

OCTOBER 2007

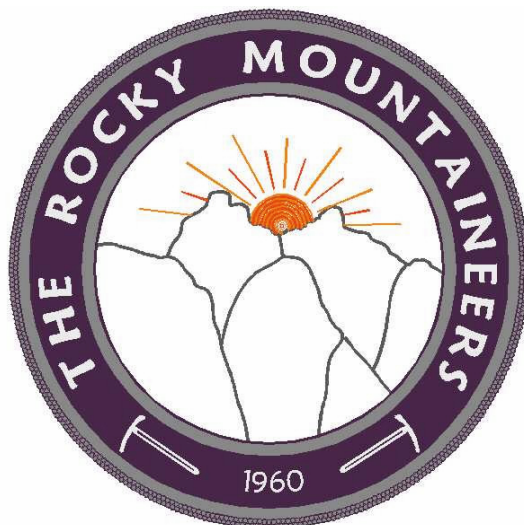
THE MOUNTAIN EAR



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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

October Meeting and Feature Presentation

“An Epic Backpack” by Dave Stalling

Two summers ago Dave Stalling did an eight-week, 800-mile solo backpack journey through some of the wildest country in the lower 48. He left his front porch in Missoula and went through the Rattlesnake Wilderness, the Mission Mountains, the Bob Marshall, Great Bear, Scapegoat, Badger Two Medicine area and Glacier, and ended in Waterton, Alberta. Much of the journey was off trail, and he only crossed three main roads during the trek. He saw much wildlife, visited habitats of threatened and endangered species and hiked along streams containing pure strains of native Westslope Cutthroat and Bull Trout. He also saw some disturbing signs of troubles ahead for remote areas, such as low river flows, loss of whitebark pines, large areas charred by fires, lots of insect killed trees, shrinking glaciers and other evidence of global warming. He will touch on this subject as he shows pictures and talks about his trip.

Last spring Dave was named Global Warming Outreach Coordinator for the Missoula office of the National Wildlife Federation. He has a long involvement with the conservation/environmental community, including jobs with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Trout Unlimited and a term as volunteer president of the Montana Wildlife Federation. Dave has written professionally and has a lot of experience giving presentations.

Come see this show at the Rocky Mountaineers meeting on Wednesday, October 10th. The presentation starts at 7 PM at Pipestone Mountaineering, 129 W. Front St., Missoula, and is free. Preceding Dave's presentation will be our monthly business meeting. This begins at 6:00 (also at Pipestone) and all are welcome to attend this as well.

Looking Ahead....

At the November meeting of the Rocky Mountaineers we will have a presentation by Michael Kustudia on plans for the Milltown Area after the cleanup. He will give details on some proposals for public access, a trail network, a possible State Park in the area, and other recreational opportunities. Michael is the Coordinator for the Clark Fork Technical Assistance Committee, a citizens group that has studied the superfund site since the 1980's, and is also a member of the Milltown Redevelopment Working Group, the committee that developed these more detailed plans.

Editor's Corner

Well now that we have another great summer season behind us, I thought I would add a few comments regarding this newsletter, as well as other business. First, I have brought the “Trip Forum” section back to life. Again, if you have a trip you are thinking about doing this winter, spring, next year, whatever, but no dates yet, feel free to submit something in this section. Second, please submit articles, photos, trivia, quotes, etc. I am not a professional writer or photographer- the more help I can get, the less of my own stuff you have to suffer through. Finally, take a stab at the Mountain Trivia contest. I have been receiving very few entries and would certainly like to see more interest. Feel free to come up with your own contest as well, and I will use in an upcoming issue.

As for club business, we continue to proceed on several items. First, we are in the process of getting our first wave of merchandise ready for sale (just in time for Christmas?). We will keep you posted, but the plan is to have some shirts, hats and stickers made up with the new logo. Next, we have begun some discussion of next year's Glacier Classic. We would certainly welcome your input as to where to base the activities out of at that event. We are trying to move it around each year to explore different areas of the park. And lastly, as always, we continue to beg for everyone to consider leading and participating in trips. Pick a destination, send me a brief description, and get out!

