

MAY 2010

# THE MOUNTAIN EAR



# 50

The Rocky Mountaineers  
1960-2010

*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



# The Rocky Mountaineers 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## PARTY!!!

2:00 PM SATURDAY MAY 15 - POTLUCK - LARRY CREEK GROUP SITE

In celebration of our 50th anniversary, we are having a party on May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Larry Creek Group Site, which is near the Charles Waters Campground, AKA Bass Creek Campground. This party will replace the regular Wednesday night meeting and we will hold an election of officers and present Achievement Awards. See the website for the list of achievement awards currently available. If you qualify, tell one of the officers and you too could receive a very special award.

The party will start around 2:00 PM. Our reservation states check-in time is 1:00 PM. Check-out time is noon the next day. Some people will be spending the night and hiking on Sunday. Bring your sleeping gear if you want to join a hike or just need to avoid driving for awhile.

Food will be potluck, but don't let that scare you away, you don't have to bring food. The Club will be furnishing burger patties, wieners, brats, buns, pickles, onions, condiments, plates, and utensils. Bring your own beverages and anything else you want to eat.

*Also.....*

Present at the Party will be one of our members, Michael Hoyt. Mike has just written and had published a brand new guidebook (see the Press Release on page 7). He will be bringing copies with him and autographing and selling them for \$30 (that's \$4.95 off the regular price).

### The Rocky Mountaineers-- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History

*Contributed by Steve Schombel*

Hi everyone! As most of you know, we have been submitting some articles about Rocky Mountaineers history to accompany our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year and the party we are having on May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Larry Creek Group Site.

I did a short interview via telephone with Shirley Braxton, widow of Sam Braxton, the club's second President, and, perhaps, most active member. I asked her if she remembered anything about Gardner Miller, the club's very first President. She said that she and Sam and some others did several climbs with Gardner Miller. She also remembered that Gardner organized the team that put the first summit register on Granite Peak. She said that the Forest Service asked Sam Braxton to do this, but, after some negotiation Gardner volunteered to lead the group.

This meshes very well with some information we got from some former active members we interviewed earlier. Unfortunately, Shirley said that Gardner Miller has been gone for quite a few years, and that she will be out of town and will not be attending the anniversary party.

I also thought that a good way to finish this series of articles on Rocky Mountaineer club history would be to reprint the trip reports of two prominent climbs done by club members in Glacier National Park in the early days. The first is a climb of the NW Face route of Mount Wilbur, directly up from Iceberg Lake. The participants were: Tom Choate, Renn Fenton and Gil Averill. The trip report is in Volume II, (2) 6, 7 of the December 1962 issue of the *Mountain Ear*. Gordon Edwards, in his *Climbers Guide to Glacier National Park*, wrote that, to the best of his knowledge, this route has never been repeated. The second was an ascent of

Walton Mountain in July of 1974. The participants were: Paul Jensen, Mavis Lorenz, Tom Shreve and Allen Smith. The trip report was in the *Mountain Ear*, vol. XIV (4), map 2, Jan. 1975. Gordon Edwards wrote that this was, to the best of his knowledge, the first ascent of one of Glacier's five technical peaks as listed by the Glacier Mountaineering Society, and in Pat Caffrey's *Climber's Guide to Montana*. It is fascinating to read about some of the major climbs done by club members in the early days.

*From December 1962 Mountain Ear:*

#### First Ascent of the North Face of Mount Wilbur – Glacier National Park by Tom Choate

Mount Wilbur is one of the most difficult mountains to climb in Glacier Park. It provides a spectacular backdrop for the view across Swiftcurrent Lake from the Many Glacier Hotel. When one realizes that this sheer east face is the easy and requires rope work (after having read Edwards' Climbing Guide), you begin to wonder what the rest of this peak is like.

Thus, after climbing the mountain and enjoying its very spectacular cliffs and views along both of the "easy" standard routes, we were challenged to try the unclimbed North face. Reconnaissance from the Summit to the first notch in the ridge to the west indicated a narrow chimney cutting the north face straight down to Iceberg Lake over 3000' below. It looked possible if it were dry and the climbers well equipped.

We set off at 6:30 a.m. on Friday, August 4, 1961 to fulfill the dream of challenging this sheer face which forms the south wall of the great cirque surrounding Iceberg Lake. Gil Averill, another Rocky Mountaineer, and Renn Fenton, an old hand at Wilbur climbing from South Dakota, and I signed out at the Ranger Station. It was a fine, sunny day and it already felt hot by the time we reached Iceberg Lake. Many white icebergs floated in the milky green waters. It was perfect for color photography. About 9 a.m. we labored up the long slopes of talus and scree leading down into the lake from the cliffs. At the base of the first low cliffs two unafraid mountain goats jumped up from a snow crevasse where they had been resting and paused to look us over carefully before leaving.

The ledges and talus blocks and more staircase ledges went on and on, and we scrambled over fully 2000 vertical feet of them before we felt it necessary to rope up. We were now 300 feet below the black diorite sill which traverses cliffs of the upper peak on all sides. Above us lay the formidable chimney, obviously the only route through the overhanging cliffs on either side. This date was almost too early, as the rock was damp and slippery in places and falling rocks screamed by occasionally.

