



PEAK EXPERIENCE

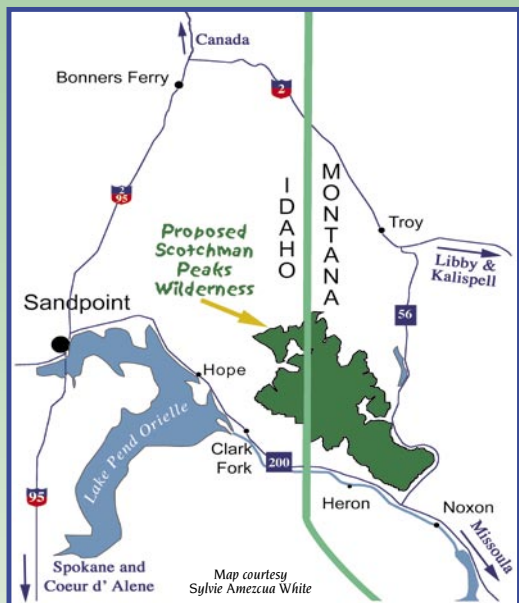
The Newsletter for Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc.

Volume 4, Number 3 • May / June, 2008



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

What Grows There

By Ann Wimberley

Mock Orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*)

When spring finally comes this year, one of the shrubs bearing white flowers will be the Mock Orange, named for its orange blossom fragrance. The state flower of Idaho, this plant is frequently called Syringa here, from a previous genus name now given to lilacs. The species name honors Meriwether Lewis who collected two specimens in 1806, one from along the Clearwater River in Idaho. Indians used the straight branches to make arrows.

A member of the Hydrangea family, the Mock Orange blooms from May through July. The flowers have four oblong petals and are arranged in clusters of 3-15 at the end of the stems. The leaves, which have three veins from the base, are simple and opposite. Bark flakes off the older stems. The shrubs, which may grow as tall as nine feet, grow in open meadows and on rocky hillsides.



Syringa
Photo courtesy Marilyn George

Message from the Chair

Let's Do Something to Make the Mountains Glad

John Muir, American naturalist and wilderness prophet, was born in Dunbar Scotland on April 21st, 1838. For many people the name John Muir conjures up certain images - explorer, adventurer and early advocate for the Sierra Nevada. Muir's name and legacy live on today. The John Muir Trail, one of America's premier hiking trails, runs the length of the high Sierra. The rugged, ice sculpted John Muir Wilderness lies just south of Yosemite and Muir's image graces the 2005 California State Quarter.

His passion, persuasion and persistence helped to create Yosemite, Sequoia, Mt Rainer, Petrified Forest and Grand Canyon National Parks. Muir is often called the "father of the national park system." An influential and prolific author, Muir contributed frequent articles and opinion pieces to every major publication of his day. In more than 10 books, 300 articles and numerous letters, Muir recounted his adventures, explorations, scientific observations and beliefs on conservation. Muir's 1901 book, Our National Parks, so impressed Theodore Roosevelt that he joined Muir for an extended hiking trip in Yosemite.

Continues on page 2



Peak Views

The Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness is proud to present our Spring/Summer 2008 hike series schedule! We may add hikes as summer progresses, so check the website occasionally for updates.

We have something for every skill level and interest. You will see first hand why the Scotchmans are so special. Group size is limited and reservations are required. To sign up contact the hike leader listed. For more details go to our website at:

