



JUNE 2010

# THE MOUNTAIN EAR

*Inside:*

- \*New President*
- \*Trips/Reports*
- \*Glacier Classic*

*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. 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

## ***President's Message***

I want to thank everyone for this opportunity to serve this club. I, like all of you, thoroughly enjoy the outdoors and high places and that is what the Rocky Mountaineers is all about. There are easy ways to ascend to the tops of mountains and as so many of our club members show, technical ways to get on top. These days, I do more of the former than the latter ways to achieve mountain summits. Main thing is to get out. We are always looking for more club members to join our activities, weekend trips that are in our Newsletter, or our annual Glacier Classic, held during the last weekend in August. I look forward to working with our present board members and all the members of the club, and this fall the restart of our monthly club meetings, when I can meet more of you.

Tom Hanou  
360-3564

## ***50th Anniversary Party***

Though it was hot in Missoula, at the Larry Creek area east of Little St. Joe Mtn., there was a large cloud over the area much of the afternoon. It was windy and cool but didn't rain. Julie & David Kahl arrived first and started to unload food and other amenities. Before they were done, Steve Schombel came with Brett Doucett and Jim Schulz and helped unload and set up a grilling area. Eileen & Fred Schwanemann arrived, and we grilled some burgers and brats and Steve lead Eileen, Fred, Brett and Jim on a short hike in the area. Mike Hoyt came with his guide books to sell. (They are very nice guidebooks, with lots of colored pictures). Vick Applegate was there and Richard Smith stopped by for a bit. Sally & Alden Wright came when they were done with U graduation stuff and Roy Regal & Michelle Powell joined the group. There were some interesting discussions on global trash problems. Forest Dean came with the club banner and his two very nice kids, Karya & Frank. They kept themselves busy doing things like hitting pine cones with water bottles or playing with the yard games Julie had brought. Paul Jensen joined us after his climb of Lolo Peak, while we were doing a second or third grilling of meat.

By 8:PM it was decided that no one else was coming and Forest took the extra meat home to freeze for the Glacier Classic, and Steve took the extra buns to the Povarello Center. The "cake" was unfrosted cupcakes of different colors laid out in a "50" pattern. There were other unfrosted cupcakes available with a frosting station so everyone could do what they wanted with theirs. It was a very low-key party, but our past, present and future were all represented.

There were no achievement awards to give out this year. We did vote on the new slate of officers, and all were in favor. Thanks new officers for your dedication and future hard work. *Julie Kahl*

President- Tom Hanou  
Vice President- Joshua Phillips  
Secretary- Shawn Bennett  
Treasurer- Steve Niday  
Webmaster- Alden Wright  
Editor- Forest Dean



## 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.

### **Friday, June 18- WARREN PEAK (Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness)**

*Description:* In the early morning hours of Friday, June 18, I will be participating in the Relay for Life, doing the night shift for our team at Big Sky H.S. track. After and leaving early, I will be driving to the Edith Lake TH in the Anaconda Pintler Wilderness Area for an ascent of Warren Peak, El. 10,464'. Trailhead (6,322') is a two hour drive from Missoula and from there 5 miles and 1,600' of elevation gain to Edith Lake. The route up the SW side of Warren Peak is rated a scramble, but I anticipate there still being lots of snow, so I will be bringing an ice axe and possibly crampons. This will be a dog friendly climb, as my Lab will have his own pack to carry gear. If interested, please give me a call at 360-3564 or send me an email at [tlhanou@aol.com](mailto:tlhanou@aol.com).

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

**Saturday- TROUT LAKE** (Hike)

*Leader:* Julie Kahl

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

*Leader:* Richard Smith

## **TRIP FORUM**

**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)

**Montana high point of the Scotchman Peaks (West Cabinets):** It's an unnamed point south of Little Spar Lake. Since a culvert is washed out on the approach road I'm planning to backpack about 4-5 miles to the former end of the road. The next day will be long on distance, moderate elevation gain, mostly off trail, some

bushwhacking and possibly a couple of 3rd class cliff bands near the summit. It will involve camping out at least 2 nights. Could possibly go 4th of July Weekend or the next weekend. Call Steve at 721-4686.

