



MOUNTAIN EAR

Monthly Newsletter of the Rocky Mountaineers

March, 2005 Missoula, Montana

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



**Monthly Meeting: Wednesday, March 9th,
7:00 PM at Pipestone Mountaineering,
129 West Front Street, Missoula, MT.**

Kilimanjaro by Ron Pierson

Ron Pierson will be giving a DVD video presentation of his trip to Kilimanjaro last summer. He will start with some background on the people and attractions of Tanzania. Then he will talk about routes up the mountain, giving more details about the route his group followed. He wrote down many of his impressions while he was there, and is willing to answer questions. The show will be accompanied by African music.

from the President: It is March already, which means it is time to think about the annual election in May. The club has four offices, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. We really need some people to fill some of these offices, and to be ready to take over leadership when the time comes. We like to announce the candidates in the April newsletter, so please let us know this month. Although not an office, the position of newsletter editor is one of the most important in the club, and takes the most work. We should all thank Steve Niday for the great job he has been doing. He would probably be happy to let someone else take over, eventually.

We did want some member feedback on two items. The first is selling ads in the newsletter. These would probably be small ¼ page ads. The second item would be whether to become a non-motorized club, and to amend our mission statement. We are only talking about listed club activities, of course. What people do on their

own is fine. I'd like to spend a few minutes at the start of the next meeting to see if any members have comments. Thank you, Steve Schombel

Upcoming Events

Tuesday Evenings at 7:00 PM, February-April, the Wilderness Institute of the University of Montana will be presenting a lecture series entitled- *The Future of Wilderness in America: Change, Continuity, and Conservation.*

For more info: <http://www.forestry.umt.edu/research/MFCES/programs/wi/lectureseries.htm> or (406)243-5361

March 5, Saturday: the Westslope Chapter of Trout Unlimited is having its annual fund-raising banquet at 6:00 PM in the big banquet room of the Holiday Inn Parkside. Last year several of us purchased a "Rocky Mountaineers" table and had a blast. Contact Steve Schombel at 721-4686 if you are interested.

Upcoming Trips

March 6, Sunday: Heart Lake, Great Burn- Join the Sierra Club and Great Burn Study Group for a full day of backcountry skiing up the South Fork of Trout Creek to Heart Lake. The round-trip will cover approximately 11 miles including some challenging skiing to reach beautiful Heart Lake along the Bitterroot divide in Montana. Participants will monitor for winter motorized violations within the Great Burn closure area. Great views and plenty of opportunities for animal tracking and powder turns.

The Great Burn is a 275,000 acre roadless area on the Montana-Idaho border just west of Missoula

Upcoming Trips Continued

and proposed for protection as part of the Sierra Club's Lewis & Clark Campaign. It serves as a critical biological link between the Salmon-Selway Ecosystem to the south and the Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystem to the north. The area is home to mountain goats, moose, elk, lynx, wolverine, and wolf, which may be seen along the way.

This is a joint trip with the Rocky Mountaineers. Trip leader: Margot Higgins, 543-0702, margothiggins@hotmail.com

March 6, Sunday: Lolo Pass- Beginners ski day at Lolo Pass. Julie (Warner) Kahl will take beginning and intermediate cross country skiers to Lolo Pass for a fun day at our primo ski area. For more information contact Julie @ 543-6508.

March 13, Sunday: Lolo Pass to Packer Ridge- Unless it snows, we'll ski from Lolo Pass to the top of Packer Ridge. There is a road near the Glade Creek Camp historical sign which ascends the ridge. This would be close to where the Lewis and Clark Party climbed up to the ridge top. We'll ski along the ridge to a point above the visitor center, then return. There are good views and some bowls to play in along the way.

This is a change from the trip scheduled in last months newsletter for this same date.

Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for more information.

April 2, Saturday: St. Joseph Pk- This will be a trip up Bass Creek to check out snow conditions, with a possible climb up the south or west side of St. Joseph Pk. If current conditions persist, I would anticipate a walk rather than a ski. An ice axe is advisable and crampons may be worthwhile. Leave Missoula at 6:00 AM. Contact Steve Niday at 721-3790 or sniday@yahoo.com.

April 10, Sunday: Woody Mountain- We'll hike along a closed road from Marshall Creek for a couple of miles, then through some trees and up a grassy slope. The last few hundred feet of this mountain have been heavily logged, but the trees on top were spared. It is close to Missoula, about

four miles one way, and about 2700' elevation gain. The steepness is similar to Mt Sentinel above the "M", but with only faint game trails to follow part of the way. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for more information.

April 23, Saturday: Mount Sentinel- kids trip to the top of Mt. Sentinel. Contact Julie Warner at 543-6508 or jawkal@hotmail.com.

