

The Mountain Ear

March 2021

President's Message

Happy March everyone,

Winter keeps surprising us although in only two weeks the official beginning of spring will welcome us. Spring means longer days and warmer overall temperatures. A new season, I bet, most of us are eagerly awaiting it.

We are blessed by being surrounded by five mountain ranges: the Bitterroot Mountains, Sapphire Range, Garnet Range, Rattlesnake Mountains, and the Reservation Divide. Soon the lower trails melt out opening a variety of adventures. Hopefully you'll get out and experience some great spring adventures with your fellow members.

As we are moving into spring we'll be adding more trips. Keep taking a look at our calendar: we will have lots of options to choose from!

With spring on the horizon, a new slate of officers are going to be elected on May 1st. New positions are open, and we are calling all our members to join us in taking this club to the next level. If you are interested in an officer position please reach out to any of the officers (see end of this newsletter).

Happy Mountain Days,
Susanna Girolamo Phillips

Zoom Presentation: Plan your Next Adventure with Google Earth

Tuesday, March 9th- 6:00 PM

Our March Presentation features Steve Hancock who will help us understand Google Earth technology and how to use it to plan our next mountain adventure. Steve Hancock is a Wildland Fire Management Specialist, climber, backcountry skier, fly fisherman, hunter, and general recreationist. He has been using Google Earth for gathering situational awareness for his job and recreational activities for over 15 years. He is baffled by the fact that more people don't use this application, and some don't even know it exists! And it is free! And it's rad! Please

join us for an introductory presentation on Google Earth and see how you are able to gather information on your favorite mountain destinations, while they may be just out your back door, somewhere in Montana, North America, or pretty much anywhere on the planet.

This presentation will take place via Zoom. We hope to see you on the screen!

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/97267962199>

Winter Conditioning Wednesdays

We continue to offer a Winter Rando Wednesday's event at Snowbowl each week. Meet at the large pullout right before entering Snowbowl lot. Try to be ready to go by 6:00PM. We skin up through the woods to the base of the Paradise run and then on up. All abilities and speeds are welcome! Everyone can go at their own pace; the folks that go up the highest intercept everyone else on the way down. Enjoy a beverage in the lot together when everyone is down! We will hopefully be doing this through the end of March.

Beginning in April and running through May we will once again be offering a Wednesday evening hike up Mt. Sentinel. These were very popular this past fall. Plan on joining us!

Education

Snow Climbing and Glacier Travel Basics- Thursday, April 13- Roundtable discussion at Big Sky Brewing Company (6:30pm). 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.

Snow Climbing and Glacier Travel- FIELD DAYS- Saturday-Sunday, April 17-18. This two day program is for beginner and experienced climbers alike. We will spend two days in the backcountry reviewing and practicing the following fundamentals of mountaineering: steep snow and ice, crampon technique, self-arrest, rope management, efficient pacing, snow anchors, route finding, glacier travel, crevasse rescue.

Please note that this is not an "instruction" clinic. The leaders are not trained guides or certified instructors. 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 listed above! 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* See our website for contact info and registration.

Spring Fling and BBQ

On SATURDAY, MAY 8th, we will have our Annual Spring BBQ. This will be held in conjunction with a day of activities! Please mark this on your calendar and consider attending!! We will be sending out an email in the next couple weeks with more details. Our tentative plan:

- Several trips to choose from during the day (Saturday, May 8)
- Sugarloaf Mtn climb; Rock Climbing; Local Hike; More TBA soon!
- 6:00pm- BBQ in Missoula @ Ft. Missoula Park. Free Food, Beer and Drinks!
- Raffle Prizes!
- Lawn Games!

We REALLY want you to attend this event! (Thus, the free stuff and raffle prizes as an enticement!) Hope to see ALL of you there! Event will be limited to members only.

