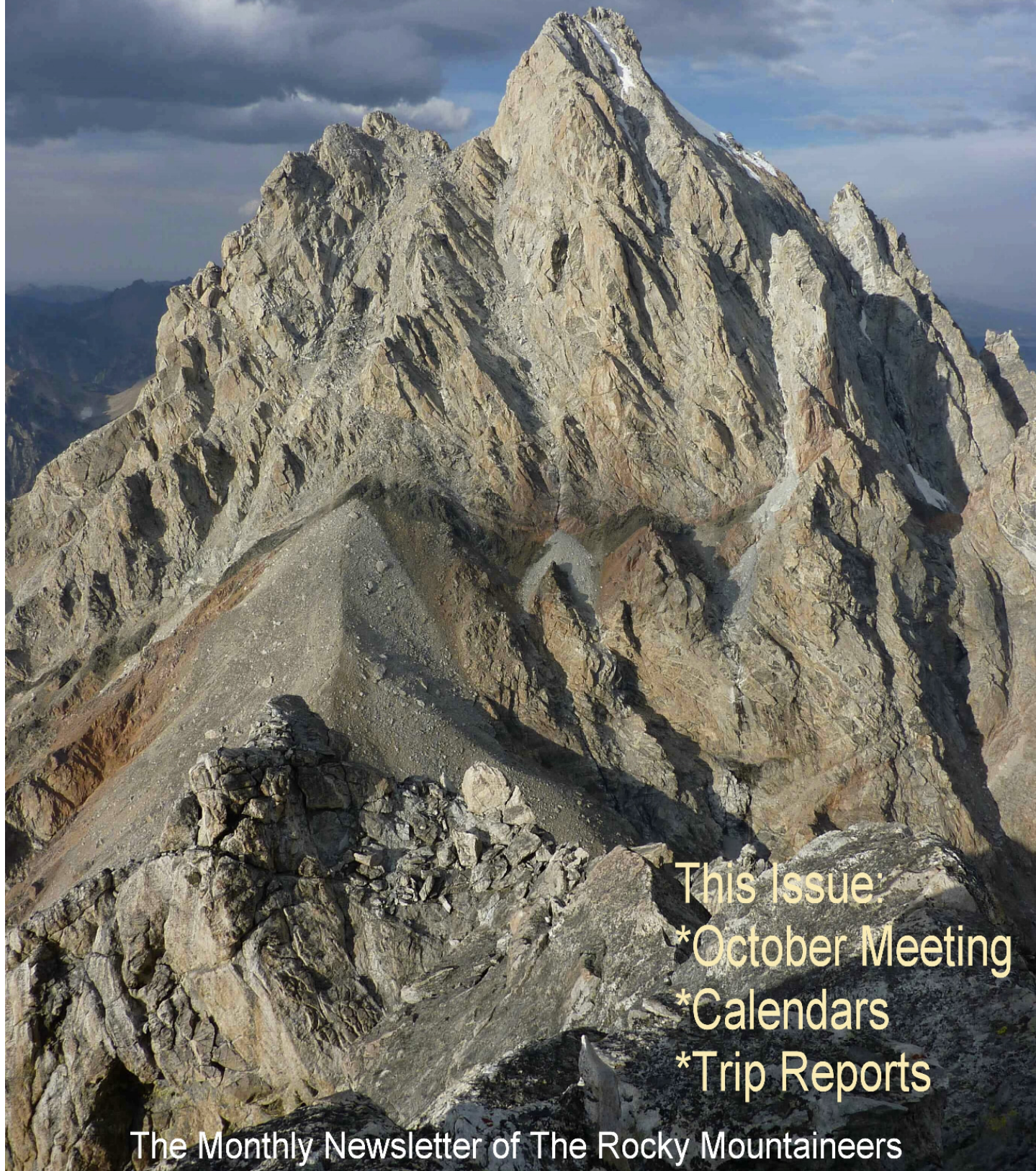


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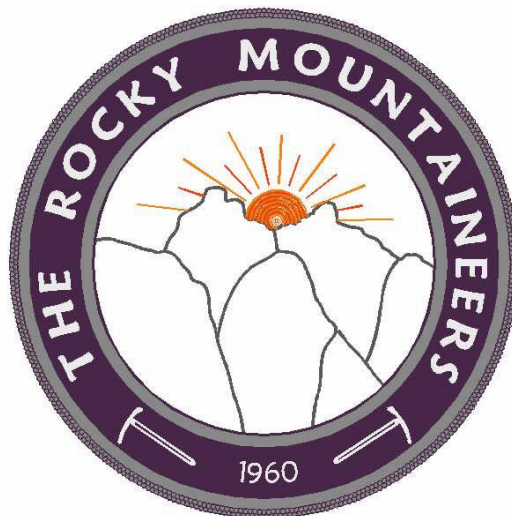
THE MOUNTAIN EAR



