



DECEMBER 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.**

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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

## **Monthly Meetings and Presentations**

### **Avalanche Safety Presentation by Steve Karkanen December 10, 2008**

Steve Karkanen of the West Central Montana Avalanche Center will show a new avalanche education film called "The Fine Line" and give a short talk on avalanche safety. For more information about the film, go to the filmmakers web site at: <http://www.rockymountainsherpas.com>.

**Pipestone Mountaineering** is hosting this event at their store on 129 W Front in Missoula. December 10 at 7 PM. It is free and open to anyone interested in avalanche safety and safe backcountry travel.

#### **Future Presentations:**

**January 14th** – *Nancy Shrader* tiptoed on the *tsingy*, swam in *La Piscine Naturelle*, climbed *Pic Boby*, had a porter carry her live chicken (dinner) to the camping hut, and walked in the symbolic shadow of the *Tsaranoro Massif*. She will show her pictures of 4 national parks in **Madagascar**. Her daughter, Julia, who has just returned from almost 3 years with the Peace Corps in Madagascar will also be present.

**February 11<sup>th</sup>** - *Stephen Porcella* will talk about his new, updated guide book to the **California 14'ers**, with new routes and photos. He will also have shots of climbs in **Lost Horse Canyon**, and will talk about the sad fact that they are quarrying rock in what should be a prime recreation area.

## **Avalanche Safety Training Field Day**

As a follow up to this months presentation on Avalanche Safety, **Minot Maser** is planning to lead a field day near Lolo Pass. Minot is the Backcountry Access Representative for our region, an avid skier, trip leader, and experienced avalanche safety educator. Participants will have the opportunity to evaluate snow conditions by digging pits, doing stability tests, etc. Also included will be transceiver training. Hopefully, we can end the day with a bit of skiing!

This event is scheduled for Saturday, December 13 at the new Avalanche Beacon Park. **HOWEVER**, due to the extremely low snowfall totals thus far, the event will likely be postponed. To register, or for more information, please contact Joshua Phillips at [mtsurveyor@gmail.com](mailto:mtsurveyor@gmail.com)

## 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, December 20 – LOLO PASS SKI AREA (Bitterroots) *CLASSIC SERIES TRIP***

**Description:** This will be a cross country ski around the loop tracks at Lolo Pass Ski Area. If there is enough snow, some backcountry skiing could take place as well.

**Leader:** Ron Pierson - [rpierson@mt.gov](mailto:rpierson@mt.gov) or 370-5470

## **NEW –2009 Classic Series- (Proposed)**

<u><b>Month</b></u>	<u><b>Destination</b></u>	<u><b>Activity</b></u>
January	Squaw Peak	BC Ski
February	Chief Joseph Pass	Cross Country Skiing
March	Lonesome Bachelor	Ski/Climb
April	Trapper Peak	Ski/Snowshoe
May	Gray Wolf Peak	Snow climb
June	Canyon Peak	Climb
July	Great Northern Mountain	Scramble
August	GLACIER CLASSIC (Rising Sun)	Various
September	Holland Peak	Scramble
October	McDonald Peak	Scramble
November	Lolo Peak	Scramble/Snowshoe
December	Ward Mountain	Ski/Snowshoe

*Next year's Proposed Classic Series is listed here. Feel free to add your input, or volunteer to lead one or more of these trips.*



## **TRIP FORUM**

Sunday, December 28: Old Fogey Ski Tour! Since the persistent leader is turning sixty on this day, I would like to lead a slow and easy tour around the groomed loop at Lolo Pass. This will be followed by a soak at the hot springs and a dinner out. I'd like to invite friends to join me and my family for the ski. The other events would be optional. Reply to this message if interested, or call Steve Schombel at 721-4686.

Sunday Jan. 10th, Cross Country Ski at Lolo Pass - if there is enough snow we can ski the "A" or Lee Creek trail. Contact Julie Kahl if interested.

Sunday February 22<sup>nd</sup> - We have the Cabin at Chief Joseph Cross Country Ski area for the night, ski late in the day, moonlight ski, what ever we want. The cabin sleeps 8 and we'll do it on a first come first served basis. Contact Julie Kahl if interested.

