



JULY 2008

THE MOUNTAIN EAR

This Issue:

3- President's Message

4- WME Course

5- GLACIER CLASSIC

6- Trip Listings

9- Trip Reports

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: Joshua Phillips
mtsurveyor@gmail.com

Vice-President: David Wright
wrightdk@gmail.com

Secretary: Julie Kahl
jawkal@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Steve Niday
seniday@yahoo.com

Webmaster: Alden Wright
alden@wrightmontana.com

Newsletter Editor: Forest Dean
mtnear1@gmail.com

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

(New) President's Message

First, I'd like to say thanks to Steve Niday for his service as President to our club. I feel that I have big shoes to fill and am honored to follow in his footsteps. Thank you all for this opportunity to serve The Rocky Mountaineers.

Secondly, there is something I'm excited about that I'd like to share with all of you. I have taken on the position of race director for the 2009 Grizzly Man Adventure Race with hopes of this becoming a club sponsored event. For those of you that don't know, this was the inaugural year for this race. It was held on April 19th, took place on Mt. Sentinel/University Mountain and had 120 participants. This year's event included the disciplines of trail running, mountain biking, and orienteering. As the only United States Adventure Racing Association (USARA) sanctioned race in the region, I see this as a great opportunity for exposure and community involvement for our club.

The 2009 race is still in the developmental stages and will require much work in course planning, fund raising and logistics. However, operating inside the USARA guidelines for a sprint level adventure race, this race can be whatever we want it to be. It can include all varieties of man-powered travel (running, cycling, boating, etc.) and participants' success will depend heavily on their route finding and map reading skills as well as athletic ability. What better group is there to sponsor such an event than The Rocky Mountaineers? I believe that sponsoring this event would stimulate membership growth and involvement as well as community awareness of our club. I am eager to hear feedback and input from members as this would be a big step for our club. To learn more about adventure racing and this year's Grizzly Man Adventure Race, visit the following links:

www.usara.com, www.grizzlymanrace.com

Joshua Phillips, President



*View of the Bitterroots from Woody Mountain. See Trip Reports later in this issue.
John Schwartz photo.*

Wilderness Medical Essentials Course

Sunday, June 29, the **UM Outdoors Club** and **The Rocky Mountaineers** sponsored a Wilderness Medical Essentials course in Missoula, taught by **Aerie Backcountry Medicine**. As billed, this 8-hour course was very worthwhile. Josh Olsen did an excellent job as instructor, covering an extremely wide range of topics in a short period of time, yet making sure we understood the main points of each topic, always with an engaging sense of humor. If you missed this course, check out Aerie Backcountry Medicine's website:

<http://www.aerimed.com> for future offerings. Because of funding acquired by Lewis Kogan for the UM Outdoors Club, we were able to offer this course for \$30 to the first fifteen members who signed up. The usual cost is \$65. We had fifteen people attend: Amy Gordon, Ann Maechten, Ben Keggi, Carol Anderson, Christina Van Roekel, Forest Dean, John Schwartz, Joshua Phillips, Karin Riley, Lewis Kogan, Lynda Dale, Nancy Shrader, Scott Doherty, Steve Niday, and Tom Hanou.



Aerie's Josh Olson discussing the "ABC's"



Students practicing carrying an injured climber.

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

Rating: Class 2; Distance: 5 miles; Elevation: 3000'

Description: From trailhead on the north side of Swiftcurrent Lake, ascend grassy slopes to the saddle between Mt. Henkel and Altyn Peak, then up ridge to the summit. Excellent wildlife viewing; Bighorns, Mtn Goats, Bears and Dean's group ascending Mt Wilbur. Bring binocs. Another option is to also go up Mt Henkel which I went up 25 years ago. Mt Henkel (8,700' El) is class 2 & easy class 3 with better views of Mt Wilbur and Iceberg Lake.