July, 2005: Mount Stimson- April is the month to start making reservations for backcountry campsites in Glacier National Park. We are thinking of a multi-day trip into Martha's Basin starting July 16th (preferred) or July 24th (alternate). This will be a 4 day camp and climb of Mt. Stimpson, or it can be a week long adventure with attempts at some of the 9,000'+ peaks near Beaver Woman Lake. Space is very limited, so if this sounds like something you would like to do call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 or Forest Dean at 721-6384

September, 2005: Mt. Whitney, CA- This peak is the highest in the lower 48, and very popular. Advanced reservations are required, starting in February. There is about a 50/50 chance of getting one. I'm planning to apply for an overnight permit on either a Monday or Tuesday in September, to allow time to drive down. Having flexible dates increases the odds. If anyone wants to add their name to the permit let me know early in February. There is a \$15 fee, which is non-refundable if successful, so be pretty sure you will be able to go. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686.

Summer Trips by Jim Cossit

The following list of trips was submitted to the Glacier Mountaineering Society by Jim Cossit. Jim suggested I could put the trips in this newsletter also, so I did. If you are interested in any of these trips contact Jim Cossit at jhc@abanet.org

Sunday, May 22, 2005 Holland Peak, same description as last year except change the rating to III (4)LL and add the following text:

Last year we got to the final summit ridge and our progress was ended by our lack of proper

equipment to deal with a steep snow descent with significant exposure just before the final summit ridge (see trip report from last year). This year we will bring a rope and other gear to belay or rappel down to the final summit ridge. Climbers must bring an axe, harness, a couple of biners and a helmet and be comfortable with ascending / descending steep snow on this exposed ridge.

Sunday, June 12 Bearhat This will also be a steep snow climb, and may be a ski mountaineering outing, depending on conditions and participant interest. Again, climbers must bring an axe, a harness and a helmet.

Sunday, June 19 Warrior Mountain (7,903) Swan Range. Trailhead is at Napa Point (elevation, 6,423, 12 miles up the Goat Creek Road off Hiway 83) and the trip is an easy on trail hike, about 10 miles round trip, along the southern part of the Alpine Trail to Inspiration Pass and on to Warrior Mountain.

Friday - Sunday, September 16-18 Gunsight via Sperry Glacier, same description as last year, it got weathered out last year.

Cordillera Blanca, Peru Seeking climbers for a June/July 2006 trip (2-4 weeks) to Peru's Cordillera Blanca. Although only 9 degrees south of the equator, this range is heavily glaciated and offers 25 peaks over 6,000 meters, the glaciers do not extend much below 4,800 meters and the climbing is mostly steep snow and alpine ice.

Trip Reports

February 12, Saturday: Glacier Park- Fred & Eileen Schwanemann and Julie & Dave Kahl hiked from Marias Pass along the Autumn Creek Trail to Bear Creek. The snow depth varied from zero to ten inches deep. There were many tricky crossings since the creek was not frozen and there was snow on the banks. This is a beautiful trail with spectacular views upon reaching the open section below Elk Mountain. There were many photo opportunities since we were hiking rather than skiing. We also spotted many different animal tracks; elk, deer, moose, bobcat, mountain lion, rabbit, and coyote to name a few. The last two

miles of Autumn Creek trail were challenging at times even hiking. It was a pleasant day and we finished it off with dinner at the Isaac Walton Inn. Fred and Eileen

February 13, Sunday: Glacier Park- Fred and Eileen elected to try cross country skiing having only one car available. With snow depths as low as one inch or less it was not easy. We started out on the Inside Road by Camas Road and it was pretty good for a bit. Starting up the hill we encountered many bare spots and thin ice coverage. We then went over to the Going to the Sun Road at McDonald Lodge and found unusual conditions but rather good skiing. There was about half an inch of ice on the road covered with about one to two inches of snow and/or slush. We saw three deer cavorting on the Sun Road which made the afternoon. Fred and Eileen

February 24, Thursday: Moose Ridge Loop- Fred Schwanemann (he, himself, and him) skied Moose Ridge Loop at Lolo Pass. The snow was excellent; fast and frosty in the morning and easy edging in the afternoon. The weather was Montana balmy, blue sky, plenty of sun, and once in a while a breeze. My thanks for the well groomed trail. Fred

February 26, Saturday: Kids Sled & Soak Day- The 44% of normal snowpack at Lolo Pass is bad news for skiers and snowboarders but it made for great sledding. Gharrett Warner (10) and Mike Bowles (12) tried their snow boards a bit on the little hill, but Gharrett turned to sledding and Mike dug a snow cave. Veteran S&S'er Hannah Warner (7) stuck to the sleds, she and Gharett sharing them with their brothers Briar and Wyatt (twins -4) and cousin Abby Roth (8). Cousin April Roth (12) (both of Fort Benton) tried her grandma's skis, then also spent the rest of the afternoon sledding. Steve and Cathy Schombel skied the Glade Creek Loop while Julie and David Kahl stayed with the kids. They reported that the skiing wasn't bad either. At 3:00 PM we all retired to a picnic in the warming shelter then met April and Abby's parents Becky and Larry Roth at Lolo Hot Springs with Larry's grandmother, Katharine Fransen. After soaking for a few hours we all went to dinner at Golden Corral. It was a good day for all. Julie Kahl

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

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).

Club Contacts

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