will be a pot-luck/BYO party—i.e. bring whatever you want to eat, plus a dish to share, if so inclined. Call Steve Niday or Forest Dean for further details and meeting times.

## *Looking Ahead.....*

Come to the Rocky Mountaineers meeting in October and hear about an epic backpacking trip. A couple of summers ago Dave Stalling, outreach coordinator for the Missoula office of the National Wildlife Federation, embarked on an eight week, 800 mile backpack trip, starting in the Rattlesnake, then through the Missions, the Bob Marshall, Glacier, and ending in Waterton. At the meeting on Wednesday, October 10th, Dave will talk about his adventures and show some pictures. The meeting starts at 7 PM at Pipestone, 129 W. Front St., and is free and open to all.

# 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.

## **Sat-Sun, September 8-9 – WARREN PEAK (Anaconda Pintler Wilderness) – (Classic Series Trip)**

*Rating:* Class 3; *Mileage:* 10.5 miles; *Elevation:* 4100'

*Description:* We will head down to the Pintlers on Saturday morning. Depending on what the weather looks like, we could hike in, camp, then climb Sunday and hike out, or climb Saturday afternoon and then just hike out on Sunday. Anyone wishing to not camp is welcome as well. The climb will be up the easier south side of Warren Peak (10,460') from Edith Lake.

*Special Equipment:* None needed.

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

## **Fri-Sun, Sept. 14-16 – HILLS NEAR TOWNSEND, MT**

*Description:* While surfing some sites related to Montana mountains I came across four groups of hills in the Townsend-Three Forks area which I've never explored. They are the Spokane, Limestone, Horseshoe and London Hills. I'd like to leave Friday afternoon and try to hike up the high point of each in a weekend. If we run into gates or posting we may have to make long hikes and only do a couple. It is really nice to camp out in the season after school starts and before hunting kicks in - not too hot or too cold.

*Leader:* Steve Schombel - 721-4686

## **Saturday, October 6 – McDONALD PEAK (Mission Mountains) – (Classic Series Trip)**

*Rating:* Class 3-4, *Mileage:* TBD *Elevation:* TBD

*Description:* At present, I have yet to decide what route to climb. My initial thoughts were to do this in one day from either Ashley Lakes or McDonald Lake. However, if it looks like a beautiful fall weekend, and people sway me, I would consider a two day trip approaching from the east. Send me your vote if interested.

*Special Equipment:* Will depend on route and weather.

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

*We need more trips!!! Think about offering to lead one!!!*



# TRIP REPORTS

## August 2-5 – Boulder Dash (Glacier National Park)

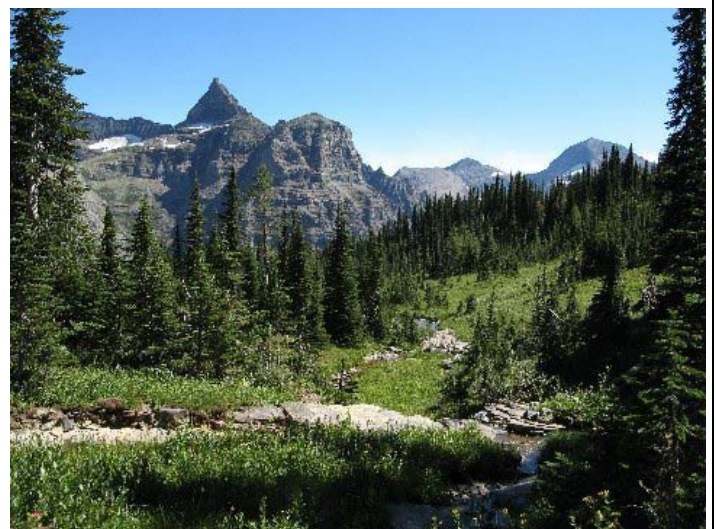
I met up with Pat Caffrey at Bowman Lake in the NW corner of Glacier National Park on Thursday, August 2 for his Boulder Dash trip, exploring climbing routes and access for the peaks in the area. Pat decided to make this a photography trip in case his book, *Climbers Guide to Montana*, is ever revised. Pat had his boat and we motored to the head of Bowman Lake and stayed that evening at the campground there. Boat trip saved us 14 miles of flat trail along the lake. Thanks Pat! Our trip will take us on Friday to Hole in the Wall CG, reputed to be the best in Glacier. Pat and I can't argue with that. It is as nice as a place as I have stayed. Due to its popularity, you only get to stay there one night.



