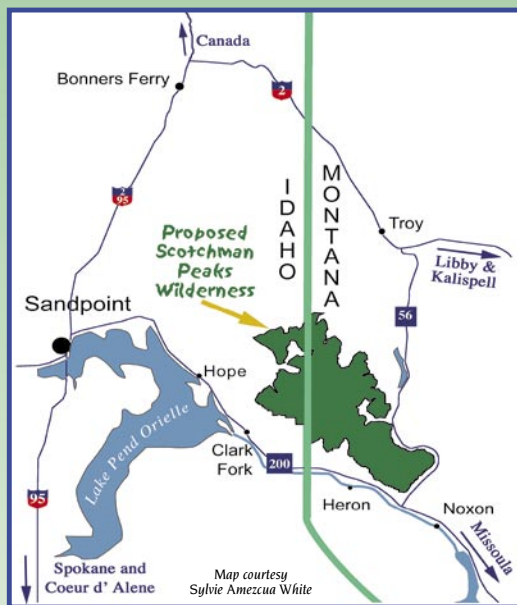




Mission Statement

"We believe that the 88,000 acre Scotchman Peaks roadless area, spanning the Idaho/Montana border, deserves **permanent protection** as wilderness. Faced with growth and change, we want to make sure this special place stays the same."



Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc. (FSPW) is a non-profit organization. The proceeds from all events and sales benefit our wilderness preservation efforts. Donations are tax deductible.

If you are receiving this newsletter by mail and have an email address please help us save postage by sending us your email address.

Editor: Ann Wimberley
Designer: Pama Bangeman

Tales of Scotchman Peaks

Turtle Ridge

By Daniele Puccinelli

On the morning of July 20, 2009, two days before my wedding, I set off on a solo day hike across the Scotchmans. My fiancée Renée dropped me off at the saddle between Sugarloaf and Scotchman at 6:45am, with the understanding that she would pick me up at 6pm at the Ross Creek Cedars. After ten minutes of quietly chugging along the forest service road to the West Fork of Blue Creek, I saw a black bear in the brush at the foot of Sugarloaf. After a short pause, I started making noise. The black bear disappeared into the woods.

At 7:30, I crossed the West Fork of Blue Creek on a large log, picked up a particularly big walking stick, and began to hike straight up the hill. My plan was to

Continues on Page 2



2009 Photo Contest "Scotchmans Water" First Place: Daniele Puccinelli

Birding in the Scotchmans

Winter Birding in the Scotchmans

By Jon Isacoff, PhD

Winter brings heavy snows, cold, and darkness. Many of our dear and colorful summer breeding birds are on vacation somewhere between Texas and Panama.



Common Redpoll
Photo by Donald M. Jones
www.donaldmjones.com

However, if it is snowy, cold, and dark in the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, it is even snowier, colder, and darker in the Northern Tundra and Boreal Regions of Canada, where daylight is limited to just a few hours and temperatures often go days at a time without rising above zero Fahrenheit. That brings us a group of birds that in birding circles are affectionately known as "Winter Finches."

Winter Finches are often among birders' favorites, but there are at least three very odd things to note about them: First, "Winter Finches" are in fact, not all finches (though most of them are). Second, with Winter

Continues on Page 6



The Future Looks Bright

January 28 – 30: For the fifth year in a row, Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness will be present at the Banff Mountain Film Festival at the Panida Theater in Sandpoint. If you wish to support the Festival, buy your tickets early.

January 29: Chamber Choice Awards Night; FSPW nominated for two awards.

January 31: The StoryTelling Company, sponsored by the Friends. 5:00 pm at Ivanos in Sandpoint

January 31: The Friends will follow the Banff Mountain Film Festival to Coeur d' Alene and the Kroc Center.

February 7: FSPW presentation to the Thompson Falls Woman's Club.

February 8: Presentation by Doug Ferrell to the Plains Backcountry Horsemen.

February 26: An evening of films from wildlifefilms.org in Libby, sponsored by Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness at the Little Theater.

March 5: Walkin' Jim Stoltz spends a day in Thompson Falls, sponsored by the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. He will work with elementary students during the day and then present a free concert for wilderness to the community in the evening.

Turtle Ridge, Continues from Page 1

follow the steep ridge between the West Fork and Wiggletail to the divide between Blue Creek and the Ross Creek drainage. The West Fork-Wiggletail ridge is clearly visible from downtown Clark Fork. It combines forested areas, vegetation patches, and scree and has a spotted look that makes it resemble a turtle, which is why I like to call it Turtle Ridge. I continued straight up the ridge for about half an hour. I was now starting to get my first views of Clark Fork, and I was level with the top of Sugarloaf at an elevation of about 4200'.

As I came out of a forested area into a steep clearing with lots of brush, I heard a loud stomping noise. I froze and listened attentively. My first guess was elk, but the stomping got louder. Could it be a moose? Something was running through the brush, straight toward me. I knew I should get out of the way, but there was no time to think. A giant grizzly bear suddenly emerged from the brush. He stopped at a distance of about ten feet from me.

As I stood motionless and speechless, the grizzly reared up, raised his front paws in the air, and roared.

Three thoughts popped into my head: "This was not supposed to happen," "This is it," and "I can't do this to Renée."

My first instinct was to step back. Indeed, I took two steps back, but the grizzly roared again, reminding me not to act like prey. I overrode my instinct to run. Something sprang to mind: my future sister-in-law's stories of scaring away a Toklat grizzly in Alaska's Brooks Range by raising her arms and trying to look big. I did just that: I raised both my arms and my walking stick, and I started roaring like the bear, with only one thought repeating in my head: "This is it." But it worked: the grizzly suddenly froze, calmed down, and then he actually stepped away. He moved along the brushline, forming a wide half circle to the edge of the forested area I had just hiked through. I kept yelling, screaming, and raising my arms and stick, and I also started to move away. Right after I lost eye contact with the bear, I heard the stomping again. (I read later that you are

From the Top

Happy New Year! The Friends of Scotchman Peaks are so busy that we've added another four pages to our newsletter so that you can see for yourself what's happening. This issue highlights winners of both essay and photo contests. While hiking Scotchman, local author and naturalist Jack Nisbet discovered a plant not commonly found in North Idaho; his daughter Emily contributed a lovely water color of the plant (See page 9). The proposed wilderness area is being enjoyed not only by locals but by European guests as well. Support for congressional wilderness designation continues to grow in Montana. The new year brings new gear at even better prices. Join us and enjoy our art exhibits, storytelling, film festivals, concerts, and best of all our hikes/snowshoes.

