

# MOUNTAIN EAR

Monthly Newsletter of the Rocky Mountaineers

August, 2005 Missoula, Montana

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



**Club meetings are held the second Wednesday of the months of September through May, at Pipestone Mountaineering, 129 West Front Street, Missoula, MT.**

These monthly meetings begin at 7:00 PM, immediately after a business meeting, which begins at 6:15 PM. Non-members are welcome to listen-in at the business meeting and hear what the club is actively discussing. We typically have a slide show or other presentation on some type of outdoor activity starting at 7:00 PM.

The next monthly meeting will be held on September 14th. Club members are encouraged to bring photos from their summer adventures. Please contact the editor (see last page for contact info.) to arrange for the necessary projection devices and schedule a block of time. We would love to see your slides, but we don't want to make the slide show too long. If you have lots of slides you would like to show, you might consider being a slide show presenter at a monthly meeting.

**From the President:** We have gotten some complaints that people can't hear the announcements for upcoming trips at our meetings. We ask all speakers to please stand, face the audience, and speak loudly and clearly.

I have a short comment to add about topographic mapping software. I have found it especially useful in finding the highest point of a mountain range. For instance, the point I scrambled up in the early 1980's turns out to not be the highest point in the West Cabinet Mountains, which are separated from the main Cabinets by the Lake Creek-Bull River trough. See the upcoming trips to see what I plan to do about it.

Happy Mountaineering, Steve Schombel

## Upcoming Trips

### ROCKY MOUNTAINEER'S CLASSIC SERIES

We are launching a new series of trips aimed at exploring some of the classic areas around western Montana. These trips will attempt to appeal to the greatest part of the membership and community by including prominent destinations and achieving them by standard routes and trails whenever possible. There will be one featured Classic Trip every month. See last month's newsletter, which is available on our website, for a list of the trips for the next year, starting in August with the Glacier Classic. The dates for these trips will be subject to change, especially if conditions require a change. Also, anyone wishing to lead any of these trips is encouraged to step forward. Forest Dean will serve as the general chair for this series- contact him if you desire to lead one of these trips or if you need further information.

**AUGUST: Glacier Classic Weekend (19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>)**— We are planning a weekend of climbing, hiking and car camping fun in and by Glacier National Park. The plan is to drive up Friday and camp on the Flathead River by Blankenship Bridge near West Glacier (this is on National Forest land- there is no charge to camp here. Pit toilets are available.) Those who would not wish to camp could make other arrangements. On both Saturday and Sunday we have 2-3 hikes and climbs concentrating on the Logan Pass area for different levels of ability or desire. Saturday night would be spent again at the camp on the Flathead River. Participants would be free to stay for both days or just one if so desired. Contact Forest Dean for more information: H: 721-6384, C: 240-7612, email: [fdean@midlandimplement.com](mailto:fdean@midlandimplement.com)

## ROCKY MOUNTAINEER'S CLASSIC SERIES

### AUGUST 19-21: Glacier National Park

**Friday:** Camp out at Blankenship Bridge, see map below.

**Saturday: -CLIMB: Going-to-the-Sun Mountain/Matahpi Mtn.** – Forest Dean West Face Route- Distance to summit: 4 miles (2 by trail); 3700' elevation gain; Class 3 and 4 climbing; begin at Siyeh Bend. For more information, contact Forest Dean, see page 6.

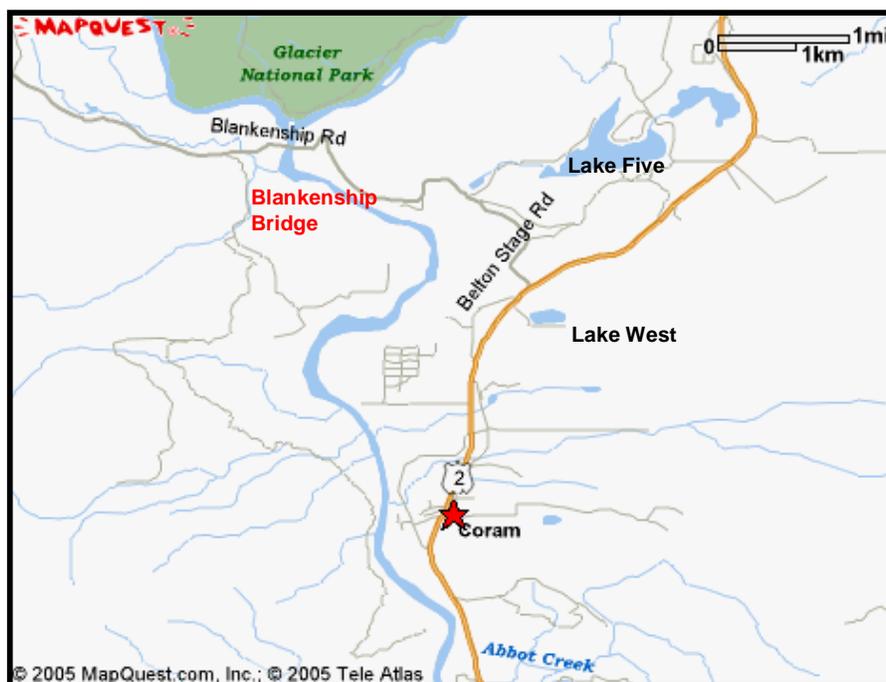
- HIKE: **Preston Park/Siyeh Pass Hike** – Steve Schombel We will shuttle some cars down to Sunrift Gorge, then return to Siyeh Bend. There is about 6 miles of trail from Siyeh Bend through Preston Park and down Baring Creek. However, the trail switchbacks up to over 8000' in the pass, making the elevation gain over 2000'. This would be strenuous for many. Those who want a longer hike could continue from Sunrift Gorge down to St. Mary Fall's, then hike up the St. Mary River and take the Piegan Pass-Siyeh Bend trail back to the cars, making a complete loop all on trail. 721-4686 or ssbell@montana.com

