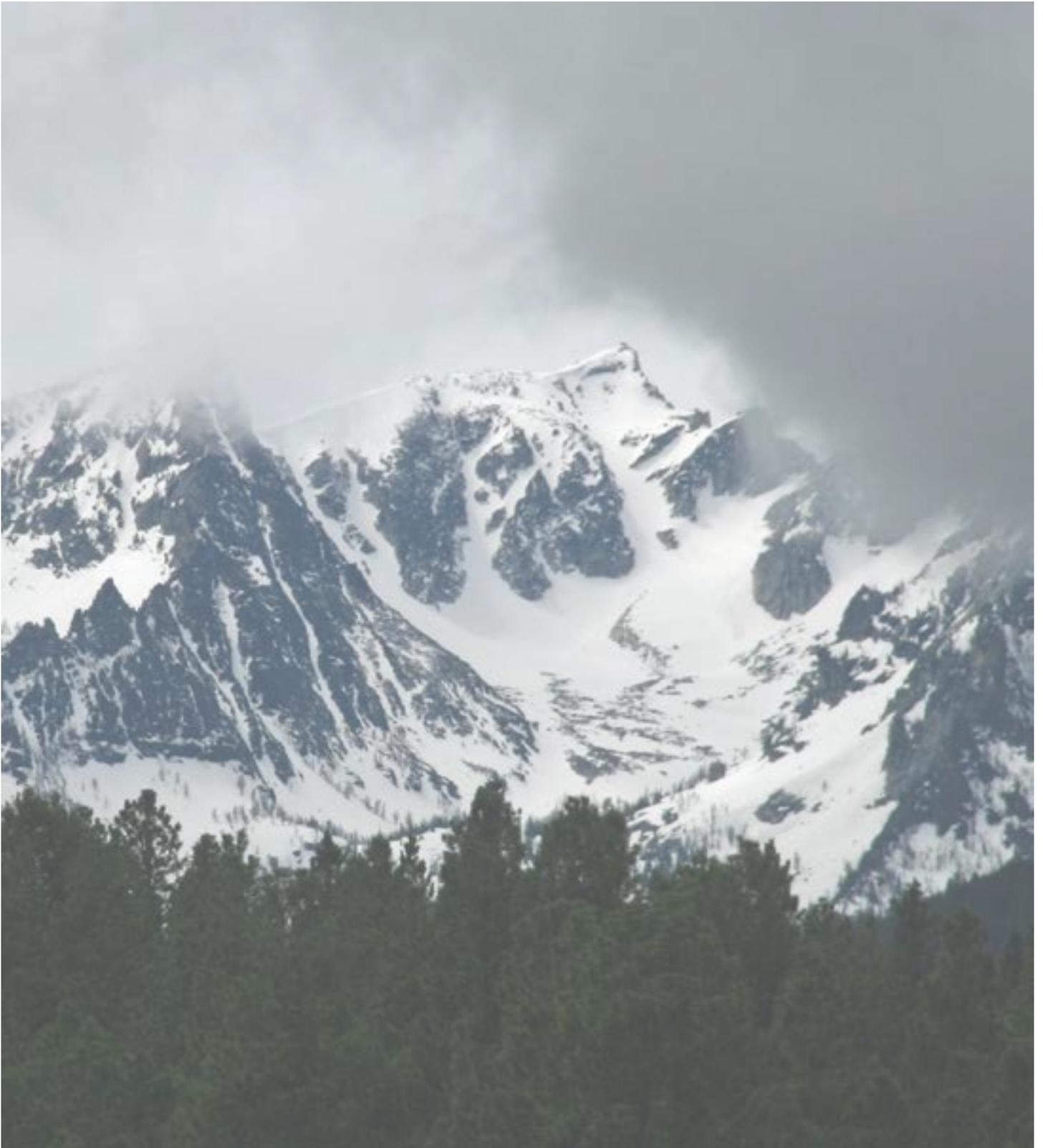


August 2016
The Mountain Ear



Monthly Newsletter of the Rocky Mountaineers



Cover Photo: Trapper Peak
from an April 2016 trip
Photo: Vic Applegate



Climb, Hike, Ski, Bike, Paddle.
Dedicated to the Enjoyment, and Promotion of
Responsible Outdoor Adventure

