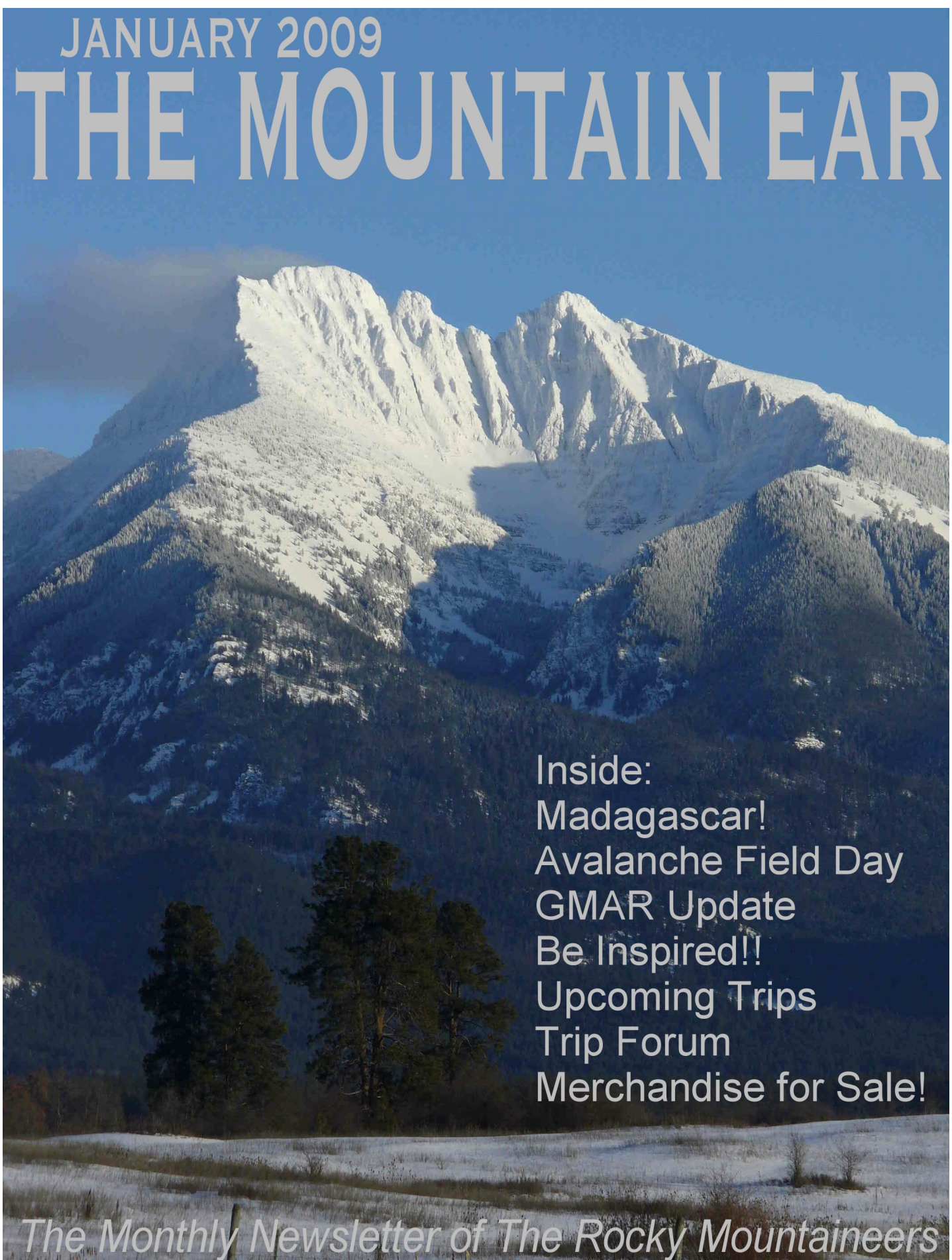


JANUARY 2009

THE MOUNTAIN EAR



Inside:
Madagascar!
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GMAR Update
Be Inspired!!
Upcoming Trips
Trip Forum
Merchandise for Sale!

The Monthly Newsletter of The Rocky Mountaineers



Climb. Hike. Ski. Bike. Paddle.
Dedicated to the Enjoyment and Promotion of
Responsible Outdoor Adventure.

Club Contacts

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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

Monthly Meetings and Presentations

MADAGASCAR!

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.

Nancy will give her Presentation at **7:00 PM on Wednesday, January 14 at Pipestone Mountaineering**. The Rocky Mountaineers Business and Planning meeting precedes this and begins at 6:00 PM. Both events are open to all!

