

# THE MOUNTAIN EAR

AUGUST 2010



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6th Annual Glacier Classic  
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News and Notes*

*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*

Fellow Mountaineers,

Summer seems to be getting over with sooner and sooner every year. It is time to get out and be outdoors. There are upcoming trips thru August and we have the Glacier Classic coming up the last weekend of August, the 27th and 28th at Apgar Group Site. It is fun with everyone there and there are numerous trips scheduled. We also will be having the Lil St Joe cabin maintenance and firewood cutting trip scheduled for Saturday, October 2. It is work and it is fun. We'll have a cookout in the evening at the trailhead at Bass Creek Overlook. See everyone in Glacier!

Tom Hanou

[tlhanou@aol.com](mailto:tlhanou@aol.com)

## *The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Glacier Classic!!*

Well its almost here! Our sixth installment of The Glacier Classic should be a great one! The dates are August 27-29, 2010. Once again, here are the details:

**WHERE:** We have reserved at group site at APGAR CAMPGROUND near the west entrance of Glacier National Park. This will be our "basecamp" for all our weekend activities. (see campground map below- we will be in the "E" loop. Look for our "The Rocky Mountaineers" signs)

**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:** Anything you'll need for the specific hike or climb you wish to participate in. Also, all your regular camping stuff (tents, bags, etc). Food: **For Friday dinner, burgers, brats, dogs will be provided. For Saturday's dinner, Tom Hanou will once again be making burritos!** Bring whatever sides and drinks you wish for yourself or to share. Breakfast and lunches are on you. No pets allowed (Glacier's rules).

**PLEASE:** If you are planning on attending, contact Forest Dean by phone or email. (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 – 3 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- HEAVENS PEAK** (Scramble/Climb)

*Rating:* Class 3; *Distance:* 6 miles; *Elevation:* 5500'

*Description:* East Face Route (for more info see SummitPost.org). We will begin on the Going to the Sun Road approx 6.5 miles past Lake McDonald Lodge. Ford McDonald Creek and then up the obvious drainage on east/southeast side of mountain. Near the top the route climbs huge slabs of rock. Class 3 all the way with little exposure. Short route but a lot of elevation gain.

*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

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

*Rating:* Class 1; *Distance:* 11 miles; *Elevation:* 4000'

*Description:* This will be a hike starting at the north end of McDonald Lake and then going up Howe Ridge to the north before descending down to Trout Lake.

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

**Saturday- AVALANCHE LAKE** (Hike)

*Rating:* Class 1; *Distance:* 4-5 miles; *Elevation:* 500'

*Description:* This hike will start at Avalanche campground and follow avalanche creek on a very good trail back to the lake. The lake sits in a picturesque cirque with numerous waterfalls.