Leader: Tom Hanou

ICEBERG PEAK

Rating: Class 3-4

Description: This climb will ascend via the Iceberg Notch Route. See J. Gordon Edwards guidebook for details on this route.

Leader: Steve Niday

MOUNT WILBUR

Rating: Class 5, Distance: 4 miles; Elevation: 4500'

Description: We will get an early start and ascend via the "Stairstep Approach" to the "Thin Man's Pleasure Route". While this is not a sustained technical climb, it will involve a couple pitches of technical climbing and likely some rappelling or downclimbing on belay. Participants should have some proficiency with all of this. Group size will be limited to 6 climbers.

Special Equipment: Harness, belay device, helmet.

Leaders: Levi Webb and Forest Dean

PTARMIGAN TUNNEL

Rating: Class 1; Distance: 10 miles; Elevation: 2300'

Description: This will be a hike from the Many Glacier campground up the Ptarmigan Trail to Ptarmigan Tunnel.

Leader: Julie Kahl

Sunday

ALLEN MOUNTAIN

Rating: Class 3

Description: Route will be determined by those interested in making the climb.

Leader: Steve Niday

Contact: Forest Dean (mtnear1@gmail.com or 406-240-7612) or Steve Niday (seniday@yahoo.com or 406-721-3790) for more information.

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.

Thu-Sun, July 3-6 – HOLLOWTOP MOUNTAIN (Tobacco Root Mtns)

Description: 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 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.

Leader: Julie Kahl 543-6508

Friday, July 4 – LOLO PEAK/BACKCOUNTRY SKI (Bitterroots)

Rating: Class 2-3; *Distance:* 13.0 miles; *Elevation:* 4300'

Description: The plan is to meet at the Kmart parking lot at 5am on Friday morning, drive up the Mormon Peak road, summit Lolo, and ski the northwest face. We hope to be skiing down before the day warms up too much. Anyone interested email me ASAP. I'm sure we'll be back in time for barbecue and fireworks.

Leader: Joshua Phillips – mtsurveyor@gmail.com

Saturday, July 5 – GASH POINT (Bitterroots)

Rating: Class 2-3; *Distance:* 7.0 miles; *Elevation:* 3200'

Description: Access will be from the Bear Creek Overlook road, southwest of Victor. This will be a dog friendly hike, mainly going cross country on game trails. Expect non-technical snow travel on the upper reaches and I am going to bring an ice axe. For someone new to snow travel, this will be a good trip to learn how to use an ice axe and I will help anyone who wishes to learn. I have extra ice axes for anyone interested. I plan on getting an early start, please call me at 777-5819 in the evenings or email me with your number and I will contact you if you wish to go along.

Leader: Tom Hanou – 777-5819, tlhanou@aol.com

Fri-Sat, July 11-12 –GREY WOLF PEAK (Mission Mountains) CLASSIC SERIES TRIP

Rating: Class 4-5, *Distance:* 8-14 miles, *Elevation:* 4200-4800'

Description: Will hike up to Riddell Lakes and climb either the south couloir route, or traverse around to the east and climb the NE ridge. Route to be determined by interest. There is a steep mountaineers trail up to the Lakes. There will be an option of hiking up to the lakes on Friday evening and camping before climbing on Saturday. Participants should be in good shape and have some familiarity with high 4th class/low 5th class climbing.

Special equipment: Tribal recreation permit; ice ax, harness, helmet; proper clothing.

Leader: Lewis Kogan – 529-6943 or lewis.kogan@gmail.com

July 18-27 – 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-currently 7 people are going).

Leader: Joshua Phillips - 543-0898

Thu-Sun, July 24-27 – NORTH FORK OF BLACKFOOT (Scapegoat Wilderness)

Rating: Class 1; *Distance:* 14.0 miles; *Elevation:* 600'

Description: We will camp at the trailhead the night of July 24th (Thurs.) for an early start on Fri. morning. There is an elevation change of 600 feet between the trailhead and the area of the North Fork Cabin, in 7 miles. Those who know the area have given me tips on good places to camp. We will set up a basecamp, then checkout stuff in the area on Sat. and come out on Sunday.