Next Month:

February 11th - 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

January 17, Lolo Pass at the new Beacon Training Park
8AM Departure from K-Mart parking lot to car pool.

Join us for a field day to cover basics on snow stability assessment via snow pits, shovel shear tests, compression tests, and Rutschblocks followed by transceiver practice and modern rescue digging techniques. Finish up the day with a little backcountry skiing. Non-skiers welcome as snowshoes will suffice. Bring backcountry equipment: shovel, transceiver, probe and snow transport device (skis w/ skins or snowshoes) as well as a bag lunch. Extra transceivers, probes, and shovels available.

Instructor: Minot Maser

Backcountry Access Regional Rep

Level III US Certified; Canadian Level I

Registration or Questions contact: Joshua Phillips, mtsurveyor@gmail.com

President's Message

Happy New Year Rocky Mountaineers! I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday season. I spent a week in Texas visiting my parents and was glad to have a break from the arctic temperatures that had settled over western Montana. I returned to this winter wonderland and am ready to start the new year with plenty of snow and backcountry skiing.

I mentioned at the previous meeting that we were running short on trips and trip leaders. Things haven't changed over the holidays. We still need more trips to list in our newsletters. I also gave a heads-up to everyone that we'd be asking for input at the January meeting on what types of trips you all would like to see more of. Come to the January meeting ready to offer your input (private ballot style) on what types of trips you would like to see The Rocky Mountaineers offer in the future. If you have a specific place you'd like to explore, or a certain activity you'd like to enjoy, we want to hear about it. See you at the meeting!

Joshua Phillips

GrizzlyMan Adventure Race Update

Registration is opening this month for the GrizzlyMan Adventure Race and the Black Bear Challenge! Slated for April 18th, these two races will be held at Lubrecht Experimental Forest and The Resort at Paws Up. The GrizzlyMan will be a 6-10 hour race that will include trail running, mountain biking and whitewater paddling. The Black Bear Challenge will be a 3-6 hour race that will include trail running and mountain biking. Both courses will require racers to navigate by map and compass to checkpoints established throughout the forest. This event is being planned and organized entirely by The Rocky Mountaineers members! With three months until race day, we desperately need your help. We will need around 40 volunteers on race day to make this event a success. Contact Emily Garlough egarlough@gmail.com if you are interested in lending a hand on race day. To learn more about the races visit www.grizzlymanrace.com

BE INSPIRED!!

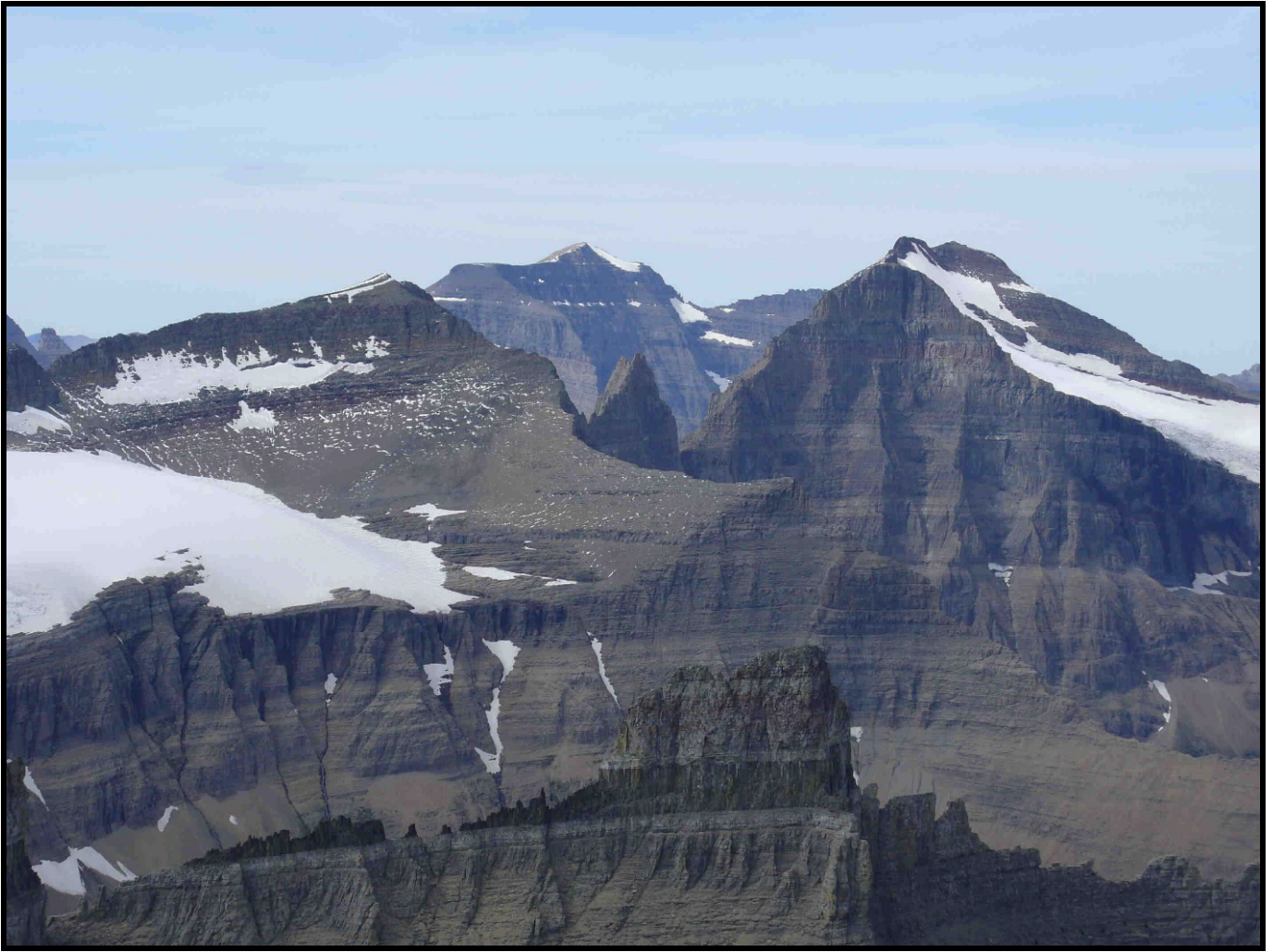
In light of my friend Forest's inspirational plea for this Club to be more about the process and less about the material, I offer three of my most coveted Glacier Park aspirations.

