

The Mountain Ear

June 2021

President's Message

Thank you for electing me to serve as President of our treasured club of 60+ years. I feel very honored to be doing so. It is June and dare I say, there is a feeling of hope in the air.

In May our club was shocked and saddened by the death of our friend and fellow mountaineer Bryan Kercher on a trip that he was leading while descending Sugarloaf Peak. The places we find solace in and adventure in...the mountains...took one of us and we aim to learn from this experience, to lean in and listen, and support one another through this time.

The Covid pandemic we have been wracked with for over a year seems to be less in control of our lives as the population is vaccinated and we return to some sense of normalcy. Last year I would not have been able to serve as president as I was a full time schoolteacher for my daughters.

In the aftermath of a tragedy as well as the ebbing of a worldwide pandemic we have to remember there is so much to look forward to this year. A Solstice Gathering in the Missions, The 17th Annual Glacier Classic, Fall and Winter monthly presentations (in person again), our TRM Cabin workday, and Winterfest, just to name a few. Please check out the event calendar and sign up for trips and also consider leading a trip. We would love to see you in the mountains.

Happy climbing,

Elizabeth Smith Moore

Upcoming Trips and Activities

Scramble- **East St. Mary's Peak (Missions)**- Sat, June 19

Scramble- **Jocko Peak/Lost Sheep Lake (Missions)**- Sat, June 19

Hiking- **Buffalo Rapids (Mission Valley)**- Sat, June 19

Hiking- **Oregon Lakes (Marmot Scouting Trip)**- Sat, June 26

Rock Climbing- **Stone Hill (Lake Koocanusa)**- Fri-Sun, July 23-25

Various- **Glacier Classic**- Thurs-Sun, Aug 19-22

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

www.rockymountaineers.com

Summer Solstice Gathering

Join us for a weekend of trips in the Mission Mountains and celebrate the longest daylight of the year! On Saturday evening we will have the opportunity to gather and have a

cookout and camp on the property of one of our Vice President in the Mission Valley. BYO food and drink. (You don't need to participate in a trip in order to attend the cookout/camp) Host: Casey Lammers, vicepres@rockymountaineers.com

The 17th Annual Glacier Classic- "The Kercher Classic"

Thursday, August 19- Sunday, August 22

We are very excited to once again be putting together plans for the signature event of The Rocky Mountaineers—The Glacier Classic! Last year, as COVID shut everything down, only a very small group of three of us kept the tradition alive. This year, we hope many of you will once again join us for what is always a great time in our crown jewel of a National Park just to our north. It will be a weekend of great hikes, climbs and camp camaraderie!

Over the last six years, Bryan Kercher was a regular attendee of this event. Few loved Glacier more than Bryan- he hiked, backpacked, skied, climbed peaks and, especially, took thousands of pictures of this special place in his many many visits over the years. The Glacier Classic was simply something that he had to be a part of and because of that, and his love of this place, made it all the more special for so many of us. Thus, we have decided that there perhaps couldn't be a better and more appropriate way to honor him than to rename this year's event "The Kercher Classic"! So, whether you knew him or not, please join us to enjoy a place he so dearly loved with old friends and new!

Our basecamp this year will once again be the Divide Creek Campground in St. Mary. We have essentially booked the whole campground. There are a couple of cabins that can be rented here as well if interested.

Below you will find a preliminary itinerary and the trips listed so far. Our goal is to have something for everyone. We had 40 attendees at the 2019 Classic ranging in age from 10 to 75. This is an event for everyone, but it also takes EVERYONE to make it what it has become. So please RSVP and please let us know what you would like to do and to sign up. We look forward to seeing you ALL there!

Itinerary:

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

Friday- We will have two (or possibly three) trips today for those wanting a longer weekend. The rest of the participants can head up to St. Mary and arrive sometime Friday afternoon or evening. Bring your own food and drinks for dinner this evening.

Saturday- Climbs and hikes during the day. In the evening we'll gather in camp for the food, drink and campfire fun.

Sunday- More hikes and climbs for those interested, or head home whenever you desire. We typically have several spur of the moment trips created on Saturday evening.