Ann Wimberley

not supposed to make eye contact.)

I turned back, and there he was, charging me. I stopped, stared, raised my arms in the air, and resumed yelling at the top of my lungs. It worked again. This time the grizzly stopped at a very respectful distance, probably 60-70 feet. I walked away and entered another timbered area, but I continued to howl and growl at the bear. He did try to follow me: he was now on all fours. His snout was almost down on the ground as he was looking at me, trying to figure me out. I disappeared into the woods and, for a good couple of hours, I kept wondering if he was stalking me. I kept looking behind me.

After a climb through the woods and through lots of scree, at 10:30 I arrived at the top of the Emily Crag, the 6851' peak on the Lincoln-Sanders county line. I veered off to the north on the Compton Cragway and hit the summit of the Andrew Crag, the Amanda Crag, and the Melissa Crag, a 6933' foot peak with a commanding view of the whole area: Scotchman Peak, Blacktop Mountain, Scotchman Two, Savage Mountain, Vertigo Ridge, Spar Peak, Sawtooth, the Ross Creek drainage, and the Central Cabinets on the far side of Bull River. It was now 1pm, and I knew I was safe: it was unreasonable to believe that the grizzly had come this far to stalk me as opposed to burying his face in the omnipresent huckleberry patches.

I dropped down the open ridge that branches off due east from the top of Melissa all the way to the Middle Fork of Ross Creek. As I hit timberline and followed man-ways and game trails through the forest down to Ross Creek, I saw several bear prints. I never stopped yodeling, singing, chanting, or yelling in Italian, my native language. I finally made it to the maintained trail and more or less followed it all the way to the Ross Creek Cedars parking lot.

Renée and I were married two days later at the Courthouse in Sandpoint.

The Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks offers advice on what to do when encountering a bear at <http://bit.ly/816kmx>.



Message from the Chair

In January 2010 we will celebrate our 5th anniversary together as Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness! As we ring in the New Year, let's take a moment to look back and celebrate everything that, together, we have accomplished in 2009 as well as the last five years. Thanks to you and your support we have come a long ways!

In November we topped 2,700 friends on our supporter list and now distribute our newsletter to over 70 locations throughout the region from Spokane to Libby to Missoula and many points in between!

This fall we also launched a redesigned website, a Face book Fan Page, and You Tube Channel. Our Spokes goat, Mr. Scotchman, appears daily on Twitter. Our web traffic has doubled since the launch and a third of all our website visitors are arriving after seeing us on Face book or Twitter.

These are powerful tools for our outreach and education. We invite you to join us in utilizing them for maximum effect. To read our (not quite daily) blog and to stay up on all our events, hikes, news and announcements don't wait for our newsletter, the Peak Experience, become a Face book fan! Help us spread the word - tell your friends to become fans too!

Join us on Face book at: <http://www.Facebook.com/ScotchmanPeaks>

Or follow us on Twitter at: <http://Twitter.com/MrScotchman>

Visit us on YouTube at: <http://www.youtube.com/Scotchmanpeaks>

We would like to thank our supporters, whose generous donations matched the Cinnabar Foundation challenge, ensuring we would receive their \$4,000 grant! Our supporters are not obliged to join or become a member or donate. We provide our outreach programs and publications free of charge to all those who are interested. But, in large part, these efforts are made possible because of individuals who voluntarily donate. With our website upgrade we have now made donating easier than ever with secure online donations through your credit card or PayPal account.

While we truly appreciate all the supporters who donated money, we also appreciate all our friends who have supported us for these first five year by becoming a "friend", attending events, joining us on a hike, or by simply reading and sharing the information in our newsletter and websites. Every time each of you speaks publicly about your support for the Scotchmans you help us build public support and bring critical mass to our campaign and the inevitability of Wilderness.

Phil Hough

Wild Creatures of the Scotchmans

Badger, *taxidea taxus*

By Doug Ferrell

The badger is a member of the weasel family, specialized for hunting and living underground. They share some of the characteristic energy and ferocity of their various weasel cousins, including the wolverine.

Badgers have a low slung shape, often described as flattened, with short powerful legs adapted for digging. They have a very distinct face with black patches on the muzzle and cheeks, contrasting with a white throat and chin, and a white stripe from the nose to the top of the head. Body color varies from grey to tan or reddish brown. Front feet have long curved claws, somewhat like a grizzly bear. The claws normally show prominently in their tracks, in either snow or dirt.



Badger (*taxidea taxus*)
Photo by Donald M. Jones
www.donaldmjones.com

Badgers tend to make a lot of burrows, which confirm their presence in given area. They prefer open dry grasslands and meadows and can flourish at high elevations, as well as around farm fields and pastures.

Their burrows are surrounded by large elliptical mounds of dirt. The holes are large, from eight to twelve inches in diameter. Most burrows are dug to capture prey. During the summer, a badger may dig a new burrow every day. Observers report tunnels may be dug with amazing speed. Prey species include gophers, ground squirrels, moles, rats, mice, marmots and pikas. Badgers will also eat toads, frogs, insects, worms, birds and snakes.

Badgers are solitary animals, active mainly at night. In winter they rest in a den in a state of torpor, with their heart beating at about half its normal rate. Mating takes place in late summer, during which time both sexes may travel widely. Gestation is delayed until late winter. An average of three young are born in early spring, in a grass lined burrow. They weigh only about three ounces, and are born blind and helpless, but develop rapidly.

Badgers and coyotes have been observed hunting together in an apparently cooperative manner. Badgers can readily dig to pursue their prey, but are not well adapted to run them down above ground. Coyotes of course are the opposite. Coyotes may hang around a badger at work, to capitalize on rodents running away. Coyotes also sometimes flush rodents back underground, where the badger can make his kill. Coyotes and badgers have even been observed to engage in play behavior with each other, sort of like hunting companions do everywhere.

Badgers are fairly common in good habitats, and are not considered a threatened species. They are probably more secure in natural habitats than around farms and development, where they are more vulnerable to dogs, poison, and disturbances of various kinds.



Congratulations Jerry Brown

By Don Clark

Congratulations to Jerry Brown on his retirement from Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks. Jerry has been a professional wildlife biologist in Lincoln County since 1974. Those of us in northwest Montana have been fortunate to have a biologist of Jerry's caliber pass on promotions and remain here for his entire career. This led to a continuity, understanding, and management that most biologists never attain.

