

A photograph of a rugged mountain peak, likely in the Rocky Mountains, with patches of snow and a dense forest at its base. The sky is clear and blue.

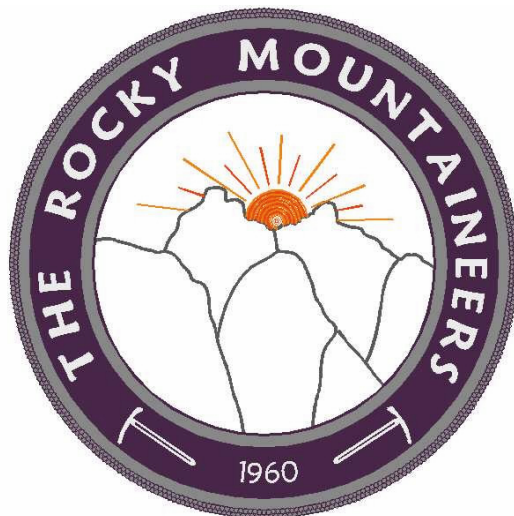
AUGUST- 2011

THE MOUNTAIN EAR

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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 Rocky Mountaineers,

I hope everyone has been having a great summer and getting outdoors. We have upcoming our annual Glacier Classic with trips listed later in this Newsletter. It is our most popular outing and this year we will be staging out of Two Medicine C. G., weekend of August 26-28. Please let us know if you are coming.

We will also start having our monthly meetings, starting Wednesday, September 14th, still at The Trailhead, starting at 7:00PM. Please bring photos of your summer trips to share with everyone. Also, please support independent, local outdoor retail stores like The Trailhead.

Lil St Joe cabin maintenance; we normally do this around the first of October; however, we have not set up a date. More on this later.

Please check out our new venue for club news via our website; <http://www.rockymountaineers.com>.

Hope to see everyone at Two Medicine!

Tom Hanou

7th Annual Glacier Classic

The Rocky Mountaineers Glacier Classic is almost here! This year marks our seventh Classic and as always, we will be holding this on the last weekend of August (Friday the 26th through Sunday the 28th). 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. There is a group campsite 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.

The itinerary: Most of the participants will plan to arrive on Friday afternoon or evening (unless you are joining Richard Smith on his trip which will begin Friday morning- see below). Again, we will try to get the group site- up to 24 people can stay here (tents only). If you wish to get your own site, feel free- you can still come over to the group site and partake in festivities. "Festivities" will mainly involve just eating and drinking and discussing trips to take place on Saturday and Sunday. Saturday morning, join up on one of the trips listed below, or create your own (let us know if you'd like us to publish it). Saturday evening join us back in the campground for more partying...Tom Hanou will once again be making his delicious burritos. On Sunday, you can again partake in a trip, or head home at your leisure.

Please let us know if you plan on coming. We want to try to ensure we get enough tent space for everyone. Contact Forest Dean (240-7612) or mtnear1@gmail.com to sign up or ask questions. Hope to see you there!

Friday-Saturday

False Summit to Two Medicine

Richard Smith will lead an overnight trek, roughly 20 miles in total distance, from False Summit to the Two Medicine campground. This will be a combination of "go-light" trekking, route finding, peak bagging, and exploring an area of the park that is seldom visited. Moderate Class 3 climbing is expected for the peaks. After picking up our permit at the Apgar Backcountry Ranger Station early Friday morning, we will start at the False Summit trailhead (7 miles west of East Glacier on Route 2). Hopefully a friend will shuttle our rig to the Two Medicine campground. We will hike to Firebrand Pass, leave the trail to climb Red Crow Mountain, then drop into Ole Creek basin and head toward the south slopes of Grizzly Mountain. Our overnight camp will depend on a water source, which may be low in the basin. Day 2, we will climb to the saddle south of Grizzly, and head to Two Medicine Pass (with possible summits of Grizzly Mountain, Tepee Mountain or Mt. Rockwell). We will then descend the trail to the Two Medicine Lake campground. If our timing is right, we will join Steve Niday's party, who will also be attempting Mt. Rockwell on Saturday. Contact Richard at 546 6756 if you are interested in this trek.

