



The Mountain Ear
December 2023

President's Message

Happy Holidays!

Its that time of the year again...brown grass and valley inversions! As I write this, that's what I am looking at outside. Doesn't seem that the Pray for Snow Party back in October worked very well. It'll come...right? I know most of us are hoping so. I honestly haven't even given my skis much thought yet as the conditions have been so uninspiring. Maybe this is setting us up for a late winter and great spring skiing?

I always just like to roll with what kind of conditions are presented to me. While the skiing is pretty poor right now, the ice climbing and hiking and trail running ain't too bad! Hope you are all finding your ways to get out and enjoy the mountains and hoping this club can help you with that if not.

Trying to be a resource for getting folks in the mountains to participate in mountain recreation is really what we are all about. Getting into new sports or activities can be intimidating and also expensive. TRM can help with both! Participating in one of our trips, education events, roundtables or presentations can increase your confidence and help you learn more about how to safely have fun in the high country. And now, we can also help you with the cost element with the establishment of our long sought-after GEAR CLOSET! Due to the generosity of a number of donors during our spring "Missoula Gives" fundraiser, we have been able to get started on this. Members will be able to reserve and borrow gear through this program. Check out the article below for more information.

If you are looking for further inspiration to fend off the lack-of-snow doldrums, be sure to join us on Tuesday, December 12th for our monthly presentation. Local legend - Chris Gibisch - will be on hand to recount how he got started climbing rock, ice and mountains and how it has led to trips all over the world.

Finally, on the first weekend in January we will be hosting our fourth annual Winterfest! at the Lolo Pass area. This has been a pretty popular event these last few years. We'll have a few trips to choose from during the day, then congregate back at Lolo Hot Springs in the late afternoon for food and drinks around a bonfire. We WILL have snow by then, so plan to attend!

I hope you all have a fun December and a great holiday season, however you choose (or choose not) to celebrate it!

Forest Dean

"I just like to smile. Smiling's my favorite." – Buddy the Elf



The Rocky Mountaineers Gear Closet

For the last six years we have been mentioning a goal of establishing a "Gear Closet". Well folks, we've finally done it! Thanks to a number of folks who donated funds during the spring "Missoula Gives" fundraising event, we were able to raise \$2,050 to get the ball rolling. (A special thanks to Peter DiFurio for a VERY generous \$1000 contribution!) This past month we began making some gear purchases for YOU, our members, to use. Here is what we have so far:

- (2) CAMP X-Dream ice tools
- (1) CAMP Blade Runner ice climbing crampons
- (1) CAMP Ascent crampons
- (2) CAMP harnesses
- (2) CAMP helmets
- (1) Black Diamond- Raven Ice Axe (Mountaineering)
- (1) Mammut Barryvox Snow Safety Package (Beacon, Probe, Shovel)

We plan to add the following items as well: Black Diamond Firstlight 2P Tent, MSR Whisperlight Stove, Pickets, Ursack...and more! Additionally, a few folks have said they will be donating some gear. This is a great start and we are excited to be able to offer this to our membership!

We did attempt to continue the fundraising process this past Tuesday during the "Giving Tuesday" event. Unfortunately, we had problems with our donation tab on our website. If any of you attempted to donate but were unable (and you would still like to), we would love to achieve our original goal of \$3000 for the Gear Closet. We'll have more information at the presentation next week, as well in the next newsletter with a link to donate. Thanks for your continued support and your patience.

If you'd like to check any of this gear out for an upcoming outing, contact Forest Dean - mtnear1@gmail.com. There is no charge for member use, but we do require a credit/debit card number when you pick it up, in case of loss or non-return.

Presentations

All of our monthly presentations are held in The Spirit of Peace Community Center, located at 506 Toole Avenue, near downtown Missoula.. Presentations are held on the second Tuesday of each month from October - May. These Presentations are free and open to the public and they take place from 6-8 pm. We have snacks and beverages on hand (donation suggested), and you are also more than welcome to bring your own.



Chris Gibisch - Where it all Began - Tuesday December 12, 6-8pm

Little did I know, a simple community slideshow would drive my life in a direction I never imagined. Three friends and I left Missoula on a trip that would open my eyes to adventure and leave me with a hunger that I have yet to satisfy.

Born in Chicago Illinois, Chris moved to Montana in the fall of 1998 for academics, but just as importantly, the outdoors. An obsession with climbing, challenged this balance, but he eventually earned a degree in Forestry and later, in Respiratory Care. His pursuit of climbing started in North America, but eventually expanded to Europe, Africa, and Asia. The craving for the next expedition has him always daydreaming and training. When time provides, Chris can be found running around Montana, or quietly cranking out laps on the auto belays at Freestone.