Lithoid Cusp: The Lithoid Cusp (see picture below) is the only 9,000' peak in Glacier Park that remains unclimbed. I have observed it from Mt. Merritt and from Ipasha Pk, studied it from aerial photos, reviewed the written accounts of multiple attempts, and it is certainly worthy. My approach would be from Mokowanis Lake in the late winter/early spring. Try to catch it in solid ice conditions to mitigate the almost unprotectable nature of the rock. It's a long approach and you might have to make the trip several times before catching it right, but that's part of the reward. This goal is something you put on your life list, not your next year's list. Find someone who spends time in the local mountains, who is willing and able to give you good information about local conditions. Listen to that person and be ready to act on short notice. If you perceive a pending opportunity, get ready. When conditions are right, don't hesitate. You may then have a chance.

Peaks 9430': These Glacier Park peaks are rarely climbed, and never linked, to my knowledge. To elevate this pair to worthy, you have to climb them by a new route. One option is the ridge from Parke Pk, as a traverse of both peaks. I've looked at it and it looks doable but not inspirational. The standard approach is from Long Bow Lake, this should be considered as a descent route. The route I like is from the northeast side, via Red Medicine Bow Creek. Look at the obvious route via Kintla Glacier to the saddle between the two peaks. I have from Long Knife Pk, and I like it. It would require skill on ice and rock and would likely work best under solid snow/ice conditions. First ascent, probably; worthy, absolutely.

Mt. Cleveland: It's big and remote, has a reputation, and still has several first winter ascent routes. Both of the routes I covet are from Whitecrow Basin. I spent my most miserable time ever in the mountains one winter in that basin suffering from bronchitis and a ridiculously high temperature at ridiculously low temperatures, trying the route I had picked out from Mt. Merritt. An even more intriguing option is the Route of the Wolverine. This route was done by a GPS collared wolverine, and I have the coordinates from that GPS collar. It was attempted by humans once... Hey, a wolverine did it, how tough can it be?

Steve Niday



The Lithoid Cusp (el. 9100') is the triangular spire in middle of picture. It sits between massive Mount Merritt (10,004') on its right (north) and Ipasha Peak (9572') on its left (south). Mt. Cleveland (10,466' – highest in the Park) rises in the middle distance, while the B-7 Pillar (another technical endeavor) is in the foreground.

Picture taken from summit of Mt. Wilbur looking northwest.

Photo by Forest Dean.