Listed are only a few of Jerry's accomplishments:

- Black bear research project - Cabinet Mountains - 1983 As a result of Jerry's efforts cementum tooth age analysis is used for annual bear harvest analysis, and annual cub production surveys are conducted in the Cabinet Mountains.
- Pioneered management of northwest Montana's moose population. Jerry recognized the potential to survey moose districts from the air and took the region in a new direction relative to population monitoring. He refined survey methodology by conducting unique aerial sightability for moose in the Cabinet Mountains. Jerry's has organized and will host the 41st Annual Moose Conference this coming spring.
- Pioneered mountain goat conservation and management in the Cabinet Mountains and Scotchman Peaks. Jerry has stood steadfast to protect mountain goat habitat
- Received the Governor's award for excellence as a Fish Wildlife & Parks wildlife management biologist - 1999
- Jerry was invited to Argentina to give presentations on mountain lion management - 2008

Jerry is a biologist who was not glued to an office desk or a pickup seat. He was in the field frequently and would cover the most rugged peaks in the Cabinet Mountains and the Scotchman Peaks. If my partners and I discovered an old fire ring in an extremely remote area, someone would remark, "Looks like Jerry Brown has been here."

Jerry is an accomplished hunter with both the bow and rifle. His experiences in the field, blended with his scientific knowledge



The Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness proudly present Jerry Brown with a framed photo of one of the Mountain Goat families who live in the Scotchmans today, thanks to Jerry.

Photo by Kim Annis

created the biologist that has cared for our wildlife populations for 3 1/2 decades.

Jerry Brown is a man of principles and integrity. When pressured by individuals or groups Jerry would hold resolutely to science and what he felt was best for the wildlife resource.

Jerry prepared mountain lion data and met with Lincoln County cat hunters annually for the past 25 years. We would discuss mountain lion populations and would make recommendations to Jerry on lion harvest quotas each year. Jerry did not always agree with us and would state his views candidly. He was probably the first person to suggest permits as a solution to the plethora of problems that plagued mountain lion management in the late 1990's. With his guidance, eventually permits for mountain lions became a reality for Region I and resolved problems that had seemed insurmountable. Thank you Jerry for working with us all those years. It wasn't until a few years ago that I became aware that this type of meeting was unique in the state of Montana.

Jerry you have had an outstanding professional career and we wish you a long, happy retirement.

Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness and The StoryTelling Company team up.

Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness has become a sponsor of The StoryTelling Company, an annual winter series of live shows of music and "true and not-so-true tales of the West" produced by Close Enough Productions in Sandpoint. The sponsorship was initially donated by StoryTelling Company founder Sandy Compton, who is also the new program coordinator for Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness.

FSPW executive director Phil Hough responded to the StoryTelling Company donation by offering Friends "swag" to the StoryTelling Company as drawing prizes to be given away at each show, as has been the practice of the StoryTelling Company.

"It's another opportunity to expand the circle of Friends and awareness about our efforts to get permanent wilderness designation for the Scotchmans," Compton says. "This is something I'm charged with in my new job with FSPW, anyway, so it seemed a natural connection."

Friends of the Scotchmans can keep up with the StoryTelling Company on Facebook, or add themselves to the StoryTelling Company mail list by sending an e-mail to storytellingcompany@gmail.com with "add me to the list" in the subject line.



Support Growing in Montana

The FSPW have received an important endorsement from the Plains-Paradise Chamber of Commerce. Chamber members had asked a number of tough and insightful questions during a question and answer session after a Scotchman's presentation by Doug Ferrell, and then expressed their enthusiasm for the campaign after the session. Recently we received a letter from Chamber President Kathy Logan expressing that the group "strongly supports the approval of the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Area." The letter refers to many positive considerations the group weighed in making their decision. We greatly appreciate the support of this important community group.

After a presentation to the Thompson Falls Chamber of Commerce on December 18th, a room full of hands signaled support for the Scotchman wilderness. No one signaled opposition to the project. Two people abstained and commented they wanted to learn more about the proposal.

Presenter Doug Ferrell reported the group asked a lot of questions and engaged in a wide ranging discussion of forest management

issues. Ferrell's presentation stressed how the FSPW are working hard to help replace conflict over natural resource issues with a spirit of cooperation. Many conservationists are building successful alliances with the timber industry and other groups, based on the common sense idea that we can accomplish more positive outcomes by working together.

In the past, a few Chamber leaders have been reluctant to provide official support for the Friends of Scotchman Peaks, but Ferrell is hopeful that the continuing strong support from many members will eventually result in a formal endorsement in Thompson Falls also.

Several members commented that the Chamber should be eager to support a local project like this. They stated that the Chamber has a role to promote and demonstrate how attractive our area is, and to help protect our area's beauty, recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat and natural appeal.

Scotchmans Essay Contest: Does Wilderness Have Value?

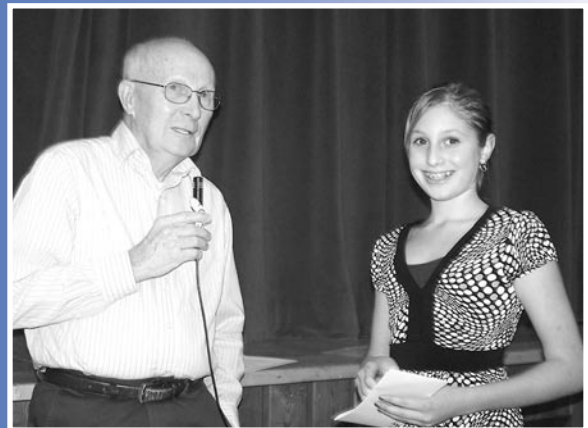
The second annual Scotchmans Essay Contest, open to Sanders County middle and high school students, generated a lot of applicants, and resulted in some exceptional essays. **McKenna Krueger**, a seventh grader from Noxon, won the overall prize of a \$100 savings bond and a Scotchmans cap. **Kaylie Cox**, an eighth grader from Thompson Falls, took the second prize of a Scotchmans sweatshirt. Other winners were **Mitchell Carpenter**, a twelfth grader from Plains, and **Holly Carlsmith**, fifth grader from Trout Creek.

Ernie Scherzer, contest coordinator, had high praise for the essays, saying he could think of only a few examples of student writing that could equal some of our winners. He has been a teacher and coach for over 50 years, as well as advisor to a student literary magazine. Many thanks to Ernie, and all who participated. Below is McKenna's essay. Check out the other winning essays and also an account of a hike into the Savage Basin by Trout Creek homeschooler **Andrew Klaus** on our website.

Does Wilderness Have Value?

