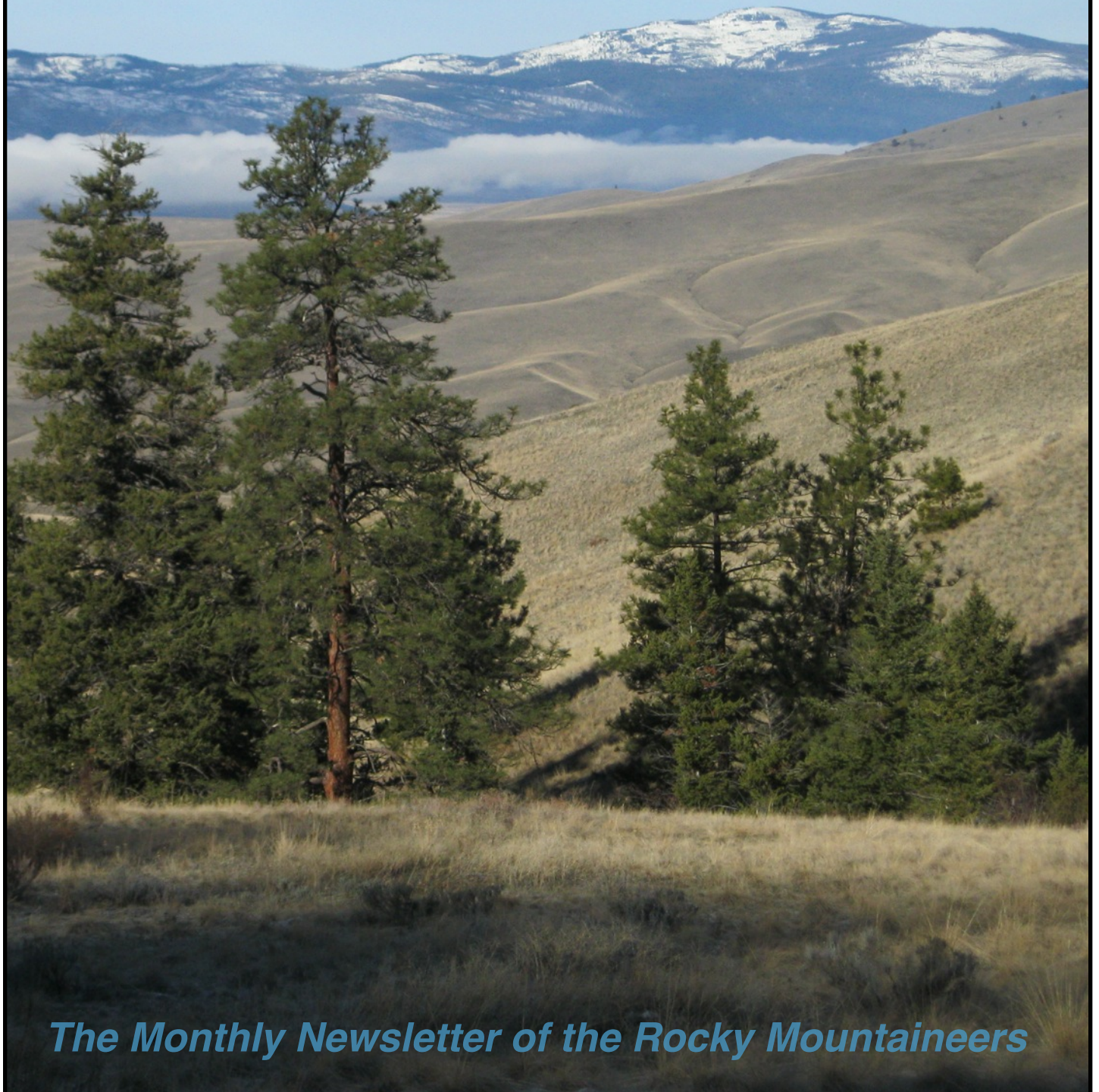


FEBRUARY 2016

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.

Club Contacts

Website: <http://rockymountaineers.com>
e-mail: info@rockymountaineers.com

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

President: Steve Schombel
stephenschombel@yahoo.com

Vice-President: Paul Jensen
paulfjensen@yahoo.com

Secretary: Lois Crepeau
lcrepeau@centric.net

Treasurer: Steve Niday
seniday@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor: Dan Saxton
apologist497@yahoo.com

Webmaster: Alden Wright
rocky@wrightmontana.net

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 March 8, 2016, at 6:00 PM at MacKenzie River Pizza 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: On the western slopes of Sonyok Mountain on the Flathead Indian Reservation - Deemer Peak in the distance.. Photo by Dan Saxton.

TRIP REPORTS

Sunday, February 28, 2016 - Pack Creek Ski



Packer Meadows area scene. Photo by Julia Kahl.

