



# MOUNTAIN EAR

Monthly Newsletter of the Rocky Mountaineers

November, 2004      Missoula, Montana

The Rocky Mountaineers is a non-profit club organized to promote all types of recreational use of mountainous areas.

**Monthly Meeting: Wed., November 10th  
7:00 PM at Pipestone Mountaineering,  
129 West Front Street, Missoula, MT.**

**Naturalists from the Montana Natural History Center will present a program about the Ecological Importance of Snow.**

Join the Montana Natural History Center for a presentation on the science and ecology of snow. Lisa Moore, MNHC's Youth Programs Coordinator, or designee, will discuss the science of snow, the ecological importance of snow in the Northern Rockies and how our native wildlife adapts to our harsh winter conditions. This should be an interesting 30-40 minute presentation.

**Topographic software:** If there is time and interest I will come prepared to give a short presentation about topographic software and how digital photography and GPS receivers can be used with it to record a trip.

A few examples of topographic software follow. Those listed are some of the more popular with recreational users.

**All Topo by IGage-** prices vary by state, from \$80-\$98. The resolution of the images is very good, printed on an HP800 the quality is very nearly the same as store bought quad maps. Like most of the software I have listed, it has a GPS interface, and the ability to seamlessly join quads to create custom maps. You can create shaded relief maps and link digital images to waypoints. It has very comprehensive annotation tools, which is one of the reasons I bought it for my job as a surveyor. I have called the company several times and have always had my questions answered by very knowledgeable people, usually the founder of the company who is also the engineer who developed the software.

**ExpertGPS-** can be downloaded from the internet on a free trial basis and costs \$60 for a license. It provides topo maps for the entire US and can automatically load aerial photos of the area you want to map. I have not used it much, but it comes highly recommended by a friend.

**MAPTECH Terrain Navigator-** \$89 per state. I have a little experience with this software, and it looks like it does everything.

**3-D TopoQuads-** \$89 per state. I bought and tried this software a couple years ago. I returned it because I liked All Topo better. It has probably been improved since I tried it.

**National Geographic Maps-** regular price is \$89 per state, now on sale for \$79. I have no experience with this software, but REI has it at their map kiosk.

**Topo 3D-** \$49 per state, Montana is not yet available. This one looks interesting, but I have not yet tried it.

**Fugawi International-** offers topo map software for many areas of the world outside the US for various prices. No experience with this product.

**NRIS-** which is the Natural Resource Information System has a website that provides access to digital topographic maps for all of Montana, and aerial photos where available. The data is free and can be found at: <http://nr.is.state.mt.us/interactive.html>

I was not impressed by the quality of the maps I printed from this site. It does however give you a free and easy to use option to view maps and photos. NRIS is part of the Montana State Library and an example of your tax dollars at work.

## Trip Reports

**October 16, Saturday: Mission Falls-** The hike to these falls is not an easy one, especially on a wet day. There is now a good, cleared trail to the top of the falls. But it is still very steep, and it rained steadily all day. Luckily, there is an overhang with shelter about 2/3rds of the way up. Above Mission Falls the trail is brushy and gets even steeper. Steve and Rusty stopped at the fall and enjoyed the view of the cliffs and small falls cascading down from Sonielem Peak and Lake to the south; while Bret and Ron hiked a little farther up. We would all like to go back on a better day and try for Elizabeth Falls above and Lucifer Lake beyond that. - Steve Schombel

**October 23, Saturday: Butte Mineral Museum-** The museum was open this time. Steve Schombel & Kathy Burleson brought son Michael Bowles (11) and Mike's friend, Maxx Taylor-Fritz (11?), and Julie, Gharrett (9) & Hannah (7) Warner rode in Nancy Shrader's van. We left early enough to have time for lunch at Gamer's Cafe in uptown Butte before the Museum opened at 1:00 PM. It's always amazing what's under our feet as we hike. There are so many mineral compositions and colors and they had several different classification systems displayed. Part of the collection was donated by Mountaineer Art Gidel's Grandfather. Nancy had studied geology and was still fascinated. The glow in the dark room was a special attraction. On the windows of the seismograph room was the tape from the Mt. St. Helen's eruption as registered in Butte as well as the print of several more recent earthquakes. Unfortunately the room is closed on weekends. It snowed while we were in the museum, but yet the weather in Butte wasn't that unpleasant. The views of the valley from so high up on the hill was expansive. Julie

**October 24, Sunday: Wallman Trail-** Fred and Eileen Schwanemann, Nancy Shrader, Michelle Bedard, and Steve Schombel went over the Wallman Trail in the Rattlesnake Recreation Area. There was heavy snow, about two inches deep at the summit and no sign of wildlife. The Larch, snow, and mist made for an interesting day. Fred

**October 29-31: Glacier Park-** This trip did not happen, no one wanted to go out and play. Steve N.

## Upcoming Trips

November is a tough month to get people to commit to trips. Too much snow to hike and not enough to ski. It seems that hunting has an impact also.

