



JULY 2009

THE MOUNTAIN EAR

This Issue:

- *More Glacier Classic News***
- *New Trip Listings***
- *Rock Climbing Anchors Class!***
- *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
mountaineer@dkwright.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

The Rocky Mountaineers

5th Annual

GLACIER CLASSIC

Friday, August 28 – Sunday, August 30
Rising Sun Campground,
Glacier National Park

We invite all members, guests, friends (anyone!) to join us for our 5th Annual Glacier Classic. This year we will base our activities out of the Rising Sun Campground on the north side of St. Mary Lake. Listed below is the schedule of events. To let us know that you are coming, or to get more information please contact Forest Dean - mtnear@gmail.com , C: 406-240-7612.

Friday, August 28 – Drive up to Glacier and Rising Sun Campground. Hopefully, we will have a couple of volunteers to arrive early and secure campsites. Cost and campsites can be shared by number of attendees. For those interested, we have one (tentative) trip listed for Friday afternoon (see below). Friday evening, bring your own food and drink for dinner in the campground.

MATAHPI PEAK (Scramble)

Rating: Class 2-3, *Distance:* 6 miles, *Elevation:* 3500'

Description: I am listing this as “tentative”. Providing I can get up to Glacier early enough on Friday, I figured a “warm-up” scramble to this 9365' summit might be in order. We would start at the Siyeh Bend and hike up the trail toward Preston Park. Before getting that far, however, we would scramble up to the saddle between Going-to-the-Sun Mtn and Matahpi and then up to the peak. Would likely try to start around 2-3 PM. Should take about 3 hours.

Leader: Forest Dean – mtnear@gmail.com -240-7612

Saturday, August 29- The following are the list of activities currently planned. Of course, if nothing suits your fancy, you are more than welcome to do something else! After the days activities, return to camp for the infamous Hanou Burritos. (Tom Hanou always cooks the group burritos....bring your own sides, chips, desserts, drinks, etc.)

LITTLE CHIEF MOUNTAIN (Scramble/Climb)

Rating: Class 3, *Distance:* 10.5 miles, *Elevation:* 5900'

Description: This climb will start by hiking past St. Mary Falls and Virginia Falls before bushwacking up onto the lower slopes of Little Chief Mountain. From there we climb up and then south before cutting back to the north and the summit (9541'). Will likely be an all day affair if the bushwacking is difficult.

Leader: Forest Dean – mtnear@gmail.com -240-7612

FLORENCE FALLS (Hike)

Rating: Class 1, *Distance:* 9.5 miles, *Elevation:* 1200'

Description: This will be a hike from the Jackson Glacier Overlook down to the Gunsight Pass Trail and then up the St. Mary River Valley area a ways to a spur trail leading to beautiful Florence Falls.

Leader: **Julie Kahl** -543-6508 - jawkal@hotmail.com

GOAT MOUNTAIN/SIYEH PASS (Hike/Scramble)

Rating: Class 2, *Distance:* TBD, *Elevation:* TBD

Description: I will be leading a hike from Siyeh Bend to Siyeh Pass (4.7 miles), app. 2200' elevation gain. After crossing over to Baring Creek drainage, the trail goes down app. 4,000' elevation and 5.5 miles to Sunrift Gorge for those who want to go that way. There is a trail halfway down that ascends Goat Mtn (El. 8,816') to the east, however I am planning from the head of Baring Creek to traverse the ridge to Goat Mtn summit. There is an option from the summit of Goat Mtn to drop down to the northeast to Otokomi Lake and take the trail straight into Rising Sun CG. This is unknown territory for me going that way, but we are out for an adventure. It may go or might not. The trail the whole way is a wonderful hike and as good a wild flower viewing trip in Glacier as I have been on in season. There is a side trail on the way down that takes you over to Sexton Glacier on the east side of Going to the Sun Mtn and Mahtapi Peak. This will entail a car shuttle and those going with me all the way, be prepared for off-trail hiking.....shorts not recommended!