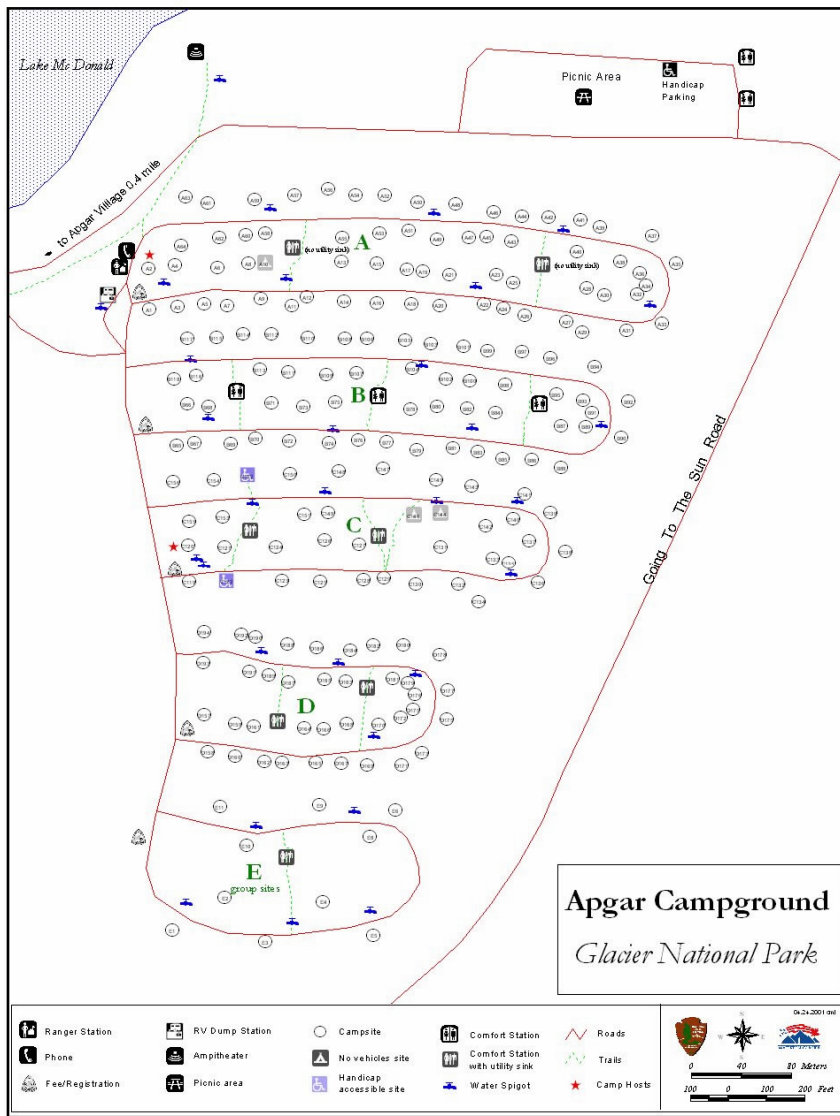
*Leader:* Becky Richards- [becky\\_richards@q.com](mailto:becky_richards@q.com)

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

*Rating:* Class 1; *Distance:* 8 miles; *Elevation:* 3100'

*Description:* Scalplock Mountain and Lookout are in the southwest corner of Glacier NP. The trail begins at the Walton Ranger station. There are excellent views from the Lookout of Mount St. Nicholas, Elk Mountain, and Salvage Mountain. Scalplock Lookout was built in 1931 and rehabbed in 1999. It is listed on the National Historic Lookout Register. A "scalplock" is defined as follows: a long lock of hair left on the top of the shaven head of certain Native American warriors.

*Leader:* Richard Smith- [Richard@missoulapt.com](mailto:Richard@missoulapt.com)



## **News and Notes**

On Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> we will be resuming our monthly business meetings and Feature Presentations. These occur on the second Wednesday of every month. The business meeting will begin at 6:00 PM. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend. There is always beer. Following this, at 7:00 PM our presentation part of the meeting takes place. As always, our September meeting is a chance for members to come and show pics or videos of their trips from the past year. If you wish to show some pics, please have them on a memory stick or CD- a laptop will be available. Please limit your presentation to 10-12 minutes to allow everyone else plenty of time. More details next month prior to the meeting.

This year we have moved our meeting place to The Trailhead!

Look for news on our Cabin Workday and Party in the next newsletter as well. Planned date is Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## 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.

### **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)

### **Fri-Mon, Sept. 3-6- THE GUARDHOUSE, PORCUPINE RIDGE, PEAK 9125 (Glacier NP)**

*Rating:* Class 3-4, *Distance:* TBD, *Elevation Gain:* Lots

*Description:* Labor Day weekend trip to the north central area of GNP. Will drive up to Bowman Lake campground on Friday evening. Saturday morning, will take a motor boat ride the length of Bowman Lake, then hike up the trail towards Brown Pass about 3 miles. From there I plan to climb east up a chute to a saddle on the south side of Thunderbird Mtn, then drop down to a lake at 6940'. This will be a 5.3 mile hike with 4000' of gain and 1000' of loss. Here we will set up camp. On Sunday, will attempt climbs of any or all of the listed peaks (could possibly do one Monday morning too before heading out). Elevation gain and loss will be significant. If you want to come on trip but not necessarily climb all three peaks (or any for that matter), that is fine. This will be somewhat of an exploratory trip as I have not been in this area, nor have I heard of anyone ascending the gully to the saddle and the 6940' lake.

