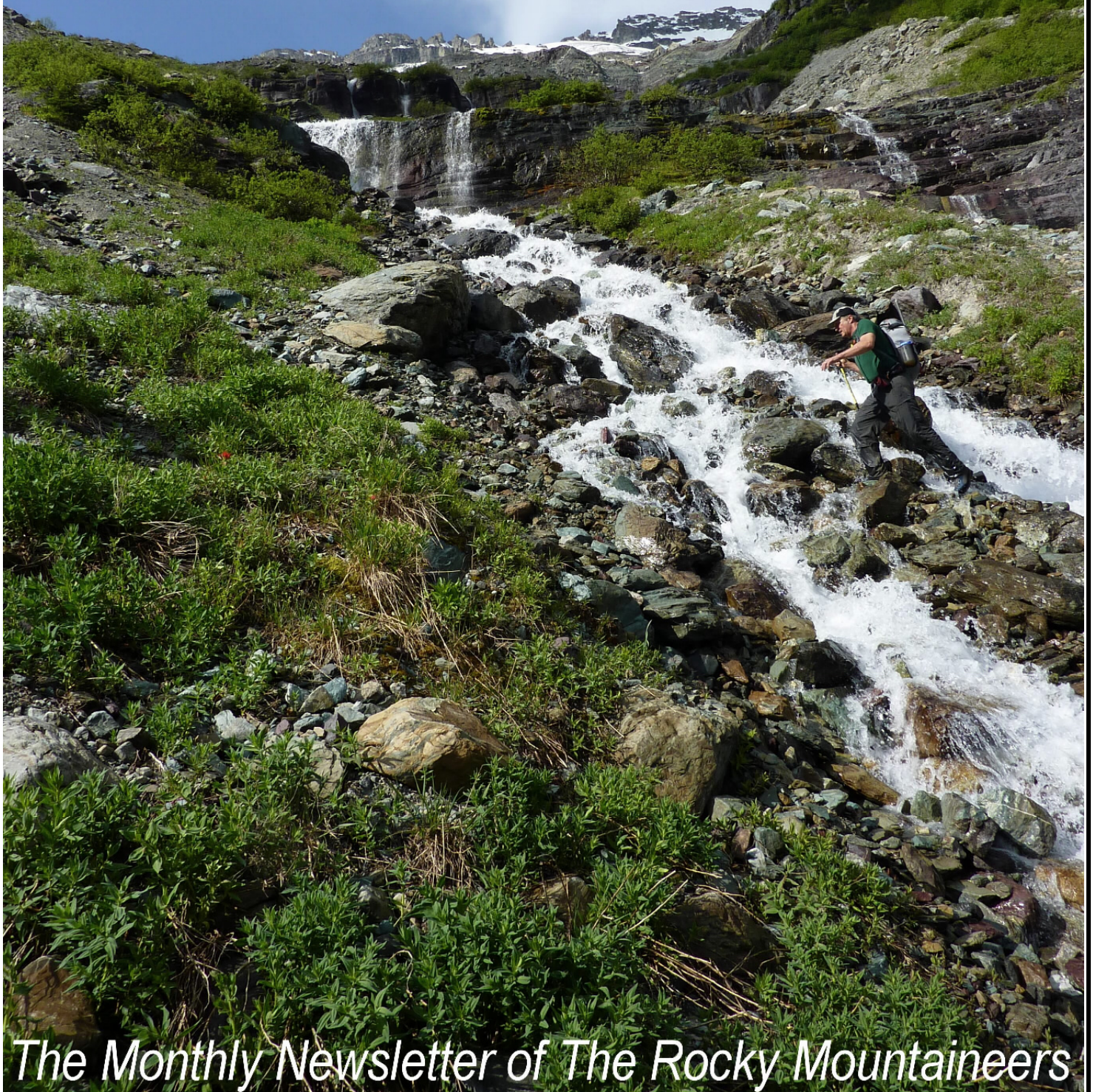


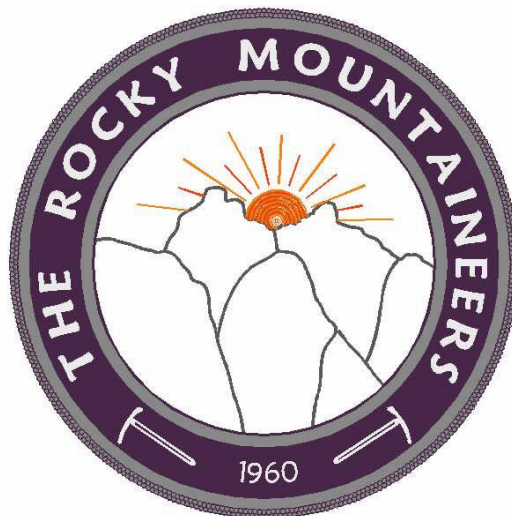
JULY 2010

# THE MOUNTAIN EAR



*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
- ☐ Backcountry Skiing
- ☐ Winter Mountaineering
- ☐ Track Skiing
- ☐ Snowshoeing
- ☐ Mountain Biking
- ☐ Rock Climbing
- ☐ Canoeing & Kayaking
- ☐ Rafting
- ☐ Kids Trips

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

Club members; 'Tis the season to get out! Weather is perfect, our mountains are beautiful and all trails are open. Whether you get out on your own or along on a club hike or climb, main thing is to get outdoors. We are having our annual Glacier Classic, weekend of August 27th, meeting and camping at Apgar Group Campground and there are a number of hikes and climbs scheduled. One thing I am very excited about is the new book of Hike and Climbs to the Bitterroot Mountain Summits by local Michael Hoyt. I wish we had this quality of book for every mountain range around. I will be leading a club hike/climb up Ward Mountain, close to Hamilton in mid-August, that I got inspiration from Hoyt's book. Many more to come in my future.

Tom Hanou  
360-3564

## **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-Sun, July 30-Aug 1 – HYALITE PEAK (Gallatin Range)**

*Rating:* Class 2, *Distance:* 10 miles, *Elevation Gain:* 2000-3000 ft

*Description:* Back by popular demand I've put this trip back on the schedule. Hyalite Peak was the first peak my family attempted to climb, about 5 weeks after moving to Bozeman in Aug. of 1979. We turned back about 500 ft. from the summit because we had reached our turn around time and still ended up coming out after dark. I've never been back. This incident says a lot about the route, flatlanders with 2 kids, 9 & 10 could do it. I remember the trail as being