*Hole in the Wall Campground.*

It sits in a huge amphitheater, surrounded by the peaks along the Continental Divide, here it is between the waters that travel to the Pacific and to the Hudson Bay in Canada. Trip for Saturday was going to be a hike up to Boulder Pass, exploration and ascent of Boulder Peak (El 8528'), camp Saturday evening at Browns Pass CG, then back to Bowman Lake on Sunday. With this dry weather, Pat and I were concerned for viewing air quality, with a major blaze (Brush Creek Fire) just to our west.

We ate (and drank) well at Bowman Lake CG Thursday evening, the advantages of taking a boat. I got an early start and chose to start up the trail early, while Pat had an almost gourmet breakfast and would come later. It is 8.9 miles with 2400' elevation gain on an overgrown, fair trail. I was glad we had dry weather, otherwise we'd be soaked on the way up. The trail at first gains some elevation, but then drops back down to Bowman Creek, which had gone underground, only to reappear farther up the drainage. The trail finally starts ascending up the north part of Thunderbird Mtn, coming in a short distance to a viewing area of a cascading waterfall coming down off of Boulder Peak. Looking up the valley, I see a large Grizzly grazing and probably eating the ripe huckleberries on the hillside, in the 400-500 yard range, whom I watched for 10-15 minutes. I left him undisturbed. The trail goes up at about 700 ft/mile for a couple of miles, getting you up in the sub-alpine zone with better views of the surrounding mountains. Once on top at the Browns Pass trail junction, the trail taking you to the east, drops down into Goat Haunt Ranger Station and Waterton Lake. The trail we take (CDT), traverses to the north, across an ever steepening mountain terrain, before coming out to look onto the Hole in the Wall valley. The trail drops a few hundred feet of elevation and 3/4 mile to the campground, and is situated in a treed meadow, benched area with two streams passing thru the 5 campsites, with 360 super views.



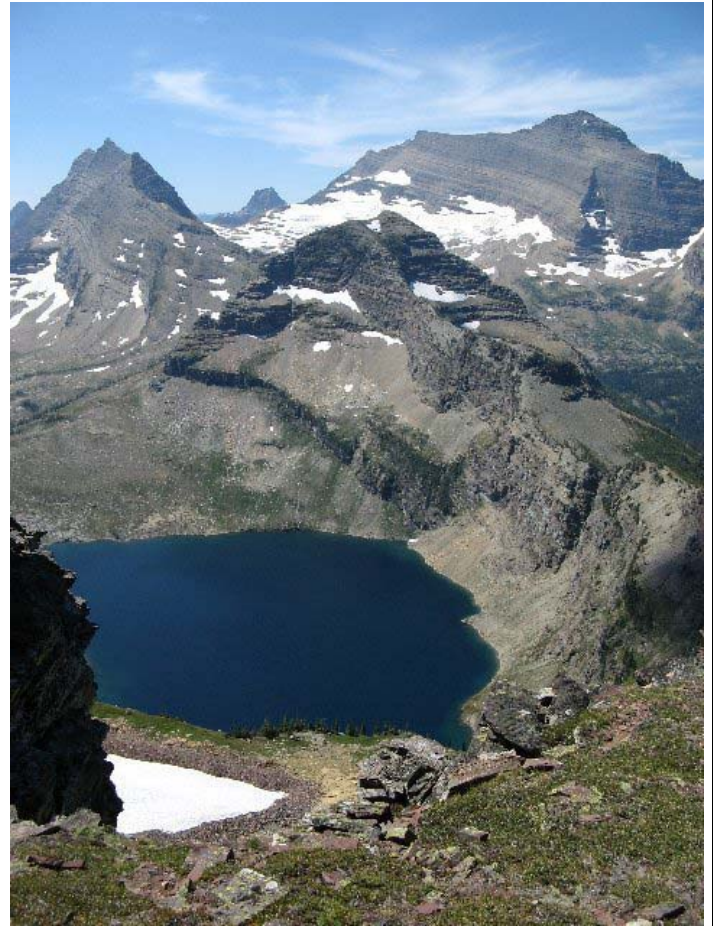
*View of Thunderbird Mountain from Hole in the Wall Campground.*



