



June, 2006

Monthly Newsletter of the Rocky Mountaineers

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MOUNTAIN EAR

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

Dear Rocky Mountaineers,

The May meeting yielded some changes in the line up of Rocky Mountaineers' officers for 2006. Steve Schombel passed the presidency to Steve Niday, and Steve Niday passed the newsletter editor responsibility to me, Lorraine Riedl.

Though we are not meeting in the summer, we are still active!. Volunteers for leading summer trips are very welcome and most needed. If you find yourself wanting to do so, please email Lorraine at lorraineriedl@aol.com with trip information and I will include it in the following month's newsletter. Just choose a place to go, then send me who, what, where, when, and how!

We are still looking for a new club logo....so much that we are offering a \$100.00 reward if your idea is chosen. We would like to offer the new logo on a variety of items (hats, etc.) that could be sold to raise money for our club. Send any and all ideas to rockymountaineers@hotmail.com.

Happy Trails,

Lorraine

Club meetings are held at 7:00 pm on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May, at **Pipestone Mountaineering**, 129 West Front Street, Missoula, MT.



UPCOMING TRIPS

June 10: Saturday: Edwards Mtn- Glacier National Park - According to J. Gordon Edwards, this is a 17 mile round trip, with a climb of 5800', and moderate terrain. This early though, the snow could make it a little more of a challenge. Bring an ice axe for the climb. Most of the approach is on trail, so those not interested in the climb could still have a fun hike and see some waterfalls and glaciers. I anticipate leaving early and returning late. Call me if you are interested, Steve Niday, 721-3790.

June 11: Sunday CABIN

Sunday, June 11th I'll take some people up to the cabin, if necessary, to haul down some of the old roofing material and other trash. If this isn't needed then I'll take a short hike to see how the burned area on Blue Mountain is recovering. We will visit an unnamed point with a geo cache and Hayes Point. There will be a little off trail hiking. It is about six miles with 1500-1750' of elevation gain. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for info.

June 22-25: Thurs - Sun MT. RAINIER- Sunset Ridge route- 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 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. . Miles: 3.5 miles on Reservation Divide Trail; Elevation gain: 1,836 ft (from 6,158 to 7,994). If interested, please call Lorraine Riedl, 327-0566, or email lorraineriedl@aol.com.

GANNET PEAK

The weeklong trip to Gannet Peak in the last newsletter will not work for me in late June. I'm tentatively postponing it to late July. Anybody who was interested please call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 to coordinate schedules.

July 22: Saturday LOLO PEAK Classic Series hike and Summer Potluck Picnic:

On Saturday, July 22nd the Rocky Mountaineers will have several walks, hikes and climbs followed by a potluck picnic at the Charles Waters campground at Bass Creek. The featured trip will be a hike to the top of Lolo Peak, which will be led by Steve Schombel and done jointly with the Bitterroot Mission Group. Participants in any of the activities are welcome at the potluck picnic, but please bring food or a beverage to share. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 to participate, or to get the number of other trip leaders.

1 August 5-11 Swan Crest Backpack- These are my favorite hikes, routes that stay high crossing much of a range. You can see it all. This one is just a bit shorter than the Teton crest. From Inspiration Pass, it's about 60 miles to Columbia Mt. following the crest of the Swan Range. Mostly we'll be on Alpine Trail #7, but occasionally it fades and a 6 mile section from Sixmile Mt. to Broken Leg Mt. is trail-less. It's a moderately strenuous hike with some up and down and the off-trail part adds to the difficulty. Expect great views and pretty campsites - 2 nights will be in Jewel Basin. We could move the start date a couple of day either way if it works better. Contact Doug Kitchen at 546-0942 if interested.

AUGUST 18-20: Fri – Sun GLACIER CLASSIC - Glacier National Park- Two Medicine Area.

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ROCKY MOUNTAINEER'S CLASSIC SERIES

JUNE: Squaw Peak- Nine Mile/Reservation Divide area- Leader: Lorraine Riedl;
Date: Saturday, 24th; Category: Hike, Scramble (see details above.)

JULY: Lolo Peak- Selway- Bitterroot Wilderness- Leader: Steve Schombel;
Date: Saturday, 22nd; Category: Scramble (see details above.)

AUGUST 18-20: Fri – Sun GLACIER CLASSIC - Glacier National Park- Two Medicine Area.

Frank Kleschen will go early Friday to Two Medicine campground to try to secure the group campsite, or individual sites if that fails (thanks, Frank!) Food, drinks, campfires, and camaraderie on Friday and Saturday evenings. List of activities still being put together- *please consider leading a trip!* Contact Forest Dean to submit a trip listing for this event or for more information. (Home: 721-6384, Cell: 240-7612, Email: fdean@midlandimplement.com).