Leader: Julie Kahl - 543-6508.

Saturday, August 2 – BITTERROOT “GRAND TRAVERSE” (Bitterroots)

Rating: Class 4, *Distance:* 17 miles, *Elevation:* 8300'

Description: For a couple years now I have been wanting to attempt what surely must be one of the great local multi-peak traverses. This “Grand Traverse” (name borrowed from the Tetons) will involve a very early start and hiking/running up the Little Rock Creek drainage. Once at its head we will climb El Capitan and then head east climbing The Lonesome Bachelor, and then the three Como Peaks and then back to the trailhead. All five peaks are over 9000'. The goal is to do this in one day- 24 hours or less

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

Fri-Sun, August 22-24 – 4TH GLACIER CLASSIC (Glacier National Park)

See all the information for this trip in article on page 5.

Sat- Mon, Aug 30-Sept 1 – MOUNT LOGAN (Glacier National Park)

Rating: Class 3, Distance: 24 miles, Elevation: 4500'

Description: For this Labor Day weekend adventure, we will start Saturday morning and hike into either Gunsight Lake or the Blackfoot Glacier Basin and camp. On Sunday we will attempt Mt. Logan (9239') by its West Face Route (class 3). Back to camp and hike out on Monday. This will be a moderately paced trip.

Anyone wishing to come along and not climb is welcome.

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

Fri-Sun, Sept. 12-14 – KINNERLY PEAK (Glacier National Park)

Rating: Class 4-5; Distance: 14.0 miles; Elevation: 5100'

Description: We will hike in on Friday to the Upper Kintla Lake environs and camp. Saturday will be the attempt of this 9,944' peak via the Northwest Face Route. Most of this route is class 3, but there are apparently a couple 4-5 pitches in the upper regions as well. Hike out and drive home on Sunday. If the weather is nice a late summer/early autumn climb in this fabulous NW corner of the Park is sure to be wonderful!

Special Equipment: Harness, helmet.

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

2008 Classic Series

<u>Month</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Leader</u>
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

Reminder:

You can now earn credit towards club merchandise simply by leading a trip and then submitting a trip report. See the June issue for details on this program. The following four trip reports go down in the annals as the first in this program! Congratulations to Joshua Phillips, Steve Schombel, Alden Wright and Steve Niday!

TRIP REPORTS

June 7 – Spire Rock (Homestake Pass area)

Emily Garlough, Jason Miller, Barry Thompson, John Anderson, Loren and I met at Eastgate at 6am and drove out to Spire Rock. Rick Finley (Helena) was there waiting and helped us get our bearings as the area was new to all of us. We split into two groups as we had so many climbers. Barry, John and Jason headed over to Frick and Frack and the rest of us climbed at the Beginner's Lead area. The weather was mostly pleasant with the occasional snow flurry, but the Beginner's Lead area remained mostly protected from the wind. We took turns leading, belaying, top-roping, and cracking jokes. Much time was spent laughing as Emily shared hilarious stories from working on a fire crew. Two friends of Emily's (Colin Merrin and John Erry) from Great Falls joined us at around noon. After everyone had a chance to climb the various climbs in the Beginner's Lead area, we headed over to Frick and Frack where Barry had left a TR set up for us. We climbed until our forearms could take no more and we headed back to the car in the early evening to rendezvous with Barry, John and Jason. Rick headed back to Helena, but the rest of us drove into Butte to enjoy dinner at Silver Bow Pizza. It was a great day of climbing and laughing. *Text and Pictures by Joshua Phillips*



Cover Photo: Rick Finley climbing 'Beginner's Crack' at Spire Rock. Photo by Joshua Phillips.

