

The Mountain Ear

July/August 2022

President's Message

Summer is in full swing in western Montana and although the temperatures have been soaring in Missoula, the valley has been relatively smoke free so far (fingers crossed for that to continue). The first wildflowers are going to seed and the next round is starting in the high country.

At the top of our announcement list, we have the 18th annual Kercher Glacier Classic and we are pleased to have quite a few trip offerings this year. If there is one event you don't want to miss it is this special yearly gathering we have on the east side of Glacier National Park. If you haven't yet had the opportunity, please check out our event calendar and sign up for one of our trips and join us around a campfire (if conditions permit) in the evening to gather for a meal and share stories of the day's adventures.

Another development we have been working on is our newly acquired 501c3 status. Any members with experience with sponsorships, fundraising, web design or marketing, we need you! We would love to have you at the table with us as we develop mutually beneficial partnerships with local and outdoor businesses to benefit our members and further our outdoor educational offerings. We are a 62-year-old mountaineering club with much history, knowledge and community to share.

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

"When we walk into a grove of trees of under an open sky, the magic of nature takes over and the heaviness of life lifts just a little." Natassja Cassinerio

See you in the mountains!
Elizabeth

18th Annual Kercher Glacier Classic- August 18-21

We are very excited to once again be hosting 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 have a half day trip 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 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.

AND...we apparently have a new fun game to play on Saturday evening this year...."Pin the Climber on the Mountain". Not sure what that is? Attend and find out!!

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

Great Burn Trailwork Weekend

Give back to the trails you love! We are doing 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. *Editors Note: We already have six of us signed up, but would love to see more of you join us! The Great Burn is an amazing place and trail work is FUN! (promise!)*

September 'Welcome Back' Party!

Once again, we will kick off our fall/winter/spring monthly presentation series with our annual "**Welcome Back Party**" at Imagine Nation Brewing Company. We invite anyone and everyone to come spend a couple of hours with us on **Wednesday, September 14 at 6:00pm**. We'll be presenting a brief overview of who The Rocky Mountaineers are and more of our plans for the future. A few achievement awards will be handed out. Media presentations of some of this past year's trips will be shown. We'll enjoy a few great INBC beers while we meet, greet, answer questions and socialize. INBC may have a food truck parked outside so you can purchase dinner if you so desire (or feel free to bring something from home or elsewhere).

Please attend...and bring a friend or two! NOTE: Assuming weather cooperates, we are planning to host this event OUTSIDE under their big white tent. So, go through the brewery and onto the back patio to find us!

Achievement Awards

The Rocky Mountaineers annually recognize any current club member who has completed one or more of the several peak lists listed on our website: (www.rockymountaineers.com/index.php/achievement-awards). Perhaps you have finished one of these lists and don't even know it! We'd love to present a few folks with a certificate of accomplishment at our September "Welcome Back Party".

Also, new this year, if you have someone you would like to nominate for an award, please let us know. You could nominate someone for just about anything related to a TRM trip or event. Maybe someone was an exceptional leader. Maybe someone took the reins in a time of need. Perhaps someone had the funniest tumble off a trail that you have ever witnessed. Send your comments, ideas, funny stories to the editor (mtnear1@gmail.com)!

Upcoming Trips and Activities

Scramble- **Trapper Peak (Bitterroots)**- Sat, Aug. 6
Scramble- **Holland Peak (Swans)**- Sat, Aug. 6
Scramble/Hike- **Cutaway Pass/Marche Point (Pintlers)**- Sat, Aug. 13
Scramble/Overnight- **Sky Pilot (Bitterroots)**- Sat-Sun, Aug. 13-14
Bike/Scramble- **Triangle Peak (Rattlesnake)**- Sun, Aug. 14
Various Trips- **18th Annual Kercher Glacier Classic**- Thu-Sun, Aug 18-21
Scramble/Climb- **West 9430 Peak (Glacier NP)**- Sat-Sun, Aug 27-28
Hike- **Petty Mountain**- Sat, Sept 10
Trail Work- **Great Burn**- Fri-Sun, Sept 23-25
Cabin- **TRM Cabin Workday**- Sat, Oct 8

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

www.rockymountaineers.com

TRM Evening Trail Runs & MTB Rides

Take advantage of the longer days to get in a conditioning trail run or an easy mountain bike ride after work! For the runs, 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.

For the mountain bike rides, Alden Wright is the leader. He will lead a slow mountain bike ride in the Missoula Valley area on Thursday evenings. He will post the location and meeting times on the website the day or two prior.

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