

The Mountain Ear

November 2021

President's Message

The shorter days and the falling of the last leaves have most of us wishing for snow! A recent trip into the high country proved that winter is well on its way. We are getting ready for these winter sports with the help of our Winter Conditioning Wednesdays! We've had quite a few people showing up weekly to this event to climb Sentinel or Jumbo. Keep in mind it is rain or shine and we'd love to see you out there. Our next presentation is around the corner and is held at our new and more spacious location on Toole Avenue. Also, we have an upcoming roundtable event and trips to go ice climbing. We are also very happy that for the 4th year in a row we are offering a Level 1 Avalanche Course for our members in January. Be sure to check the calendar to see what you might like to participate in!

Cheers and here's to more SNOW!

-Elizabeth

November Feature Presentation

"Outdoor Skills are Life Skills"

Our speaker this month is **Jane Quinn**. Jane owns See Jane Adventures LLC and is a seasoned outdoor educator. She is a NSP and AIARE Avalanche Instructor as well as a PMBI Mountain Bike Instructor. This month she treats us to a presentation about close calls and near misses in her outdoor adventures, and how she's recovering from a traumatic brain injury. She also talks about the importance of communication and finding your voice in a group setting, and reviews some of the "Know Before You Go" key points.

She tells us how "See Jane Adventures" came to be (and also her alter ego, Alice) after quitting her corporate job and diving into outdoor adventure. She realized that the fundamental skills of decision making, risk tolerance and group communication are also things with which we

deal in everyday life. Her three rules when instructing include: NO EGO, don't say "I'm sorry" (say, "SURPRISE!") and finally, turn those negative thoughts into positive thoughts.

Location: Spirit of Peace Community Building- 506 Toole Avenue. This is located on the north side of the downtown area- very close to the pedestrian bridge over the train tracks.

Date: November 9

Doors open at 6:00PM. Open to everyone!

NOTE: You are more than welcome to bring food and beverages (including adult beverages) for this event!

Winter Conditioning Wednesdays

Join us for our weekly climb of Mount Sentinel or Mt. Jumbo! Hikes start at 6PM- bring your headlamp, traction crampons (if snowy/icy) and/or poles. Start or continue conditioning for your favorite winter sports & activities or come along just to get some fresh air midweek. All abilities welcome. Meet at 6pm. See the website calendar or our social media sites for information on which trailhead we will be starting from and who that weeks leader/coordinator will be.

Also stay tuned...coming in January, we will transition from Sentinel/Jumbo hikes to Winter Rando and Winter XC Ski Wednesdays!

Roundtable Education Event- "All About Ice Climbing"

Do you have interest in the sport of Ice Climbing but not sure where to start? New to the area, and not sure where to go? Wondering what kind of gear you need to get started? Well then this is an event for you! This will be an informal "round table" discussion on some of these topics and more. We will look at gear, cover basic climbing techniques, talk about great places to go in western Montana and discuss the upcoming Bozeman Ice Festival. Experienced climbers are encouraged to attend to share what they know!

Thursday, November 18- 6:30-8:00pm.
Conference Room on Second Floor at Big Sky Brewing Co.
Leader: Forest Dean, mtnear1@gmail.com

Level 1 Avalanche Course- January 11-16, 2022

For the fourth consecutive year we are pleased to announce a 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! Due to COVID the course will once again be structured a little different than in the past. Instead of in-person classroom sessions, that portion of the course will be done on-line. Also, in order to keep group sizes smaller and keep folks more physically distant, the student to instructor ratio will be 4:1.

Course Description

Format:

2 part classroom component + 2 day field component

Date | Location:

Tuesday-Thursday Evenings (1/11 & 1/13) On-Line Classroom Component

Sat-Sun- All Day (1/15-1/16) Field Component | Lolo Pass Backcountry

Price: \$450.00

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

What is included:

1. Professional instruction (4:1 Student/Instructor Ratio)
2. Coursework books
3. Classroom (on-line) and field instruction

What is not included:

1. Transportation to and from Lolo Pass
2. Personal gear
3. Avalanche rescue gear
4. Food

TO REGISTER: Please contact Forest Dean (406-240-7612 mtnear1@gmail.com).

Payment (\$450) required to guarantee your spot.

