



MAY 2008

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.

Club Contacts

Website: <http://rockymountaineers.com>
e-mail: info@rockymountaineers.com

Mailing Address:
The Rocky Mountaineers
PO Box 4262
Missoula MT 59806

President: Steve Niday (406-721-3790)
seniday@yahoo.com

Vice-President: Forest Dean (406-240-7612)
mtnear1@gmail.com

Secretary: David Wright
mountaineer@dkwright.com

Treasurer: Julie Kahl (406-543-6508)
jawkal@hotmail.com

Webmaster: Alden Wright
alden@wrightmontana.com

Newsletter Editor: Forest Dean

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

May Meeting and Feature Presentation

Come join us for our last regular monthly meeting until September. As always, we will begin the meeting at **6:00 PM on Wednesday, May 14 at Pipestone Mountaineering**. This business portion of the meeting will be followed at 7:00 by our annual elections (see President's Message) and then our Feature Presentation by Walker Kuhl. Feel free to come to any or all of it, bring a snack and some drinks if so desired. Hope to see you there!

Walker Kuhl is a Kalispell native who grew up hiking and backpacking in and around the mountains of Glacier National Park. He discovered sport climbing in high school, and soon found himself trying out mountaineering routes with a few friends, and learning by trial and error. Following a tour of duty in the armed forces, Walker returned to Montana to attend Flathead Valley Community College and then the University of Montana, where he is currently majoring in Economics and Arabic. He also returned to the mountains with an invigorated passion for climbing, and has since attempted (and hauled terrified friends up) many of the area's classic routes. Walker will talk about how he got into climbing, and how his ideas about climbing and the mountains have changed over the years. His slide show will cover some of the classic lines on Pingora Peak in the Wind River Range, and the Becky Chounard in the Bugaboos, along with a variety of other smaller routes. Time permitting, he will also show some photos from a ski traverse from Roger's Pass to Fairy Meadows.

President's Message

State of the Club Address: AKA- My Last President's Message:

Our club was started in 1960 by a small group of very active and adventurous souls. I like to think of them as explorers. In those days, unclimbed peaks abounded, large areas of unknown terrain existed, and the opportunity for exploring new places was great. Imagine going into one of the big, high, alpine basins in the Bitterroot or Mission Mountains with no knowledge of the environment other than a topographic map. OK, it doesn't sound as dramatic in print as it does in my mind, but realize that you would be looking at beautiful unclimbed lines all around you, with no assurance that any of them would go. Even climbing the blatantly obvious would likely have been a first. By now, most of those have been climbed, but there are still many very nice unclimbed routes, and lots of unexplored or little explored terrain in our backyard. There are obscure little basins, lakes, meadows, and falls, that few if any have ever experienced. We are truly blessed to know that these places still exist and we are able to get to them in a day trip. It keeps the explorer in us alive. The grand places around us are certainly worthwhile, that is why they are grand, think El Capitan, Trapper Pk, McDonald Pk, Gray Wolf Pk, Holland Pk, and Swan Pk. However, there are some wonderful places to be found that are not so "grand". I know many of you have found places in the nearby mountains where you felt like the first person to have ever visited. Whenever I find myself in one of those places, it is very inspirational.

Our club is still a group of active and adventurous souls, and hopefully we can continue to be inspired and inspire others along the way. I thank you all for making this a pretty cool club, one that I am proud to be a member.

The music is starting, so I must make this brief, but I do want to give particular thanks to the following people for all they have done in the last two years: Forest Dean, Tom Hanou, Julia Kahl, Frank Kleschen (deceased), Lewis Kogan, Joshua Phillips, Lorraine Riedl, Steve Schombel, Jim Wilson, Alden Wright, David Wright, anyone who has ever led a trip or gave a presentation, my wife, my daughter, my parents, my kindergarten teacher, etc, etc. *Steve Niday*

Looking Ahead....