Annual Cabin Workday and Club Party



This years' fall Rocky Mountaineers cabin workday was well attended and a big thank you to all who participated! On Saturday, September 22nd, fourteen of us hiked up to the cabin and got the place ready for the winter season. The primary task was to cut, split and stack firewood, and with so many bodies this was quickly done. After some general tidying up inside we headed back down to the trailhead, where we broke out food and drink and celebrated our (short) workday in grand style while enjoying the nice fall weather.

Participants: Jens McCallar, Paul Jensen, Jerry Kogan, Paul Gazzo, Mike Hoyt, Melody Knauf, Steve Niday, Lorraine Riedl, Tom Hanou, Nate Lengacher, Angie Dean, Frank Dean, Karya Dean, Forest Dean.



Photos courtesy of Mike Hoyt.

UPCOMING TRIPS AND ADVENTURES

Trip Notes:

Please contact the trip leader for more information regarding any listed trips.

Mileage listed is round trip mileage. Elevation listed is gain only. For information on Class Rating see below:

Class Rating System

CLASS 1 – HIKING Mostly on trails, but may also include some easy cross country travel.

CLASS 2 – EASY SCRAMBLING Rugged off trail hiking, no hands required.

CLASS 3 – SCRAMBLING Use of hand to ascend some sections of rock. Little to no exposure; a fall would not likely cause serious injury.

CLASS 4 – CLIMBING Easy climbing, great exposure; a fall would quite possibly cause serious injury. Use of a rope and protection at times possible.

CLASS 5 – TECHNICAL CLIMBING Use of rope, protection and belay are a must.

CLASS 6 – AID CLIMBING Use of equipment to support your weight as you climb.

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

Rating: Class 3-4, *Mileage:* 11.0 miles *Elevation:* 5200'

Description: At 9,820' this is the highest peak in the Mission Mountains. My intention is to climb via the Ashley Lakes route. This is supposed to be a non-technical route that involves hiking and scrambling east to the head of the Ashley Creek drainage and then ascending scree and cliffs north to the summit. Plan on a full day, with a lot of elevation gain and be prepared for poor weather. Participants should be in good physical shape and have some experience with 3rd and 4th class scrambling.

Special Equipment: Rain gear and extra clothing; pepper spray; possibly an ice ax or crampons if snowy up high.

Leader: Forest Dean – H: 721-6384, C: 240-7612, mtnear1@gmail.com

Saturday, October 6 – SAWMILL GULCH (Rattlesnake NRA)

Rating: Class 1; *Mileage:* 2-3; *Elevation:* 500'

Description: Sally Wright will lead a very easy hike (good for kids) starting from the Sawmill Gulch trailhead at 9 am on Saturday, October 6. The hike should last about 2 hours. The fall colors should be good. This hike is also being promoted to a group associated with the First Presbyterian Church

Leader: Sally Wright - 542-1966.

Sunday, October 7 – LAKE DINAH (Seeley Lake area)

Rating: Class 1-2; *Mileage:* 4+ miles; *Elevation:* depends

Description: Join us for a short hike in the Seeley Lake area to see some great fall colors, namely Larch. Lake Dinah is NW of Seeley Lake and is in an area that did not burn. It is app. 2 miles one way along a trail that climbs a few hundred feet then gradually descends to the lake. There are supposed to be great views back down to Seeley Lake along the way, and of the Swan Range across the valley. Those that wish can make a longer hike. For instance, nearby Mount Henry looks like an easy scramble from the trail. I'm thinking of fishing for a while before heading home. One of my sources says that Lake Dinah has lots of small fish, but the USFS handout says that it reportedly has some large cutthroat. Moose, deer, elk, mountain lion and bear have also been seen in the area. It is 10 to 15 miles along a dirt road to the trailhead, and the last couple of miles are said to be rough and high clearance vehicles are recommended.

Leader: Steve Schombel - 721-4686

Saturday, October 27 – JERRY JOHNSON HOT SPRINGS (Lolo Pass Area)

Description: Jerry Johnson Hot Springs is located over Lolo Pass in Idaho near mile marker 152 on Route 12. Admittedly neither of us have actually visited this area, but our understanding is that it's a mile walk to a series of 3 different pools. Since minimum hiking is involved, our plan is to have an extended lunch and enjoy the soak. We haven't seen any rules against pets, so we are considering bringing our dog. Definitely no glass allowed. These pools are clothing optional, so dress accordingly. Jim Goss and wife Cathy Reich will rendezvous at the K-Mart parking lot at the junction of Brooks & Reserve @ 10:30 AM.