- FISH: **Flathead River by camp area**- Frank Kleschen, 728-4793, or fkfc98@scn.org

**Sunday- HIKE: Otokomi Lake**- Fred & Eileen Schwanemann We will hike the ten miles round trip to Otokomi Lake in beautiful Rose Basin. The trail follows Rose Creek most of the way with about a 2000 ft elevation gain. Take Going to the Sun Road east about ten miles past Logan Pass to Rising Sun Resort and Campground; we will meet at 9:00 am. Call Fred or Eileen @ 542-7372 for more info.

- CLIMB/KIDS: **Piegan Mountain** - Forest Dean This is intended as a slow paced climb up Piegan and possibly Pollock if interested-younger kids are very welcome! Distance to summit is about 1.5 miles; 2800' elevation gain; Class 2 and 3 climbing; begin at Lunch Creek.

- CLIMB: **Mt. Gould** -Steve Niday West Face Route- Distance to summit 6 miles, (4 by trail); 3000' elevation gain; Class 3 climbing; begin at Logan Pass. 721-3790 or seniday@yahoo.com



## Upcoming Trips

**August 12-13: Unnamed Point 6933' in the West Cabinets-** We will drive over Friday evening and camp at the trailhead. On Saturday we'll hike the 4-1/2 mile trail with about 1800' gain to Little Spar Lake, find a way to scramble 900' up out of the steep walled cirque to the ridgetop, hike about 2 miles along the ridge, and then do a steep 900+' scramble to the top. It looks straightforward on the map, but there may be brush, cliffs and other obstacles. Bring your own vehicle if you want to return Saturday night, because I'm going to stay and relax in the woods Sunday. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for more information.

**August 27, Saturday: Tarkio Gorge-** Meet Jim Goss at 11:00 AM at the Tarkio river access, 3/4 mile from the Tarkio exit on I-90, about 40 miles west of Missoula. Although there are 2 notable Class II-III rapids between Tarkio and Forest Grove, this is mostly a quickwater trip and is suitable for inner tubes or small rafts. You must be a strong swimmer and have a life preserver. I do have a couple of extra, so check with me if needed. The plan will be to stop for lunch on the river just above where the main rapids are. This will give people the opportunity to run these rapids a couple of times if they desire, or to avoid them completely by walking downstream. Contact Jim Goss at 822-5000.

## Trip Reports

**June 30: Lolo Peak-** I like to go back and finish when I have failed to reach an objective. Early in June I had a trip to Lolo Peak, but the snow was still too deep. Also, I hadn't been up there for many years, and Lolo Peak has been in the news a lot. So, spur of the moment I went up on a free Saturday. I got an early start, and didn't see a single person until I was on top of the north summit and another solo hiker came up. The big difference now is that there is a distinct path from Carlton Lake all the way to the higher south summit. The views are still fantastic, especially southward into the Bitterroots. On the way down I passed many people going up, and at the lake. It's nice to see it is such a popular place. *S. Schombel*