Coming Up...

TBD - Tuesday, January 9, 6-8pm

Darcy Chenoweth - Tuesday, February 13, 6-8pm

Aerie Medicine - Tuesday, March 12, 6-8pm

TBD - Tuesday, April 9, 6-8pm

TBD - Tuesday, May 14, 6-8pm



Avalanche Skills Practice Day - Saturday December 16

Before the ski season really kicks into high gear, why not get out and practice those rusty Avalanche skills? Bring along your beacon, probe and shovel (and hopefully ski's/splitboard) for a day of practice. Will need to wait until the time gets closer to determine the best location. Hopefully we can dig some pits. We'll bury a transceiver and take turns doing beacon searches. And, perhaps if we are lucky, even ski a lap or two.

Bring your gear and plenty of warm layers along with food and drink. Leader: Forest Dean- mtnear1@gmail.com



Skin and Wax Party - Tuesday, December 5 @ 6:30

Get ready for ski season by getting your skins re-glued and waxing your ski's. AT ski's or XC ski's are welcome to participate. Bring your ski wax, skins, skin glue, an iron and extension cord, and parchment paper. There will be folks on hand to help with instruction. Bring something to drink; we'll provide some snacks. Location: Tom Statz's house (lower Rattlesnake-contact for directions-tom.statz@gmail.com).

Winterfest 2024!

Mark your calendar for Saturday, January 6th for our fourth annual "Winterfest!" at the Lolo Pass area! We will offer a slew of trips that day: backcountry and XC skiing, snowshoeing, beacon park practice, hot springing. In the evening we will gather at Lolo Hot Springs. We will have a party with a bonfire and food, drink and SPECIAL GIFT!

TRM Membership is required for this event and for the trips. Not a

member? [Join now!](#)

Some food and snacks will be provided. Feel free to bring your own and/or something to share as well. Beer will be provided courtesy of Big Sky Brewing Company.

Check our [website](#) for trip listings and event details. Some of our trips so far include: Lolo Pass beacon park practice, Lolo Pass XC ski trips, Lolo Pass Crystal Amp BC ski tours, Lolo Hot Springs snowshoe trip.

Accommodations are available at

Lolo Hot Springs, call 406-273-2297
For RV And Cabins 406-273-2294
(Winter Tent and RV hookups)
Lochsa Lodge in Idaho 208-942-3405

OR, Camp in your vehicle or tent!

To let us know you are coming, contact Elizabeth Moore: heyartemisoutside@gmail.com

GILD Pint Night - Monday, February 19

Please join us for a GILD Pint Night in February. We will have more information as time gets closer, but save the date! You don't want to miss out on Mountain Trivia!

New Cabin Reservation Calendar

In the past we have listed cabin reservations on our main Activities Calendar on our website. We have now moved the cabin reservations to their own separate calendar: [Cabin Reservation Calendar](#) . If you would like to reserve a night or nights at the TRM Cabin, email Forest Dean at mtnear1@gmail.com.

Upcoming Trips and Activities

Community - **Skin & Wax Party** - Tues, Dec. 5

Ice Climbing - **Bozeman Ice Festival** - Thur-Sun, Dec 7-10
Hike/XC Ski - **Lolo Pass** - Sun, Dec 10
Monthly Presentation - **Chris Gibisch** - Tues, Dec. 12
Field Day - **Avalanche Skills Practice Day** - Sat, Dec. 16
Bike Fun! - **Annual Birthday Ride** - Mon, Dec. 18
Community - **Quarterly Business Meeting** - Tues. Dec. 19
BC Ski- **Ward Mountain**- Fri, Dec 22
Various- **Winterfest!**- Sat, Jan 6
Monthly Presentation - **TBD** - Tues, Jan. 9
Winter Climb - **Granite Peak (Beartooths)** - Fri-Weds, Jan 19-24
BC Ski/Board - **TRM Cabin Ski Weekend** - Fri-Sun, Feb. 2-4
Community - **GILD Pint Night & Mountain Trivia** - Mon, Feb. 19
Please visit our website for details on these trips!!

Quarterly Business Meeting

The next quarterly business meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 19th from 6:00-8:00pm. As always, we welcome all members to come and take part! Contact Forest Dean at mtnear1@gmail.com for meeting location.

TRM Merchandise

We have merchandise for sale and available for purchase at our presentations, quarterly business meetings, the Spring picnic, etc. Please contact Elizabeth Moore if you'd like to purchase something for a local pickup.