GLACIER CLASSIC WEEKEND SCHEDULE SO FAR:

FRIDAY, 8/18: Arrive and set up camp.

SATURDAY, 8/19 trips scheduled so far:

Rising Wolf Mountain/Flinsch Peak Will head out from Two Medicine and ascend the south side of Rising Wolf (class III). 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 will take the trail back, over Dawson Pass and descend to the lake and back to camp. Total Distance: 14.5 miles, Elevation Gain: 6000 feet. Leaders: *Forest Dean and Steve Niday.*

Scenic Point: Day hike 3.1 miles up to Scenic Point. Elevation gain: 2,242 feet. Trail ascends the Appistoki valley, then climbs to Scenic Point. We will hike from Two Medicine Road to Scenic Point and back. Total distance 6.2 miles. Moderately strenuous. Leader: *Lorraine Riedl*

SUNDAY, 8/20:

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). Will try to catch ferry back across Two Medicine Lake on way out, cutting off the last couple miles. Dinner at Serrano's in East Glacier before drive home. Total Distance: 13-15 miles—Elevation Gain: 4300 feet. Leader: *Forest Dean.*

TRIP REPORTS

Mill Point West May 6: I hiked in to the bottom of the north ridge in the rain and turned around and hiked out in the rain. The trail has been recently cleared to the Wilderness Boundary, but there is downfall beyond. –Steve Niday

The Nez Perce escape Route around Ft. Fizzle May 6: We had a good group for this hike. Only two of the attendees were regulars, so I got to meet four new people. Two of them were from out of town, fairly new to Montana, and eager to see the scenery and especially the wildflowers. This is a pleasant hike, following mostly game or horse paths, with little bushwhacking. The views of Lolo Peak and other mountains are great, if you can filter out some of the nearby logging. We saw some deer but no elk. And it was a nice spring day with mild temperatures and no rain. Attending were: Doug Kitchen, Ron Pierson, Andy Garza, Mary Dalton, John Wolverton, Tammy Filliater, and myself, Steve Schombel.

Walman Trail: On Saturday, May 13, 2006, Fred & Eileen, Steve, Cathy, & Michael, Patsy, Doug, and Ron met at the Rattlesnake Trailhead and hiked up Spring Gulch and forded Spring Creek which was fuller and wider than usual. We continued on and went up the Walman Trail to the summit for lunch and great views of Missoula Valley. We then hiked down the other side of the Walman Trail to Trail 99 and cut down to the Fishing Trails and back to the Trailhead. There were no recent signs of wildlife but there was a large variety of wildflowers. -Fred Schwanemann

Stuart Peak May 20, Saturday- Jim Goss, Doug Kitchen, John Robinson, Mary Dalton, and Alden Wright left the Rattlesnake trailhead on bicycles at 8 am. We bicycled up the right side of spring creek until the bridge where the trails on the two sides of the creek join, and then we stashed the bicycles. We hit snow at about 6500 feet and walked on snow most of the rest of the way to the peak with only very occasional postholing. We reached the peak at 1:15. On the way down, we found the SNOTEL site on the ridge south of the Peak. We also saw a snowshoe hare which was gray-brown on top and white underneath. Alden was going to lead the group down the ridge between the Rattlesnake and Grant Creek, but he led the group off of a knob on the ridge in the wrong direction, and we went part of the way down to the East Fork of Grant Creek. We climbed about 700 feet to get back on the intended route. The ride down on bicycles was fast and fun.

May 21, Como Peaks- Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness

We undertook this trip not really knowing what to expect after record setting heat the past week in western Montana. Rivers and creeks were flowing high and snow levels were decreasing rapidly. We took off from Missoula at 4:30 AM which put us at the Little Rock Creek Trailhead above Lake Como at 6:00. We enjoyed clear blue skies as we hiked in about four miles on the trail. Much of the trail was also serving as a creek- water was flowing everywhere. About a mile before reaching Little Rock Creek Lake we headed south and began climbing up into the basin on the north side of the peaks. Snow was encountered within a mile of leaving the trail and much to our delight, it was firm enough to walk on. Other than the occasional post hole, we never really sunk in more than ankle deep all day. Two rather steep pitches got us into the upper basin. We were able to kick step our way up these slopes- approaching 70 degrees in spots. Once into the upper basin we kicked our way up to the saddle between the West and Middle peaks. From there we ascended rock and then steep snow to the summit of the West Peak (9624'), arriving about noon. After a snack we plunge stepped back down the softening snow to the saddle then decided to drop packs and scramble up the Middle peak (9530'). This was all rock with the top offering several different options for achieving the summit- a fun little scramble. Because of the time of day we had decided against following the ridgeline over to the East peak and instead descended once again back to the saddle to pick up our packs. From there it became glissading time! Several long runs later and a traverse well to the west side of the basin, we arrived back below snowline and into the forest. From there we hiked out arriving at the truck about 5:00 PM. Distance traveled was about 12 miles, with 5300 feet of elevation gain. I brought snowshoes but didn't need them at all. An ice ax was really the only piece of essential gear needed, although if the snow had been firm or frozen crampons would have been used. Joining me on this trip were Steve Niday, Steven Gnam, Paolo Segre. *Forest Dean.*

