

# The Mountain Ear

May 2020

## President's Message

With the Phase I of reopening from the pandemic, so comes the warmth of spring. I know we are all anxious to have our lives back to normal, but it looks like it is going to take some time. We are suspending large-group gatherings for the remainder of the presentation season but will start up small-group gatherings like round table discussions, clinics, and trips. Spring "corn harvest" is in full swing up in the snow-covered hills; the skiing has been marvelous. Keep a close eye on our calendar as distancing guidelines will dictate what we are able to follow through with. In the meantime, enjoy this glorious weather and be well!

-Joshua Phillips  
TRM President

## Membership Renewals

### **DUES NOTICE**

The Rocky Mountaineers annual membership runs from May 1 to April 30. If you have not yet renewed, we would really appreciate you taking the time NOW to do so. Thank you to those of you who have already done so! (If you have joined since January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, your membership will be good through April 30, 2021).

What are the benefits of membership?

- Ability to participate in any of our Trips!
- Ability to participate in our educational events or clinics
- Free use of our winter cabin on Little St. Joe
- Social events
- Attend the Glacier Classic!
- Monthly Newsletter
- Be a part of a group of like-minded outdoor recreation enthusiasts!

Annual dues:

- \$25 - Individual
- \$40 - Family
- \$15 - Student/Youth (under 23 years old)

NEW- How to renew: with our new website now up and running, the renewal process is a little different than in the past. Here's how to do it! Go to [rockymountaineers.com](http://rockymountaineers.com) and click on the "Join here or sign in" button. Choose the appropriate membership, and click on "add to cart" or "select options". If you are not already logged in, click on the "Returning customer? Click here to login" link, and login. Add your billing details and credit card information, and check out. Make sure that your cart includes only one membership.

If you are signing up for a family membership, you will be asked for a team name. Enter a team name---you might use your last name. When you are logged in, you will see a "Teams" tab. Here you can invite additional family members to join your team with their own e-mail. They will be able to login to the website and will have member privileges and receive e-mail from the club.

Thank you and please let us know if you have any questions!

### **Board of Director Elections**

The Rocky Mountaineers needs to elect officers for the 2020-2021 membership year. The current Board of Directors has nominated the following individuals to serve as officers for the coming year:

PRESIDENT- Joshua Phillips

VICE PRESIDENT- Fintan Maguire

SECRETARY- Elizabeth Moore

TREASURER- Susanna Phillips

Here are their biographies:

#### **Joshua Phillips: President**

*I have been serving as your President for the past year and have been nominated to serve as your President for the next one year term (which will conclude my term limit.) I have been playing in the mountains of Montana for the past 27 years and this club has been a large part of my mountain skills development.*

*Originally from Houston, Texas (don't hold that against me), I came to Missoula for college. After earning a degree in Geology, I decided to commit to doing what it took to stay in Missoula permanently. Through those years I've actively pursued rock climbing, ultralight backpacking, trail running, ski mountaineering, and most recently, free flight (paragliding and hang gliding).*

*Perhaps my biggest passion is for building friendships in the mountains. Several of my closest friendships were formed on Rocky Mountaineers trips. My desire is to see this club continue to grow in membership, inclusiveness, diversity, activity and remain a resource to the outdoor community long into the future.*

*Thank you for your consideration.*

Fintan Maguire: Vice President

*Fintan was born in Ireland but lived most of his life in Canada and the Western US. His wife Mary Ellen introduced him to backpacking after college and a few years later he also became interested in mountaineering. While living in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho he completed a very thorough introductory mountaineering course with the Spokane Mountaineers. He has climbed in the Cascades, the Canadian Rockies, Denali, and all over Montana. Besides mountaineering he also enjoys backcountry skiing, snowboarding, backpacking, ice climbing, and hunting.*

Elizabeth Moore: Secretary

*Hi there. I'm Elizabeth Moore. When I joined the Rocky Mountaineers in 2017, after years of solo adventure and training, I quickly realized I had found my tribe. I was born in Northern Maine to parents who prioritized time with their family in the outdoors. After college graduation, with about \$300 in my pocket, a friend and I set out on a road trip slated to last a month, but ended up being a lifetime, because I fell in love with the mountains. Like many Missoulians I love and participate in almost all the mountain sports, I can't pick just one!*

