

The Mountain Ear

March 2022

President's Message

This miserable drizzle in the Missoula Valley has me fleeing to the high country where I can still find winter. I'm not ready to let go quite yet.

We just had a very productive Quarterly Business meeting this week and there are some exciting things coming up for TRM this year. The biggest news for the club is that we have finally received our 501c3 status! We are an official non-profit organization! Thanks to Chris Soriano's dedication to guiding us through and making it all happen! Having this status will open us up to more opportunities for fundraising as well as educational opportunities for our members.

Next Tuesday our Monthly Presentation features river guide and kayaker Travis Winn, who spent nearly twenty years of his life trying to save China's rivers. We will meet in person at Spirit of Peace Community Center. Hope to see you there.

We are talking about trail work in a few of our favorite "backyard" areas. More information will be coming on these opportunities to give back. We will keep you posted. Keep an eye on our event calendar and please join us for something fun in the mountains!

"No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn." (Hal Borland)

See you outside!

Elizabeth

March Feature Presentation

Reflections of a River Loving American: From the Middle Kingdom to Missoula

Presenter: Travis Winn

Tuesday, March 8th

Travis Winn spent nearly twenty years of his life trying to save China's rivers, and 'humanity' in the process. The remarkable and somewhat asinine acts of hubris he committed along the way alternately put him at gunpoint on the side of the river, under surveillance by Chinese authorities, and in the mental ward. Part way into his

journey, he met an amazing Chinese woman, built a business with her, and was gifted a beautiful daughter. The self-imposed pressure of trying to save a river in China's first national park led to the implosion of their relationship. Unexplainable serendipity landed the whole family in Missoula, Montana in 2019. This presentation on seeking balance and finding duality in all things is Travis' first speaking engagement since returning to the US.

Travis speaks fluent Chinese and a smattering of Tibetan. He has served as a brand ambassador for Patagonia (China) and had his life featured on Chinese national television. He has explored thousands of river miles in China and helped start China's first youth kayak club. He and his partner's multi-day rafting program became the first business allowed to operate in China's National Park system, where it has been recognized for its low environmental impact and commitment to respect local culture. The park and the program they continue to support is deep inside ethnic and cultural Tibet.

In this presentation, participants can look forward to a journey of connection, awareness, and self-acceptance. Content spans everything from river diplomacy in the history of China's opening and reform, to fighting large hydropower and failing, crossing closed borders to complete a major first descent expedition, building a river industry promoting wilderness values and personal growth, and bringing the first Chinese kayakers to paddle the Grand Canyon.

The show will be delivered with live music, personal readings, film, and photos from award winning Chinese and American photographers and film makers.

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

Event begins at 6:00PM. Open to everyone!

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...

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

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

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 Forest for more details: mtnear1@gmail.com

Winter Rando Wednesdays

Not to be confused with the Rando Radness racing series at Snowbowl, 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.

Education

Snow Climbing and Glacier Travel Basics- Wednesday, April 20- 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 23-24. 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 Fling and BBQ

On SATURDAY, MAY 7th, 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 7)
- Bag a Peak; Rock Climbing; Local Hike; More TBA soon!
- 6:00pm- BBQ @ Marshall Mtn. 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.

Upcoming Trips and Activities

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

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

Hike- **Mullan Rd to Marshall Canyon**- Sun, March 20

Hike- **Milltown State Park**- Sat, March 26

BC Ski/Alpine Climb- **Mt. Moran (Tetons)**- Fri-Sun, April 8-10

Hike- **Mittower Gulch to Marshall Mtn**- Sun, April 10

Roundtable- **Snow and Glacier Travel**- Wed, April 20

Field Days- **Snow and Glacier Travel Practice**- Sat-Sun, April 23-24

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

www.rockymountaineers.com

Board of Director Elections

As we approach the end of our fiscal year (April 30) it is time to start thinking about nominations for our Board of Directors. A new Board will be elected at our Annual meeting on Wednesday, May 18th (members will have the opportunity to vote on the slate of officers via electronic format prior to that). Any current dues paying member who will have retained membership for at least one year as of April 30th is eligible to be an officer (must be 18 years of age). Members can nominate themselves or other members. We have four positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary. All are one year terms with a maximum of two consecutive terms (except Treasurer- 4 terms).