Leader: Jim Goss - jgossorcreich@blackfoot.net or call 822-5000 for more information.

Saturday, October 27 – SAVAGE RIDGE (Bitterroots- Idaho)

Rating: Class 1-2; *Mileage:* 4-6 miles; *Elevation:* 700 ft.

Description: We will head to Idaho to explore Savage Ridge. It entails a drive over Lolo Pass to the Powell Ranger Station area and south into the Colt Killed Creek drainage. Up to Savage Pass at 6168 ft. From there a 2-3 mile trail leads out onto Savage ridge which tops out at 6916 ft. about 700 ft elevation gain. Expect the day to be cool with maybe some snow. Maybe we'll end the day at Lochsa Lodge for dinner. If we are lucky enough to have too much snow to make it up to Savage Pass we'll recreate somewhere else over there anyway.

Leader: Julie Kahl 543-6508

Saturday, November 3 – MT. CALOWAHCAN (Mission Mountains)

Rating: Class 4; *Mileage:* 7.6 miles; *Elevation:* 5600'

Description: This impressive mountain (formerly called Mt. Harding) lies to the north of McDonald Lake and McDonald Peak. The plan is to ascend the northwest ridge route to the 9061' summit. Near the summit there is reportedly some fairly difficult and exposed Class 4 climbing. I will plan on bringing a rope to negotiate this section. Participants should be in good physical condition being that there is a lot of elevation gain over a relatively short distance. Should have some familiarity with technical climbing. Also, be prepared for foul weather.

Special Equipment: Harness & Belay Device; adequate clothing; Salish Kootenai Tribal recreation permit.

Leader: Forest Dean – H: 721-6384, C: 240-7612, mtnear1@gmail.com

Sat-Sun, December 1-2 – THOMPSON PEAK (Sawtooth Wilderness)

Rating: Class 3; *Mileage:* 13-14; *Elevation:* 4200'

Description: Thompson Peak (10,751') is the highest peak in the Sawtooth Range in central Idaho. We will leave early on Saturday morning and drive down to Stanley, ID and south to the trailhead at Redfish Lake. From there we will hike/ski in and set up camp near the small lake on the east side of the peak. Sunday morning we will attempt the summit via the class 3 south couloir route- conditions permitting. If conditions are great, I wouldn't be opposed to attempting one of the lower 5th class routes to the summit instead. After summiting we will ski/hike out and drive home.

Special Equipment: Ski's with skins; winter camping gear; possibly a rope, harness and device; crampons; ice axe; avalanche transceiver.