www.scotchmanpeaks.org

Phil Hough & Deb Hunsicker	Scotchman Peak overnight	05/25-26	Sunday/Monday	Scotchman Peak Overnighter - we will leave Sat afternoon and spend the night on the flanks of Scotchman Peaks in this early season overnighter. Campsite selection will be based on snowmelt, weather and interest. Space is very limited. This trip suitable for experienced and adventurous backpackers. Contact Trip leader for details nowhere_man97@hotmail.com.
Lexie De Fremery	Delyle Ridge	06/24/08	Tuesday	Hikers can contact me at 208-265-9421 for details on time and location of meeting and info about Delyle.
Bill Martin	Spar Peak	07/12/08	Saturday	Contact the Hike leader for information about meeting time & location 406-295-5258
John Harbuck	Spar Peak	07/18/08	Friday	Contact hike leader for more information 208-263-9894 or harbuck@norlight.org
Peter Lesica – Cosponsored by the Idaho Native Plant Society & Cabinet Resource Group	Little Spar Lake	07/26/08	Saturday	Little Spar Lake trail is a moderate to strenuous hike on the east side of the Scotchmans accessed from the Bull Lake area. Stream crossings can be difficult - hence the runoff warning. Plants range from typical low elevation cedar/hemlock habitat types to glacier lilies and ferns. Length of the hike will depend on plants found and the enthusiasm of the folks that show up. Contact Judy Hutchins for more information Jhutch7494@aol.com
Jim Mellen	Scotchmans Loop	08/01-03	Friday-Sunday	Round the Scotchmans Loop. This three day backpacking trip involves hiking to Scotchman, then circling Scotchman and Scotchman Two in a clockwise direction. The trip is rated as difficult - experienced backpackers only. The group size will be limited to six. August 1-3. Contact Jim Mellen at jmellen@imbris.net
Carol & Irv Jenkins	Ross Creek Cedars	08/03/08	Sunday	Contact the Hike leader for information about meeting time & location irvorcarol@imbris.net
John Harbuck	Upper Ross Creek	08/29/08	Friday	Contact hike leader for more information 208-263-9894 or harbuck@norlight.org
Sarah Lundstrum & Don Clark	Scotchman Peak	09/13/08	Saturday	Meet at Scotchman Coffee House in Clark Fork at 8 am. This is a strenuous uphill hike with great views at the top. Contact hike leader for more details 406-755-6304 or slundstrum@wildmontana.org
Carol & Irv Jenkins	Ross Creek Cedars	09/21/08	Sunday	Contact the Hike leader for information about meeting time & location irvorcarol@imbris.net
Susan Drumheller	Little Spar Lake	09/26/08	Saturday	Contact the Hike leader for information about meeting time & location 208-263-4987 or sdrumheller@wildidaho.org

Message from the Chair Continues from Page 1

Muir was Roosevelt’s muse and helped influence TR to create a lasting conservation legacy including 150 national forests, 51 bird refuges, four national game preserves, 18 national monuments, 24 reclamation projects, and the National Forest Service. But Muir wasn’t satisfied with governmental actions alone. He saw the need for citizens to engage their voices in conservation, in order to assure that these lands would continue to be protected. Muir wrote to a magazine editor: “Let us do something to make the mountains glad.” With those words Muir went on to found and guide the Sierra Club.

Muir didn’t just talk the talk; he walked the wilderness walk, literally. In the summer of 1867 he embarked on a 1,000 mile walk from his home in Indiana to the gulf coast of Georgia, where he intended to travel throughout South America. Muir was dedicated to the study of botany. Although he took few possessions with him, Muir brought along a plant press on all his travels. More than an adventurer and advocate, Muir was a scholar and scientist. Muir not only praised the spirit of wild places, he also studied them. He collected and pressed plants, keeping them for later study

or sending them to herbaria collections through out the country. Bonne Gisel writes about John Muir: “Considered one of the earliest plant ecologists and a purveyor of biodiversity, his fondness for plants contributed significantly to his understanding of the need to preserve wilderness.” (1) From his trips to Alaska, as well as the Sierra, Muir helped to shape emerging theories about glacial formation and actions.

We would do well to emulate John Muir. To bring curiosity and conscience with us on our own wild travels. To engage community leaders in person; to write letters; to use our passion persistently and deliberately. To protect, preserve and conserve our wild lands, leaving a lasting legacy. Let’s join John Muir and “do something to make the Mountains Glad.” Let’s bring Wilderness Designation to the Scotchman’s!

Phil Hough

Footnote (1): In “Nature’s Beloved Son, Rediscovering John Muir’s Botanical Legacy” (due to be released in the fall of 2008)



Along the Trail

March 29: At the Cabinet Resource Group's annual meeting, the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness proudly awarded Cesar Hernandez our first annual "Old Goat of the Scotchmans" award, for outstanding wilderness leadership and vision. Cabinet Resource Group Chairman and FSPW Board Member Bill Martin made the following presentation to FSPW Board Member Doug Ferrell and his wife, Mindy: "Long before there was a Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Doug Ferrell was a friend of Scotchman Peaks. He was working for its protection back in the 70's. In many fights over the years with the forces of foolishness, Doug has been there, as a voice of calm reason. His wife Mindy has likewise been a stalwart in the struggle to bring enlightenment to the decision-making processes that affect our future. In recognition of over thirty years of service to our communities on behalf of the wilderness, wildlife and the lifestyles we enjoy and exist to maintain, the Cabinet Resource Group bestows upon Doug and Mindy Ferrell a Lifetime Headlamp Award, its highest honor for shining the light of reason on resource management."