We did have 2 large mule deer bucks, antlers in velvet, come into camp, who later were harrassing Pat at 3:30 AM. I did speak with another hiker who was heading out from the campground who had hung his pack in a tree and a mountain goat had eaten half off the back torso pad from his backpack. Watch where you hang things, including clothes. The animals go for the salt from your sweat and your urine. There is a nice privy, there as well as a urinal. Park Rangers also suggest that one urinates on flat rocks, to keep the animals from tearing up the terrain along trails. There is a common area to prepare and eat meals and we spoke with other backpackers from Georgia, Minnesota, Colorado as well as Montana. We were all enjoying the views we had.

On Saturday, everyone was up, weather was staying good and best of all, the smoke was staying to our south! Once again I got an early start, Pat was going to be doing some exploration of areas and come up later. The trail takes you up, above and around the amphitheater with wildflowers galore and ripe huckleberries, coming up to some glacial tarns before ascending up to Boulder Pass (El 7440'). The views all the time getting better and better. To ascend Boulder Peak, I started from the pass, traversing west across rock steppes and talus, passing below Boulder Glacier and gained the ridge, only to find a climbers trail originating at Boulder Pass CG, 1/2 mile west of the pass. This trail came and went going up the ridge to the summit of Boulder Peak, with a stunning view of Pocket Lake, Agassiz Glacier, Mount Peabody and Kintla Peak.

The summit is a large flat rocky top with 360 views of the Northern Livingston Range and the Southern Canadian Rockies. Views to the southeast are of Mt Cleveland, highest peak in GNP, Mt Merritt, Mt Chapman, to the south Thunderbird, the Sentinel and Guardhouse, Bowman Lake and Rainbow Peak, west to the Whitefish range with the forest fire blowing up, smoke still staying to our south. To the north, one can see upper Kintla Lake and valley. A super loop backpack trip, requiring a shuttle or hitch hike, starts at Lower Kintla Lake, to Boulder Pass CG for two nights, Hole in the Wall CG, then out Bowman Lake trail.



*Pocket Lake from Boulder Peak, with Agassiz Glacier flanked by Mt. Peabody (left) and Kintla Peak (right).*



*L-R: Chapman Peak, Browns Pass (with Mt. Cleveland beyond) and Hawksbill Ridge – from Boulder Peak.*

I stayed on the summit for 1 1/2 hours and enjoyed myself big time. Needing to get back to Hole in the Wall CG to break camp, I headed down, meeting Pat on his way up the west ridge of Boulder Peak to take photos of Kintla Peak while enjoying a cooked MRE of Thai Chicken. I told him I would meet him at Browns Pass CG that evening. Got back to camp, while others were arriving anew, got packed up and headed on down the trail, reveling in the beauty of the area. I will be back here again in the future. Browns Pass CG is right next to the trail on the way up from Bowman Lake, only they don't tell you there is no water at the campsite, so be prepared to haul water up at least a quarter mile. Campsite is in the trees with no views, a let down after the previous evening, but it is still a good campsite that accesses this whole alpine area here. Pat arrived in the early evening and we had dinner, but hit the sleeping bags early.

