

# The Mountain Ear

November 2019

## President's Message

Well, it sure feels like winter is taking its grip, especially up in the mountains. Whether we're ready or not! This is my favorite season to be in the mountains as the added feature of snow allows me to make my own way without the hassle of bushwhacking. We have so many upcoming events this season too! Be sure to come to our next presentation at Imagine Nation to feed the stoke for ski season. Ice season is off to a great start and the Bozeman Ice Climbing Festival is coming up fast. Although the clinics are surely full at this point, many of us will just be climbing as a club. Take advantage of the rental gear at the event and join us. Check out the round table discussions on the calendar that will cover ice climbing and ski touring. And if you haven't taken Avy I, be sure to sign up for the February course offered through the club. Additionally, keep your eye on the club calendar as it will be filling in with back country ski touring trips!

See you on the skin track!

-Joshua Phillips

TRM President

## November Presentation

**Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> - IMAGINE NATION BREWING- 6:00-8:00pm**

**Ian Magruder** will be presenting two self-made videos about ski trips, one following the crest of Montana's Beaverhead Range and a second about completing the famous Bugaboo to Rogers Pass Ski Traverse in British Columbia, first done by Bill Briggs the godfather of North American ski mountaineering. He will present on the trips logistics, general musings about outdoor life, and the splendor we share living in this part of the world.

Ian is an avid skier from Missoula. On-the-clock he's a crack-pot scientist - who works in water resource engineering. In his off-time he heads for the hills. Winters spent in the Alps and British Columbia exposed him to the culture of ski mountaineering and long distance ski traverses. His trips in Montana have included extended ski traverses of the Bitterroots, Beartooths, Beaverheads, Missions, Glacier, and an extended outing from Ovando to Waterton, Alberta. Most of all he is working on learning respect for the hazards of the mountains, safe traveling, and the limits of his own risk acceptance.

*Looking Ahead:*

December- Avalanche Awareness- **Presented by: West Central MT Avy Center**

January- Alaskan and Canadian climbs in the era of no communications: Robson,  
Fairweather, Lucania, Steele and others- **Steven Gaskill**

February- Topic TBA- **Leah Samberg**

### TRM Cabin Workday

Thank you to everyone who helped out with our annual cabin workday on October 5<sup>th</sup>! We had a solid crew of 15. We did the standard tasks of cutting, splitting and stacking firewood for the winter and cleaning up the interior. This year we also decided to do a few additional improvements. We lowered the rear upper sleeping platform to allow for two sleepers. We also built a sleeping platform under the food prep area. The cabin can now sleep 8 people somewhat comfortably (9 in a pinch!). The outhouse also got a bit of attention as we leveled it up and installed some extra metal roofing over it. Afterwards we had a nice cookout at the trailhead! Yay, ski season!

### Upcoming Trips and Activities

Roundtable- **All About Ice Climbing**- Mon, Nov 18

Ice Climbing- **Hyalite or Glacier**- Sat-Sun, Nov 23-24

Roundtable- **Multiday Ski Touring**- Tues, Dec 3

BC Skiing- **Intro/Back to Backcountry Skiing**- Sat, Dec 7

Ice Climbing- **Bozeman Ice Festival**- Wed-Sun, Dec 11-15

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

[www.rockymountaineers.com](http://www.rockymountaineers.com)

### Education- Roundtable Chats!

We have two "roundtables" scheduled in the next several weeks. These events will be held at the second floor conference room at **Big Sky Brewing Company from 6:30-8:00pm**.

What is a TRM "roundtable"? Basically, we sit around a table and have a moderated discussion on a specific topic (Ice Climbing and Backcountry Skiing, for example); we will talk about necessary skills, gear, fitness and anything else that pertains to the topic. It isn't a lecture. Everyone is encouraged to participate. New to the sport? Come and learn. Lots of experience? Come and share! (and we can drink beer while we chat!)

**ALL ABOUT ICE CLIMBING**- Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup>

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! 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!

**MULTIDAY SKI TOURING**- Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Combining backcountry ski touring and winter camping requires practice and planning. Skiing with a load on your back (or pulling a sled) creates challenges both physical and mental. Camping in the cold and dark of winter is not remotely similar to doing so in the summer and can be downright miserable. However, if done correctly and efficiently many not only enjoy wintertime trips, but actually prefer them! The purpose of this discussion will be to share some tips and tricks on making your overnight winter ski tours safe, fun and perhaps memorable. We will discuss gear, food, camping and travel requirements. Bring questions or bring tidbits of useful information you would like to share from your experiences.

