

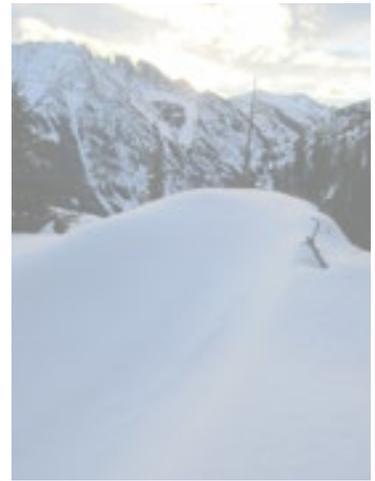
March, 2017

The Mountain Ear

Monthly Newsletter of The Rocky Mountaineers



Cover Photo: Florence Crags from Little
St. Joe Mt.
Photo: Matt Roscoe



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

Club Contacts

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The Rocky Mountaineers

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Newsletter Editor: Julie Kahl

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Webmaster: Alden Wright

rocky@wrightmontana.net

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 at 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: 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



Mt. Steele from Google Images

MAR. 14TH, 2017 MT STEELE

Long time club member Paul Jensen will give a presentation on climbing Mt Steele which is located in the St Elias Mountains of Canada. At 16,644' it is one of the higher peaks in the area. The trip included flying in to a glacier near the peak and afterwards walking out to the highway.

APRIL 11TH, 2017 MONTHLY MEETING

-Bryan Kercher,

DUES PAID IN APRIL

MAY 9TH, 2017 MONTHLY MEETING

Club Picnic and election of Officers



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This will be a message when I stoop to asking for money. It is also a message about how the club works. The annual dues remain \$10 per year. Several years ago we adopted a system that the dues would be due in April, instead of anytime people wanted to send in the money. This made it easier for the club to keep track of who had paid up, and was an official member. The downside is that people who have sent in dues in the last few months maybe have not been entered on the list of official members, and may have not gotten the e- mail edition of the newsletter, among other benefits. This should be something the next group of officers will try to correct.

But to get back to my message, asking for money. We, as a club, have been pretty stable for many years. Our bank account remains about the same, so we have made sure that outlays equal inlays. But, future leaders may have more ambitious plans. Or, if people stop renewing, our small bank balance could disappear quickly. So I ask you, please, in the next couple of months, to join or renew. It should be easy, we have an account with PayPal. But, they do ask for a lot of personal information, and to establish a password. So, in my opinion, it would be better to send a check via snail mail to: Rocky Mountaineers, P.O. box 4262, Missoula, MT, 59806. Or bring \$10 to one of our next two meetings and fill out a membership application. You do not have to remember a password if you fill out a paper application.

I hope to see you at a meeting, Steve Schombel

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

UP COMING TRIPS AND ADVENTURES

SHOTGUN ROAD (ID) MAR. 5TH

Dave R. and I talked about a snowshoe trip up Shotgun to road 5650(left) and heading towards Parachute Rd. Blackberry Cobbler @ Lochsa Lodge. Yummy!!! Check with Lois for meeting time. Lois Crepeau



Shotgun Rd.



Chief Joseph Photos Julie

CHIEF JOSEPH SKI OVERNIGHTER MAR. 10-11

We will go for a “weekend” trip to Chief Joseph on Fri. & Sat. Mar. 10 & 11th. You probably need to make your own accommodations, but we will have a pot luck dinner at our cabin at The Broad Axe Lodge on the evening of the 10th. jawkal@rockymountaineers.com

SOUTH CHAFFIN PEAK (THE TUSK)- BITTERROOTS, SAT-SUN, MARCH 18-19



Rating: Class 5; Distance: 15 miles round trip; Elevation Gain: 5000'

Description: This is one of only a few Bitterroot summits that require 5th class climbing. The unofficially named 9485' spire (South Chaffin is a location name—the origin of “The Tusk” is unknown to me) is located at the head of the Chaffin Creek drainage. This will likely be a mixed snow/rock/ice climb IF it is even approachable right now. My plan is to ski up to Tamarack or Chaffin Lake area (about 6 miles) on Saturday, then head up into the upper part of the drainage on Sunday morning. If the peak looks climbable, we'll give it a go. If not, we could consider one of the other peaks around there (Sugarloaf, The Shard, Little Tin Cup). I don't know of any winter ascents of this peak.