Diamond/Cliff Lakes May 27: Forest Service reports led me to believe that the snow was too spotty between the two lakes to guarantee skiing, so I changed this to a hike up to Heart Lake off of Trout Creek Road, with skiing on a bench above the lake.

This turned out to be a good call, though the weather presented some challenge as Steve Niday and myself encountered the front of the front that has caused all this rain on Memorial Day weekend.

Nevertheless, we persevered and Steve, at least, accomplished some respectable turns on windswept slopes with 3-4 inches of fresh snow. Only wish it was snowing instead of rain at the beginning of the hike, but otherwise we had a great time. - Jim Goss

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Saturday, June 3rd the Rocky Mountaineers are still planning to do a cabin work day at the cabin in the Bitterroots. Much help is needed! If you can spare some time and muscle, please meet at the NW corner of the K-Mart parking lot on the south side of town at 9:00 AM on Saturday, June 3. Tom Hanou will meet us at the trail-head with the roofing. If anyone out there has a small chainsaw, please let me know. Bring something to pad your shoulder, food, water, and anything else you might find useful. If enough people show up we will finish the job in one day. If not, we will do what we can with what is available and re-schedule another work day, likely Sunday, June 11. Call me if you have any questions or suggestions. 721-3790 or 544-7120. -Steve Niday

To: Friends of the Great Burn Wilderness

From: Beverly, Great Burn Study Group, 240-9901, thegreatburn@yahoo.com

Re: Great Burn Study Group 2006 Summer Monitoring Schedule

Below are some of the exciting places you can backpack this summer as a Volunteer with the Great Burn Study Group. Your help is needed more than ever as we continue our monitoring of the Great Burn, and as we venture into six other roadless areas in Idaho.

Pasted below is June's schedule. If the dates don't fit your schedule just call me as we can often shift the trips to accommodate your needs. -Beverly

Cache Creek and Irish Creek, Great Burn, Montana

JUNE 16-18 Easy to Moderate Total trail miles: 16.

Description ñ Hike into the heart of the scenic Great Burn recommended wilderness.

North Fork Fish Creek, Great Burn, Montana

JUNE 23-25 Moderate Total trail miles: 16

Description: Hike and camp along the North Fork of Fish Creek.

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Sierra Club Spring/Summer Outings 2006

Offered by the Bitterroot-Mission Group of the Sierra Club:

Saturday June 17th, Packer Meadow Spring Wildflower Hike Join us on an easy hike to see the purple camas in bloom at Lolo Pass. We'll follow the Packer Meadow Trail accompanied by horticulturist Adrienne Hopkins. Approximately 6 miles. Bring your lunch, water and comfortable shoes. Rain cancels the hike. Meet 9 AM at Missoula K-Mart to carpool. Kerry Miller, ksmlr@juno.com or Adrienne Hopkins 549-7012 swish635@aol.com

Saturday June 24th, Missoula area, Blackfoot or Clark Fork River Float "as water and spirit allows". They should have drawn down the Milltown Dam by then and there may be some interesting things to see. Liz Rantz, Mtkayakdoc@aol.com; John Wolverton 543-6696

Sunday June 25th, Carlton Ridge hike A moderately difficult, strenuous day hike, total 6 miles and 2500 ft. of elevation gain largely via a bush-whacking, cross-country route. We'll be accompanied by Dr. Stephen Arno and Clint Carlson, both retired research foresters who will discuss the history, attributes and scientific values of the Carlton Ridge Research Natural Area. John Wolverton 543-6696 or Bob Clark at Sierra Club's Missoula office 549-1142, bob.clark@sierraclub.org

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ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS MEMBERSHIP APPICATION AND LIABILITY WAIVER

Family Yearly Membership: _____ \$20.00 for paper newsletter
_____ \$10.00 for electronic newsletter

Make checks payable to 'Rocky Mountaineers' and send to:

The Rocky Mountaineers, PO Box 4262, Missoula, MT 59806

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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: _____

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