nice, with lots of water falls. Back then the main trail went to Hyalite Lake and a packer's trail goes from there to the summit. Going east on summit the trail takes you to Fridley Peak. I have no reason but to think that in the ensuing 31 years things have only gotten better as Bozeman became more populous and this area saw heavier use. I believe some trailhead reconfiguration has occurred, but it still appears to be slightly over 5 miles one way. The trail head is between 7000-8000 ft. and the summit is 10229 the highest peak in the north end of the Gallatin Range. Hyalite Canyon and Hyalite Lake are south of Bozeman and near-by Palisade Falls are not to be missed. There are several camp grounds in the area, we will probably go over Fri. night and camp at the trail head, climb EARLY (be on the trail by 7:AM) on Sat. and drive home on Sun.

*Leader:* Julie Kahl 406-543-6508, jawkal@hotmail.com

**Saturday, August 7- TRIANGLE PEAK (Rattlesnake NRA)**

*Rating:* Class 2; *Distance:* 13 miles bicycle plus 10 miles hiking.

*Description:* Interested in a peak that no one you know has been to? Come to Triangle Peak on the north end of the Rattlesnake Wilderness area. My plan is to bicycle up the Rattlesnake corridor almost to the second bridge, then hike the unmaintained trail 515T which parallels the main Rattlesnake creek for 2 1/2 to 3 miles, and then go cross country another 1 1/2 miles to the peak. While I have not been there, there is no indication that there will be any technical difficulties. The bicycle trailhead is at 3500', the hiking trailhead is at 5100', and Triangle Peak is 7800'. I have 2 or 3 mountain bikes that I could lend people without bikes.

*Leader:* Alden Wright, 542-1966 (home), 243-4790 (work), [alden@wrightmontana.net](mailto:alden@wrightmontana.net).