Leader: Forest Dean – H: 721-6384, C: 240-7612, mtnear1@gmail.com

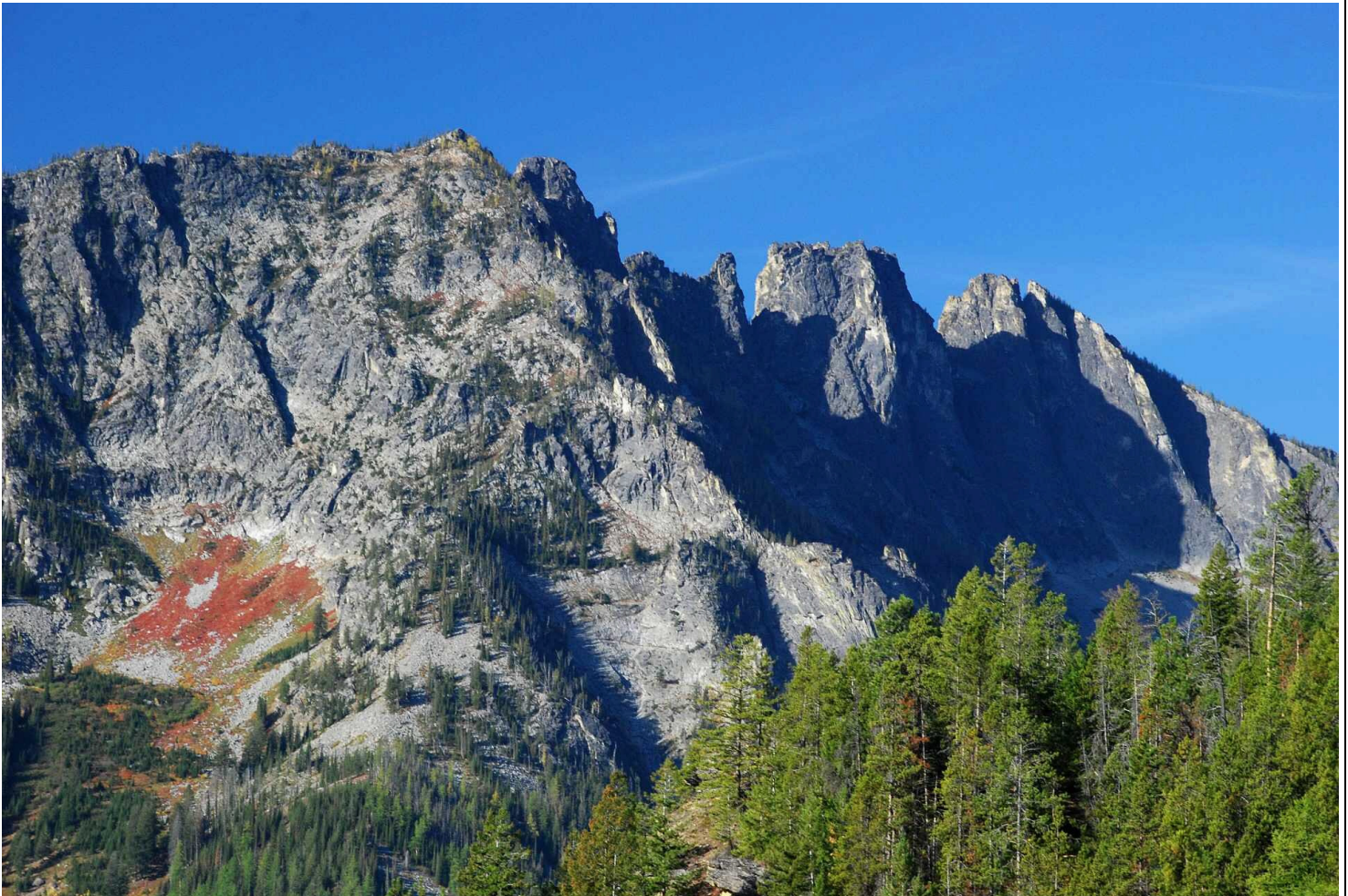
TRIP FORUM

Transceiver Practice Day!!

As another winter recreation season approaches, I figured it would be a good idea to get out and see if we remember how to use those avalanche transceivers. This will certainly not be a training seminar, as I am certainly not an expert in their usage. If anyone that is an expert would care to step forward and serve as a leader for this day, that would be more than welcome! My plan is to go out somewhere and just practice, practice, practice. Would like to schedule this for sometime in mid to late November—I will post a specific day in the November newsletter. Please give me a call or send an email if you are interested in participating. Forest Dean @ 240-7612, 721-6384, or email: mtnear1@gmail.com

Teton Crest Ski Trip

My plan is to do a 4-5 day ski traverse of the Teton Crest from Teton Pass to Teton Canyon (or vice versa). If conditions are good and there is interest, we may want to attempt a side trip to summit one of the big peaks (I was thinking of the Middle Teton). Two vehicles would be ideal so we could create our own shuttle. This trip could really take place in any month, January through March—I will schedule something more concrete as the time gets closer. If interested in participating, call Forest Dean @ 240-7612, 721-6384, or email: mtnear1@gmail.com



*The Bass Crags as viewed from the Little St. Joseph Peak trail on the way to The Rocky Mountaineers cabin.
Photo by Mike Hoyt.*

TRIP REPORTS

September 8-9 – Warren Peak (Anaconda Pintler Wilderness)