By **McKenna Krueger**

Wilderness can have various definitions to many people. But I think wilderness is a place of solitary freedom. Wilderness, in its own way, connects with things outside of humans' environment. The unpredictable ways of the vigorous vegetation and unknown wildlife makes you feel like you are at the beginning of time. The fragrance of emptiness and the freshness of the oxygen from all the trees make you restless. And the feelings of your feet pushing against the damp surface feels like walking on a cloud suspended in the blue sky. The sounds of nature's silence are pulled out from the surroundings like the whistle of a mountain wren and the wind whispering cold air in my ear. So to me and to others around me, wilderness is peacefulness itself in many special and unique ways. Wilderness has value and hopefully will ever more!



Ernie Scherzer presents a \$100 savings bond to winner, McKenna Krueger.

Photo by Doug Ferrell



Along the Trail

November 4: FSPW vice-chair Doug Ferrel and chair Phil Hough and Lincoln County coordinator Charlie Clough were joined by Doug Scott of Campaign for America's Wilderness in a presentation at Libby's Venture Inn. Doug spoke on the effectiveness of citizen's advocacy for wilderness to over 65 people from a broad cross-section of customs and cultures, who, in turn, engaged Doug in conversation about wilderness for an extended period of questions and answers.

November 15: FSPW's second staff member, program coordinator Sandy Compton, moved into his half-time position, funded by a grant from Campion Foundation. Sandy will work primarily from his office in Heron. (sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org)

November 25: Wilderness Wednesday One! Friends of Scotchman Peaks have joined the social media revolution with a Facebook page and a Twitter account for Mr. Scotchman (@MrScotchman, if you are on Twitter already.) In that vein, MrScotchman has kicked off #WildernessWednesday, a searchable conversation thread about wilderness, its past, present and future value, and what it means to followers of MrScotchman.

November 28: Friends of Scotchman Peaks joined 50-plus folks and several other conservation groups as guests of Keokee Company Publishing at a celebration of the release of *Legendary Lake Pend Oreille: Idaho's Wilderness of Water*, by Jane Fritz and Friends. Each group was given opportunity to present their particular mission in relationship to Lake Pend Oreille.

Part of the proceeds from book sales were donated to the groups by Keokee.

November 30: Pend d'Oreille Winery, on Cedar Street in Sandpoint, hosted a special holiday "Sip and Shop" event from 4pm to 7pm, to benefit our wilderness efforts. The winery donated 10% of proceeds from all sales during this event.

December 1: FSPW board chairman Phil Hough was hired as Executive Director of the Friends. This half-time position is funded by a grant from Campaign for America's Wilderness.

December 10: FSPW Treasurer Jacob Styer was nominated as Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce "Young Professional of the Year." Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness was nominated as "Non-Profit of the Year" and also in the "Green Award" category.

December 11: Phil Hough and "Mr. Scotchman" filmed a tongue-in-cheek end-of-the-year report to post on YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkNdc78XF3A>).

December 12: Phil Hough, Doug Ferrell, Bill Martin and Charlie Clough attended a Libby retirement party for Montana FWP employee Jerry Brown, presenting him with a framed mountain goat picture in appreciation for his years of work on the behalf of Montana wildlife.

December 18: Doug Ferrell made a presentation to the Thompson Falls Chamber of Commerce.

Winter Birding in the Scotchmans, Continues from Page 1

Finches come a sizeable legion of winter Raptors and Owls that follow their food sources south. The final thing to note is that both the Winter Finches and their predators actually often prefer towns and farms rather than the woods and mountains as their hangouts of choice. Why? Grain silos, muddy pastures, and barns provide food, warmth, and an abundance of mice. So ironically, you are more likely to see Winter Finches and their Predators in the more populated fringes of the Scotchmans than in the deep woods!

True Winter Finches are comprised of four species: Pine Grosbeak, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, White-winged Crossbill, and Common Redpoll. Of these, small numbers of Pine Grosbeaks, which resemble a Robin-sized House Finch, breed in the more mountainous parts of the Scotchmans. Rosy-Finches are a tundra bird attracted to scabland and barren prairie and are rare in the Scotchmans region. White-winged Crossbills are Spruce cone specialists, and are attracted to large plantings of Blue, Norway, and/or wild Engelmann Spruce. Common Redpolls are closely related to Goldfinches and Pine Siskins and often will

mix with them in feeder flocks. Look carefully at your feeders, there may be a Redpoll or two showing up with your regular finches.

The "Non-Finch-Winter Finches" (an oxymoron if there ever were one) consist primarily of Bohemian Waxwings, the Boreal cousin of our familiar Cedar Waxwing, and Snow Buntings, which are actually in the Sparrow family. Like Rosy Finches, Snow Buntings are a Tundra bird that like scabland and barren areas and are pretty scarce in the Scotchmans. But Bohemians are compulsive berry eaters and will devour Mountain Ash berries, whether in the woods or right in your yard!

Winter is a great time to see Raptors and Owls. Most of the predators that follow these birds south are already present in the Scotchmans in smaller numbers but become much more visible in the winter. Look for all three Accipiters: Northern Goshawk (the largest and rarest); and Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks. Merlins and Northern Pygmy Owls make notable appearances on the fringes of farms, fields, and towns to hunt the abundant Finches and House Sparrows in those areas. If a great stroke of luck strikes, you may see the large ghostly outline of the elusive Great Gray Owl hunting on the edge of the woods near town!



Scotchman Rocks

Part 2 - The Very Young (Part 1-The Very Old appeared in the Sept/Oct Peak Experience)

By Mark Pullen

Although the rocks that Scotchman Peak is composed of (The Pritchard Formation) are among some of the oldest sedimentary rocks found on Earth, the actual mountain surface as we see it today is geologically quite young. Regional mountain building uplifted the area to near its current elevation during the Mesozoic Era, but most of the Scotchmans present land surface was sculpted by glaciers during the recently ended Ice Age; known to geologists as the Pleistocene Epoch. Thus, the rocks under your feet and the scenery in your eyes are separated by 1398 million years.

The Ice Age began roughly 2 million years ago when the Earth's polar climates began to expand into the middle latitudes, compressing the other climate zones and shifting them toward the equator. Before that time, the Arctic had been mostly ice free and Antarctica only had a small ice cap. Subtropical climate, much like that found in the southeastern region of the United States today, extended well north of Idaho, and into the Canadian Arctic. Scotchman Peak was smooth and gently rounded, with a deep soil cover, and was probably at least several hundred feet taller. It supported a dense broadleaf forest cover, with a fauna that would more resemble that of the mountains of South America today. Winter snow was infrequent even at higher altitudes, and rainfall was abundant in all seasons.

