

The Mountain Ear

November 2018

President's Message

Greetings Everyone,

Welcome to November- the classic "shoulder season". Not quite time to ski, snowshoe, ice climb. Yet, difficult to traipse around in the high country on foot. The weather is usually pretty ugly too for most of this month. What is one to do?

Option one- grin and bear it. Alpinism is all about the "fine art of suffering"! Go get after it and become mentally stronger while you do! Option two- Train! The high country is in the process of setting up right now- but still plenty to do down low. (See our FB page for some training options currently being offered by members). Option three- do nothing/sit around and drink beer. Ok, while that sounds appealing, I know most of you are like me and your ability to sit idle for more than a day or two just leaves you wanting the first two options. So, keep getting after it—and bring let us know how we can help!

Although our shoulder season trip calendar is a bit sparse right now, we do have some great events brewing. Check them out below. It all starts next week with what is sure to be a "can't miss" presentation. Two days later we have another roundtable. The Bozeman Ice Fest is right around the corner. And, our Level 1 Avy Course is half full- don't delay if you want to get in!

Other things to keep on your radar: we will be announcing a holiday party (with winter solstice outings) in the next couple weeks; several backcountry ski and ice climbing outings will be posted soon; TRM Cabin weekend stays posted soon; and, just in time for the holiday season, merchandise sales (see below).

I hope you all have a great month and hope to see you at one of our events next week. As always, please reach out with ideas or suggestions.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Forest Dean

November Feature Presentation

Tuesday, November 13th- Imagine Nation Brewing Company- 6:00-8:00pm

BEARTOOTH 27 TRAVERSE featuring Nate Bender

Over four days this past August, Nate completed the first successful traverse of all 27 of Montana's 12,000 foot peaks. The route covers 100 miles of mostly off-trail, rugged travel through the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, and includes 48,000 feet of ascent. Nate had a dozen friends and family as a support crew, plus three good friends as pacers. This presentation explores how community and camaraderie can be such a powerful force in tackling ambitious, uncertain goals, as well as the preparation (training / nutrition / logistics, etc.) for such an endeavor.

Nate is a trail runner and mountain athlete based in Missoula, Montana passionate about the intersection of conservation, public lands, and moving quickly through the mountains. He is a Montana native and has a background in endurance & adventure running, from ultramarathons to a 100-mile double crossing of Zion National Park.

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

January- Backcountry Hut Skiing in British Columbia. Minot Maser will be discussing the glorious BC Hut system in British Columbia.

Upcoming Trips and Activities

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

Winter Outing- **Lolo Pass-** Sun, Nov. 25

Ice Climbing- **Finley or Mission-** Sat, Dec. 1

Ice Climbing- **Bozeman Ice Festival-** Wed-Sun, Dec. 5-9

Winter Outing- **Lolo Pass-** Sun, Dec. 9

XC Ski- **Chief Joseph or Lolo Pass-** Sat, Dec. 15

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

www.rockymountaineers.com

Classroom- All About Ice Climbing

Do you have interest in the sport of Ice Climbing but not sure where to start? New to the area, and not sure where to go? Wondering what kind of gear you need to get started? Well then this is an event for you! This will be an informal "round table" discussion on some of these topics and more. We will look at gear, cover basic climbing techniques, talk about great places to go in western Montana and discuss the upcoming Bozeman Ice Festival. Experienced climbers are encouraged to attend to share what they know!

6:30-8:00pm. Conference Room on Second Floor at Big Sky Brewing Co.

Contact: Forest Dean, mtnear1@gmail.com

Level 1 Avalanche Course

We are pleased to announce the following LEVEL 1 AVALANCHE COURSE (Sponsored and Trainers provided by: Missoula Avalanche)

This course is available exclusively to members of The Rocky Mountaineers!

Course Description

Format:

2 part classroom component + 2 day field component

Date | Location:

1.31.19 - 2.1.19 Classroom Component | University of Montana, Missoula Campus

2.2.19 - 2.3.19 Field Component | Lost Trail Pass Backcountry

Price: Discounted TRM member rate- \$225.00 (*Note: This same course will likely be over \$400 next year*)

Avalanche Level 1

The level 1 course is designed for current and aspiring backcountry travelers. This course focuses on developing a solid foundation in avalanche knowledge and backcountry travel skills. Following the American Avalanche Association (A3) curriculum instructors cover systematic approaches for sorting and prioritizing information in the complex environment of decision-making in the backcountry. Forty percent of the course is classroom based and the other sixty percent is field based. Participants will travel in the backcountry, in and around avalanche terrain.

This course focuses on the following:

- Basic avalanche terminology
- Recognizing avalanche terrain
- Travel procedures in avalanche terrain
- Formation of the mountain snowpack
- How weather changes the snowpack
- Human factors and how they can influence decision-making
- Interpreting the avalanche forecast and advisory
- Tour planning
- Avalanche transceiver use and rescue skills
- Field observations of terrain, snowpack, and weather
- Use and interpretation of stability tests
- Implementing systems for prioritizing information, working as a team
- Classroom decision-making scenarios to practice use of the checklist
- Next steps

RECOMMENDED READING

- Snow Sense, Jill Fredston & Doug Fesler
- Staying Alive in Avalanche Terrain, Bruce Tremper
- Avalanche Essentials, Bruce Tremper

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

What is included:

1. Professional instruction
2. Course workbooks
3. Classroom and field instruction
4. Lift tickets (unless otherwise noted), if the course is operating out of a ski area

What is not included:

1. Transportation to and from the trailhead or ski area
2. Personal gear
3. Avalanche rescue gear
4. Food

TO REGISTER: Please contact Forest Dean (406-240-7612 mtnear1@gmail.com). Payment (\$225) required to guarantee your spot.

COURSE LIMIT: 12 participants (Currently 6 spots still available)

Merchandise

Beanies and Baseball (Trucker) hats have been ordered and will be available for purchase soon (\$20). We are also going to be placing an order for **Long Sleeve Performance Hoody's** (\$30). If you are interested in getting in on the order, please let us know ASAP!!!

Color Options:

- Black
- Aluminum (light silver gray)
- Aqua blue (light soft turquoise almost)
- Mint green (very light soft green)
- Pale Yellow (very light soft yellow)

Sizes: XS, S, M, L, XL (All in mens sizing)

Contact Susanna with questions or to place an order: susannagirolamo@gmail.com

Business Meetings

The next quarterly business meeting will take place on Monday, December 3rd. All members are very welcome (and encouraged) to attend! Please consider joining us and assisting with the direction of your club.

- 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. (and yes, we can drink beer while we meet!)

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