This Issue:

- *October Meeting
- *Calendars
- *Trip Reports

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

October Meeting

Chris Dunn Goes for a Walk

During the summer of 2008 I walked 505 miles starting at Glacier Park and then continuing deep into the recesses of the Canadian Rockies. It was an incredible and difficult trip. My goal was to get into wild, lonely country, though in truth I only scratched the surface. The longest I went without seeing a human was 7 days. The longest I went without crossing a road, town, or any human artifact beside campsites was 16 days. I think I had wet shoes for at least 5 days straight. I saw quite a number of bears, some wolves, coyotes, moose, porcupines, and the like. In addition to the animals and scenery, I met some interesting folks along the way. My presentation will include some stories, but the true highlight will be the incredible pictures I took (or stole off the internet anyway). *Chris Dunn*

Upcoming Meetings:

Wednesday, November 11 - **Jim Wilson** will have a program about the trip he took to the Alps last summer, the people he met and the interesting mountains he climbed.

Wednesday, December 9 - We will have our annual avalanche awareness program (and practice day , to follow, in the field).

The Rocky Mountaineers 2010 Calendar!!

After a couple years of discussing it, we have decided to move forward with putting together an annual wall calendar. This calendar will be a collection of the best photos we can find taken by YOU, our members. We would like to have these calendars available by mid- November, so we are going to be looking to receive your photos right away! So, look through the best stuff you have . We ask that you submit no more than 3 photos. The photos can show people participating in climbing, hiking, biking (etc.) activities; however, the pictured individual(s) should ideally complement the scenery, rather than be the centerpiece (i.e. no group summit photos).

In order to post photos to The Rocky Mountaineers Picasa site, do the following:

- 1) sign out of your personal email account
- 2) sign in to the new Gmail account by going to www.gmail.com and using "**montanamountaineers**" as the user name and "**TRMcalendar**" as the password
- 3) go to **photos** (you will find this at the top of the screen...or in the "more" pull down menu)
- 4) you are now in **Picasaweb**. Click the **TRM Calendar album** to get inside.
- 5) Click the **+upload** button at the top of the screen to browse your hard drive and upload photos.

If you have problems with this make sure you have followed these directions exactly....then email me with your questions. *Joshua Phillips*- mtsurveyor@gmail.com

Cabin Workday Roundup

This past Saturday (October 3rd), we held our annual Rocky Mountaineer's Cabin Workday. The cabin, which is located on the eastern flanks of Little St. Joseph Peak, is a primitive cabin for winter use only. Every fall we go and cut firewood, make general repairs, and clean up the interior. This year we had another great turnout with 15 individuals lending a hand. The work only took a little over an hour with so many bodies. So a big thanks to all who came and enjoyed this cool, but nice autumn day:

Steve Niday, Julie Kahl, Dave Kahl, Paul Jensen, Thomas Toney, Alden Wright, Shawn Bennett, Chris Dunn, John Schwartz, Brian Story, Tom Hanou, Karya Dean, Frank Dean, Angie Dean, Forest Dean.



A. Dean photo

Cover Photo: The Grand Teton as viewed from Middle Teton summit (9/29/09). F. Dean photo.

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.

At this time, we have no Trip Listings. Please check the website for new or “spur of the moment” trips.

