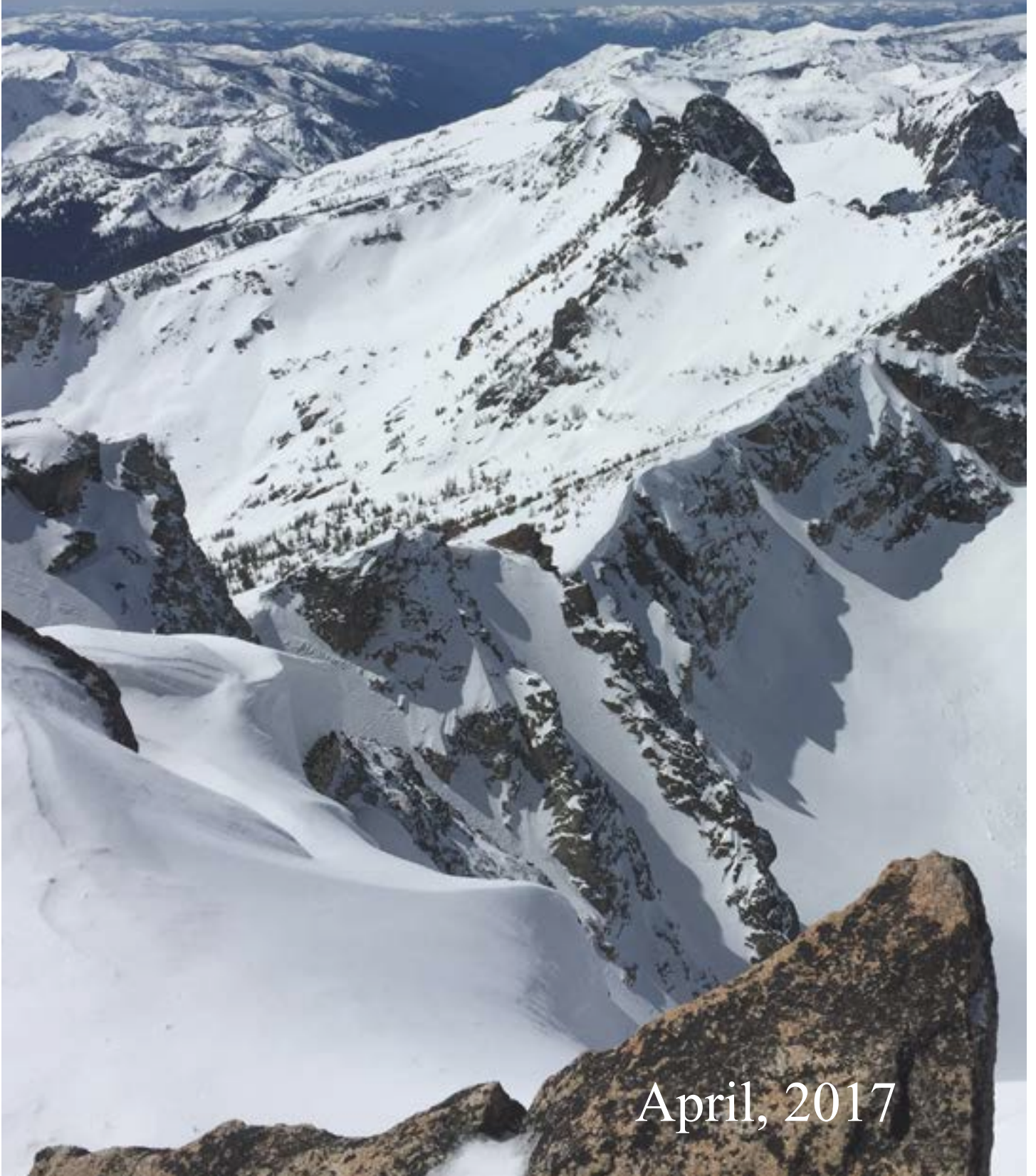


# The Mountain Ear

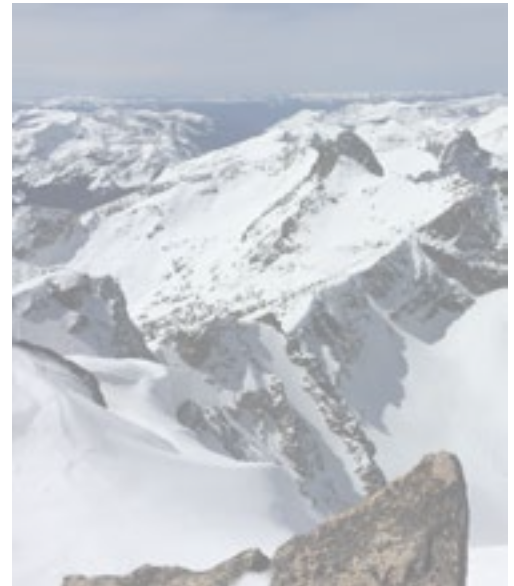
Monthly Newsletter of The Rocky Mountaineers



April, 2017



Cover Photo: View from Trapper peak  
Photo: Vick Applegate



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

### Club Contacts

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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 a location in downtown Missoula, before the general membership meeting at 7:PM at the Trail Head, with a featured presentation or speaker. General meetings are free and open to the public, business meetings are 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





**MAY 9TH, 2017 MONTHLY MEETING**  
Club Picnic at Bonner Park, 6:PM with election of Officers  
Beer and wine OK, power available  
**NO GLASS**

**GLACIER CLASSIC**  
**AUG. 18-20**  
**PRIVATE -JOHNSON'S CAMPGROUND IN ST. MARYS**  
**SEE PAGE 5,**  
**WATCH THE WEB SITE AND**  
**FACEBOOK PAGE FOR DETAILS**



### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hi Friends,

It is hard for me to comprehend, But this is the last time I will be writing a message as president. We have a new group coming on board who have some exciting ideas. We are going to look at a different place to have our monthly meetings next fall, and a fresh look at people who are the speakers each month, among other things. I am excited and look forward to this, even though I will be a person who sits off to the side and keeps his mouth shut.

In case you haven't heard, in May we are doing our annual spring potluck at Bonner Park. We have a pavilion reserved, starting at 6 PM. We will not have a formal presentation, but will share some food and drink and stories. Early in the evening we will take a short break and vote on the 4 new officers, and two other voluntary positions. Since we did not get any nominations from the floor this vote should go smoothly.

