

APRIL 2011

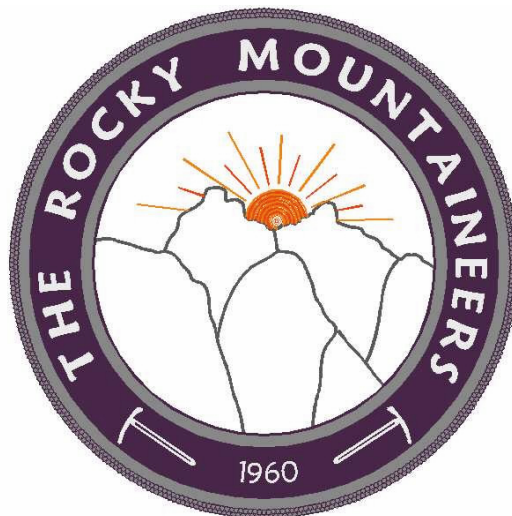
THE MOUNTAIN EAR



Inside:

- *President's Message*
- *Milltown State Park*
- *Grizzly Man Adventure Race*
- *Snow Travel Clinic*
- *Glacier Classic Preview*
- *New Trip Listings*

The Monthly Newsletter of The Rocky Mountaineers



Climb. Hike. Ski. Bike. Paddle.
Dedicated to the Enjoyment and Promotion of
Responsible Outdoor Adventure.

Club Contacts

Website: <http://rockymountaineers.com>

e-mail: info@rockymountaineers.com

Mailing Address:
The Rocky Mountaineers
PO Box 4262
Missoula MT 59806

President: Tom Hanou
tlhanou@aol.com

Vice-President: Joshua Phillips
mtsurveyor@gmail.com

Secretary: Shawn Bennett
shawnedwardbennett@gmail.com

Treasurer: Steve Niday
seniday@yahoo.com

Webmaster: Alden Wright
webmaster@rockymountaineers.com

Newsletter Editor: Forest Dean
mtnear1@gmail.com

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

Rocky Mountaineers,

It is nice having longer evenings these days. More time to do things after work during the weekdays and longer days to get out on the weekends. A great year to be out skiing with the snow we have been having. See that you do and if you want company and camaraderie, please invite others by contacting our club newsletter editor; mtnear1@gmail.com with a trip invite. In fact, it is time to start thinking about trips you want to do this summer. I will be and will be inviting members to go along, including a weekend in Glacier last weekend on June and an intro for people wanting to know more about snow travel in the mountains. Look for more info on this in this issue.

We are also starting to notify club members of club events through our website and forums. If you want to go on some legendary ski trips, check out Joshua's site, as he is out every weekend. Others are posting also. Please do the same, posting trips on our website.

This month we will be having a presentation by the recently hired director of the new Milltown State Park, Michael Kustudia. Come hear about the status and the plans for the area after a lot of remedial clean up that has been occurring the past years. Both the Clark Fork and the Blackfoot are free flowing and are now both in their original channel. Come hear about its future.

Tom Hanou
406-360-3564
tlhanou@aol.com

Membership Renewal Notice

All TRM memberships will expire at midnight on April 30. All renewals must be received by that time if you don't want your membership to lapse. Annual dues cover the period from May 1 through April 30. Those dates were chosen because of our by-laws, which state "A member's dues must be current the last day of the month before the annual meeting to be eligible to vote." We vote for officers during our May meeting. Of course we welcome dues payment at any time. Dues can be paid to me at our monthly meetings, sent to PO Box 4262, Missoula, MT, 59806, or paid via credit card or PayPal via our website:

www.rockymountaineers.com

Whatever method of payment you choose, make sure to provide your email address to receive your newsletter and announcements.

Oh, and the annual dues are still just \$10.00

Steve Niday, Treasurer.

Cover: Our never ending winter is providing great "spring" skiing opportunities like the recent one pictured on the cover (Snow Bowl area). Joshua Phillips photo.

April Presentation- Michael Kustudia

The New Milltown State Park

On **Wednesday, April 13th**, we will have a presentation by the new Park Director Michael Kustudia. Almost all of the cleanup is done out at Milltown, except for a few finishing touches. The gates and river are still closed. At the meeting you can find out when things will open up, where to park, what trails are planned and much more. The meeting is free and open to all.

