

MOUNTAIN EAR

Monthly Newsletter of the Rocky Mountaineers

May, 2006 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.

May 10th, Norman Jacobson will present, "The Great Northwest Trail - Our First Highway." A presentation about the usage of this ancient route from early prehistoric times up to and including Lewis and Clark.

From the President, May 2006

We have reached a time of transition for The Rocky Mountaineers. After the election at the May meeting we will have a new alignment of officers, and I will no longer be among them. I plan to remain involved with the club, finding speakers for the monthly programs and leading the kind of moderate trips with which I feel comfortable. We do have a slate of candidates for the election; mostly familiar faces, some in new roles, some in the same position. So really, not much should change.

The main thing I tried to accomplish during my term was to make The Rocky Mountaineers more friendly and all-inclusive, and the club has progressed. We have a variety of activities, from easy hikes suitable for the very young, up to challenging climbs and long, multi-day backpacks. We also have a monthly series of Classic Climbs, a summer weekend in Glacier, and an annual potluck picnic. I hope future leaders will continue this trend.

Thank you, Steve Schombel

Calling all artists! \$100 Reward

for the best new Club logo. We would like to find a new logo. Our current logo featuring mountain ears is in need of an update. This logo was on the very first Mountain Ear, Vol. 1, No. 1, published in October, 1961. There was a lot of original art in the early years of the Club, and the newsletter in those early years is admirable. This was a time for exploration, and some of the routes in the local mountains, which are now well known, were just being discovered. The Club has a long and interesting history and there are still opportunities for exploration. We would like to adopt a new logo reflective of the spirit of the Club, now and then. We would also like to offer that new logo on a variety of goods to allow us to show our Club pride. Selling logo items would allow us to keep our membership fees low and invest in our future. We will vote on all submittals and chose a winner and the winner will receive a \$100 gift certificate from Pipestone Mountaineering, and have the honor of seeing their design adopted as our logo. If you are interested in submitting a design, or know someone who might be, please contact one of the officers.

Upcoming Activities

"Best of the West"- May 13-14

Kayak Freestyle Event takes place at the Alberton Gorge on May 13th and May 14th (Mother's Day). Anyone who is interested in driving up can rendezvous with my wife Cathy and our dog. We would also like to invite anyone who would like to drive up 20 minutes further to our house for a barbecue, pets welcome. Contact Jim Goss at 822-5000 or jgossorreich@blackfoot.net

Upcoming Activities

Cabin Workday- Saturday, June 3

We will be doing a major re-roofing job and will need lots of manpower to help haul supplies up the mountain. Call one of the officers listed on the last page if interested in helping.

Double Dip- Sunday, June 11

This event honors one of The Rocky Mountaineers' past presidents, Dave Pengelly. This is year three for the Double Dip, an epic trail run to benefit Youth Homes, Inc., a non-profit that is committed to caring for children in need. This year there are three course options:

One Dip: A 4.6 mile circle up the M trail, along the fire road and returning to the University of Montana oval.

Two Dips: The 12.5 mile challenging mountain run. This course winds its way up Mount Sentinel peaking at the University Beacon. It will consist of steep terrain and scenic views atop Missoula's most popular mountain! Create a relay team or be a daring individual.

NEW THIS YEAR! Monte Mile Fun Run: The course will utilize the oval and will not run along any streets. All kids will receive a participant ribbon and fun run number. Strollers welcome!

PRE-REGISTER by June 8th to guarantee a t-shirt! Race day registration is available but late fees will apply to all except the Monte Mile participants.

<http://www.youthhomes.com/doubledip/Site03/index.html>

Upcoming Trips

May 6, Saturday: Mill Point West- Bitterroots-

This will be a difficult snow climb up the north ridge of this 8650' foot peak, which is about a mile west of Mill Point. Be prepared for sustained and unpleasant bushwhacking and very steep terrain. Contact Steve Niday, see last page.