Part of me wants to get boo-hoo-hoo sentimental, but the big thing is I am happy for the new group, and I think we should all thank them and hope our club, The Rocky Mountaineers, will get bigger and better.  
-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

### SUNDAY, MAY 7 – THE TUSK (South Chaffin Peak- 9486’)- (Bitterroots)

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

Description: Made an attempt to climb this peak early in April, but conditions conspired against us. So, planning to make another try at it- this time as a long day trip. Will need to get an early start (4:00am departure from Missoula). Hike/ski up the Chaffin drainage to the upper basin at west end. Gain the saddle west of the peak, then follow the west ridge to the summit. Probably about two pitches of low 5th class climbing.

Equipment: Ski’s or snowshoes, ice tools, harness, crampons, transceiver, shovel.

Leader: Forest Dean, [mtnear1@gmail.com](mailto:mtnear1@gmail.com)

**SATURDAY MAY 13TH, BLACK MOUNTAIN** This is one of the hiking areas near Missoula that a couple of friends have asked me about. They have heard about it but don’t really know how to get there, so I will share what I know. It is mostly along old logging roads with gentle grades, with fairly new trails at each end that switchback up and down. There is also one place in the middle where a trail drops down and crosses a creek and up through some brush. This is kind of obscure if you don’t know the way, but I do. This short loop is @ six miles total, with maybe 500’ elevation gain. There is also a longer loop, maybe 10 miles, and the option to go to the top of the mountain. I’m not planning to do this, but if people are interested I’ll point them in the right direction. Let’s meet at the usual place at 9 AM. Later I’ll post where the usual place is, if anyone is interested. [stephenschombel@yahoo.com](mailto:stephenschombel@yahoo.com)