**Sat-Sun, August 7-8- MT. SAINT NICHOLAS (Glacier National Park)**

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

*Description:* This trip was originally scheduled for end of June, but I had to cancel that. This will be a two or three day trip to climb what may be the most impressive looking mountain in all of Montana. We will start on Saturday 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 some 6). After the climb, we can either hike all the way out or spend another night at camp and hike out Monday morning. 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.

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

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

**Saturday, August 14- WARD MOUNTAIN (Bitterroots)**

*Rating:* Class 3, *Distance:* 11.8 miles, *Elevation Gain:* 4233 ft

*Description:* Start at Camas Creek Trailhead. The trail leads to Camas Creek and from there up its course in a northwest direction past the Camas Lakes and into the Camas Cirque on the west side of Ward Mountain. From upper Camas Lake the trail ends and we make our way up into the Camas Cirque and to the saddle west of Ward Mountain and from there along the ridge leading up to the summit. Route back if we are able to have car shuttles, we can go down the trail on the east side, otherwise some can go that way, the rest back the way we came to pick up the climbers who came down the east side. I will be exploring this route prior to the climb, but I got this information from Hoyt's book.

*Leader:* Tom Hanou- 360-3564, [tlhanou@aol.com](mailto:tlhanou@aol.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 Friday dinner, burgers, brats, dogs will be provided. 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!!!)

**PLEASE:** If you are planning on attending, contact Forest Dean by phone or email. We need to start compiling a list for camping and food purposes. (see contact info below)

### **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. It will be the "short one" though as described in Edwards' book.

*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). I will be trying to pin down a date for this real soon. Forest Dean- 240-7612- [mtnear1@gmail.com](mailto:mtnear1@gmail.com)



## TRIP REPORTS

### June 19- Warren Peak (Pintlers)

Having no takers on my trip to go up Warren Peak; El. 10,464', in the Pintlers via Edith Lake, due in part of me not getting the word out in a timely fashion, my chocolate lab, Koa and I left early on Saturday morning, June 19th. It is 5 miles into Edith Lake and I didn't get into any snow until then.

Edith Lake still had ice over half of it. I started up to Warren Peak thru the snow and trees on the north side, aiming for an avalanche chute. I was a little surprised that the snow here did not have a base to it as I was postholing crossing it, so I went across and up the west side of the chute which had no snow and while it was steep, it presented no problem. Having gotten up on top, the slope leveled out some, but the snow still had no base and I was knee deep+ ascending up the snow slope. Don't know for sure, but during my examination of the snow layers for possible avalanche, there were no



layers. I figured that since we were having all the rain here in Missoula, this was possibly all new snow at 10,000' elevation and had not set up a base. I was up Little St Joe the weekend before and the snow conditions were very good. I crossed over to go up a talus slope as I would be able to gain a few hundred feet up it, prior to getting on the snow again. Although this slope was fairly unstable, we still gained in elevation. Went out on the snow again and I was once again postholing and crotch deep. Koa, new nickname 'Flounder'



was having a tough time also. At this time, the weather was starting to deteriorate and even though I figured I only had 400' elevation to the summit and a half mile, with the snow conditions I figured it was at least an hour to the summit, so I turned around. We headed straight down the snow slope, wishing I could glissade down but couldn't. We were both crotch deep and Koa got a new nickname; Snowplow. By the time we got down to Edith Lake it started raining lightly, a mile down the trail, hail and 10 minutes after getting to the car, a downpour. Warren Peak will still be there for another attempt in my future.

*Tom Hanou*

### June 25- Piegan Mountain (Glacier NP)

While this wasn't an advertised club event, a couple of people I work with were interested in the club and have since joined and we went to Glacier weekend of June 25th. Matt Leekley and Ricky Schultz were interested in snow travel and climbing and as I was wanting to check out access down from my upcoming