TRIP FORUM

Oct. 25th - 1st day of hunting season I propose a Sunday afternoon at Lolo Hot Springs. Julie Kahl -543-6508

Nov. 15th - Something at Lolo Pass - hike, ski, snowshoe what ever conditions dictate. Julie Kahl 543-6508

Next Summer - Hyalite Peak -south of Bozeman, Gallatin Range, probably in July 2010. Julie Kahl 543-5608

TRIP REPORTS

September 12- Petty Mountain

No one else showed up for this trip, so I went by myself. I went from the trailhead on lower Petty Creek which makes it a 5 mile 4000 foot vertical climb. On the way down I hiked over to the trailhead on a logging road above Albert Creek. This is a shorter and easier way to get to Petty Mountain. I took pictures and tried to identify some mushrooms, and hiked out---blistering both feet on the way. *Alden Wright*

September 19 – The MESSS

While inspecting the 3D map of the local topography in the visitor center at Lolo Pass last December, a certain route seemed to jump out at me. Bike to Elk Summit and run to Blodgett trail head. Those present at the time agreed that it seemed like a good idea. After months of planning (and training) the outing came to fruition. Kyle Balke, Lewis Kogan, Aaron Baldwin, and Matt Henderson joined me for this adventure. I had emphasized the point that anyone could participate in as much of the M.E.S.S.S. (Missoula-Elk Summit-Show) as they wanted to. This proved to be a great way to get friends to join in the adventure. Lewis and Kyle joined me for the departure from my house at 4:10am. After 3 flats, we were running about an hour behind schedule. Our luck got better, the sun rose, and we headed up and over Lolo Pass and down into Idaho. Matt began riding at Lolo Hot Springs and Aaron jumped in at the turn off for Elk Summit (near the Lochsa Lodge). Lewis transitioned to a mountain bike and Kyle and I continued on our road bikes (which proved to be a difficult option considering the 2+ miles of 10-12% grade on rocky, dusty roads up to Elk Summit). We all made it to Elk Summit and Matt, Aaron and I continued on foot for the 24 mile run/trek to the Blodgett trail head. We saw a bull moose at Big Sand Lake and heard bull elk bugling up near Blodgett Pass. The weather couldn't have been better as we headed back into Montana for the mostly downhill return. It took us a little over 7 hours, but we made the trail head before dark. Noel met us with growlers of Cold Smoke and Double Haul, sandwiches, chips, cookies, apples, bananas, and Recoverite mix! A big thank you to Noel who drove over 250 miles in sagging/shuttling/supporting this adventure! It truly would have been a mess without your support! By the end of the day I had ridden 53 miles of road, 20 miles of dirt, and ran/trekking 24 miles of single track through some of the most beautiful and remote wilderness in the state....and all with the best of companions. Total elapsed time = 15 hours 41 minutes. Thanks you guys, and great work! *Joshua Phillips*

Pictures: <http://picasaweb.google.com/mtsurveyor/TheMESSS#>

September 19 – Holland Peak (Swan Range)

At 6:30 a.m. I met Tom Boyce, Mike Koeppen, Heather Johnson, Brett Doucett and Dave Whisenand and we made the drive up to the Cooney Lookout trailhead. Joining us there were Rob McLeod and Linda Pietarinen who had camped out to eliminate the early morning drive. The eight of us took off about 8:30 and almost immediately got lost. We had reached the trail which climbs steeply to the Rumble Cr Lakes and eventually the peak and based on a previous memory of mine of heading up too soon and a SummitPost.com map of the route which was wrong we kept going on the foothills trail for about ½ mile before realizing our mistake. After backtracking we were soon making the long steep climb to a shoulder on the ridge. At that point the trail traverses and drops a bit before reaching the lower lake. The trail continues around the right side of the lake and climbs mostly through talus to the upper Rumble Cr Lk. It's a beautiful lake that's for sure! From there we gained the shoulder south of the lake and eventually gained the south ridge of the peak itself. We saw a dozen or so goats in this area which was fun. The weather was great so it was extra nice being up high... Continuing on we were soon at the famous knife edge ridge. Someone had read something on the internet that said something about a "razor sharp" ridge. Yikes... Anyway, it's really not too bad and all of us made it across without too much problem. We decided it was really more like a "dull butter knife" ridge. The trail more or less continued all the way to the top which says something about the popularity of Holland Pk. The

climb took about 5 hours and we were treated to great views all around (of course!). After an hour of lunching and viewing on top we headed down in increasing wind. We saw the goats again and had a nice stop at the upper lake. On the trip out we ran in to Minot and Cami who were headed up to camp at the upper lake and hopefully climb the peak. We were back at the trailhead by 6 or so. It was a great day in the mountains and someone called it a “heck of a climb” which I think was meant in a good way. *Paul Jensen*