## **TRIP REPORTS**

### **November 8- Squaw Peak**

From my apartment the only mountain I can see is Squaw Peak so I've had my eye on it for a while now. We met at the Barnes and Noble parking lot on a rainy, foggy, gray morning. I wasn't sure if it was worth the trip, but Gina Pasini and Ann Maechtlen showed up ready to go so we all piled into my truck and off we went. As we gained altitude the rain stopped but the fog lingered. There was a bit of snow up top, but none on the road so it was easy truckin'. We passed a few hunters along the way and began to hike by 9:30. They elected that I lead so I would take the blast from a hasty hunter – but I wasn't worried (and in truth neither were they). We saw quite a number of animal tracks in the snow, including rabbit, deer, and possibly Lynx. Ann was very knowledgeable about the local birds and had her binoculars out quite often. After a few miles of pretty easy walking we reached the final half mile stretch. There was a good bit of snow and some big rocks so only Ann and I summited. The view from the top was beautiful. We were sandwiched in an air pocket between cloud layers and could see the white capped peaks of the Rattlesnake, the Bitterroots, and an ocean of white. Ann said it reminded her of the Olympic Mountains. Things had warmed up a bit so the roads were good and muddy for the descent which made things a bit of fun and left my truck a mess. It was my first time leading and I am living proof that even the cheesiest of us can do it. *Chris Dunn*

### **November 15 – Chaffin Creek (Bitterroots)**

Paul Jensen, Chris Dunn, Noël and I met at the Kmart parking lot at 6:45am and headed down together to the Chaffin Creek trail head. There, we met up with Mike Hoyt and also found Roger Steven's truck. (Roger had said that he might join us, but it looked like he and the dogs got an earlier start.) We headed up the snowy trail at about 9am following the tracks of Roger and his two dogs, Hershey and Oreo. We stopped along the way to take pictures of the many ice formations in the creek and the views offered of Sugarloaf. Mike, having been up Chaffin several times before, pointed out other interesting features of the drainage, such as the route to access Little Tin Cup. At the crossing, the creek proved too difficult for us to negotiate, so we continued on the north side through a little bit of a bushwhack and reached Hart Lake at 2pm. After a quick bite to eat and some deliberation on whether to continue, we crossed the log jam and pressed on. A fierce wind greeted us at Tamarack Lake and we spent only a few minutes at the dam before heading back. We found both lakes almost entirely frozen over. The hike back was uneventful, and we made it back to the trail head just before it got dark. Amazingly, we never did bump into Roger. His truck was gone when we reached the trail head. We said goodbye to Mike and the four of us headed for the Hamilton House in Victor. Chris entertained us with humorous anecdotes from his summer travels as we ate Fish and Chips and imbibed in a few of the pub's

libations: Black and Tans, Dark Castles (“sounds scary”), Hot Buttered Rum, and an interesting concoction called the Mighty MacAlister! *Joshua Phillips*

### **December 6 – Chief Joseph Ski Area (Bitterroots)**

Ski tour to Chief Joseph Ski Area, December 6, 2008. Alden Wright, Jesse Johnson, and Jesse's two boys, Abe, age 7, and Zach, age 5 had an enjoyable day of skiing. About 3 miles of trail over roads was packed and other trails were skier-tracked. We saw no other skiers. *Alden Wright*

## **Rocky Mountaineers Merchandise**

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
<b>Newsletter Archive CD</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>

*All of the Mountain Ear newsletters since 1960 on one CD!!*

Shirts and hats are available in various sizes and/or colors. For more information, or to place your order email: [seniday@yahoo.com](mailto: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

## Meeting Minutes Of The Rocky Mountaineers      12 November 2008

1. Call To Order 6:26
2. Record Attendance: Josh Philips, Steve Niday, Alden Wright, Steve Schombel, Chris Dunn, Christine Foster
3. Minutes from 8 Oct. 2008 Accepted
4. Correspondence

Since the new website went up Josh's been getting e-mails, some international

Self rescue class at U

Silent Auction Bitterroot ski class, Nov. 13th

5. Treasurer's Report Checking -\$538.33, Savings same as last time \$54.45

6. Club Business

### A. Old

Peter Dayton, liability statement useless, can only be sued for reliance, limited usefulness with specific dangers sometimes

### - Updates

#### GMAR2

Meeting tomorrow night

RunWild Missoula will umbrella with a 501(c) 3

Rocky Mountaineers Website redesign, \$100 for Allen Warren?      Allen Warren -yes

What to do with old gallery?-not resolved

TRM Picasa site? yes

Set up board of directors e-mail list? No

Get more new members involved

Signup sheet at meetings

Forest had most recent list?

#### Merchandising

There will be a new way to pay on website besides paypal

Only short sleeved shirts and 1 beanie left

New order before Christmas -yes? Hoodies? -yes: cotton or fleece?

Get some in Griz & HS colors

Get photos on web site

Future speakers

Mario Locatelli, Jim & Africa, Leadership talk, GMR2 people to speak

May -award winners give presentation, McLeod off the Missoula Horizon peaks list

Jan. & Feb. "hosting weekends" Next fall

B. New

- 2009 calendars

Passed out samples, will discuss on the web.

- Classic Series -next year's list -next time

- Bitterroot Summit Registers- next time

7. Adjourn Meeting 7:02



## THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual Membership Fee: \$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.*

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