*I'm impressed with the Rocky Mountaineers' long rich 60-year history in Missoula and I'm excited about our future. I'd like to help in anyway I can to see our membership continue to grow, offer benefits to trip leaders and members and continue to be a place to mentor and encourage skills for safety and leadership in all sorts of Mountain sports.*

*Thank you for considering me for secretary.*

Susanna Girolamo Phillips: Treasurer

*I have been your Treasurer for the past three years and would love to continue to serve in this capacity.*

*I was born and raised in Switzerland, but I permanently moved away and have made*

*Missoula, Montana home since 2013 where the mountains and rural landscape remind me of my birthplace. Since moving to Missoula, I have enjoyed learning a variety of mountain skills.*

You are eligible to vote if you are a current member. Either you joined after January 1, 2020 or you have renewed. Directions for renewal are given at the beginning of this newsletter.

To vote in favor or against this slate of officers, take the survey at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5NBFCTX>  
May 10 will be the last day to vote.

### **May Presentation**

Due to the ongoing COVID situation, we have unfortunately had to cancel our May presentation. Jessie Thomas was due to present this month. Hopefully we will be able to get her to speak at one of our presentations next fall. We will start up again in September and we look forward to seeing you all for these special once-a-month events then!

### **Upcoming Trips and Activities**

Hike/Ski- **Ch-Paa-Qn Peak**- Sunday, May 10

Skills Training- **Snow Climbing & Glacier Travel**- Sat-Sun, May 16-17

Alpine Climb/Ski- **Lost River Range**- Fri-Mon, May 22-25 (Memorial Weekend)

Hike/Scramble- **Sweeney Peak (Bitterroots)**- Sunday, June 14

Hike/Scramble- **St. Joseph Peak (Bitterroots)**- Sunday, June 21

*With the current situation, our calendar is a little blank right now. Hopefully we will be getting things running again soon. Stay tuned and keep checking the calendar as we get through this thing!*

### **Education- Roundtable Chats!**

These events will be held at the second floor conference room at **Big Sky Brewing Company**. 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!

### **Snow Climbing & Glacier Travel Basics - Thursday, May 14 (6:30-8:00PM)**

This moderated talk will cover the basics of steep alpine snow climbing and glacier travel techniques as well as gear requirements. Perfect for those looking to move beyond mere summertime scrambles or those wanting to set their sights on big Cascade or Canadian peaks. Folks with experience are strongly encouraged to attend as well to share their ideas and experiences! This event will also be held in conjunction with a 2-day field day on the weekend.

### **The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Glacier Classic**

**Thursday, August 20- Sunday, August 23**

This year The Rocky Mountaineers signature event- The Glacier Classic- celebrates its 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary! We sincerely hope you will consider joining us for this long weekend of climbs, hikes and all around fun in Glacier National Park. As with the last three years, we will be basing our activities out of St. Mary on the east side. Our basecamp will be the Divide Creek Campground (same as last year). We are still in the planning stages for our trip offerings: we will have at least two trips on Friday, four on Saturday, and two on Sunday. Our goal is to have something for most ability levels. Stay tuned! And while the trips are the focal point of the weekend, the camaraderie enjoyed at the camp in the evenings is often just as fun and memorable. Whether it's your first time or your 16<sup>th</sup>, it's certain to be a blast!

We would like to accommodate all who wish to attend, so please register early to ensure we have an adequate number of campsites. You are certainly free to get your own campsite (or stay elsewhere) but still join us for the activities and socializing.

#### *Itinerary:*

**Thursday-** Those wishing to participate in one of the Friday trip offerings should arrive in St. Mary this evening.

**Friday-** We will have at least two trips today for those wanting a longer weekend. The rest of the participants will likely head up to St. Mary and arrive sometime Friday afternoon or evening. Bring your own food and drink for dinner this evening.

