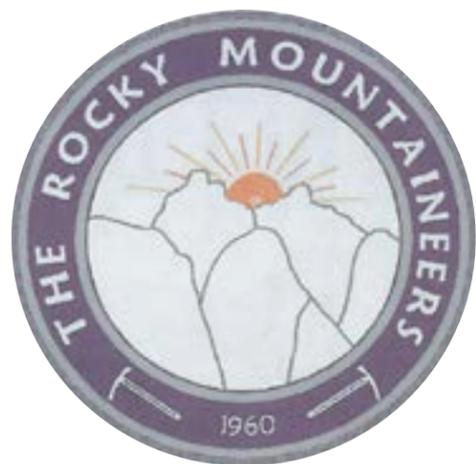


# The Mountain Ear

December 2016

Monthly Newsletter of  
The Rocky Mountaineers



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

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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: Should 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



Cover Photo: The Pinnacles of Pinnacle NP in California, see page 8  
Photo: Vick Applegate

**About the Club**

**Mission Statement:**

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

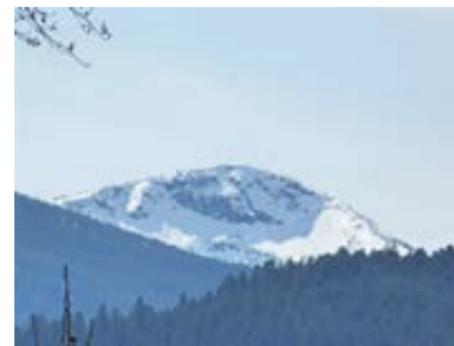
**Meeting and Presentations:**

During September through April, on the second Tuesday of the month, business meetings are generally held at 6:PM at a location 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.

**DEC. 13TH MONTHLY MEETING**

is the annual Avalanche program by the West Central Montana Avalanche Center, or [missoulaavalanche.org](http://missoulaavalanche.org)  
Travis Craft will give a presentation on recognizing avalanche terrain and avoidance and will then give an update on new tools to help with this.



2010 Avalanches, from the West Central Montana Avalanche Center website  
Left -Lolo Peak -Photo Dale Dufor  
Right -St. Joseph Peak -Photo Jason Leppi



**JAN. 10TH, 2017 MONTHLY MEETING -Jonathan Bardsley**

**COMING FEBRUARY 21ST, 2017**

Canyon & Mesa: Southwest Journeys  
An Illustrated Talk by Lee Silliman

For the past six years large format photographer Lee Silliman has been exploring and photographing the back-country canyons and mesas of the Four Corners region of the American Southwest. His quest of long-abandoned Native American cliff dwellings, pueblos, and rock art has taken Lee and his hiking companions into a variety of remote locales in Cedar Mesa, Grand Gulch, Chaco Canyon, Hovenweep, and Canyons of the Ancients. Additionally, Lee and his cohorts have enjoyed hiking the trails of Arches, Canyonlands, and Zion National Parks in search of lesser known features of natural beauty to be found when leaving behind the roads and parking lots. Come enjoy a vicarious trip into fascinating country



**MAR. 14TH, 2017 MONTHLY MEETING -Paul Jensen**

**APRIL 11TH, 2017 MONTHLY MEETING -Bryan Kercher, Dues paid in April**

**MAY 9TH, 2017 MONTHLY MEETING Club Picnic and election of Officers, dues paid in April**



*The Mountaineer* 11-1963

## UP COMING TRIPS AND ADVENTURES

### COYOTE COOLIE, WINTER OUTING SUN. DEC. 11TH 2016

This is a recreation area between Hamilton and Darby, off of Lost Horse Rd. in the Bitterroot Mts. Steve Schombell, ssbell@rockymountaineers.com

### LOLO PASS WINTER OUTING SUN. DEC. 18TH

Ski snowshoe, what ever. Julie Kahl jawkal@rockymountaineers.com

### EAST ST. MARY'S PEAK (MISSION MTNS) WED. DECEMBER 21

Rating: Class 3-4?; Distance: 7.5 miles round trip; Elevation Gain: 5500'

Description: WINTER SOLSTICE! Its been a few years since I was regularly climbing up East Saint on or near the Winter Solstice, so I figured it was about time to revive the tradition! If conditions are good, I plan to try something a little different- ascending via the Southwest Ridge. This route would require a 5500' elevation gain over about 3 miles on a somewhat narrow ridge. I've always been interested in checking it out, so now is the time! Would descend via the standard Southeast Ridge back to the reservoir then hike the road back to vehicle.