### SATURDAY MAY 20TH - PETTY CREEK TRAIL

The first two miles gains about 2,000 ft. so it’s steep right out of the parking lot, but the payoff includes tremendous views, lots of lupine and balsamroot, and a herd of bighorn sheep that often hang out around the 2-2.5 mile mark. After that, the trail levels out for quite a bit. Total distance will depend on who’s interested, but figure on 6 miles or more, round trip. Contact me at [dmr@bresnan.net](mailto:dmr@bresnan.net) if interested

### SUNDAY, MAY 21ST -O’BRIAN CREEK

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](mailto:jawkal@rockymountaineers.com)

### FRI-SUN, JUNE 9-11 – BLACKFOOT MTN. & MT. LOGAN (Glacier NP)

Rating: Class 4 or 5; Distance: 20-25 miles round trip; Elevation Gain: 5000-6000’

Description: This trip will be based on the assumption we can drive to Jackson Glacier Overlook. Planning to drive up to St. Mary on Friday afternoon, obtain permits, then hike/ski to Gunsight Lake area that evening (possibly finish by headlamp). From there, will hike or ski across the Blackfoot Basin on Saturday morning, then attempt Blackfoot Mtn. If all goes well, will also attempt the traverse to, and climb of, Mt. Logan. Camp somewhere in the Basin on Saturday night, then return to trailhead and drive home on Sunday. This climb will require some steep snow climbing (possibly even call it ice climbing), roped travel, and “winter camping”. Need to be able to move at a steady pace on all types of terrain.

Equipment: Ice axe, ice tool, crampons, harness, skis/snowshoes, winter camp gear.

Leader: Forest Dean, [mtnear1@gmail.com](mailto:mtnear1@gmail.com)



#### Classification of Climbs in Montana Rockies

*The Mountaineer 11/1961*

<u>Class 0</u>	Trail walkers.
<u>Class I</u>	Off trail bushwhacking and boulder hopping.
<u>Class II</u>	Rock scrambling up moderately easy ledges and cliffs with little exposure.
<u>Class III</u>	Rock scrambling up moderately difficult ledges and cliffs with some exposure but ordinarily no rope work (in good weather).
<u>Class IV</u>	High angle rock and snow climbing with rope protection desirable.
<u>Class V</u>	Very high angle rock and hard snow climbing with piton protection required for leader.
<u>Class VI</u>	Direct aid climbing using rope tention.

All classes may become much more difficult under adverse weather conditions.

## THE 13TH ANNUAL GLACIER CLASSIC

Dates: Friday, August 18- Sunday, August 20

This year will mark the 13th installment of The Rocky Mountaineers signature event- The Glacier Classic! This year we will be basing our activities out of Johnson's Campground, a private campground in St. Mary. We have a number of good climbs and hikes planned (see below). Stay tuned over the next couple months as more may be added. Also, if there is something you would like to do other than those listed here, please let us know!

We have four sites reserved at Johnson's for the event. Each site should hold 6-8 campers. Let us know if you would like a spot- we should have plenty of room, but need to start creating a list to make sure we can accommodate all who wish to come. Feel free to bring anyone interested- just let us know so we can get a good head count. Alternatively, you are certainly free to get your own campsite (or stay elsewhere) but still join us for the activities and socializing.

Itinerary:

Friday- We currently have one trip offering for those wishing to arrive early. Most folks will likely head up to St. Mary and arrive sometime Friday afternoon or evening. Eat, drink, be social. Bring your own food and drink.

Saturday- Hikes and climbs during the day. Food and drink while gathered around the campfire in the evening. Still working on the possibility of a group Burrito feed- will keep you posted.

Sunday- More hikes and climbs for those interested, or head home whenever you desire.

