

The Mountain Ear

February 2023

President's Message

Has anyone else been inspired by the recent snowstorm and frigid temperatures? With the warmer weather around the first of the year I was worried there would be very little ice to climb and snow to ski, but this has reinvigorated winter, for sure.

Thanks to all participants and volunteers who made our third annual Winterfest at Lolo Pass possible last month. The conditions were just right for skiing and snowshoeing and the bonfire at the end with some munchies and community was wonderful.

On Monday, February 13th we have a "Backcountry Skiing" Round Table at Big Sky Brewing Company. Our Round table events are not designed to be a formal educational setting but a place to share knowledge and information. So, we invite all to attend, both those who are curious about the sport as well as the decades-long backcountry ski veteran.

Our February Presentation has been cancelled for this month, as it falls on Valentine's Day this year.

I hope you will consider joining an upcoming trip, roundtable or practice day. Check out our calendar for more details.

"You are not in the mountains. The mountains are in you." - John Muir

See you outside,
Elizabeth

Upcoming Monthly Presentations

March- Forest Dean- Climbing the Bitterroot Mountain Peaks

April- Hayley Newman- All About the Great Burn Wilderness

May- Chris Gibisch

Beginner Backcountry Skiing- Wednesday- February 8

New to backcountry skiing? Did Santa bring you new equipment? Come to Marshall mountain to become familiar with it. We will be in the base area at 5:00 pm. There is a beginner hill to get used to the technique of skinning and transitioning. Once comfortable there are several other options, each one a bit more challenging. All abilities are welcome and we can share knowledge and learn together. Advanced skiers are also welcome to offer advice or ski on your own. We will be in the area from 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm, meet at the gate leading onto the slopes. Bring a headlamp!

Leader: Candy Hartman- candyhart2005@hotmail.com

Wednesday Rattlesnake XC Ski Outings

Meet at 3:30 pm for a group ski in the Rattlesnake. There are multiple possible routes. All abilities welcome. Meet at the main Rattlesnake Trailhead. Look for Alden Wright in an orange shirt with a white beard. Contact him at the email below for updates..

Leader: Alden Wright alden@rockymountaineers.com

Winter Rando Wednesdays

Join us every Wednesday evening (6:00pm) for a headlamp ski tour up and down Snowbowl. Depending on attendance each time we can split group into faster and slower skiers, do multiple laps, etc. Go at your own pace- faster folks can go to top of LaVelle chair and intercept others on the way down. Gather in parking lot for a beer and snacks afterwards!

Leader: Forest Dean at: mtnear1@gmail.com

Gear needed: AT or Tele skis or split board, skins, poles. A helmet is a REAL good idea since you will be skiing in the dark! Oh, and a good headlamp, of course.

Backcountry Skiing Roundtable

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.

Questions? Contact Forest Dean- mtnear1@gmail.com

Companion Rescue Practice Course

This will be a two day session to learn and practice companion rescue as it pertains to technical climbing. Exact details and locations are yet to be determined, but we will try to do a Friday evening session indoors or at a local outdoors spot, followed by an all day outdoor session on Saturday (on rock). A basic understanding of climbing gear, knots and anchors will be a valuable prerequisite for participants.

Organizers: Forest Dean- mtnear1@gmail.com, Elizabeth Moore- ebeth@ebethphoto.com

Snow Climbing and Glacier Travel Practice Field Days

This two day program is for beginner and experienced climbers alike. We will spend Friday evening at a local Missoula park practicing crevasse rescue techniques, then head up to the Snowbowl area on Saturday morning to spend the day practicing all things related to snow climbing and glacier travel.

Please note that this is not an "instruction" clinic. The leader is not a trained guide or certified instructor. We will, however, be happy to share what we know and what we have learned from experience (and will encourage other participants to do the same). Primarily, we will be practicing all the fundamentals. Previous climbing experience is not required. Participants should, however, be in good physical condition; and have some backpacking or scrambling experience.

Group Size Limit: 8

Location: Friday evening- local Missoula park. Saturday- Snowbowl area backcountry

Organizer: Forest Dean, mtnear1@gmail.com

Membership Survey

In the last two newsletters we reached out to all of you with a request to fill out a very brief survey. Thank you to those of you who took the time to do so. We would really like more of you to participate though, so here is another chance to do so. We are always looking for ways to provide activities and learning opportunities for you, our members. Please let us know what you would like to get out of this club. Your participation is SINCERELY appreciated!

Survey: [Click Here](#)

Thanks everyone!