Glacier Classic hike and climb up Pollock and Piegan Mountains, Saturday morning we drove up to Logan Pass and a half mile further to Lunch Creek. Right away we were on snow off Going to the Sun Highway and snow conditions were excellent. Right away I gave Matt and Ricky instructions in the use of an ice axe; glissading and more importantly, self arrest. We traveled quickly up the snow slopes and then crossed over to the northeast and ascended rock ledges, none real difficult (Class 3) up to the saddle between Pollock and Piegan. While it was quite windy down below, at the saddle, it was hurricane force! The

highest winds I have experienced in my 35 years of travelling the mountains in the west. We chose to go up Piegan, El. 9,220', as it was going to be easier and better egress in case of weather turning on us. There is basically a trail all the way up from the saddle and no difficulties at all experienced and the views were excellent. We stayed on top for a half hour, descended the rock scree slopes and benches, got on the snow and glissaded our way down to the highway quickly. *Tom Hanou*





## **June 19-22, Smith River Float**

The Smith River, south east of Great Falls MT, between the Big Belt and Little Belt Mountains was such a popular scenic trip that it is now the only river in Montana that requires a permit to float it. Permits are applied for in early winter and special consideration is given to first time floaters. Several members of the Rocky Mountaineers applied and Julie Kahl (June 19th) & Alden Wright (July 14th) received permits. Nine parties of up to 15 people are allowed to launch each day with self chosen designated campsites, some on public lands or leased sites. The standard practice is to put-in at Camp Baker, about 17 miles north of White Sulphur Springs and take-out at Eden Bridge 67 miles north, covering 60 river miles. Over the winter the Belt area received above average snow pack and in addition it had been raining locally for several days before our trip. During this time record high flows had been recorded. At launch the river was over its bank in low areas, but bank full in others. During non rainy times it dropped steadily, going up after a rain. Except in the lower reaches of Missouri Break-like cottonwood bottoms, where the river is flatter and leveler, there the high water still seemed to be "piling up." Despite the rain at no time was it disturbingly cold and mosquitoes were not a problem, but it did get windy at times.

We rented rafts and a trailer from Montana River Outfitters in Great Falls, Larry Roth pulled it with his truck. At \$120 a shot to have a vehicle shuttled we tried to plan to do our own shuttling, but ended up having two vehicles shuttled anyway. There were two ways to go, to the east the long way via White Sulphur Springs, Great Falls & Ulm -around 100 miles, or a "county road" (Magher & Cascade Counties) that in various stretches was paved, gravel or a red gumbo 2 track through rancher's fields. It had last rained the day before and this road was drying out, but still left a lot of mud on the shuttle vehicles we drove though.

After much attrition of party members to family business, injury and illness, we ended with ten people coming to Camp Baker. One member of the party could get there the day before and sign us in for a departure slot, starting at 7:30 AM. Steve Schombel volunteered to do this, then found his "rhumatiz" was really bothering him, and he opted not to go, but he did stay at Camp Baker to watch our stuff while we shuttled vehicles etc. His help in these matters was invaluable, and we missed his company on the trip. The Fort Benton members opted to stay in White Sulphur Springs, while the rest camped at the very spacious sites at an uncrowded Camp Baker the night of June 18th, with a departure time of 9:30 the next day.

Carolyn Pardini and son Tony of Polson used their own canoe. Julie & David Kahl of Missoula had a 12 foot ft., and Becky Roth, Larry Roth, Mike Higgins and Justin Hansen of Fort Benton used two 14 ft. rafts. Vic Applegate of Missoula had one of those 10 ft. -one person catamaran (two tubes) type rafts. With the higher water the Pardinis had side channels and other shallow areas to use to stay out of the rougher waters, in some of the rapids they followed a raft for the "smoothed" water in its wake. Because they could go much faster than the rafts they would beach and explore caves, pick goose feathers and such side trips that the rest of us didn't do. After finding a deer skull they tied it on the front of their canoe for the trip.