4th Annual Glacier Classic

Dates: August 22-24, 2008

Place: Many Glacier area

We would like to encourage everyone to join us in Glacier National Park for our annual Glacier Classic this August. Once again we plan to have a wide variety of climbs and hikes to go along with the camping fun! Our plan is to drive up on Friday, secure some campsites at the Many Glacier (NPS) campground, then eat, drink, tell tall-tales, etc. Saturday we will have some scheduled hikes/climbs, as well as Sunday. You are more than welcome to come along and do your own thing or nothing at all, as well. We had about 25 attendees last year and it was a great time. Additionally, if you feel like leading a trip in that area, please let me know. More details in the next few months; below are some preliminary trip listings:

Saturday

Altyn Peak – (Class 1-2 – off trail scramble) *Leader: Tom Hanou*

Iceberg Peak – (Class 3-4 – via the Iceberg Notch) *Leader: Steve Niday*

Mt. Wilbur – (Class 5 – technical climb) *Leader: Forest Dean*

Sunday

Apikuni Mountain – (Class 2-3 – scramble) *Leader: Forest Dean*

Allen Mountain – (Class 3 – scramble) *Leader: Steve Niday*

Contact: Forest Dean or Steve Niday for more information. *Contact info on page 2.*



Mt. Wilbur lords over Swiftcurrent Lake and the Many Glacier area.

Photo by montanaboy

<http://www.summitpost.org/image/104783/151167/swiftcurrent-lake-and-mount.html>

UPCOMING TRIPS AND ADVENTURES

Trip Notes:

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

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

Class Rating System

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sunday, May 18 – GOAT MOUNTAIN (Bitterroots)

Rating: Class 1-2; *Mileage:* 5.0; *Elevation:* 1500'

Description: Last year we had a large group hike up this smaller point in the Bitterroots, and I can see why it is one of Mario Locatelli's favorite places. As of May 3rd. the snow was mostly gone, and what was left on the upper part was firm enough to prevent post holing. I saw for the first time this year Glacier Lillies and Bluebells, also Shooting Stars and Buttercups and some Pasqueflowers with buds, not in bloom, and one Indian Paintbrush with a little bit of red. In a couple of weeks there should be a lot more wildflowers. The hike is all on a steep trail and gains about 1500' in two and a half miles.

Leader: Steve Schombel -721-4686

Fri-Mon, May 23-26 – MOUNT RAINIER (Washington Cascades)

Rating: Class 4; *Mileage:* 11 miles; *Elevation:* 9000'

Description: Memorial Weekend climb of the Kautz Headwall route (if conditions permit- route choice subject to change- also, trip could shift to following weekend if weather looks better). Currently the trip party size of 3-4 climbers is full. However, if others are interested, or if someone else would care to lead another party on the same or a different route, my thought was that we could sort of coordinate everything together. Anyone interested should have some prior glacier climbing and travel experience, as well as the necessary gear. If enough others are interested to comprise another rope team, I will coordinate a planning party to go over all the details.

Special Equipment: Harness, rope, crampons, pickets, ice tools, screws, helmet, transceiver, appropriate clothing, climbing permit.

Leader: Forest Dean – C: 240-7612, email: mtnear1@gmail.com

Saturday, June 7 – SPIRE ROCK (Homestake Pass area)

Description: Spire Rock's granite offers a variety of climbing options: cracks, bolts and topropes. We will meet at East Gate Strip Mall at 6am (near the footbridge) and carpool east, through Butte and over Homestake Pass to Spire Rock. Bring your climbing harness and shoes as well as water and food. This should be a full day of enjoyable climbing if the weather cooperates. All experience levels are welcome.

Leader: Joshua Phillips 543-0898

Sat-Sun, June 7-8 – TRM CABIN (Bitterroots)

Rating: Class 1-2; *Mileage:* 4.0+; *Elevation:* 1200'+

Description: There still should be snow around the cabin, and hopefully the road will be open to the trailhead. The idea is to hike, probably through mixed conditions, to the cabin and stay over night. There may be some good skiing yet up that high, we'll go up mid day on Sat. and come down Sun. afternoon.

Leader: Julie Kahl 543-6508

Saturday, June 26 - McLEOD PEAK (Rattlesnake) Classic Series Trip

Rating: Class 3; *Mileage:* 9.0; *Elevation:* 4000'

Description: If you pay taxes in Missoula County, you will be paying me to take this trip. I plan on searching for several survey monuments along the way and obtaining very accurate positions on some of those we find. I (we) will be carrying a survey tripod and high accuracy GPS receiver to obtain data which will improve our knowledge of the basic framework of the Public Land Survey System. If participants have an interest in GPS or surveying, I will be glad to share what I know. If not, you can ignore me while I set up my equipment, and I will not be offended. McLeod is the highest peak in the Rattlesnake area, and we will approach it from the west. The distance is much shorter than using the Rattlesnake corridor, the terrain is only slightly more difficult.

