

# The Mountain Ear

December 2018

## President's Message

Happy Holidays,

As 2018 winds down, things are heating up for The Rocky Mountaineers! We have lots of trips, educational events, social events and meetings on tap over this next month.

Hopefully, we will see a lot of you participating in one or more of these. Its always really great to meet new folks and to see some of you who have rarely (or never) taken part in any of our activities. Come out and join us before the year is (literally) over!

As I have mentioned many times before, we are always looking for feedback. Nearly all of our educational events have been shaped by members asking for certain things. When we sent out a survey last January, one of the most common request asked for more snow safety/avalanche awareness. Hopefully those who requested this take note of the opportunities listed below (December Presentation, Roundtable Discussion, Level 1 Avy Course). We can't offer everything or all at once, but we will keep trying to do our best. And, as always, don't like what you see? Then get more involved! Please!

I sincerely hope everyone has a great month of December. Whether you are celebrating the Holiday Season, getting together with family or friends or just counting down the days until the daylight starts to increase again, I urge you to keep getting outside as much as you can! Hike, ski, snowboard, ice climb, indoor climb, run, bike, fly....there is always so much to do around here. We are here to help with that! See you out there!

Cheers,

Forest Dean

## December Feature Presentation

### **AVALANCHE AWARENESS**

Tuesday, December 11th- Imagine Nation Brewing Company- 6:00-8:00pm

Todd Glew from the West Central Montana Avalanche Center will be our guest presenter this month. In this 1-hour, free avalanche awareness session, Todd will deliver an introduction on how avalanches happen, what they look like, and how to avoid them.

Through video footage, photos and engaging dialog, you will learn about why you should be aware, and how to be prepared when you travel in the backcountry. We'll talk about gear, terrain, snowpack and more!

The avalanche awareness session is designed for both current and aspiring backcountry travelers.

Topics Covered:

- Types of Avalanches
- Avalanche Terrain
- Snowpack Types
- Weather Considerations
- Avalanche Advisory Information
- Trip Planning and Preparation
- Travel Techniques
- Education Opportunities

Doors open at 6:00. Come in, grab a beer (if desired), and learn a thing or two! This will be a very informative and important talk for anyone looking to get out in the mountains over the next several months!

*January-* Backcountry Hut Skiing in British Columbia. Minot Maser will be discussing the glorious BC Hut system in British Columbia.

*February-* Crown of the Continent presentation with UM's Rick Graetz.

### **Winter Classic and Holiday Party!**

Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>

A mere one day after the Winter Solstice, we intend to celebrate! Consider joining us on one of FOUR different activities on this day: Cross Country Skiing at Chief Joseph Pass, Backcountry Ski Touring in the Bitterroots, Ice Climbing ('Roots or Finley Creek or Mission Falls) or stay warm while climbing at Freestone Climbing Center. Please see our trip calendar on our website for details and contact info to sign up.

Afterward we will convene at Lolo Peak Brewing Company in Lolo for our annual Holiday Party. We have the "Community Room" rented upstairs (as well as the mezzanine area, if needed). Arrive anytime after 5:30pm. We'll likely wrap up by 9:00pm. You may order on your own off the menu here if so desired. All members (and guests of members) are welcome to attend! (You do not need to participate in the days' activities—but we encourage you to do so—get out!!)

### **Upcoming Trips and Activities**

Ice Climbing- **Bozeman Ice Festival**- Wed-Sun, Dec. 5-9

Winter Outing- **Lolo Pass**- Sun, Dec. 9

XC Ski- **Chief Joseph or Lolo Pass**- Sat, Dec. 15

BC Ski- **Little St. Joe Peak/Cabin Stay**- Sat-Sun, Dec. 15-16

XC Ski- **Chief Joseph Pass**- Sat, Dec. 22

BC Ski- **Bitterroots (TBD)**- Sat, Dec. 22

Ice Climbing- **Location TBD**- Sat, Dec. 22  
Indoor Climbing- **Freestone**- Sat, Dec. 22  
Ice Climbing- **Mission Falls**- Sat, Dec. 29  
Alpine Climb- **Bell Mountain (Lemhi's)**- Sat-Sun, Jan. 5-6  
Ice Climbing- **Hyalite Canyon**- Sat-Sun, Jan. 19-20  
BC Ski- **Stonewall Creek**- Sat, Jan 26

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

[www.rockymountaineers.com](http://www.rockymountaineers.com)

### **Classroom- Avalanche Awareness**

We will be hosting another "roundtable" event at Big Sky Brewery on Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. This roundtable will focus on Avalanche Awareness and will be a great follow up to the Presentation on the 11<sup>th</sup>. We'll talk about avy terrain, travel considerations and techniques, rescue equipment, and rescue techniques. This event is a moderated discussion. We encourage all experience levels to participate. Folks with a lot of experience can share what they have learned. Our goal is for everyone to walk away with a better understanding of the topic!