"You cannot stay on the mountain forever. You have to come down again. So why bother in the first place? Just this: What is above knows what is below, but what is below does not know what is above. One climbs, one sees. One descends, one sees no longer, but one has seen. There is an art of conducting oneself in the lower regions by the memory of what one saw higher up. When one can no longer see, one can at least still know." -Rene Daumel, *Mont Analogue*

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.

Saturdays, January 10, 17, 24, & 31 – BACKCOUNTRY SKIING (Bitterroots)

Rating: East to Moderate level backcountry skiing; *Elevation Gain:* 4000'-7000'

Description: I plan on skiing at least every Saturday in January at various locations in the Bitterroots and am encouraging folks to come along. The weather and snow conditions/stability will dictate the locations and the amount of vertical feet gained. Ward Mountain, Mill Point, Gash Point and other ridges in the Bitterroot are among the prospective locations.

Special Equipment: Skis/skins or splitboard/skins, beacon, shovel, probe

Leader: Joshua Phillips-H: 543-0898, email: mtsurveyor@gmail.com

Sunday, January 11 – LOLO PASS (Bitterroots)

Description: This will be a cross country skiing trip on the "A" or Lee Creek trail.

Leader: Julie Kahl

Saturday, January 17 – SEELEY LAKE XC TRAIL SYSTEM

Description: Ski at Seeley Lake XC trail system; Usually good groomed snow; Dogs allowed on a snowmobile/dog sled route near the XC ski trails.

Leader: Jim McLean, jim@frenchtownpt.com, or 626-2471.

Monday, January 26 - SQUAW PEAK (Reservation Divide area) *CLASSIC SERIES TRIP*

Rating: Class 2, *Mileage:* 10.0 miles, *Elevation Gain:* 3850'

Description: Will leave from Muralts at the Wye at about 8:00am. Plan is to drive up a ways and then sort of follow the Stony Creek drainage (map shows an old road) a ways before trying to pick up the "Pack trail" which ascends to Squaw Peak (7996') from the south/southwest. Trip distance could be a bit longer if roads are impassable to the point where I hope to get to.

Special Equipment: Ski's with skins or snowshoes. Possibly a transceiver.

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

Thursday, January 29 - LUBRECHT FOREST SKI TRIP (Garnet Range)

Description: This will be a, hopefully, quiet ski trip around some of the easy trails at Lubrecht in mid week. The main purpose will be to refresh my memory on the route we will follow on the moonlight ski listed later. It should only take half a day, but we can explore other trails if anyone is interested. I'll probably bring my dog.

Leader: Steve Schombel -721-4686.

Saturday, January 31 – GARNET GHOST TOWN (Garnet Range)

Rating: Class 2; *Distance:* 14 miles; *Elevation:* 1500'

Description: We'll head up early on Saturday morning and X-country ski or snowshoe up to the ghost town and then make our way down. Another option is to rent a cabin up there for a total cost of \$30 a night. This is a leisurely, scenic trip.

Special Equipment: Skis or snowshoes, possibly overnight gear.

Leader: Chris Dunn: 203-4962, email: hamman eater@gmail.com

Saturday, February 7 - LUBRECHT FOREST SKI TRIP (Garnet Range)

Description: Sunset/ Moonlight Cross-Country Ski at Lubrecht Forest, under an almost full moon. We'll ski the gentler trails as they wind through this beautiful local forest. Plan on taking a long break at the mid-way shelter, so bring hot drinks and snacks. This is an easy ski for people who are not accustomed to low-light skiing. Harsh weather will cancel the trip and no pets, please. Low or no snow, and we'll divert to Lolo Pass. For the late afternoon meet-up/ride-sharing contact Outings Coordinator, John Wolverton at: yodelingdog@hotmail.com

Leader: I'm a co-leader on this ski trip, so it is open to The Rocky Mountaineers members. If you want more information you can call Steve Schombel at 721-4686, but if you want to participate you must contact John Wolverton, above, to get the time and place to meet.

Sat- Sun, February 21-22 – CHIEF JOSEPH PASS (Bitterroots) *CLASSIC SERIES TRIP*

Description: 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.