Leader: **Tom Hanou** - tlhanou@aol.com – 360-3564

REYNOLDS MOUNTAIN (Scramble/Climb)

Rating: Class 3, *Distance:* 5 miles, *Elevation:* 2500'

Description: The leader plans to hike up to the saddle on the NW side of Reynolds and then ascend the great diagonal ledge leading across the north face of the mountain. For more details, check out Edwards Climbers Guide.

Leader: **Joshua Phillips** – mtsurveyor@gmail.com – 396-3162

Sunday, August 30 – We have a couple scheduled activities on Sunday. Often the schedule changes depending on how worn out folks are from the day before. Feel free to depart whenever you want.

BEARHAT MOUNTAIN (Scramble/Climb)

Rating: Class 2-3, *Distance:* 8 miles, *Elevation:* 2600'

Description: We will hike from Logan Pass to Hidden Lake and then ascend the East Face Route (as described in Edwards guidebook). This should be a fairly easy climb and suitable for many. The 8684' summit isn't especially high, but because of its location, there should be some splendid views. Also, those not wishing to climb to the summit are certainly welcome to come along for the hike to Hidden Lake, then wait for the rest of the group, or return on their own.

Leader: **Forest Dean** – mtnear@gmail.com -240-7612

DIVIDE MOUNTAIN or RED EAGLE MOUNTAIN (Scramble/Climb)

Rating: Class 3, *Distance:* TBD, *Elevation:* TBD

Description: More on these two possibilities next month.

Leader: **Dean Stensland** – dstensland@boonekarlberg.com – 543-6646

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.

Fri-Mon, July 3-6 – NORTH FORK OF THE BLACKFOOT (Bob Marshall Complex)

Rating: Class 1 (trails); *Distance:* 15+ miles; *Elevation:* 400+

Description: Camp at the trailhead Fri. the 3rd. Hike 4th and set up a camp. Checkout the area on the 5th, return the 6th. There is also the possibility of doing loop trails that cover more ground. The trail will be about 7 1/2 miles long but with an elevation gain of like 400 ft. A water fall on the North Fork of the Blackfoot River is near by, as is a ranger station, but we will camp a short ways away from both.

Appropriate grizzly bear precautions expected from participants.

Leader: Julie Kahl -543-6508 - jawkal@hotmail.com

Saturday, July 4 – LANTERN CREEK (Bitterroots)

Rating: Class 1, *Distance:* 6 miles, *Elevation:* negligible

Description: Hike to Lantern Creek this Saturday, 7-4-09. We will hike trail #311 along the South Fork of Lolo Creek to Lantern Creek and back. The distance is 6 miles, grade slight, and est. time 3-4 hrs. If interested call Fred Schwanemann at 542-7372 or meet at K-Mart at 10 AM July 4th.

Saturday, July 25 – GREAT NORTHERN MTN. (Flathead Range) – CLASSIC SERIES TRIP

Rating: Class 2-3, *Distance:* 8 miles, *Elevation:* 4500'

Description: Great Northern Mountain (8705') sits on the east side of Hungry Horse Reservoir and in the Great Bear Wilderness. Listed in Falcon Press's "Hiking Guide to Montana" it is a fairly easy scramble to a spectacular mountain summit overlooking the southern part of Glacier National Park. Will get an early start leaving from Missoula. Plan is to ascend the standard Northwest Ridge route. A good trail exists through the woods which ascends to the ridge crest which is then followed all the way to the summit. Mostly class 2, but a little class 3 in cliffs near the top. Other than good footwear and adequate clothing, no special gear needed.