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About the Club

Mission Statement:

The Rocky Mountaineers is a non-profit club dedicated to the enjoyment and promotion of responsible outdoor adventures

Meeting and Presentations:

During September through April, on the second Tuesday of the month, business meetings are generally held at 6:PM at MacKenzie River Pizza in downtown Missoula, before the general membership meeting at 7:PM the Trail Head, with a featured presentation or speaker. General meeting is free and open to the public, business meeting is open to all members. The May meeting is usually a picnic.

On a weekend in late August we gather in Glacier NP for the Glacier Classic Outing

Dues: Club dues are \$10, and due in April of each year, payment can be made through PayPal. Membership application is at the back of this newsletter.

The Facebook group is used to post short notice and up-to-date news as well as recent trip reports
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/rockymountaineers/>

The Mountain Ear is the club newsletter of the Rocky Mountaineers and is usually published once a month.
Anyone wishing to contribute articles are encouraged to do so - contact the editor

Cover Photo Submission Guidelines: Must be up and down format (Portrait), prefer no recognizable people
Retro Photos Submission Guidelines: Should be a former or current dues paying member or speaker to submit, but it doesn't have to be from a Rocky Mountaineers trip, no recognizable people

SEPT. 14TH MONTHLY MEETING

At the Trail Head, 7:PM The Sept. meeting is traditionally a time for members to share images of the summer's adventures.

There is a business meeting at 6:PM at MacKenzie River Pizza downtown, all are welcome. Suggestions for speakers are welcome.

UP COMING TRIPS AND ADVENTURES

Proposed Trip: **AUG 5 - 7; HALL LAKE TO BOND LAKE** in the Swan with a Flathead Lake Bonus!

I'd love to head up to Alpine Trail #7 in the Swan this weekend.

Friday - Head to Hall Lake (about 4 or 5 miles, moderate)

Saturday - Hike across the spine of the Swan over to Bond Lake on trail #7 (about 6 or so miles)

Sunday - Hike down Bond Creek trail - past an amazing waterfall (5 miles). We'd have to have a car waiting at the trailhead (about a 10 minute drive to the starting point trailhead.)

BONUS - we can head over to our cabin on Flathead Lake for a swim. You'd be welcome stay the night with us on Sunday.

Weather forecast is spectacular!

Anyone interested, let me know: Eileen McGurty [eilmcg \(at\) aol \(dot\) com](mailto:eilmcg@aol.com). eilmcg@aol.com

Proposed trip: **MORNINGSTAR PEAK** HP in the Deer Creek Mountains, **AUG. 7-11.**

These mountains are a sub range of the Beartooths south of Big Timber. The HP is 9319', and is a little ways east of the named peak. I'm thinking of trying a short cut up East Sheep Creek and up the slopes to Clover Basin. This north side approach isn't as steep and should have less sun than the south side. It looks like @ six miles on a map. There is a trail that goes close to the top, but it is 8 1/2 or 9 miles. We could possibly go down this way. The trail head is under 6500', so there is @ 2800' difference. I may also try to get permission to hike up Porcupine Butte, high point of the Cayuse Hills. This is why I'm spending so many days. Also there are nice places to camp and other things to see. If you are interested in seeing a different part of the state, contact me at: ssbell@rockymountaineers.com or stephenschombel@yahoo.com.