FSPW staffed a table at the Trade Fair in Plains, MT recently that was well attended and full of energy. We signed up some new friends and had a good chance to talk with a number of people. Volunteer Mark Sheets commented that the political candidates are out in force now, shaking hands and listening to voters. Thanks to the Plains Chamber of Commerce for staging the event.

Also in Plains, Doug Ferrell gave a Scotchmans presentation to the local Backcountry Horsemen group and answered what Ferrell described as "a lot of questions". At the end, he asked for a show of hands of how many people support the idea of wilderness protection for this special area. 21 of 22 people raised their hands. Thanks to this energetic group for their interest and support.

The Sanders County Democrats are having lively and well attended meetings at this stage of the election process. In March

this group listened attentively to the Scotchmans power point presentation. This presentation is very popular with a variety of groups, partly because it has so many gorgeous pictures.

Ferrell also showed pictures and gave a talk about local wild animals at the Trout Creek School recently, which he described as "interesting and a lot of fun. Some of these kids know their wildlife amazingly well. Several grade schoolers correctly identified a Stellar Jay, River otters, wolverines and a variety of other fairly uncommon birds and animals."

The April edition of the "Inland Northwest Home and Lifestyle" magazine ran a two page feature on the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. This magazine is published in Spokane.

April 3-6: FSPW Chairman Phil Hough attended the Wilderness Conference in Seattle.

April 17: The Libby FSPW group held their meeting in Libby.

April 20: FSPW manned a table at the Earth Day Celebration held at the Sandpoint Community Hall.

April 25-27: Several FSPW Board members attended the annual meeting of the Montana Wilderness Association in Missoula.



Cesar Hernandez
Photo courtesy Phil Hough

Birds Found on the Scotchman Peaks

Rare Birds Are More Fun

By **Earl A. Chapin**

I have written several articles about birds that are very rare, not only in North Idaho, but rare everywhere. Many serious birders never get to see some of the rare birds I have seen in North Idaho, yet I have never seen a White Tailed Ptarmigan. They are in the high country, usually above timberline. For nearly 60 years, I have hiked the peaks of Bonner and Boundary Counties as much as anyone, yet they have eluded me. Friends have seen them on the first trip out. A lot of it is just plain luck. I have seen them in Glacier Park and Rocky Mountain National Park, but not in Idaho.

It is more fun to talk about a rare bird or animal than it is to talk about a common one. I have seen Caribou in North Idaho six different years and that sticks in my mind much more than seeing a Moose that has become common in our area. I am going to write a few articles about common birds, the birds that many people recognize and talk about.

It is exciting to see the first Swallow or Osprey each year, or see ducks migrating in the spring or fall. Some birds leave for the winter and others come from the cold north and winter here.

I would like to encourage you hikers to do it now while you can. When Bev and I were young, we could hike to a peak like Scotchman, climb around all day, hike out and feel good. I am quite sure that we couldn't get to Scotchman now if we had all day. We still like to hike to mountain lakes like Harrison Lake, Snow Lake, Lake Estelle and a few more but even that tires us. **SO DO IT WHILE YOU CAN!!**



Wild Creatures of the Scotchmans

By Doug Ferrell

Cutthroat Trout (*oncorhynchus clarki lewisi*)

The Black Spotted or Westslope Cutthroat Trout became the Montana state fish in 1977 after a grassroots effort to designate the fish, led by anglers and school children. This is one of the principal subspecies of the cutthroat species, a member of the salmon family.

Cutthroats are considered to be an indicator species of the health of the entire ecosystem of their habitat, so it should give us great pause to reflect that they have disappeared from most of their former range.

Native cutthroat can still be found in most of the streams in the Scotchmans area, and are present in the Bull River and Lake and Lightning Creeks. Threats to these fish include: introduction of non-native species, introduction of non-native diseases, and habitat degradation and fragmentation from roadbuilding and development. Cuts are particularly vulnerable to mixing genes with non-native rainbow trout. Both fish spawn about the same time of year and the hybrid offspring are usually fertile, so pure strains of the native fish tend to gradually disappear where rainbow are present, unless waterfalls or other barriers protect the native fish. Pure strains can thrive behind such a barrier, and some individuals will make their way downstream, providing their native beauty and diversity to larger creeks and rivers.