Equipment: Ski's, winter camp gear, ice tools, harness, crampons

Leader: Forest Dean, mtnear1@gmail.com

Sugarloaf, photo Forest Dean



FREEZEOUT LAKE -BIRD WATCHING, MAR. 22ND & 23RD

You need to make your own travel and accommodation plans, but we may have a group meal on the night of the 22nd jawkal@rockymountaineers.com

Pelicans, photo David Kahl

WILDFLOWER WALK, PATTEE CANYON OR MILLER CREEK APRIL 23RD

We will watch the conditions to see which is the best area to see early season wildflowers. jawkal@rockymountaineers.com

O'BRIAN CREEK, MAY 21ST

This will be a go as far as we want, on roads in the O'Brian Creek area west of Missoula. Wildflower viewing should continue with later season flowers, may see some early bitterroots. jawkal@rockymountaineers.com

THESE TWO TRIPS, POSTED BY ALDEN WRIGHT, NEED ALTERNATIVE LEADERS, IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED, CONTACT ALDEN

CH-PAA-QN (SQUAW PEAK) SNOWSHOE HIKE, SATURDAY, MARCH 11

In the summer, this is 7.2 miles with 1800' vertical. We will undoubtedly need to start considerably below the summer trailhead. A few days before the hike I will call the Forest Service to find where we will need to start. This 7996' peak is close to Missoula with 4000' of prominence and great views.

Alden Wright rocky@wrightmontana.net

TRAPPER PEAK SNOWSHOE HIKE SATURDAY, APRIL 22 (TENTATIVE DATE)

Trapper Peak is the highest peak in the Bitterroots at 10,000'. In the summer it is 8.4 miles round trip with 3800' elevation gain. It is unlikely that we will be able to drive to the summer trailhead, so we might have another 3 miles round trip and another 1000' elevation gain (off trail). This is a popular trip, and I expect to have friends who will lead subgroups who will go faster than I can. Skiing is a possibility (skins required)---but I would like skiers to form a subgroup. There is no avalanche danger.





The warming hut at Lolo Pass will be open for the full moon on the 10th of March



**PHOTOS FROM
A TRIP UP TO THE CABIN
-BY MATT ROSCO**





TRIP REPORTS



PISTOL CREEK LOOKOUT FEBRUARY 11, 2017

Pistol Creek Lookout is normally an easy hike with excellent views close to Missoula.

Dave Patterson, Len Broberg, Neil Simpson, and Bill Burdick joined me on the snowshoe hike to Pistol Creek Lookout. John Bardsley posted an excellent blog on his hikes to the peak (with pictures) at <http://mathgeekadventures.blogspot.com/2015/01/pistol-creek-lookout-arlee.html>.

To get to the trailhead, cross the Jocko River just north of Arlee, and then turn right on White Coyote Road. After about a mile you come to a T junction with Martz Drive. Go left, and go to the end of the road. We went up the ridge that was slightly to the right. Despite deep snow everywhere around Missoula, the ridge was free of snow for about 500 feet of elevation gain. We crossed a couple of fences and then hit snow and put on our snowshoes. We broke through the crust fairly frequently, and often sank to almost knee deep. Despite being only about 3 miles to the peak, it was a challenging hike. John Bardsley had posted a GPX track at <http://www.peakbagger.com/climber/ascent.aspx?aid=624008>, and we mostly followed this track. At the top of the ridge we followed the top of the ridge instead of a logging road lower down. The west face of the peak was steep and fairly thick, so we side-hilled on an old logging road almost to the ridge, and then climbed to the ridge and up to the peak. Views from the top were good but not as outstanding as John's pictures. We came down the same way we went up. Some of us were feeling the effects of repeatedly breaking through the crust with some cramping in our legs. We all enjoyed the hike. Alden Wright