This month's Classic Series Trip generated plenty of interest, but by the time we left on Saturday morning we were only a party of four plus two dogs. Jim McLean (with dogs) joined Forest Dean and his son Frank along with Frank's friend Jake Oman (both kids are eight). We arrived at the Middle Fork Portal and got started under near perfect fall weather about 11:00 am. The hike in to Edith Lake was pleasant- trail gains elevation very gradually. We arrived at the lake around 1:30 and quickly set up a camp. About 2:00 we started climbing up the peak. There are no trails going up, but the forest is mostly open and although tiring, it is fairly easy to pick a route upwards. The dogs on the other hand didn't much care for it. Jim said both were getting up there in years, and one had had ACL surgery on both rear legs. Around 9000' we broke out into the final incline which runs up boulder fields to the summit. After traversing up a bit of this, the dogs decided they had enough, and Jim took them and headed back down and all the way back out to the trailhead. Forest followed the two mountain goat kids up to the top, seeing a real mountain goat along the way. We arrived on top about 4:00 pm. The 10,464' summit was the highest either Frank or Jake had ever climbed. Both did it without seeming to even breathe hard! After taking in the views and snapping some pics, we headed back down arriving at the lake about 6:00. The night sky stayed clear and it got fairly cold (30 degrees)- so we slept in until the sun hit our tent (about 9:00 am), then gradually got up, got packed and headed back to the trailhead, arriving about 1:15 after a two hour hike out. Distances from trailhead to Edith – 5 miles; lake to summit – 1.5 miles. Overall elevation gain is about 4100'. *Forest Dean*



Edith Lake



Looking down on the Carpp Lakes drainage.



Frank and Jake approaching the summit.



Forest, Frank, Jake at the summit.

The Need For Speed

Article by Steve Niday

As a younger man, I had the ability and desire to go fast in the mountains. With waning ability comes a re-evaluation of the importance of speed. Basically, there is a time and place for speed, but it is not always necessary or desirable. What is not so obvious in that statement is how speed affects others.

Speed is good:

Speed results in more scenery, more miles logged, more exercise, more area explored. It can mean the difference between a safe ascent and no ascent, a hike out in the dark or in the light. It can mean traveling easily on firm snow or floundering in soft snow, stable seracs and solid snow bridges or collapsing snow and ice, rocks frozen in place or a barrage of missiles. It can mean the difference between a thunderstorm below treeline or a vicious hailstorm on an unprotected ridge. Speed can keep objective dangers to a minimum.

Speed is bad:

Speed can increase the odds of physical injury from slips, falls, and out of control descents. Ever gained too much speed glissading or skiing? Bad things can happen. With my head down charging up the trail, how much fauna and flora have I missed? With the focus on speed, bad routefinding is more likely, and there is an increased acceptance of hazardous terrain to accommodate the need for speed. Unequal speed can spread out a group and expose some in the group to increased hazards. Even a slightly forced pace increases the possibility of a missed step and depletes the energy reserves necessary for safe travel. As important as the above factors, and the reason I wrote this, is how speed can affect morale.

Speed, it depends:

In solo outings, with no one there to influence the pace, the need for speed is up to you. How fast should I go or how hard should I push is unaffected by others, and I am left making constant adjustments based on my own mental and physical state, along with an evaluation of the objective and environmental conditions. Although this is an extremely satisfying aspect of solo outings, I find that going solo is less enjoyable these days.

Therefore, if I am to pursue more group trips, I am motivated to consider how speed should be considered in group situations. I must admit that if I had not found myself struggling to keep up in recent years, I may not have come to this re-evaluation process. Ahhhh, the ego is not always a wonderful thing. What I have learned is how falling behind affects my overall experience. As those who are physically superior pull away from me, and I struggle to keep up, my morale is sometimes significantly influenced. When my morale suffers, my experience suffers, no matter if we make the summit or not.

Adequate speed is important to a safe, successful trip, but if success is more dependent on the experience and less on the goal, speed becomes less important. This subject becomes extremely important in expeditionary settings, in bad weather, and on dangerous terrain. It is less important on day trips in good conditions. In particular, leaders need to pay close attention to the speed of the members of the party, especially those who are less experienced. It is not inappropriate in certain situations to turn individuals, or a whole team around. A team is strongest when it is together, both physically and mentally.