Cutthroat Trout

Photo courtesy National Park Service, US Dept. of the Interior

Mature fish tend to move seasonally between small feeder streams and main streams, so secured connected habitats are very important to the species. They thrive only in pure, cold water. Most of the significant remaining cutthroat populations are found in protected wild country, like Glacier and Yellowstone Parks, the Bob Marshall, and other wilderness areas.

The appearance of cutthroat trout varies quite a bit depending on subspecies and geography. Our local cuts are distinguished by small dark scattered spots over skin that sometimes has an orange hue. A red, pink or orange marking is noticeable below the jaw – hence the name cutthroat. Where food competition is strong, fish may develop a long and skinny “racer” shape. In modern times, fish much over a pound are rare, but pioneers and explorers reported sizable and plentiful cutthroats over much of their original range.

Protecting the Scotchmans area as wilderness will help provide these native beauties a chance to hang on through the years to come.

Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Summer Photo Contest!

FSPW is pleased to announce a new event this year, a photo contest! Love the Scotchmans? Enjoy taking pictures? Well then enter our photo contest. Not only do you have a great excuse to get outside and take pictures, but you just might win some FSPW gear!

Photo Categories:

- Scotchmans’ Scenery
- Scotchmans’ Spirit (people in wilderness)
- Wilderness Water (falling, flowing, or still)
- Wild Scotchmans (plants & animals)

A committee of Friends will choose 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each category.

Prizes:

- 1st Place: FSPW Sweatshirt (hooded or crew)
- 2nd Place: FSPW Long-sleeve T-shirt
- 3rd Place: FSPW T-shirt (blue or white)

To enter:

E-mail your color or black and white photos to slundstrum@wildmontana.org OR mail a CD with your photos to Sarah Lundstrum, 307 First Ave East #20, Kalispell, MT 59901 by September 30th, 2008. Include the date and location of the photo. If it was taken on an FSPW hike, include the name of the hike and the leader’s name.

Winners will be notified by October 15th. Winning photos (crediting the photographer) may be printed in “Peak Experience” or used in our printed or online materials.

The Future Looks Bright

June 22: Annual Bull River Picnic

Thursday, June 26: Annual State of the Scotchmans Celebration at the Pend d’Oreille Winery from 4-7pm

August 2: FSPW Concert at the Troy Park. Details in the July/August newsletter.

August 8-13: FSPW volunteers will man a booth at the Bonner County Fair.

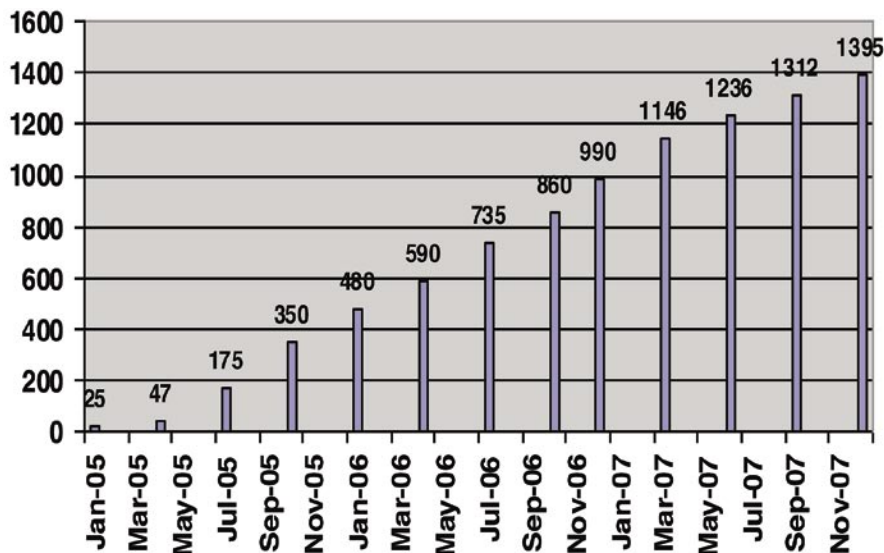
October 8-11: FSPW, along with Jim Quinn of the Timber Stand Gallery in Sandpoint and Kally Thurman of Outskirts Gallery in Hope, are planning the First Annual Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Plein Air Exposition. Regional artists will be invited to capture their vision of the wilderness on canvas.

