

The Mountain Ear

February 2022

President's Message

Apparently, the groundhog Punxsutawney Phil has seen his shadow and that means 6 more weeks of Winter for us. I don't really hang my hat on this tradition, but I do hope he's right this year. I just spent the last few days cross country skiing and backcountry skiing in prime conditions in the Bitterroots and it sure seems Winter is here for a while longer in the Mountains.

This Tuesday our monthly presentation features Missoula's own Sarah Halvorson and Mary Morrison. The duo will tell us about their amazing Snowman Trek in Bhutan. We will meet in person with masks, or you can join via zoom instead. This was something we offered last month for the first time and hopefully we have worked the audio kinks out (fingers crossed).

Thank you to all who showed up for our second annual Winterfest last month, we have dreams to grow it in the future by involving local businesses and perhaps have some demos at the Lolo Pass, so thank you for participating.

I hope you will consider joining an upcoming trip or link up with us for our weekly Wednesday skin up Snowbowl. Check out the calendar for more details.

"To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake, it is necessary to stand out in the cold"
~ Aristotle.

Cheers to 6 more weeks!
Elizabeth Smith Moore

February Feature Presentation

The Snowman Trek: High Altitude Adventure in Bhutan
Presented by: Sarah Halvorson and Mary Morrison
Tuesday, February 8th

In the fall of 2019, five women between the ages of 51 and 67 came together to undertake one of the toughest treks in the world. The Snowman Trek is notorious

for its elevation, distance and duration. It follows ancient trails and trade routes through the complicated mountain valleys of the eastern Himalaya that have been used by yak herders, monks, traders, and travelers for centuries. The group tent camped above 12,000 feet for almost a month, hiked through deep mud and steep alpine terrain, and crossed fourteen passes between 14,500 to 18,000 feet.

Mary Morrison and Sarah J. Halvorson will recount their experiences and highlights, with a focus on the mountain geography, logistical aspects, Buddhist cultural landscape, and interactions with highlander communities. They will also share aspects of preparations and planning. Their presentation will conclude with observations of the Jhomolhari Mountain Festival, which they attended at the end of the trek during a respite in the midst of stunning views of the sacred Jhomolhari Mountain.

Location: Spirit of Peace Community Building- 506 Toole Avenue. Event begins at **6:00PM**.

For those unable to make it, we will be streaming this on Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8108271242?pwd=V0JQQ1VEczVNcmYyenZiaW8zNldPdZ09>

Meeting ID: 810 827 1242

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...

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 Rando Wednesdays

Not to be confused with the Rando Radness racing series at Snowbowl (that takes place on Thursdays), this is our very own, go as fast and far as you want- Wednesday BC ski conditioning night. Each week we meet (usually at the overflow lot before entering Snowbowl) and start skinning up towards Paradise run at

6:00pm. All abilities and speeds are welcome. The faster folks go usually go to the summit (top of LaVelle chair), then transition and ski back down, intercepting any folks who don't want to push all the way to the top. It's a good midweek workout! Bring a headlamp. Contact mtnear1@gmail.com for more details, and watch for the FB and IG posts each week the day or two prior.

Upcoming Trips and Activities

Snowshoe Climb- **Hewolf Mtn (Arlee area)**- Sat, Feb 19

XC Ski- **Lolo Pass-Pack Creek**- Sun, Feb 20

Scramble- **Sweeney Peak (Bitterroots)**- Sat, Mar 5

BC Ski- **Little St. Joseph/TRM Cabin**- Fri-Sun, Mar 18-20

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 (note the lack of trips listed above...). We need folks willing and capable of leading these adventures. Interested? Please consider attending our Trip Leader Meeting on March 10th. Contact Elizabeth for more details:

ebeth@ebethphoto.com

Business Meeting

The next quarterly business meeting will take place on **Tuesday, March 1** from 6:00-8:00pm. As always, we welcome all members to come and take part! Watch our calendar for meeting location to be announced soon.

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

Rocky Mountaineers' Quarterly Meeting

December 3rd 2021
1330 Harrison Street

Attendance: Elizabeth Moore (presiding), Chris Soriano, Forest Dean, Alden Wright, Julie Kahl, Casey Lammers, Tom Statz, Candy Hartman, Paul Jensen

- 1 Call to Order 6:15 PM
- 2 Minutes from last meeting approved
- 3 Treasury Report (Chris S.)
 - A. Account Update. - Balance \$2311.12
 - B. Non-profit, 501c3 update – Waiting on resubmittal
- 4 Website Update (Alden W.)
 - A. Current Status -Add Avy class to web.
 - B. Updates needed – Add Avy class. Send Alden Bios to put on page. Elizabeth will provide officer BIODs to Alden to leverage and edit. Alden will look into membership auto renew. Alden will look into 12 month membership vs April 1st membership. Currently no way for trip leaders or officers to find out if someone is an active member or not. Discussed webpage signup for trips but decided best to go through trip leader.
- 5 Presentations
 - A. Upcoming Presentations. - Looking good till May. Paul is doing December
- 6 Trip Leader orientation in January
 - A. Trip Leader Handbook Status – Get a couple of trip leaders to read it and make suggestions. March 10th 2nd trip leader meeting for greater membership and Public. No more input then adopt it.
 - B. First aid WFR etc – WFR \$750. Maybe kickback some if the leader takes the class. Defer to next meeting. Tom will ping Danielle about a class.
- 7 Cabin Status
 - A. All Good. Work party had a great turnout. Lots of wood and a new window. TRM weekend Jan 7,8,9.
- 8 Trips and Events.
 - A. WCW's – Going well
 - B. Bozeman Ice Fest – Next weekend, Airbnb reserved.
 - C. Winterfest – Same as last year. Maybe next year when we are a 501c3 we could get sponsors.

- D. Avy Course – So far one person has paid. \$450 per. 1-4 student to teacher ratio. It would be nice to put it on the webpage.
- E. Avy practice dates – Forest will investigate.
- F. Rando/XC Wednesdays. –Forest plans Rando every Wednesday starting in January.
- G. Roundtable – 10 essentials roundtable Jan 25th.
- H. Field days – Education specific, out in the field.
- I. Marmot Madness – no further action.
- J. Regular Trips – always need more of them
- K. Trip reports – Leaders, please do them.
- L. Website – discussed above
- M. TRM Adopt a Trail – Does TRM want to do a trail workday? Casey, suggested maybe on the reservation in the Missions. Casey will work with Missions and Candy will work with Great Burn.
- N. Connect with Big Sky Brewing and see if we can do a concert this summer
- O. Alpine Larch RNA – Need external push. Julie will contact RNA.

9 Merchandise/Advertising

- A. Presentation Poster Distribution – 6 more posters to post; the rest are distributed.
- B. Shirts, hats, stickers, etc. – Get 200 stickers and glasses.

10 Bylaws

- A. Changes to allow 7 voting officers – Add board members at large
- B. Other changes needed to align with 501c3 status – Bylaw revisions
- C. Other – In March Board/Officers Vote. Members vote in May on new Bylaws

Adjourn 9pm