Anyone meeting the above criteria is eligible. If you would like to get involved in the direction of the club, please don't hesitate to nominate yourself or at least let us know you are interested! All nominations must be made by April 15th.

Volunteer Opportunity

Friends of Lolo Peak are looking for a few able-bodied volunteers to join us in a USFS led post fire monitoring project on Carlton Ridge beginning this August 2022. This study is focused on regeneration in the Carlton Ridge Research Natural Area with a focus on the effect of the 2017 Lolo Peak fire burn severity on alpine larch community regeneration abundance and composition. The Carlton Ridge RNA is an ecologically unique area that was established in 1988 on the Lolo National Forest because of its unusually extensive community of alpine larch (*Larix lyallii*) on well-developed soils. Friends of Lolo Peak is a citizens' group of local residents and businesses, hikers, hunters, anglers and skiers dedicated to protecting the outstanding natural integrity, scenic values, and traditional uses of the Lolo Peak area for future generations. If interested, please contact Steve Seninger at lolopeak2@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.

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 Business Meeting Minutes

March 1st, 2022

Big Sky Brewing Company

Attendance: Elizabeth Moore (presiding), Casey Lammers, Forest Dean, Alden Wright, Andrew Twardowski, Julie Kahl (minutes)

I Call to order 8:13 PM

II Approve minutes from Dec. 2nd meeting -yes

Set date for May 2022 meeting -May 18th, location TBD

III Treasurer's report: Bank account balance as of Feb 21, 2022: \$1,094.72, Approx. \$750 is locked up in merchandise (thanks for ordering, Casey!) We also had the additional cost of ~\$700 for Board and Officers insurance this year

IV Questions from Chris' e-mail see attached

A. Should we raise membership fees to cover the cost of insurance?

1. \$5 would be adequate
2. Alden -current membership about 100
3. Forest -what are we giving them besides the cabin?
4. Most seemed in concurrence on raising fees, but no action taken

B. Membership issues

1. Rotating membership vs once a year sign up
 - a. Why did we go to this? Too many complaints with those joining at other times of the year
 - b. Is rotating membership hard to keep track of -Alden -no, just need to do membership reminders every month
 - c. This year need to update for those paying in April, as per the old system
 - d. Forest - is a welcome note still going out to new or renewals? Yes
2. Can we do a subscription system with auto renewal?
 - a. Yes

- b. But Alden doesn't want to do this -we dropped it
 - c. Some doubt on how many people would use it
- C. STRIPE (credit card processing system)
 - 1. Used for the Avalanche Class
 - a. We charged \$450 per person, (for 12 people) but STRIPE only paid the Avalanche Center \$436, per person, because they took a 3% fee. We paid an additional \$173.59 to the Avalanche Center
 - b. Avalanche Center also uses STRIPE so by having our participants pay us, we took the 3% hit and not them
 - c. Charge an extra \$15 per person next time?
 - d. Why can't they (the participants) just write a check directly to the Avalanche Center?
 - e. Some discussion on the special class they provide for us: we don't need to find customers for them they have an extensive waiting list
 - f. Should we charge 3% for STRIPE on on-line orders of merchandise? Opted for no online orders
 - 2. Other Avalanche class issues
 - a. Can the Avalanche class be streamed?
 - b. Some want an Avy II Class, in addition to the Avy I Class
- D. Yes on uploading receipts to the Google Drive
- E. Vote on Bylaws
 - 1. Forest makes motion, Casey seconds – motion passes
 - 2. Still need to be approved by the general membership
 - a. Put in newsletter
 - b. Include a referendum in with the May elections
 - c. Needs a 2/3 affirmative vote of a quorum of 25% of members to approve
- F. Merchandise
 - 1. See Item C. 1. f.
 - 2. Pint Glasses
 - a. Price pint glasses at \$10?
 - b. At next presentation when people buy a glass they get a beer also, from a beer stash that Forest has
 - 3. Stickers
 - a. Casey had several samples
 - 1) Larger vinyl \$680 for 1000, but suitable for outside and gear marking use
 - 2) Smaller printed \$385 for 1000, \$300 for 500, 2 colors on opaque background, or clear background
 - b. We will look into getting 500 opaque and 500 clear
 - c. Should we sell stickers or give them away? -both
- G. 501(c)3 update, Fund raising ideas -Elizabeth -it's about getting the publicity that goes with events