### **Day 1- June 19**

We were closed to having gear packed, but not loaded in the boats yet when the ranger came to do business, around 9:AM. Everybody paid their \$25 fee at this time, chose our camp sites, and were given an orientation including the need to do a bucket wash of our boats at take out to prevent moving around biological agents. Roth family members took photos of the group and we finished loading and departed about 11:AM with 15 miles to the Syringa Campsite as our destination. Carolyn and Tony took off first, they wanted to stop at Indian Springs to fill their water bottles, the rest of us carried our water (as recommended). Carolyn and Tony, obviously, were experienced floaters, as was Vic and Mike had worked for an outfitter at one time. Not so the rest of us. Much of the first few miles we spent seeing the scenery up-close and personal as we bounced and cart wheeled off it. David was rowing and Vic floated beside us and gave him tips, and he picked up the skill very fast. In our worst incident we got caught on trees caught behind a rock and had to use the oar as a lever to get us off. Larry had similar problems and Mike coached him, but after he also got a raft hung up badly on trees caught behind a rock he got designated the official fisher person, Mike rowed his raft. Nineteen year old

Justin, who also picked up the skills quickly after Mike's coaching rowed Becky's raft. Becky or I didn't row, but being in the front of the raft wasn't "cushy" either. The accepted technique is to point the front of the raft at the "danger" and back paddle as you go by it. Always being up-close and personal with the "danger" got a bit



trying until we all got more confident with the rower's skills. Indian Springs was a few miles down the river and we stopped for a break there -our first attempt at beaching. By mid afternoon the open farmland we had started in had turned into rocky cliff faces, though some were tight and narrow there were very few spots with cliffs on both sides of the river, the usual configuration was a cliff on one side with a gravelly flat on the other alternating sides of the river; The flats were the locations of the campsites. Most were empty, or only had one party at them. On average we saw eight other boats. Several fly fishing parties per day, while we were floating, and one

group had several small children, like six, under the age of five. We were the only party at the Syringa campground which we reached around 3:30. Here we experienced probably the most direct impact from the high water. Most sites had flat willow bars by their takeouts which gave a broad area to beach and tie up. But for us these were under water and we ended up with shooting for a 20 foot space on a steep 3-4 foot bank in swift water, a challenge for the inexperienced rowers who hadn't learned to "back paddle" into a landing yet. When the two 14 ft. rafts reached Syringa first, there was another party in the landing area, taking a break. Asked if they were camping they said no, but the rafts with no where else to go, drifted a bit further only to realize there wasn't another landing, as private land started just at the edge of the campground. They "hove-to" as best they could and when David and I in the 12 ft. raft arrived we were confused, and ended up slowing ourselves by floating into a slightly covered mud flat at the bank of the private land. All three rafts had to be pull-pushed back up the bank to the landing, everybody got wet, our footwear got sucked off by the mud, and the party taking a break did help us some before shoving off and giving us room to tie up.

The center of our camps was a 15 ft. by 15 ft. screen house with a tarp over it. It provided a dry gathering place when it rained and we could cook in there. We had debated on how to do meals, with 15 people it seemed best to have separate messes, but with nine people and only one dry cooking area we ended up doing communal meals. Justin and Tony made us fires every night. Carolyn and Tony usually hiked off somewhere from camp. Thunderstorms rolled through, one striking so close we felt it, but we did get to spend some time around the fire and turned in around dark. At the height of one rain episodes a male western tanager (probably begging for food) came into our shelter on the ground. This day we also saw one fly fisher person catching a big fish (Larry never had much luck), redheaded merganzers, mallards, hawks and eagles, sandpipers, water ousels, cliff swallows with heads in their mud nests, and Canada geese that had made liberous use of the campsite before us.



### Day 2- June 20th. Father's Day

Everyone was pretty much up before 7:AM, things were wet from the night before. We had breakfast packed and loaded and were on the river by 10:30, 17 miles to the Crowsfoot campsite. The inexperienced rowers were doing better today but we discovered that playing bumper boats was a good way to get out of eddies. Not too far out of camp was some pictographs on a cliff face right over the river, but most of us didn't see them, Vic got pictures. The river about doubled in size after Tenderfoot Creek came in from the east. We pulled over for lunch, and later the sound of a lawn mower alerted us to the "resort" on the west side of the river. The sign offering showers and ice was tempting but our wanting to be off the river before the afternoon thunder showers drove us on. The cliff faces were higher and steeper today, with lots of caves and cave-like cliff undercuts at water level. Saw the usual birds and Carolyn and Tony saw deer. Once again we over shot our landing at the Crowsfoot campground when we arrived around 4:PM, and rafts had to be hauled up stream a short ways, our raft ended up at almost a 45 degree angle and it made it challenging to load and unload it without anything