Michael has been working on the Milltown issue for years, mainly with the group called Clark Fork River Technical Assistance Committee. He knows his stuff, and can answer almost all questions. As an aside, he told me he bags a peak now and then. It should be an entertaining evening. Meeting begins at **7 PM at The Trailhead**. The Rocky Mountaineers business meeting precedes this and begins at 6 PM. This is also open to anyone interested. Please join us.

There will also be a field trip on Saturday, April 30th. It's mainly organized for ASUM, but Michael said the public is welcome. If you want to see some of the area in person, ask Michael at the meeting where to meet, or, if you can't go to the meeting, park near the Black Bridge at 1:15. You could try to call Michael at the FWP office, 542-5500 for more information. Here are the details:

Milltown State Park tour April 30, 1 - 3 p.m. Meet at the Park n Ride, Hellgate Canyon, at 1 p.m. to take the ASUM bus. Or meet the bus at the Black Bridge at 1:15. Tour the Gateway and Confluence areas with Park Manager Mike Kustudia. Bus is at the Park n Ride at 3 p.m.
Sponsored by Bonner Milltown History Center, ASUM, FWP

May Meeting and Elections

During our May 11th meeting we will be holding our annual elections. Per our Club bylaws, elections for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer are to be held each year during our May meeting. Persons elected to these roles can be re-elected for a second one year term. Currently, the individuals serving in these roles are completing their first year and are all eligible to be re-elected to a second. However, we are always welcoming new and interested members in serving. If you would like to be a candidate, or would like to recommend someone, please let us know! Simply contact the newsletter editor to "throw your name in the hat".

We will not be having a featured speaker at the May meeting. Rather, we will just invite everyone to come for a Social! Bring some food and drink. Beer shall be consumed. Come and discuss upcoming trips and your summer plans. Typically good trip ideas and partners can be hatched through this method. We will have our elections, give out a couple awards and maybe even have a moderated discussion on future club plans. Please plan to attend as it should be fun (more details in May newsletter).

Grizzly Man Adventure Race

Hi folks!

This year's **GrizzlyMan Adventure Race** is right around the corner and we're looking for dedicated volunteers to help us out. The race is on April 23, at the same location on the PawsUp Ranch and Lubrecht Experimental Forest. We've changed up the format of the race a bit, so things will be a little different for our volunteers. We're looking for volunteers on Friday evening for gear drop and Saturday during the race, as well as 10 course officials (descriptions of the different positions below). We're really aiming for volunteers who can commit a minimum of 6 hours of their time this year.

Friday Evening Volunteers: Volunteers will assist at two different staging areas helping unload and organize boats or bikes, plan to be at the staging areas from 5-8pm on April 22.

Race Day Volunteers: These volunteers will be stationed at transitions areas and aid stations, plan volunteer to arrive at the Wilderness Outpost at 7am and stay until mid afternoon.

Course Official: 10 course officials will receive a \$50 gift card to REI for manning a REMOTE checkpoint for the entire day. These individuals must attend a mandatory meeting on Wednesday, April 20th at 7pm. Course officials must be at the starting line at 5am when the gun goes and be prepared to hike/bike/run to their designated checkpoint where they will be keeping track of racers. Course officials must be present at the finish line at 5pm. These individuals must be physically fit and prepared to spend the entire day in the woods (byo food, water, gators, mountain bike, boots, etc.).

Please let me know if you'd like to help us out. As always, volunteers will be welcome to the free post race spaghetti dinner and beer!

Thanks,

Emily Garlough, Volunteer Coordinator

egarlough@gmail.com



Snow Travel Clinic

Glacier National Park, June 24-26, 2011

Many people are uncomfortable traveling in the snow in the mountains, but it is a wonderful way to go, if you are prepared. This trip will be an introduction to snow travel safely, mainly the use of an ice ax and its use in climbing and more importantly, stopping! I have a few ice axes and other members, please bring yours. I will also have three different sets of crampons with me, not to use, but to show and tell their different uses. Snow will be firm to soft, depending on the time of day. It will not be icy.

