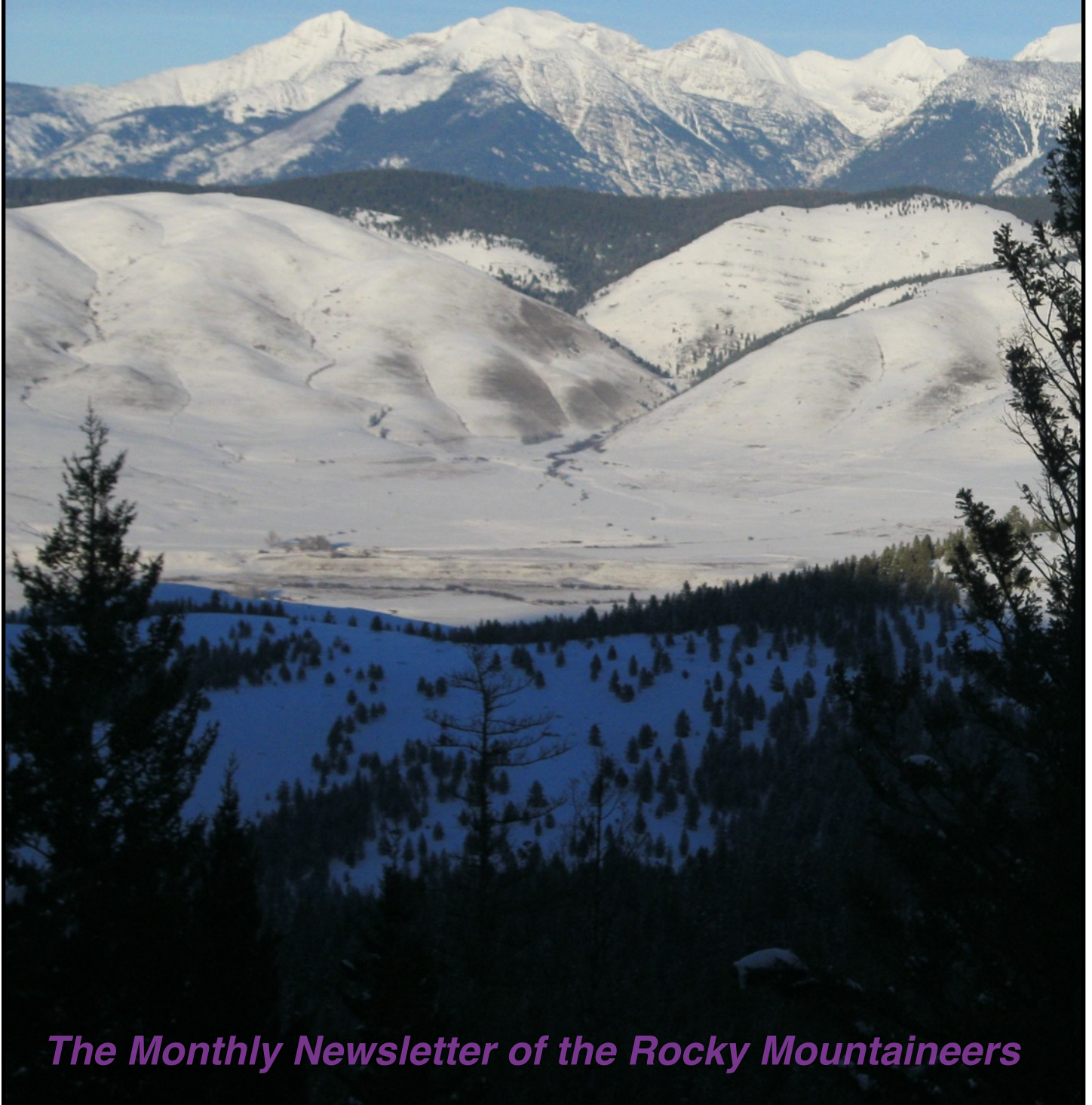


JANUARY 2016

# 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 at the end of every month. Anyone wishing to contribute articles of interest are encouraged to do so - contact the editor. The 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:* Next month's business meeting will be held on February 9, 2016, at 6:00 PM at the Hell Gate Grille in downtown Missoula. The regular meeting with a featured presentation or speaker then follows at 7:00 PM at the Trail Head.

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: The Mission Mountains from the flanks of Saddle Mountain above Arlee. Photo by Dan Saxton.*

# TRIP REPORTS

## Sunday, January 17, 2016 - Lee Creek Ski Trip



Photo by Julia Kahl.

