

The Mountain Ear

January 2018

President's Message

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone has enjoyed a wonderful and safe holiday season. It seems to always be a busy time of the year- especially leading up to them. Then a few days of relaxation perhaps, and then back to the real world. As I write this (on January 1st) I'm enjoying my final day of the holiday's, kind of wishing it wasn't ending quite so soon!

With the wind howling and the temps around 20 degrees, I'm also finding today to be a good one to sit and configure dreams and plans for the 2018 climbing (and other adventures) season. Reading guidebooks, looking at maps, perusing SummitPost and penciling in trips on a brand new calendar is really one of my favorite activities. Trying to figure out how long a trip may take, what its difficulty will be, how much fun it will be to camp beside a high mountain lake- sometimes this planning is as much fun as the trip itself! I wonder how many of you are doing the same thing today?

I'll let that adventure planning idea segue into discussion of TRM trips. We are always looking to fill our calendar with outdoor adventures that YOU would like to do. Its very understandable that not everyone wants to be a trip leader. Perhaps you have a trip you would like to do, but you aren't ready to be a club trip leader yet. Well, let us know! The more ideas we get from our members, the more we can try and offer. As I'm getting to know more and more of you that are coming to our monthly presentations, educational events, trips, parties, etc, I'm obtaining a better grasp on what folks are interested in and what they want to see offered by the club. I am also finding that we have a really great and fun bunch of folks who love to "get out"! So, have a great trip idea for 2018? Share it with our club...I would bet you'll be rewarded with some great partners!

Speaking of educational events, we had another great round table discussion a couple weeks ago at Big Sky Brewery. Intro to Multiday Ski Touring was the topic and I believe all participants came away with quite a few new pointers. I know I did! Thanks to Joshua Phillips for leading this discussion. Next up is an outdoor field day on January 20th in which we'll cover an introduction to travel in avalanche terrain.

And speaking of Parties (!!)

we had a nice pre-holiday party at Lolo Peak Brewing on December 16th. Over 20 of you showed up, many after a day taking part in one of our three trip offerings that day. It was a good time and fun to visit with everyone there!

Finally, I wanted to let everyone know that this new year brings a continued effort behind the scenes to help shape this club into an entity that is a tremendous resource for the Missoula community and can stand the test of time. We are currently working with an attorney to discuss possible 501c3 status. We're attempting to write a Trip Leader handbook. A club Bylaw revision is needed. This isn't as much fun as skiing powder, climbing ice, or hiking to a nice mountain waterfall, but it is stuff we believe can help take a good club and make it into a great one. So, along with the everyday tasks like planning trips, organizing presentations and putting together educational events, we'll continue to work on the dirty stuff as well (and actually, its usually a good reason to get together for a couple beers- so really not all that bad!) If you'd like to become involved with some of the future shaping of the club, just let us know!

Ok...back to my trip planning...enough writing for now. There are only 364 more days till 2019 after all. I better get a move on. Glacier, Bitterroots, Rainier, Canadian Rockies, Ice Climbing, Skiing, Hiking....hmmmm, not sure where I am going to fit my day job in!

Prost!

Forest Dean

January Presentation

Tuesday, January 9th -Imagine Nation Brewing Company- doors open at 6:00pm (please note that we have limited space for this event. All seats and standing-room-only is first come, first served)

North Faces in the Columbia Icefield

We are fortunate to have legendary Missoula alpinist **Gray Thompson** giving this month's feature presentation! Gray will be discussing and showing pictures of four major north face routes he has climbed on the following iconic Columbia Icefield peaks: Columbia, Forbes, Clemenceau and Kitchener. Come and hear his stories and be inspired! Not to be missed!

Although this article was written 7 years ago, it provides a great bio on Gray. Take a look! http://missoulian.com/lifestyles/recreation/fluid-motion-rock-climbing-pioneer-still-impresses/article_c9549984-d0bc-11df-831c-001cc4c03286.html

Upcoming Presentations....

February- Adventure Racing (Elizabeth Moore)

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

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

May- Free Flight! (Karl Hallman)

Beers with The Forecasters

This is not an official TRM offering, but we think a lot of you may find it very fun and interesting. The Western MT Avalanche Center will have one of their Avy Forecasters at Big Sky Brewery on the dates below to answer questions face to face (editors note: I attended this event last week and it was GREAT. Very educational and insightful. And the beer is really good too.) From the Big Sky Brewing website:

Here's how it works:

1. Avalanche specialists from the West Central Montana Avalanche Center head into the backcountry.
2. The avalanche specialist digs a snow pit and studies the snow profile in detail.
3. The avalanche specialists return to the Big Sky Brewing Company to drink beer and report their findings.
4. Anyone in the taproom can ask questions and gain insight on snow quality and safety.

Here are upcoming dates for this event: Jan 11, Jan 25, Feb 22 & Feb 28 (Times: 6-8pm)

Outdoor Classroom

INTRODUCTION TO TRAVEL IN AVALANCHE TERRAIN

This backcountry skis/splitboard outing will focus on mitigating exposure to objective hazards in avalanche terrain. If you want to get into the backcountry more, but are a little unsure about how to stay safe, join us for a day of backcountry riding that will focus on proper techniques. We'll focus on terrain selection, route choice, and group travel techniques. Leader: Joshua Phillips, mtsurveyor@gmail.com

Next month we will hold another "roundtable" education discussion at Big Sky Brewery: Anchors, Ropes and the Physics of Falling (Tuesday, Feb. 20)

Upcoming Trips and Activities

Hyalite Ice Climbing- Fri-Sat, January 13-14 (still in planning)

Intro to Avalanche Terrain- Saturday, January 20

Kaina Mountain (Glacier NP)- Fri-Mon, January 26-29

Little St. Joseph Peak- Saturday, January 27

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

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

Membership Survey

In the very near future you will be receiving an email from Survey Monkey asking you to fill out a survey. The officers have put this together in order to get feedback from all of

you on several aspects of this Club. We want to know what we are doing right, what we are doing wrong, what you'd like to see in addition to what is currently offered. Whether you have just joined TRM or been a member for decades, we REALLY want your input! PLEASE take a few minutes to complete the survey (with your honest opinions- all info you provide is confidential) when you receive it. Thanks in advance for your help!

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.