Upcoming Trips and Events

BC Ski- **Little St. Joseph Peak (Bitterroots)**- Sat. Mar 13

Snowshoe/Overnight- **Stuart Peak (Rattlesnake)**- Sat-Sun, Mar 20-21

BC Ski- **TRM Cabin/Little St. Joe**- Fri-Sun, Mar 26-28

BC Ski- **Ward Mountain (Bitterroots)**- Sat, Apr 10

Hike- **Lolo Canyon**- Sun, April 11

Education/Practice- **Snow Climbing and Glacier Travel**- Sat-Sun, Apr 17-18

Snowshoe/Ski- **Trapper Peak (Bitterroots)**- Sat, Apr 24

Please visit our website for all the details on these trips and more! Also scan further ahead in the online calendar to see some future listed trips.

www.rockymountaineers.com

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- Susanna Phillips

Vice President- Fintan Maguire

Secretary- Elizabeth Moore

Treasurer- Susanna Phillips

Website- Alden Wright

Archivist- Julie Kahl

Newsletter - Forest Dean

THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS

Business Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2021 - 6:00 PM

Location: Zoom Meeting

Call to order (Attendance) Susanna Girolamo, Elizabeth Moore, Alden Wright, Forest Dean, Julie Kahl, Corey Hinshaw, Laurel Vielle, Bryan Kercher, Chris Soriano

Treasury Report

TRM \$2,648.92

GMAR \$2,228.86

GMAR status

It was decided that we would sell the table and chairs that have been stored for years. We will rent if needed for the future.

Old Business Items

Cabin:

Status / Reservation - The reservations are up in popularity but it is still quite easy to manage. The contact people for the cabin are Forest, Susanna and Elizabeth.

Webpage:

Contact page is not working when opening the window.

Contact form, who gets these emails? Joshua Phillips is still getting them.

Home page - keep up to current events - old event still showing.

Who should be in charge of this? Someone reminding Alden to upgrade the content.

We discussed these issues with the website and Alden is working on fixing the content. It was discussed that we could put it out to our membership to try and find someone to help Alden with the website in the future.

New Business Items

Education

Other ideas for Spring / Summertime:

Rock climbing & long weekend: There was discussion around Spire Rock, Stone Hill, Alberton Gorge and Rattler Gulch as possible places to do an intensive weekend with some instruction. No dates were settled on.

Overnight backpacking: We discussed that there are a few inquiries that come in for overnight backpacking. It would be great if we could get a trip on the calendar.

Presentations

March 9th - Steve Hancock- Using Google Earth to plan your next adventure.

April 13th - Forest Dean - How to decide where to go and what to do?

Weather Apps and information on where to check before heading to the trailhead.

Trips and Events

Ongoing Rando & XC Wednesdays - The Snowbowl Rando nights have been going well. The Cross Country nights have struggled a bit with the snowfall in the valley. Starting in April we will start the Wednesday Sentinel Hikes again.

Wednesday Climbing Gym Mornings - We talked about starting up a weekly meetup at Freestone in the mornings starting in late March/April. Corey Hinshaw, Forest Dean, Elizabeth Moore were interested in leading some weeks.

Events:

May BBQ and Events - May 8th - We will rent the Meadowlark Shelter at Fort Missoula Regional Park. The party will be from 6-10pm and we will work on trying to get raffle items to raffle off at the party. Forest will ask Jamie Drysdale who is in a bluegrass band called the Timber Rattlers if they would like to play for the party.

Summer Solstice Event. There will be a bonfire/potluck on Saturday June 19th at member Casey Lammers' property at the base of the Missions. We are hoping to have a few trips in the missions on this weekend to coincide with the gathering.

The Glacier Classic. August 19-22. Still trying to decide where we will be based out of for the weekend. It will depend if the Blackfeet Reservation will open or not.

Cabin workday. Saturday October 2.

Bozeman Ice fest. December 8-12.

Winter-Fest. January. We didn't set a date but we thought it would be best if it takes place the same weekend of the Avy 1 course.

Trip Leader Benefits

Training - Wilderness First Aid

Choose trip leaders to be offered WFAR this year and offer to current & new officers.

May Annual Meeting and Elections - Monday, May 3rd. Dues are due April 30th in order to vote in election of new officers.

Susanna has expressed interest in keeping the position of Treasurer but possibly stepping down from the presidential role she has had during the interim period. Bryan, Laurel, Corey and Chris all spoke a little about their various interest levels in an elected position. Voting will be online as we have conducted it in the past.

503(c) Status. We amended the TRM Articles of Incorporation, and there was progress made in becoming an official 501c3.

Adjourn (7:33pm)