October 28: Wilderness and Climate Change Talk by Tom Delucca, Senior Forest Service Ecologist for the Wilderness Society.



FSPW Supporters

During 2007, with the help of our many supporters, the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness expanded on the success of our outreach and education programs. Read all about it in our "2007 Annual Report" on our website at :www.scotchmanpeaks.org/pdfs/FSPW2007AnnualReport.pdf.



Please join us welcoming Sarah

Lundstrum as the newest member of the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness board of directors! Sarah brings a background of work with public land campaigns, a diverse set of skills and enthusiasm. Congratulations Sarah!

From the Top

As I begin to work on each issue of the newsletter, I wonder if I will have enough copy. As I complete each issue, I wonder if Pama will be able to fit it all in. This issue particularly demonstrates the sense of a common bond in the wilderness. Earl Chapin, our resident birding columnist, sent additional articles for the Tales and History columns. One of his articles was on Goat Mountain. Our Trail of the Month this issue features Goat Mountain. Many of our readers love the Scotchman Peaks area because of their own special experiences in this beautiful area. Please email your stories to me at afwim@yahoo.com or mail them to our post office box for consideration for future issues. **Ann Wimberley**

Over the Top Volunteers - Don Clark, a Can-Do Guy

By **Charlie Clough**

Don Clark has been a real stalwart for the Friends of the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, in the Libby area.

Don was born in 1945 in the Meadow, South Dakota area, where he grew up on a ranch that ran sheep and cattle. He attended classes during his first eight grades in a one-room rural school, and he learned, as a young boy, the value of community involvement. One of his early jobs was hauling water for the school in a twenty gallon cream can. Don finished his prep education across the border at St. Mary's High School in New England, North Dakota. Raised as a hard-working, conscientious young man, Don was able to put those attributes to the test as he pursued his undergraduate degree at Carroll College in Helena, Montana, graduating in 1967.

Don interviewed for a job in Libby, Montana, where the superintendent assured him that the elk hunting was great. That was good enough for Don. He moved to Libby, where he met his wife, Monni and began a very successful, twenty-nine-year career, teaching 8th grade history and language arts. Along the way, he continued his education, receiving an M.Ed. from the University of Montana in 1976.

Don has always loved the outdoors, and his pursuits in life have reflected that love. He took up chasing mountain lions with hounds, about 1970. His enthusiasm for the chase is more than evident when he relates the details of a particularly exciting run. One has only to look over the rugged topography of Lincoln

County to appreciate the sort of "physical conditioning" Don has endured. Early on, Don worked very hard toward the first lion quota system in Montana, and later added his efforts toward the development of the present Region 1 permit system.

After retiring from his teaching career, Don served for six years on the school board. He also went to work for the Libby District trail crew on the Kootenai National Forest. He spent twelve seasons clearing hundreds of miles of trails in the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness and all over the rest of the Libby District. Those miles of trails in the wilderness made Don intimately acquainted with primitive tools – crosscut saws and axes. An inveterate card player, Don enjoyed the trail crew cribbage tournament that took place each season during one of the overnight trail projects.

A long-time member of the Libby Rod and Gun Club, Don has served as its president for the last eight years. A strong leader, Don has guided the club in its restoration, upgrading and maintenance of the local rifle range. During his tenure, both skeet and trap ranges have been added. Don's skill and perseverance resulted in a wonderful gift for the Friends of the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness – a Libby Rod and Gun Club endorsement. This is a tremendous achievement and a testament to Don's patience and hard work.

Don has been a member of the Montana Wilderness Association and the Montana Wildlife Federation for many years. He is looking forward to hiking the trails of the Scotchman high country...and we are looking forward to a long and fruitful association with Don – a real can-do guy.