The Rocky Mountaineer's 12th Annual

GLACIER CLASSIC

For more information or to let us know you are coming contact: Forest Dean, mtnear1@gmail.com, 406-240-7612

August 26-28, 2016 St. Mary Campground- Glacier National Park

Dates: Friday, August 26- Sunday, August 28, Basecamp: St. Mary's Campground

Now is the time to mark your calendars for The Rocky Mountaineers biggest annual event—The Glacier Classic! Every year since 2005 we have gathered in a different location in Glacier National Park on the last weekend of August to climb peaks, hike trails and just have a great time in camp eating, drinking and socializing. It's always a good opportunity to come and meet old friends, make new ones, and spend some time with a bunch of other like-minded folks in this Crown Jewell that we are so lucky to have in our backyards!

Planning for this 12th installment of the Classic is still in progress, but here are some of the details. We have one of the Group Sites reserved at St. Mary's Campground for the nights of Friday and Saturday. 24 individuals are allowed to stay in the site. Please let us know if you'd like to reserve your "spot". You can certainly attend the festivities but stay in your own site or somewhere else if you so choose. Those staying in the group site will be asked to split the cost of the site (will likely be around \$15/person for the weekend—what a bargain!)

Most of the attendees will arrive at St. Mary's sometime on Friday afternoon or evening. There are usually many folks looking for a ride from Missoula (or elsewhere) or folks willing to offer a ride. Let us know if you'd like to carpool.

Plan on bringing your own food and drinks for all meals. If you care to bring something to share or a dish to pass at the Saturday dinner feel free, (But don't feel obligated)!

Activities! Of course, the main reason we hold this event is to climb and hike and explore Glacier! The list of trips is still being put together, and quite honestly, many of the trips don't get decided upon until right before the event, or even during the event. If you have something you'd like to do, an idea to throw out there, well, let us know! Anyone attending can suggest a trip and/or offer to lead something. Here are a few early listings to whet the appetite:

FRIDAY AUG. 26TH

***CITADEL MOUNTAIN (9,030')**- For those interested in a Friday climb. Will involve a good bit of bushwacking low on the mountain. Probably a class 3-4 scramble. Climb the bowl on the north side to a saddle between Citadel and Dusty Star Mountain, then ascend the NE Ridge to the summit. Will likely scramble over to Dusty Star as well, before descending the way we came up.

Leader: Forest Dean

SATURDAY AUG. 27TH

***GOING TO THE SUN MOUNTAIN (9,642')**- East face route. This is a class 4 route with some steep climbing on rock lower on route, and some steep glacier travel on upper part of route. Would probably descend the west side (standard) route.

Leader: Paul Jensen/Forest Dean

***SIYEH BEND TO PRESTON PARK, OR SUNRIFT GORGE**- A good scenic hike of 5-6 miles, originating at Siyeh Bend, hiking to Siyeh Pass between Mt. Siyeh and Matahpi Peak, then descending the Sunrift Gorge trail. This involves about 2500 ft of elevation gain.

For those not so ambitious, a hike just to Panorama Point or Preston Park and back out is suggested, or just go as far as you want.

Leader: Julie Kahl

***MT SIYEH (10,014)** Standard route up the south face of the peak. Involves some class 3 climbing through a rock band lower on the peak then mostly a steep hike up scree, talus and small ledges to the summit.

Leader TBD

SUNDAY AUG. 28TH

***REYNOLDS MOUNTAIN (9,125')**- Begin at Logan Pass and hike around the west side of Reynolds on good climbers trails to the south side of mountain, then ascend scree slopes to some upper cliff bands which require a relatively easy class 3 scramble to reach the summit.

Leader: Alden Wright and/or Forest Dean

***CLEMENTS MOUNTAIN (8,760)**- Depending on interest, would like to climb the East Face Couloir (direct). Low 5th class climbing near base, and mostly 4th class above.

Leader Forest Dean

Proposed trip: **DEER PEAK**, up the Deer Creek drainage of Fish Creek, **SATURDAY SEPT. 17TH**
Depending on fire activity in the area. We can drive to within 2-3 miles of the peak and follow old roads most of the way. There would be about 3,000 feet of elevation gain. This is in a burn area, and open terrain with little shade. Julie Kahl jawkal@rockymountaineers.com

CABIN WORK PARTY LATE SEPT. -EARLY OCT.