Upcoming Trips and Activities

Ice Climb- **Mission Falls (Missions)**- Sat, Feb 4

BC Ski- **Beginner Backcountry Skiing**- Weds, Feb 8 and 15

XC Ski- **Rattlesnake Ski**- Each Weds afternoon

BC Ski- **Snowbowl Ski**- Each Weds evening

XC Ski- **Pack Creek XC Ski**- Sun, Feb 12

Roundtable- **Backcountry Skiing Basics**- Mon, Feb 13

BC Ski- **Gash Point (Bitterroots)**- Sun, Feb 19

BC Ski- **TRM Cabin Weekend**- Fri-Sun, March 10-12

Climb/Ski- **Cold Peak (Missions)**- Sat-Sun, March 18-19

Education- **Companion Rescue Practice**- Fri-Sat, Mar 31-Apr 1

Roundtable- **Snow Climbing & Glacier Travel**- Weds, Apr 12

Education- **Snow Climbing & Glacier Travel Practice**- Fri-Sat, Apr 14-15

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

www.rockymountaineers.com

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.

rockymountaineers.com/tripreports

2022 Annual Financial Report

Below is our annual financial report. Please let us know if you would like more information or details on any part of this.

Expense Type	Amount
Administrative	\$ 1,178.38
Cabin	\$ 790.05
Events	\$ 1,939.39
Merchandise	\$ 751.01
Presentations	\$ 547.50
Web-related	\$ 1,080.72
Total	\$ 6,287.05
<i>Incoming funds</i>	\$ 7,897.91
2022 Net revenue	\$ 1,610.86

Cost Category details:

Administrative: PO Box; Annual report filing with MT Secretary of State; Director and Officers Insurance; Stripe fees

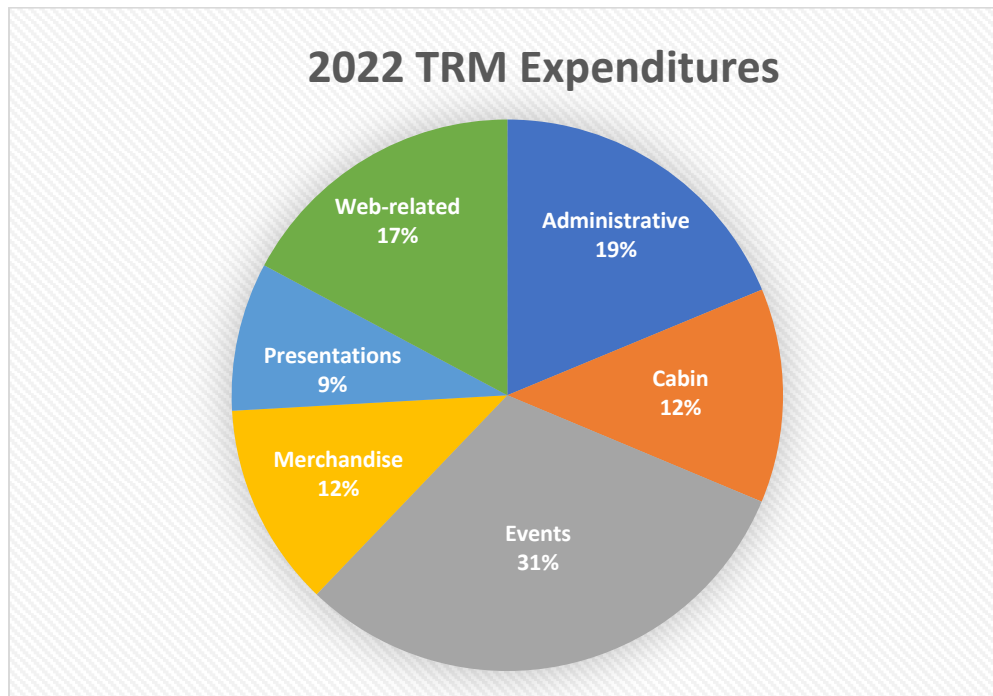
Cabin: Insurance; USFS special use fee; cabin stove

Events: Venue rental; Supplies, refreshments, and prizes; Kercher Glacier Classic Campsite

Merchandise: Pint glasses and beanies

Presentations: Venue rental; refreshments and supplies

Web-related: Website hosting and website commerce



Club Officers

President- Elizabeth Moore

Vice President/Safety Officer- Casey Lammers

Secretary- Tom Statz

Treasurer- Chris Soriano

Website- Alden Wright

Archivist- Julie Kahl

Newsletter/Trip Coordinator- Forest Dean