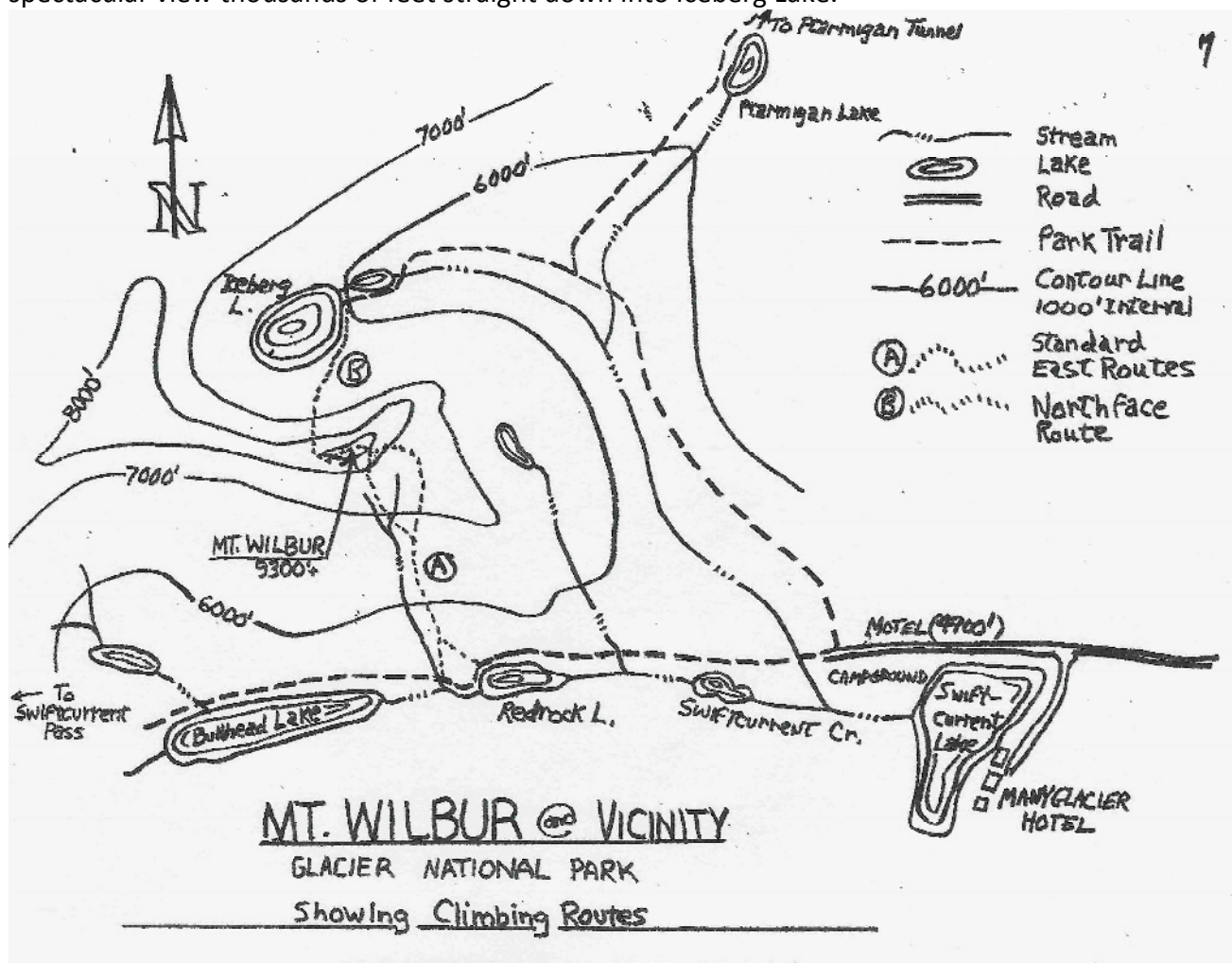
Renn made the first try, stemming up to a slippery spot, where a slip of one of his feet spoiled his nerve. I succeeded in leading this spot by finding an acceptable piton crack and driving home some slip insurance. So it went for three leads up to the ledge below the diorite where we could rest out of reach of falling stones from above (or from the hold-cleaning duties of the leader).

Above the diorite the whole face overhangs, including the chimney, and several chockstones hang out over you as you worm or stem your way up. Rocks kicked or pulled loose shot straight down 50 feet or so on top of your belayer, obviously requiring much care. With one or two pitons protecting each lead (because one falls out of such a chimney, not down it) I wiggled through small holes under piano-size chockstones., using each for a belay point for the next lead. Momentarily the chimney widened and flattened for a resting place, 500 feet down from the top of the west ridge.

"Renn's terror" chimney was now past. More in his natural element of face-climbing, Renn led two pitches in the wide chute and entered a left branch of it. Over two more ledges a sheer face confronted us, not far from the top. I decided a crack leading up it would work, but found it took four pitons in hard – to – find cracks to make it safe. The "interesting" point here is in the middle, where the belayer squats under an overhang, held in by only an anchor piton, to do his duty while looking over the edge at the lake far below. A last scramble and suddenly we burst into sunlight and a vast panorama of peaks to the south across the deep gap of Swiftcurrent Valley.

After a rest and a snack here, broken by rope coiling and picture taking, we scrambled the 300 feet of ledges just SW of the ridgetop up to the small flat summit area, arriving at 4 p.m. We rested by the tall cairn for almost an hour, drinking in the panorama of peaks and looking alternately into the three valleys 3300 to 4300 feet straight below.