We go up to our cabin on Little St. Joe Mt. to cut fire wood, clean and do maintenance. Paul Jensen has some refurbishing projects he is trying to get done. They close the road on Oct. 15th and we usually try to schedule it in late Sept. or the 1st weekend in Oct. so if we don't make it up we still have one more weekend to try.

TRIP REPORTS



Anaconda-Pinlars from the Spotted Dog Area

WMA and school trust land that would allow this end access to the larger eastern half of the WMA. The WMA is divided almost in two by a swath of private land. On the map the private land is outlined by a dark black line that continues across the overlapping section. No one seemed to be able to answer the question on if there was foot traffic access through that area, so we came to see for ourselves.

We took ours and Lois' Tacomas, as I knew they could make it up the roughly 4 miles of O'Neill Cr. Rd to a parking area high on the divide between O'Neill Cr. (west) and Helena Gulch (east). O'Neill Cr. drains under the interstate highway to the Clark Fork, but Helena Gulch, Jake Cr., Freeze Out Cr. and Fred Burr Cr. to the south all drain into a swampy area east of the interstate with ditches and ponds, and eventually under the interstate to the Clark Fork. There were bitterroots everywhere on the tops of the ridges, most in full bloom, but we saw a white one that hadn't opened yet. Up there was also lupine, meadow

SPOTTED DOG WMA June 12th, 2016

I love hiking in this type of open rolling hill terrain, you can go where ever you want, as steep or gentle as you want, distances are deceiving, what seems like just over the hill can be miles away. There is usually no one else there and "danger" is at a minimum -generally.

It's fascinating how plant and animal communities change with the aspect of the hills or presence of water or not. Having great weather, no wind, 50-60 degrees, and sweeping views of the "big sky" and snow capped mountain ranges make it even better.

This trip back to the west end of the Spotted Dog WMA, just east of Deer Lodge, joined by Steve Schombel, Lois Crepeau, Jeff Shyer, and Tina from Kyrgyzstan and Julie and David Kahl, was to explore (see accompanying map) a section on the Fish Wildlife and Parks map that looks like there are overlapping sections of



Trip Notes

Please contact the trip leader for more information regarding any listed trips.

Millage listed is round trip mileage

Elevation listed is gain only

For information on class rating see below:

Class Rating System

CLASS 1 - Hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, biking etc. mostly on trails or roads, but may include some easy cross country travel

CLASS 2 - Easy Scrambling Rugged off trail hiking, no hands required

CLASS 3 - Scrambling Use of hands 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 possibly cause serious injury. Use of rope and protection at times possible.

CLASS 5- Technical Climbing Use of rope, protection and belay a must.

CLASS 6 - Aid Climbing Use of equipment to support your weight as you climb

marigolds, various varieties of buckwheat and pea-vetch and death camas. Lots of prairie smoke in the “smoke” phase. A little off the ridges we found phlox and blue flag iris. David and I fired up our GPS’s with new OnXmaps chips, David’s Montana only, mine MT, ID and WY. The O’Neill Cr. Rd. continues uphill from the end of motorized access, and as we went up we scared up a very large coyote, that ran up the road into private land. We knew that we didn’t want to stay on that part of the road as it clearly went into private land. Once over the hill and now on the Helena Gulch side, we found the remains of an old road that followed the private land fence to the southeast, where down in a draw by trees we could see an old cattle station, and the traces of several old roads and intact fencelines. GPS’s said that was the most likely site of the WMA overlap area. We followed the road as best we could along the fence line until we needed to cross Helena Gulch, which actually had some water in it. Once across that we, were now in the overlap area, but chose to go on to a multi-fence junction a short ways above the stream, now on the divide between Helena Gulch and Freeze Out Creek.



