

A photograph of a snowy mountain landscape. The foreground is a vast, smooth expanse of white snow. In the middle ground, a line of dark evergreen trees stands against a clear, bright blue sky. The trees are of varying heights and are densely packed in some areas. The overall scene is peaceful and serene, typical of a winter mountain setting.

DECEMBER 2013

# 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.**

#### Club Contacts

Website: <http://rockymountaineers.com>  
e-mail: [info@rockymountaineers.com](mailto:info@rockymountaineers.com)

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

President: Paul Jensen  
[paulfjensen@yahoo.com](mailto:paulfjensen@yahoo.com)

Vice-President (and Webmaster): Alden Wright  
[rocky@wrightmontana.net](mailto:rocky@wrightmontana.net)

Secretary: Julie Kahl  
[jawkal@hotmail.com](mailto:jawkal@hotmail.com)

Treasurer: Steve Niday  
[seniday@yahoo.com](mailto:seniday@yahoo.com)

Newsletter Editor: Dan Saxton  
[apologist497@yahoo.com](mailto:apologist497@yahoo.com)

The Mountain Ear is the club newsletter of The Rocky Mountaineers and is published at the end 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 Tuesday, September through May, at 6:00 PM at the Trail Head. Each meeting is followed by a featured presentation or speaker at 7:00 PM.

Please be sure to check out our **Facebook group** to receive the latest up-to-date news and post short-notice trip proposals:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/rockymountaineers/>

*Cover Photo: New Tracks heading down Sheep Mountain, Rattlesnake area.  
By Dan Saxton.*

## **TRIP REPORTS**

### **Saturday, December 14, 2013 - Lolo Pass Moonlight Ski**

Not many showed up at Lolo Pass Saturday night, and they missed a great time. Fred and Eileene skied in the afternoon and joined us for dinner in the warming hut. We had lots of good food and some drinks, then Dave, Julie, Michael and I skied down the groomed road to Packer Meadow. The trails were not groomed so we stuck to the road. Believe it or not it cleared up and we had quite a bit of moonlight and stars. The snow was really good and we skied over to the edge of the creek. It doesn't get much better or prettier than this on a winter night up at the pass. Think about trying it yourself next month. *Steve Schombel*



Photo by Steve Schombel

### **Saturday, December 14, 2013 - Chief Joseph Ski Race**

I proposed a trip to the Chief Joseph ski trails where I would do the Continental Divide Classic XC ski race and other participants could either race or ski. Eileen Robbins joined me and would have signed up for the race if she had brought her money with her to the registration. The race organizers and the grooming crew did a fantastic job of packing the deep snow and preparing the race course to perfection. The 10K

participants did 1 lap and the 20K participants did 2 laps. I did the 20K in just over 2 hours, and would have placed better if I had stopped at 10K (since the stronger racers did 20K). You can see the results at [http://bitterrootxcskiclub.net/?page\\_id=1532](http://bitterrootxcskiclub.net/?page_id=1532). Eileen had fun skiing, and we saw Leta Brown skiing and Terry Davenport racing.  
*Alden Wright*

***As always, feel free to propose new trips and write new trip reports! We have a fascinating and huge backcountry all around our corner of Montana/Idaho to explore and play around in!***

## **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-Mon, January 17-20, 2014 – BELLY RIVER/KAINA MOUNTAIN (Glacier NP)**

*Rating:* Class 3; *Distance:* 32 miles round trip; *Elevation Gain:* 4600'/6200'

*Description:* This is a planned 4 day trip into the very remote NE part of Glacier. Plan will be to depart Missoula sometime on Friday, drive up to Glacier, get permit, then proceed up to the Park boundary on Chief Mtn. Highway (road is not plowed inside the Park). Travel about three miles up road to trailhead, then down into Belly River. From there will proceed up trail, cross the River, then on to Cosley Lake. With good weather and conditions will hope to make an attempt of 9489' Kaina Mountain (via its south ridge) on Sunday (4600' climb from Cosley Lake). On Monday will head out and

drive home.

*Equipment:* Skis or snowshoes, winter camping gear. No special climbing gear needed.

*Leader:* Forest Dean, [mtnear1@gmail.com](mailto:mtnear1@gmail.com)

### **Sunday, January 19, 2014 - LEE CREEK TRAIL**

*Description:* This is an 8 mi. point to point ski on logging roads, starting at Lolo Pass and coming down to the Lee Creek Campground in Montana.

*Leader:* Julia Kahl

### **Sunday, February 2, 2014 - PACK CREEK ROAD**

*Description:* This is an 8 mi. point to point ski on logging roads, starting at Lolo Pass and going down to the Crooked Fork Bridge in Idaho. There are downhill sections which can be fast, with some exposure. This trip is downhill all the way.

*Leader:* Julia Kahl

## **Looking ahead.....**

**Next meeting - Tuesday, January 14:** On Tuesday, Jan. 14th, The Rocky Mountaineers will have the annual program on avalanche safety.

Steve Karkanen from the West Central Montana Avalanche Center will talk on current conditions and on how to be safe while recreating in winter in the mountains. He covers a lot of ground, from visual tips, assessing the snowpack, equipment, rescue, and much more. The part on current conditions is very important. There have been some human triggered avalanches in the area already, and conditions could get trickier when we get another heavy snowfall.

One of the most important things is to check the latest info before heading out on [www.missoulaavalanche.org](http://www.missoulaavalanche.org), or call 406-549-4488 or 800-281-1030. There is also a donate button on the website if you wish to help them continue their good work.

This is our most important educational program of the year, so please come out. It starts at 7 PM at the [Trailhead](#) and is free to all.



## Rocky Mountaineers' Meeting Minutes, 12/10/2013

A. Call To Order: 6:10

B. Attendees: Paul Jensen, Alden Wright, Julie Kahl, Dan Saxton, Steve Schombel, David Kahl

C. Treasurer's Report: \$884.01

D. Discussions:

1. Speakers

a. Jan Speakers

1. Steve S. will contact Steve Karkanen

2. No field day?

b. Feb. Speakers: Forest? Aaron Teasdale, Jim Cossit, Ryan with the maps, Alden's friend who did a Great Divide Trip on bicycles

2. Media

a. Website - some older newsletter pdf's generate a "file not found" error code, Alden checked and will fix it

b. Promo in the *Independent* - no guarantees they will publish our stuff

c. Facebook

1) The Facebook page "events/calendar" function discussed again for trips maybe?

2) Can Facebook have customized heading and such? -No

3) People still joining

4) Brian Story sent out a Facebook announcement to his people for tonight.

3. Trips

a. Anything new on classic series? Any progress on Forest's idea? - none

b. Are Facebook announcements working? -no conclusion

c. Julie's 2 ski trips, and Steve S.'s moonlight skis

4. Misc.

a. Congratulated Dan Saxton on the new newsletter

b. Christmas Party, Steve S. wants to do one as a part of a moonlight ski on 12/14

E. Adjourn 6:56 PM

## THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual Membership Fee: \$10.00

*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.