Going down the East face by Edward's Route seemed a cinch after the North face climb. In fact we felt no need for roping up as we easily descended the "staircase" to the SE ridge in little over an hour (this procedure is not suggested for anyone not very familiar with the route and type of rocks). We shall always remember the spectacular view thousands of feet straight down into Iceberg Lake.



From January 1975 Mountain Ear:

#### WALTON MTN., by Allen Smith

On July 29<sup>th</sup>, 1974, four climbers, Paul Jensen, Mavis Lorenz, Tom Shreve, and Allen Smith set out for a first ascent of Walton Mtn. in Glacier National Park. Walton is named on topo maps and is located just south of Mt. Jackson. Tom had written to J. Gordon Edwards, author of A Climber's Guide to Glacier National Park, inquiring about Walton and received a letter saying as far as Edward knew it was unclimbed.

We left Going-to-the-Sun Highway about noon to follow the Gunsight Lake Trail. That evening we set up camp at the snout of Jackson Glacier. The next day we climbed Blackfoot Mtn. from which we got an excellent and impressive view of Walton to the west, across the Harrison Glacier.

After a good night's rest we left camp at 8 AM and quickly reached the pass between Jackson and Harrison Glaciers. From here we picked our way down some broken cliffs, some steep snow, and a few ledges to the Harrison Glacier. Having decided on a low route we struck out across the ice towards the ridge connecting Mt. Jackson and Walton Mtn. The ridge was gained by a prominent snow patch and a short pitch of rock scrambling above the snow. Here we ate lunch under a clear sky with snow, ice and peaks surrounding us.

Our repast completed, we followed some goat trails south along the ridge. Perched upon this ridge, just before it becomes the summit ridge of Walton, is one of the most ideal campsites in Glacier Park. A small grassy meadow, with water, sits here, high above the surrounding valleys. Too bad it's so hard to reach, or maybe it's better that way.

Upon reaching the actual base of Walton we skirted to the west, entering some large open chimneys and gullies. We alternated climbing on the ridge proper or in the chimneys the rest of the way to the top. The rock here is comparable to that found at Kootenai Cr. (Bitterroot Mtns.) and is much better than expected for GNP. The view from the summit was well worth the climb. Jackson, Blackfoot, and Stimson were before us, while Mt. St. Nicholas stood out far to the southeast. Below us, the east face of Walton fell some 3,000' to Harrison Glacier.

We searched for a cairn or some other indication of a previous climb but found nothing. A large cairn was erected and a plastic jar with paper and pencil was put inside. The register now reads "Walton Mtn., 8941' First ascent by humans July 31, 1974" to which we signed our names. The "humans" was put in because of the numerous goat sightings and a goat bed on top! After taking in the view and "clicking a few shutters" we began our descent. We roughly retraced our route and arrived back at camp by 9 PM.

Ropes and ice axes, as well as knowledge of how to use them, are necessary when traveling on glaciers. Altho' you are not "crazy" to cross glaciers, as one ranger told us we were, care should be exercised. There is some good climbing to be done on Walton for those who are willing to put out the effort. It is a very enjoyable climb, fully worth the time and energy it takes.

P.S. We talked with Edwards at Many Glaciers later and learned that 3 rangers had set out 2 days after our climb intending to make a "first" ascent of Walton.

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### ***A Final President's Message from our Outgoing President!!***

First, I'd like to thank all of you members that came out and volunteered your time at the 3rd Annual GrizzlyMan Adventure Race. Your help on race day was integral in making the event a success. We had 99 racers on race day and so many of them made a point of letting us know of their incredible race experience.

Secondly, I want to thank you all for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your President. My term is up and it's time to vote in another to carry the torch. The last two years have been very fulfilling in getting to influence the direction our club. Now 50 years old, this club has withstood the test of time and has become a hub of opportunity for outdoor adventure. It has been an honor to lead as your President and I'm looking forward to more adventures together.

*Joshua Phillips*

## Wilderness Medical Essentials Course

It has been two years since we last scheduled this training... so on **Saturday, June 26**, the Club will host a Wilderness Medical Essentials course in Missoula, taught by Aerie Backcountry Medicine. This is an 8-hour course, and will consist of half classroom work and half hands-on techniques. Similar to the longer Wilderness First Aid class, the course will cover injury and illness prevention, patient assessment, long-term injury management, improvised splint and litter construction and environmental emergencies. We have also asked that special attention be given to the topic of managing severe injuries/illnesses (e.g. at high elevation) that require immediate stabilization and evacuation from remote locations.

Unlike general first aid courses, Aerie's classes attend specifically to the unique and difficult application of critical first aid in backcountry environments, where options and resources are likely to be few. This course is an excellent introduction to wilderness medicine, and should be considered essential knowledge for anyone who spends significant time in the outdoors. Active participants in club outings and trip leaders are strongly encouraged to attend! Those with Red Cross Certification should be aware that the application of lifesaving techniques in a wilderness setting is worlds apart from what is taught in traditional first aid courses, and this course can serve as an excellent extension of basic first-aid practices. For those who took the course last time, isn't it a good time for a refresher? Remember the certification is good for two-years and that timeline is quickly coming to an end!

Course cost is \$65, but the first 15 members of the Rocky Mountaineers who sign up will have their cost subsidized by the Club and will only need pay \$50. Aerie is world-renowned as one of the best schools of wilderness medicine today, and we are delighted to be able to present this training again. So sign up NOW and don't miss on this great learning opportunity!