Equipment: Ski's or snowshoes, or neither if we don't get any snow.

Leader: Forest Dean, mtnear1@gmail.com

### ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS' CABIN, PAUL JENSEN, DATE NOT SET

### LEE CREEK, LOLO PASS SUN. JAN. 8TH, 2017

**CLASS 1** This is a seven mile point to point ski from Lolo Pass down Lee Creek, to the Lee Creek Campground, on the Montana side. The trail rises 200 ft. from the Pass to the Lee Creek saddle, then drops to 1,200 ft., on logging roads, if it's icy this part of the route can be fast. Julie Kahl jawkal@rockymountaineers.com

### KAINA MOUNTAIN (9489') (Glacier NP) THU-SUN, JANUARY 12-15

Rating: Class 3; Distance: 30 miles round trip; Elevation Gain: 7000'

Description: Kaina Mtn lies in the NE part of Glacier, up the Belly River drainage. Will head up to Glacier on Thursday afternoon, get a permit, then up to the Chief Mtn Highway. This is supposed to be plowed to the Park Boundary. Hopefully it is- will camp at that spot Thursday night. Friday the goal will be to get to the Cosley Lake area. Saturday would be the day of the summit attempt (approx.. 4600' above Cosley Lake). Sunday ski out and return home. If conditions are challenging and travel is slow, I am going to plan on using an extra day (Monday).

Equipment: Ski's, winter camp gear.

Leader: Forest Dean, mtnear1@gmail.com

### PACK CREEK, LOLO PASS SUN. FEB. 5TH, 2017

**CLASS 1** This is an eight mile point to point ski from Lolo Pass down Pack Creek Road, to the Crooked Fork Bridge, on the Idaho side. It is all down hill from the Pass to the Hwy 12, with a drop of 1,200 ft. The route is on logging roads with some exposure in places, intermediate level ski experience is suggested. Julie Kahl jawkal@rockymountaineers.com

**MARCH 2017** -Dates not decided yet -looking for input :

### CHIEF JOSEPH SKI WEEKEND, FREEZEOUT LAKE -BIRD WATCHING



#### Trip Notes

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

Mileage 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

## TRIP REPORTS



Missoula Valley looking towards Hellgate Canyon



Looking down into the Bitterroot Valley



Lois and Ron

### TRIP REPORT, BLUE MOUNTAIN AREA ON 11/06:

Only two people joined me on this nice fall hike. Ron Zellar, who moved here recently, seemed to really enjoy himself and would like to go on more hikes, and his wife may join us too. And there was Lois Crepeau, who has hiked around this area for decades, but who said she had never been on this particular trail which goes way up on the side of a hill. It rained some in the beginning, but then wasn't too bad, except for a cold wind off and on. There is a big network of trails around Blue Mountain, as most of you know. When we got to the highest point of this loop I showed them that the last bit to the top of a small hill would involve going through a burned area and some brush and over or around many downed snags. We decided to stay on the trail, which was fine with me, since I've been on that hill several times. There is a great view of the entire Missoula Valley from this point, and quite a bit of the north part of the Bitterroot Valley. Then we went around the hill, down a gully, and back to the car. I enjoyed the day, and we really wore out my old dog. Steve Schombel



View from the burned area





Looking Down Lolo Canyon, Towards Crystal Amphitheater



Tracks We Were Following

below this turn, put our skis back on and skied out the Stateline Ridge Rd. We needed a route that was further up the hill than we had gone, to get to this turn, without getting caught in the gully. We discussed possibilities as we ate lunch. I had seen a possible route last year in a set of ski tracks that went roughly were, I think, we wanted to go. After lunch we went a bit further up the road, the alder brush was getting bigger now and at about 1 1/2 miles it was growing densely over the entire road, still the single track of footprints went on. We didn't, we decided to turn back there, about 100 ft below the summit. To the west we could see the first waves of the snowstorm coming in and it started to seriously snow. There was a few gusts of wind as we got further down, but nothing more, just snow. We estimated there was 3-4 inches on the ground where we had turned back. As we changed boots and had hot chocolate in the Visitors' Center it began to snow hard and we had snow in the air all the way down to about Graves Creek. It should all set up a nice base for future winter activity.