June 7- Black Mountain (Blue Mtn. Rec area)

Thomas Tonev, and Alden Wright (leader) met Hedwig Vogel-Wright at the gate of the O'Brien Creek Road at about 9:00 am. We hiked up the road for about 2 to 2 ½ miles looking for a trail. Finally, I got impatient, and Thomas and I went up the hillside. Hedwig didn't follow because she had a old dog who couldn't climb the steep hill. She said later that the trail was another 200 yards. Thomas and I climbed in a northerly direction cross-country to the top, and then came down going southeast. We eventually hit some logging roads and came out at a gate that said "no trespassing" in the other direction. We got back to the car about 1:30 pm. *Alden Wright.*

June 14 – Woody Mountain

It was a beautiful sunny early summer day, but only one person, John Schwartz, called to go along on the hike. Woody Mountain has a decent 2700' worth of elevation gain, and quite a bit of off trail travel the way I go up. On this day we found Mittower Gulch to be surging over its culvert at the place where we leave the road converted to trail. We had to get our feet a little wet. Next there is a little bit of steep bushwhacking, then a long slope that is getting more brushy every year. Soon this may not be a good way to go up. But the wild flowers are at their best this year. We ranged from Balsom Root carpeting the lower slopes down low to wilted Glacier Lillies between snow patches up high. In the middle were prolific Larkspur among the Balsomroot, Lakers purple and gold; while up high there were patches of fresh grass poking through the new snow, Celtics green and white. Plus we saw several Muleys and tracks and scat from many other types of wildlife. And the view, of course, were superb. Strangely, we did not see another single person from the time we left the car to our return. I was upset about the fact that it takes me along time and effort to reach the top of even a small mountain as I get older. But it was a wonderful day. Really, it only took us three hours to reach the top. A strong person could do it in one. And we lounged around on top for a long time and still got back to the car at 4:00. I certainly hope that Woody Mountain will be include in talks with Plum Creek about land purchases and public access, and that it someday can be added to Mount Jumbo, University, Waterworks Hill, Blue Mountain and others nearby that the public can hike and enjoy. *Steve Schombel*

June 28 – McLeod Peak (Rattlesnake Mountains) CLASSIC SERIES TRIP

It was advertised as 9 miles round trip with approximately 4000' of elevation gain. It certainly seemed like more to me, and I didn't even get to the summit. After some complicated logistics, and one wrong turn, eight of us reached the trailhead in the East Fork of Finley Creek. The main trail lasts for 1.2 miles, at which point there is a lesser trail that follows the north fork of the creek for a short distance before disappearing.

Another 1.8 miles of easy bushwhacking takes you to a nice basin with some small lakes. From there you can gain the ridge-top, which is the Flathead Indian Reservation Boundary, by various routes. Follow the ridge over one big bump and you are there. This is definitely a more desirable route than going up the Rattlesnake corridor. There are several survey monuments along the ridge, marking the Reservation Boundary and where section lines intersect it, along with a triangulation station on the summit. I managed to get a position on my primary target and



will be heading back up soon to get some more. I have too, since I left the equipment up there. Other than losing track of Roy for awhile, the trip went without a hitch. I was the last one out, and all 8 ice cold beers were still there. What amazing restraint by those reaching the vehicles early. A good time was had by all; Dell Meuchel, Jack Kuehn, Jason Holler, Joshua Phillips, Kurt Luebke, Pat Caufield, Roy Regel. *Steve Niday.*

A Final Word....

(Newsclip found and sent in by Steve Niday)

“Accident in Mountaineering- (name withheld), 21, died on June 6 in Squamish as a result of a climbing accident. It is thought that _____ was practicing falling when his protection ripped out. He fell head-first without a helmet, resulting in severe head trauma.”

You can put your own comment in if you want, I can think of several.

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

THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

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

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

Name: _____

Additional Family Members Names: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone (optional): _____

Email: _____

Additional Email (optional): _____

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

THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

PO Box 4262

Missoula, MT 59806