Leader: Julie Kahl

2009 – The Rocky Mountaineers – CLASSIC SERIES

| <i>Month</i> | <i>Destination</i> | <i>Activity</i> | <i>Leader(s)</i> |
|---------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| January | SQUAW PEAK | BC Ski | Forest Dean |
| February | CHIEF JOSEPH PASS | Cross Country Skiing | Julie Kahl |
| March | LONESOME BACHELOR | Ski/Climb | Joshua Phillips |
| April | TRAPPER PEAK | Ski/Snowshoe | Alden Wright/David Wright |
| May | GRAY WOLF PEAK | Snow climb | Forest Dean |
| June | CANYON PEAK | Climb | Forest Dean |
| July | GREAT NORTHERN MTN | Scramble | Forest Dean |
| August | GLACIER CLASSIC (Rising Sun) | Various | Forest Dean/Steve Niday |
| September | HOLLAND PEAK | Scramble | |
| October | MCDONALD PEAK | Scramble | |
| November | LOLO PEAK | Scramble/Snowshoe | |
| December | WARD MOUNTAIN | Ski/Snowshoe | Joshua Phillips |

TRIP FORUM

Tetons or Glacier NP- Last year Joshua Phillips and I went down to the Tetons in mid-March to attempt the Middle and South Tetons. Weather interfered (to the tune of 2 feet of white stuff in 24 hours) as we got up into Garnet Canyon. Such an amazing area though, especially in winter...its hard not to want to go back and give it another try! So, looking to try and do just that. Would be looking at a 4 day trip somewhere in late March to early April. Ski up Garnet Canyon and then up between the Middle and South Tetons. All the usual ski, avalanche, winter camping and climbing gear would be needed. If conditions are poor in the Tetons, a plan B would be to ski up the Belly River in Glacier to scope out the Lithoid Cusp (see Steve Niday article). This trip could also involve a possible climb of Mt. Merritt if conditions permit. Either of these trips will require some substantial previous winter climbing experience. If interested in discussing the options, contact: Forest Dean @ 240-7612 or mtnear1@gmail.com

Gunsight/Edwards (GNP)- Tentatively planning a 3 day trip in early May to attempt a two-fer of Gunsight Mountain and Edwards Mountain in Glacier National Park. Trip would involve hiking and skiing up the Gunsight Pass Trail to the Sperry Glacier area on a Friday, then attempting these two peaks on Saturday and Sunday and then heading out. Both are 9000'+ peaks. Conditions and temperatures will dictate some of the gear needed, but we would likely be treating this as a winter camping and climbing trip. If interested, contact: Forest Dean @ 240-7612 or mtnear1@gmail.com



Winter has finally arrived! Use caution in the high country- most reports are of pretty unstable snow conditions right now and this could persist for some time. Joshua Phillips photo (approach to Nipple Knob in Bitterroots).

Rocky Mountaineers Merchandise

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Short Sleeve T-Shirt | \$13.00 (\$17.00 non-members) |
| Long Sleeve T-Shirt | \$18.50 (\$23.50 non-members) |
| Caps | \$18.00 (\$23.00 non-members) |
| Fleece Beanie's | \$16.00 (\$20.00 non-members) |
| Stickers | \$ 1.50 |
| Newsletter Archive CD | \$20.00 |

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 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 --December 10th, 2008

1. **Call To Order** - 6:27PM

2. **Attendance**-Joshua Phillips, David Wright, Steve Niday, Julie Kahl, Steve Schombel, Matt Gates

3. **Minutes** from Nov. 12th, 2008 - Accepted

4. **Correspondence** - None

5. **Treasurer's Report**

- \$413.35 checking,
- ordered more merchandise and haven't paid for it yet
- Alden was going to make a deposit from Paypal for \$189

6. **Club Business** - jumped ahead to most pressing issues

A. **Old**

- Updates

GMAR2

*Paws-Up interested, can have a route on their land including an underpass under Hwy 200 and boat shuttles; will put together a lodging packet; and can use restaurant & bar after the race

*Also Hammer Nutrition, REI, Runwild Missoula

*Josh & Alden ran the course it took 7 ½ hrs - 8 hr. race

*Ordered 200 T-Shirts, 300 can run

*Clinics start 1/15/2009, REI will hold one

*Can register at REI, Runners Edge

*Search & Rescue will be there

Rocky Mountaineers Website redesign

*Alden not here

Set up board of directors e-mail list? yes

Field Day

*When and where to meet -sent around a signup sheet at meeting

*Is it free and open to all -yes

*What to bring -bring what gear you have, there will be some equipment to borrow

2009 calendars -brought a prototype

Merchandising -above

Future speakers -not discussed

B. **New**

- Meetings to plan trips

*Have to have business meetings

*Wasn't necessary in the past

*Shoulder seasons are always lean

*At Meetings ask people to tell us about a trip they've been on or would like to go on –

- Classic Series -next year's list

- Bitterroot Summit Registers- Next year

7. **Adjourn** Meeting 6:59PM

Cover Photo: Mt. Calowahcan in the Mission Mountains. Forest Dean photo.

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.*

THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS
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Missoula, MT 59806

