

# The Mountain Ear

December 2017

## **President's Message**

December is upon us and another year seems to have flown past. I hope it has been a good one for everyone! If you are a member of The Rocky Mountaineers, and you are reading this, my guess is you really enjoying getting out to climb, hike, bike, ski, paddle, (fly?). Did you do enough of that this year? Is there such a thing as doing too much? (rhetorical- the answer, of course, is no!)

One of this Club's main purposes is to facilitate "getting out". Whether it is offering trips/adventures, getting like-minded folks together, or helping you learn some new skills, we aim to be a valued resource in the outdoor arena. I have personally been involved with TRM for 13 years now. I've been on some incredible trips, seen some amazing places, acquired numerous skills and most of all, met a lot of great people, some of whom have become my best friends. I encourage all of our members to get involved- it WILL be rewarding!

Keep checking our calendar on our website! We have a variety of offerings for the next few weeks. There will be a few more trips posted for the Christmas-New Years time frame soon. As always, feel welcome to speak up if there is something you would like to do. A good place to troll for partners or suggest trip ideas is our Facebook page (RockyMountaineers).

Happy Climbing (and hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, etc) and Happy Holidays!

Forest Dean

## **December Presentation**

Tuesday, December 12th -Imagine Nation Brewing Company- doors open at 6:00pm

### **Avalanche Awareness**

Josh Tapp from the West Central Montana Avalanche Center will be our featured speaker this month. Josh will be discussing all things related to safely travelling in the winter backcountry. Topics will include equipment needs, reading terrain, managing/minimizing risk, where to get info and training, and more! In addition, Minot Maser will follow Josh's presentation with a discussion on avalanche transceivers.

This will be a very informative and important talk for anyone looking to get out in the mountains over the next several months!

#### *Upcoming Presentations....*

January- to be announced

February- Adventure Racing (Elizabeth Moore)

March- Climbing the Glacier 10,000ers...solo....in winter! (Jason Robertson)

April- A History of Outdoor Clothing and Gear (Rachel Gross)

May- Free Flight! (Karl Hallman)

#### **Holiday Party**

Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> is shaping up to be a Winter Classic for the club! We have three trips offered which we hope to see a bunch of you take advantage of. And then to top off the day we will have our Holiday Party. Location: Lolo Peak Brewing Co. in Lolo. We have the upstairs "Community Room" reserved beginning at 6:00pm (you can certainly show up earlier if desired). Whether you are out recreating on this day or not, we welcome all of our members to join us! (and, if you're not a member yet, we'll gladly sign you up at the party!) Questions? Email Forest: [mtnear1@gmail.com](mailto:mtnear1@gmail.com)

#### **Class Time (again)**

We had a great turnout for our inaugural classroom session last month (All About Ice Climbing). Class #2 is below. These are roundtable style discussions, not lectures.

#### December 18- 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: Big Sky Brewing (conference room), Time: 6:30pm

Leaders: Joshua Phillips, [mtsurveyor@gmail.com](mailto:mtsurveyor@gmail.com), Forest Dean, [mtnear1@gmail.com](mailto:mtnear1@gmail.com)

#### **Upcoming Trips and Activities**

Lolo Pass Winter Outing 2- Sunday, December 10

Bass Creek BC Ski Tour- Saturday, December 16

XC Ski Tour- Saturday, December 16

Ice Climbing- Saturday, December 16

Holiday Party- Saturday, December 16

Intro to Multiday Backcountry Ski Touring (Class)- Monday, December 20

East St. Mary's Peak- Thursday, December 21 (Winter Solstice!)

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

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

### **LAST CALL- 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 climbed ice 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). 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**

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.