Then global cooling set in, and by 1.8 million years ago a permanent ice cap had formed at the North Pole also. As the cooling persisted, both polar ice caps began to expand toward the equator. A cold, dry climate resembling that of the Yukon Basin in Alaska eventually extended as far south as northern Washington and Idaho. In certain preferred locations, separate ice caps that were detached from the polar ones began to form. One such place was in central British Columbia between the Coast Ranges and the Canadian Rockies. As this ice cap thickened to the height of the surrounding mountains, some of the ice began to escape as outlet glaciers through the many pre-existing large valleys. The Purcell Trench was correctly oriented to eventually guide some of this ice south into northern Idaho in the form of a long valley glacier. As the three thousand foot thick glacier split around Contest Point near Sandpoint, one branch advanced past Scotchman Peak and up the Clark Fork Valley, impounding Glacial Lake Missoula at the same time. This is the glacier that literally ground off the entire southwest face of the mountain and created a four thousand foot triangular shaped escarpment called a truncated spur. The Hope Fault probably also helped the glacier to erode such a nice planar slope.

The valley glacier coming down from British Columbia only submerged the peak to about five thousand feet elevation, but the Ice Age also brought down the altitude at which mountain top glaciers form in our region to below the level of Scotchmans Peak. This allowed alpine glaciers to form on the north and east facing slopes where part of the winter snow pack could persist through the summer and begin to accumulate from year to year. As a result,

each large canyon going down the northern and eastern slopes of the mountain is characterized by a glacial cirque eroded at its head, and glacial deposits directly below (see geologic map in previous issue). These glacial deposits consist entirely of the same kind of rock as in the cirque face above, and do not contain any erratics from far away, like the valley glacier deposits in the Clark Fork Valley below. They are the youngest rocks on the mountain, having been deposited near the end of the Ice Age.

Scotchman Peak is a unique combination of very old and very young geologic formations, with no record of events in between. To visualize the immense amount of time between when the Scotchman Rocks were originally formed, and when the present scenery was created, think of a 1400 page novel, where each page is equal to one million years. If the Pritchard Formation was deposited on the first page, the Ice Age occurred on the last two pages, and it ended during the final sentence. Our written history amounts to the last half dozen words.

Thanks for Help from Our Friends

Thank you Kally Thurman for your help in making the Scotchman Peaks Plein Air Event a continuing success!



The Scotchman Wilderness Plein Air Art Show has a new venue on Schweitzer Mountain just in time for ski season. Gormandie, a new upscale wine shop and deli, is showing for the next two months ten of our best paintings from this year's Fall Paint Out. Dramatic large studio oil canvases by Jarred Shear and Aaron Johnson are prominently displayed, as well as paintings by Ken Olson, Greg Caudell, and Terrell Jones. Skiers and visitors to Schweitzer will enjoy the immediacy of these Scotchman Wilderness paintings in a cozy setting and sales will benefit FSPW.

Photo courtesy of Kally Thurman's Outskirts Gallery.



Peak Views

Scotchman Peaks winter hike schedule has something for all levels of winter hikers.

Winter in the wilderness and around its edges is a time like no other, extraordinarily quiet and transformed by cold and snow into another sort of place full of white magic. It is also a good time to get a new perspective of the wild and learn winter hiking skills from experienced winter travelers; perhaps even to stretch physical and mental limits into new places. The opportunity for this is right here. If you have snowshoes, cross-country skis, or even a full-on alpine touring set up or a split board, the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness has a hike tailored to your abilities and appetites on the schedule for 2010. The Friends even have a number of pairs of snowshoes to lend out if you don't have your own set.

Starting with an E-rated (Easy) hike on January 9 into Lightning and East Fork Creek, the Friends offer an array of 10 hikes for winter hikers of all skill levels, culminating in three S-rated (Strenuous) hikes on March 13 and 20 and April 24 to Star, Goat and Scotchman Peaks, respectively. Also scheduled are Moderate hikes along the Fatman Road (February 6), into moonlit Blue Creek

(February 27) and to the magnificent Ross Creek Cedars (March 6.) Susan Drumheller and Brad Smith of the Idaho Conservation League are teamed up to lead a hike into East Fork Creek on January 24. Topping off the season are two S+ hikes, led by one or the other of the Mellens, Jim or Sandii — Morris Creek on February 20 and Mount Vernon on March 6.

Details and contact information are available in the accompanying table.

Our season might seem set, but we are always looking for experienced hikers to lead walks into "our" wilderness. If you would like to add a hike to our schedule, you can fill out our on-line hike form at <http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/leading-hikes/> or send an e-mail to sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org.

Summer's coming: It's never too early to sign up to lead a summer hike. The schedule for 2010 is wide open.