falling in the water. I realized we had floated the day without our cooler handles being strapped down. The campground was on an open flat and it was very windy as we tried to set up camp, raining as we cooked dinner. Carolyn and Tony had hiked back upstream to investigate an arch in the cliffs, they were in the arch when it rained. They encountered fawns on the way back. Between storms we wandered around took pictures, used the open air accommodations or fished. It stormed seriously after dinner and we listened to Vic's NNOA radio, heard reports of a very



nasty cell east of us, dropping big hail on Coffee Creek -which we suspect was the one to later tornado on Billings. North and west of us it wasn't much better and it sounded like it would rain for most of Monday and into Tues. morning. We discussed bagging it for an eight hour float the next day and getting off the river, but didn't make any decisions, midnight found clearing skies, 3:AM it was mostly clear.

### Day 3 -June 21

It was cloudy and raining a little as we had breakfast, packed and loaded. I had found one of the cooler's handle straps and put it on and tied down the other end. It rained a little more with some chilly up canyon winds as we set out at 10:30 for 13 miles to Middle Ridgetop Campsite, just at the start of the 3 rapids. But soon the sun came out everything dried and we had beautiful weather for the rest of the trip. One again we focused on getting to camp before afternoon thunder showers, arriving at 2:30, it never stormed but did get windy in the last afternoon. The Ridgetop site has three campsites, Upper, Middle and Lower, the Upper site was unused and there was a fishing outfitter's camp in the lower site. We tried to out smart this landing site by pulling in when we saw the sign for the upper site and then ease along the submerged willow flat to the site. No such luck, the landing for the middle and lower sites was too far down, and we had to launch back into

the current and make a run at it. David had gotten pretty good at the back rowing landing by now. This site was in a grove of trees, we could see the outfitter camp next door but didn't feel crowded at all. On the river we saw the usual birds and also pelicans and a Northern 3-Toed woodpecker. The landscape was still dominated by rock cliffs but the grassy flats were getting larger and the cliffs were further back from the river. Cattle were common and we could see places where roads ford-crossed the river in low water, also a few trolley cables. (There were two private bridges, one just out of Camp Baker and another in the cottonwood bottoms before Eden Bridge.) Carolyn and Tony went for a hike to the base of nearby cliffs and at dinner talked about seeing poison ivy. David thought that there wasn't poison ivy in Montana and Carolyn took him



to see it, they saw a blue racer snake. Carolyn took a circuitous route back returning to camp wide-eyed and freaked after passing close to a rattlesnake sunning on a rock. We had a nice fire and read from a Montana trivia book and spent the longest evening of the year enjoying this special place. Carolyn and I asked the guy setting up the outfitter camp about the three rapids coming up tomorrow and he said a "hydraulic by the eagle's nest" that we had come by today was the worst spot on the river in high water.

#### Day 4, June 22

On our last day we were up early to another beautiful day and on the river by 9:30 for 15 miles to Eden Bridge. Our first challenge was the three rapids that spell the end of the rocky canyons. Devilish at lower water they were just big wave-terrains to us and a lot of fun. After the rapids the land levels out and the river gets broader and slower. Deposits of the powdery red dirt that made the gumbo on the roads began to color the hillsides. There are no campsites for the last 12 miles of private land, and we heard that a strong up canyon wind in this area could really upset your time table. We had not much wind and a fast current and was to Eden Bridge by 1:PM. The land opens out into ranching lands and cottonwood bottoms, a herd of sheep watched us as we had lunch below the high water mark part way. In addition to the usual birds we saw a yellow warbler and heron. There was a crawdad on the shore as we launched, and on one of their side trips Tony encountered a rattlesnake in the process of eating a mouse. We all beached without incident and our leisurely trip ended with several hours of activity as we unloaded, washed equipment and recycled. Carolyn, Tony and Vic were last seen plotting a scenic route from Wolf Creek to Rogers Pass, to get back to Missoula. David drove back to Missoula to work the next day. Becky rode with me back to Fort Benton while Larry, Mike and Justin took equipment back to Great Falls. It's an adventure none of us will forget. *Julie Kahl*



## 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.