To Register:

Contact David Wright at 531-9803 or [wrightdk@gmail.com](mailto:wrightdk@gmail.com) with "Wilderness Essentials" in the subject line.

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### New Guidebook Sets a Higher Standard

With the publication of *"Bitterroot Mountain Summits"* – a 384-page book written specifically for beginning and intermediate hikers and climbers by mountaineering-photographer Michael Hoyt, of Corvallis, Montana – it will no longer be acceptable for guidebooks to be simple collections of directions and a few fuzzy black and white pictures. This full-color book brings the world of guidebooks into the new century.

Hoyt's stated goal for this book was, "to inspire more people to go off-trail and visit selected summits in the Bitterroot Mountains and gain a better appreciation of these glorious peaks, many of which are in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness."

If the Bitterroot Mountains are to remain unmolested, Hoyt believes more people will need to feel emotionally attached to these peaks. History shows that people only work to protect those things in which they have a vested interest. He fears that without such emotional attachments by more citizens, his beloved Bitterroot Mountains will not survive the pressures of ever-increasing population and industrial exploitation.

Research for the book required several climbing seasons, one of which included more than 600 miles of hiking and climbing. The portion of the Bitterroot Range along the west side of Montana's fabled Bitterroot Valley is



not only one of the most popular hiking and climbing destinations in the American West but also a mountain range of historical significance since 1805-06 when members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition traveled along and through the Bitterroots on their epic journey of discovery and wrote of both its beauty and its rugged terrain.

The full title of Hoyt's new book, the first-ever major book on the subject, is "*Hikes and Climbs To Bitterroot Mountain Summits*." Filled with over 350 full-color photographs and illustrations of a quality usually reserved for coffee-table books, this offering has moved the bar for guidebooks to new heights.

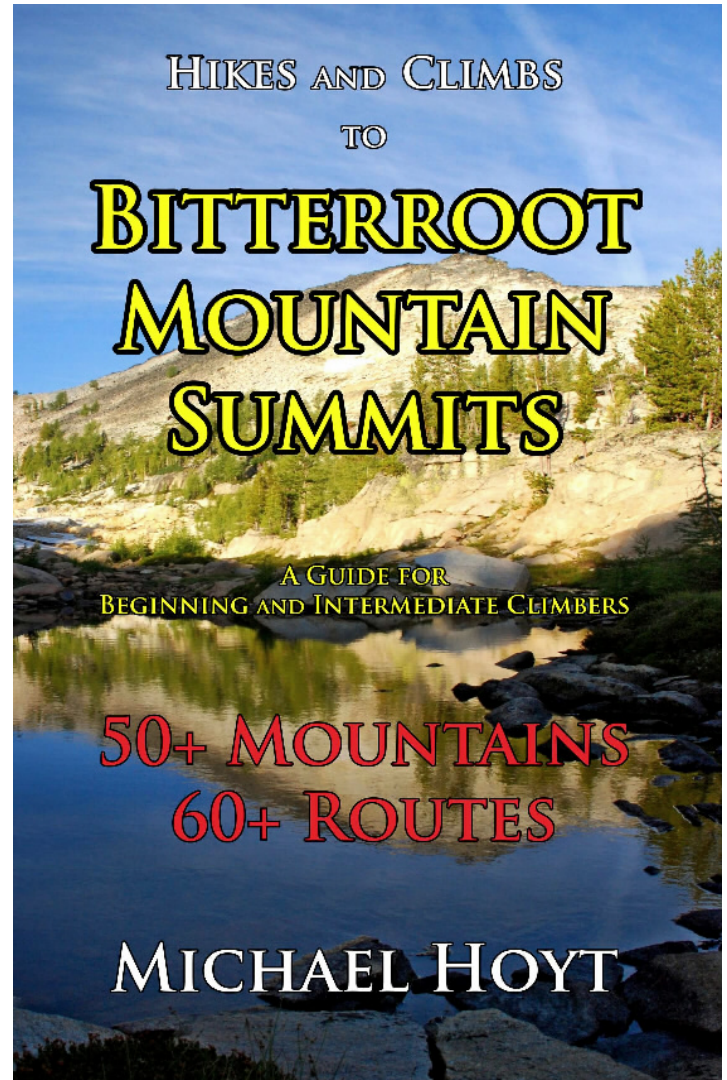
Hoyt, a long-time mountaineer, is a major contributor to the world's most popular mountain climbing website, Summitpost.org. His extensive on-line writing includes mountain descriptions, route guides, trip reports, and "how-to" articles about photography and the use of pictures on web pages. A recent immigrant to Montana, he spent most of his life in Indiana where he attended Indiana University. He currently lives in the Bitterroot Valley, a few miles east of Corvallis, a location which provides unparalleled views of his beloved Bitterroot Mountains.

Vernon Garner of Missoula, Montana, known as "SaintGrizzly" in Montana's climbing community, praised the release of Hoyt's new book. "Finally, the book long needed for the Bitterroot Mountains! Nothing else – and there have been several attempts – even comes close! Garner said, "A truly remarkable accomplishment. Mike has given us that rarest of guidebooks, both informative and enjoyable."