Hike date	Exertion Rating	Destination/ Hike Name	Leader(s)	Description and Contact info
1/9/10	EE/M	East Fork Creek	Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker	Contact info: 208-255-2780 or phil@scotchmanpeaks.org We'll follow the perimeter of the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, along the Lightning creek road. Repairs to the road since the floods of 2006 have been complete, but the many changes due to the floods are still evident and will be observed. Tall Cedars, some toppled, and tossed boulders line the streams. Depending on how far we can drive we may cross the East Fork Creek and then follow its flood plain past the new trailhead, exploring the jumble of trees and boulders, looking at how floods altered native plant habitats and animal browse patterns. The route will be out and back, total distance dependent upon how far we go before turning around.
1/24/10	E/M	East Fork Creek Redux	Susan Drumheller and Brad Smith of the Idaho Conservation League	Contact info: sdrumheller@idahoconservation.org This is an out and back trip, largely on snowmobile trails. We'll drive as far as the road is plowed, then it's likely a packed snowmobile trail to the East Fork Creek crossing, which now has a new bridge. Then we'll ski up the north side of East Fork Creek one or two miles, depending on the group's interest and snow conditions. The trail is relatively flat, but the grade steepens slightly on the north side of the creek.
1/31/10	E/M	Ross Creek Cedars	Neil and Ann Wimberly	Contact Neil (208) 264-5379 or neilwim@yahoo.com We will follow the access road, closed in winter, for 3 to 4 miles into the Ross Creek Cedars. An overlook on the way provides stunning views. We will wander along a one mile loop amongst the cedars before returning. Beginner level skill, but the overall this suitable length makes only for those with good conditioning.
2/6/10	E/M	Fatman Roundabout	Judy Hutchins	Contact info: 406-847-2717 or JHutch7494@aol.com Skirt the southern edge of the proposed Wilderness under the Star Peak ridge on the snow-closed Fatman Road. Spur roads offer options including a out-and-back to the saddle between Fatman and Billiard Table for a breathtaking view of the East Fork of Blue Creek drainage and Sawtooth. Distance, 6 – 9 miles. Elevation gain, 800 – 1000 feet.
2/20/10	S	Morris Creek	Jim Mellen	Contact info: 208-265-5261 or jimmsandii@gmail.com This trip can be negotiated using XC skis, snowshoes or a combination thereof. It starts with a three-mile trek up Lightning Creek Road to the Morris Creek trailhead. Some may want to ski this portion, then switch to snowshoes. There is no real "destination" associated with this trip – no peak or lake. The beauty of this trail is enough. This will be challenging for all but the most avid hikers. Round trip, 12 miles. Elevation gain, 2000 feet
2/27/10	M/S	Blue Creek by moonlight	Sandy Compton	Contact info: 208-290-1281 or sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org This is an introduction to the southern boundaries of the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. We will travel primarily on closed forest roads that climb steadily along the south face of Clayton Peak or on Fatman Mountain. Depending on the snow conditions, this will be either a moderate (condensed snowpack) or strenuous (heavy layer of new) hike. The hike will begin mid afternoon and continue into the evening, giving hikers a chance to enjoy the glory of a February full moon. Round trip, 7 to 9 miles. Elevation gain 1500 feet.
3/6/10	S+	Troy Mine Vent/ Mount Vernon	Sandii Mellen	Contact info: 208-265-5261 or jimmsandii@gmail.com Get a first hand look at how an underground mine "could" affect OUR Wilderness. Experienced cross-country skiers only! Steep in places, skins are sometimes needed for going up. Starting out on the Ross Cr. Rd, 398, then on an old mining rd. We will ski up several switchbacks to a huge mine vent, and if enough ambition / daylight permits, continue on towards Mt. Vernon. Offering great views of the Bull River Valley, Bull Lake, and some of the Cabinet Mountains. This will be an ALL DAY trip, starting early!!! Everyone should be prepared for any weather conditions, with adequate clothing, food, water, headlamps, skins for skis or snowshoes to change in to. Level of difficulty, "Very difficult." Round trip, 12 miles. Elevation gain 2,000 to 3,000 feet.
3/6/10	E/M	Ross Creek Cedars	Holly Clements	Contact info: 208-208-290-3420, hclements26@yahoo.com We will accompany the hikers headed for Troy Mine Vent and Mount Vernon to the "lookout" and then follow the access road, 2 more miles into the Ross Creek Cedars. An overlook on the way provides stunning views. We will wander along a one mile loop amongst the cedars before returning. Beginner level skill, but the overall length makes this suitable only for those with good conditioning. Round trip: 8 + miles. Elevation gain, 1200 feet.
3/13/10	S	Star Peak	Jacob Styer	Contact info: Jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org This snowshoe is quite strenuous and we will probably need every bit of winter sunlight to gain the summit and return to our cars before dark. We will be sticking to the main summer trail for the first 2/3 of the hike, but will probably need to use our off trail route finding skills to reach the summit of Star Peak. Round trip, 10 miles ±. Elevation gain 4140 feet.

Continues on Page 9



Scotchman Natives

Scotchman Peaks Plant Find Generates Excitement

Excerpted from an article by Joanna Fuchs in the Kinnikinnick Journal of the local chapter of the Native Plant Society

On a late June huckleberry hunt on Scotchman Peak, Spokane resident and naturalist writer Jack Nisbet stumbled on a plant not commonly found in North Idaho, **Lomatium sandbergii**, in fragrant flower near the timberline.

Jack has long been interested in lomatiums, because the leaves, berries, seeds, and especially the roots of this genus are important to northwest Native American tribes (including Kootenai, Kalispell, Flathead, Coeur d' Alene, Nez Perce, Shoshone, Palouse) as food, and for medicinal uses. "For over ten thousand years, the aboriginal tribes in the inland northwest plateau have had a dynamic relationship with the genus lomatium," he says.

There are several dozen difficult-to-identify species of lomatium, and different tribes prefer to eat the roots of different species. In fact, different species may grow in the same area, and different tribes will come to that same area to get their favored species. Nez Perce tribes kept Lewis and Clark alive with the species *Lomatium cous*, also called "biscuit root."

One species of lomatium is called "Indian carrot," and four species are referred to as "Indian celery." Another species, less frequently used for food, is rubbed on cattle to kill lice or used to stun fish. The seeds of some species (one called "desert parsley") are chewed for their pleasant anise-like flavor and are also used as a moth repellent.

Historically, tribes would go in early spring to gather a year's supply of *Lomatium* roots, which provide the majority of the carbohydrates in their diets. Even today, the Sanpoil, Nespelem, Colville and Spokane groups go each April to dig the roots of the canbyi species of lomatium for food. The seed-bearing top of each plant is broken off and put into the hole dug for the root, to make sure these perennials will appear each year.

Some lomatium roots are as large as ping pong balls, while others are the size of a thumb joint. Back at the reservations, roots are strung on Indian hemp to be eaten during winter. The drier they get, the better they taste, with a texture somewhat like popcorn.

Native Plant Society President Carol Jenkins took the lomatium sample to the annual meeting of the Idaho NPS. Although no

one had seen it before, they thought it was a lomatium. The plant, with flowers about the size of the head of a pin, and tiny leaves, was shown to local botanist Marian Fuller who also thought the plant was a lomatium. Marian used a series of "keys" in the 5-volume reference, "Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest" to identify the plant. Each key asks if the plant has this characteristic or that one, and when that is determined, the next key is consulted, narrowing the possibilities. Marian narrowed it to two possible plants and then needed seeds for positive identification. Jack and his daughter Emily went on a second hike in late July to get a fruiting body. Although the plant is about 12 inches tall, the seeds are tiny, so Marian used her 15X dissecting microscope to find the wrinkles and hairs that distinguish a *Lomatium sandbergii*. She then took the plant to Jennifer Costich-Thompson, botanist for the Sandpoint Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, and Richard Merkel, a seasonal botanist for the Forest Service, for verification. They are also pretty sure it is a ***Lomatium sandbergii***. It will be taken to the rare plant conference.