Trips:

Friday

MT. BROWN- Hike the trail from Lake McDonald Lodge area to the Mt. Brown Lookout, then scramble and climb to the summit. Class 3-4. Leader: John Bardsley

Saturday

SPLIT MOUNTAIN- One of the so-called "technical peaks" in Glacier, this trip will require a long approach from Cut Bank up and over Triple Divide Pass. Class 4-5. Leader: Joshua Phillips

CITADEL MOUNTAIN- A short hike up the Gunsight Pass trail, followed by a ford of the St. Mary River, then a bushwack up into the north cirque. Scramble to the east ridge, then scramble to the summit. Class 3. Leader: Forest Dean

PIEGAN MOUNTAIN- This trip will start just east of Logan Pass. Scramble up the Lunch Creek drainage to the saddle between Piegan and Pollock then an easy scramble to the summit. Class 2. Leader: Vick Applegate.

REYNOLDS MOUNTAIN- Start at Logan Pass and hike to the Hidden Lake overlook. Then take a user trail around to the south side of Reynolds, followed by a scramble up scree and through some cliffs to the summit. Class 3. Leader: Susanna Girolama Phillips.

ICEBERG LAKE- A trail hike to one of the most picturesque lakes in the Rockies. About 5 miles one way. Class 1. Leader: Julie Kahl

Sunday

CLEMENTS MOUNTAIN- Depending on interest level, will climb this one of two ways: either directly up the east facing gully (Class 5), or hike around to the west saddle between Clements and Cannon, then an exposed scramble to the summit (Class 3). Leader: Forest Dean



Missoulian 4/9/2017

## Woman who helped launch outdoor retailer REI dies at 107

SEATTLE (AP) - Mary Anderson, a climbing enthusiast who helped start the outdoor retailer REI that has become the nation's largest consumer-owned retail cooperative, has died at 107.

REI said she died March 27, the Seattle Times reported Tuesday.

Anderson and her husband, Lloyd, along with 21 other mountaineering friends, started the consumer cooperative in 1938 out of a desire to find high-quality, affordable climbing gear in the United States. By forming a co-op, they were able to buy outdoor gear in bulk from Europe and other places.

REI, headquartered south of Seattle, has grown to about 6.3 million active members, more than 140 retail stores and about 12,000 employees.

Anderson's "legacy is deeply engrained in REI and her contributions to the outdoor community extend far beyond the co-op," the company said in a statement. "REI and our employees are grateful to

the Andersons for their dedication to REI and the incredible foundation they established."

In search of high-quality outdoor gear and relying on Anderson's German skills to translate gear catalogs, the couple discovered they could order ice axes from Austria and have them delivered to Seattle at better prices, according to an REI blog post.

The couple and 21 other outdoor enthusiasts officially formed Recreational Equipment in 1938. Each paid for a \$1 lifetime membership fee. Mary Anderson held membership card No. 2, according to the Mountaineers, the Seattle-based nonprofit outdoor organization in which the Andersons were heavily involved.

For years, the Andersons operated the co-op out of their Seattle home. She stitched tents and packed food in boxes while he sprayed them with waterproofing - a room off their kitchen served as their office, the newspaper reported. She retired from REI in 1988.



## TRIP REPORTS



## THE TUSK (ATTEMPT)- BITTERROOTS, APRIL 1-2

“The Tusk” is the unofficial name of a 9486’ Peak near the head of the Chaffin Creek drainage in the Bitterroots. This striking peak is one of only a very few in the ‘Root that require 5th class climbing to attain the summit. I know of only two people who have climbed this peak (although, there have undoubtedly been more).

Joshua Phillips and Susanna Girolamo met me at the Chaffin trailhead (actually, we were only able to drive to a spot about 1/4 mile short of the trailhead) at 4:00 on Saturday afternoon. We geared up, then started skiing up the road and then the trail. In the first couple of miles we often had to remove our skis due to bare stretches of trail. Weather was moving in after a mostly sunny afternoon. At around the 3 mile mark, it started to lightly rain. We slowly made our way to a camp near the spot where the trail crosses a waterfall about 4.5 miles from the trailhead (elevation gain to this point is around 1700’). By the time we got things set up and some dinner in our bellies, it was after 9:00 pm. Rain was getting worse.