Sunday morning, I once again got an early start, wanting to get back down and see if that Grizzly bear was back in the meadow, that I had seen on the way up. Pat would be down soon after. I finally came to the open meadows and Boulder Peak waterfall, and just as I was hoping, the Griz was in the exact location, that I had seen him on the way up. They are creatures of habit. Once again I watched for 10 minutes, took some pics and headed on down the trail. 1/4 mile down the trail and I come around a bend and I see a Wolverine! He turns around quickly, glaring at me from 40 ft, turns around and runs 20 yards before disappearing off the trail. I had my bear spray out quickly. They say pound for pound, they are the meanest, fiercest predator. This really capped my trip off! That and when I got back to the Bowman Lake CG, we had cold beer stashed! Pat arrived at the crack of noon, after seeing a cinnamon black bear right on the trail. We got the boat loaded up and had good trip back in calm waters, checking out the mountains surrounding Bowman Lake, but by the time we got to the boat launch, the smoke had filled the valley and you could barely see the mountains.

It was clear when we were up in the high country, in this beautiful part of northwest Glacier National Park! The Club's best trip of the year.

*Tom Hanou*

## **August 4 – Missoula Summit Day**

### **Lolo Peak**

Lolo peak climb was great! We had 8 people total and made it to the top ( ! at 3 pm ! ) It was a long day....Clint Carlson came along and was a great asset for all; to hear his knowledge of Carlton Ridge, Lolo Mountain and the Bitterroots is invaluable...The best gem was our descent back through the precious little meadow that is above Carlton Lake. There we found many wildflowers, and fat tadpoles in a gently flowing rivulet...Then from our Carlton descent we got a clear view of the Jocko/Seeley Lake fire blowup; it was an immensely wide mushroom cloud.....

Submitted by John Wolverton, Sierra Club Outings Coordinator

### **Mount Jumbo**

We had a great hike up Jumbo, it was a great chance to point out a lot of the surrounding area -- Lolo Peak (and the discussion that followed about how unique Carlton Ridge is and the proposal for the ski resort), the Rattlesnake Recreation Area and Wilderness, Waterworks Hill and the great wildflowers in May, etc. Unfortunately, it was a bit hazy in the valley.

Submitted by Glen Marangelo, Five Valleys Land Trust Development

### **Stuart Peak**

After significant uncertainty about this trip with triple digit heat and thick smoke looming the valley for days prior, this turned out to be a spectacular trip, one of the best I have been on this year! The



*Slurry bomber flying over Stuart Peak. Roy Regal photo.*



weather was a cool 88 degrees with a nice breeze, and clear blue sky all day, with the exception of the ominous mushroom smoke cloud bellowing out on the horizon from the Jocko Lake fire. Roy captured some awesome pictures of the slurry bomber flying low directly over head. I was pleasantly surprised



*Lakes below Stuart Peak. Roy Regal photo.*

when we reached the peak at 2 pm, only 5 1/2 hours from the main trail head to the summit. Along the way, Greg assured us it was safe to snack on the sarvas, thimble and huckleberries, which we also identified in the very LARGE pile of bear scat on the trail. A special thanks to hikers Roy Regal, Greg Wermers, and Tim Hall for coming along on this hike, although I enjoyed the beautiful weather, scenery and the adventure of the hike, the real treat was the exceptional company! Thanks to John Wolverton from the Sierra Club and Tim Hall owner of The Sports Exchange here in Missoula for the idea, organization and publicity of this event! I look forward to the 2nd Annual Summit Day!!