## Trip Reports

**July 15-17: Revenue District:** *(editor's note: the following is an un-edited trip report from Julie Kahl).* In search of the elusive Revenue District Mid July found Julie Kahl, along with husband David and granddaughters April (13) and Abby (8) Roth (of Fort Benton) back in the Tobacco Root Mts in search of the elusive Revenue District. Back 30 years ago when the current trend of interest in out door activities was beginning, to the Bozeman climbing community the Revenue District, 30 miles west, was popular for its drive up rock climbing. You could climb different routes all day and belay off the bumper of your car. A cave and a tree growing horizontally out of a rock face were landmarks. I remember it as being west out of either Ennis or Norris. On Friday we left Missoula at 6:PM and had an uneventful drive to Pony, except that there was rain over the mountains. This time instead of going south out of Pony up South Willow Creek, we went west up North Willow Creek. Years ago the road went past the defunct Strawberry Mine to Cataract Reservoir. In the gathering dark we followed the road and ended up at a trail head for foot and ATV trails going to the same system of lakes east of Hollow Top Mtn. We got camp up before dark and had a nice evening with some rain over night. The next day we saw another road forking off this one that probably goes to Cataract Reservoir. Saturday we headed for Norris and took a road west. The area seemed familiar but we drove back until we crossed over a ridge without seeing the cave and the tree and I knew this wasn't the area we were looking for. We went back to Norris checked out the Norris Hot Springs which didn't open until 4:PM then went to Ennis to try the same thing. The only road west out of Ennis went to the golf course and I saved face with the family by stopping at Dairy Queen for lunch. We back tracked to Norris drove the same road (Warm Springs creek) again only this time when we got into the North Meadow Creek area beyond we drove up into the Mtns following the signs to Shure Shot Lakes. We found a lake with developed campsites and ATV's but nothing said it was the Sure Shot Lakes. We hung out a while then saved time by driving back to McAllister and taking the Hiway to Norris. The Hot springs was

## Trip Reports

just opening so we soaked a bit. Norris is a nice hot springs, the pool is made of wood planking, It's main detracting feature is an obnoxious overhead spray feature that made soaking and visiting difficult. We drove 8 miles east and stayed at the Red Bluff Campground on the Madison River. We had a fire and roasted marshmallows and other such camping stuff. On Sunday we drove around the south end of the Tobacco Roots intending to visit the charcoal kilns in the Melrose area. At Virginia City we did the tourist thing -rode a stage coach and the girls had one of those "old fashioned" pictures taken in period costume. We had lunch in Sheridan, then at Twin Bridges took the Melrose Bench Road across to Melrose though terrain so dry Prickely Pear was the dominate species (no sage brush even). With the recent rains the prickely pear was blooming profusely. I had expected to find signs directing us to the kilns but when we found ourselves on yet another back road west out of Melrose, not sure where we were going we turned around and headed back to Missoula. Home by 6:PM. I'm sure the Revenue District is west of Norris. I remember seeing a deteriorated side road going up a creek that I think was the road with the cave and the tree. Next time!

**July 16, Sheafman Cr N Pk-** This is one of the many unnamed peaks over 8500' in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area. It is an easy scramble from the south side and offers great views of oddly shaped Castle Crag. 14 miles round trip. *S. Niday*

**July 15-19: Martha's Basin, Glacier N. P.-** The first day went well. We were able to modify our permit for five people, and got the campgrounds we wanted, except for an undesignated site the last night. Using a small inflatable raft to portage our packs across the river worked real well, others should make note of this. Unfortunately, on the second day it started to rain hard. Since the brush was so thick, we were quite soaked by the time we reached Beaver Woman Lake. On Sunday no one felt like climbing. We dried our gear and took the short hike to Buffalo Woman Lake. The flowers were fantastic, especially the Beargrass which covered the side of Mt. Pinchot across the lake. Three of us just felt like enjoying the scenery and

hiking out, while Forest Dean and Bret Doucett decided to get up early, climb Mt Phillips, and join us in camp Monday evening. (their report is next) The last day was a short but hot hike, followed by a nice swim. The total mileage with heavy packs was approx. 34 miles and very tiring. The other participants were: Lynda Dale, Brian Gilbert. *Steve Schombel*

**July 18: Mt. Phillips, Glacier N. P.-** After being foiled by weather the last couple days, Brett Doucett and I decided to tackle the 9494' Mt. Phillips as a consolation prize to our intended Mt. Stimson climb. We packed up and left Beaver Woman camp at about 6:30 am. Upon arriving at the junction of the Coal Creek and Martha's Basin trails we shed our heavy packs and packed up daypacks and hung our food. Leaving this junction at 7:30 we hiked north about a mile to Surprise Pass (this is a forested pass- not much in the way of good views), then began an intense bushwack east toward an avalanche chute on the west side of Mt. Phillips. Once to the base of the chute the going was pretty steep- and the bushwacking still intense. From Surprise Pass this is roughly a 4000' climb to the summit over about a mile- nothing more difficult than Class 3 climbing, however. About 2000' below the summit we finally popped out of the brush and onto scree and talus slopes. Another thousand feet up we worked our way through some easy broken cliffs, then up a final ridge to the summit. Arrived there at 10:30. A cold wind was blowing fairly strong, so after snapping a few pictures we descended. Views of the southern part of the park were great (especially Martha's Basin) with the exception of looking east- that was all clouded in. The bushwacking going back down was just as difficult as on the way up, but we got through it and made it back to the trail junction about 1:00 PM. From there we hiked about 9 miles to join up with the rest of our group (see Steve Schombel's report). *Forest Dean*