Tim Sharp, co-founder of The Alpine Club of Missoula, said, "Mike's passion for the Bitterroot Mountains is apparent through his written descriptions and beautiful photographs. Rely on this guide book to confidently explore the unparalleled granite wonders and pristine wilderness of the Bitterroots."

Upon receiving a copy of the book, Bob Sihler, a major contributor to Summitpost.org, the world's most popular mountaineering website, said, "I can't express how impressed I am by both the appearance and the content. Mike really did go all out. The pictures are amazing and really capture the wilderness sense of the mountains. This guidebook is up there with the latest Roach guides for Colorado, although I think Mike's route information is actually better."

"*Bitterroot Mountain Summits*" was issued in softcover guidebook format. The 384-page book retails for \$34.95 and is available at many bookstores, gift shops and sporting goods outlets, as well as direct from Stonydale Press at 523 Main St., Stevensville, MT 59870, phone 406-777-2729.





## **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.

### **Sunday, May 16- ST. JOSEPH PEAK (Bitterroots)**

*Rating:* Class 4, *Distance:* 11 miles, *Elevation Gain:* 5000 ft

*Description:* What better way to wrap up our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party than a climb! This day after the party I plan to head from the campground up to the Little St. Joe trailhead. From there, this climb will take us up to the summit of Little St. Joe (9033') and then along the ridge that connects to St. Joseph Peak (9587'). The route is mostly class 2-3 but depending on the actual route we choose up St. Joseph, we could encounter a short class 5 section. An ice ax and crampons will be needed. I may bring a rope as well.

*Special Equipment:* Ice axe; crampons; snowshoes; harness and belay device (possibly)

*Leader:* Forest Dean - 240-7612 or [mtnear1@gmail.com](mailto:mtnear1@gmail.com)

### **Friday, May 21- KOOTENAI CANYON ROCK CLIMBING (Bitterroots)**

*Description:* I'll be heading down to Kootenai Canyon to do some lead climbing/top roping with my wife and good friends. If you're looking to get into the sport feel free to call and join in, I often teach beginner classes for folks. Hope to see some new faces.

*Leader:* Shawn Bennett 493-4892 (cell), call anytime, or Add me on facebook :)

### **Sunday, May 23- MILLER CREEK LOGGING ROADS**

*Description:* Length & Elevation change depend on individual, probably will not exceed 10 mi.

With the implementation of the Montana Legacy Project, The Nature Conservancy now owns former Plum Creek Timberlands in Miller Creek. We will walk some of the old logging roads to scope out the newly preserved lands at Missoula's "back door." Which roads we do (there is some state & BLM lands as well as Forest Service) will be decided the day of the hike. Trying to summit Davis Point (above Lolo) is a possibility. It will be an out and back trip, so the participants can go as far or as high as they want. Wild flowers will probably be abundant.

*Leader:* Julie Kahl

**Sat-Sun, May 29-30- MCDONALD PEAK (Mission Mountains)**

*Rating:* Class 4, *Distance:* 13 miles, *Elevation Gain:* 5000 ft

*Description:* This will be an overnigher climb up the west side of 9820' McDonald Peak (highest in Missions). We will begin in the Ashley Lakes drainage. I plan to bring a limited amount of camping gear and simply camp at a point where we feel like we've had enough for the day. So we may climb the peak on Saturday or Sunday. I also plan to spend some time working on roped climbing techniques, ice axe self arrest, etc. Participants need to have a Salish Kootenai Recreation Permit as this trip will be entirely on Mission Mountains Tribal Wilderness.

*Special Equipment:* Ice ax, crampons, harness, belay device, sleeping bag, tents, bivies, helmet.

*Leader:* Forest Dean - 240-7612 or [mtnear1@gmail.com](mailto:mtnear1@gmail.com)

**Sat-Sun, June 12-13- CASTLE CRAG (Bitterroots)**

*Rating:* Class 2-5; *Distance:* 12 miles; *Elevation Gain:* 4000'

*Description:* This will be an overnight trip and summit climb. Special Gear: Overnight equipment and Ice axe (just in case). More information: <http://www.summitpost.org/mountain/rock/461305/castle-crag.html>

*Leader:* Shawn Bennett cell 493-4892 or send me a message on facebook

**Saturday, June 12- PENGELLY DOUBLE DIP (Missoula)**

*Description:* This is not a race sponsored by The Rocky Mountaineers. However, it takes its name from one of our former prominent Club members, and onetime President, Dave Pengelly. There are two race options to choose from- a 5 mile "Single Dip" or a 14 mile "Double Dip". Both races occur on and around Mt. Sentinel and University Mountain. Trail running, hiking and lots of elevation gain and loss are what they are all about. For all the info and to register, check out the RunWildMissoula website. Several of us TRM members usually participate. For more tidbits of info feel free to contact me (Forest Dean- 240-7612 or [mtnear1@gmail.com](mailto:mtnear1@gmail.com))

**Sat-Sun, June 12-13- Destination Undecided**

*Description:* After the race (above) I plan to head out to climb one of the following. More details next month when I have made up my mind! If interested in any of the options and want to participate, let me know your preference: TRAPPER PEAK (Northeast Couloir); BOULDER PEAK (North Ridge); BORAH PEAK (North Face). All would be snow climbs.

*Leader:* Forest Dean - 240-7612 or [mtnear1@gmail.com](mailto:mtnear1@gmail.com)

**Sat-Wed, June 19-23 – SMITH RIVER FLOAT TRIP**

*Description:* With most of the base planning done, our party has rounded out to 8 people, we have up to 7 slots open yet. (ed. note: Apparently the leader has acquired a permit to float the Smith River and it is good for up to 15 people. Contact her for trip details.)