Upcoming Trips

May 6, Saturday: The Nez Perce route- The route that the Nez Perce took in their flight from the Army to get up and around Fort Fizzle has been marked out on maps. Unfortunately, both ends are on private land, but we can scramble up a steep ridge on the west edge of Fort Fizzle to get on the route. It then alternates between game trails and logging roads. A little past the high point we can take a logging road that will avoid private (non Plum Creek) land and takes us back to Fort Fizzle, so no shuttling of vehicles will be needed. There is about 1,000' elevation gain in 6-7 miles. This will be a joint hike with the Bitterroot-Mission Group of the Sierra Club. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for information.

May 13, Saturday: Walman Trail- In the back, upper part of the Rattlesnake Recreation Area. This is about eight miles with a 1500 ft elevation gain and beautiful views of the Missoula Valley at the summit, a great lunch spot. Call Fred Schwanemann at 542-7372 for more information.

May 13, Saturday: Selway Bitterroot Wilderness Area- something over 8500', depends on weather and conditions. Steve Niday, 721-3790

May 20, Saturday: Stuart Peak- Stuart Peak is approximately 8 miles from the Rattlesnake trailhead with all but half a mile being on a well-maintained Forest Service trail. The last half mile is an easy hike through the woods---no real scrambling and no exposure. The elevation gain is 4300 feet. We will probably be walking on snow near the peak---but the snow should be consolidated and easy to walk on without snowshoes. If some participants want to mountain bike part of the way, we will try to coordinate to make this possible. Contact: Alden Wright at 243-4790 (day), 542-1966, or e-mail at rocky@wrightmontana.net.

May 20, Saturday: Pattee Canyon- This will be a nice time of the year to explore the trail on the south side of Mt. Sentinel that goes into Pattee Canyon. Participants can make it as long as they like by going partways, or do it as a point to point by leaving transportation at the Crazy Canyon Trailhead. For more info call Julie Kahl 543-6508

Upcoming Trips

May 20, Saturday: Como Peaks- Bitterroots-
Route: From Lake Como, we will hike up the Little Rock Creek Trail and then ascend the north side of the Como Peaks. If all goes well, will try to summit all three. *Mileage:* 15.5 miles roundtrip. *Elevation gain:* 4700-5700'. Will get an early start from Missoula- this will be a snow climb- crampons and ice ax will be necessary. May bring a rope as well. Due to the mileage, elevation gain, and snow, participants need to be in excellent condition- should be prepared for 10-12 hours of steady hiking/climbing. Alternate date will be the following day. If we get back to Missoula in time, its dinner and beers at my place. Contact: Forest Dean at 240-7612, 721-6384 or e-mail fdean@midlandimplement.com

May 27, Saturday- Rattlesnake Creek- We will ride mountain bikes up the main corridor to the Franklin Bridge, about 9 miles one way. This will be enough for most people, but it is roughly 3 more miles to the mouth of High Falls Creek. I've heard that the falls are pretty and not too far up the canyon; however you must ford Rattlesnake Creek to get there. I'd like to do some exploring. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for more information.

May 27, Saturday- Diamond & Cliff Lakes X-Country Ski Trip- Diamond Lake is one of the first lakes accessible in the Spring in Mineral County. I anticipate that we will be able to drive up within a couple of miles, which makes it an easy, relatively flat trip in on skis. It's a couple more miles to the next lake, and there should be good snow to play in a small bowl, followed by a somewhat more technical but short climb over the rim into Cliff Lake. People might want to bring snowshoes for the last part of the trip, though it is doable by anyone reasonably confident on skinny skis. The view from Cliff Lake into the snow covered cirque is fantastic. We will meet at Durango's Restaurant at 10:00 AM, but contact Jim Goss at 822-5000 or jgossorcreich@blackfoot.net for more info.