### **Bozeman Ice Festival**

Every year a (growing) 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 hours 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)

### **Level 1 Avalanche Course- February 6-9, 2020**

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

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

Course Description

**Format:**

2 part classroom component + 2 day field component

**Date | Location:**

Thurs-Fri Evenings (2/6-2/7) Classroom Component | UM Campus

Sat-Sun- All Day (2/8-2/9) Field Component | Lolo Pass Backcountry

**Price:** Discounted TRM member rate- \$225.00

### ***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](mailto:mtnear1@gmail.com)). Payment (\$225) required to guarantee your spot.

COURSE LIMIT: 12 participants

### **Business Meetings**

The next quarterly business meeting will take place on **Wednesday, December 18**. All members are very welcome (and encouraged) to attend! Please consider joining us and assisting with the direction of your club.

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- Joshua Phillips

Vice President- John Bardsley

Secretary- Fintan Maguire

Treasurer- Susanna Phillips

Website- Alden Wright

Archivist- Julie Kahl

Newsletter and Past President- Forest Dean

## The Rocky Mountaineers Quarterly Business Meeting

Date: September 16, 2019    Location: Big Sky Brewery    Time 6-8 pm

Members present:

Joshua Phillips (JP) President

Jonathan Bardsley (JB) Vice-President

Susanna Girolamo (SG) Treasurer

Fintan Maguire (FM) Secretary

Forest Dean (FD)

Steve Hancock (SH)

JP stated that he wants the club to get 501c3 status and that we needed to get the new website online.

SG/Treasurer reported that the TRM bank account has \$4449.95 and the GMAR bank account \$2071.94

## **1-Monthly presentations**

No one is currently scheduled for the October presentation.

A few suggestions for the October presenter included Leah Samberg, Dexter Hale, Steve Gaskell.

SH suggested a presentation or discussion about actual climbing accidents involving club members. He said he could discuss his recent ice climbing accident.

It was agreed that the December presentation should be about avalanche awareness. FD said he would contact Missoula Avalanche regarding the presentation.

## **2-Roundtables**

A few of the topics we would like to discuss:

- Navigation basics and the electronic devices/apps that we use

- Avalanche rescue with a field component (Big Sky Beacon park)

- Ice climbing

- Intro to backcountry skiing roundtable and field day

SG suggested we advertise the roundtable discussions earlier so more people can attend.

## **3-Evening Socials**

We all agreed these are popular club activities and we should try to at least have an event every 3 months. FD said he would put an event on the calendar soon.

## **4-Avalanche Rescue Clinic**

FD said he will contact Missoula avalanche about organizing another class for TRM this winter.

## **5-Honary Memberships**

FD suggested we give honorary memberships to individuals that have given the club a lot of support.

He nominated Bjorn Nabozney of Big Sky Brewing and Robert/Fernanda Rivers of Imagine Nation Brewing

Everyone agreed this was a good idea and the motion was carried.

## **6-Glacier Classic wrap-up**

Everyone enjoyed the event and thought the new location was more suited to our growing annual event.

## **7-Trip Leader Bios on new website**

JP suggested we write rewrite our bios for the new website to help give club members more insight into the club leadership.

## **8-Cabin workday tasks**

The cabin workday is scheduled for October 5<sup>th</sup>.

FD suggested replacing the door, a new bed platform under the cooking table, and moving a loft lower. He suggested a social event following the work day.

SP said she would reach out to Paul Jensen who usually leads this annual event to ask for his advice.

### **9-Plan to change club status to 501c3**

JP said in order to qualify the club will likely need either a youth education or community service program. JP recommended we could maintain the trails up to the club cabin on Little St. Joe. Most likely we will need the assistance of a lawyer with changing the club's status.

### **10-Big Sky Brewery Concert Fundraiser wrap up**

This event was a great fundraiser for the club and we all agreed it would be great to do this annually. The amount raised was about \$2571 and FD said it would have been higher if it weren't for the thunderstorms.