*Leader:* Julie Kahl, 543-6508, [jawkal@hotmail.com](mailto:jawkal@hotmail.com)

**Fri-Sun, June 25-27- MT. SAINT NICHOLAS (Glacier National Park)**

*Rating:* Class 5-6, *Distance:* 27 miles, *Elevation Gain:* 6000 ft

*Description:* A three day trip to climb what may be the most impressive looking mountain in all of Montana. We will start on Friday morning at Walton Ranger Station and hike into and up to the "Salvage Mountain" area. The following day will be the attempted climb via the Northeast Ridge Route (via the Great Notch). The final 1000 feet of climbing is technical class 5 and possibly 6. On Sunday, we will hike out. Climbers need to be very familiar with rock climbing and must have familiarity with climbing in Glacier. I am not serving as a guide or instructor. Group size will be limited to four climbers. TRIP IS CURRENTLY FULL.

*Special Equipment:* Technical climbing gear, harness, helmet, etc.

*Leader:* Forest Dean - 240-7612 or [mtnear1@gmail.com](mailto:mtnear1@gmail.com)

## **The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual GLACIER CLASSIC**

Mark your calendars for August 27-29, 2010. You won't want to miss our Club's premier event....The Glacier Classic! The last couple years we have had around 25 attendees and it has been a blast! Don't miss out this year! Here are some details:

**WHERE:** We have reserved a group site at APGAR CAMPGROUND near the west entrance of Glacier National Park. This will be our "basecamp" for all our weekend activities.

**WHEN:** Friday, August 27 through Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. Camp is reserved for two nights. Come for one day or all three. Most attendees will drive up on Friday afternoon or evening. Car pooling should be very possible.

**WHAT:** We will have a number of hikes and climbs for you to participate in. The list is not finalized but several are listed below. You are more than welcome to come on up and do your own thing as well. Or offer to lead something if you'd like. The main thing is to just come along (we like to make stuff up as we go!)

**BRING:** All your own camping stuff and food and drink. Anything you'll need for the specific hike or climb you wish to participate in. For Saturday's dinner, Tom Hanou has traditionally made burritos for the entire group. This quite often is the highlight of the entire weekend (and that is saying something considering this is Glacier National Park!!!)

### **Trips:**

#### **Thurs-Friday- MOUNT JACKSON** (Climb and overnight camp)

*Rating:* Class 3; *Distance:* 18 miles; *Elevation:* 6000'

*Description:* For those interested in a slightly longer weekend. Thursday morning we will drive up to Apgar, pick up a permit, then hike from the Jackson Glacier Overlook to Gunsight Lake. I have reserved a campsite here for Thursday night (LIMIT 4 – 2 spots already taken- if more than four people wish to go on this trip, we can apply for another campsite). Friday morning we will climb the Northeast Ridge route of the massive 10,000' Mt. Jackson (one of the five peaks in Glacier that are over 10K). The climb is supposed to be without any technical difficulty, but it is a long way up. Return to camp, hike out and head over to the group camp at Apgar.

*Leader:* Forest Dean- 240-7612- [mtnear1@gmail.com](mailto:mtnear1@gmail.com)

#### **Saturday- HEAVEN'S PEAK** (Scramble/Climb)

*Description:* Route still to be determined. More info in next couple newsletters.

*Leader:* Forest Dean- 240-7612- [mtnear1@gmail.com](mailto:mtnear1@gmail.com)

#### **Saturday- MT. POLLOCK AND MT. PIEGAN** (Scramble/Hike)

*Description:* I will be leading a hike and scramble up Pollock and Piegan Mountains. We will be taking the shuttle right from Apgar Campground to Logan Pass and from there a shuttle to Siyeh Bend. It is a 4.5 mile hike to Piegan Pass and 1,670' of elevation gain. We will then leave the trail and head south to the saddle between Pollock and Piegan Mtns. This is all a scramble up loose scree. We will go up Pollock (El. 9,190') first as it has to be a killer view, looking north along the Garden Wall to Bishop's Cap and then to Mt Gould and a 360 view panorama of the mountains farther north, in the St. Mary's Lake and Logan Pass area and west to Heavens Peak and the Livingston Range. After enjoying the views and some lunch, we'll head down and cross the saddle and go up Piegan Mtn (El. 9,220'). There are 2 options to go down, one is the way we came up, back to Siyeh Bend, the other is to go down the south side couloir, staying east of the drainage that takes you back to Going to the Sun Hwy and maybe a 1/2 mile hike back to Logan Pass. I will be exploring this route down in June and plan on going up that way, hopefully still on snow and will send out an announcement at the time if anyone would like to join me.

*Leader:* Tom Hanou- 360-3564 – [tlhanou@aol.com](mailto:tlhanou@aol.com)



**Saturday- MOUNT GOULD** (Scramble/Climb)

*Rating:* Class 3, *Distance:* 7 miles round-trip if we start at Logan Pass and descend directly to the highway.

*Elevation total:* 6700 ft

*Description:* This will be an easy scramble up a classic Glacier Park peak (9553'). We will likely ascend and descend by different routes; West Face Route and Northwest Ridge Route.