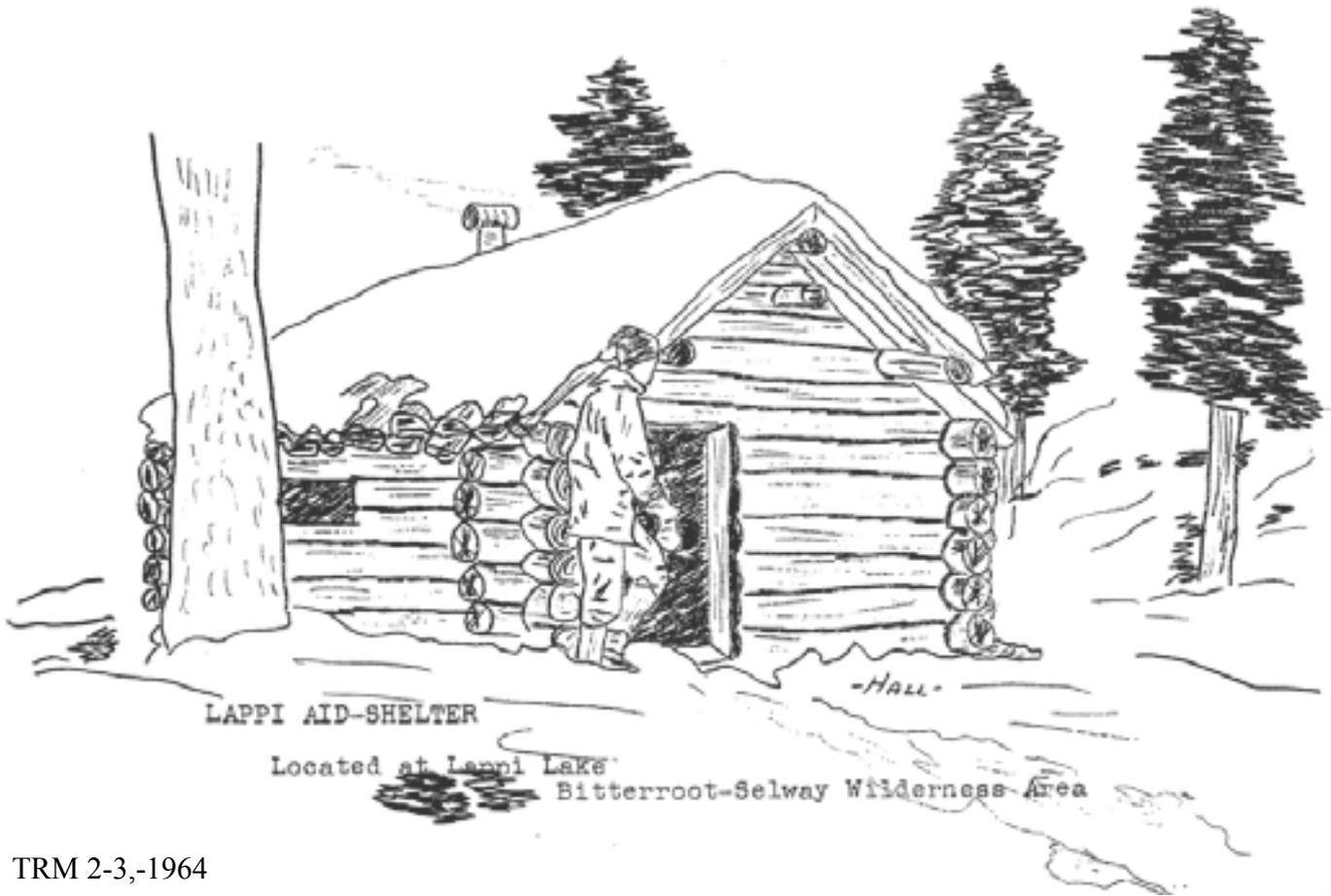
LUBRECHT AREA SNOWSHOE ON FEB. 12

I dug out an old Cross Country Ski Trail Map for the Lubrecht Experimental Forest, and the trail I was trying to follow is the "F" Trail. It is no longer on the website map, but I believe it may have been one of the groomed trails in the past, or at least part of the network.

Dave Robertson was the only one who joined me. We pulled into the parking lot for the Garnet Range Road about 10:45. There were so many snowmobiles coming and going we decided to follow a game trail we found to the east. Like most game trails it merged and split and wandered back and forth. Where there weren't many tracks we sunk in above our knees even on snowshoes, so it was tough uphill travel. We crossed the boundary fence, and then came across other snowshoe tracks. I saw the groomed road off to the right, so we crossed the fence again and found that we were only @ 700 yards from the upper entrance to the "F" trail. There were some ski tracks on this road, and it was mostly level, so the going was much easier. We went maybe a mile and stopped to eat. It was a nice sunny day, and there were great views through openings in the trees. We saw the mountains around Seeley Lake. The snow was just right for snowshoeing, firm but not sticky. We turned around, and looked at the place where the "F" trail went downhill near the gate, with some tracks on it, but decided to go down the groomed road. There was surprisingly little snowmobile traffic on the road. Back at the parking lot we walked the spur road leading into Lubrecht, and found the lower part of the "F" trail, there was an old sign nailed to a tree. There were only deer tracks on this trail, but it would be an interesting one to explore sometime in the future.