6:30-8:00pm. Conference Room on Second Floor at Big Sky Brewing Co.

Contact: Joshua Phillips- mtsurveyor@gmail.com

### **Level 1 Avalanche Course**

We are pleased to announce the following LEVEL 1 AVALANCHE COURSE (Sponsored and Trainers provided by: Missoula Avalanche)

This course is available exclusively to members of The Rocky Mountaineers!

Course Description

**Format:**

2 part classroom component + 2 day field component

**Date | Location:**

1.31.19 - 2.1.19 Classroom Component | University of Montana, Missoula Campus

2.2.19 - 2.3.19 Field Component | Lost Trail Pass Backcountry

**Price:** Discounted TRM member rate- \$225.00 (Note: This same course will likely be over \$400 next year)

**Avalanche Level 1**

The level 1 course is designed for current and aspiring backcountry travelers. This course focuses on developing a solid foundation in avalanche knowledge and backcountry travel skills. Following the American Avalanche Association (A3) curriculum instructors cover systematic approaches for sorting and prioritizing information in the complex environment of decision-making in the backcountry. Forty percent of the course is classroom based and

the other sixty percent is field based. Participants will travel in the backcountry, in and around avalanche terrain.

This course focuses on the following:

- Basic avalanche terminology
- Recognizing avalanche terrain
- Travel procedures in avalanche terrain
- Formation of the mountain snowpack
- How weather changes the snowpack
- Human factors and how they can influence decision-making
- Interpreting the avalanche forecast and advisory
- Tour planning
- Avalanche transceiver use and rescue skills
- Field observations of terrain, snowpack, and weather
- Use and interpretation of stability tests
- Implementing systems for prioritizing information, working as a team
- Classroom decision-making scenarios to practice use of the checklist
- Next steps

#### RECOMMENDED READING

- Snow Sense, Jill Fredston & Doug Fesler
- Staying Alive in Avalanche Terrain, Bruce Tremper
- Avalanche Essentials, Bruce Tremper

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

What is included:

1. Professional instruction
2. Course workbooks
3. Classroom and field instruction
4. Lift tickets (unless otherwise noted), if the course is operating out of a ski area

What is not included:

1. Transportation to and from the trailhead or ski area
2. Personal gear
3. Avalanche rescue gear
4. Food

TO REGISTER: Please contact Forest Dean (406-240-7612 [mtnear1@gmail.com](mailto:mtnear1@gmail.com)). Payment (\$225) required to guarantee your spot.

COURSE LIMIT: 12 participants (ONLY 1 MORE SPOT AVAILABLE)

#### Merchandise

**Beanies and Baseball (Trucker) hats** have been ordered and will be available for purchase soon (\$20). We are also going to be placing an order for **Long Sleeve Performance Hoody's** (\$30). If you are interested in getting in on the order, please let us know ASAP!!!

Color Options:

- Black
- Aluminum (light silver gray)
- Aqua blue (light soft turquoise almost)
- Mint green (very light soft green)
- Pale Yellow (very light soft yellow)

Sizes: XS, S, M, L, XL (All in mens sizing)

Contact Susanna with questions or to place an order: [susannagirolamo@gmail.com](mailto:susannagirolamo@gmail.com)

### **Business Meetings**

The next quarterly business meeting will take place on Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. All members are very welcome (and encouraged) to attend! Please consider joining us and assisting with the direction of your club.

- December 3
- March 4
- May 6

We will hold these meetings in the upstairs conference room at Big Sky Brewing Company. Meetings will start promptly at 6:00pm and wrap up no later than 8:30pm. (and yes, we can drink beer while we meet!)

### **Trip Reports**

All reports from club trips can be found at: <http://therockymountaineers.blogspot.com>  
All future Trip Reports will be posted and archived on this site as well.

### **Club Officers**

President- Forest Dean

Vice President- Joshua Phillips

Secretary- Kelsey Wellington

Treasurer- Susanna Phillips