

December 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.

Monthly Meeting: Wed, Dec 13, 7:00 PM

Pipestone Mountaineering

129 West Front Street, Missoula, MT

Stan Cohen, local publisher and history buff, will give a slide show and talk on "The History of Downhill Skiing in America". Stan has written a book on this subject. He is also working on a history of skiing in Montana and will talk about this project. He will have some books, old patches, and many other interesting display items.

Stan ran the ski shop for 11 years back in the early days of Snowbowl. He was a ski instructor for another 3 years, then an assistant manager for another 3, so he has a lot of first hand experience with the local ski scene. He has been a publisher for thirty years and presently runs a business called Pictorial Histories Publishing Co. This show will be very entertaining and informative.

President's Message:

A club's mission statement should help define the club and provide insight about the club. It reflects the membership and provides direction. It should be simple, concise, and currently relevant. Ours has undergone several changes in the past, and several of us thought it was time for another change. A group of club officers and other dedicated members has been developing a new mission statement for our club for many months. A list of proposed statements was sent to all members for comment. Responses were considered and the statements were further refined. The outcome of those efforts is a statement that I believe is worthy of consideration for adoption by the entire membership. I would like to have the membership vote on the new mission statement at the next meeting.

Current mission statement: The Rocky Mountaineers, hereafter referred to as the Club, is organized as a non-profit Club for the mutual benefit of its members to promote all phases of recreational use of mountainous areas.

We feel it is too exclusive, "mutual benefit of its members", too inclusive, "all phases of recreational use", and unnecessarily wordy.

Proposed mission statement: The Rocky Mountaineers is a non-profit club dedicated to the enjoyment and promotion of responsible outdoor adventures.

-Steve

UPCOMING TRIPS

Saturday Dec 9th Cross Country Skiing in Lozeau

With all the snow, there's no way we'd get anywhere near the Heart Lake area, so the Classic Series trip for December has been changed to another location. I am leading a ski trip to Lozeau. North of I-90 Lozeau Exit #55 are a couple of possibilities for skiing on roads leading up to Verde Saddle, near a prominent feature locals call "The Doughnut". Assuming that the copious snowfall stays on the ground, there should be very little driving to where we can find good snow, with the option of making almost a complete loop with the help of a very short car shuttle.

This trip will be suitable for novice/intermediate skiers, but more adventurous could try skiing The Doughnut if time and energy permits.

Call or email Jim Goss for exact time and meeting spot: 822-5000, jgossorreich@blackfoot.net.

Friday, December 15 – EAST ST. MARY'S PEAK (Mission Mountains)

Rating: Class 3, *Mileage:* 7.0 miles, *Elevation Gain:* 5000'

Description: Will depart Missoula around 7:00 am. Route will begin at St. Mary's Lake and follow the steep ridge up to the north. Climb gains 3500' in first 1.5 miles- participants need to be in good physical condition. Trip will probably take around 8 hours. May choose to climb over to West St. Mary's Peak or Peak X as well. Check summitpost.org for more information on this mountain.

Special Equipment: Ski's with skins (snowshoers welcome), Avalanche transceiver

Leader: Forest Dean – Cell: 240-7612, email: fdean@midlandimplement.com

Sunday, December 17 – WARD MOUNTAIN (Bitterroots)

Rating: Class 2, *Mileage:* 12.0 miles, *Elevation Gain:* 5000'

Description: Will depart Missoula around 7:00 am. Route will begin at Ward Mountain trailhead and more or less follow the standard trail up the east side of the mountain to the summit. Route gains 5000' in 6 miles. Check summitpost.org for more information on this mountain.

Special Equipment: Ski's with skins.

Leader: Forest Dean – Cell: 240-7612, email: fdean@midlandimplement.com

Saturday, December 30th – Ski trip to Lolo Pass. Our first choice will be a point to point ski down the Pack Creek Road. This is eight miles of gentle downhill along a road open to snowmobiles. It is usually very quiet. Sometimes we have to break trail part of the way. If there is not enough snow at the bottom we can do something of similar length around the pass. Call Steve Schombel at 721-4686 for information.

January 11-15, 2007 Third Annual MLK Ice Climbing Trip to Radium Hot Springs or Lake Louise for all levels of ice climbers. See page 40-41 of the 2006 GMS Journal for a report on the 2006 trip. Contact Jim Cossit via email jhckal@yahoo.com or phone 406-756-6818.

Remember: Trip reports and other information on nearby cross country ski areas are from the Missoula Nordic Ski Club website at missoulanordic.org.

CLASS RATING SYSTEM

CLASS 1 – HIKING Mostly on trails, but may also include some easy cross country travel.

CLASS 2 – EASY SCRAMBLING Rugged off trail hiking, no hands required.

CLASS 3 – SCRAMBLING Use of hand to ascend some sections of rock. Little to no exposure; a fall would not likely cause serious injury.

CLASS 4 – CLIMBING Easy climbing, great exposure; a fall would quite possibly cause serious injury. Use of a rope and protection at times possible.

CLASS 5 – TECHNICAL CLIMBING Use of rope, protection and belay are a must.

CLASS 6 – AID CLIMBING Use of equipment to support your weight as you climb.

Welcome new members John DeGroot and Kevin Ball!