Scotchman Rocks

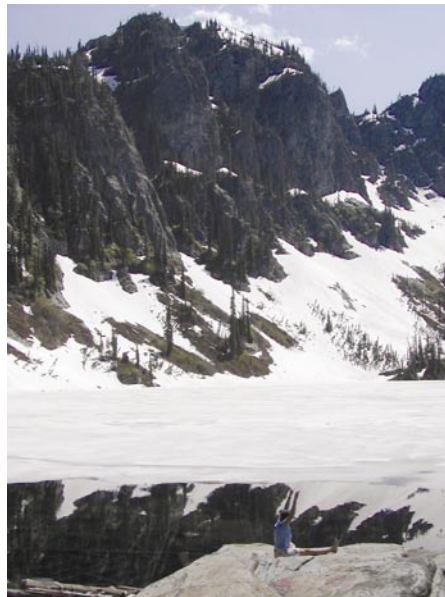
By Jon Burkhardt

Mountain Glaciers

The Cabinet Mountains owe much of their spectacular topography to the actions of mountain glaciers. These high elevation glaciers are created when more snow falls in the winter than can be melted off during the summer. In most cases this will occur on north or east facing ridge tops which are somewhat shaded from the heat of the summer sun. As the snow builds in depth it becomes ice and flows like plastic down the side of the mountain. As it does so it plucks out large rocks and the abrasive action carves steep headwalls out of the mountainside.

This creates large bowl shaped basins called glacial cirques. The glacial flow creates U shaped valleys which are quite different than the V shaped valleys caused by stream erosion. At the bottom of the vertical ice flow the pressure of the ice and rock can carve out depressions which become lakes or tarns. Nearly all of our lakes in the Cabinets of today were created in this manner.

Many of our sharpest peaks were created by glaciers leaving slope inclinations of 45 to 90 degrees. These pyramidal mountains can be called horns as in the famed Matterhorn of



Little Spar Lake, a glacial cirque lake

Photo courtesy Neil Wimberley

the Swiss Alps. The knifelike ridges of rock leading to or joining these peaks are called arêtes and were caused by glaciation and sharpened by weathering.

Another glacial feature that can be seen in the Cabinets is moraines which are piles of dirt and rock left behind by the ice. These can be lateral moraines at the sides of the glacier or terminal moraines where the advance of the glacier stopped. Some mountain lakes are the result of these terminal moraines.

The mountain glaciers in the Cabinets occurred before, during and after the continental glacier that created Glacial Lake Missoula with the most recent activity I believe around 4,000 years ago.

Understanding how these features were created can add to your Cabinet Mountain experience. Enjoy.

Tales of Scotchman Peaks

Different Kind of Bird, Different Kind of Tracks

By Earl A. Chapin

As Peak Experience readers know by now, birds and birding are a great hobby for me and my wife. But now I am going to tell you about another bird we like. We are both pilots and owned two airplanes for years. One was a four seater Cessna 172 that we used in business and the other was a Piper Super Cub that we could take to the short, high altitude wilderness back country strips. Now we think we are too old to fly and just live our flying days in our memories.

I used both airplanes to take people up for scenic flights. One day in late November, a lady wanted me to fly her over Scotchman Peak, on east to A Peak and Snow Peak in Montana, and back to Schweitzer. We took off from the Sandpoint Airport and climbed to Scotchman Peak, then on to Scotchman 2. There was three feet of snow on Scotchman 2 and about 59 feet from the peak was a large bull elk. My passenger said it looked like a Hartford Insurance ad.

We flew on to Montana to see A Peak and Snow Peak, and then back to Scotchman 2 to see if the elk had moved. To our surprise, he was in the same spot. There were no other tracks in the area. We flew to Schweitzer Peak and then descended for a landing at Sandpoint Airport.

In February of the early 1960s, a friend and I decided to snowshoe

the trail to Goat Mountain and then on to Scotchman Peak. The snow was deep and the trail was steep and of course we couldn't find the trail. We just went straight up the ridge. Even with good snow for snowshoeing it was a tough hike.

We saw no animal tracks for the first couple of miles, but the last half mile of timber before we broke out in the open was almost solid with rabbit and lynx tracks. This stretch of tracks went on for at about 300 yards and was at least one half mile wide. On a few occasions I have seen a few lynx tracks but never anything like that day.

As we got to the top of Goat Mountain the cornices were hanging over so much that it made it

too dangerous to continue to Scotchman Peak. We decided to turn back. Even so, it was a wonderful hike.



Photo courtesy Earl Chapin



Scotchman Past

Bald Eagle and Mountain Goat on Scotchman

By **Earl A. Chapin**

Don Samuelson came to Farragut Naval Station in 1944, as a gunsmith for the Navy. When the war was over, he opened the Pend Oreille Sport Shop in Sandpoint in 1946. Don sold the shop when he became Governor of Idaho.

Les Gissel came to Sandpoint in 1945 and was Game Warden from 1945-1974. He and Don became life-long friends. Both being very interested in the outdoors, they have stood on nearly every peak in North Idaho. In 1952 they began inviting me to go with them. I was 20 years old and very excited to be included.