Beanie \$25



Pint Glass \$10



Keychain \$5



T-Shirt \$20



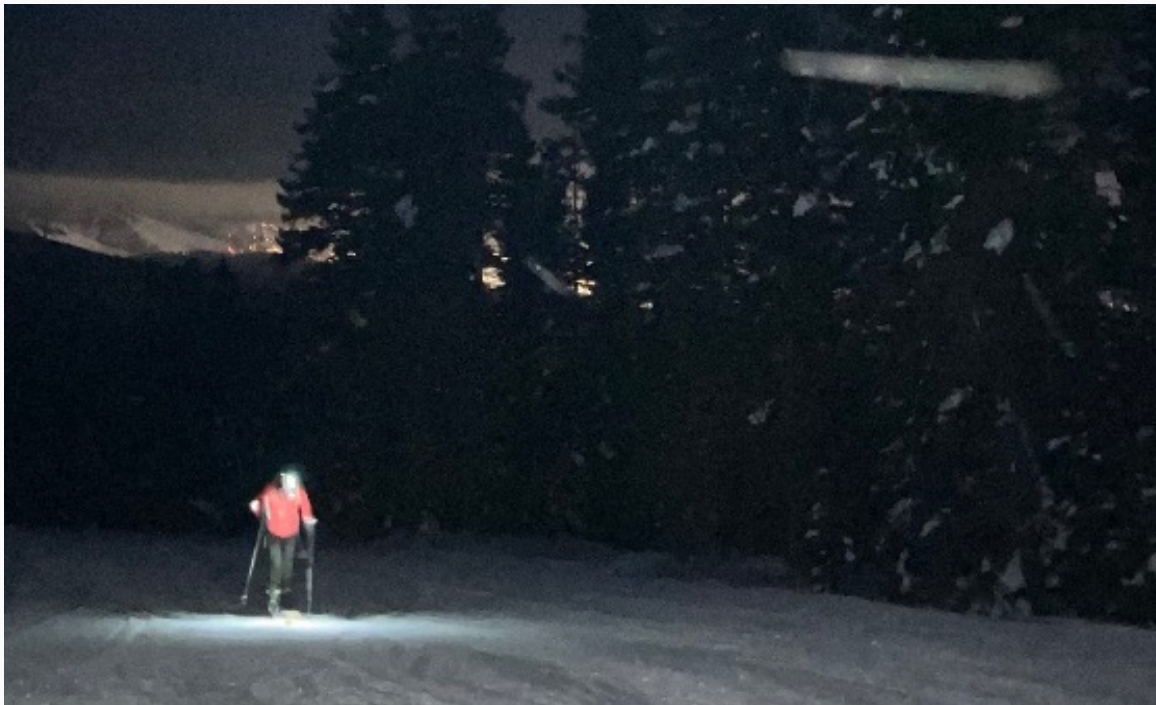
Baseball Cap \$20



Buff \$10

Trip Reports

All reports from club trips can be found on our [website](#). Check it out. Reports are now easier to locate thanks to the diligent work of Alden Wright.



Twilight Ski Tuesdays

Starting on January 16th, join us for Twilight Ski Tuesdays! Go as fast and far as you want-Tuesday BC ski conditioning night. Each week we meet (at the overflow lot before entering Snowbowl) and start skinning up towards Paradise run at 6:00pm. All abilities and speeds are welcome. The faster folks go usually

go to the summit (top of LaVelle chair), then transition and ski back down, intercepting any folks who don't want to push all the way to the top. It's a good midweek workout!

Bring a headlamp and helmet. Contact Forest- mtnear1@gmail.com for more details, and watch for the FB and IG posts each week the day or two prior.



Wear Your TRM Gear!

Please send in photos of you doing your thing while sporting the logo of your favorite Mountaineering Club!! heyartemisoutside@gmail.com

Pictured above is TRM Member Dori Gilels with her sister Emily in New York City on Thanksgiving. They ran around the circumference of Central Park (10k) to celebrate the holiday!

Ongoing Call for Photos and Videos

It's fun to see what fun our members are getting up to! There is always a need for new photos and videos for our presentation and sponsor videos and for our newsletter. Email Elizabeth at heyartemisoutside@gmail.com or upload to this google photo/video link: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/qDyWdiRwdixKZvNcA>

Club Officers

President- Forest Dean

Vice President – Mark Albrecht

Secretary- Candy Hartman

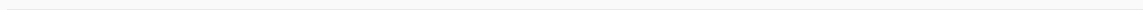
Treasurer- Tom Statz

Website- Alden Wright

Archivist- Julie Kahl

At-Large Board Member – Laurel Vielle

Newsletter Editor / Social Media – Elizabeth Smith Moore





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