*Leader:* Steve Niday – 721-3790 or [seniday@yahoo.com](mailto:seniday@yahoo.com)

**Sunday- TROUT LAKE** (Hike)

*Leader:* Julie Kahl

**Sunday- SCALPLOCK MOUNTAIN FIRE LOOKOUT** (Hike)

*Leader:* Richard Smith

## **TRIP FORUM**

**Memorial Weekend in the Pintlers** I was thinking of doing a backpack/climbing trip over Memorial Day and heading to the Pintlers and Warren Peak area. Haven't decided where to go for the trailhead, as I might go to Edith Lake on the west side and come up from there. It would be a dog friendly climb going that way. Coming up from Carpp Lake and taking one of the couloirs up, crampons and ice axes req'd, would be more fun. Either of these ways are about 5 miles in from the trailhead. Email me or call me (TOM HANOU) at [Tlhanou@aol.com](mailto:Tlhanou@aol.com) or 360-3564.

**Interested in learning to mountain bike?** Alden Wright will offer free beginner or intermediate level instruction in cross-country mountain biking. Contact him at [alden@wrightmontana.net](mailto:alden@wrightmontana.net) or 243-4790 or 542-1966 to arrange a time and place. Preferred time is 6:30 on a Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday evening for a lesson and short ride.

**Bitterroot Grand Traverse** This will be Year #3 of the one day trip that links five 9000' Bitterroot Peaks. We will begin in the early morning hours by headlamp and hike up the Little Rock Creek drainage. From there, we will traverse the summits of El Capitan, The Lonesome Bachelor and the West, Middle and East Como Peaks before returning to the trail and hiking out. About a 20 mile trip with 12000' of elevation gain (and loss). Look for a date in late July or sometime in August. Forest Dean- 240-7612- [mtnear1@gmail.com](mailto:mtnear1@gmail.com)

**Swan Crest Traverse** Much like the trip listed above. I am interested in a route that begins at Holland Lake, ascends to the Swan Crest, then follows (more or less) that Crest south before descending to the Morrell Falls area. This would be a point to point. I have never been up in this area....on the map, some of this crest looks very very narrow and steep. The first attempt would likely be more exploratory in nature, but who knows? Maybe it will go! Any feedback from people who have been on portions (or all?) of this would be appreciated. Due to a lack of water (well, probably no water) along this route, my goal will be to try and accomplish it in as little time as possible. Distance is approximately 20 miles. Again, likely a late July or August attempt. Forest Dean- 240-7612- [mtnear1@gmail.com](mailto:mtnear1@gmail.com)

**Granite Peak** At 12,799', this is Montana's high point. I am planning a Labor Day weekend attempt. We would drive over on Saturday morning, hike in, climb on Sunday, return to camp, and hike out and drive home Monday. Not sure of the route yet, but due to the time constraints, it will likely be approached from the north. Group will be limited to 6 climbers. Participants need to be in good physical condition and have appropriate rock climbing knowledge and gear. Contact Forest Dean- 240-7612- [mtnear1@gmail.com](mailto:mtnear1@gmail.com)

## TRIP REPORTS

### April 3-4 - Freezeout Lake

I didn't realize when I set the dates for this trip that it was Easter Weekend. David and I went anyway, and Becky & Larry Roth of Fort Benton joined us. Friends from Choteau said the big fly over was done, but there were still plenty of birds around and it was interesting to see Freezeout Lake post migration peak. There seemed to be a greater variety of gulls, ducks, mergansers, teals and coots. We arrived around noon, got our rooms, then drove in the Roth's pick up around the ponds for the afternoon. It was so windy that many of the birds couldn't fly into it, and they would just hang in the air if they tried to fly into the wind. Getting out of the vehicle to photograph or film resulted in grit in your eyes. We drove the entire way around the lake saw a few swans on the extreme southern end, but the water was so choppy that most of the birds were hunkered down in the fields.

We returned on Sunday morning, it was a little less windy and warmer, the swans were still on the south end of the lake, Canada geese were paired up and scattered, mallards settled in a canal slough. Around noon most of the snow geese came in from their morning feeding and made a large raft on Pond 5. We started back for Missoula around 1:PM when the mosquitoes first appeared. *Julie Kahl*



### April 25- Trapper Peak (Bitterroots)

A group from the Thursday Night Mountain Bike group consisting of Ed and Laurie Stalling, Aaron Baldwin, Larry Dent and I were joined by Amy Barwick, Matt Gibson, and Jesse Stokes. I chose not to try to drive to the summer trailhead, but this may have been a mistake since someone drove up while we were climbing. Despite the forecast of cold and snow, it was mostly sunny with great views from the top. There was little snow until we gained 500-1000 feet of elevation from the trailhead. Then there was an inch or two of fresh snow and skinning/snowshoeing up was good. On the way down, Larry and Jesse took off on snowshoes and were down before the rest of us. The skiing up high was great with powder over a firm base, but lower down it got somewhat mushy and hard to ski. Aaron made it look easy. We all agreed that it was a great trip. *Alden Wright*

### April 30- Edwards and Gunsight Mountains (Glacier NP)

Trip was canceled due to THREE TO FOUR FEET!!!! of new snow. Try again next year! *Forest Dean*