Saturday

Mount Rockwell

Rating: Class 3-4; *Distance:* 15 miles round-trip; *Elevation gain:* 4000 ft

Description: Upper Two Medicine Lake route as per "A Climber's Guide to Glacier National Park." Summit is 9272'.

Leader: Steve Niday – 721-3790 or seniday@yahoo.com

Two Medicine, Dawson Pass, Pitamakan Pass Loop

Rating: Class 1; *Distance:* 17 miles round trip; *Elevation gain:* 2800 ft

Description: A long scenic hike from Two Medicine Campground through Bighorn Basin, over Dawson and Pitamakan Passes and looping back to the Two Medicine Campground via Dry Fork.

Leader: Vick Applegate - 549-0027, k7vk@arri.net

Grizzly Mountain

Rating: Class 3; *Distance:* 21 miles round trip; *Elevation gain:* 4000 ft

Description: I am leading a climb up Grizzly Mountain (El. 9,067'), heading south up the Two Medicine Pass trail to the Continental Divide. Route will follow the Divide to the southeast and a scramble up Grizzly Mtn..

Leader: Tom Hanou, 360-3564 tlhanou@aol.com

Upper Two Medicine Lake

Rating: Class 1; *Distance:* 10 miles; *Elevation Gain:* 400 ft.

Description: We will start at the Two Medicine Campground (5200 ft) following a trail on the south side of the lake. We will visit Twin Falls at about 3 1/2 miles with another falls at Upper Two Medicine Lake (5600 ft), Route is roughly 5 miles one way. I have not been on this trail and have no other details.

