

# The Mountain Ear

October 2017

## President's Message

Happy October everyone! It's kind of hard to believe that September is here and gone. I always look forward to that month more than any other, but this year it was sort of worthless for outdoor recreation: heavy smoke for the first half of it, followed by snow, rain and below average temps for most of the second half. There were a few nice days in there; hopefully you took advantage of them!

We had a GREAT turnout for the Welcome Back Party at Imagine Nation on Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all of you who came out. It was great to see a bunch of old members, new members and folks who just wanted to check us out. We are hoping this is a good first step towards getting more people interested and involved in this club. I will personally do my best to keep trying to make this club an entity that want and are excited to be a part of. I'm excited by the enthusiasm thus far!

At our Party we recognized a few individuals for achievements and service to the Club. If you haven't ever checked out our Peak achievement lists on our website, take a moment and do so sometime. See what they are all about. Climbing a list of peaks isn't necessarily about having people honor or recognize your achievement. I believe these lists simply provide incentive for getting out and exploring new areas. If you can climb all the 9000+ foot peaks in the Bitterroots, for example, you are going to see some amazing country, experience some physical and mental challenges and have some memories you'll never forget. Its all about the ADVENTURE!

Getting back to the folks we recognized....

Rattlesnake Peaks - John Bardsley

Missoula High Points - John Bardsley and Laurel Vielle

Lifetime Service Awards- Steve Schombel and Julie Kahl

Please continue to look at the calendar on our website for all club activity information. And, as always, let us know if you have ideas, suggestions, comments, criticisms. This club belongs to its members- we want to make it valuable to YOU!

Happy Climbing,  
Forest Dean

### **Cabin Work Day**

The Rocky Mountaineers own and maintain a winter use backcountry cabin on the eastern flanks of Little St. Joseph Peak in the Bitterroots. Each winter folks use this cabin as a base for skiing or hiking on Little Joe and the surrounding area. The cabin is primitive: a couple bunks, a cooking area and a wood stove. Each fall we hold a cabin work day to cut firewood, clean the interior and take care of any other odd repairs that are needed. We plan to hold the work day this coming **Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>**. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated! Bring a lunch and a pair of work gloves. If you have a chainsaw bring one of those too. **Paul Jensen** is the workday coordinator. He can be reached at 728-6881 or email: pauljensen@yahoo.com. His plan is to have people meet at the south side Walmart off Brooks Street at 8:00am (near the west- Miller Creek Rd- side of the parking lot). Carpools can be done from there. Please consider coming out and lending a hand!

### **October Presentation**

Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> -Imagine Nation Brewing Company- doors open at 6:00pm

### **From Glaciers to the Sea: A Journey Down the Entirety of Alaska's Susitna River**

Chris Dunn will discuss his trip down the full length of the Susitna River in Alaska, completed in 2013. Starting on the flanks of the Alaska Range, going through a then-proposed dam site and Devil's Canyon, and ending in Anchorage, the journey was primarily a float with a bit of backpacking/glacial-traversing/canyoneering/mud-and-brush-slogging thrown in. If time allows, Chris may present on a second 2015 glacier-to-sea river trip, this time through the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, including the controversial coastal Wilderness Study Area, ending in the Arctic Ocean. This may lead to a discussion on wilderness issues more broadly.

Chris is a former Missoula resident, who is temporarily working in the area through December. When not distracted by the allure of world and wilderness exploration, he works on wilderness conservation, among other things, and is picking away at his PHD in Environmental Studies at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

### **Upcoming Trips and Activities**

TRM Cabin Work Day- Saturday, October 7

Sonielem Ridge (Missions)- Friday, October 13

Spotted Dog WMA Highpoint- Sunday, October 15

All About Ice Climbing- Monday, November 6

For information on these events and more, please visit our website:

<http://www.rockymountaineers.com/index.php/calendar>

### **Bozeman Ice Festival**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Bozeman Ice Festival takes place December 6-10. While this is not a Rocky Mountaineers event, there are several members who will be attending. Whether you have ice climbed all your life or have never lifted an ice tool, if you are interested in the sport of ice climbing, then this is a "can't miss" festival! If interested, I would first encourage you to take a look at the Festival website: [www.bozemanicefest.com](http://www.bozemanicefest.com). I highly recommend thinking about registering for a Clinic (but do it real soon as they fill up quick- registration began on October 1<sup>st</sup>). If you have further questions or would like to just go, hang out, and do some ice climbing with other TRM members, let me know! (Forest Dean, [mtnear1@gmail.com](mailto:mtnear1@gmail.com)) It will be a great time- guaranteed!

### **Trip Reports**

Our Club secretary, John Bardsley, has created a Blog for sharing all of the Club trip reports. Take a look at:

<http://therockymountaineers.blogspot.com>

All future Trip Reports will be posted and archived on this site. Eventually we hope to embed this into our website.