

The Mountain Ear

March 2018

President's Message

Happy March,

It's only a short few weeks until the official beginning of spring (20th). Spring can often be a difficult time to get out and recreate around here, but it also means longer days and warmer overall temperatures. What's not to like about that! Nice crag days on the south facing aspects of Kootenai Canyon, lower elevation hikes as plant life starts to regain a foothold, steep snow climbs on firm snow, spring skiing....who could ask for anything more! Hopefully you'll get out and experience some grand spring adventures with your fellow members. Take a look at our calendar: we have lots of options to choose from!

Our educational sessions continue to gain in popularity. We sold out our Hyalite Ice Clinic with Whit Magro a couple weeks ago. We had 15 folks attend the Anchors, Ropes and the Physics of Falling Roundtable discussion last week. Some awesome new members were picked up in the process- thank you to all who participated. Stay tuned (and see below) for more offerings in the near future.

Please note: our usual "second Tuesday of every month" presentation will NOT be on the second Tuesday of March. We had to make a schedule change to accommodate this month's speaker (see below for details). Hope to see a bunch of you on THURSDAY, MARCH 8th (same time and place).

I joined TRM in 2004. At that time, I paid \$10 for my annual membership. Thirteen years later, I am still paying \$10. Time for a change? The officers and several longtime members think so. At the last business meeting we voted for the first dues increase since...well I don't exactly know when! New annual dues (\$25/individual, \$40/family, \$15/youth-student) are now in effect and reflected in the Membership tab on our website.

Why did we do this? Two primary reasons. First, our website is the true cornerstone of our club and our central hub for all information. We need to have a website that is constantly up to date and provides all the information that our members and prospective members are seeking. This is more than a volunteer can handle. To continue to become the professional and top notch organization that we want to be, we need to have a website to match. This costs money- not a lot- but some. Thus, some of the dues increase will fund this project.

Second, we officers have a goal to establish a "gear library" at some point in the near future. What a benefit it will be to our members when we can state we have gear you want to "check out" for the weekend? Need a helmet for an upcoming trip? Check one out! Maybe some crampons and an ice axe for a day? Check them out! This won't happen immediately but this dues increase will hopefully create a nest egg which will allow this program to be put in place soon. Stay tuned!

As always, please feel free to get involved, chime in with ideas or ask questions. I am absolutely LOVING the recent participation and enthusiasm on so many of our trips, educational offerings and even just simple banter on our FB site. Keep up the excitement everyone! It makes my attempts to preside over this club so very very much fun!!

Sincerely,
Forest

February Presentation

Note the date change!!!

Thursday, March 8th -Imagine Nation Brewing Company- doors open at 6:00pm.

Climbing Mount Rainier

Josh Tapp of International Mountain Guides will cover what it takes to have a successful climb of Mount Rainier. The presentation will include the three most common routes used to ascend the 14,410 volcano, recommended gear, techniques for pairing down and lightning your load, seasonal conditions of the mountain, route choice, and more! Josh will also give tips on your training regimen to make sure you are in your best climbing shape. He can also answer questions regarding ski descents of Rainier or ski mountaineering options for your first volcano ski descent.

Josh Tapp has been a guide on Rainier and other prominent Cascade Peaks for ten years. To date he has 78 ascents of Rainier.

Upcoming Presentations....

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

May- Free Flight! (Karl Hallman)

Education

Snow Pit Evaluation- Saturday, March 10th- A ski tour up a less committing area - depending on how low the snow line is at this time of the month we'll drive to the Gash

Creek Trailhead. A great area to ski moderate terrain and "poke your nose in the snow" (dig a snow pit).

Avalanche Rescue Practice- Saturday, March 17th- This outing (probably at Lolo Pass) will focus on making effective use of your avalanche beacon, probe, and shovel! Practice searching, pinpointing, multiple burial scenarios, probing and DIGGING!

Snow Climbing and Glacier Travel Basics- Monday, March 26th- Roundtable discussion at Big Sky Brewing Company (6:30pm). This moderated talk will cover the basics of steep alpine snow climbing and glacier travel techniques as well as gear requirements. Perfect for those looking to move beyond mere summertime scrambles or those wanting to set their sights on big Cascade or Canadian peaks. Folks with experience are strongly encouraged to attend as well to share their ideas and experiences.

Other Upcoming Trips and Activities

Ice Climbing- Mission Falls - Sat/Sun, March 3-4

Alpine Snow Climb- East St. Mary's Peak- Sun, March 18

Backcountry Ski Tour- Camas Peak- Sat, March 24

BC Ski/TRM Cabin- Little St. Joseph Peak- Fri-Mon, March 30-April 2

Rock Climbing- Kootenai Creek- Sat, March 31

BC Alpine Skiing- Gash Point- Sat, April 7

Please visit our website for all the details on these trips and educational events!!

<http://www.rockymountaineers.com>

Membership Survey

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to complete the survey we sent out in January. We received some valuable feedback on what you like, dislike and are looking for more of. If you haven't completed the survey you still can, and we would really be grateful for if you did. Here is the link:

<https://alden4.typeform.com/to/PEBiGo>

We will wait a few more weeks and then compile all the results. These will be summed up in a report thereafter.

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.