

The Mountain Ear

June 2022

President's Message

The wet Spring in Missoula has made way for blankets of Arrowleaf Balsamroot in the lower elevations and surrounding hills and snow in the higher country. With Summer Solstice around the corner there are some longer days and adventures on our calendar.

Our Spring Fling and BBQ was a success in early May despite the windy cold rainy weather. We reelected all officers who were currently holding the positions and they will stay on for at least one more year. The Trip Leader Meeting was well attended and informational, as well.

I hope you will consider joining an upcoming trip this Summer! Check out the calendar for more details.

"The mountains are calling and I must go." -John Muir

See you out there!
Elizabeth

Notice: If you are not a current member, this is the last newsletter that you will receive by email.

Upcoming Trips and Activities

Scramble- **East Saint Mary's Peak (Missions)**- Sat, June 11

Scramble- **Lolo Peak (Bitterroots)**- Sat, June 18

Hike- **Gibbons Pass to St. Joseph Pass**- Sat-Sun, June 25-26

Scramble- **Granite Peak (Great Burn WSA)**- Sat, June 25

Hike- **Babcock Mtn Trail (Rock Creek area)**- Sat, June 25

Scramble- **Camas Point/Lion Point (Bitterroots)**- Sat, July 2

Scramble- **Peak 8650 & 8522 (Missions)** - Mon, July 4

Paddle- **Beginner Whitewater Weekend**- Fri-Sun, July 15-17

Scramble- **Mt. Jerusalem/North Jerusalem Peak**- Sat, July 16

Summer Social- **Imagine Nation Brewing Company**- Tues, July 19

Hike- **Nee Mee Poo Trail (Lolo Pass area)**- Sat, July 23

Scramble- **Trapper Peak (Bitterroots)**- Sat, Aug. 6

Various Trips- **18th Annual Kercher Glacier Classic**- Thu-Sun, Aug 18-21

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

www.rockymountaineers.com

TRM Evening Trail Runs

Take advantage of the longer days to get in a conditioning trail run after work!. We will pick a trail in the Missoula/Northern Bitterroot area and do a slow to moderate pace run. Trail selection will depend on group ability, weather conditions, and trail conditions. Valley runs, ridge runs, and peaks are all on the table (example trips: run to Blue Mountain from the Blue Mountain trailhead or Kootenai Lakes from Kootenai Trailhead). Andrew Twardowski is the leader and organizer of this "most" weekly event. See the calendar for his contact info and schedule.

TRM Summer Social

Join us for a very informal get together at Imagine Nation Brewing Company on Tuesday, July 19th. We will be under the big white tent out in the back patio area of the brewery. We can catch up with other members to see what everyone's been up to and maybe make some plans for the remainder of the summer! Also, if you are new to the area or the club, we'll welcome you and tell you a little more about who we are and what we do. Starts at 6:00 and we'll be around till at least 8:30 (last call for drinks is at 8:00).

18th Annual Kercher Glacier Classic- August 18-21

We are very excited to once again be putting together plans for the signature event of The Rocky Mountaineers—The Kercher Glacier Classic! 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. Whether it's your first time or eighteenth, it will be a weekend of great hikes, climbs and camp camaraderie!

New to the club or the area? Asking yourself, "what is the Kercher Glacier Classic"?

We began this event in 2005. Our idea was to have one weekend every August where we would basecamp around Glacier and have several hikes and climbs each day. In the evenings, meet back in camp and tell stories of the days' adventures. Make new friends, reacquaint with old ones. What began as a small gathering of eight attendees has since grown to usually host between 30-40. We have held it in various locations around the Park but have recently settled on private campgrounds in the St. Mary area due to the ability to easily reserve for a large group, as well as its proximity to a high concentration of relatively easily accessible adventures.

In 2021 the Glacier Classic was renamed the Kercher Glacier Classic in honor of our dear friend and club member Bryan Kercher. Bryan tragically lost his life in a mountaineering accident in the spring of 2021. He loved Glacier National Park as much or more than anyone we ever knew. What better way to celebrate his contagious smile, energy and spirit than to share some adventures in this magnificent place!

We do require membership for this event. We also split the camping costs between all attendees who choose to stay at the campground (usually \$30-40 for the weekend). Rain or shine it's ALWAYS a great time. Join us!

Our basecamp this year will once again be the Divide Creek Campground in St. Mary. Please RSVP to ensure your spot. There are a couple of cabins that can be rented here as well, if interested.