**High point of Apgar Hills:** Halfway between the two lookouts, Apgar and Huckleberry, is a higher unnamed point. The Huckleberry L.O. trail goes almost to the crest, then a short scramble through dense brush and then up and down along the ridge to the top. There is a nice campground along the North Fork which is cheaper and less crowded than those in the park. Tentative dates are mid to late July. Call Steve at 721-4686.

## **TRIP REPORTS**

### **May 16- Little and Big St. Joseph Peaks- (Bitterroots)**

Although this promised to be the best weather we had had this spring, only my son Frank (11) decided he wanted to tackle this big trip with me. (I guess the logistics and planning are easier this way!) We got to the Bass Creek Overlook trailhead at about 7:00 am and started up the trail. Wanting to carry some weight to train a bit for some upcoming summer trips, I started with a pack weight of 45 lbs (ah, the stupidity!). Frank was more sensible. We were into consistent snow on the trail at about 6500' and here we strapped on snowshoes. The morning was warm, the sun was shining and we mushed our way up to the summit (9033') of Little St. Joseph, arriving at 10:00. The oddest thing we noticed about the climb up, and then looking at the expanse of the Bitterroot Range, was the brown layer of dust and dirt covering the snow. It was everywhere. Not sure what this was. Anyway, after a brief snack we headed off the heap of rock at the top of Little Joe and headed east along the long ridge to big Joe. The couple big obstacles on the ridge were negotiated easily and we made good time until hitting the more broken narrow ridge as it nears the cliffs on the east side of Big Joe. The combination of plastic boots and a heavy pack made the going slow as we went up and down over the blocky ridge (now and then dropping into the snow on either side). After another rest near the cliffs, we decided to head around the south side of the mountain rather than the usual north side. The north side is a bit steeper and a lot of exposed rock ribs. Frank had never done any snow climbing, so he was uncomfortable with the thought of cutting across this 40 degree slope. So instead we cut across the snow bowl on the SE side of the peak. This was somewhat soft and steep too, but the runout is not intimidating. Frank spotted a mountain goat above us on the cliffs as we were doing the snow traverse. It appeared to be doing a traverse like us, only staying on dry ground! We reached the SE ridge of St. Joe at about a 9100' elevation. From there we headed up the ridge a little ways before cutting off to the west and following bare ground to the top. We arrived at the 9587' summit at 1:40 pm. After a few pics and a snack and a register signing we retraced our steps. It took us three hours for the return to Little St. Joe arriving there at 5:00pm. From there we strapped our snowshoes on and raced down the mountain. We descended the 3000' in an hour and a half arriving at the truck at 6:30pm. All told, an 11 ½ hour day with roughly 5000' of elevation gain. Snow was quite soft on the way down, but at least we were going down! We were both quite tired but it was a day very well spent...a great father-son activity! *Forest Dean*

### **May 23- Miller Creek**

I only got one enquiry on the logging road hike I n an e-mail late Sat. I answered back but the e-mail was delayed and didn't go through, so on Sun. morning it was only David and I that went up Miller Creek. We hiked up a road we had hiked in the snow back in March and went further up it. When we reached the head of the drainage we scrambled up a hill to the high point of the ridge and in a brief snow flurry, got a good lay of the land. We could see Davis Point (high point above Lolo) a few miles down the ridge. The maps show a tangle of logging roads going back that way that would go miles out of the way to get there, from here. We wondered about just following the ridge tops to it, but couldn't see enough of the terrain to tell if that was feasible. There were a lot of roads up there that weren't on the maps. We followed the ridge down a saddle with the

ridge to the west, and dropped down into the bottom of the gully to get back to the road and hike back out. We didn't see any other people up our road, but think some had gone up other roads near the bottom. It was kind of weird that we saw a lot of wild flowers, blooming at the same time, that don't normally bloom together, probably a product of our hot then cold spring. After we got back home David was finding ticks. *Julie Kahl*