Prairie Smoke

There was a gate there into the over lap section, but before going through we decided to sit and have lunch, entertained by a red tailed hawk hunting the prairie and being harassed by some smaller birds. Once through the gate, still separated from the cattle station by a fence we started up an old road, that the GPS’s quickly showed us going off the WMA, we back tracked to the second fence, there was a sign that said just “close the gate” and this gate put us in by the cattle station, where there also happened to be a heard of cattle grazing a short ways away. Once again following a road trace that went up the brow of the hill we passed closed to the trees with an area of blue flag irises and there was a few white -blue flag irises as well. Just beyond the trees was an older building. We continued up the hill until around 1:PM our turn around time. Stopped by a rocky slope, just beyond a rise we could hear some sort of an animal in distress, bellowing. The group rushed over to investigate and we found a bull, kicking up dust and eying us. We started to back off and find a different route back down, but the bull was paralleling us wanting to get to the cows down below, getting more agitated. We just stopped and let the bull go where it wanted, continuing cross country when it had a clear path down to the cows. We had to go back to the two gates to get through on the overlap section, but then went in pretty much a straight line over the hills back to the vehicles. On the slopes of Helena Gulch we saw one done-blossoming blue camas and towards the top a rock wren flitting around through the grass. The GPS’s said it was about a mile to the gates at the cattle station from the parking area.

We went into Deer Lodge and got beer at the Broken Arrow Bar, which thrilled Tina, it wasn’t like a bar in her homeland. Julie Kahl



Lunch at the gates



Rock Creek Lake

DOLUS LAKES hike on 6/19/2016: This hike was disappointing in several ways. First, the last few miles in were on a very rough road, more of a jeep trail. Then the trail turned out to be very steep and rocky, through a forest, with few views. Last, the trail must have been re-routed, because it never went along the shores of a lake, unlike what the maps showed. We got tired and hungry around two, and decided this would be the turnaround point, even though it was no destination.

There were some good things. We made it in and out in a mini van, despite bouncing around a lot. The trailhead was very pretty on the shores of Rock Creek Lake. The forest was also very pretty, and the weather was great. Interestingly, stretches of the trail ran along old ditches, perhaps remains from the gold mining era. The companions were also jolly, Eileene M., Dave R., Lois C. and me. We also had a decent dinner at the Broken Arrow in downtown Deer Lodge on the way home.

It would be interesting to go back with better info, or maybe a GPS, and try to find the lower lake. But I don’t think it would be worth the long drive, especially the terrible last few miles. I don’t plan to go back. Steve Schombel



Rock Creek Lake



North Crow Creek Falls

Above North Crow Creek Falls

NORTH CROW FALLS

Today, 5-21, was another day with a lousy weather forecast. It was 90% chance of rain in the Mission Mountain foothills, so we decided to bail out of the original plan and hike up the Rattlesnake corridor. Wildflowers are still abundant. Notable on this trip were Death Camas and Prairie Smoke. We thought we saw some Blue Camas, but it turned out to be something else, maybe Blue Hyacinth, on closer inspection. There was also a wild variety of mushrooms popping up every where. It turned out to be a decent day until we crossed Spring Gulch on the return. It started to rain harder and harder, and was really coming down during the post hike beer. I'll have to reschedule the Crow Falls hike again, since there is some interest. Joining me were: Dave Robertson, Lois Crepeau, and Fred and Eileene Schwanemann.



7-23 I happened to pick a weekend when all of my friends had other plans. I know you are not supposed to hike solo in bear country, but I've done it most of my life. I hiked a couple of miles beyond the falls, almost to the base of where the trail leaves North Crow Canyon and switchbacks up to Piper-Crow Pass. I took a couple of photos from my turn around point, the country above was looking rugged. I went over to the falls on my way back down, and got some afternoon sunlight. This is not the nicest fall around, like Morrell Falls, but it is still better than most. It has an almost vertical drop. The neatest thing, was, I was alone experiencing the falls. There was one car in the parking lot when I arrived, and two young guys were hoofing down the trail when I was hiking up, but, otherwise, I had the day all to myself. My van was the only car in the parking lot when I got back. Several weeks ago, when I scouted out the parking area, it was full of cars. So I guess, it depends. I know this type of solitude would not appeal to most people. But, check it out, if it interests you. Steve Schombel