More trips and details will be added as the event gets closer. Stay tuned and check out our online calendar for updates.

Organizer: Forest Dean- mtnear1@gmail.com

Itinerary:

Thursday- We will hopefully have a couple of half day trips this afternoon for those wishing to arrive early. For those who want to participate in one of the Friday trip offerings you should arrive in St. Mary this evening.

Friday- We will have at least two trips today for those wanting a longer weekend. The rest of the participants will likely head up to St. Mary and arrive sometime Friday afternoon or evening. Bring your own food and drink for dinner this evening. Around 8:00pm we will have the Saturday trip leaders announce their plans for the following day.

Saturday- Climbs and hikes during the day. BYO dinner and drinks in the evening. Hopefully we can all gather around a campfire. Again, around 8:00pm we will discuss the following day's trip options.

Sunday- More hikes and climbs for those interested, or head home whenever you desire.

Beginner Whitewater Weekend

Give your legs a break from the mountain activities and try a fun weekend on the water! This clinic will run from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon and includes all equipment, guides and instructors, and shuttles along the river. Whether you have never tried kayaking or you have some experience this will be a great weekend for you. Those who are new to the sport or need some work on skills will start on flat water to get used to the equipment and comfortable in the water then can progress as they feel ready. Those with more experience can head straight to the river for more advanced instruction. The plan is to do this trip along on the Blackfoot with an option to camp on Saturday night. The price for all that is included is \$285. There is also an option for a 1 day clinic here in town on another date if you prefer to only do 1 day. Please contact me for more information or if you would like to sign up. We would like to have an idea of how many we will have by mid-June to make sure we keep that date reserved. Organizer: Candy Hartman- candyhart2005@hotmail.com

Great Burn Trailwork Weekend

Give back to the trails you love! We are looking to do a trailwork weekend in the Great Burn September 23-25. This will involve trail clearing and 2 overnight stays in the Great Burn. We need at least 6 people for the Great Burn Association to commit to this trip so please contact Candy Hartman at candyhart2005@hotmail.com if you are interested or need more information.

Marmot Madness

The Philip L. Wright Zoological museum is running a citizen science project to better understand how hoary marmots are adapting to climate change. This is a follow up to the many marmot specimens in the museum. You can volunteer to check out a site where marmots were collected in the past, and this could be a Rocky Mountaineers trip. And if you spot hoary marmots outside of Glacier Park, please let Alden know. For more information, check out

<https://rockymountaineers.com/marmot-madness/> and
<https://hs.umt.edu/umzm/research/marmots.php>.

TRM Merchandise

We have merchandise for sale and available for purchase at our presentations, quarterly business meetings, the Spring picnic, etc. Please contact Elizabeth Moore if you'd like to purchase something for a local pickup.



Beanie \$25



Pint Glass \$10



Keychain \$5



T-Shirt \$20



Baseball Cap \$20



Buff \$10

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

The Rocky Mountaineers' Quarterly Business Meeting Minutes

May 10th, 2022 – Big Sky Brewing Company

Attendance: Elizabeth Moore, Chris Soriano, Forest Dean, Alden Wright, Candy Hartman, Julie Kahl

I Call to Order: 6:04 PM

II Next Meeting Sept 8, 2022

III Approved Mar. 1st Business meeting minutes, Chris made motion, Elizabeth 2nd. All approved.

IV Treasurer's Report

A. As of 5/8/2022 we had \$1095.06

B. After Spring BBQ deposit \$420, \$390 for the BBQ and \$30 for a membership -\$1630.67

C. Last Year we had \$3610.00 at the end of May

D. Big expenses - Officers insurance, club events, \$600 in swag, location charge for Spirit of Peace around \$600, Post Office Box, cabin rental with Forest Service

E. A lot of people haven't renewed yet

1. Some of it due to change over in membership format to renewing yearly, like those that joined over the winter
2. Can Alden just e-mail the 21 people who didn't renew? Yes, needs a form letter for that -Forest will do
3. We have 73 voting members -some of those are families, had over 100 members in previous eras

V Fundraising

A. With 501(c3) memberships and donations are now tax deductible

1. Note somewhere on website, and other places, on 1st page
2. Include the tax deduction "receipt" in the welcome letter? Remind them to save it

