

The Mountain Ear

January 2022

President's Message

Snow! We finally got our wish, in abundance!!...and just in time for some special events. Our second annual Winterfest event at Lolo Pass is January 15th! We have a few trips going out that day and we'll meet for a bonfire in the evening to celebrate! Last year it ended up being such a fun event we had to repeat.

We are phasing out of our Wednesday night Sentinel hill conditioning climbs and beginning our local Rando and Cross-Country Ski nights since we have plenty of snow to do so!

We have quite a slate of presentations at our new location and other offerings this season. We hope you can join in on some of them.

Cheers to Winter!

Elizabeth

December Feature Presentation

The Forgotten Motherlode

Presented by: Justin Willis

Tuesday, January 11

This will be a presentation about various climbers that have completed world-class routes around Montana for the last sixty years. It will showcase some history such as regularly sought information on Alex Lowe's mysterious ascents, Jack Tackle's alpine-style perspective on Montana mountain ranges, and the future of alpine climbing in the state. Justin will talk about the quiet ethic of climbing in the state, where it came from, why it may be important and how it is regularly confused with elitist secrecy.

Justin Willis grew up exploring the Beartooth Mountains in South-Central Montana. With an alpinist as a father, he began rock climbing at age four and ice climbing at age six. After representing the United States in the Ice Climbing World Cup thirteen times, he quit competing and focused on exploring nearly every mountain

range in Montana in search of rock, ice and solace. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor's of History at Northwest College and University of Wyoming.
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.

Event begins at **6:00PM**. Open to everyone! We strongly encourage everyone to wear a mask. We will have masks available at the presentation.

This event will also be available on [Zoom](#) with Meeting ID: 879 0274 6184
Passcode: 9876.

NOTE: You are more than welcome to bring food and beverages (including adult beverages) for this event! Additionally, we will have beer and snacks on hand (donation suggested).

Looking Ahead...

February- "The Snowman Trek: High Altitude Adventure in Bhutan". Presenters: Sarah Halvorson and Mary Morrison

March- "30 Years of River Diplomacy in Tibet and China". Presenter: Travis Winn

April- "Climbing the 9000' Peaks in the Bitterroots". Presenter: Forest Dean

May- "Nutrition for the Mountain Athlete". Presenter: Jessie Thomas

Winter Conditioning Fun

We are now transitioning from weekly hikes to skiing! With all this great snow its time to grab your headlamp and join us for some evening or morning conditioning. We will post updates on our Facebook and Instagram sites each week for meeting places and times, as well as update our calendar on our website. All abilities welcome. Come and join us!

Winter Rando Wednesdays will be at either Snowbowl or Marshall, depending on the week and conditions. We will normally begin at 6:00pm. Winter XC Thursdays will take place at on a local groomed or ungroomed trail.

ALSO...for those of you who live in the Bitterroot (or for those who don't mind driving a bit) we are pleased to announce BITTERROOT WINTER CONDITIONING. Andrew Twardowski will lead hikes up St. Mary Road every Tuesday and Thursday morning. For more details, check the calendar page on our website.

2nd Annual - Winterfest!

The Rocky Mountaineers will be hosting our second annual "Winterfest" for members to attend. This was a great event last year with nearly 40 people attending!

Mark your calendar for Saturday, January 15th for WINTERFEST at Lolo Pass area! We will offer a slew of trips that day: Backcountry and XC skiing, Snowshoeing, Beacon Park Practice, Hot Springing, etc. In the evening we plan to gather at Lolo Hot Springs. We will have an outdoor gathering with a bonfire AND each member attending will also receive a new TRM Pint Glass! Snacks and beverages will be provided.

This is an event for members only. You are welcome to bring a guest, family member, kids, etc. RSVP requested- email: mtnear1@gmail.com

Check The Rocky Mountaineers' Website www.rockymountaineers.com for trip listings and event details (coming soon). Current trip lineup:

- AVALANCHE COURSE- LEVEL ONE
- LOLO PASS BEACON PARK PRACTICE
- LOLO PASS "SURVIVAL PRACTICE"
- LOLO PASS XC SKI TRIP
- LOLO PASS BC SKI TOUR (Three to choose from)
- LOLO HOT SPRINGS SNOWSHOE TRIP

Accommodations are available at
Lolo Hot Springs, call 406-273-2297
For RV And Cabins 406-273-2294
(Winter Tent and RV hookups)
Lochsa Lodge in Idaho 208-942-3405
OR, Camp in your vehicle or tent!

Upcoming Trips and Activities

BC Skiing- TRM Cabin/Little St. Joseph Peak- Fri-Sun, Jan 7-9

Various- WINTERFEST!- Sat, Jan 15

XC Skiing- Lee Creek (Lolo Pass)- Sat, Jan 23

Education- Ten Essentials- Tues, Jan 25

BC Skiing- Gash Point (Bitterroots)- Sat, Jan 29

Ice Climbing- Mission Falls (Missions)- Sun, Jan 30

BC Skiing- TRM Cabin/Little St. Joseph Peak- Fri-Sun, Feb 4-6

BC Ski/Multiday- Lima Peaks Ski Tour- Dates TBD

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

www.rockymountaineers.com

Trip Leaders WANTED

Do you have experience leading trips into the backcountry. Or, perhaps you don't, but would like to start doing so? Trip leadership can be a very rewarding experience. It can also provide you with partners to go and do things you would otherwise maybe be doing solo. Either way, if you are interested, WE WANT YOU. One of our greatest challenges with this club is always coming up with enough trips for our membership. We need folks willing and capable of leading these adventures. Interested? Please consider attending our Trip Leader Meetings on January 18th and March 10th. Contact Elizabeth for more details:

ebeth@ebethphoto.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.

rockymountaineers.com/tripreports

Club Officers

President- Elizabeth Moore

Vice President/Safety Officer- Casey Lammers

Secretary- Tom Statz

Treasurer- Chris Soriano

Website- Alden Wright

Archivist- Julie Kahl

Newsletter/Trip Coordinator- Forest Dean