I would like to apologize to all those who rightfully hurled silent insults at me as they gradually fell behind. This apology obviously does not apply in those situations where speed was necessary to insure safety. I hope that my increased understanding of the issue will allow me to be more considerate on future outings.

MOUNTAIN TRIVIA CHALLENGE

Congratulations to our President, Steve Niday who correctly answered all 5 of the trivia questions last month. See the answers below. This month we challenge you with some questions that seem easy... but are they? Trick question or not a trick question? Have a try and send me your answers. Anyone answering all correctly will be entered into a drawing to determine the winner of a six-pack or a bottle of wine. Good luck! (Send answers to: mtnear1@gmail.com)

1 – What is the name of the mountain that the USGS lists as being the highest in the United States?

2 - How many National Park Service campgrounds are there on McDonald Lake?

3 – How often is the annual *Alpine Journal* published?

4 – In the Bitterroot Mountains there is only one peak that is over 10,000 feet. It is also the highest peak in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. It, along with its prominent spire of a mountain to its north named North Trapper Peak, can be viewed from a spectacular pulloff just south of Darby, MT. So, can you name the highest mountain in the Bitterroot Range?

5- The human mind can go through many emotions when alone in the backcountry: states of happiness, sadness, fear, anxiety, serenity, etc. Lets say you are being charged by a grizzly bear on Electric Peak in Yellowstone NP. What state would you undoubtedly be in?

Last month's answers: (name the highest peak within a 25 mile radius of these Micro Breweries)

1 – Big Sky Brewing Company (Missoula) – St. Joseph Peak (Bitterroots)

2 – Snake River Brewing Company (Jackson, WY) – Grand Teton (Tetons)

3 – Deschutes Brewing Company (Bend, OR)– South Sister (Cascades)

4 – Bitterroot Brewing Company (Hamilton) – El Capitan (Bitterroots)

5 – Neptune's Brewery (Livingston)– Mt. Cowen (Absarokas)

When you get to the top of a mountain, keep climbing.

From: "The Dharma Bums" by Jack Kerouac

September Meeting

The Minutes of The Rocky Mountaineers

12 September, 2007

1. Called to Order 6:27 PM
2. Attendance: Steve Niday, Julie Kahl, Steve Schombel, Forest Dean, and David Wright
Guests: Erin Commons and Jim McLean
3. Previous meeting minutes: Approved with no changes
4. Correspondence: none
5. Treasurers report: none
6. Club Business:
 - a. Old business
 - i. Logo and merchandise
 1. Shirt shop is still refining the artwork due to “complexity” of logo; a final version will be completed by end of the month
 2. A decision was made to pursue for the first order three items with logos: a synthetic shirt (short and long sleeve), stickers and a hat
 - ii. Joint meetings
 1. The Grotto – a decision to try to have one joint meeting
 2. Discussion of creating a central information club to promote outdoor clubs within the region to assist and promote membership benefit for all clubs
 - b. New business
 - i. Cabin Work day – 22nd of September
 1. Julie went up earlier and noted that the cabin seemed in good shape; not much wood needs to be cut for the winter; kindling needs to be made; the old fire shelters used to protect cabin were cleaned up and disposed of by unknown individual(s).
 2. Noted that use of cabin is free but donations are accepted and encouraged
 3. Plan on leaving the Kmart parking lot at 9:00 AM
 4. Pot luck lunch/dinner is planned at trailhead at 3:00 PM
 5. Steve N. will write up an email and send it to Forest to send out to all members
 - ii. Speakers
 1. Steve S. has talked with Mike Kustadia (Director of Clark Fork Technical Assistance Committee) about presenting in Nov. He part of the planning team for the post Milltown dam removal.
 2. Other potential speakers: Tim Sharp, Michael Hoyt, Doug Ammons (sp?); inquire with Jim Wilson; David Wright (Mayan ruins)
7. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM

THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

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

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

Name: _____

Additional Family Members Names: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone (optional): _____

Email: _____

Additional Email (optional): _____

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

Cover Photo: Tamarack Lake in the Anaconda Pintler Wilderness. Photo by Forest Dean.



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