B. Other: Raffle items, Missoula Gives -next year, work concerts, pint nights

C. Get together with Grizzly Orienteering and plan a race event? Race to the Cabin?

VI Election Results

- A. Only 18 people voted online, was that a quorum? Yes, we need 10%
- B. Re-elected current officers
- C. Approved the By-Law changes as per 501(c3)
- D. New By-Laws require 3 at large board members -voted in by the officers -AFTER the General Membership Meeting in May (today): Alden Wright (webmaster), Forest Dean (newsletter and trip coordinator) and Julie Kahl (archivist)

VII Website Report

- A. Alden is still struggling to get a welcome message out to new memberships and renewals,
 - 1. Is seeking help from others, and may try a new program
 - 2. May contact Missoula Nordic to find out more about their program
 - 3. Suggestions for “run Sign-up” that racers use
 - 4. Alden is tracking the 12 month sign up process
 - 5. Can Alden export the membership list? Yes
 - 6. Recognize sponsors with logos, on the website
- B. In the meantime will contact people personally, on a case by case basis
- C. \$831 in website processing fees this year
- D. Check for updates that may be needed
- E. Advertise Merchandise on Website?
 - 1. No one wants to be burdened with dealing with on-line orders
 - 2. Pictures up yet? No
 - 3. Make sure potential buyers know that merchandise is available at our events and presentations
- F. Trip Leaders Bios all ok? Some need checking

VIII How to use our 501(c3) to move the club forward?

- A. Folks will want to know how their funds are spent, tell membership
- B. If less than \$50,000 a year, no tax forms need to be filed, State reaffirmation yearly
- C. 501(c3) Registry? We can be tracked through our official numbers
- D. Outreach letter to businesses
 - 1. Most want an “vision” of some sort -what are we going to use the money for?
 - 2. Does our mission statement cover this?

3. Elizabeth had compiled a list of all potential stores or businesses
 4. Do some history as part of the letter?
 5. Education, presentations, safe personal introduction to the outdoors
 6. Chris will draft for revisions
- E. Potential benefit for members -501(c3)
- F. Trip leaders get tickets for each trip lead and then have a drawing. Things like gym punch cards? Will discuss more at a July 12th meeting

IX Events

- A. Summer Social June 18th and 19th, Casey too busy?
- B. Winter Fest Elizabeth will take it over -expand it
- C. Forest will do Glacier Classic and Cabin work day
- D. Chris and Julie will do the Spring Fling -probably change date as it is no longer May meeting or the general membership meeting as it was in the past
- E. Another social at Imagine Nation like we did last year? Discussed
- F. People will look into pint nights at Cranky Sams, Kettlehouse, Draught Works and Cambie

X Cabin

- A. Forest wants to put a piece of plywood over the new window for the summer, to avoid vandalism, Chris has one
- B. PDF to send to cabin users, like a week before, Elizabeth is working on it will send out for edits

XI Trips

- A. Discussed possible trip leaders
- B. Possible trips
 1. Homestake Pass climbing weekend?
 2. Stone Hill climbing trip like last year?
 3. Kercher Glacier Classic
 - a. Need more trips (as always)
 - b. Forest needs an assistant to take care of things, as he will be gone just before the Classic- Candy was asked and volunteered
 - c. Is there a list of past Glacier Classic trips, somewhere?- no but could be compiled from old newsletters and Julie's archiving

4. Need to put trip info on the website

5. Candy Hartman

a. May do a beginning white water class

b. Adopt a trail- in the Great Burn

1) They are happy with us, we could propose a project or they can recommend a project

2) Schley Cr., Clearwater Crossing, Indian Cr. -trails overgrown

3) Can we use power tools?

4) Overnight -probably on a weekend, Around Sept. 21st?

5) A few weeks later do a trip on the trails to check them out

XII Merchandise, still working on stickers, beer cozies have been suggested

XIII Trip Leader Handbook Meeting May 24th, Tom's house

A. Start working on it, get invite out to select trip leaders, Elizabeth will do tomorrow

B. Include a form for leaders, gear lists, class rating system, info and maps, fitness levels, special skills

C. Julie will print, we need a new cover photo, anyone have one?

XIV Presentation Ideas

A. Adopt a trail people, MT Conservation Corp people

B. Doug Ammons, Doug Peacock, Forest, Jenny Lowe-Anker

C. Will discuss more at May 24th meeting

XV Adjourn 8:08 PM