Plans are to travel to Apgar Campground on Friday night and on Saturday head up to Logan Pass and on to the east to the first drainage-Lunch Creek. There is parking there and as soon as you are off the road, you're in the snow. Lunch Creek ascends into a large amphitheater with great run out and a safe place to learn the glissade and the "Self Arrest". This large amphitheater where we will stage from is probably a mile in from the road and 500' gain in elevation. There are some steep spots going up, but we will kick in good steps for a good route for everyone. If you can't make it Friday night, we will be there all day on Saturday. I'm bringing a chair.

Oh yeah, it is beautiful up there and an excellent way to ascend up some ledges to the saddle between Pollock and Piegan Mountain and an easy ascent of Piegan. Suggest an older pair of rain pants or synthetic pants (for fast drying) and gaiters, because a glissade is being on your ass in a controlled descent. I encourage everyone to come who wants to explore more in the mountains when they are still stacked up with snow.

If Logan Pass is not open, we will do the same trip on July 8-10.

Tom Hanou
tlhanou@aol.com
360-3564

7th Annual Glacier Classic

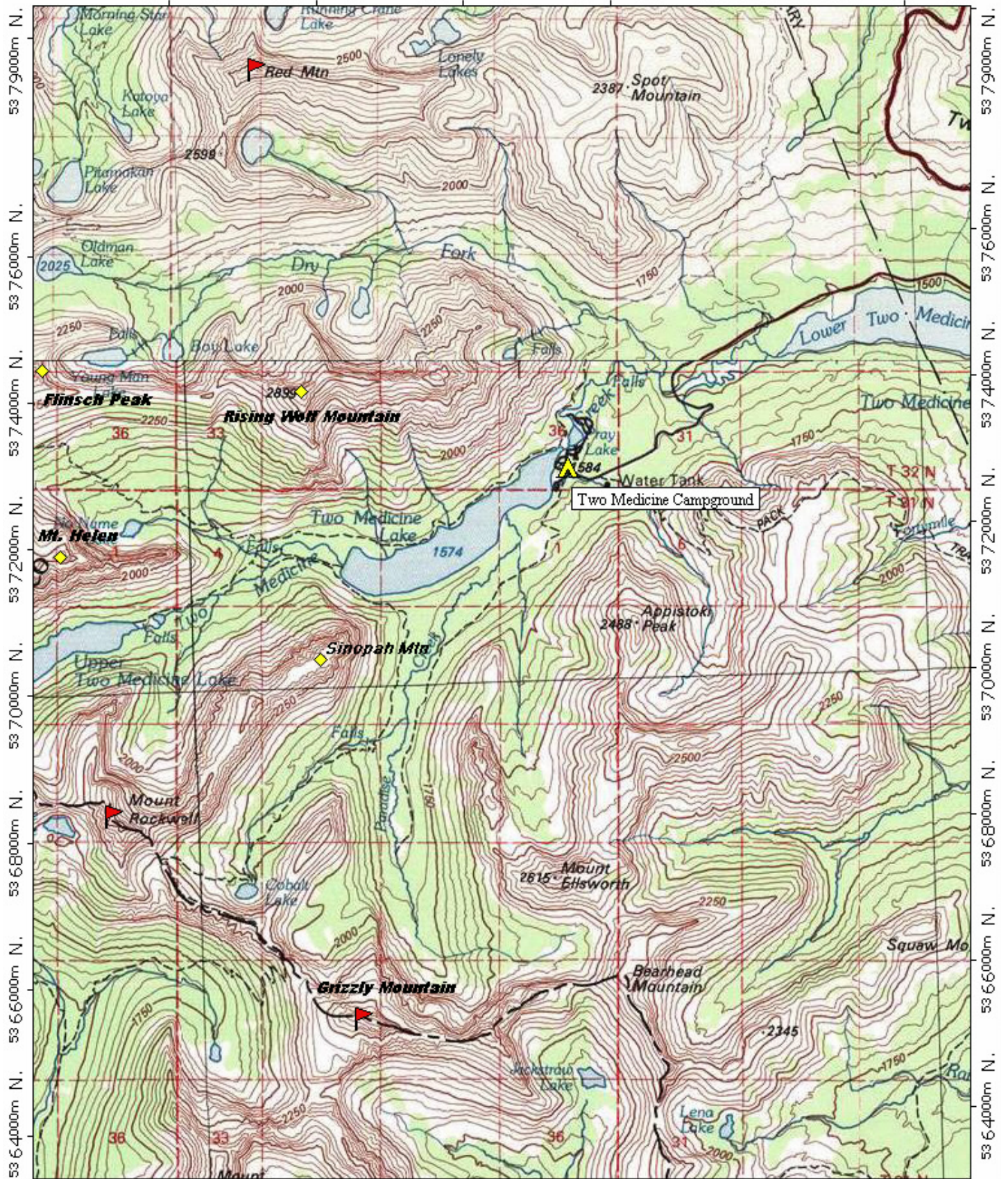
The Rocky Mountaineer's biggest annual event is in the planning stages for our seventh edition of The Glacier Classic. As always, we will be holding this on the last weekend of August (26th-28th). This year we will be basing our activities out of Two Medicine Campground on the southeast side of Glacier National Park. The 2nd Classic back in 2006 was held here and it was a good one. We climbed peaks such as Rising Wolf, Flinsch, Helen and Sinopah, hiked numerous trails, and started the tradition of Tom Hanou's Saturday night burritos. Two Medicine provides an opportunity to start all hikes and climbs right from camp without the need to drive to a trailhead. A group campsite exists here and we will do our best to get this for a couple nights. Because it is non-reservable, anyone wanting to volunteer to help us nail this site down please let us know.