*Special Equipment:* Ice axe, crampons

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

**Saturday, September 25– MISSOULA – ELK SUMMIT – BLODGETT CREEK CIRCUIT (Bitterroots)**

**The M.E.S.S.S. (Missoula – Elk Summit Shit Show!)**

*Rating:* Endurance Fest: bike 53 miles of uphill asphalt, 25 miles of steep (up to 12%) uphill gravel road, followed by a 25+ mile single track run....all in one day.

*Description:* This will be the second annual M.E.S.S.S.!!! Join us in riding from Missoula down to Lolo, up over Lolo Pass and down to the turn off for Elk Summit (near the Lochsa Lodge). Some folks will transition to mountain bikes and we'll continue south on the gravel road over Savage Pass to Elk Summit. Hoping to end up at the Blodgett Creek trailhead before or very near dark, we'll be celebrating with lots of food and beer! The trip will be supported with a shuttle of limited capacity. Transitions between bicycles will be possible. Also, if you feel up for 2 or even 1 of the legs of this event, please feel free to join in wherever you like! Email or call me if you're interested in joining in for this interesting quest (as a participant or as a support volunteer).

*Special Equipment:* Road bike, mountain bike or cyclocross bicycle

*Leader:* Joshua Phillips—C: 396-3162, email: [mtsurveyor@gmail.com](mailto:mtsurveyor@gmail.com)

*Cover Photo: Courtesy of Chris Dunn. Picture taken somewhere in Alaska? Chris says hello to everyone and is bummed he will be missing the Glacier Classic!*



## TRIP REPORTS

### July 31- Hyalite Peak (Gallatin Range)

It turned out that all of the participants could go to Bozeman around noon the day before and we met for dinner, then Lois Crepeau and Fred and Eileen Schwanemann stayed in a bed and breakfast in Bozeman while David and I drove up into Hyalite Canyon. The campground we thought about staying in was full -no surprise, so we camped at the trailhead. There they had a picnic table and fire pit for a kitchen area with a nice tent area the appropriate distance away. It was busy, groups were coming out until dark, and several people or parties parked and took off early in the morning before we were up. One evening walk group had two pack pygmy goats with little pack saddles. A woman's group in the morning had two very eager dogs that couldn't figure out what was taking so long to get on the trail, they kept running back to the cars to check. Those who had spent the night in Bozeman arrived shortly after 7:AM and we were on the trail by 20 to 8:AM. There are 10 waterfalls on the trail, most of Hyalite Creek, Silver Skein falls was the only one we didn't see. The trail started as a nice wide old road. But confusion set in early, another narrower, rocky trail paralleled it, neither was on the topo map. The signage was confusing, something about a trail to Grotto Falls. It turned out that there was a wheelchair accessible trail back to Grotto Falls and the rocky narrower side trail was both the horse trail and the Hyalite Creek Trail, no signage saying anything about Hyalite Lake. We followed the nice wide trail and ended up at Grotto Falls, which was OK as we would probably have gone there anyway. A guy there told us how to find the main trail and we only had to go back the way we came (on a different trail) a quarter mile or so. We took our time hiking off trail to see waterfalls, overlooks and take lots of photos. Lois found a very young mouse in the trail and carried it a way inside her jacket until it was more warm and active and then tucked it into a safe place off the trail. The wild flower fields were incredible, especially endless drifts of sticky geranium that are white here instead of pink. At Shower Falls, 3.5 miles back, we parted ways, Lois, Eileen & Fred headed back out, they got to the trailhead just as it started to rain, and returned to Missoula.



