

# The Mountain Ear

April 2021

## President's Message

Happy April Everyone!

While the mountains are still covered with snow here in the valley it looks like the warmer weather has finally made it here. I bet lots of us are excited for spring and warmer temperatures.

Well, a lot is going on with The Rocky Mountaineers these next couple of months. Membership renewals, field days, our annual Spring BBQ, voting and (of course) trips! I won't dive into details here but please read on, and more importantly, as Forest always says PARTICIPATE!

As most of us know, yes, it is the time of the year when the club elects new officers. We encourage every member that is ready and inspired in taking the club to the next level to step up because we are ready to pass on the torch! This time we mean it! We are looking for NEW CLUB OFFICERS! For more details please see below.

And now, get outside and enjoy Spring (or late winter).

Cheers,  
Susanna Girolamo Phillips

### *Officer positions:*

*President*

*Vice President*

*Secretary*

*Treasurer*

*Web Maintenance assistant*

### *What is needed from our officers?*

- *Attend quarterly meetings (meetings available via Zoom also)*
- *Assisting & planning for upcoming events*
- *Inspiring others in exploring the outdoors*
- *Lead a few trips*

- *Mostly just Participate!*

## **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. Your current membership will expire at the end of this month. (If you have joined since January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, your membership will be good through April 30, 2022).

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: 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.

If you have trouble renewing, email [alden@rockymountaineers.com](mailto:alden@rockymountaineers.com).

## **Education**

**Snow Climbing and Glacier Travel Basics-** Tuesday, 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 Mountain Jogging Series**

As the days get longer and the flowers start poppin' join us for our weekly (not super serious) Mountain Jogging Series! We will be on the steeper trails near Missoula once a week, 6pm on Wednesdays starting April 7th. The intent of the series is to have fun, and to build fitness and community for bigger mountain days this summer. The routes are designed for those with enough stamina to continuously jog on varied terrain for 90 minutes. However, we want to be inclusive and those without as much experience are encouraged to come and choose their own pace.

You can expect:

~5-10 miles

~2000 vertical feet

Hiking 'n shuffling on the ups

Jogging 'n running on the flats and downs

Great training for races like the Rut 28k or other mountain objectives  
Open and supportive environment  
An optional post run trailhead happy hour

Free and open to the public

Organizer: Brian Stampe. Brian will post the meeting place each week on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

### **Spring Fling and BBQ**

On SATURDAY, MAY 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 at The Heap; Hike to Pistol Mtn Lookout; 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. RSVP required: contact Elizabeth at [ebeth@ebethphoto.com](mailto:ebeth@ebethphoto.com)

### **Upcoming Trips and Events**

Roundtable- **Snow Climbing and Glacier Travel**- Tues, Apr 13

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

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

Various Trips/**Spring BBQ**- Sat, May 8

Alpine Climb- **Snowshoe Peak (Cabinets)**- Sat-Sun, May 15-16

Hike- **Little Park Creek Trail**- Sun, May 23

Climb/Ski- **Lost River Range**- Fri-Mon, May 28-31

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

### **Cabin Update**

Our cabin is still available for member use while snow coverage lasts. While winter took a long time to arrive, it nevertheless provided some great ski days for those who used the cabin. For everyone who has enjoyed some time up there, we really appreciate how well you have taken care of it and kept it clean. Keep up the good work!

### **Annual Meeting**

The next quarterly business meeting will take place on Monday, May 3rd. (This is also considered our "Annual Meeting"). All members are very welcome (and encouraged) to attend! Please consider joining us and assisting with the direction of your club. As Susanna mentioned above, we are in DIRE need of some folks to step up and take a role as an officer. It really doesn't require much!

We will hold this meeting in the upstairs conference room at Big Sky Brewing Company. Meeting will start promptly at 6:00pm and wrap up no later than 8:00pm. (and yes, we can drink beer while we meet!) If there are requests to participate via Zoom, we can set that up.

### **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

