



## **The Mountain Ear**

October 2023

### **President's Message**

Happy October,

Just like that, another month passes by. Seems hard to believe that its October already. Maybe it's the recent cool, moist weather, but it seems the seasons really switched quick. Time to get excited about skiing, ice climbing and all those other fun snowy adventures!

Speaking of skiing, as most of you know, our club maintains a winter-use cabin up on the flanks of Little St. Joseph Peak in the Bitterroots. This coming Saturday (October 7th ) we are going to be making our annual trip up there to

get it ready for members to use this winter. If you would like to join in the fun please do so. Contact info is below.

We have some upcoming educational opportunities that we would encourage you to join whether you are a novice or a seasoned pro. A couple of these will be roundtable events (Backcountry Skiing and Ice Climbing) and then a "Skin and Wax Party" where we will help anyone needing to reglue skins and/or wax ski's. All of these will be great fun so come and participate!

I am excited about our upcoming monthly presentations too! Sarah Kilbourne will be talking about the budding sport of Packrafting next week. A Montana climbing legend, Dougal McCarty will be on hand for November. And local world-class rock, ice and alpine climber- Chris Gibisch will entertain us in December with stories of his climbs near and far. Hopefully you make plans to join us for all of these!

As always, I encourage each and every one of our members to get involved with your club in some way. Get out on a trip, come to one of our roundtables, attend a presentation, go stay at our cabin, make plans to attend (or help!) with Winterfest. Reach out to me or any of our officers with questions, comments, ideas. We welcome your participation!

Sincerely,  
Forest Dean

*"Mountains are not stadiums where I satisfy my ambition to achieve, they are the cathedrals where I practice my religion." – Anatoli Boukreev*

### **Achievement Awards**

The Rocky Mountaineers annually recognize any current club member who has

completed one or more of the [several peak lists](#) listed on our website. The folks who received an achievement award this year at our "Welcome Back Party" are as follows:

**Stefan Kolis**, Rattlesnake Peaks

**Corey Hinshaw**, Rattlesnake Peaks

**Elizabeth Moore**, Missoula Horizon Peaks

**Mark Albrecht**, Missoula Horizon Peaks

**Forest Dean**, Missoula Horizon Peaks

**Forest Dean**, Mission Mountains over 8500'

Perhaps you have finished one of these lists and don't even know it! Or you are close? Get after it- next round of awards will be given out next September!

### **Great Burn Trailwork Weekend**

Dates: September 14-17, 2023

Participants: Tom Statz, Forest Dean, Elizabeth Moore, Ryan Gregson, Jennifer Gregson, Jim Semmelroth

This was year number two for TRM volunteering to help clear a much obliterated trail in the Great Burn proposed Wilderness. We got started on this project last year as a way of "giving back" to the local trails that most of us love to recreate on. We partnered once again with the Great Burn Conservation Alliance. They provided leadership, personnel, tools and meals. It was a fun weekend and progress was not easy but it was made! The Cedar Peak Trail was ravaged by the 2015 fire that burned a big chunk of this area. Lots of dead snags that are not falling over the trail when windstorms hit the area. The area is also in its first stages of natural recovery which means certain plants are taking over the area that was once a trail corridor up the side of the mountain. We cleared trail and brush for three days and got plenty tired but it was wonderful to see the progress we had made.

In addition to the six TRM members listed above, we were joined by three other volunteers. Two folks from the GBCA organized everything, ran the chainsaws, and did the (excellent) cooking. One Ninemile FS employee joined us on Thursday and Friday as well. So, all in all it was a good strong crew! We all camped in a nice cedar grove about three miles from the Clearwater Crossing trailhead.

We will continue to offer our support for this clearing project over the next few years. Hopefully more of you will be curious as to how much fun trail work is and will want to join the effort! I say this with a sly smile on my face, but in reality it really is fun. Be on the lookout for dates in 2024! *Forest Dean*

### **Cabin Workday**

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 at the Overlook trailhead. Distance to cabin is about 1.5 miles and gains about 1200'. If you'd like to help out, please contact Forest Dean with your availability and any resources (chainsaws/tools) you may have access to.