Leader: Steve Niday- 721-3790

July 18/19 to July 27, 2008 – WIND RIVER RANGE CLIMBING TRIP

Description: There is something for everyone in this week-long trip to Titcomb Basin. Whether you enjoy backpacking, fishing, scrambling, snow/ice climbing or rock climbing, Titcomb has it all! This trip will begin with a two day (15 mile) hike from Elkhart Park Trailhead outside of Pinedale, Wyoming into the basin to establish a base camp near upper Titcomb Lake. There is a high concentration of scrambles, snow/ice climbs, fifth class multi-pitch routes and trout filled lakes in this stunning alpine setting. Some may even use this trip as the perfect launch pad for climbing Gannet Peak (Wyoming's high point). Save these dates, bring the kids if you have 'em, and come enjoy the heart of the Wind River Range with us! (no limit to number of participants)

Leader: Joshua Phillips - 543-0898

2008 Classic Series

<u>Month</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Leader</u>
June	McLEOD PEAK (Rattlesnake)	Scramble	Steve Niday
July	GRAY WOLF PEAK (Missions)	Scramble/Climb	Lewis Kogan
August	4th Annual GLACIER CLASSIC	<i>Various</i>	S. Niday/F. Dean
September	SWAN PEAK (Swans)	Scramble/Climb	Lewis Kogan
October	LOLO PEAK (Bitterroots)	Scramble	Lewis Kogan
November	MT. CALOWAHCAN (Missions)	Scramble/Climb	Forest Dean
December	LOLO PASS (Bitterroots)	Backcountry Ski	Steve Schombel

TRIP FORUM

Mt. Hood- Oregon High Point

I'd like to set tentative dates of June 14, 15 and 16 for a trip to Mount Hood. It's tentative not only because of the weather but also because I'm expecting some in-laws to visit sometime in June. The plan would be to drive over Saturday, try to grab a few hours of sleep, and to start up the south side around midnight. By mid June a snow bridge has usually collapsed, so you have to go up the West Crater Rim and negotiate some snow and ice which is a little steeper than on the easiest route. It is also a little longer but quite doable. Sunday Afternoon we'll rest and recover for the drive home Monday. Call *Steve Schombel* at 721-4686 for more details.

Hollowtop Mountain Climb

Hollowtop, an old volcanic cone is the highest peak in the Tobacco Root Mts. of southwest Montana at 10,600 ft. It takes 3 hrs to drive from Missoula to the Garrison/Pony area. It's been 23 years since I last climbed Hollowtop and things have changed in the Tobacco Roots since then. Back then, in July, we camped at Cataract Lake, then drove another 3/4-1 mile back on a two track road until it stopped about a mile from the base of the peak. It was an easy walk to the base of the peak and from there one party attempted an unsuccessful technical climb up a couloir, and I was the only member of the other party who summited via a fourth class 'grassy ramp'. The summit is a grassy ridge that continues about another 1/2 mile to the summit of Jefferson. This is pretty much a full day climb and we may encounter some snow above, and there is a slight chance there may be a snow cornice to 'punch through.' I believe the road back to Cataract Lake is still there, there is also some interesting rock climbing around the old Strawberry Mine on the way. Heavy use by ATV's in the area makes me suspect that the Cataract Lake area (and possibly the few other lakes in the basin) get heavy use, and we may find ATV roads going to the base of the peak, or conversely that the FS has closed off the roads at Cataract Lake to discourage heavy use. So, we could find 'roads' to the base of the peak, or have to walk all the way from Cataract Lake, or any combination of the two. At this time our plans are to drive down to the area on Thurs. July 3rd. probably check out other stuff in the area in Fri. July 4th, climb Sat. (with an early start) and come back to Missoula on Sun. Just as a heads up, there are not a lot of tourist's amenities like hotels and restaurants in this area, but there are a few more developed campgrounds. *Julie Kahl* 543-6508



