

# The Mountain Ear

## December 2019

### President's Message

Gosh, it's been tough looking at social media and seeing all the great early season powder turns folks are getting in the Bridgers and down in the Wasatch Range. Hopefully we start getting some snow soon. Check out the club calendar, there are several ski tours posted throughout the winter months in hopeful anticipation of our coming snowpack. Speaking of snowpack, be sure to come to our next presentation! It's our annual Avalanche Awareness presentation offered to us by the West Central Montana Avalanche Center. And to learn even more, consider signing up for the Avy I clinic we're offering in February!

We've been working on getting our new website up and running over the last few months and it will roll out soon. We will send out a notification via email for when the website is live. It's been in beta testing mode for a week or so. Please be patient as we work out the inevitable kinks.

-Joshua Phillips

TRM President

### December Presentation

**Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> - IMAGINE NATION BREWING- 6:00-8:00pm**

### **Avalanche Awareness- Presented by: West Central MT Avalanche Center**

The avalanche educators/forecasters from the West Central MT Avalanche Center will deliver this month's presentation. This will be an introduction on how avalanches happen, what they look like, and how to avoid them. Through video footage, photos and engaging dialog, you will learn about why you should be aware, and how to be prepared when you travel in the backcountry. We'll talk about gear, terrain, snowpack and more!

The avalanche awareness presentation is designed for both current and aspiring backcountry travelers.

Topics Covered:

Types of Avalanches - Avalanche Terrain - Snowpack Types - Weather Considerations - Avalanche Advisory Information - Trip Planning and Preparation - Travel Techniques - Education Opportunities

This presentation is open to anyone interested! Seating is limited and is first come, first served in the Community Room.

**Looking Ahead:**

January- *Alaskan and Canadian climbs -Robson, Fairweather, Lucania, Steele and others- **Steven Gaskill***  
February- *A Woman's Guide to Backcountry Skiing - **Leah Samberg***  
March - *Topic and Speaker TBA*  
April - *Nutrition for Mountain Athletes - **Jessie Thomas** (Sustainable Wellness)*

### Upcoming Trips and Activities

Roundtable- **Multiday Ski Touring-** Tues, Dec 3  
Ice Climbing- **Bozeman Ice Festival-** Wed-Sun, Dec 11-15  
XC Ski - **Location TBD** - Sun, Dec 15  
Snowshoe / Winter Hike - **Lubrecht** - Sun Dec 22  
**Holiday Party and Leadup Events - Imagine Nation Brewing** - Sat Dec 28

- Hike/Sledding- **Mt. Sentinel**
- Ski/Scramble- **Sweeney Peak (Bitterroots)**

BC Skiing- **Boulder/East Boulder Peaks (Bitterroots)-** Tue-Wed, Dec 31- Jan 1  
BC Skiing- **Stonewall Creek (Lincoln area)-** Sun, Jan 5  
Ice Climbing- **Location TBD-** Sun, Jan 5  
XC Ski - **Lolo Pass to Lee Creek** - Sun, Jan 5  
BC Skiing - **Backcountry Skiing Basics - Lolo Pass-** Sat, Jan 11  
BC Skiing- **TRM Cabin/Little St. Joseph Peak-** Fri-Sun, Jan 17-19  
XC Ski- **Lolo Pass to Pack Creek-** Sun, Feb 2  
BC Skiing- **Introductory Backcountry Skiing, Stonewall Creek-** Sat, Feb 22

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

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

### Education- Roundtable Chats!

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!

**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 - Wed-Sun, Dec 11-15**

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. 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 Theater 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. We 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)

### **Holiday Party And Leadup Events - Sat Dec 28 - Imagine Nation Brewing 6 pm**

We have a few trips offered which we hope to see a bunch of you take advantage of. And then to top off the day we will have our annual Holiday Party. Location: Imagine Nation Brewing in Missoula. We have the "Community Room" reserved beginning at 6:00pm (you can certainly show up earlier if desired). This will be a fun casual gathering: we'll get some pizza's and snacks. Whether you are out recreating on this day or not, we welcome all of our members to join us! (and, if you're not a member yet, we'll gladly sign you up at the party!) To RSVP, email Forest: [mtnear1@gmail.com](mailto:mtnear1@gmail.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, and there are spots still available.

#### **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.

### **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