### **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.

### **Sarah Kilbourne - Packrafting - Tuesday, October 11, 6-8pm**

Join us for an informative session on packrafting! Packrafts are inflatable rafts that can be carried in a pack to cross lakes or rivers and/or to descend rivers and creeks. They can be used as a tool to extend backcountry expeditions and turn those meandering blue lines on a map into possibilities for exploration. Packrafting opens up a world of exciting opportunities, for both seasoned backcountry adventurers and novices alike. Sarah Kilbourne, Executive Director of the [American Packrafting Association](#), will share her experiences with packrafting, including equipment essentials, safety tips and how to plan a packrafting adventure. Join us Tuesday October 10th at 6 PM to learn more about the world of packrafting!

Sarah was first introduced to packrafting in 2019, while working as a wilderness guide for Kennicott Wilderness Guides in Alaska. Packrafting was Sarah's intro to the river running world and she quickly fell in love with packrafting. When the pandemic put a hold on her seasonal lifestyle in 2020, Sarah moved to Missoula and discovered it is a pretty great place to live for someone who likes whitewater. Today, Sarah works as the Operations Manager for [Swiftwater Safety Institute](#), as well as the part-time Executive Director for the [American Packrafting Association](#).

### **Dougal McCarty - Tuesday, November 14, 6-8pm**

After flunking out of college his first semester at Montana State University, Dougal eventually received a geology BA and MS from the University of Montana, and a PhD in geology from Dartmouth in 1993 with a specialty in clay mineralogy. He received The Clay Minerals Society mid-career scientist award for scholarly research in 2011 and was the Society's president in 2017-2018. In between, Dougal worked as a ski patrolman and avalanche forecaster in the Rocky Mountain west and Alaska, and always kept a hand and foot in the climbing world. Dougal grew up in Bozeman and tied in with Montana legends

Gray Thompson and Pat Callis while he was still in high school. The day after graduating from Bozeman High in 1972, he and fellow Bozemanite Brian Leo hitched hiked and hopped a freight train to Seattle where they met up with Fred Beckey to spend the summer driving and climbing from the Cascades to the Canadian Rockies. This was the first of many Beckey adventures. His show intends to reveal some of Montana's early modern climbing culture, and related travels.

**Chris Gibisch - Tuesday, December 12, 6-8pm**

Chris is a very accomplished alpinist with a resume that includes climbs from all over the world. Not to be missed! More information coming soon...

**Upcoming Educational Events**

**Backcountry Skiing Roundtable - Tuesday October 24th - 6:30-8**

Join us for this roundtable event to discuss all things related to backcountry skiing! We will discuss how to get started, basic gear needed, snow safety, and where to go around western Montana. This is not intended as a "lecture", but rather an open forum where folks of all abilities can learn and/or share what they know. Whether you have never made a turn or you've been skiing for 50 years, please consider coming and participating! This event is open to everyone, member or not.

Event will run from 6:30-8:00pm. Big Sky Brewing Company, Second Floor conference room. Walk in, grab a beverage (if desired) and head on up the stairs.

**All About Ice Climbing - Monday, November 20 - 6:30-8**

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!

Event will run from 6:30-8:00pm. Big Sky Brewing Company, Second Floor conference room. Walk in, grab a beverage (if desired) and head on up the stairs.

### **Skin and Wax Party**

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). Time: 6:30pm

### **Bozeman Ice Festival**

Every year a contingent of club members heads over to Bozeman for this amazing ice climbing festival. Whether you go every year, or have never touched an ice tool, there is something for everyone. The clinics are top notch and led by some of the “who’s who” in the mountaineering world. (Clinic registration opened on October 1- most clinics sold out within a few minutes but there are a few spots still available if interested). The camaraderie is perhaps even better- swinging tools in the magnificent “House of Hyalite” during the day, warm drinks around a campfire at the trailhead after, and then gathering at the Emerson downtown in the evening for craft beer, gear rentals, swag raffles and great movies and presentations in the auditorium.

If you would like to join in on the fun, let us know! There will be a group of us climbing each day. Would be happy to help facilitate carpooling and lodging options as well.

