

The Mountain Ear

November 2017

President's Message

Yay! I was just perusing the NWS website. Snow! Cold! Excitement! Anyone else? It seems winter may be about to enter the theatre. In the past, that has always come with mixed emotions for me. I love summer and especially fall. Warmth, long days, no need to bundle up. What's not to love? Well.....

Right now I feel like a kid in a candy store. I just recently had some foot surgery to hopefully correct a deteriorating issue. New and improved foot...check! I have at long last taken the plunge into getting a backcountry ski setup....check! And these promised nighttime cold temps making the ice climber in me drool....check! So, yes, I am excited for winter!

I assume I am not alone. Anyone looking forward to getting out and having some wintery fun? If so, please get involved with the club and your fellow members. We will soon be posting quite a few winter backcountry skiing, snowshoeing and ice climbing outings. We'd love to see both new and old faces on some of these trips! Want to get out with others, but you don't see something to your ability or liking? Let us know. We want to get as many folks active and involved in this club as possible. But the only way we'll know what you want to do is if you tell us. So come to a meeting, presentation, send an email, etc. Tell us how we can help you achieve winter fun!

On that note we are in the process of looking for more qualified trip leaders. If you feel like taking on the responsibility of leading others on trips into the backcountry, we would like to hear from you. Leaders don't need to be "guides" but they do need to be organized and responsible. If interested please let us know- we can discuss how being a trip leader can not only be a benefit to the club, but also how it can be greatly rewarding for you!

Take a look at the upcoming classroom sessions, trips and holiday party below. Again, we want our members to be involved. We have had a great turnout at both of our first two monthly presentations. Hopefully we can build on that and get more and more of you to these upcoming events. Would love to see you all soon!

As always, if you have any questions, comments, criticisms or funny stories, don't be afraid to reach out. We are all Ears! Mountain Ears! (ok, that was stupid, but again, I am giddy with winter on its way!)

Happy Climbing,
Forest Dean

November Presentation

Tuesday, November 14 -Imagine Nation Brewing Company- doors open at 6:00pm

Simply Living It!

Barbara Schwarz and Mike Wilson left Montana in July of 2015 and headed to the Andes and spent 15 months mountaineering, climbing and trekking in Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia and Peru.

After their return in early 2017, the couple continues to find adventures in the Bitterroot, Beartooth and most recently a 25-day trek through the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. Come and learn about the South American climbing experience and the recent excursion into the wilderness.

Mike has a BA in International Relations and is a former US Army Special Forces Officer (Green Beret). After military service, he worked as a wilderness guide, horse packer, ski patrol director and small business owner. Mike is also a licensed emergency medical technician (EMT) and has a special interest in wilderness and alpine medicine. Mike also enjoys traveling and exploring and has lived, worked and traveled in several different countries.

Growing up in Switzerland, Barbara started ski racing and mountaineering in the Alps at a very young age. After earning Bachelor of Science degrees in Culinary Arts, Business and Public Relations, she worked in several locations throughout the world for both, international and U.S. companies. She has always loved to travel and adventure. In addition to the U.S. and Switzerland, Barbara has also lived in Nepal, Egypt, Turkey, and England. *Looking ahead to December....Avalanche Awareness Presentation...courtesy of the West Central Montana Avalanche Center.*

Class Time!

As part of our new mission to provide members with some educational opportunities, we are pleased to announce the following upcoming "classroom" sessions:

November 6- All About Ice Climbing

Do you have interest in the sport of Ice Climbing but not sure where to start? New to the area, and not sure where to go? Wondering what kind of gear you need to get started? Well then this is an event for you! This will be a rather informal "round table" discussion on some of these topics and more. We will look at gear, cover basic climbing techniques,

talk about great places to go in western Montana and discuss the upcoming Bozeman Ice Festival. Experienced climbers are encouraged to attend to share what they know!

Location: To be determined, Time: 7:00pm

Leader: Forest Dean, mtnear1@gmail.com

December 4- Intro to Multiday Backcountry Ski Touring

Combining backcountry ski touring and winter camping requires practice and planning. Skiing with a load on your back (or pulling a sled) creates challenges both physical and mental. Camping in the cold and dark of winter is not remotely similar to doing so in the summer and can be downright miserable. However, if done correctly and efficiently many not only enjoy wintertime trips, but actually prefer them! The purpose of this discussion will be to share some tips and tricks on making your overnight winter ski tours safe, fun and perhaps memorable. We will discuss gear, food, camping and travel requirements. Bring questions or bring tidbits of useful information you would like to share from your experiences.

Location: To be determined, Time: 7:00pm

Leaders: Joshua Phillips, mtsurveyor@gmail.com, Forest Dean, mtnear1@gmail.com

Upcoming Trips and Activities

All About Ice Climbing (Class)- Monday, November 6

Lolo Pass Winter Outing 1- Sunday, November 26

Intro to Multiday Backcountry Ski Touring (Class)- Monday, December 4

Lolo Pass Winter Outing 2- Sunday, December 10

"Mini" Gash Point- Saturday, December 16

Holiday Party- Saturday, December 16

East St. Mary's Peak- Thursday, December 21

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

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

Bozeman Ice Festival

The 21st 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. 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) It will be a great time-guaranteed!

Trip Reports

All reports from club trips can be found at: <http://therockymountaineers.blogspot.com>

All future Trip Reports will be posted and archived on this site as well.