

The Mountain Ear

October 2018

President's Message

Greetings Once Again...

Some months seem to fly past quicker than others. That there one was a pretty fast one for me! What a fabulous September it was! Lots of nice weather made for some real pleasant late summer/early fall hiking and climbing (and running, biking, etc, etc). I hope October brings us much of the same!

At the same time, I think we can all sense the change in the seasons. Trees are changing, days are getting short, snow is dusting the mountain tops. As much as many of us love the summer season, I think an equal number of us are really looking forward to snow and ice! So much fun to be had. In about another month, keep your eye open for a new slate of trip offerings involving skiing, snowshoeing and ice climbing. They are just around the corner!

Please consider joining us for our annual Cabin Workday this coming Saturday. We can always use the help. The more, the merrier. We will cut firewood for the winter season and tidy up the interior. See the posting below for more details.

Many of us winter enthusiasts depend on the great work that the fine folks at West Central Missoula Avalanche Center do for us. If you are one of these, consider showing your support by attending the PRAY FOR SNOW PARTY this Friday at Caras Park. All proceeds provide huge support to this awesome and important organization.

A number of us will be attending the Bozeman Ice Festival again this year. December 5-9. This is not a TRM event, but its always fun to get together with fellow members who are attending. If you are interested in sharing some lodging, please email me ASAP as I am working on putting something together. Whether you are a seasoned ice climber, or have never swung a tool (but are curious about the sport) it is always an absolute blast! Consider attending!

Finally, I am working with the West Central MT Avalanche Center to set up a Level 1 Avalanche Clinic for the club. This will likely occur in January. There will be a cost for this, but it will be at a nice discount vs. what you would pay as an individual. Details soon!

Enjoy Autumn!

Forest Dean

Cabin Workday and BBQ

Join us as we prepare our club cabin for winter use! We will clean up the inside, make repairs as needed, cut and stack firewood and get the facility ready for the upcoming season. We really encourage you frequent users of the cabin to come and give us a hand! Afterwards we will have a BBQ/Potluck at the trailhead. Distance to cabin is about 1.5 miles and gains about 1200'. We can meet at the Hwy 93 Walmart (near the Miller Cr exit) at 8 am on Saturday morning. We will have two chainsaws, so no need to bring one of those. Bring the usual wood cutting equipment such as axes/splitting mauls, however, if you have one. Also, if you have a spade shovel or Pulaski, please bring consider bringing one along.

Additionally, some of the pots and pans up there are in kind of rough shape. If someone has a large, heavy duty pot (suitable for melting snow) to donate that would be great. A large fry pan might be good too.

Contact: Paul Jensen- 728-6881

October Feature Presentation

Tuesday, October 9- Imagine Nation Brewing Company- 6:00-8:00pm

SEEKING EXPOSURE

This month's featured speaker will be Griffin Gilbert. He will be discussing highlining!

Griffin will talk about scouting and establishing new highlines and the local ethics of establishing them (do bolts need to be placed and if so, is it in a climbing area that it could affect). What goes into rigging the actual line (anchors, how to get the line across the gap and how we put tension into the system). Also, what kind of training and preparation goes into getting ready for highlining, what kind of benefits are the outcome from slacklining, and also how the community plays a role in all of this.

From Griffen:

Raised in North Carolina, I started slacklining in college 6.5 years ago and have been hooked ever sense. Shortly after, I got a setup to rig 300' lines in the park knowing that I wanted to eventually take it to the bigger heights of highlining. Two years after starting to slackline, I partnered up with an old high school friend who is a climbing guide and we rigged my first ever highline. Having never climbed before and not being used to exposure, I was taken aback by the whole process and learning curve. I dove head first and started learning to climb from my buddy, building anchors and learning rope systems as much as I could. I then moved to Missoula (four years ago), and have taken it all to the next level by

helping find and establish new highlines around the area. I am currently working on a project for the longest highline in the state of Montana, and am also trying to build the slackline community around Missoula to get more people excited and involved!

November- Nate Bender will discuss his successful traverse this summer of the 27 12,000' Beartooth Peaks (in just a little over 4 days!)

December- Join us for our annual Avalanche Awareness presentation with folks from the West Central Montana Avalanche Center!

Upcoming Trips and Activities

Work Day- **Annual TRM Cabin Maintenance**- Sat, Oct 6

Scramble- **Little Joe/St. Joseph/Stormy Joe Traverse**- Sun, Oct 7

Hiking- **Nemote Creek (Nine Mile)**- Sun, Oct 14

Scramble- **McLeod Peak (Rattlesnake)**- Sat, Oct 27

Roundtable- **All About Ice Climbing**- Thurs, Nov 15

More trips will be posted soon!

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

www.rockymountaineers.com

Merchandise

Be on the lookout soon for TRM gear! We have an order in for shirts, beanies and truckers caps. We also have stickers that you can proudly slap on your favorite water bottle. Additionally, we can take custom orders. Sizes, prices coming soon!

Business Meetings

Per our new club bylaws, we will now be holding quarterly business meetings. In the past we have done short, informal meetings prior to the monthly presentations. We felt that this presented too many distractions and did not provide for a good, fair and efficient way of managing this club's business. The meetings will now take place on the following dates:

- December 3
- March 4
- May 6

We will hold these meetings in the upstairs conference room at Big Sky Brewing Company. Meetings will start promptly at 6:00pm and wrap up no later than 8:30pm. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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.

Club Officers

President- Forest Dean

Vice President- Joshua Phillips

Secretary- Kelsey Wellington

Treasurer- Susanna Phillips