We both agreed that it was a wonderful day, great weather, good snow, and we'd like to go out again. Some of you should join us. Steve Schombel





TRM 2-3,-1964



Rocky Mountaineers' Meeting Minutes 2/21/2017

I. Call To Order: 5:57, The Dram Shop

II. Attendees: Steve Schombel, Julie Kahl, Alden Wright, Lois Crepeau, Forest Dean, David Kahl, John Bardsley, Brent Maier

III. Treasurer's Report:

A. \$825.28, paid a \$73.00 cabin fee,

B. Steve Niday will discuss the GMAR account with Joshua Phillips, soon

IV. Discussions:

A. New officers: John Bardsley and Brent Maier are interested in positions

1. Forest Dean was thinking of running for president

2. John -new sec. or Tres.

3. Discussed electing a new Tres. Steve Niday is OK either way

B. Glacier Classic

1. Nothing available to reserve for the Aug. 18-20th weekend

a. Just go and hope to get spots, someone go up early Fri or Thurs.

b. Reserve several regular sites at Fish Creek

c. Try a private campground -Chewing Backbones, by Babb.

2. Decided to try Chewing Backbones

C. September meeting

1. What we've been doing isn't working, no picture pot luck for sure

2. Should we have a program, or cancel it? Most in favor of a program

3. Have an outdoor meeting like we do in May? Include a hike, run or something like that?

D. Forest wants to get more better known speakers like Richard Smith did, suggestions:

Gray Tompson, Steve Sheraff

E. Trips: Chief Joseph and Freezeout Lake trips

V. Adjourn 6:46 PM



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: _____

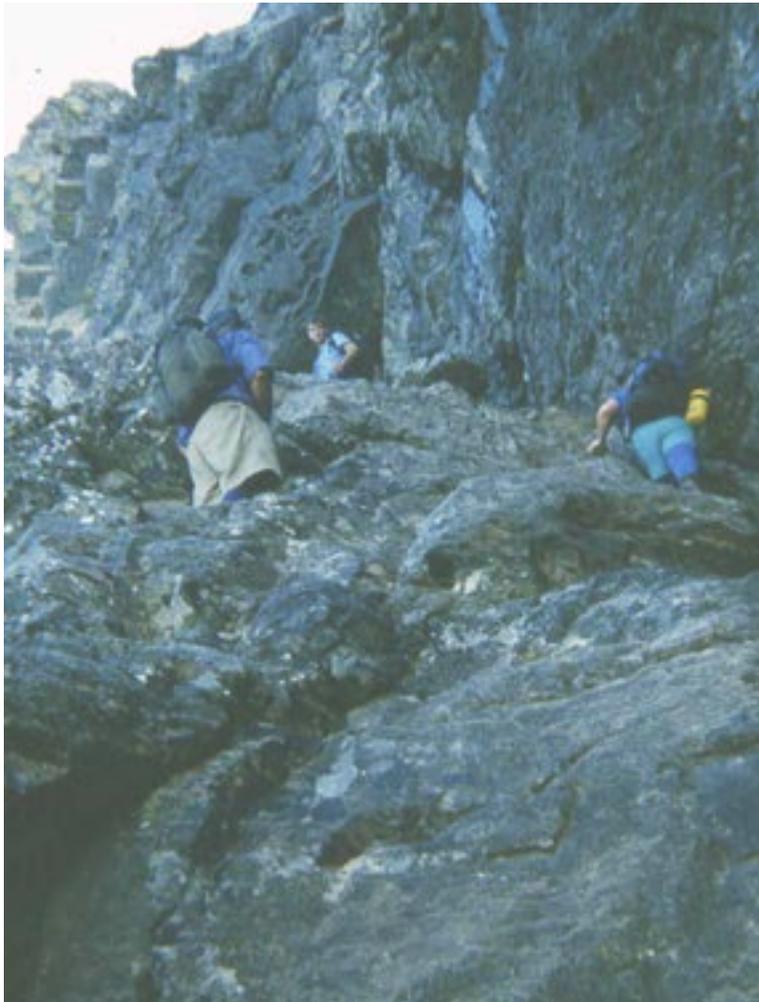
2nd Phone (optional): _____

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



1998
Brett Douchette
Steve Schombel (l) and Penny Palm (r)
climbing a “corner” in the northeast
ridge of Mt. Jackson, GNP
Photo Julie Kahl