COURSE LIMIT: 12 participants

Upcoming Trips and Activities

Hike- **Mt. Dean Stone**- Sat, Nov 13

Roundtable- **All About Ice Climbing**- Thurs, Nov 18

Hike/Soak- **Jerry Johnson Hot Springs**- Sun, Nov 21

Ice Climb- **Hyalite Canyon**- Fri-Sun, Nov 26-28

XC Skiing- **Lolo Pass**- Sun, Nov 28

XC Skiing- **Chief Joseph Pass**- Sat, Dec 4

XC Skiing- **Lolo Pass**- Sat, Dec 11

XC Ski/Snowshoe- **Lolo Pass**- Sun, Dec 19

BC Skiing- **Ward Mountain**- Tues, Dec 21

Various- **WINTERFEST!**- Sat, Jan 15

Please visit our website for all the details on these trips!!
www.rockymountaineers.com

TRM Business Meeting

Our next quarterly business meeting will take place on Thursday, December 2nd from 6:00-8:00pm. We will be holding this meeting at the residence of our Secretary, Tom Statz (1330 Harrison St.- in the lower Rattlesnake). All members are welcome and encouraged to attend! We will provide food and refreshments. Please come and help us discuss the direction of your Club!

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

The Rocky Mountaineers Quarterly Business Meeting

September 9th, 2021

Big Sky Brewery

Attendance: Elizabeth Moore (Presiding), Chris Soriano, Forest Dean, Alden Wright, Julie Kahl, Casey Lammers, Tom Statz, Laurel Vielle, Lee Thornton, Candy Hartman

I. Call to Order 6:08 PM

II. Minutes from last meeting approved

III. Treasury Report (Chris S.)

A. Account Update. - Balance \$2318

B. Non-profit 501C3 update – Pending IRS is not helping.

C. Liability Insurance – Karen at Payne West said personal policies won't cover officers, can't cover trip leaders. Cost about \$700 annually.

D. Cabin Insurance - Paid Monthly \$43.

IV. Website Update (Alden W.)

- A. Current Status - Alden working on it. Using Word Press and Woo Commerce. Long learning curve, he needs someone to learn it to take over.
- B. Updates needed, Officer and trip leader BIOS – Add BIOS under the more tab on webpage. Alden will set up a google drive so it's a club account and officers and trip leaders have access.
- C. Assistant for Alden. – He needs one, Forest's son a possibility.

V. Welcome Back Party (Elizabeth/Forest)

- A. Location and challenges – Under tent at Imagine Nation, advertise by posting on different FP pages.
- B. Content/Awards – Accomplishment Awards will be given.

VI. Presentations

- A. Location/Day of Week – Roxy too expensive. Alden in favor of non-church Spirit of Peace Community Center. Candy will call Run Wild Missoula and see where they go,
- B. Presenters – Brainstorm. Do Safety presentations, near misses, multiple speakers. Avy Safety talk. Ping peeps for an October presenter. November Safety.

VII. Bryan Kercher and Follow Up of “After Action Review” (Elizabeth/Chris S)

- A. Debrief of 9/2 meeting with Megan Hamilton – Chris and Elizabeth attended.
- B. Planning meeting – Sept 29, 5pm location TBD.
- C. Trip Leader meeting – TBD
- D. New – VP should be Safety Officer. VP should be copied on all trip emails.
- E. New - Forest made motion to formally rename the Glacier Classic the Kercher Glacier Classic. Unanimous yes vote.

VIII. Cabin Workday (Forest/Paul J)

- A. Projects and what is needed – Replace floor, add bigger widow, move old firewood to the front and cut new wood.
- B. Potluck Party – Post party on website and FB. Julie will squat a party spot.

IX. Trips and Events

- A. WCW's (Elizabeth/Susanna) – Start Oct 6th.
- B. Ice Fest (Forest) – It's on the calendar, dec 8th- 12th.
- C. Winter Fest (Elizabeth) – Let's do it again, Combine with AVY class, Do Lolo hot springs again.
- D. Avalanche Course or Courses (Forest) – First part of January.
- E. Rando/XC Wednesdays (Forest/Alden) – Start them when it snows.
- F. Avy Practice dates (Forest) – At Big Sky when it snows.
- G. Roundtable (Forest) –Navigation/Ice Climbing

- H. Field Days – Education field days.
- I. Marmot Madness (Alden) – Winding Down
- J. Regular Trips / Trip Coordinator (Forest) –
- K. Trip Reports (Forest) – Forest will nag leaders to do reports.

X. Merchandise/Advertising

- A. Posters – Forest will look into it.
- B. Shirts/hats, etc –
- C. Point Person –
- D. New - Stickers – Casey will look into it.
- E. New – Casey will look into beer glasses.

XI. Bylaws

- A. Changes to allow for 7 voting officers – Forest will send Bylaws to Chris and team.
We will vote by web.
- B. Other changes needed to align with 501c3 status -
- C. Other -
- D. Point person to work on this -

XII. Next meeting 6 December. Adjourned 8:11