June 22-25: Mt. Rainier- Sunset Ridge- This is a class III rated climb up the west side of the mountain. We tentatively have a full party; however, if you are interested let me know- depending on the consensus of the group, we may try to do a couple different routes if more people want to come. *Note:* This is not a guided trip. All participants must have their own mountain/glacier climbing gear and know how to use it. Additionally, all participants must be in excellent shape. Plan is to leave Wednesday evening, June 21st. Contact: Forest Dean at 240-7612, 721-6384 or e-mail fdean@midlandimplement.com

June 24, Saturday: CHA-PAA-QN PEAK TRIP (SQUAW PEAK), Nine Mile/Reservation Divide- Miles: 3.5 miles on Reservation Divide Trail; Elevation gain: 1,836 ft (from 6,158 to 7,994) This hike is part of the Rocky Mountaineers Classic Series. We will meet at the Nine Mile Ranger Station at 9:00 am.

From Missoula, the Ranger Station is 23 miles west on Interstate 90, then 4.5 miles north on Highway 10 and Remount Road. From the Ranger Station, we will drive 10 miles up Edith Peak Road (Forest Road No. 476) to the Reservation Divide Trailhead. This trail is a relatively easy hike that turns into a scramble to the peak. If interested, please call Lorraine Riedl, 327-0566.

Late June: Wind River Mountains- I have some tentative plans to head to the Wind River Mountains and backpack into Gannet Peak. We are going to try the standard, Gooseneck Glacier route; and will probably spend the better part of a week in the mountains. Most likely departure date from Missoula is Saturday the 23rd. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 if you are interested.

Summer 2006: Bob Marshall Backpack- I want to try and schedule a three day backpack in the Bob, later in the summer (in Pyramid pass, out Youngs Pass) after we get a chance to get some conditioning on some weekend backpacks. If anyone is interested lets start a dialogue on when, even going later in Sept. might work. Julie Kahl, 543-6508.

Trip Reports

April 8, Saturday: Trapper Peak- Mark Mohorcich, Jack Kuehn, Scott Doherty, Jens MacAller, and Hans Howell started hiking at 8:25 after a brief interlude of shoveling out Mark's truck. We put on the skins after about 45 minutes and had snow coverage to the top. Above timberline we stayed near the top of the ridge to be avalanche-safe due to heavy snowfall the week before. We made it to the top by 1:30. The view of the cornices overhanging the cliff was stunning. Skiing on the way down was challenging due to uneven crustiness near the top and very soft snow near the bottom. Scott made it all look easy, but Mark and I struggled and fell down a lot. Everyone except Mark and I skied all the way to the car. We got back to the car within a minute of the 9 hours that I had predicted. *Alden Wright*

Here is Mark's version: "Here's to : the turkeys.....the elk.....The shoveling..... the chair.....fun for all ages you might say.....Scott's orange hydration system.....Han's quick stops.....the radios.....the advil.....the dinner and beverages.....the chair.....the tortilla sunday.....the rental skis with tree root and bear-grass stains.....the bastards who have lockable skis and know how to use them.....the ones who free the heel and know how to ski.....then there's me.....the advil I just re-took.....THE MAN with the nine hour PLAN!!!! Thanks ALDEN for showing us a slice of your world....." *Mark Mohorcich*

April 15, Saturday: Ward Mtn. (9119')- The trailhead is about one mile before the end of the road, on the south, at about 4300 feet. Alden Wright and I carried our skis up to around 5500', where we got into continuous snow. We lost the trail and went through a morass of downfall before getting back on the trail. The snow went from slushy to crusty to fresh powder on a firm base. The top was windy, snowing, and cold. We had a nice ski down, except for the crusty zone, and lucked out on the weather. It rained on the drive to the trailhead and all the way back, but very little during the trip. This is a good ski mountain, with easy to moderate terrain. *Steve Niday*

April 23, Sunday: Rattlesnake- On Sunday, April 23, 2006, Fred & Eileen, Amy & Matt, Lois, Steve, Sally, Becky, and Renee took Trail 99 to Frazer Creek in the Rattlesnake Recreation Area. The weather was really nice, but quite windy. We saw the first Pasque and Yellow Bell flowers on the way in and more coming back. There were lots of Glacier Lilies on the upper right bank of Frazier Creek where we had lunch. Three took the direct route back, Trail 99. The rest took three side trails, down to a campsite by the Rattlesnake Creek, the lower Walman Trail, and the Fishing Trail which passes by the Beaver Pond. There were still many Buttercups along the Creek. *Fred Schwanemann*