Roy R. was the only one who showed up for this trip. The three of us (Julie & David K.) went up to Lolo Pass in his rig. Rumors through the weeks were that there was no snow by the mouth of Pack Creek, so we opted to ski the 6 1/4 mi long Packer Meadows Loop, counterclockwise as this gets you the most downhill. With a 10:30 start time, we expected the day to go from icy to slushy. The area just outside the Visitor Center was ice-crusted, so we went up to the road to ski on the snow broken up by snowmobiles the first 1/2 mile down to the gated bridge road. Once on the groomed trails, we found just a light dusting of snow that made for nice going. A rain-snow event was expected to move in later this day, and when it got a little cloudy we half hoped it would stay that way and keep our good conditions, but instead we got a blue sky with some clouds. The snow did get soft as the day went on, but conditions still remained nice. We had lunch a short ways into the downhill section; in areas the downhill was shaded and still icy, adding a little extra speed to our runs. At the bridge at the “top” of the loop, David set his GPS trip odometer so we could compare

it to mine and see if that was the halfway point, it wasn't. It seems like the "junction" where the trail meets Elk Meadows Rd. at the junction of the "Three Mile" logging road is more the halfway point. Coming down into the bottom of the downhill, in the section before crossing Elk Meadows Rd. the first time, there were two places where the trail was almost melted across, one caused by a small stream and one where the groomed trail had mostly collapsed into a depression. As we got into the section across Elk Meadows Rd (2 miles up), it was clouding up and occasionally getting windy, but nothing unpleasant. All in all, we had a beautiful day's ski. *Julia Kahl*



It's thawing out..... 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.

Saturday-Sunday, March 12-13, 2016 - CHIEF JOSEPH PASS ACTIVITIES

Description: We have gotten personal accommodations locally for an overnight stay. We will meet Sat. Mar. 12th around 1pm at the warming hut, then have an evening potluck dinner at my cabin at the Broad Axe Lodge. Then and there, we will decide on adventures for Sunday.

Leader: Julia Kahl - jawkal@rockymountaineers.com

Chief Joseph Pass environs.
Photo by Julia Kahl.



Tuesday-Wednesday, March 22-23, 2016 - FREEZEOUT LAKE

Description: This year's trip is mid-week. You will need to make your own accommodations for a place to stay, and transportation. Generally, we meet up at the lake sometime in the late morning or early afternoon, then meet at the Elk Country Grill in Choteau for a group dinner. On the second day, most go back to the lake, often after having a group breakfast or lunch at the Log Cabin in Choteau. You don't have to participate in the meals if you don't want to, and are welcome to spend more days if you desire. Each year, conditions and number of birds are up for grabs - we could find anything.

Leader: Julia Kahl - jawkal@rockymountaineers.com



Birds at Freezeout Lake. Photo by Julia Kahl.

Saturday, March 26, 2016 - NORTH CROW CREEK FALLS

Description: This is an ambitious hike for March, since there will probably be snow and it will be postponed. However, it is another one from the "Montana Waterfalls" book, and is an easy two mile hike from the trailhead. The falls are 22ft. high at an elevation of around 5200'. The trail continues up the canyon so it will be as far as we feel like going hike. It is also on reservation land so tribal permits will be required. If interested send an e mail to stephenschombel@yahoo.com, or look me up in the phone book.

Leader: Stephen Schombel

Mid-April to early May - Alden Wright will lead the annual Trapper Peak trip.

Looking ahead.....

The Rocky Mountaineers will **meet at the Trail Head**, 221 E. Front St., Missoula, at **7pm on Tuesday, March 8, 2016** for the following presentation:

State Line - Great Burn Bikepack



In early October 2015, Norman Singley, Michael Moser, and Neil Simpson set out to ride the State Line of Montana and Idaho from Taft (the start of the route of the Hiawatha) to the end of the State Line Trail. They encountered good dirt roads, good trail, terrible trail, rugged country, sunny days, and fantastic scenery. They covered over 120 miles of road and singletrack over four days, self-supported with lightweight bikepacking setups on their mountain bikes. It was a great way to get an overview of the amazing country that lies along the Montana-Idaho border, and to experience the vastness of the Great Burn. This area is characterized by rough ridges and open meadows that have never been reclaimed by forest after the fires of 1910. They camped at high mountain lakes and enjoyed immense views west into the Clearwater forest.

Rocky Mountaineers' Meeting Minutes 2/9/2016

I. Call To Order: 6:15, Elk's Club Grill

II. Attendees: Steve Schombel, Paul Jensen, Steve Niday, Lois Crepeau, Alden Wright, Julie Kahl

III. Treasurer's Report: \$938.28, question came up on why figure change for interest for last few months

IV. Discussions:

A. Picnic in May in Pattee Canyon, Lois will check with the FS (**update: the windstorms last year caused a lot of damage and we're not sure if the picnic will be there; stay tuned**)

B. Glacier Classic already planned, need to get it on the website

C. Candidates for officers, **Steve S. wants out for health reasons**

1. Steve N., Paul will stay on, Julie will be Sec.

2. Will put out the call to the membership

D. Paul went up to the cabin last weekend

1. Wood was OK

2. Still wants to do more work: lower bunk, chinking, fix up the floor, larger windows, rebuild outhouse

E. Steve S. was going to say a few words about Bob Hopkins' passing at the meeting

F. Not sure about having business meeting at Elk's Club Grill again (**update: we will resume meeting at MacKenzie River Pizza next month**)

G. Trips:

1. Julie - Pack Creek 2/28/2016, Chief Joseph 3/12, Freezeout Lake 3/22-23

2. Alden - annual Trapper Peak mid-April to early May

V. Steve S. signed the grant support letter for the West Central MT Avalanche Center (mailed 2/10/2016)

VI. Adjourn 6:28 PM

Note: Be sure to continue 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.