Hill Above The Lunch Spot

Lolo Pass Winter Outing Nov. 27th, 2016

Well we did have snow, but not enough to ski, probably could have snowshoed but in less than desirable conditions. We, Lois Crepeau, Steve Schombel, David and Julie Kahl decided to winter hike, all taking ski poles in case we ran into icy conditions. We didn't as we hiked the Stateline Ridge Road, that takes off from the snowplow turnaround right by the Montana sign and the Lolo Pass Camera. The ridge on the Montana side of the Visitors' Center (actually to the north) is the divide where the MT-ID stateline runs. The Stateline Ridge Rd. winds around on the west and north flank of the ridge, rising continuously until at the edge of the clear cut it ends below the 5667 ft highpoint. Anticipating the possibility of alder brush clogged roads and a snow storm scheduled to come in around 4:PM, we went around the locked gate, just behind a young couple with a dog. For the first 1/4-1/2 mile, where there was only knapweed sticking out of the snow, we could see drag marks like someone dragging a sled. There were numerous tracks that left the main set and went off into the woods, as we were coming back out we encountered the young couple and dog down off the trail cutting a Christmas tree. Now we knew what the drag marks were. As we went up, still on the west side, most of the tracks dropped off until we were following just one set (and no drag marks), that weaved around the young alder brush, knee to waist high, now growing on both sides of the road and from the center. A little past a mile we stopped by a major switch back to have lunch and discuss how last year, David and I had come in from the Lee Creek (A) Trail and turned left just before you get to the bridge/culvert over China Creek, where the trails split. We had followed "China Basin Rd." (on the south side of the basin) to its end, 500 ft or so from this turn, but on the other side and lower down in a creek gully. We had switched from skis to snowshoes and with our skis on our packs navigated up the opposite slope, crossed the gully in an open area to come up the steep slope just

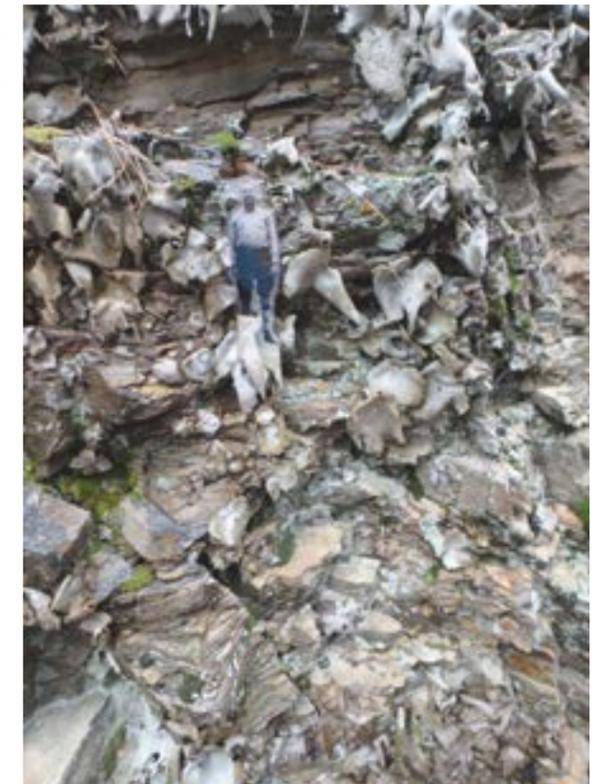


How we estimated how much snow was on the ground, and some of the young alder brush and the storm coming in in the background



**THE ADVENTURES OF FLAT BOB**

Flat Bob is Lois Crepeau's laminated copy of a photo of Bob Marshall, we first met when she took him up to the cabin work party. Here are some of Flat Bob's other adventures.



11/17/2016 Leather like lichen on a rock face on the old railroad grade downstream from the Blackfoot's Whittacker Bridge  
Photo Julie Kahl



11/13/2016 on this large blowdown tree on FS road 5953, what we call The North Dallas Forty, at Lolo Pass  
Photos Julie Kahl



In Nov. Vick Applegate was in California, Left Sleeping platforms on El Capitan in Yosemite NP Below Pinnacles NP from Hawkins Peak