Summit Photo! - P. Jensen

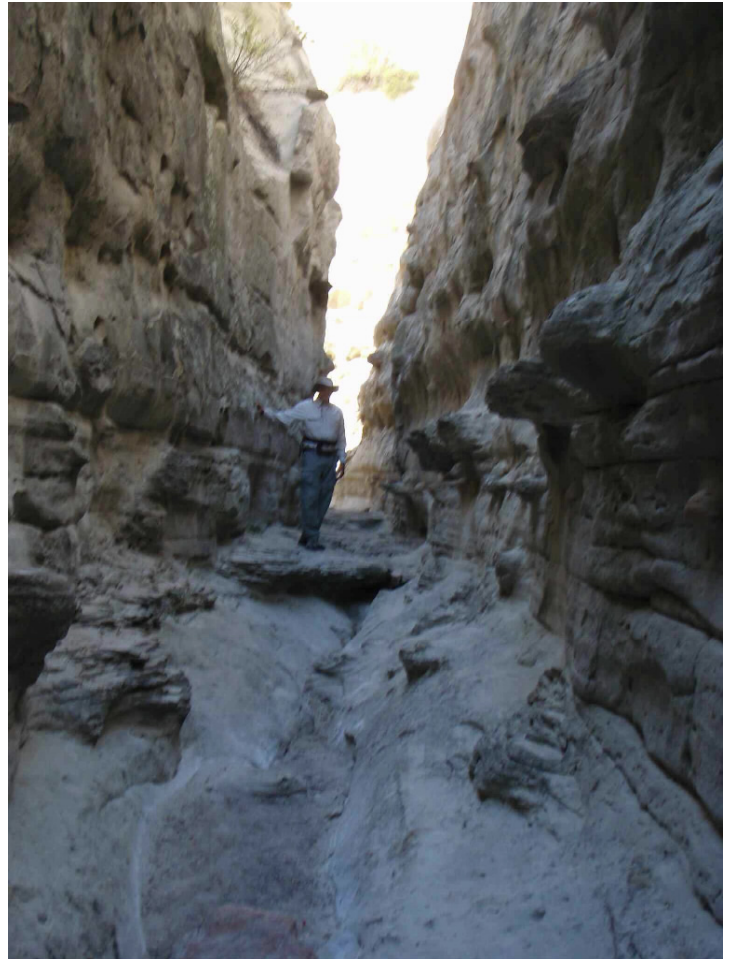


Scrambling along ridge towards summit.- P. Jensen

September 23-26- Missouri River Float Trip

Last spring I was one of the lucky people to get a float permit for the Smith River, and we spent several months talking about a late Sept. Smith trip. Unfortunately, when fall arrived it looked like the weather was too dry and the river would be too low to float. We kept our options open until about 5 days ahead of time, and then made the decision to float the White Cliffs of the Missouri instead.

This turned out to be a good choice. The group consisted of me, Steve Schombel, Julie and David Kahl, and Larry Roth and Justin from Fort Benton. We had two canoes and a kayak, with lots of cargo and two people in each canoe with some cargo in the kayak. We travelled in style, packing lots of water, firewood, ice filled coolers, beer and whiskey, lots of food, and, of course, camping gear. I was worried that the heavily loaded canoes would sink as soon as we launched them, but they handled the large load well. All this



stuff made the canoes hard to maneuver, and made a lot of work unpacking and packing up each day. But it did make the trip a lot more pleasant. This is a trade-off each group has to decide for themselves.

The weather was really nice; too hot, actually, with daytime highs in the 90's and sun beating down all day. The first day was tiring with a head wind and heat and a long paddle to the first campground. By the time we set up camp, we all, except Justin, just felt like napping in available shade until it got cooler in the evening. This set the pattern for the trip: we would hike and explore the wild country in the morning, pack the boats and paddle in late morning for a few hours to the next camp, set up camp, nap in the shade, then have dinner, walk a bit or fish, drink and tell stories around the campfire.