### **May 30-31- McDonald Peak (Mission Mtns)**

Six of us set off on Sunday morning of Memorial Weekend for an attempt from the west. The weather had been very poor the last several days and we had delayed the trip by a day to hopefully get better weather. No such luck, but we headed up anyway. Joining me were Richard Smith, Kevin Ball, Ron Oman, Jake Oman and Frank Dean (quite a diverse age group! 45 years from youngest to oldest). We drove up the road to the Ashley Lake trailhead until downed trees blocked our path. This led to about a mile of road walking, but wasn't bad. We then followed the trail into Ashley Lakes. This is a very brushy trail with lots of downed trees. If and when someone clears it out, it could certainly be considered a good trail. After arriving at the first lake we bushwacked around the north shore then crossed the stream joining the two lakes and bushwacked around the south shore of the upper lake. Here we ascended moderately pitched snowfields to a mostly snow free couloir above the SE side of the lake. This led us up above the huge falls and into the upper Ashley Creek area. Richard, having done several trips into this area, agreed that this is likely the easiest way to access the upper creek. Once up the couloir, we strapped on snowshoes for the duration. Lots of new snow over the past week, and it was soft. Numerous point release avalanches had stripped the canyon walls over the last 24 hours of this new snow. We took turns breaking trail as we headed up the (snow covered) creek. The clouds weren't dissipating. All of us being quite tired, we arrived at a somewhat sheltered camp at 7800' at about 5:30 PM. While setting up camp and preparing dinner the sun finally came out! The scenery was outstanding. After dinner and before bed, I hiked up to the pass at about 8200' on the south end of McDonald Peak. Here I got good views of our hopeful ascent in the morning. All of us went to bed with high hopes. However, around 1:00 in the morning, the storm returned with rain, snow and no visibility. We arose in the morning, ate slowly and hoped it would clear. But it never did (actually it didn't clear for the next 3 days) and so we headed back down. *Forest Dean*

### **June 13- Canyon Peak (Bitterroots)**

Michael Krebs joined me for an attempt on the SE ridge of Canyon Peak. This was his first TRM trip after several years of being a member! We got started at 7:00 am on a beautiful Sunday morning. We hiked up the Canyon Creek drainage to Canyon Lake and then on up to Wyant Lake. Here the terrain was 100% snow covered, but the snowshoes we had brought were not necessary. Only an occasional post hole. We ascended up above the south side of the lake to a short but obvious couloir leading to the long SE ridge of Canyon Peak. I left my snowshoes, grabbed my ice ax and made a pretty quick climb up the snow. A large cornice overhanging the top made things interesting. I took a look at the ridge leading over to the steep last several hundred feet to the summit and determined that this wasn't going to be a stroll through a flowered meadow. I shouted my assessment down to Michael that it looked extremely challenging. Having not been on a snow climb in quite some time, he decided to stay there and do some practicing while I went on ahead to explore. I slowly made my way along the broken and narrow ridge, mostly staying right on top of the ridge. As it nears the Peak, it gets very knife edged. Here I found it easier to drop down in some snow on the west side. Snow was soft and so the going was okay (if it had been hard, crampons definitely would be required). As I came to the actual peak, I had to descend about 100' to skirt some steep slabs. I then ascended a steep snow field directly up the south face of the mountain. The slope probably was in the 55 degree range near the top of said snowfield. About 140' below the summit, the snow ran out. I was able to get on some 4<sup>th</sup> class rock and



ascend another 40' to a bit of a ledge. My next moves were going to be in the low 5<sup>th</sup> class variety...good footholds, but the handholds looked iffy. I tried to muster up the courage. But in the end I decided coming back with a partner to belay was a better option. I rappelled back down the 40' then headed back down the ridge. After a few nice long glissades we were back at the lake. (Michael did battle with a buried tree on one of his glissades and came away with torn pants and a bloody leg to prove he had been there!). A long leisurely hike got us out at 7:30 PM. This is a great mountain with no apparent easy way up. Highly recommended for anyone who hasn't tried it (and likes exposure). 13 miles RT and 4000' of elevation gain. *Forest Dean*

## 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.