**Karkanen retires as Travis Craft assumes leadership position**

**DAVID ERICKSON**  
david.ericson@missoulian.com  
The West Central Montana Avalanche Center, an organization that reports on snow and weather conditions during the winter and spring, has announced major staff changes for the coming season. Steve Karkanen the director of

the center since 2006, has officially announced his retirement. Travis Craft will assume leadership responsibilities, and Logan King will assist him in providing avalanche advisories and education opportunities. Both have several years of avalanche forecasting and professional ski patrol experience in western Montana. Regular advisories begin in mid-December and are posted on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings from mid-December through March. Special updates

are posted as needed during periods of high avalanche danger. The updates and advisories can be found at [missoulaavalanche.org](http://missoulaavalanche.org), where you can sign up for regular email or social media notification. The WCMAC also has a "Missoula Avalanche" Facebook page and an avalanche info hotline at 549-4488 or 1-800-281-1030. "I've been doing this for a long time," Karkanen said. "The guys are more than prepped to take it on, and Travis and Logan have been doing great work with fore-

casting and education the past two years." Karkanen started with the Lolo National Forest as an avalanche specialist in the late 1990s and also worked as a professional ski patroller. He will remain involved with the center in an advisory capacity. Over the years, he's noticed dramatic technological advancements that have allowed huge increases in the number of backcountry skiers and snowboarders. "There has been a definite in-

- I. Call To Order: 6:10, Stockman's Bar
- II. Attendees: Steve Schombel, Paul Jensen, Julie Kahl, Lois Crepeau, David Kahl
- III. Treasurer's Report: \$898.28.28
- IV. Discussions:
  - A. Suggestion to make Brett Duchette an honorary member, yes but would tell him privately, no public announcement
  - B. Reformat Sept. meeting from the "Slide Potluck" to get better attendance? no conclusions
  - C. Julie bought a karaoke machine, will retain possession but let the club use it, now formally the sound system
  - D. Are we interested in co-sponsoring a special event- a Lightweingt Backpacking Seminar at the Trail Head next year? Sure, just need to let our name and some info on us, be part of the program
  - E. Back up person for the Website
    - 1. Alden -two levels just making changes to the website, like meeting dates etc, and doing "major changes"
    - 2. Alden has made changes to the Nordic Ski Club site, with a new program, and wants to do the same for TRM, but doesn't have the time,
      - a. looking for someone else to do it
      - b. will announce to the general audience
    - 3. Cost will be slightly more, now pay \$80 a year, would go up to like \$10 a month -\$120 year
  - F. Speakers
    - 1. Avalanche Show in Dec. Travis Craft of the Western Montana Avalanche Center
    - 2. Jonathan Bardsley in Jan.
    - 3. Lee Stillman and The South West in Feb.
    - 4. Paul Jensen will share photos in March
    - 5. Bryan Kercher in April
  - G Trips:
    - 1. Julie: 2 trips, Lolo Pass Winter Outings
    - 2. Steve Schombel:Coyote Coolie down by Darby
    - 3. Paul -trip up to the cabin
- V. Adjourn 6:40 PM



Brett



*The Missoulian* 11/24/2016

**Staff**

From B1

"You have to know how to use the proper gear to deal with whatever eventually goes wrong, and how to deal with equipment breakdowns or self-rescue," he said. "A minor injury in the backcountry can become an epic problem if you aren't prepared with the proper equipment and knowledge." The WCMAC operates under a Cost Share Agreement with the Lolo National Forest to provide avalanche safety information for frequently accessed locations on Forest Service (public) land on the Bitterroot, Lolo and Clearwater

**National Forests.**

The West Central Montana Avalanche Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, assists the center with fund raising activities and provides education opportunities. Josh Tapp, also a long time ski patroller and first responder, has been hired by the foundation as the education coordinator for the 2016-2017 season. For questions about avalanche conditions or education events, please email [info@missoulaavalanche.org](mailto:info@missoulaavalanche.org) or call 530-9766. The center has no dedicated office staff, so callers are asked to leave a detailed message. The center will typically respond to messages within a few days.



**RETRO PHOTOS ESSAY  
2010 GRIZZLY MAN  
ADVENTURE RACE**

**RACE INVOLVED A WATER COURSE,  
RUNNING, BIKING & ORIENTEERING,  
ALSO A BLACK BEAR RACE WITH JUST  
RUNNING AND BICYCLES**

Most photos from the River Camp, Transition area  
all Photos Julie Kahl



✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

*The Mountaineer 12/1969*

**Flash!** Word has been officially recieved from the Board of Geographical Names by the Rocky Mountaineers that the peak in the Mission Mts. they proposed be named Lowary Peak after the late Thad Lowary is now so designated.

# 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



Season's Greetings

*The Mountaineer* 12/1969