Submitted by Mary Dalton, Rocky Mountaineer  
*Mary Dalton*



### **August 5, Three Lakes Peak (Nine Mile Area)**

Three Lakes Peak (7792) is a saddle-shaped mountain towards the northwest end of the divide between the Nine Mile Valley and the Flathead Valley. When you look up the Ninemile Valley from the southwest side of Missoula, you can see it peeking out from behind Squaw (Sleeping Woman) Peak. Hikes to this mountain start from the East Side Ninemile Road (USFS Road 5498). If you want to hike to Three Lakes Peak on a trail, you can follow the trail to Burnt Fork Pinnacle, and then hike east along the divide on another trail to the mountaintop, which is about a 4.5 mile hike (9 mile round trip). Or if you don't mind some bushwacking, you can hike up the ridge to the east or the west of Camp Creek, which is about a 4 mile hike (8 mile round trip). In either case the elevation gain is about 3,500 feet. The mountaintop and the ridgeline and lakes around it are pretty scenic. But be warned: most of this area burned a couple of years ago, and some of the burned areas now contain epic quantities of lodgepole deadfall. I hiked up the ridge to the east of Camp Creek, and encountered some bad deadfall. I don't recommend this ridge. I returned to my vehicle via the ridge to the west of Camp Creek, which was much easier hiking, except down low. Via either route, you'll get at least your minimum daily requirement of bushwacking. The USFS map shows a road running up the lower half of the west ridge, but it's been decommissioned, and a lot of trees have fallen across it. It's shorter and probably easier to follow the ridge.

At some point on the way up, while thrashing around in the deadfalls, I thought to myself, "well, I don't think I'll go hunting in this area." As soon as I thought that, I started seeing lots of elk and deer. Between the altitude gain and the deadfalls, I guess nobody is bothering them. *Peter Dayton*



### **August 5- McCormick Peak (Nine Mile Area)**

There weren't any fires in the Nine Mile area, so a few of us decided to give this peak a try. It was extremely smoky Sunday morning, but we figured it would be better up there, and we were right. But as the afternoon wore on more smoke drifted in. By the time we got back to the car we had raw throats, headaches and other ailments. But all agreed this hike was better than hanging around Missoula on the worst air day so far this year. We didn't see much except other peaks along the Reservation Divide. There are a couple of things I forgot about which should be noted: according to the sign the distance is two miles. If you want a longer hike you could try nearby Blackrock Peak, a little higher and rockier. There is not a trail all the way. The last few hundred yards and few hundred feet up are off the trail. You scramble across a short scree slope. The driving distance from the main road is 10 miles, so allow for lots of driving time. The participants were: Fred and Eileen Schwanemann, Bret Doucett, and *Steve Schombel*.

### **August 25 – Sweathouse Creek (Bitterroots)**

Sat. Aug. 25th was a bit warm but not smokey. A trip to hike Kootani Creek with assorted Schombel-Andrus family members changed when the family decided to pursue other activities for the day. The Schwanemanns -Fred and Eileen, and Julie & David Kahl got out the maps and decided to explore Sweathouse Creek which none of us except David had been in and that was many years ago.

The trail starts out skirting the controversial quarry that owners want to reactivate, then follows an old road and eventually dwindles down to a nice trail staying on the north side of the creek. Other evidence of human activity in this steep canyon includes old flumes high on the north side and a fish trap. A recent fire had burned the southside of the canyon mostly stopping at the creek until you get up into the flatter areas by the headwaters where a mosaic burn covers the area. Two surprise "running over granite edges" waterfalls were just off the trail with those neat worn into rock channels. After the waterfalls the trail is less evident and just before the Wilderness boundary we had to stop and walk circles to find it in the downed burned timber. It appeared the same on the other side of the boundary creek and we decided to turn back at that point. This turned into a remarkable day hike. *Julie Kahl*

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Glacier Classic – August 24-26**

Our third installment of this event continued to see increased attendance with 25 of us taking part in some fashion. The weather cooperated nicely (other than the wind in the higher elevations) and a good time was had by all. The bulk of us arrived up at Fish Creek Campground on Lake McDonald on Friday afternoon/evening. Steve Niday arrived early and secured a few campsites. We set up tents then sat around eating, drinking and having a good old time. As he had last year, Tom Hanou proved to be the Most Valuable Camper when he broke out the skillet and once again concocted some fabulous burritos.