"Bob Marshall Wilderness" Backpack

For next summer I am thinking of going up the North Fork Of The Blackfoot into what is actually the Scapegoat Wilderness. I've never been there but looking at a map it looks like a 6-7 mile hike to the North Fork Cabin, North Fork waterfall is another 1/2 mile or so. We could set up a base camp in that area and do some day hikes like to Falls Point, or there are two 25-30 mile loops that would bring us back to the same trailhead. I'd like to hear from people who have been in this area for suggestions of destinations etc. I'm planning on mid July 2008 that still seems like the best window between -still frozen in and -the start of fire season. *Julie Kahl* 543-6508

TRIP REPORTS

April 5- East St. Mary's Peak (Mission Mountains)

Jim Haggin, Jesse Johnson, and Alden Wright left Missoula to climb St. Mary's at 6:30 am. We followed the excellent directions posted on Summit Post to get to the trailhead (<http://www.summitpost.org/mountain/rock/152947/east-saint-marys-peak.html>). We started climbing at 8 am, and we initially missed the trail, but we found it a ways up. The "trail" is an unofficial "game trail", but it beats going through the brush. There was 5-6 inches of new snow, and the old snow started getting deep at about 5000'. When we got to 6600' we could hear the wind blowing very hard above us, and it was cold and low visibility, so we turned around. Jim managed to go down most of the way on his snowshoes with very little slipping, but Jesse and I slipped and fell down a lot. *Alden Wright.*

April 12 – Trapper Peak (Bitterroots)

There were 14 participants on the April 12 climb of Trapper Peak. When we in the first car headed up the road to the trailhead, we were driving on snow before we got to the Lavene Creek road turnoff. In front of us was a 4-wheel drive pickup winching himself out from being stuck. He advised us to turn around, but in doing so, we got one of 2 cars high-centered and spent half an hour digging it out. We left the cars about 9:00 with Joshua Phillips leading the faster group and Alden Wright bringing up the rear. The views were good and the weather was sunny.



When we got a ways above the summer trailhead, Jeff Kinderman was having trouble with his skins, and snowshoers Ann Maechtlen and Jim Maclean decided to forego the summit. Then Lee Coble wasn't feeling well, so he and his wife Carolyn Pardini also decided not to go to the top. Meanwhile, Joshua was leading Heather Johnson, Aaron Baldwin, Rick Finley, Tony Coble and Brett Doucett to the top. They reached the top at about 2:15 pm. It was 50 degrees on the summit without a breath of wind. Alden caught up to Bill Thomas and Paul Cogswell a couple hundred feet below the top when the others were coming down at about 4:00. Bill and Alden were having some trouble with cramping legs and it was late. So with the summit in sight, Bill, Paul, and Alden decided to turn around.

The upper part of the ski down was great with excellent conditions. Lower down the snow was somewhat soft and mushy---no problem for the good skiers but hard for the intermediate skiers. Folks began trickling back to the cars by 6:00. Arrangements were made so people could switch cars and get home. The slower group on the way down, Alden, Bill, Paul and Brett, didn't get back to the cars until about 9 pm. Those waiting were kept warm and content by a campfire. *Alden Wright*

Joshua, Heather, Brett and Rick on the summit.

April 22 - Milltown Bluff

The weather was nice this Earth Day and lots of people took advantage of the opportunity to learn more about cleanup progress in the reservoir below. About twenty people were around for the hour we were there, and several more came and went. Russ Forba, EPA Project Manager for the Milltown area, spent a lot of time explaining what we could see, and he was willing to answer any and all questions. Keith Large from the State of Montana government was also around to help answer some questions. All in all it was a very informative day. *Steve Schombel*



Photo by Steve Schombel

April 27- Kootenai Rock Climbing

It was the perfect day for an early season climbing outing up Kootenai Creek. At the trailhead, Kevin Ball, Chris Dunn, Jason Miller and I met up with the Dean family (Forest, Angie, Frank and Karya). By about 11 we were hiking up the trail and enjoying the sun. Rounding the corner of the first buttress, we made our way up to High Wire (5.7). Kevin led High Wire and I led a climb to the left (unnamed?) that was more suitable for the kids. We took turns climbing and belaying. After these climbs we headed over to the second buttress where we paused for a group photo. Forest set up a line on Practice Rock and the Dean family climbed together. The



Frank Dean, Kevin Ball, Karya Dean, Forest Dean, Joshua Phillips, Jason Miller and Chris Dunn in front of "Practice Rock". Angie Dean Photo.