Sometime during the night the rain stopped, the skies cleared, and it got cold. Joshua hadn’t been feeling very well at all the previous day, and a torn sleeping pad didn’t help him recover any during the night. He generously offered to serve as base camp manager. Susanna and I were rearing to go give this peak a try though, and after some breakfast and packing up, we started up-canyon around 8:45am. The high peaks were still harboring clouds as we ascended, but slowly, as the day warmed, they started to part. We arrived at Hart Lake and then shortly thereafter, Tamarack Lake. At the head of Tamarack we weighed whether to take a more direct but steeper route up the south side of Chaffin Lake, or cut switchbacks up the slopes to the north of Chaffin. Being that neither of us has had extensive snowpack evaluation training, we opted for the gentler north side. We reached a spot at 8300’ in elevation as the day continued to warm and snow continued to get softer. The Peak was in good view from here and only about 1 ½ miles away. However, our concern was snow stability on the descent if things continued to warm (we essentially had needed to get an earlier start today). We opted to play it safe and head back down.

As it turned out, we made a wise choice. We arrived back to camp about 1:30 and roused a sleeping Joshua. By the time we lounged a bit and got packed up the weather had totally changed again (imagine that! Springtime in Montana!) and it started to snow. The descent was very slow, as Susanna and I struggled to make turns on a steep trail with big packs (Joshua, now recovered and with much greater BC skiing experience didn’t have any problems at all). Snow continued off and on; at one point you could call almost call it a white out. We finally all arrived at the trucks at about 6:15pm. While none of us are opposed to adventures that don’t go as planned, I think we were all sort of glad this one didn’t end well after dark (which would have been the case had we made a go for the summit). Planning a re-attempt on Sunday, May 7. Forest Dean





## Trapper Peak April 22, 2017

Trapper Peak, the highest peak in the Bitterroots, is a great spring snowshoe or ski hike. I recruited both my mountain biking friends and Rocky Mountaineers members along with their friends, and so this year's trip ended up with 24 participants. I knew that I could not "lead" this many people, but many of the participants had done the trip before and could help lead and make sure that no one got over looked.

We met at the Walmart parking lot at 6 am. On Thursday night, Edna and Marrea, who live in Hamilton, drove up the road and found that they could drive to 5450' elevation which is just before the second crossing of Troy Creek. It was very helpful to know ahead of time where to park. While we were hiking, another group got their truck badly stuck just beyond where we parked. We left the car at 8:30 am and hiked up the ridge between Troy Creek and the main ridge. The Forest Service had thinned this ridge which made it easy hiking. We left the summer trailhead at 9:25. We had consistent snow just beyond the first steep pitch, and skiers and some snowshoers put on skis/snowshoes there. Snowshoes were not needed most of the way up, were helpful on the way down after the snow had softened. The snow looked to be great for skiing all the way from the top to the bottom.

We had great weather with mostly sunny skies. On the way up, we mostly stayed together with the faster group waiting for the slower group before going on. We met Roger, who had hiked with us at last year's Glacier Classic, coming down. He had driven his ATV up the road to the summer trailhead.

At about tree line, Todd and Edna decided that they would not go further. They waited and started down with the first group going down. Vick and I were the last to the top at 2:10, and the group at the top sung Happy Birthday in honor of my 75th birthday, which was the next day. Despite the great weather going up, it was windy and cold on the top.

Marrea and I were the slowest going down (except for Vick who stayed on top for a while to do ham radio stuff). About half of the group waited for us at the summer trailhead. We made it to the car by a little after 6 and celebrated a great trip.

I hope that we can continue the Trapper Peak tradition next year. I will be looking for someone to take over coordinating the trip.