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

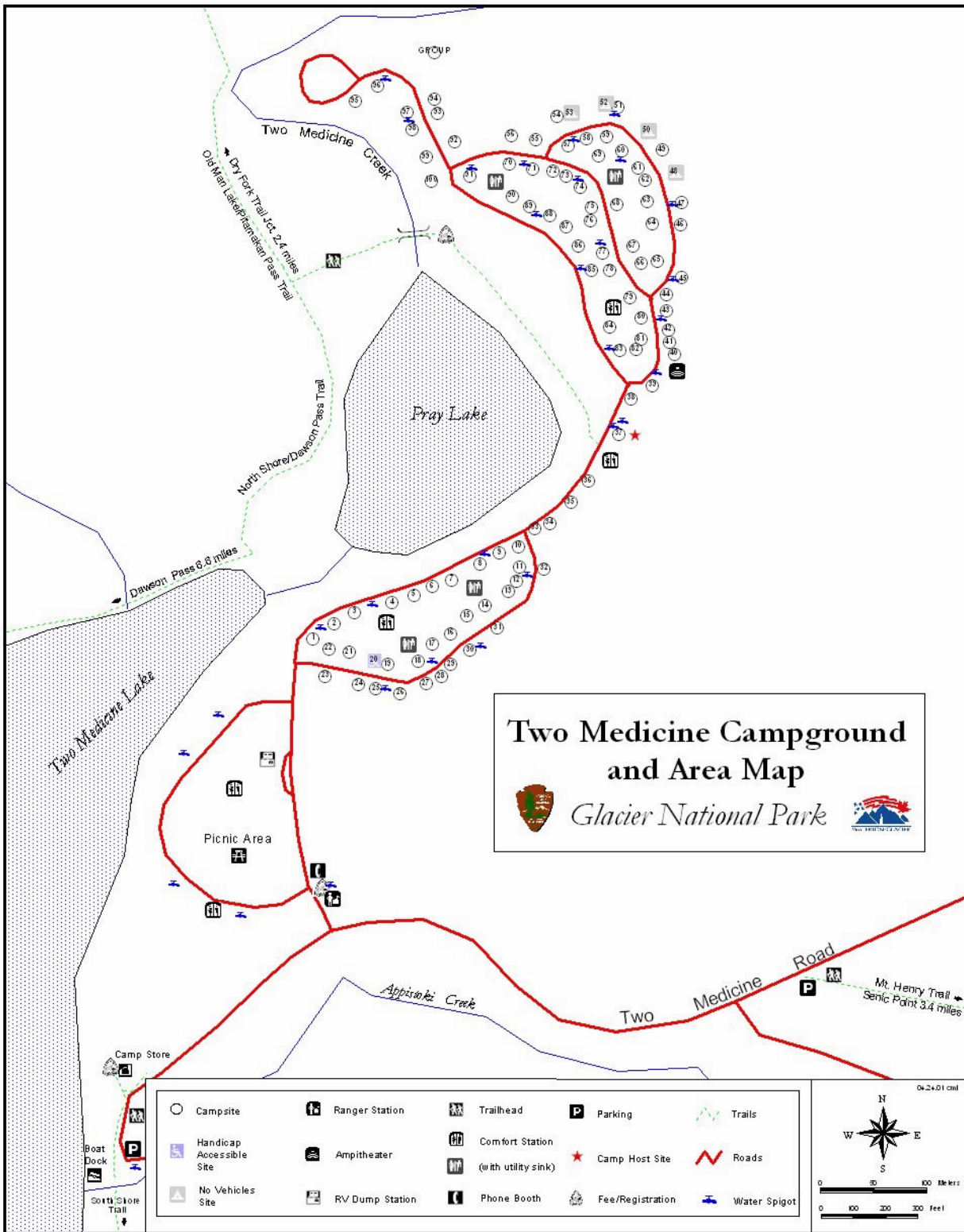
Sunday

Red Mountain

Rating: Class 3; *Distance:* 12 miles; *Elevation Gain:* 4600 ft

Description: Will hike the Pitamakan Pass trail to the point where it intersects the stream draining Lake 7015'. Up the drainage and up to the summit of Red Mtn (9377'). I expect a fairly straightforward scramble with minimal bushwacking.

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



Map of Two Medicine Campground. Note the location of the Group Site on top of map. If you wish to get an individual site, cost if \$20/night.

September Meeting

Starting in September, we will resume our monthly meetings and presentations. On Wednesday, Sept. 14th we invite you all to come to The Trailhead. Business meeting will begin at 6:00 PM. At 7:00 PM, we will have our "Picture Potpourri". This is a chance for anyone interested to show pictures of trips they have done over the past year. We will have a screen, digital projector, and laptop. Bring your pics on a memory stick or CD/DVD. Please try to limit your presentation to 10 minutes to allow others to present as well. ALSO, bring food and beverages...for yourself or to share.

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 13 - HYALITE PEAK (Gallatin Range)

Rating: Class 1, but may be some snow, *Distance:* slightly over 5 Mi. to Hyalite Lake, 7 1/2 miles to summit, *Elevation Gain:* 3300 Ft

Description: We attempted this summit last year but got shut off the summit by an early thunderstorm that brought in severe weather. There may be snow above the lake, but as this is a very popular route there will probably be an obvious trail. Having "snow gear" handy could help. There are 10 waterfalls either on, in or accessible from the trail, those who may want to just see the water falls or go to Hyalite Lake are welcome. The lowest falls -Grotto Falls, is wheelchair accessible as is Palisade Falls on the opposite side of the Hyalite Canyon. We will drive over on Sat. July 2nd, climb on Sun. July 3rd, and drive home Mon. July 4th

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

Saturday, August 20 – SWAN CREST TRAVERSE (Swan Range)

Rating: Class 3-4, *Distance:* 14 miles, *Elevation Gain:* 8500'

Description: A couple years ago while driving through the Seeley-Swan Valley, I noticed the beautiful high ridgeline from Holland Lake area to the Morrell Falls area. After consulting some maps I figured this would be one great scramble. I threw the idea out there and received invaluable help and info from Tanner Keil who has hiked and climbed much of the route. The idea continues to evolve and the final route has not been firmly established. We have agreed to the following parameters, however: do this as a one day trip; traverse the Swan Crest north to south from Carmine Peak to Matt Mountain. We will go as light as we can; our hope is we don't need a rope or harnesses (still to be determined). Trip will start by headlamp, and quite possibly finish by headlamp. *Leader:* Forest Dean – 240-7612 or mtnear1@gmail.com

Fri-Sun, Aug. 19-21 (or 20-22)- MONTANA HIGHPOINT OF THE WEST CABINETS

Description: The Montana high point of the West Cabinets, or Scotchman Peaks is an unnamed point, 6933', south of Little Spar Lake. I propose to backpack to the former end of the road or where the trail crosses the creek. This is where the trail really starts to climb to the lake. From there it is still @ 5-6 miles and 3200' up, first to the lake, then the ridge, then along the ridge to the peak. This sounds like a lot, but about 6 years ago I came really close hiking from where I parked the car. I could start this trip on Friday or Saturday, but plan on spending two nights in the backpacking camp, so it will take 3 days.