Above North Crow Creek Falls

NORTH FORK OF THE CLEARWATER; INTO THE LAND OF FERNS AND CEDARS, JULY 30-31ST

Dodging forest fires:

I have to admit that after my hike at Marias Pass, for the Glacier Classic last year, was canceled because Hwy 2 was closed because of fires it rankled me to have to cancel the Elk Summit campout because of a fire 2 miles away, when it was like the only fire around. This fire was sandwiched between two burns from last year and not expected to do much, but there probably would have been smoke in camp, and you never know what could happen with there only being one road in and out. Other options were considered: Nez Perce Pass and Castle Rock -no good place to camp nearby, and Gibbons or Chief Joseph Passes and sections of the Continental Divide Trail. Most of the Elk Summit participants lost interest or had other things come up, including David who had to work late on Fri. So I compiled a list of 10-12 "weekend trips" David and I could do on Sat. and Sun. on the list was going over Hoodoo Pass south of Superior into the headwaters of Idaho's North Fork Of The Clearwater River, that joins the Clearwater at Orofino, ID, behind the Dworshak Dam, and come out somewhere on hwy 12. This trip had been on our list for a long time, but it seemed every year they had bad fires over there and we never went. This year there were no fires in the area so we decided to do it.

As we were up high or looking over the Clearwater Canyon it was smoky -worse to the east - actually from the fire by Elk Summit. It wasn't until we got cell service west of Lolo that we heard about the Roaring Lion fire having Hwy 93 closed, just about the time we would probably have been returning from a trip down there, if we had gone that way.

7/30 We left Superior with a full tank of gas -a range of 350-400 miles in our Tacoma- turned back the odometer and reset the trip computer on the GPS, and headed up Trout Creek Rd. David had been up the road only to the Heart Lake trail head, I had been to Hoodoo Pass once. Coming up on the pass on the MT side there were slopes covered with wildflowers, in one spot on a bank was monkshood two feet high, next to bluebells with a lone harebell at the base of the bank. Long Creek Ridge that forms the north wall of the pass on the Idaho side had impressive long avalanche chutes now edged with aspen stands and almost covered in wildflowers, very scarlet Indian paintbrush, yellow -what I call mountain or meadow marigolds and blue flowers of various types. On some north facing slopes acres of purple fireweed drifts covered the ground. The road was paved on the ID side and water run off from the road had thick covers of wildflowers on the edges, and some thimbleberry bushes. As we went down we got into the cedars and ferns took over most aspects of the land scape. We saw banks with ferns that must have been three feet high.



On Fri. I spent hours pouring over a 2005 Clearwater Forest map, this road that we were on, Rd 250, was a "yellow outlined road" on the map, with the tag -improved road maintained for vehicle traffic. Rd. 250 had a sign just out of Superior saying the next fuel was at Pierce ID, 111 miles away. It ran to a town just 1 1/2 miles short of Pikerce. We wanted to make the Weitas Campground for tonight so for Sat.'s trip staying on Rd 250 seemed the best course. On Sun. we would deal with the what David described as though "someone had thrown spaghetti on the map" system of roads going south from Rd 250 to Hwy 12. Some of them "yellow roads." Rd 250 was paved for about the first ten miles to a place called The Cedars where we first encountered what Rd 250 was about -big campers -either pull or drive RV's and ATV's. We had come down from the pass along Long Creek, which was joined by Short Creek just before they both emptied into the North Fork Of The Clearwater, which headed on the north side of Long Creek Ridge. Now we followed the North Fork, still a small enough stream that at times we couldn't see it from the road. The now gravel road had no shoulders and we pulled off into an apron for a side road to have some lunch. A few miles further, now along the river, we encountered something we hadn't noticed on the map. The yellow road turned south on Rd 255, went over some saddles and drainages turned west and followed Kelly Creek to its confluence with the North Fork at Kelly Forks. Rd 250 continued as a "one lane road with turnouts" west and then south along the North Fork down through The Black Canyon of the North Fork to come out at Kelly Forks. The road wasn't bad so we opted to stay on 250. We saw no campers or trailers, there were a few people fishing or riding ATV's but no water craft. In places the river was like 100 feet wide, with a smooth gravelly bottom, we could see the bottom all the way across through maybe ankle deep water, these sections were interspaced with rocky whitewater sections. About half way we came upon an impressive rock feature coming down to the water over the road, by Elizabeth Creek. The map showed an "Elizabeth's Finger" feature and by the time we decided that was it we were past it and didn't get any photos. As the river dropped the canyon got steeper and higher and we could see the Kelly Creek Canyon coming in from the east. There was a huge Forest Service Work Camp at Kelly Forks with twenty,