We had another beautiful day for this 7 1/2 mile ski trip from Lolo Pass down to the Lee Creek Campground on the Montana side, warm and partly sunny, little wind. We arranged the shuttle so we could just leave a vehicle at the Lee Creek campground and everyone go up to the pass all at once. Kristi Dubois and Bert Lindler had brought their yellow lab dog, Camas. Kristi was going to ski with the party but Bert was going to ski with the dog up from the bottom at Lee Creek; we would use their car as our second shuttle vehicle. We put our ski boots on while having hot chocolate in the Visitor's Center. The first mile of the trail is on the groomed Packer Meadows Loop trail. Where we left the trail, we found someone had tracked it, and met that couple returning by the China(?) Creek bridge/culvert another mile in. At this spot is the steep ramp where the old A & B trails went up, also tracked, and Roy Regel and Dean Morten decided to go that way, while we five ladies continued in the tracks up the new (1995) A Trail/Lee Creek road. We had just started around the hairpin turn up a

short ways when the trackers had gotten tired and turned back. We were taking turns breaking trail; Carlie Magill had done much of the breaking when Roy and Dean climbed up to rejoin us. They helped with the breaking from there to the Lee Creek Saddle, in perfect snow. Kristi broke from there down to the road gate where we stopped to have lunch. This downhill section made for easier trail breaking, as there got to be less and less snow as we went down. Anyone could go as fast as they wanted in the tracks or slower in the untracked snow beside them. All told, we had broken snow for 1 1/2 - 2 miles before encountering Bert and Camas coming up; in about the same place, the snow started to get tricky. The day's warmth was making it wet, and it packed down to slick tracks even when you skied in untracked snow. In the steeper curves most of the snow was tracked, making it difficult for the later comers to get a safe track. Julia Kahl, Lois Crepeau, and Rita Cheek got behind hacking their way through it. Thinking of safety first, Lois decided to put her skis on her pack and walk out. The others waited 10 min. or so at the campground, and Roy came back up to make sure everyone was OK. It was 39 degrees and spitting rain when at 4pm we started back up to the pass. Despite the difficulties of the lower end, we all agreed it had been a great trip on a perfect day. *Julia Kahl*



Lee Creek by the campground. Photo by Julia Kahl.

# 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 hands 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.

## **Sunday, February 28, 2016 - PACK CREEK SKI**

*Description:* This is an 8-mile ski down on the Idaho side from Lolo Pass to the Crooked Fork Bridge. It is all downhill, on logging roads, with some moderately steep sections in the lower end.

*Leader:* Julia Kahl: [jawkal@rockymountaineers.com](mailto:jawkal@rockymountaineers.com)

Lee Creek Saddle. Photo by Norman Singley.



## Looking ahead.....

The Rocky Mountaineers will **meet at the Trail Head**, 221 E. Front St., Missoula, at **7pm on Tuesday, February 9, 2016** for the following presentation:

### "Denali's West Buttress - Self Guided Ski Ascent or 27 Days of Snow Melting"



Joshua and Susanna Phillips were asked to join the 2014 Highpoint Geology self-guided team to attempt to summit Denali via the West Buttress Route. They agreed to join with the condition that skis would be used to access the mountain. All four team members employed the use of homemade sleds and randonee gear. Come and hear about their expedition experience which included a little bit of everything.



## Rocky Mountaineers' Meeting Minutes 1/12/2016

I. Call To Order: 6:15, MacKenzie River Pizza

II. Attendees: Paul Jensen, Alden Wright, Lois Crepeau, Julie Kahl, Dan Saxton, Forest Dean, David Kahl

III. Treasurer's Report: \$938.28

IV. Discussions:

A. Speakers

1. Joshua or wife in Feb.
2. People who biked the State Line trail, Mar.
3. Marc Ankenbauer, who jumped in every lake in Glacier, in April
4. Get info to Julie so she can get it out

B. Picnic in May in Pattee Canyon - yes

C. Rediscussed Julie's suggestion to have the 2016 Glacier Classic at Sun River Canyon, just this once - decided on St. Mary's for Aug. 26-28th. Get Steve N. to reserve a site.

D. We will try having business meeting at the Elk's Club Grill next month

E. Julie threw out the idea of having a winter snowshoe race to the cabin, poker run, start at Larry Creek Loop trailhead

F. Trips:

1. Julie - Lee Creek 1/17/2016, Pack Creek 2/28/2016
2. Forest: West Goat Peak in the Pintlers
3. Paul wants to do a mid-week trip, and sometime go up to the cabin

V. Adjourn 6:28 PM

**Note: Be sure to begin thinking ahead for new officer elections at the annual club picnic in May!**

## 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.