The next day saw nearly everyone heading to Logan Pass to take part in one of the climbs described below, or to do something on their own. Saturday evening we were back to the campground for more revelry (minus the burritos, unfortunately Tom had to go home). Ken Wood and Justin Burdett had a bit more ambition and they headed back up to Logan Pass for a moonlight hike along the Highline Trail. The rest of us were tired and most headed to bed early.

On Sunday most opted to either do their own adventure, head home, or just relax. One group of us, however, headed back to Logan Pass to tackle the traverse described below. After that it was back home. A fun weekend and thanks to all who attended and made it so!

#### *Attendees:*

Richard Smith	Linda Hoyt
Edie Smith	Mike Hoyt
McKenzie Smith	Mike Rieley
Andrea Burdett	Jim Goss
Justin Burdett	Karya Dean
Jamie Burdett	Frank Dean
Lianna Burdett	Angie Dean
Ken Wood	Forest Dean
Dean Stensland	Mike Rieley
Eric Jones	Tom Hanou
Jim Wilson	Bret Doucett
Alexia Beckerling	Steve Niday
Jim Heggen	

## *The Glacier Classic Trip Reports.....*

### **August 25 – Cannon Mountain**

As part of this years Glacier Classic, Tom Hanou, Brett Doucett, and I decided to climb Cannon Mountain. The round trip distance is about 11 miles and elevation gain from Logan Pass is only 2200'. It sounded like a good way to take it easy on the first day and save something for the Piegan-Pollock-Bishop's Cap traverse the next day, especially in light of my Ouzo over-consumption the night before, thanks in large part to Eric "The Pusher" Jones. Tom, having climbed to the Huckleberry Lookout the previous day, turned around at Bird Woman Pass. Brett and I continued up the east ridge in very windy conditions. The route is well traveled and marked with cairns. It is an enjoyable route with some twists and turns, and one short 4<sup>th</sup> class pitch. The summit views are outstanding. On our descent, we spotted our comrades on the summits of Clements Mountain and Reynolds Mountain. We waited for the Clements party at Bird Woman Pass and met up with Dean and Richard, where we passed on our route impressions and encouragement, and bode them well on their impressive Cannon finale to Clements. We met the other Clements summiters at the main trail from Logan Pass to Hidden Lake and hiked back to the Pass together. *Steve Niday*

### **August 25 – Reynolds Mountain**

Nine of us set out from windy Logan Pass at 9:45 am, heading up the boardwalk toward Hidden Lake. The day was mostly clear and sunny (and stayed that way), but the wind was a force to be reckoned with all day. We hiked up the trail almost to the overlook area for Hidden Lake, then took a climbers trail to the south between two small tarns. This trail we followed for about a mile south to a saddle on the northwest corner of Reynolds. Shortly before reaching this saddle, Karya decided she had enough and mom (Angie) took her back to the Pass area. The rest of us took on the wind as we headed around the west side of Reynolds, and then up the long scree fields on the south side of the mountain. The final couple vertical feet to the summit are guarded by a cliff band. There are various ways to get through the cliffs and we followed obvious cairns to the very windy summit ridge. Here we had to alternate between crouching behind boulders

when the wind gusts blasted us, and making quick dashes toward the summit cairn. We reached the



*Climbing the scree slopes on south side of Reynolds. Mike Hoyt photo.*

summit (9125') about 12:45 and crouched as low as possible while sitting and enjoying the fantastic views for awhile. Over on Clements Mtn. we could see the group being led by Dean Stensland just reaching the summit. After signing the register, we made our way down, once again battling wind. Taking our time we made it back to Logan Pass about 3:45 pm. Round trip of 6 hours, 6 miles, and 2500' of elevation gain. A good effort by all and even with the wind, a very fun climb! Participants were: Karya Dean, Angie Dean, Frank Dean, Mike Hoyt, Linda Hoyt, Jim McLean, Mike Rieley, Jim Goss, and myself. *Forest Dean*