**November 14, Sunday: Trail 99 and Fishing Trails-** This trail is in the Rattlesnake Recreation Area and in the no hunting zone. Distance is about 7 miles and the elevation change is negligible. We'll lunch along the Rattlesnake Creek. Call Fred Schwanemann @ 542-7372 for more information.

**November 14, Sunday: Mount Calowahcan AKA Mount Harding-** I would like to try the northwest ridge. This climb may be difficult with light snow cover, and very difficult with heavy snow, I have not climbed this ridge. Bring your tribal permit and warm clothes, no blue jeans allowed. Contact Steve Niday at 721-3790 if interested.

**November 21, Sunday: Garnet Ghost Town-** This will be a kids trip. Contact Julie Warner at 543-6508 for more information.

**November 27, Saturday: Ski trip somewhere-** Location depends on conditions and interests. Contact Steve Niday at 721-3790 if interested.

**December 4, Saturday: Lolo Pass-** This will be a short and easy tour to get muscles un-kinked and gear tested. Lolo Pass up the Lee Creek road to the State Line is a good option. This trip can be as long as participants want. If the snow is poor a hike in the area will be substituted. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for more information.

Your trip belongs here !!!!!!!!

## Newsletter CD's for sale:

All back issues of the Rocky Mountain Ear are available on CD for the low price of \$20.00. All proceeds to go directly into the club's treasury.

## Digital Newsletters

Digital copies of this and future newsletters are available to members. If any member would prefer digital newsletters only, please let me know. This option saves the club money and saves you money in membership fees. I am still working out the bugs in delivering these via e-mail. One thing I have discovered is that those with hotmail accounts are unable to receive the attached newsletters.

## Website

[www.rockymountaineers.com](http://www.rockymountaineers.com)

Alden has established the linkage to the Nordic Club server and placed a brief statement on our home page. If you have abilities in this area, or suggestions, contact one of the contacts shown below.

## Carpooling to the Meetings

There has been some interest in carpooling to the meetings. If you live in the Bitterroot Valley and are interested, contact Lois Walsh at: [neverstopexploring@hotmail.com](mailto:neverstopexploring@hotmail.com).

## Club Contacts

Mailing Address: Rocky Mountaineers  
PO Box 4262  
Missoula MT 59806  
e-mail: [rockymountaineers@hotmail.com](mailto:rockymountaineers@hotmail.com)  
President/Secretary: Steve Schombel 721-4686  
[ssbell@montana.com](mailto:ssbell@montana.com)  
Vice-President/Treasurer: Julie Warner 543-6508  
[jawkal@hotmail.com](mailto:jawkal@hotmail.com)  
Newsletter editor: Steve Niday 721-3790  
[seniday@yahoo.com](mailto:seniday@yahoo.com)

Note the change in membership fees, which was passed at the last meeting, held on October 13, 2004.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND LIABILITY WAIVER

Family Yearly Membership:  \$20.00 - paper newsletter  
Family Yearly Membership:  \$10.00 - electronic newsletter  
Make checks payable to: "Rocky Mountaineers" and send to:

Rocky Mountaineers, P.O. Box 4262, Missoula, MT. 59806

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read this release and indemnity agreement and have fully informed myself of its contents before I have signed it.

Print Name

Signature Date

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian if Participant is Under 18 Years of Age

I, (print name) \_\_\_\_\_ hereby state that I wish to participate in courses and/or activities offered by The Rocky Mountaineers, a non-profit organization. I recognize any outdoors activity may involve certain dangers, including but not limited to the hazards of traveling in mountainous terrain, accidents or illness in remote places, forces of nature, and the actions of participants and other persons. I further understand and agree that without some program providing protection of its assets and its leaders, the Rocky Mountaineers would not be able to offer its courses and activities. In consideration of and as part payment for the right to participate in the activities offered by The Rocky Mountaineers, I agree to RELEASE, HOLD HARMLESS, AND INDEMNIFY The Rocky Mountaineers and its members from any and all liability, claims and causes of action arising out of or in any way connected with my participation, or the participation of any minor that I am signing on behalf of, in any activities offered by The Rocky Mountaineers. I personally assume all risks in connection with these activities. If I am signing on behalf of a minor, I further agree to RELEASE, HOLD HARMLESS, AND INDEMNIFY The Rocky Mountaineers and its members from any liability, claims and cause of action, which the minor may have arising from the minor's participation in activities. The terms of this agreement shall serve as a release and indemnity agreement for my heirs, personal representative, and for all members of my family, including any minors. (Parents or Legal Guardians must sign for all persons under eighteen (18) years of age).

EIGHTEENMILE PEAK - MONTANA



**Rocky Mountaineers**  
**PO Box 4262**  
**Missoula MT 59806**