The website <http://plants.usda.gov> shows ***Lomatium sandbergii*** in Bonner, Boundary, Shoshone and Benewah counties. Marian and Jennifer both said that although the plant is not rated as rare, or even uncommon, it is not commonly found in North Idaho, because it flourishes only in cold, dry sub-alpine meadows, which are scarce here.

Teacher and naturalist Jack Nisbet is the author of several books including two books about fur trader David Thompson: ***Sources of the River and The Mapmaker's Eye***. His most recent book, ***The Collector: David Douglas and the Natural History of the Northwest***, explores the interactions of Scottish naturalist David Douglas with the landscape and culture of our region. For more information, visit jacknisbet.com.



Watercolor of *Lomatium sandbergii* by Emily Nisbet

More Hikes, Continues from Page 8

Hike date	Exertion Rating	Destination/ Hike Name	Leader(s)	Description and Contact info
3/20/10	S+	Goat Peak	Jim and Sandii Mellen	<p>Contact info: 208-265-5261 or jimmsandii@gmail.com</p> <p>This trail has been called the steepest trail in Idaho. Although the hike leader has found a steeper one, it is still formidable. The views are fabulous almost the whole way and the sense of group exhilaration upon reaching the summit is a memorable experience. Be prepared for a full day and ready for any conditions. Snowshoes are recommended, but some crazies ski it every year. Round Trip, 7 miles. Elevation gain, 4,000 feet ±.</p>
4/24/10	S	Scotchman Peak	Jim and Sandii Mellen	<p>Contact info: 208-265-5261 or jimmsandii@gmail.com</p> <p>This trip is for adventurous people. Although the trail suffered numerous blow-downs in October, 2009, the trees have all been cut. There are a few places where the root masses made craters in the trails but it is passable. Since the road is usually snowed-in, the trip length will be extended by 2.5 miles each way. Equipment can include snowshoes, Telemark skis, snowboards, or AT gear. Be prepared for conditions ranging from hot and sunny to a full-on blizzard. But above all, be prepared to have a fabulous adventure! Round trip, 12 miles. Elevation gain, 3700 feet.</p>

Over the Top Volunteers

Trisha Miller is a big help to FSPW

By Sandy Compton

Trisha Miller can't see the Scotchman Peaks from her house in Scottsdale, Arizona, but she is still plenty involved with the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. As the volunteer "web guru" at www.scotchmanpeaks.org, Trisha has nearly single-handedly pulled the FSPW website into the present, making it a dynamic, comprehensive place to visit and a virtual fount of knowledge about all things Scotchman.

Virtual is right, in several senses of the word. We virtually couldn't get along on the web without Trisha. Not only does she use her knowledge of web design and html to keep the site fresh, her expertise with social networking has been invaluable in getting us up and running on Facebook and Twitter.

So, why does a woman who lives in Scottsdale spend so much of her energy for the Friends? "Phil (Hough, executive director of FSPW) is my . . . ummm . . . older brother," she confesses.

"Phil came to me about the site, which was originally built and hosted by Koeke in Sandpoint. They were doing a good job, but they didn't have time to move our non-profit site to the next level. The site needed more than just on-going maintenance, and web design is something that I actually really enjoy. It satisfies my creative needs. Phil came to me and asked if I would start working on the site. I said 'yes.'"

After growing up in Maryland and Massachusetts, Trisha moved with her parents to Colorado Springs, where she graduated from high school and went for a time to college in Fort Collins. After that, she confesses, she began a life as a "renaissance technologist, drifting through a 17-year career in telecommunications" and then into the travel business, where she has been working in various ways for the past 14 years.

"Of course," she says, tongue firmly planted in her cheek, "I started all of this when I was 10."

After moving east and living there while helping her partner Rod Neal set up a call center for the travel industry, Trisha got interested in the travel business herself. Upon their return to Scottsdale, they bought a small agency with the caveat from the retiring owner that they had to keep her loyal employees working. Trisha and Rod have managed that by growing the business by about 800 percent.

"We don't do small," says Trisha.

Trisha also manages a website called travelwritersexchange.com, where she teaches travel writers how to transition from providing copy for traditional print magazine to providing content for websites. "I've always been passionate about writing," she says.

Trisha enjoys hiking ("Which I don't get to do often enough," she says), all sorts of arts and music, and snowboarding. She will get to practice the latter at Schweitzer, our local area, when she and her brother trade houses for a month this winter. Look for her in late January and early February in and around Sandpoint, and thank her for being our volunteer webmeister.



Trisha Miller
Photo courtesy Trisha Miller

Bargain New Shirt for the New Year

Merchandise manager Jim Mellen announces that our new Scotchmans T will be a bargain at \$5. Our hats are still only \$10 in light blue, red, black or beige. Bandanas are available in orange, hot pink, light blue, green and bright yellow at \$3 or two for \$5. Our other short sleeved shirts remain a great deal at \$10. Our long sleeved T's, (\$15) sweats (\$30) and hoodies (\$35) are perfect for winter wear. Pick up your Scotchman gear at our new outlet, Buttercups Gift Shoppe in the Meriwether Inn in Clark Fork or at Café Bodega, Eichardt's, Outdoor Experience, or Sandpoint Sports in Sandpoint, ID, the Hope Market Café in Hope, ID, Mountain Meadows in Libby, MT, or Huckleberry Thicket in Trout Creek, MT. Out of the area, contact jmellen@imbris.net. Other Scotchman merchandise is available in our online store run by Café Press at www.scotchmanpeaks.org/store/html.





Tale End

By **Tim Daugharty**

Part 3 of Scotchman Winter Ascent. (Tim, a Panhandle native, now lives and teaches in Alaska. See Part 1, July/Aug 09 and Part 2, Sept/Oct 09.)

A sense of relief infiltrated the cave. We threw the soaked gear outside on the fresh snow, wrung it out the best we could, and frenetically stuffed our packs. Murphy watched as the packs grew to enormous sizes, his coat steaming under the increasing heat of sol. Wet heavy clothes, rapid movement, and brilliant sunshine created a sauna atmosphere as we stripped off our layers.

Somehow, in our minds, we fancied ourselves as expert backcountry skiers; we soon found out we didn't have a clue. After three days of huddling in the cave, we were thrilled at the prospect of the downhill home. I grunted to lift Steve's gigantic pack to his shoulders, as his skis settled in the two to four feet of uncut powder. He lost the flip as to who went first and started the descent with trepidation. He didn't make it far before a face plant, puff of snow, and some cursing thwarted his progress. With a smile of terror, I did my best to get to him for assistance, as all I could see was a backpack and ski tails. I had a similar fall; we both struggled to rid ourselves of the pack and skis to right ourselves. We looked at each other exhausted, petrified, and questioning our mere existence.