Participants: Norman Singley, Michael Moser, Ed Stalling, Laurie Stalling, Julie Huck, Kathy York, Kate Hasterlik, Tim Ibey, Dave Patterson, John Bardsley, Paul Jensen, Dan Meyer, Todd Kaye, Will Row, Lindsey Eggleston, Nora Rye, Friend of Nora (Liz), Claire dal Nogare, Kathleen Heiskell, Edna Blanchfield, Marrea Matthews, Vick Applegate, Ward Mike Hanning, Alden Wright.

Also dogs Sadie, Bergen, Choteau, Max, and long haired black dog.

Alden Wright



Congratulations Alden, on your 75th Birthday  
Photo: Laurie Stalling



Photo: Vick Applegate



“I am guessing that this was a record for the number of participants in a Rocky Mountaineers trip.” Alden speculates in an E-Mail. Julie Kahl replies: I recall stories I heard about a trip lead by Gerald Olbu, I think in the early 1990’s, up Fusillade Mt., across Gunsight Pass and Lake from Mt. Jackson in Glacier NP. The route is up from the campground at the lake. It was suppose to have 30-32 participants, The party got very spread out with folks coming out up until dusk. I believe Brett Douchette was on this trip.

**ALDEN I THINK YOU DID HAVE A RECORD OF DOGS ON A TRIP.**

Photo: Vick Applegate



Photo: John Bardsley

Rocky Mountaineers' Meeting Minutes 4/11/2017

I. Call To Order: 6:10, Union Club Grill

II. Attendees: Steve Schombel, Paul Jensen, Julie Kahl, Alden Wright, Lois Crepeau, David Kahl, Joshua Phillips John Bardsley, Susanna Phillips, Bryan Kercher

III. Treasurer's Report: \$479.84

A. Paid campground deposit

B. Took in \$80 from PO Box dues

IV. Discussions:

A. New officers:

1. Forest Dean -President
2. Brent Maier -VP
3. John Beardsley -Sec.
4. Susanna Phillips -Tres.
5. Joshua Phillips -Newsletter editor
6. Others will learn the website, etc. from Alden Wright
7. Will ask for nominations from the floor

B. Glacier Classic

1. Pretty much set at Johnson's private campground in St. Marys
2. Forest is looking for trips
3. Someone will check with Tom Hanou about burritos -or do a pot luck burrito thing?

C. September meeting

1. Forest leans toward a Welcome Back Party for Sept. meeting
  - a. Where?
    - 1) Image-Nation Brewery -\$50
    - 2) Outside -problem with showing slides etc.
  - b. Most wanted it to be indoors
2. Maybe have several peoples' summer adventures show lined up ahead of time
3. Julie hasn't been doing promo for this meeting or the May meeting

D. Need a new business meeting place

1. Can we pay?
  - a. Need a fundraising event- then could
  - b. Currently, it would drain our funds quickly
  - c. Meeting on University would be free with professor sponsoring, no alcohol
2. Joshua was going to ask about the Union Hall
3. Joshua was going to take the projector home after tonight's meeting

E. Should we go for being a 501 (c3)?

1. Umbrella under another 501 (c3)? Nordic Club?
2. We would have to start having some "community contribution" events
3. Have to do taxes
4. Joshua has been looking into it, will continue

F. Co-ordinating speakers, Steve S. wants to retire from this, everyone would still contribute names etc.

G. May Picnic

1. Somewhere other than Pattee Canyon, may boost attendance
2. Will have Steve Niday or Forest Dean look into a City park, Kiwanis our 1st pick
3. Have on Tues. night, not a weekend

V. Adjourn 6:53 PM



Our Fearless leader,  
Steve Schombel,  
took a quick trip down to the new  
Bears Ears National Monument,  
in the Four Corners area  
of Utah and Arizona







Along the Colorado River

Natural Bridges, National Monument



# 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



Alden Wright, David Kahl and Steve Schombel  
look at maps on the north side of the Ptarmigan Tunnel, Glacier NP  
Glacier Classic, 2008  
Photo: Julie Kahl