*Linda, Mike, Frankie and Forest high above Hidden Lake. Jim Goss photo.*

### **August 25 – Clements Mountain**

Unfortunately I was unable to get a trip report from Dean Stensland by press time, so here is a brief summary of what the editor knows about this trip. At the same time the other groups left Logan Pass, Eric Jones, Jim Wilson, Alexia Beckerling, Jim Heggen, Richard Smith and Dean started as well. My understanding is that they hiked up to the saddle between Clements and Oberlin, then traversed across the east face of Clements before ascending the class 4 couloir in the middle of its east face. All reached the summit successfully. The descent was to the west towards the saddle between Clements and Cannon. There Dean and Richard decided to go climb Cannon, and the rest of the group met up with Steve and Brett (see above trip report) and headed back to the visitor center. Dean and Richard successfully climbed Cannon and arrived back at Fish Creek Campground around 8:30 PM.

### **August 26 – Piegan Mtn., Pollock Mtn., Bishops Cap (Traverse)**

We once again drove up to Logan Pass this morning and after dropping a car at the Pass, Dean drove us a little ways down the road to park at Lunch Creek. We got started about 9:30 heading up the Lunch Creek drainage between Piegan and Pollock Mountains. Again we had to battle winds almost the entire way, but the skies although cloudier than the previous day, didn't bring any rain. The climb up to the saddle was very straightforward and we were there in about an hour. Eric and Dean, having already climbed Piegan in the past opted to stay and

wait as the rest of us headed for the 9220' summit. This is more a less a walk up- no harder than Class 2 on the south side. Somehow, Steve and I missed Jim and Brett on our way up and down, so we ended up waiting back at the pass for awhile for them to descend. Soon we were all back together again and heading over to catch up with Dean who was waiting at the base of the Great Cleft Route on Pollock Mtn. This is a fun little narrow cleft in the rock that allows access through the cliffs guarding the summit of Pollock. We all made it up this



*Dean ascends up the "Great Cleft" on Pollock Mountain. F. Dean photo.*

without incident and a short scree scramble brought us to the incredibly windy summit (9190'). Here Dean managed a group photo (took three tries as the wind kept blowing the camera over). Then it was on down to the col separating Pollock from Bishops Cap. Here Jim decided two peaks was enough and headed down the long scree and talus gully to the Highline Trail. The rest of us ascended toward the large block on the ridge known as Bishops Cap. This was certainly the most difficult climbing of the day. The first route we looked at saw Steve get into