April 29, Saturday: St. Joseph Peak- Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness- I ended up postponing this trip from the previous weekend and what a great idea! We enjoyed the best weather day this spring has had to offer. Sunny sky and temps that hit 74 degrees with no clouds. We arrived at the Bass Creek Trailhead and started at 7:00 AM. Hiked up the trail about 5.5 miles to just west of where the SE ridgeline of St. Joe Peak comes down to the trail. Two of us took snowshoes and two of us used ski's. We had actually strapped these on about a mile before around 5400' of elevation. We started up the steep southern side of the mountain cutting switch backs until popping out on the SE ridge which we took to the summit- arriving about 12:30. We enjoyed a nice break here in full sun and no wind admiring the views, etc. From there we dropped down into the large bowl on the southeast side of the mountain. Paul and Forest enjoyed some great skiing in slushy snow, while Steve and Steve unstrapped their snowshoes and went for some long butt glissades. One note here: if descending this way stay to the east side of the creek- the west side (my chosen route) is fairly steep and cliffy down low. Once back on the trail it was a nice hike out- arriving back at the trailhead about 5:00 PM. This is about a 15 mile roundtrip with 5800' of elevation gain. Joining me were Paul Jensen, Steve Niday and Steve Gnam. *Forest Dean*

ROCKY MOUNTAINEER'S CLASSIC SERIES

Below is a schedule of the next four outings. For more information, or to offer to lead one of these outings, please contact Steve Schombel (721-4686) or Forest Dean (721-6384) or the listed trip leader.

MAY: Stuart Peak- Rattlesnake Wilderness-
Leader: Alden Wright; see page two.
Date: Saturday, 20th; Category: Bike & Hike

JUNE: Squaw Peak- Nine Mile/Reservation
Divide area- Leader: Lorraine Riedl; see page 3.
Date: Saturday, 24th; Category: Hike

JULY: Lolo Peak- Selway- Bitterroot Wilderness-
Leader: Steve Schombel; 721-4686
Date: Saturday, 22nd; Category: Hike and

SUMMER PARTY:

To be held in conjunction with the Lolo hike is our Summer Party. It will be a Potluck, BYO picnic at Larry Creek Picnic facility near Bass Creek Trailhead. Open to members and guests.

AUGUST 18-20: Glacier Classic- Glacier National Park- Two Medicine Area

Friday 18th- Drive up to Two Medicine in afternoon, evening- camping at Two Medicine campground in Glacier (hopefully we'll secure a group campsite). Food, drinks, campfires and camaraderie on Friday and Saturday evenings. List of activities still being put together.

Saturday 19th- Rising Wolf Mtn./Flinsch Peak-
Once on top it is a walk along the ridge to the summit, then down along another ridge to the west, before ascending Flinsch Peak. Then we will take the trail back, over Dawson Pass and descend to the lake and back to camp. Leaders: *Forest Dean and Steve Niday.*

Sunday 20th- Mt. Rockwell- Will hike to Upper Two Medicine Lake, then along south shore to an ascent of the northern side of Mt. Rockwell. (Class III and IV). Leader: *Forest Dean.*

Drive home when you've had enough fun.

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 .

