

The Mountain Ear

February 2018

President's Message

Greetings Members,

Well another month has flown by; it seems as if I just typed the January newsletter. I attribute the rapid passing of time to being busy. Fortunately (for me), I was primarily busy this past month with playing in the great outdoors! I'm hoping all of you have been enjoying some great winter recreation as well! Although the valleys have had a good dose of "meh", our mountain environment has been spectacular. Get out and have fun in it!

Of course one of our primary purposes is to help you do that. Please check out our Activities Calendar on our website as we are currently adding a lot of upcoming trips and educational sessions. And as always (and I know, I mention this in every newsletter) let us know what else you would like to see! Hopefully our recent survey request will give you a format to do just that.

Our January presentation by Gray Thompson was a great one! Over 50 people packed into a room not meant for 50 people (growing pains... but part of the charm?) to hear this legend talk about his first ascents in the Canadian Rockies. It was quite a treat. This month's presentation about Adventure Racing by Elizabeth Moore should be equally as intriguing- especially since she recently just completed a race in Patagonia!

Have a great month of February everyone! I hope to see many of you out in the mountains or at one of our upcoming trips or events!

Cheers!

Forest

February Presentation

Tuesday, February 13th -Imagine Nation Brewing Company- doors open at 6:00pm. All seats are first come, first served.

Adventure Racing

Adventure Racer **Elizabeth Moore** will give this month's feature presentation. She will take you on a virtual adventure into the sport of adventure racing with images and videos, and explain why she races. She'll share training/gear tips, and also share about her latest expedition length adventure race in Patagonia.

Elizabeth Moore grew up in Northern Maine and thanks to her parents, she had lots of adventures as a kid. Her favorite and most memorable trips were the multi day Allagash River canoe trips with their family of six. It was a yearly tradition that ignited her first powerful love of the outdoors. She grew up running and started mountain biking somewhere along the way... After a while she simply couldn't decide which sport to concentrate on, so in 1999 she entered her first adventure race with a four-person team from Missoula. It was then she found the perfect sport for her - ALL OF THEM! - Adventure Racing! She has been chasing adventure through adventure racing and through adventures big and small in the Missoula area with her family ever since.

Elizabeth's Website: <http://www.ebethphoto.com/>

Upcoming Presentations...

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)

Ice Climbing Clinic with Whit Magro

We are pleased to announce this incredible (and fun!) opportunity for our ice climbing members! An ice climbing clinic led by Whit Magro, one of the best in the sport! Clinic will take place in Hyalite Canyon south of Bozeman.

This will be an "advanced beginner" to intermediate level clinic. All participants need to have their own gear (or at least most of it- missing something? just ask!). Participants will have ideally spent at least a few days climbing ice in the past and have some familiarity with the sport. You will be climbing WI 3-4. Whit will cover basic technique, leading on ice, anchor building and more.

This is an "all inclusive" trip offering. We have a house rented on the north side of Bozeman. One price will cover: 2 Nights lodging, Clinic on Saturday, Meals and Drinks at the house (bring your own lunch/snacks for Hyalite).

Itinerary:

Friday- Drive to Bozeman late afternoon/evening. Dinner at the house.

Saturday- Breakfast at the house. Grotto Falls trailhead at 8:00am. Clinic with Whit all day. Return to house/dinner at house. Tell tall tales until we fall asleep.

Sunday- Breakfast at house, pack up. Return to Hyalite for a day of climbing on our own (9:00ish). Put the skills learned yesterday to use! Drive back to Missoula (or, stay another day on your own if so inclined).

Group size limit: 10 (Note: Only 2 spots remaining)

Cost: \$200 includes everything listed above
TRM Membership Required
Leader: Forest Dean (mtnear1@gmail.com)

Classroom

Anchors, Ropes and the Physics of Falling- Tuesday, February 20th

Join us for this roundtable discussion as we discuss just what the title implies: we'll talk about anchors and anchor building, ropes and then discuss falling (how to fall, what does falling mean to your rope and gear, etc.). This is a moderated discussion, not a powerpoint lecture. Whether you have lots of experience or none, we encourage you to attend. Share your knowledge or learn from scratch. There are no stupid questions at this event! And it's at a brewery...so you can drink beer while we learn! 6:30-8:00- Big Sky Brewery Conference room (second floor- up the stairs). Walk in, grab a brew, then head up! More info: Joshua Phillips (mtsurveyor@gmail.com) or Forest Dean (mtnear1@gmail.com)

Other Upcoming Trips and Activities

Mill Point (Bitterroots)- BC Skiing- Saturday, Feb. 3
Bass Creek (Bitterroots) Ski Tour- Saturday, Feb. 10
Pack Creek XC Ski- Sunday, Feb. 11
Avalanche Rescue Practice- Sunday, Feb. 25
Chief Joseph XC Ski/Snowshoe- Tues-Weds, Feb. 27-28

For information on these events and more, please visit our website:
<http://www.rockymountaineers.com/index.php/calendar>

Membership Survey

Hopefully you all received an email within the last few weeks asking you to complete a short 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! If you have not yet done so, 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! (We have currently received 26 completed surveys)

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 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: Feb 22 & Feb 28 (Times: 6-8pm)

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.