Leader: Steve Schombel- 721-4686

TRIP REPORTS

June 11-12- Gray Wolf Peak (Mission Mountains)

Shortly after I completed the Double Dip and Frank the Single Dip, we drove up to the Missions and started our hike up to Gray Wolf (3:15 pm). A short ways up the trail, we met up with Fred McDonald and his two dogs. Fred was cutting some brush to help clear the trail. Note: the tribe has blocked the logging road off down by Twin Lakes as of last fall. This means an extra mile and a half of walking. We ascended up the trail hopping lots of downed trees. Took a long time. At about 6100' we hit snow but it was firm and made for easy (though tiring) hiking. As we broke out above tree line, it started to rain (and groppel and snow) as we made our last mile to camp by Riddell Lakes. Arrived at 7:30, waited for rain to stop, cooked dinner, then went to bed. Cleared off during the night, arose at 6 am, made breakfast, then Frank and I started up and over saddle to Scenic Lakes about 7:30. Fred chose to descend. Snow was very soft and we plunged in with each step as we made our way to the big notch on the NW ridge of Gray Wolf. Frank didn't like the looks of the Notch. I downclimbed steeply into the notch, looked at the wet, slippery rock on its west side, then decided to bag it and come back another time. Turned around here at 10am. It then started to rain, so confirmed my decision! Back to camp, packed up, and left camp at 12:30. Back to truck at 3:00. Another failed Gray Wolf trip for me! 0 for 5 now. *Forest Dean*

June 19- Morrell Falls

Sun. June 19th was another in a string of cold rainy days and we decided that the lower we were the less rain we were likely to experience. Lois Crepeau had the idea to hike into Morrell Falls, outside of Seeley Lake, instead. Jeff Shryer joined Lois and Julie & David Kahl on the muddy trails. We ran into patches of snow before reaching the falls. Both Morrell Lake and a little pothole lake that's usually hard to see, were both full. The falls, as expected, was roaring and made its own mist that was more like rain. The entire gravelly area below it was covered with water. It never rained, there were no mosquitoes and we had plenty of company on the trail. Photos on Picasa, video on YouTube. *Julie Kahl*

July 1-3- Edwards and Gunsight Mountains (Glacier NP)

Having received no calls for this trip, my son Frank and I made our way to Glacier on Friday morning. We got started at 1:40 Pm. Hiked from Lake McDonald Lodge area up the trail to Sperry Chalet area. This good trail gains about 3400' over its 6.7 miles. We hit snow at 5400' and were on consistent snow pack by 6000'. Lots of snow at Chalet still, and we never did find the actual Sperry Campground area. Ended up setting up our tent on about 10' of snow pack. After arriving at 5:40, we had dinner then hit the sack. On Saturday morning, we awoke to sunny skies at 6:00 am. After breakfast, we began our climb up towards Comeau Pass. Using crampons, ice axes, and sometimes our rope, we ascended up past Akaiyan Falls and into the beautiful basin above. Gaining the east slopes of Edwards Mountain, we decided to tackle that one first. The final 1000' of climbing was quite steep (50-55 degrees at times)- something Frank had never been on before. At 11:30, we

topped out at the summit (9055') and took a few minutes to enjoy the amazing views. The descent was somewhat slow, as I belayed Frank as he downclimbed the steep snow. We then traversed to the east and down to Comeau Pass (8000'). After eating some lunch, we started up Gunsight Mountain. This was a relatively easy climb as it was mostly just a matter of kicking steps up the snow to the summit. We encountered a couple other climbers from the Flathead as we neared the summit. At about 3:30, after a 1:20 climb from the Pass, we were on the huge cornice atop Gunsight (9258'). Again, pictures and snacks and then back down to the Pass (only took 15 minutes!). We dropped down through the cleft blasted in the headwall, then down past the high country lakes and back to camp, arriving at 5:20. We ate dinner and relaxed (on snow) in the late afternoon sun. On Sunday we awoke at 8:00 am, had breakfast, packed up, hit the trail at 10:00 and were out by 12:30. A fun trip with great weather! *Forest Dean*