We will be working to provide you with a slate of hikes, climbs and activities over the next couple months. Mt. Rockwell (Saturday- Steve Niday), Red Mountain (Sunday- Forest Dean), and an off trail two day adventure from False Summit to Firebrand Pass to Two Medicine Pass (with possible summits of Grizzly Mtn and Mt. Rockwell) and then to the campground (Friday-Saturday – Richard Smith) are all in the works. If you have an idea for a trip or would like to lead one, please let us know! We'll take all ideas and all trip leaders.

Contact: Forest Dean, 240-7612, mtnear1@gmail.com

TOPOI map printed on 04/12/11 from "Two Med.tpo"

320000m E. 322000m E. 324000m E. 326000m E. NAD27 Zone 12U 330000m E.



TN * MN
15°

Map created with TOPOI® ©2003 National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com/topo)

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, April 16 – MCLEOD PEAK (Rattlesnake)

Rating: Class 3; *Distance:* 10 miles, *Elevation Gain:* 4400 ft

Description: Not yet sure which weekend this will be. Plan is to go in the Finley Creek drainage on west side of Rattlesnake, take the north fork of Finley Creek to approach the south ridge leading to McLeod Peak (8620' – high point in the Rattlesnake). Skis or snowshoes welcome. Tribal recreation permit is necessary for this area.

Special Equipment: Ski's or snowshoes

Leader: Forest Dean - 240-7612 or mtnear1@gmail.com

Fri-Sun, April 29-May 1- GUNSIGHT and EDWARDS MTN. (Glacier National Park)

Rating: Class 3, *Distance:* 18 miles, *Elevation Gain:* 7700 ft

Description: This will be a 3 day trip to attempt a two-fer of Gunsight Mountain and Edwards Mountain in Glacier National Park. Trip would involve hiking and skiing up the Gunsight Pass Trail to the Sperry Glacier area on Friday, then attempting these two peaks on Saturday/Sunday and then heading out. Both are 9000'+ peaks. Conditions and temperatures will dictate some of the gear needed, but we would likely be treating this as a winter camping and climbing trip. Will not be departing Missoula until Friday afternoon- probably around 1:00 PM.

Special Equipment: Ski's or snowshoes; ice axe; crampons (possibly); winter camp gear.

Leader: Forest Dean - 240-7612 or mtnear1@gmail.com

Sat-Sun, May 28-29- 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. Depending on how quickly the approach goes, we may climb the peak on Saturday evening or Sunday morning. We will camp somewhere in the upper part of the drainage. Plan on this being a snow climb and winter camping. 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

Sat-Sun, June 11-12 – GRAY WOLF PEAK (Mission Mountains)

Rating: Class 4-5, *Distance:* 14 miles, *Elevation:* ~5000'

Description: On Saturday afternoon we will hike up to Riddell Lakes and climb up and over the small saddle into the Scenic Lakes basin and set up camp. Sunday morning will attempt the NE ridge route and then hike out again. Those not wishing to make the climb are still invited to come along for the approach and camp.

Special equipment: Tribal recreation permit; ice ax, harness, belay device, crampons, helmet.