Edge of the road, Hoodoo Pass ID side



Lower end of the Black Canyon of the North Fork

maybe more buildings.

It was beyond Kelly Forks that we need to start looking for a campground, there were two between there and the Weitas CG and we checked out the small Noe Creek CG to find all the sites taken. There was a trail head a few miles further at the 4th of July Creek bridge trail head, a huge area to park stock trailers and sites that would do in a pinch. Further on we drove into what looked like an old camp ground, it had FS like signs, but no name and just a few pull in sites. We saw a nice camp spot over the river and it would be the first we headed for if the Weitas CG was full. You had to cross the North Fork on a bridge just for the Weitas CG to get to it, the best sites were taken by what looked like long term users, but three less desirable sites were open, we took the biggest one. Weitas didn't have a fee, but there was no water, and two rickety outhouses. The map showed a trail going about 1 1/2 miles from the camp to a Bugle Pt. it was actually an ATV trail. We got in around 3:PM, the odometer showed around 69 miles from Superior, strangely the GPS's trip computer showed 58 miles, like a 10 mile difference. We set up camp with the tent partially in the shade and napped until 6:PM or so, when it got cool enough to want to eat the mac and cheese I had made from scratch yesterday with ham, broccoli and carrots. After dinner David went to fly fish in Weitas Creek - he caught a few. I took my camera to get some pictures first on Weitas Creek then at the bridge over the North Fork. The day had been so hot that on the timbers on the side of the bridge the creosote had leached out and pooled in the cracks on the top of the timbers. David fished until almost dark -9:30 or so, and we turned in by dark. Got up around 4:AM the sky was clear with stars everywhere.

7/ 31 David had gotten up at 4-5 AM almost every day this week and I didn't want to make him get up early to hike up to Bugle Pt. Still we had breakfast and loaded up and were on our way by 9:AM. We had poured over the spaghetti roads trying to decide on a route down to Hwy 12. There were lots of ways to go on yellow roads but nothing went directly down to Syringa or Lowell. We had followed the river most of the way yesterday so we chose a route that would get us up high over some saddles and drainages, what appeared to be Rd 547. Rd 250 took us to Bungalow Ranger Station, where the North Fork turns north to run north-northwest into the reservoir, eventually with no roads anywhere near close to it. From Bungalow 250 follows Orogrande Creek south and west and we crossed it on the bridge for Rd 247, which was actually Rd 660. In the ten years since our map had been printed the area up Rd 547, the Sylvan Saddle area had been turned into an extensive system of ATV trails. The number 547 showed up the map in places, among a maze of other road names. Eventually we found a jeep trail going from the bridge labeled 547 that joined Rd 660 on the ridge. 660 was the route of the yellow roads that took us up high on the ridges, but it quickly became a one lane road with grass growing down the center in places, but it's gravel surface was maintained. 660 turned magically into 547, then to 5215 and 5216 which brought us back down to 250. Along the side of the road the timber was thick enough so we really couldn't see anything except occasional slices down the valleys. There were no campers or ATV's, we only saw two other vehicles. Signs were for the ATV trails. At a site called 3 Bear Camp there was a wide spot in the road thick with wildflowers, it was a pretty spot but no had camped there in a long time. A few minutes before, at an old road junction we had found a "privy" made from the frame of a metal kitchen chair, sitting in the wildflowers, worthy of Forest's photo collection. There were sections of dark cedar forest brown with duff and trunks, no vegetation under them. Ferns were everywhere they could squeeze in.