Around 8:00pm we will have the Saturday trip leaders announce their plans for the following day.

**Saturday-** Climbs and hikes during the day. In the evening we'll gather in camp for the infamous **Hanou Burrito** dinner! (bring your own drinks)

**Sunday-** More hikes and climbs for those interested, or head home whenever you desire.

### **Business Meetings**

The next quarterly business meeting will take place on **Tuesday, June 9th**. 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://rockymountaineers.com/trip-reports/>

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**

3/4/2020- 6:00pm- Big Sky Brewing Company conference room

**1) Members present**

Joshua Phillips-President

John Bardsley-Vice President

Susanna Girolamo-Treasurer

Fintan Maguire-Secretary

Forest Dean-past president

Kris Kahoon

Elizabeth Moore

Brent Maier

Steve Hancock

Alden Wright

## **2) Treasurer's Report**

TRM account \$4109.12      GMAR account \$2228.46

## **3) Monthly presentations**

March-Chris Dunn, Lhotse climb

April-Jessie Thomas, nutrition for the mountain athlete

May-no speaker planned yet

Elizabeth said she could help organize a presentation celebrating the Rocky Mountaineers history over last 60 years.

Next fall possible presentations could be Minot's trip to South America and Joshua's paragliding trip in Columbia.

The spring BBQ will occur on Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup> at Bonner Park. Susanna will reserve the group area

## **4) Website functionality**

We discussed the Sign In process and what info should be visible to the public and what info only members could see. Alden and John discussed how they can change the trip reports so that at the end of each one it says The Rocky Mountaineers instead of "John Bardsley". We discussed posting the GPS routes alongside the trip reports and whether this info would be open to the general public. It was decided to keep this info open to the public.

Steve suggested we advertise upcoming trips on the Facebook page in case people are unaware of our calendar on the website. John suggested we post links to the calendar on the Facebook page.

## **5) AVY 1 Clinic**

Forest received very positive feedback from the participants. We all agreed that we should repeat this event annually and possibly subsidize it to keep the costs affordable. We may also consider organizing a Level 2 AVY course.

We also discussed arranging a Wilderness First Aid course with AIRE. Forest said he could speak to Taylor Brugh (worked for Cascade Mountain Rescue) about teaching a weekend course on self-rescue skills and he may also contact Nadev Oakes of the Montana Mountaineering Association about giving a clinic. We also discussed subsidizing these clinics or making them free for frequent Trip leaders.

Joshua reported that the Navigation round table was well attended and productive. Other topics for future roundtables were discussed and may include members talking about accidents they had in the backcountry.

## **6) Path to 501c3**

Kris discussed how we will need to make sure we have a strong educational focus to qualify for this status. Some of the education needs to be available to the general public. He also stated that the Rocky Mountaineers need to file a 990 N tax form annually and we should have it done for 2018 and 2019.

## **7) Overall participation and strategies for continued involvement**

We discussed the cabin and its increasing popularity. John suggested on the calendar we post “3/6 full” for example, if only a party of 3 has reserved the cabin. Hopefully this will allow the cabin to be used to its full potential while minimizing conflict. We may also want to put signs outside directing people where to collect snow for water and where to urinate.

The Stonewall creek intro to backcountry skiing event was very popular and allowed new skiers the opportunity to learn some basic backcountry skiing skills. Joshua discussed how we should have trips of varying technical difficulty so people can have opportunities to advance their skills.

We then discussed ways to encourage future Trip leaders including Pro Deals and discounted outdoor education. We should try and have bios of all the regular trip leaders on the website so that participants can learn more about us.

## **8) Officer Nominations**

Lastly, we discussed the Officer nominations for the upcoming year. After group discussion, the board nominated the following individuals for officers for the upcoming election: Joshua for President (second term), Fintan for Vice President (first term), Susanna for Treasurer (4<sup>th</sup> term), Elizabeth Moore for Secretary (first term). Several people suggested that Susanna be considered for President when Joshua’s term is over.

Next Quarterly business meeting will be Tuesday June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Meeting was adjourned at 8 pm