I'm sure everyone has seen pictures of the great scenery in the White Cliffs. Many of you have probably been there. Larry had been on a school trip



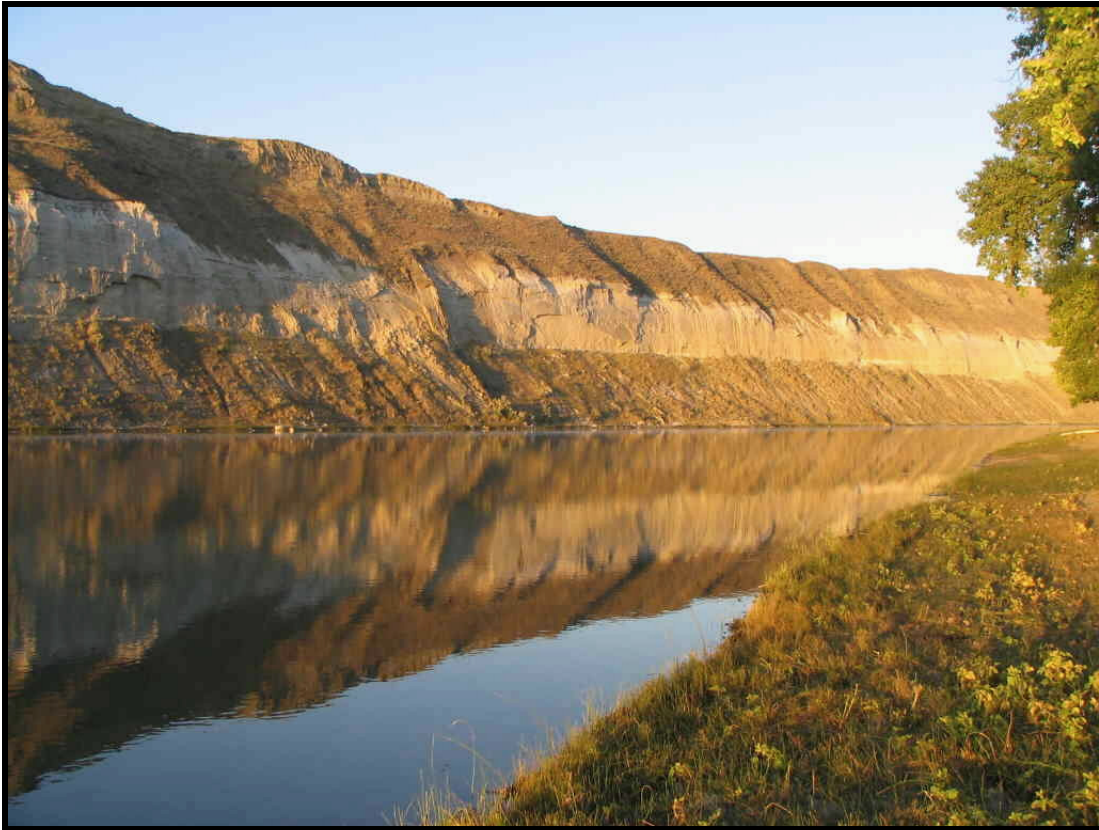
Steamboat Rock at Black Butte Campground.

with some rangers, so he had heard about some interesting places. We had several maps and guide books, and took some interesting hikes. If it hadn't been so hot we would have done more exploring. It was unusual temperatures for late September. There was some wildlife. We heard an elk, saw some Mule Deer and Antelope, some rabbits, a Rattlesnake, lots of Raptors along the river and lots of Coyotes howling at night, though we saw only one or two. There were a lot of fish in the river, with reports of Golden Eyes, nice Bass, a small Walleye and several suckers being caught.

It was very convenient to do this trip with people in Fort Benton. We had a base to get organized before the trip, and then to clean up and unpack afterwards. We rented a canoe and kayak from Missouri River Outfitters in Fort Benton, and they delivered and picked up the watercraft, along with life vests, etc. Larry's wife and daughter rode down with us to the put in, took the trucks back to Fort Benton, then came down to Judith Landing Saturday to pick us up.

We all had so much fun we talked about doing the lower part of the wild Missouri next year, from Judith Landing to the Fred Robinson Bridge. And we all plan to put in for another Smith River Permit next February, in the hopes that one of us will get lucky.

Steve Schombel



Sunrise on the Missouri River.- All photos by J. 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.