Signing off as newsletter editor- Steve Niday

Signing on as newsletter editor- Lorraine Riedl

Club Contacts

Website: www.rockymountaineers.com
e-mail: rockymountaineers@hotmail.com

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

President: Steve Schombel 721-4686
ssbell@montana.com

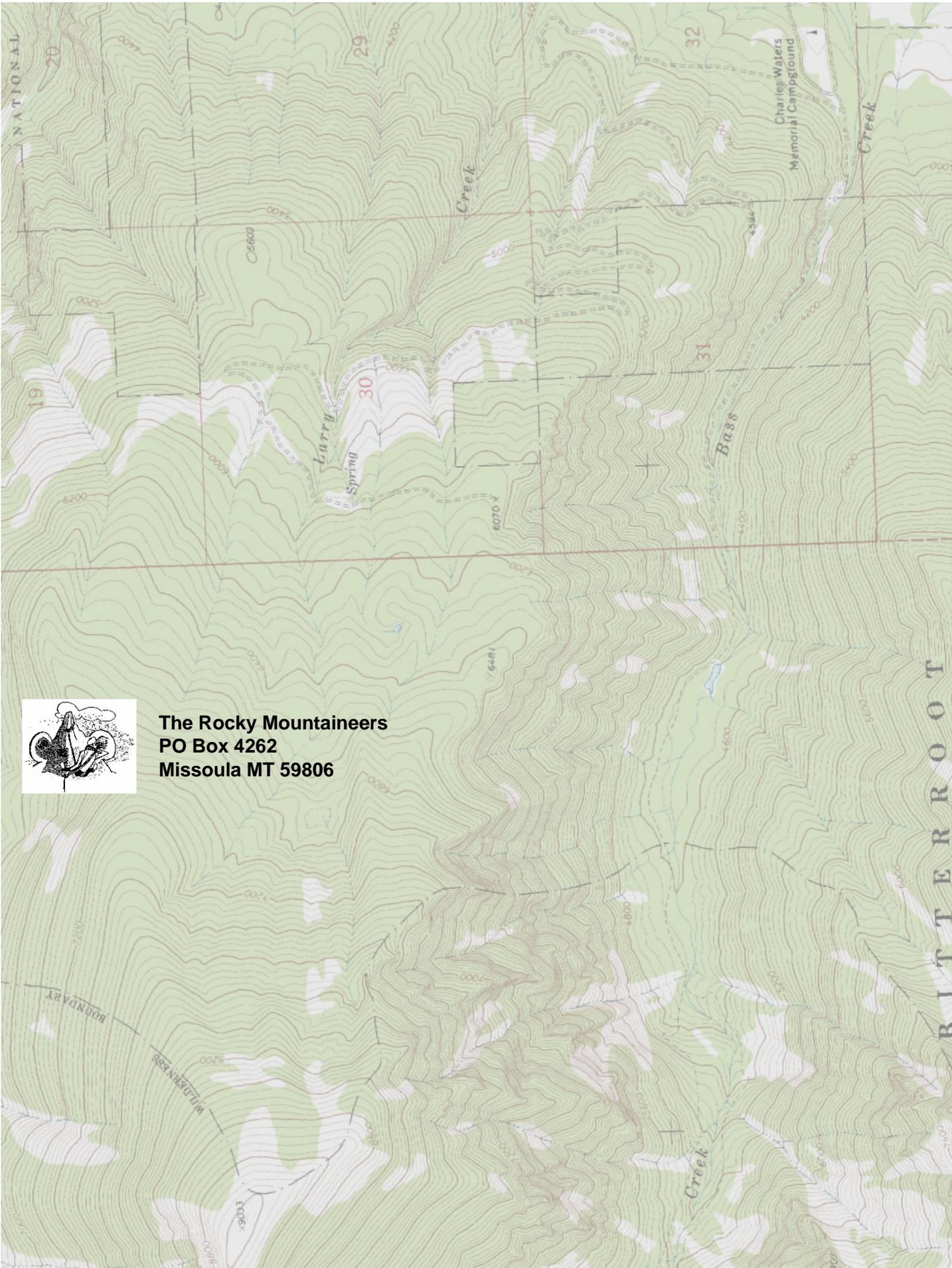
Vice-President: Forest Dean home: 721-6384 or
cell: 240-7612 fdean@midlandimplement.com

Secretary: Frank Kleschen 728-4793
fkfc98@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Julie Kahl 543-6508
jawkal@hotmail.com

Newsletter editor: Steve Niday 721-3790
seniday@yahoo.com

Webmaster: Alden Wright
alden@wrightmontana.net



The Rocky Mountaineers
PO Box 4262
Missoula MT 59806

R I T T E R R O O T