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

Sat-Sun, July 25-26 – ELLIS PEAK (Tendoy Mountains)

Rating: Class 2, *Distance:* 8 miles, *Elevation:* 2700'

Description: According to a source I learned about last spring, this peak (elevation 9699'), (not Dixon Mountain), is the highest point in the Tendoy Mountains. It is located in the remote and thinly populated area of Medicine Lodge Creek SW of Dillon. The plan is to camp near the base of the peak and then hike up a road to a mining area and on up to the top. The distance would be 3½ to 4 miles with @2700' elevation gain. If the road to the mining area is open to vehicles and not too rough we may be able to shorten the distance. Maps and Google Earth show the area to have gentle slopes and wide open hillsides. There will probably be a lot of loose scree. I'd like to head down on Friday afternoon or evening and do the peak on Saturday. Then Sunday there would be some options: fish, explore limestone canyons or take a side trip to Dillon on the way home. But I could just try to reach the base on Saturday and do the peak and head home Sunday.

Leader: Steve Schombel - 721-4686

Sunday, July 26 – Climbing Anchors Class!!! - FREE!

Description: Hands on instruction of knots, gear, anchor building and assessment with an experienced instructor. Build our own anchors, and if time and location allow, rappell/climb on them. Class usually lasts over 5 hours (without rappelling).

Location TBD (within 30 min drive of Missoula) – Meeting Time: 8 am

Equipment: Standard clothing/food for a full day of being outside, pencil/pen and clipboard if you want to take notes (hand out with space for notes given).

Climbing equipment (if you own): harness, belay device, belay carabiner, helmet, length of cord and webbing, climbing shoes

Preparation: If you are not familiar with basic climbing knots please find/get some cord (at least 4 feet) and try to tie the knots listed below. We will go over knots, but if you are already familiar with the basic knots you will have more time building anchors.

Knots to practice: overhand, figure eight, double fishermans, clove hitch, girth hitch, bowline, and prusik.

Online animated instructions can be found at: www.abc-of-rockclimbing.com/climbing-knots/overhand-knot.asp

Leader: Dylan Schmeelk - crackclimb@gmail.com, 493-0965.

Saturday, August 15 – BITTERROOT GRAND TRAVERSE (Bitterroots)

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

Description: Last year three of us attempted this and got 3/5ths of it (check out the September 2008 edition for the Trip Report). Back for a second attempt! Targeted date is August 15th. The goal of the trip is to climb El Capitan, The Lonesome Bachelor, and the three Como Peaks (all 9000'+) in one day. Will likely camp at the trailhead and start moving about 3 am. If things go right, we should be done by 9-10 pm. A LONG, LONG day with a lot of ups, downs, scrambling, trail running, bushwacking, climbing....sound fun? Make sure you're in shape for it, then give me a call or email.

Special Equipment: Harness, belay device.

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

Sat-Wed, August 22-26 – GLACIER BACKPACK (Glacier National Park)

Description: I have a campsite reserved at Lower Kintla Lake on August 22, then at Upper Kintla for the next three nights. I'm thinking of driving up Friday afternoon and paddling across the lower lake. There are many places to go from there. There is only room for, at most, three people beside myself, so call soon if you are definitely interested.

Leader: Steve Schombel -721-4686.

2009 – The Rocky Mountaineers – CLASSIC SERIES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Destination</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Leader(s)</i>
July 25	GREAT NORTHERN MTN	Scramble	Forest Dean
August 28-30	GLACIER CLASSIC (Rising Sun)	Various	Forest Dean/Steve Niday
September 19	HOLLAND PEAK	Scramble	Paul Jensen
October 3-4	MCDONALD PEAK	Scramble	Forest Dean
November	LOLO PEAK	Scramble/Snowshoe	
December	WARD MOUNTAIN	Ski/Snowshoe	Joshua Phillips

TRIP FORUM

Hyalite Peak - Hyalite Peak, south of Bozeman would be a long day hike. This will tentatively be scheduled for the weekend of August 1st. Julie Kahl -543-6508 - jawkal@hotmail.com

Bob Marshall backpack: It would be fun to take a long backpack into the Bob. One destination would be the Flathead Alps, deep in the southern half. It looks to be about 18-20 miles from Benchmark to Camp Creek Pass. From there it would be a short scramble to Junction Mountain, highest in this small group at 8695'. Just east of the pass are the slightly higher Twin Peaks, but, are they part of the Flathead Alps? We could return on a loop trail down to the South Fork of the Sun River, and maybe even take a side trip to the Chinese Wall. I'm not sure how I'll allot my vacation time this summer, but if this interests anyone I could get more serious. Late July or early August would be suggested times. stephenschombel@yahoo.com.