## Compasses for Paraguay

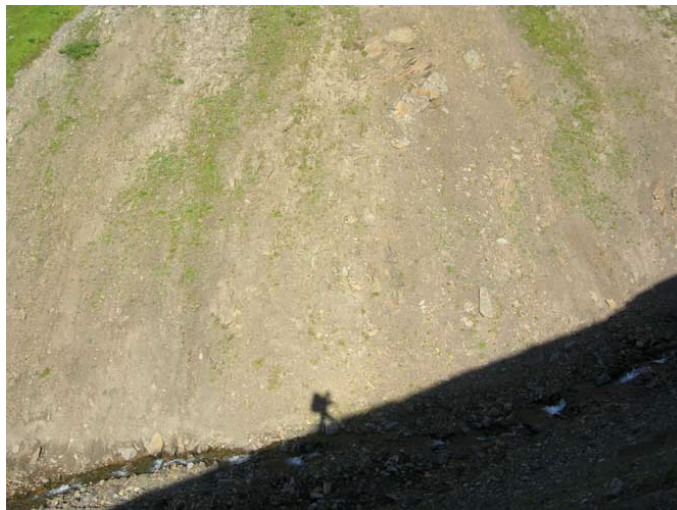
Back in January, TRM member Nancy Shrader asked for donations of mechanical orienteering compasses to take to Paraguay with her. She and Julie Kahl chipped in money to buy some. Attached are photos of the Paraguayan version of Scouting (boys and girls together) having a field day with the compasses. Nancy's return from the Feb. trip to Paraguay got interesting when she was in Santiago, Chile when the "big one" hit on Feb. 28th. The Santiago airport was operating but the terminal was damaged. She ended up taking a bus to Buenos Aires for her flight home. The ride was in the front seat of the top of a double decker bus, great for sight seeing.



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“To the timid traveler, fresh from the lowlands, these highways, however picturesque and grand, seem terribly forbidding - cold, dead, gloomy gashes in the bones of the mountains, and of all Nature's ways the ones to be most cautiously avoided. Yet they are full of the finest and most telling examples of Nature's love; and though hard to travel, none are safer...True, there are innumerable places where the careless step will be the last step; and a rock falling from the cliffs may crush without warning like lightning from the sky; but what then? Accidents in the mountains are less common than in the lowlands, and these mountain mansions are decent, delightful, even divine, places to die in, compared with the doleful chambers of civilization. Few places in this world are more dangerous than home. Fear not, therefore, to try the mountain-passes. They will kill care, save you from deadly apathy, set you free, and call forth every faculty into vigorous, enthusiastic action. Even the sick should try these so-called dangerous passes, because for every unfortunate they kill, they cure a thousand.” – John Muir

*Taken from: Muir, John “Home to the Mountains.” Meditations of John Muir. Ed. Chris Highland. Berkeley, CA: Wilderness Press, 2009, 5.*





## More selections from old newsletters

*Contributed by Chris Dunn*

(I got kind of lazy this time)

Trio – by Thomas S. Choate

### REACHING

On a mountaintop at great height  
where few men have ever trod,  
The richness of the morning light  
makes me climb and reach for God.

### DISCOVERING

What makes me leave the world of Man  
and climb as high as I possibly can?  
Because it's a pleasure to depart from strife  
and discover the forces that preceded life!

### LEARNING

Does Man have the right  
To display his own might  
against the mountains of God?  
He should have the sense  
to learn from Life's events  
the value of undisturbed sod.



## The Rocky Mountaineers Meeting Minutes April 14th 2010

A. Called to order: 6:07 PM

B. Attendance: Joshua Phillips, David Wright, Steve Niday, Julie Kahl, Forest Dean, Steve Schombel, Charles Tree, Chris Dunn, Dean Stensland, Tom Hanou

C. Treasure's Report: \$737.66 in checkbook, same as last month

D. Old Business

1. GMAR Update

a. Tremendous effort on Josh's part

b. 64 new members from GMAR -168 in membership now -highest ever

2. Wilderness 1st Aid class

a. Last one was 2 years ago, certification is good for 2 years

b. June 26th as date

c. Cover specifically -high altitude, remote location

d. Need to put down, down payment of 25%

1) Cost \$65 per participant

2) Some club sponsorship available (1st 15 people, \$15 towards fee ???)

e. If over 18 participants we will need an additional instructor

3. Glacier Classic

a. Start thinking of trips and get preliminary info in.

4. 50th Ann. Party

a. Spend club money? yes

b. How much? Forest -\$0.00, Steve S. \$200

c. Club will provide burgers, brats etc. and fixings, everyone else will bring sides, desserts etc.

d. "Light" party in the afternoon, evening activities as some wish. Some camping overnight

e. Steve N. will do an article

5. New officers

a. Interviewed Dean & Tom

b. Dean concerned he is too busy to do a good job

c. Both concerned they aren't "active enough" members -no problem

d. Discussion on president's duties, expectations, experiences of previous presidents

e. Dean defaulted to Tom

f. Proposed slate of officers

1) Tom Hanou President

2) Joshua Phillips V-P

3) Shawn Bennett Secretary

4) Steve Niday Treasurer

5) Forest Dean will stay on as newsletter editor

6) Alden Wright as internet facilitator

g. Present slate and ask for nominations from the floor, today, vote at 50th Ann. party

E. Adjourned: 6:58

*Cover Photo: Looking north from Fremont Peak, Wind River Range, Wyoming. J. Phillips photo.*

## Rocky Mountaineers Merchandise

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



## 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.