

Point Six from Town

Since arriving back in Missoula at the end of June, it's been a heady time. Missoula is so easy to come back to -- being away just reinforces what a great place it is -- and getting back into our house has been like warm apple pie and hugs from Mom when I was a boy.

Still, I should have been anticipating the day when the high ended. This past Monday, I got some bad news about the status of a grant proposal I submitted last year. Since I hadn't heard NO yet, I was optimistic that the answer was going to be YES. It wasn't, and I wasn't ready to hear that. Also, our plans for an end-of-summer family trip have been thwarted by circumstance and Alex, who suddenly at 14 and back among his friends, wants as little to do with his family, and as much to do with his friends, as possible.

By now you're asking, 'Okay, what's the point of all of this complaining?' Well, after Monday, I was ready for something long and punishing to 'clear the decks'. In the morning, I walked out the door, looked up to Point Six, above Snowbowl, and decided I was going to ride my bike up there from the house. I left at 9:30am, did it -- not that bad, actually -- and was back home by 1:30pm. It was a nice outing, and one I've wanted to do for a few years. Below are some pictures.



Point Six is the high point on the most distant ridge. You can just make out the communications tower on top.



Point Six from near the top.



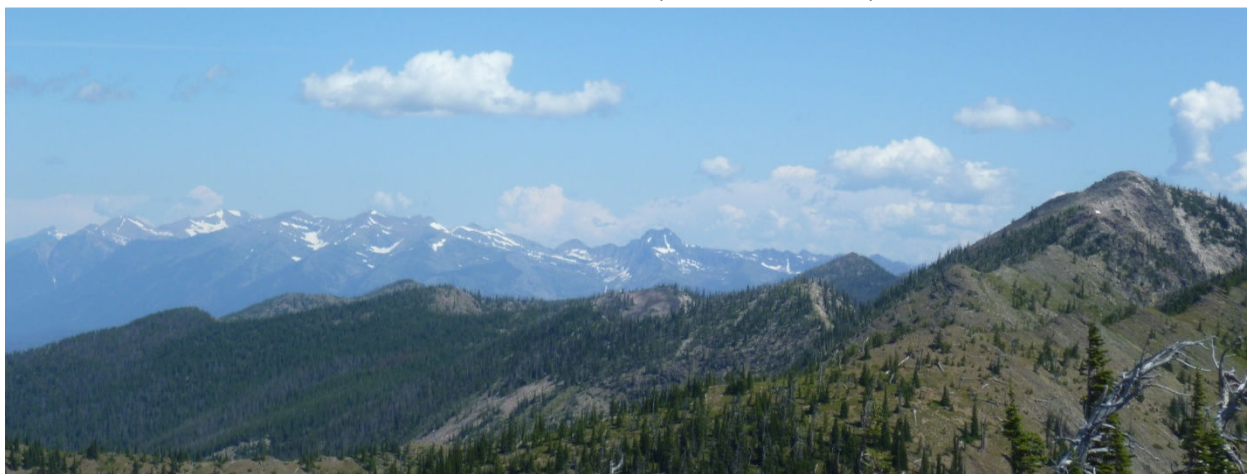
Missoula Valley with Lolo Peak in the back-right.



Looking south from the summit.



North from the summit with the 'death star' visible in the first picture above. Those peaks are the Mission Mountains.



Another view north, the foreground peaks are in the Rattlesnake Wilderness.