Leader: Forest Dean, 240-7612, mtnear1@gmail.com

Sunday, June 12 – GREEN MOUNTAIN from ROGERS PASS

Rating: Class 1; *Distance:* 7 miles; *Elevation:* 800'

Description: This trail is north of Rogers Pass on Hwy 200, the pass is 5600 feet, and summits in the area are in the 6000 -6500 range. Most of the approximate 800 ft elevation gain is in the climb up to the ridge from the pass where the trail winds through several different habitat zones and their associated wildflowers, with no water available if there are no snow banks. It takes about 2 hours to drive to Rogers Pass from Missoula.

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

TRIP FORUM

Smith River update:

I got a permit for the Smith. The launch date is Sunday, May 15th. Plan on 3 or 4 nights on the river, and a long drive each way, so this float will take most of the week. Not many people I know are able to go on this date, so if anyone else is interested call and we can talk about it. Steve Schombel, 721-4686.

Jackson-Blackfoot-Logan (Glacier NP)

Independence Day weekend- July 1-4. Still putting idea together but preliminary plan is as such: Friday- drive to Glacier, obtain permit and hike into Blackfoot Basin area. Saturday, climb Mt. Jackson. Sunday, climb Blackfoot Mountain and traverse to Mt. Logan. Monday, hike out. Climbs will require crampons, ice axes, rope and harnesses (glacier and snow travel). Individuals wishing to participate but not climb all three, or climb none but just explore the area, are more than welcome. Forest Dean- 240-7612- mtnear1@gmail.com

Bitterroot Grand Traverse

I would once again like to attempt this Traverse. Two years ago I completed it solo in 17 hours (its reportedly been done in 12 hours). Last year the weather never cooperated and we never got an attempt in. I would again like to do it in one day, but am not opposed to a two day go-lite trip. The trip begins in the small hours with headlamp and takes us up the Little Rock Creek drainage before ascending El Capitan, The Lonesome Bachelor, and the West, Middle and East Como Peaks, then returning to the drainage and back to the trailhead. About a 20 mile trip with 12,000' of elevation gain (and loss). Look for a date in sometime in August. Forest Dean- 240-7612- 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. 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 an August attempt. Forest Dean- 240-7612- mtnear1@gmail.com

TRIP REPORTS

March 26-27- Freezeout Lake

Lois Crepeau, Zona Linemann and David & Julie Kahl all drove over to Choteau on Friday Mar. 26th and stayed at the Gunter Hotel in Choteau. It either rained or snowed the entire trip over and David and I drove the Simms-Fairfield road which goes past the lake and found open water and lots of birds. Lois and Zona also did a scouting trip before coming to Choteau. We had dinner from stuff we all brought with us and Zona turned in early while the rest of us passed the time playing Dirty 8's until we broke to watch the 10:PM news out of Helena. The weather report said we may get a "nice stretch" between two precip impulses.

On Sat. morning Zona ID the local doves as European Collared Doves (not Mourning Doves as you would expect in this area). We headed for the lakes mid morning to a lifting overcast. It was fairly clear by noon and remained so the rest of the afternoon with sunshine, temps in the 50's and little wind. The south end of the lake was still solidly frozen, but the north end ponds were open, with more water opening up as the day went on. Surrounding wetlands were studded with numerous muskrat lodges, sometimes only hundreds of feet apart. Pond 1, as usual was "swantown," with more tundra swans than any of us had ever seen there before, swimming or standing around on the ice with the usual ducks (mostly Goldeneye) and Canada Geese mixed in. There were also more swans than usual in the other ponds. Swans feed in the pond waters and don't fly out to the fields to feed as the Snow Geese do. Snow Geese numbers increased all day as thousands came in, mostly from the north.

Snow or rain showers moved in again in the late afternoon and we went back to the motel.

Sun. morning Zona ID an eastern Blue Jay (blue & white striped type) in a tree above the motel. The prediction for today was low overcast all day. We went back to the lake at mid-morning, but it was windy and the water was choppy, most of the Snow Geese were off somewhere else. David and I decided just to head back home and encountered a huge herd of cow elk trying to cross Hwy 200, on the east edge of the Clearwater Game Range. We stopped to take pictures, of course. *Julie Kahl*



Lost River Range, Idaho. F.Dean photo

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.