David and I continued on to Hyalite Lake at 5.3 miles, there we stopped for a snack where a large marmot chattered at us from some rocks. The trail switchbacks up the headwall of the main canyon to the cirque where the lake is. From it there were long views down the Hyalite Creek basin to the main canyon and Hyalite Reservoir, The Gallatin Valley beyond, and beyond the Bridger Mts. to the north. Lots of clouds dropped rain below us. We had seen the first clouds towering up above the steep canyon walls shortly after leaving the others at noon. At 1:30 we heard the first thunder as we approached the trail

that climbs the cliffs at the end of the circ. We walked out onto the alpine terrain to try and find a good spot to take a few last pictures before putting our not water-proof cameras away then started back out at 2:PM, making it back to the trailhead at 5:PM. All of the other parties we encountered up high also headed out and



we spoke with them as they passed us, we all agreed that the storm had come up unusually fast. The women climbers now had two very tired dogs.

The sky cleared and by the time we got down to the lower parts of the trail it was hot and we were second guessing if we should have stayed up and waited out the storm and then summited. But it was raining again when we got to the trail head, we decided to go back to Bozeman and stay in a hotel. It continued rainy up in the canyon and the Bozeman area all evening with a beautiful double rainbow over the Bridger Mts. in the evening. *Julie Kahl*

### **August 7- McLeod Peak (Rattlesnake)**

This trip was originally advertised going to Triangle Peak, but the destination was changed to McLeod Peak a few days before the trip since this is a more interesting destination. McLeod Peak is on the northern end of the Rattlesnake Wilderness area, and is hard to get to since to the north is the South Fork Jocko Tribal Primitive Area which is open only to tribal members. If one's sole objective is to get to the peak, then it is easier to hike there via the East Fork of Finley Creek. A trip report describing such a trip is in the July 2008 Newsletter. By bicycling up the main Rattlesnake road, we were able to see three seldom-visited mountain lakes.

Scott Barrett, Matt Morgan Henderson, and Alden

Wright left the Rattlesnake trailhead on mountain bikes at 6:15 am. We arrived at the wilderness boundary on the Wrangle Creek trail about ¼ mile above the second bridge at about 8:15 am. By 8:40 we were hiking up the trail. We left the trail about a mile and a half above the wilderness boundary when the old road ended. We then crossed Wrangle creek and headed north up towards the basin south of McLeod Peak. This basin



contains three real lakes (all unnamed) and four additional smaller “potholes”, and we went by the west most lake on the way up. This lake was shallow and had no fish. From this lake we decided go to north to the top of the ridge which turned out to be the ridge to the west of the peak to the south of McLeod Peak. From there, it was not hard to skirt this peak and head north to McLeod peak, which we reached about 1 pm. We decided to follow a different route down that went by the two other larger lakes in the basin. We saw numerous trails, but every indication is that these were maintained by elk rather than people. Both lakes were very beautiful and would be good destinations for backpacking trips for those interested in bike-trailing backpacking equipment. The northern lake probably

had fish, and the southern lake definitely had lots of fish. We saw no “campsites” on either lake. We got to the bikes at about 6 pm, and after 2 simultaneous flat tires, we were out by 7:30. *Alden Wright*

### August 7- Triangle Peak (Rattlesnake Wilderness)

I had planned on joining Alden on this trip, but he switched to McLeod, so I went to Triangle alone. I rode my bike up the main Rattlesnake corridor and dropped it at the junction of trails 502 and 515, near the Wilderness boundary. From there you follow trail 515, an old partially overgrown road. The trail/road ends in about 2.8 miles. At that point you can just head directly for the peak; the bushwacking is not bad at all. The top is a rather large nearly level area with some slightly higher points. I found evidence of some extended stays by humans long ago, wired together poles and an apparent outhouse. I literally tripped over a 600' long piece of wire stretched along the ground. Was there an old temporary fire lookout, or was this left by the surveyors of the Flathead Indian Reservation boundary? I followed the southeast ridge down and passed just northwest of a tiny lake in the northwest corner of section 10. I stayed just north of the drainage south of this lake all the way back to the trail, which is a better way than my ascent route. Wapiti Lake is lovely and the area is obviously home to many elk. I spent lots of time on top looking around and at a leisurely pace still made it round trip from my house in 9 hours. *Steve Niday*

## **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>
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<b>Newsletter Archive CD</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>

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## 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.