Well, necessity is the mother of invention and an idea dawned: set the pack between our legs, sit on our poles as brakes, and point 'em downhill. I likened it to a cross between an ancient "travois" and the brakeman of a bobsled. It was slow going at first, but as the mountain steepened and the snow amount dwindled, our success improved.

Murphy enjoyed the grooves that we blasted into the fluff. We soon learned to stay away from the other's groove. The increase in speed while behind was amazing as you quickly overtook the "Trail Blaster". I heard Steve cackle as we started to enjoy our downward swish bomb. As we entered the Red Fir habitat type, we became quite proficient in our turns. We remarked how the downward push was less punishing than we had ever experienced on a SCOTCHMAN descent.

We cut along the top of the last opening above the canyon floor and basked in the fading sunrays before the last half-mile to the bottom. It was a glorious late afternoon that only can be appreciated on this solidarity mountain. We knew we still had work to do but the endorphins were pulsing through our veins.

The last stretch was the fastest and the most harrowing with the rotting crystalline snow cutting our boots and gaiters. However, our techniques were well-honed and we came to a stop at what is now the trailhead. Snow and ice was compacted in places I dare not mention as we struggled to stand for the first time in who knows how long. We were on flat ground thankfully, but still had a chore to trek back to the car.

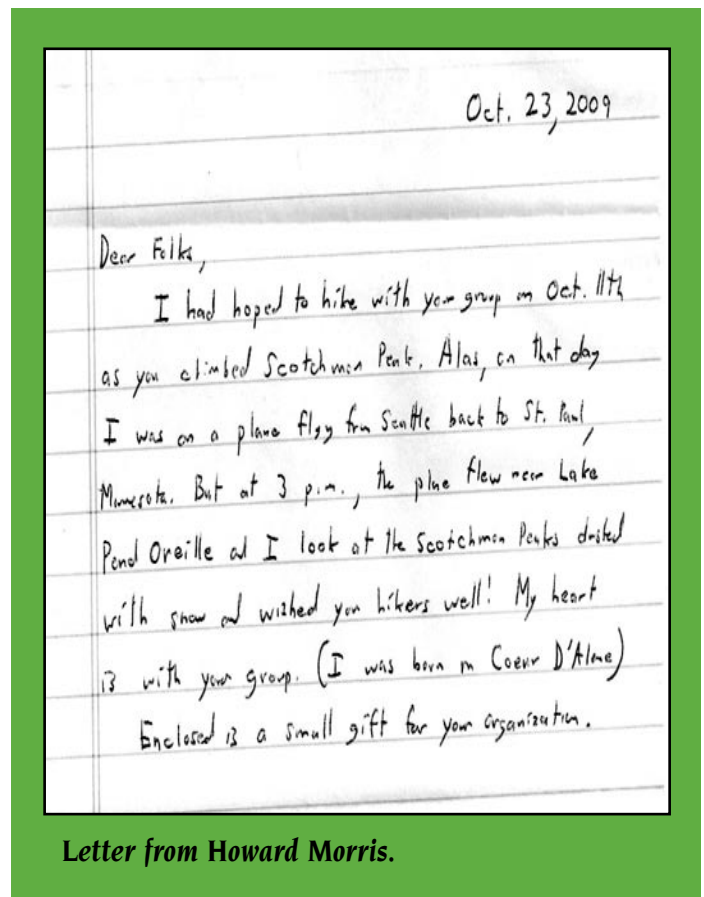
By now the pack weight seemed unmanageable. Snow conditions were atrocious, and the fading light and temperature made traveling the short distance seem impossible. We kept talking

about the beverages stashed in the car, so close, yet so far. I skied ahead pack-less and the track became iced grooves almost instantly. By the time I had skied back, Steve discovered he could almost stand in the grooves without postholing. Another idea: ski to the car and back, then place the backpacks on the skies and skid them to our ride. It was a little demoralizing, but as the evening became cooler, the trail set tight. We skied like crazy to the sanctuary of the car.

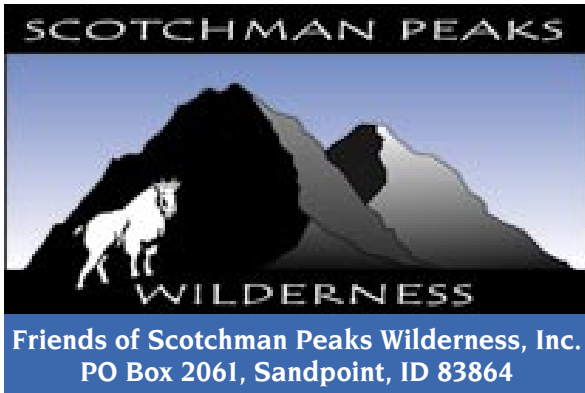
We rejoiced at the car, put our Sorels around our necks, red waxed our skis, and returned to the packs. The twilight lingered, the tracks set tight, the change in footwear was like putting on slippers, and we giggled as we tread lightly on the grooved trail. Murphy smiled at the moon casting shadows on the trail, helping our visibility.

We rode the packs on the down hills and easily pulled them on the up. The monster cedar and hemlocks that were once there seemed to approve of our efforts. The moon came out from the shadows as we hit the road. Never had an old logging road looked so magnificent. We clamored and toasted for awhile there on the road, celebrating survival. Finally, I chuckled, "Now, wasn't that fun?" Steve cursed at the thought, and replied, "Yeah, When we tell this tale to our grandkids or in our memoirs forty years from now."

As we hit the now historic intersection at Bob Hayes Chevron, we stopped and rejoiced in the omnipresence of Scotchman, glowing mysteriously over the town of Clarks Fork.



Letter from Howard Morris.



How You Can Help

Support Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness

As concerned citizens, we support protecting and preserving the Scotchman Peaks area for ourselves and future generations. Highway 56, Highway 200, Lightning Creek Road, and Rattle Creek/Keeler Road surround this 88,000 acre scenic area which straddles the Idaho and Montana border. Wilderness Designation for the Scotchmans will protect plants and wildlife, including the endangered grizzly bears, mountain goat, and bull trout; it will protect water quality; and it will preserve a special place for future generations. In addition, local communities will benefit from the unparalleled recreational and economic opportunities such wilderness provides.

Name: _____

Address: _____

e-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Donation enclosed (optional). Donations are tax deductible.
 Please make checks payable to the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc. Detach & Mail to the address above.

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