remaining four of us roped up (just above) on Captain Ging and Charlie's Overhang (both 5.9). Kevin led the overhang and I led Captain Ging. Kevin and Chris left together after climbing the overhang and the Dean family headed back as well. Jason and I stuck around a little longer to work through the moves on the challenging overhang. After watching me flail, gasp, and curse, Jason was able to unlock the problem with a key heel hook. I was spent and Jason was bloody. We sat for a while in the sun and then headed back to the car. It was good to be out climbing again and I hope we can go back soon. *Joshua Phillips*

April 27 - Mount Dean Stone

Only Fred Schwanemann and Thomas Tonev elected to hike with me on this gorgeous spring day. Earlier in the week I discovered that there is a locked gate (until May 15th) on the upper Deer Creek Road, miles from where I wanted to park, so we went up the west side from town. We got on a road network and pretty much picked the ones that were going uphill and/or in the right direction, and we made good choices for the most part since we had no trouble reaching the first beacon. Fred was the smart one – he brought snowshoes. The last 600' of vertical was all on snow up to three feet deep. But it had a pretty firm crust, so we only had to posthole a little. We made a wide detour to try to avoid some posting on the direct approach, but finally gave up. We were too near the top to turn around just because some silly yellow sign said “No Trespassing” way out on some snow covered hillside. On top there was some bare ground to rest and eat, and, of course, a huge array of communication towers. There was also a great view of the whole town and adjacent valleys and mountains. But, as we discovered, the top of Dean Stone is private land and posted; and the land above the South Hills is also posted. So, perhaps Dean Stone should be removed from the list of Missoula Horizon Peaks which our club is encouraging people to climb. *Steve Schombel*

The Relentless Winter of 2007-2008



Photo by Julie Kahl

1. Called to Order 6:15 PM
2. Attendance: Steve Niday, Steve Schombel, Julie Kahl, Forest Dean, Joshua Phillips, David Wright Ben Keggi, Chris Dunn and Lewis Kogan
3. Previous meeting minutes: Approved with no changes
4. Correspondence: Beacon park info
5. Treasurers report: Approx. \$456 in checking and \$358.12 in savings
 - a. Julie provided general annual expense/earnings report
 - i. Merchandise

Type	# Ordered	# Remaining
Long sleeve	15	6
Short sleeve	15	3
Hats	10	2
Beanie	10	1
Stickers	50	?
6. Club Business:
 - a. Old business
 - i. Current officer nominations (still open for others) with one revision from previous months minutes
 1. President – Joshua Phillips
 2. Vice-President – David Wright
 3. Secretary – Julie Kahl
 4. Treasurer – Steve Niday
 - ii. Expenditure of UM Outdoor Club funds
 1. Lewis Kogan will provide more specific details of approved use of club funds at next meeting
 2. Suggested uses
 - a. Training – Aerie Medical (ex. Backcountry 1st Aid)
 - b. Presentation – Ethics topic
 - c. Avalanche training – Minot Maser
 - iii. Trip leader point system
 1. General idea – each trip worth 2 points; points can be exchanged for club merchandise; value of each point to be determined; points never expire; canceled trip worth 1 point (rescheduled trip earns 1 point)
 2. Individual has to be a current member
 3. David Wright will analyze past year of leaders and suggest value
 - iv. Achievement awards
 1. Julie Kahl provided a rough draft list of non-peak awards; officers and those interested are encouraged to comment
 2. An annual best presentation award by general consensus was not approved
 - b. New business – deferred to next meeting
 - i. Next year's presentations, Beacon course donation, cabin renewal
7. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM

Cover Photo: Sunrise on El Capitan. One of the several couloirs used to access the ridge to the summit. More details in next months newsletter. Photo by Forest Dean.

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.*

Rocky Mountaineers Merchandise - For Sale!!

Short Sleeve T-Shirt	\$13.00 (\$17 non-members)
Long Sleeve T-Shirt	\$17.00 (\$22 non-members)
Caps	\$18.00 (\$23 non-members)
Fleece Beanie's	\$16.00 (\$20 non-members)
Stickers	\$ 1.50

Shirts and hats are available in various sizes and/or colors. For more information, or to place your order email: seniday@yahoo.com or call Steve at 721-3790. Additionally, all of the above will be available at the Club meetings as well as the racks at Pipestone Mountaineering

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PO Box 4262

Missoula, MT 59806