Cover Photo: Joshua Phillips and Ben Keggi ascending The Lonesome Bachelor during last year's "Bitterroot Grand Traverse" attempt. F. Dean photo.

TRIP REPORTS

June 6 – Canyon Peak (Bitterroots)

Trip was canceled due to rain and snow. I plan to reschedule for later in summer or fall. *Forest Dean*

June 7- Fort Fizzle/Sawmill Gulch area (Bitterroots)

The weather report for Rogers Pass for Sun. June 7th called for a high of 37 degrees and snow over night. We called off that trip and as things were suppose to be nicer here on Sun. instead we went to do more exploring in the Fort Fizzle Sawmill Gulch area. The idea was to find the high point of this ridge that comes off of Blue Mt. and runs for about 10 miles as the north face of Lolo Canyon. This is (former?) Plum Creek Land and I hope among the parcels that The Forest Service will be acquiring. A portion of the Nee-Mee-Poo trail runs through it, that Steve had been on, and that continently goes over the high point to



turn east and come out in Sleeman Gulch. I have dreams of there being a hiking, biking (skiing maybe) and separate ATV trails that run from Blue Mt. to Lolo Pass. With access at Fort Fizzle, Bear creek, Graves/Petty Creek, Howard Creek and other points.

Despite this being a logged over & burned over (1988) mostly logging roads hike it was a wild flower and wildlife bonanza. It never got too warm and clouds helped. We hiked up logging roads to a point over "the gully that the fire went up" -Fire Route Gully that David & Julie explored last month. After a lunch break we continued to the next ridge west where the not

so moderately steep Nee-Mee-Poo trail comes up. As we started late in the day Steve pointed out where the high point (that we couldn't see) was and we went down the trail to the extreme west end of Fort Fizzle. As we came down the very steep last 200-300 ft we could faintly see the remains of the earthworks for the Fort Fizzle breastworks that the Nez Pierce (1877) came up onto these ridges to avoid. Then hiked along the old Lolo Road back to our vehicles. A beer at Traveler's Rest convince store followed.

Mary Dalton's friend Julie Titchbourne had brought a wild flower book with them and we found it useful as we saw the noxious weeds: hounds tongue, leafy spurge and knapweed. Several different



penstemons were blooming, as well as scarlet and bullhead gilia. Mule ears, arnica and blanket flowers yellowed up the woods and we only saw lupine below in the Fort Fizzle area. The pasque flowers, shooting stars and glacier lilies were going to seed. The phlox was about played out. Alum and white camas dominated with Indian paintbrush and flowering shrubs: sarvis berry, wild rose, choke cherry and nine bark. We also saw flea bane daises, harebell and assorted vetches and some small white flowers we couldn't identify. We looked over the rocky ridge tops for bitterroot but didn't see any except two growing in the pine needles under a big pine tree about 1/2 way down the Nee-Mee-Poo trail.

There were crows flying about below us and we started the wildlife viewing by seeing what looked like a badger run across the road at the very beginning and above we saw other places with elaborate tiers of burrows dug into the side of a hill big enough for a badger, hoary marmot or foxes. We saw one deer as we



were leaving our lunch spot but the crowning sighting of the day was during lunch, 3 black bears, a momma and two small cubs on a distant opposing ridge, which David found through his binoculars, we all got to see them before they went over the ridge. There was also some good views of Lolo Peak. No one went away dissatisfied. *Julie Kahl*

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



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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Missoula, MT 59806