**July 24, Sunday: Oregon Peaks-** Barbara Ross joined up with Steve Schombel, Cathy and Michael Burlison, where they met up with Jim Goss and his wife Cathy Reich in Superior for the

## Trip Reports

drive up Cedar Creek Road. The first Oregon Lake is one of the shortest hikes in Mineral County, excluding drive-ups to Diamond Lake and Moore Lake. After a short rest we proceeded to the second and largest of the Oregon Lakes. The weather was perfect for lunch and our group took turns floating on a small raft. Jim Goss, Michael, and the two Cathys searched for a geocache located near this lake, but with no success. Although we narrowed down the location, it's either hidden quite well or it isn't there. No one was interested in proceeding up from this lake, as there is no trail to the third one, and thick alder make scaling Oregon Peak a workout. A pleasant, relaxed stay was had by all.  
*Jim Goss*

**July 24, Sunday: Mount Dean Stone-** (*editor's note: the following is an un-edited trip report from Julie Kahl*). I'm tired of when people ask me what mountains I've climbed, I sweep my hand around the valley and say I've been on every major point you can see from Missoula except Mt. Dean Stone, the electronics encrusted point on the south of Pattie Canyon, named after former English-Journalism Dept. dean, Arthur L. Stone. (Fortunately for me you can't see either McLeod or St. Joseph's from town.) Sunday, David Kahl and Eillen and Fred Schwanemann joined me as we climbed Dean Stone. We started early at 8:AM to beat the heat and parked behind a grassy knoll above the Mansion Hights subdivision. From there we followed a maze of logging or service roads in various stages of use, trails and bushwacked first to the top of the point to the west of Dean Stone with one lone TV tower. From there we followed a road across the saddle and all the way to the top. It was noisy with all of the electronic equipment running, but it had unique views. We could see right over the Pattie Canyon area down into Deer Creek and East Riverside. To the west the track of the Bonneville Power line was obvious as it went straight over the area behind Blue Mt. We speculated that to the south west we could just barely see Trapper Peak. To the north Mt. Sentinel and Jumbo were below us. Once we got down off the saddle ridge much of the route was in the trees and not too hot. We experimented with taking some short cuts on the way down and didn't rush. We were out by mid afternoon. *Julie Kahl*

**July 31, Sunday: Morrell Falls-** The third falls remains elusive. We aren't sure if it just doesn't exist or if we didn't hike far enough back, though we went close to a mile back from the 2nd falls. There were many smaller waterfalls, but no more long impressive ones. Julie and David Kahl camped at the trail head with Gharrett (10) and Hannah (8) Warner. We had the place to ourselves from 9:00 PM to 9:00 AM, lots of stars. Steve Schombel, Kathy and Mike Burleson (12), brought Barbara Ross and Bubba Arney (10) to join us at 11:00 AM. We set out at a leisurely pace everybody picking huckleberries and grouse whortleberries. We hung out at the first waterfall to eat lunch, then Barbara and Bubba stayed there and explored the area, while the rest of us went up the steep trail to the second waterfall. After a bit of exploring and picture taking, we went up the steep trail again and followed it even after it flattened out on a ridge side. Steve took an alternate route back down, but no luck finding another spectacular falls. Next year it's Grizzly Basin or bust. *Julie Kahl*

**July 29-31, Fri-Sun: Rainbow Peak and/or Mt Carter, Glacier Park-** postponed due to lack of interest.

**July 31, Sun: Pyramid Peak, Swan Range-** This peak is a walk-up from Pyramid Lake, which is an easy 5 mile trail hike. There are plenty of places to make a camp by the Lake, and this would make a nice easy overnigher. Of some interest on this particular trip, was the notice posted at the trailhead. It warned of the possibility of bears two miles from the trailhead and below the trail on a dead horse. I didn't see any bears, nor the horse, but I sure smelled it. *Steve Niday*

## Lolo Forest Plan Revision Meetings

At the meeting on July 21st the sentiment for keeping the Lolo Peak area wild and undeveloped was overwhelming. It was great to see such a large attendance. However, this issue is not over yet. There is still an official public comment period this fall, and it will be important to voice your opinion.

There are also going to be more plan revision meetings on alternate Thursdays through August. The meeting on August 4th will focus on areas near Missoula, Blue Mountain, Pattee Canyon and the Rattlesnake. The August 18th meeting will be about Lolo Creek, including winter recreation at Lolo Pass. There will be a meeting on September 1st to wrap up the whole process. We hope you will attend. *Steve Schombel*

## 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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