By the time we got to the 5215 & 5216 section of the road so many side roads came in we ended up using the GPS to make sure we were on the correct road. They dropped down a ridge between two drainages back to Rd 250 which now was paved. It was noon and we had seen enough of the yellow roads to know we didn't want to continue down them to Hwy. 12. We went into Pierce hoping to get gas and maybe find a cafe to get some lunch. The gas station had antique pumps you had to pay inside to use, we still had a half a tank of gas and passed on it. Chatted briefly with the lady in the convenience store where the rest room was "liquids only." There were a few bars open, David saw a closed cafe -it was Sunday. The fastest way to get down to Hwy 12 was on Hwy 11 to Greer, ID coming out between Orofino and Kamiah. Just south of Pierce, now off FS land, there was some massive new clearcuts, entire mountains and ridges with nothing left on them. The mill in Weippe had acres of logs piled in its yard. Just outside of Weippe we gazed over the meadows where the Lewis and Clark expedition had first met the Nez Perce after crossing the Bitterroots in 1805. Three boys had tried to hide in the grass. The party gave them gifts and sent two of them back to the village to give the word. From there they had continued pretty much straight west to come down to the Clearwater at Orofino. Today we were driving through hay fields and ready to harvest wheat fields. On the Nez Perce Reservation Hwy 11 drops in a series of swichbacks down to the river at Greer, we stopped to take pictures at several over looks. We crossed the Clearwater on a bridge at Greer to Hwy 12, a sign said Missoula was 170 miles. Kamiah was 14 miles and we stopped to get gas and eat in a little Mexican restaurant. 7 miles further at Kooskia the South Fork Of the Clearwater comes in and we are now following the Middle Fork of the Clearwater. Here we saw people along the banks picking blackberries from the bushes that grow wild along the river. We stopped and

View from Rd 547



"Privy" by 3 Bear Camp



picked a few. People were recreating in the river. By Syringa and Lowell we looked for some of the spaghetti roads that came down there. At Lowell the Lochsa and Selway come together to form the Middle Fork of the Clearwater and there was a big raft take out site there. A sign at Lowell said next gas was 64 miles -meaning Lochsa Lodge. The Lochsa is 64 miles long, as by Lochsa Lodge the Crooked Fork and White Sands Creek join to form the Lochsa. About 20 miles out from Lolo Pass things became familiar: Colgate Licks, Jerry Johnson Hot Springs, Lochsa Lodge, Elk Summit Road -it was smoky- Parachute Hill Rd., Shotgun Rd., our beloved Crooked Fork Bridge on the lower end of the Pack Creek Ski. Lolo Pass -we were home. The odometer said we had logged just over 300 miles. Maybe some time in the future, when we have more time, we may go back and go up into the spaghetti roads from Hwy 12, now that we know how to get out on the north end. Julie Kahl

ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual Membership Fee \$10

Note: Membership includes all members of a family or household

Make Check payable to "the Rocky Mountaineers" and send to: The Rocky Mountaineers, PO Box 4262, Missoula MT 59801

Name: _____

Additional Family Members' Names: _____

Address: _____

Best Phone include area code: _____

2nd Phone (optional): _____

E-Mail: _____

2nd E-Mail (optional): _____

Pay by **PayPal** available on the Rocky Mountaineers' Website.
Click on the membership link on the main page

RETRO PHOTO



Photo, Jim Ullrich, submitted by Jim Ullrich
Cravasse on Denali in 1976