*Dean and Steve resting (briefly) on summit of Bishop's Cap. F. Dean photo.*

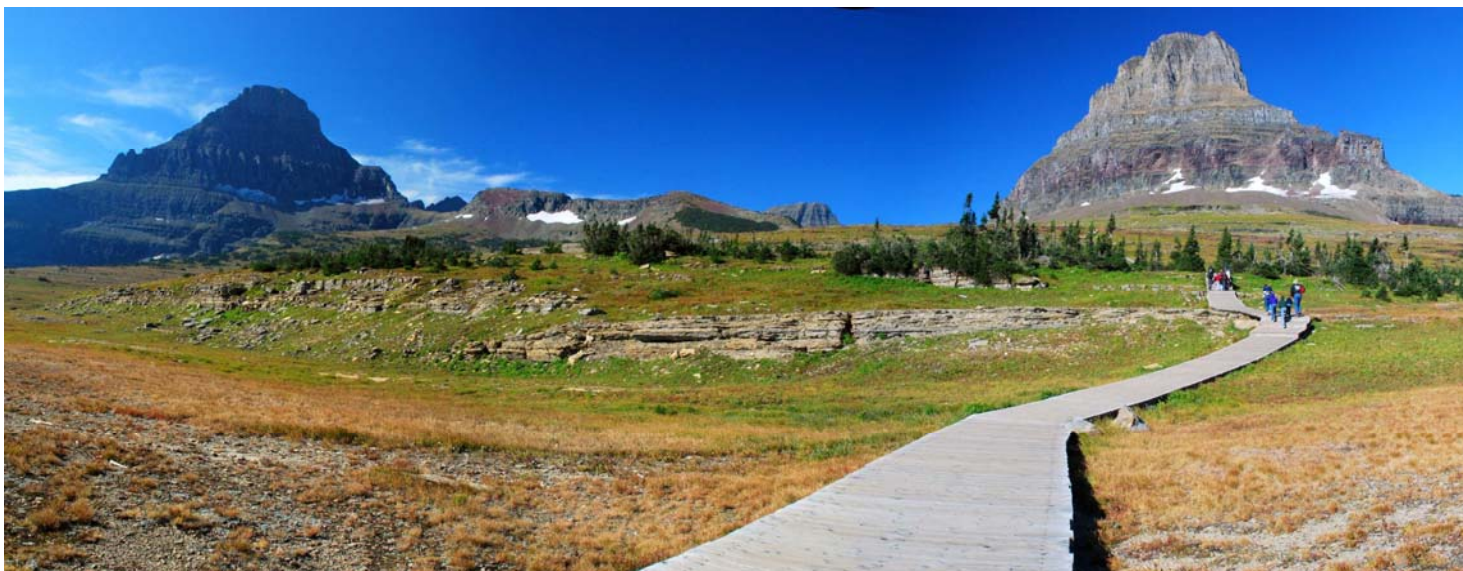
a class 5 crack that he decided against and backed down from. We then went further around to the west where we found another crack that was much easier and provided a nice finish to the summit (9127'). We endured the wind here for a few minutes, then once again headed down. Heading back to the gully Jim had descended, we had a nice scree "ski" and talus hike back down to the Highline Trail. From here it was about a mile and a half hike back to Logan Pass. A fun rewarding day it was- summiting three 9000' peaks. Roundtrip of about 6 miles with 4500' elevation gain and a time of 5:45. Participants were: Jim Goss, Brett Doucett, Eric Jones, Dean Stensland, Steve Niday and myself. *Forest Dean*



*Looking northeast from summit of Reynolds Mountain. L-R: Mt. Gould, Bishop's Cap, Pollock Mountain, Allen Mtn., Piegan Mtn., Mt. Siyeh, Matahpi Peak, Going-to-the-Sun Mtn., and St. Mary Lake. Mike Hoyt photo.*

**"Not all those who wander are lost"**  
***J.R.R. Tolkien***





*Reynolds Mountain and Clements Mountain lord over the Logan Pass area and the boardwalk to Hidden Lake.  
Mike Hoyt photo.*

## MOUNTAIN TRIVIA CHALLENGE

What could be finer than a handcrafted microbrew after a successful climb of a major mountain? Few things, fellow members, few things. This month we challenge you to **name the highest peak within a 25 mile radius** of these fine microbeer establishments. Submit your answers to the editor: [mtnear1@gmail.com](mailto:mtnear1@gmail.com) by September 28<sup>th</sup>. All individuals with the correct answers will be entered into a drawing to be held at that time. The prize? A couple of six-packs of some microbrew (obviously!).

- 1 – Big Sky Brewing Company**
- 2 – Snake River Brewing Company**
- 3 – Deschutes Brewing Company**
- 4 – Bitterroot Brewing Company**
- 5 – Neptune's Brewery**

## 2007 CLASSIC SERIES

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

<u>Month</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Leader</u>
Sep	Warren Peak	Pintlers	Scramble	Forest Dean
Oct	McDonald Peak	Missions	Climb	Forest Dean
Nov	Chief Joseph Pass	Bitterroots	Ski	Steve Schombel
Dec	Sweeney Peak	Bitterroots	Hike/Ski/Snowshoe	Forest Dean

*Cover Photo: Mountain Goats grazing below Clements Mountain in Glacier National Park. Mike Hoyt photo.*

### 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  
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