Contact: Forest Dean- [mtnear1@gmail.com](mailto:mtnear1@gmail.com)

BIF link: [www.bozemanicefest.com](http://www.bozemanicefest.com)

### **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](mailto:mtnear1@gmail.com).

### **Upcoming Trips and Activities**

Scramble – **Castle Crag** – Sat, Oct 7

Cabin- **TRM Cabin Workday & Party** - Sat, Oct 7

Scramble- **Lolo Peak to Sweeney Peak Traverse**- Sun, Oct 8

Hike- **Stinkwater Creek** - Sun, Oct 15

Scramble- **Union Peak (Swans)**- Sat. Oct. 21

Roundtable- **Backcountry Skiing**- Tues, Oct 24

Roundtable- **All About Ice Climbing**- Mon, Nov. 20

Ice Climbing- **Hyalite Canyon**- Fri-Sun, Nov 24-26

Hike/XC Ski- **Lolo Pass**- Sun., Nov. 26

Field Day- **Avalanche Skills Practice Day**- Sat, Dec. 2

Ice Climbing- **Bozeman Ice Festival**- Thur-Sun, Dec 7-10

Hike/XC Ski- **Lolo Pass**- Sun, Dec 10

BC Ski- **Ward Mountain**- Fri, Dec 22

Various- **Winterfest!**- Sat, Jan 6

*Please visit our website for details on these trips!!*



### **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.

### **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**



**The Rocky Mountaineers**

**Quarterly Business Meeting Minutes**

**09/19/2023**

**Location of Meeting:** 1330 Harrison Ave, Missoula MT

**Present at Meeting:** Elizabeth Moore, President Forest Dean, Vice President Mark Albrecht, Treasurer Tom Statz, Secretary Candy Hartman, Website Administrator Alden Wright, Archivist Julie Kahl, Bruce Ammons

I.Meeting was called to order by President Forest Dean at 6:07 pm.

II.Accept minutes from last meeting May 23, 2023

a.Julie made motion to approve minutes

b.Mark seconded

c.Motion passed, minutes approved

### III. Treasurer Report

a. \$68 in Petty Cash, \$1300.14 in Saving, \$547.81 in Checking, \$2743.38 in US Bank for total of \$4659.33

b. Tom will need an email address for insurance

### IV. Website Report

a. Problems with payment account for Run Signup

1. It would save money and is a better set up than what we are currently using

2. Alden will pursue it further. It will simplify management.

b. Gave up on Goggle workspace but it would be good to have the website not tied to an individual account. Will find another method.

c. Alden will make sure Frank has what he needs to work on the website.

d. We want to make sure a Thank You email confirmation goes out when members sign up and Run Signup can do auto renew.

e. Elizabeth is willing to take care of sending out the newsletter.

### V. Fund Raising

a. Giving Tuesday – Elizabeth will check into it

b. Gear Closet – Forest is working on it and has a list of desired equipment.

1. His is working on a pro deal.

2. Elizabeth will work on a letter to a few companies concerning pro deals.

3. A decision must be made on the checkout process.

4. A sub-committee will work on this.

c. We haven't heard from Hoka

d. Guild – Candy will check on progress of pint night and check other locations

e. A fund raising option would be to have a business make a donation if someone refers a new customer to the business.

### VI. Cabin Status – October 7 workday

- a. BBQ at trailhead, Forest is organizing
- b. Forest will work on a calendar just for cabin reservations

#### VII. Trips and Events

- a. Kercher Classic – went well
  - 1. May have people book directly through the campground next year
  - 2. Will work on new ideas for next year
- b. Great Burn – Had a good turnout and made progress but still a lot of work, will plan to do it next year.
- c. Winterfest – January 6
- d. Winter Conditioning – Elizabeth will send email to set up October, days will rotate with the trip leader deciding on which night of the week it will be on.
- e. Classic Series – Forest will send out email for trip leaders to sign up
- f. Pray for Snow party – not going to have a table.
- g. Ski and Wax Party – December 5 location TBD

#### VIII. Presentations

- a. We hope the first three are covered.
- b. Possible stipend for speakers.
- c. Need to fill 5 more spots.
- d. We may need a backup projector – Forest and Mark will research this.

#### IX. Education and Roundtables

- a. Elizabeth will do Women's Specific, Mark will do Navigation, Candy will check into a First Aid class, dates TBD
- b. Open to more field ideas.

#### X. Annual Trip Leader Meeting – will be set in December

#### XI. Trail Partners Meeting – Tom and Candy will try to attend

#### XII. Merchandise

- a. Inventory is decreasing

b.Forest will look for winter beanies

c.Elizabeth will add a “seen around town” section to the newsletter

XIII.Next Quarterly Business Meeting will be December 19, 2023

XIV.Meeting Adjourn

a.Candy made motion to adjourn

b.Julie seconded

c.Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm



**THE ROCKY  
MOUNTAINEER**