1. Pint nights
 - a. Is anyone still doing them?
 - b. Not a big money maker
2. Didn't discuss Giving Tuesday or Missoula Gives
3. Andrew suggested concession hosting like for football games or parking attendants- that seems pretty much filled by other groups
4. BSBC Concert hosting and some pint nights want a specific project in mind
 - a. Forest -Gear Closet
 - b. Julie- Signs for the Miller Cr. trails
 - c. Elizabeth - more educational outreach involving college students -like the cabin workday
5. Casey -the sticker producer in Ronan will send a PDF to our membership list, of products they have for sale and give us a part of the proceeds from what our members buy

V Website Report

- A. See item IV B. 1., C. 1. f. -Rotating Membership, STRIPE
- B. Advertise Merchandise -yes, Elizabeth will get photos
- C. Still need photos and some write ups for trip leader's bios, Elizabeth- try to get photo size and shape standardized

VI Presentations

- A. Travis Wynn, Mar., Jessie Thomas -Sports nutrition, April, Forest Dean -May
- B. If we need help in Mar.: Candy and Casey can help
- C. Zoom - in Feb. the camera failed, Mar. ok with Alden, but he won't have time in April.
- D. Can we just record it and post it on our website? Yes

VII Trip Leader Handbook

- A. Meeting Mar. 10 Tom Statz's house
- B. Who?
 1. General Member ship, or just trip leaders
 2. Andrew - do it as a workshop limit it to trip leaders for first revise, then open to members later
 3. What procedure
 - a. Alden -let everyone discuss leadership issues, then revise the handbook based on that
 - b. Alden -efficiency - have it open to general membership
 4. Decided on just trip leaders to start, with a follow up for the general membership in June -Elizabeth will notify

VIII Officer Nominations

- A. Many happy with current officers
- B. Other candidate, Andrew, Laurel, Candy?

IX Cabin Status

- A. Do a PDF for those who reserve it on what's in the cabin, what to bring, directions, etc. Yes (Forest?)
- B. Cabin Logbook, there are some, but don't have a lot, as over the years people have used the pages to start fires

X Trips and Events

- A. Winter Fest -will try to involve local business next year
- B. Avalanche Courses -see Item C.2.b., Start organizing it earlier
- C. Avy Practice Dates - previously at BSBC Beacon course, even Lolo Pass didn't have the beacon course up this season
- D. Rando Wed. Stop for now but they went well
- E. Spring Fling May 7th, pending location
- F. Solstice BBQ -Caseys, -June 18th, get trips
- G. Glacier Classic -Forest- Reserved the Divide Cr. Campground, Aug. 18-21st
- H. Trail Work
 - 1. Casey - Adopt a Trail -Mission Falls To Lucifer Lake -Tribal lands
 - a. They had a problem with us suggesting a trail, they don't want to improve this trail to keep use down
 - b. They want to suggest activity -like trail head work
 - c. We would probably work with paid contractors
 - 2. Great Burn trail work possible
- I. RNA Monitoring Julie -see attached blurb for the newsletter, Julie will be liaison with Friends of Lolo Peak
- J. Field Days and Round Tables
 - 1. Elizabeth - should we develop a club "yearly calendar" with one per month?
 - 2. Round Tables, Glacier Travel -Forest, Weather -Casey, The Navigation one was good,
 - 3. Field Days: Weather, Anchor setting, rock climbing, Stone Hill again this year? Forest will do one in April
 - 4. Work with Griz Orienteering?

XI Adjourn 8:13 PM