2006-2007 CLASSIC SERIES

*Details about these trips will be listed in the newsletter as the times get closer.
November's trip is listed above.*

<u>Month</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Leader</u>
2006				
Nov	Lolo Pass	Bitterroots	Ski	Julie Kahl
Dec	Heart/Pearl/Dalton Lakes	Bitterroots/Sup	BC Ski/Snowshoe	Jim Goss
2007				
Jan	Little St. Joseph Peak	Bitterroots	Ski/Cabin stay	Need volunteer
Feb	Gash Point	Bitterroots	Ski	Don Gisselbeck
Mar	East St. Mary's Peak	Missions	Ski/Snowshoe	Forest Dean
Apr	Trapper Peak	Bitterroots	Ski/Snowshoe	Alden Wright
May	Grey Wolf Peak	Missions	Snow Climb	Forest Dean
Jun	Burnt Fork Pinnacle	Resrvtn Divide	Hike	Alden Wright
Jul	Lolo Peak	Bitterroots	Hike/Scramble	Steve Schombel
Aug	Glacier Classic	Waterton	Various	Need volunteers
Sep	Warren Peak	Pintlars	Scramble	Jim Wilson
Oct	McDonald Peak	Missions	Climb	Forest Dean
Nov	Chief Joseph Pass	Bitterroots	Ski	Steve Schombel
Dec	Sweeney Peak	Bitterroots	Hike/Ski/Snowshoe	Need volunteer

Please consider volunteering!

TRIP REPORTS

Sunday, November 12, 2006 Fred & Eileen Schwanemann, Steve Schombel, and Fran Coover took a trek over the Walman Trail in the Rattlesnake Recreation Area. The air was damp and crisp. A little snow accented the evergreens making a winter wonderland. Near the top of the Walman Trail we spotted small mountain lion tracks, very distinct in the snow. The clouds were dark but there was an alpen glow to the South. Once off the Walman Trail, we took the Fishing Trails. The Rattlesnake Creek was roaring along with high water and was very pretty. As we finished, the sun was coming out.

Nov 18, 2006 Blue Mountain In spite of mud and some snow and ice up high the Blue Mountain hike was fun. The weather was mostly sunny. On a scouting trip I discovered that the trail through the burned area had lots of down trees, so I shortened the hike to a loop to the top of Hayes Point and down the shortest route to the first gate. In spite of this it took longer than expected and it was dark before we reached the cars, showing how hard it is to

estimate distances on trails with lots of turns and switchbacks. But no one got lost and we only took one wrong turn in the dusk. This resulted in us doing the last ¼ mile along the road. The participants were: Steve Schombel, Michael Bowles, Cathy Burleson, Barbara Ross, Kelsy and Kalin Smith, Will Farrington, Thomas Tonev and Fred and Eileene Schwanemann.

November 25- Borah Peak (Lost River Range, ID)

I decided to burn off the thousands of calories consumed during Thanksgiving dinner by taking a little trip to climb Idaho's highest mountain the next day. I had originally planned this trip to be the following weekend, 12/2, but had to cancel that. I left Missoula about noon on Friday and drove down to the Borah Peak trailhead. Driving distance is 250 miles-took me about 4 ½ hours. There are some campsites at the trailhead (no water though). Set up my tent, ate some dinner, then went to bed under a starry cold (10 degree) sky. I woke up the next morning and hit the trail about 7:30 am. Trailhead elevation is 7480'. The trail starts uphill immediately and never relents. After about a mile it switchbacks very steeply up a ridge until topping out along the southwest ridge of Borah at about 10,700'. The trail had several inches of snow, which required crampons for traction. After topping out on the open windswept ridge I took the crampons off for awhile until climbing steeply up what is called Chicken Out Ridge. Here I encountered some icy class 3 rock which eventually became a knife edge ridge for a while. Nothing was extremely difficult, but because of the snow up high, the rugged terrain and the very wintery weather, the going was very strenuous. The final 1000' climb to the summit was extremely taxing as I ascended into a storm with cold winds in my face that twice almost knocked me over. Views on this top part were unfortunately non-existent. I reached the summit (with a holler of relief) at 12:50 PM at an elevation of 12,662'. After ducking onto a leeward side of the mountain for a quick break and a de-cramponing, I retraced my steps, arriving back at the trailhead at 3:30. This route gains 5200' over 3.5 miles. A very strenuous but satisfying solo trip this was- particularly because of the winter conditions. For anyone who has not visited this range I would certainly encourage it as it is a very beautiful, high, but dry area. *Forest Dean*

Nov. 26th Ski trip at Lolo Pass A foot of new fresh power that fell over night Sat. Nov. 25th, gave a pristine edge to a ski day, Sun. afternoon. It was the first time out this season for Fred & Eileen Schwanemann, Steve Schombel & Julie Kahl and we just skied down the Pack Creek Road up towards Moose Pass a few miles then visted over hot cocoa in the visitors center a bit before returning to town. Everyone felt they had done just the right amount of skiing for our 1st time out. Julie Kahl.

OTHER INTERESTS

*Joining or maintaining your Rocky Mountaineers membership has never been easier! **PayPal is now available on the Rocky Mountaineers website.** Click on the membership link on the main page. Unfortunately, one must pass through a PayPal advertisement page to get to the page to pay by credit card.*

**ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 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: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian if Under 18: _____

Club Contacts

Website: www.rockymountaineers.com **Email:** info@rockymountaineers.com

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President: Steve Niday, 721-3790, seniday@yahoo.com

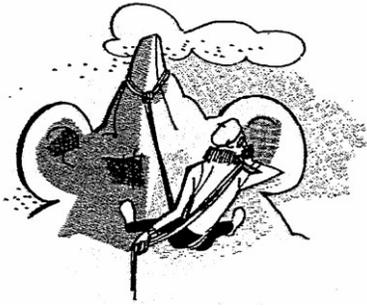
Vice President: Forest Dean, 721-6384 or 240-7612, fdean@midlandimplement.com

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