Thursday

BARING POINT- Half day/afternoon scramble off GTTS road. Leader: Laurel Vielle

Friday

IPASHA PEAK- Long out and back trip via the "Yo-Yo" Route. Hike to Iceberg Lake from Many Glacier, ascend to Iceberg Notch, up and over Ahern Peak, scramble up Ipasha. Return the same way. Fairly long day at a fairly fast pace. 18 miles round trip with 8500' of elevation gain. Class 4. Leader: Forest Dean

ELKCALF MTN- The primary objective of this hike will be to check for hoary marmots in the vicinity of Elkcalf mountain south of Glacier Park as part of the club's Marmot Madness project See <https://hs.umt.edu/umzm/marmots.php> for more details about the project. Elkcalf mountain is on the continental divide south of Marias Pass. We will do this hike on the way to the Glacier Classic. The pace of this hike will be slow. Class 1-2. 12 miles round trip 3000' elevation gain. Leader: Alden Wright
alden@rockymountaineers.com.

ALLEN MOUNTAIN- Scramble/climb via the High Traverse/Great Break Route. Class 4. Leader: Minot Maser

GOING TO THE SUN MTN/MATAHPI PEAK- Starting at Siyeh Bend, hike up the trail then up the open slopes to a saddle between these two peaks. Class 3 scrambling gets you to both. Leader: Elizabeth Moore

ICEBERG PEAK- Route TBD. This peak sits directly above Iceberg Lake. Leader: Laurel Vielle

Saturday

CHIEF MOUNTAIN- Approach from the Blackfeet Reservation. Class 4. Leader: Laurel Vielle

LAKE JOSEPHINE- This will be a "go as far as you want" hike. The trail down from the Swift Current Motor Inn is 0.7 of a mile to meet the trail on the north shore of Lake Josephine. Lake Josephine appears to be about 1 1/2 miles, and add in extra distance for trail connections around both ends, going all around the lake would appear to be about 5 -5 1/2 miles. Class 1. Leader: Julie Kahl

MARMOT SURVEY- We will survey for hoary marmots in Glacier Park at locations to be determined. Possible locations include Logan Pass, Piegan Mountain, and the vicinity of St. Mary Lake. If you are interested in this outing, it would be helpful to apply for an entry

ticket. The difficulty depends on the desires of the participants. Tickets are available 60 days in advance and are for 7 consecutive days. Thus, one should be able to apply starting on June 23. Class 2. Leader: Alden Wright

MOUNT GOULD- Northwest Ridge route. Leader: Minot Maser

Sunday

MOUNT HENRY- Starting at Two Medicine, will follow the trail to Scenic Point (about 3 miles). Then up and off trail to the south before ridge bends to the west and to the summit of Mt. Henry (8847'). Return the same way. Route is apparently not technically difficult, but may be exposed in places. Class 3. Leader: Forest Dean

For more information or to register please email:

Forest Dean - mtnear1@gmail.com

Marmot Madness

Alden Wright and Angela Hornsby, curator of the UM Philip L. Wright Zoological Museum, are coordinating a citizen science project to determine the location of hoary marmots in western Montana. Hoary marmots are alpine marmots that live in a number of the mountain ranges of the northern rocky mountains. This is a continuation of the research of Philip L. Wright, Alden's father, of the 1950s through the 1980s. We will organize trips to specific locations to check for hoary marmots—these trips can be combined with other outdoor activities like hiking, climbing, camping, or fishing. Angela Hornsby, curator of the museum, has created the following website describing the project:

<http://hs.umt.edu/umzm/marmots.php>. The website includes locations that need to be visited. Please e-mail alden@rockymountaineers.com if you are interested in participating in or leading such a trip.

Achievement Awards

The Rocky Mountaineers annually recognize any current club member who has completed one or more of the several peak lists listed on our website:

(www.rockymountaineers.com/index.php/achievement-awards). Perhaps you have finished one of these lists and don't even know it! We'd love to present a few folks with a certificate of accomplishment at our September "Welcome Back Party". So, take a look at the lists, then get busy...you have two months!

Also, new this year, if you have someone you would like to nominate for an award, please let us know. You could nominate someone for just about anything related to a TRM trip or event. Maybe someone was an exceptional leader. Maybe someone took the reigns in a time of need. Perhaps someone had the funniest tumble off a trail that you have ever witnessed. Send your comments, ideas, funny stories to the editor (mtnear1@gmail.com)!

Trip Reports

All reports from club trips can be found on our website. Check it out. Reports are now easier to locate thanks to the diligent work of Alden Wright.

<http://rockymountaineers.com/tripreports/>

Club Officers

President- Elizabeth Moore

Vice President- Casey Lammers

Secretary- Tom Statz

Treasurer- Chris Soriano

Website- Alden Wright

Archivist- Julie Kahl

Newsletter- Forest Dean