July 9- Green Mountain

It was otherwise a nice day when Lois Crepeau and David and Julie Kahl left the Rogers Pass Trail Head at 9:00 AM. On the map, this route of the Continental Divide Trail, looked like it was 4 1/2 miles along the ridges to Green Mt. But I forgot to figure in the miles covered on the switchback trail up the ridge face above Rogers Pass. This area varying between sections in the woods and open grassy slopes was garden like with wild flowers and we were protected from the 25-30 MPH winds. Lois found an elk thistle and treated us to its celery like stem. The route comes out on a ridge top that we followed to a pass above the East Fork of Cadotte Creek and the canyon of the Middle Fork of The Dearborn River that Hwy. 200 follows. Two snowbanks below the edge were the remnants of this winters massive cornice. Here we encountered the stiff wind with its 40 MPH gusts. They were bad enough on the open slopes of the points, but in the bottom of the passes it was like hand to hand combat to keep your hat and stuff from blowing away. Loose pack straps and garment edges would batter us and my camera neck strap would be blowing straight out. At times, during the worst of the gusts we would just stand still as if you took one foot off the ground the wind would blow you over.

In Cadotte Pass where the power line crosses, there is also a yurt that is part of a Fed. bird banding station, and the obvious two-track of a road, that continued up to the high point just south of Green Mt. our high point achieved this day. On the ridge tops were ballhead gilia, forget-me-nots and pink Evening Primrose, surviving the battering winds. We continued to fight the wind on the remaining route arriving at the point to the south about 2:00 PM, there was still a mile and one more pass (above Bear Creek) to go and we took a long break and headed back. Getting back to the car at 5:30

Back at Rogers Pass, Ben from Bozeman, who had left a car there while he backpacked our same route, was dropped off back at his car and we invited him to join us for dinner in Lincoln. He had started yesterday and make the same distance that we did, also fighting the wind. His GPS devices said that the distance to the point south of Green Mt. was five miles, making the entire trip at least 6 Mi. He had come out via Lewis & Clark Pass this day. His next destination was Glacier NP. Photos on Picasa. *Julie Kahl*

July 30- Murphy Peak

Steve Schombel joined David & Julie Kahl in the 90 degree heat. To do Murphy Peak, behind Point Six in the Rattlesnake area, with ski lift aid, you have 5 hrs 12:30 -5:30, to do roughly 6 miles in the heat of the day. I have heat tolerance problems and was going slow, on a longer than necessary route, as we didn't know the area. It clouded up through the afternoon, that helped, when we got to the saddle between Point Six and the ridge between it and Murphy Peak we were in the Rattlesnake Wilderness and had to sign in. Then drop down the saddle and climb up the other side to an almost knife edge ridge. In places there were piles of rock about 5 ft wide, you had to climb up and go over, the sides were cliffs that dropped off on both sides. It was around 3:PM when we got to the highest point of the ridge and were faced with another drop down to a saddle (100-200 ft), then up steep slopes to the summit. We discussed not making it back in time to catch the last lift ride down at 5:30. We were marginally OK with that, but looking around we saw rain clouds (no T-storms) in all directions. This wasn't a place we wanted to be with wet rock. We turned back, took the lift back down and

had a beer in the bar. By the time we finished our beers it had cleared up and was hot and sunny again. *Julie Kahl*

August 3- Apgar Hills Highpoint

I reached the highpoint of the Apgar Hills, and it was pretty much as advertised. It was a long day, but no serious obstacles. There were a couple of slightly steep spots, the ridge where you leave the trail and the last saddle before you head up the peak. There is some krumholtz, and serious bushwhacking if you get off route. Take the ridge from the saddle almost to the ridgetop, both going and returning, to avoid the dense brush, and stay near the west edge of the ridge once on top. The views are fantastic, a long row of Glacier peaks. *Steve Schombel*

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.

Cover: The one and only Mount Saint Nicholas, Glacier National Park. F. Dean photo.