One time they took a three day trip to Scotchman Peak. At the head of Blue Creek they noticed an eagle diving at a tiny mountain goat kid. Les took out his pistol and fired it into the air to scare the eagle away. They got within 10 feet of the goat and decided it was OK. They photographed it and it jumped down to safety. I was not on the trip but they brought me the photos and an exciting story.

Please Invite Us to Speak to Your Group

We are available to do a 10 minute or longer Power Point Presentation and discussion for businesses, service organizations, clubs, and groups of friends and neighbors.

Please contact us if you are interested.

In Idaho or Washington, contact

Phil Hough at 255-2780 or nowhere_man97@hotmail.com

In Hope/East Hope/ Clark Fork, contact Neil or Ann Wimberley at neilwim@yahoo.com or afwim@yahoo.com

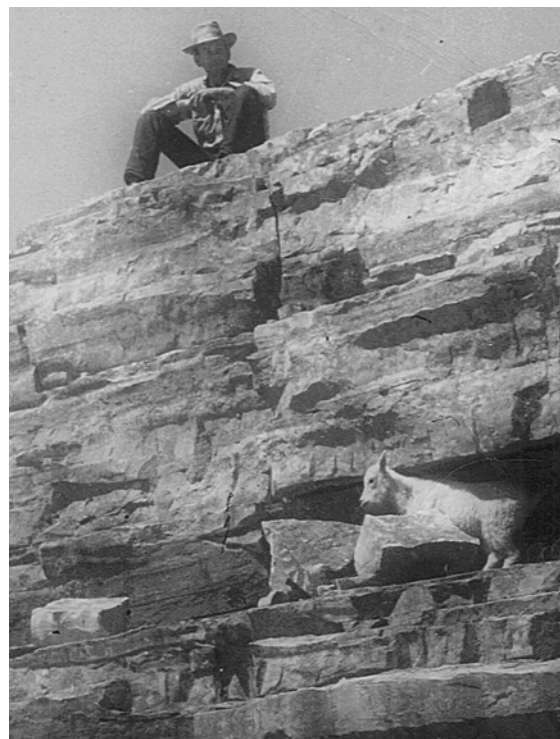
In Montana, contact Doug Ferrell at ferrelldoug@gmail.com

Merchandise News Flash

Spring has sprung with a new shirt for FSPW, featuring our goat mascot. To celebrate, prices for all short sleeved T-shirts have dropped to \$10. Check out our shirts and sweats at our newest outlet, Sandpoint Sports, in their new building on Highway 95 near Schucks and Taco Bell. Shirts and sweats (including T-shirts in children's sizes) are also available at Mountain Meadows in Libby, Huckleberry

Thicket in Trout Creek, Outdoor Experience, Café Bodega, and Eichardt's in Sandpoint, The Hope Market Café in Hope, Lucy's Deli in Clark Fork and REI in Spokane.

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.



Eagle and Kid

Photo courtesy Earl Chapin

Trail of the Month

Second Annual Goat Peak Hop

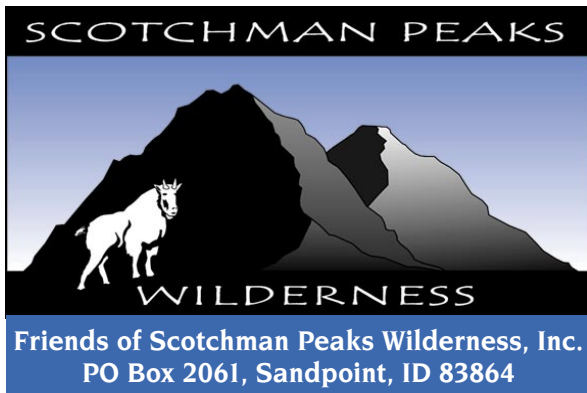
By **Jim Mellen**

On March 22, fourteen adventurous trekkers (13 on snowshoes and 1 brave skier) set out to summit Goat Mountain. At 6380 feet, it is not the tallest mountain in the Scotchmans, but it is one of the steepest trails in the region, gaining over 4,000 feet in elevation in just 3.7 miles. The hikers quickly found that the additional weight of the snowshoes added to the challenge of ascending this mountain of snow but everyone persevered. The exhilarated hikers enjoyed spending time snacking and snapping pictures on the summit on this perfect bluebird day.



Goat Mountain

Photo courtesy Jim Mellen



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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