

The Mountain Ear

January 2019

President's Message

Happy New Year,

Well folks, its 2019! Seems like we were just getting ready for 2018. I guess I am getting old—the days, months, years just continue to fly by ever faster. I hope you all had a great year and are looking forward to this next one. I know that I sure am! So much to do (but so little time).

To help lay out what we as a club have planned for 2019, take a look at "The Year Ahead" article below. This, along with our Event Calendar on our website, will hopefully give you a little inspiration to get out and participate alongside some of your fellow members in the coming months. And, as always, please feel free to share your ideas for things to do. Our Facebook page is a great place to do that, but good old fashioned email or phone calling works as well!

The club had a great month of December! The Bozeman Ice Fest was as much (if not more) fun than ever with about a dozen TRM folks participating. If you have ever had just a thought about wanting to try ice climbing, THAT is the event! There is really something for every ability. We had quite a few great local trips as well: XC Skiing, BC Skiing, Ice Climbing. A bunch of us got together for a Holiday Party at Lolo Peak Brewery. Another great presentation (Avalanche Awareness) at Imagine Nation Brewery. And a fun, informative Beacon Training/Roundtable event at Big Sky Brewery. Indeed, a fun month. Let's see if we can outdo ourselves in January!

Speaking of Beacons, our friends at Big Sky Brewery now have a Beacon Park installed in their backyard (the "Amphitheater area"). This was installed in partnership with the West Central Montana Avalanche Center and is open for all to use. What a great gift for the Missoula outdoor community! It doesn't cost a thing, but you may want to visit the taproom for a beer or two after using it. In addition, Beers with the Forecasters is back for its second season at Big Sky as well (dates 1/3, 1/10, 1/17, 1/24- each starting at 6:00pm)- folks can stop by and visit with Travis and/or Logan to get a real up to date idea on what the current snowpack is doing. Take advantage of these great resources!

Here's wishing for a cold, snowy month of January! Yay winter!

Cheers,

Forest Dean

December Feature Presentation

THE BACKCOUNTRY SKI HUTS OF INTERIOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

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

The Columbia Mountains of British Columbia, within a day's drive of Missoula, are world renowned for their immense ski terrain and abundant snowfall. Famous sub-ranges such as the Bugaboos, Selkirks, Monashees, and Cariboos, conjure images of skiers descending seemingly endless runs with snow billowing over their heads. One of the most popular ways to experience this ski nirvana, assuming one can't afford to helicopter ski (or, would rather exercise), are countless remote backcountry huts. Come spend an evening learning where you can go, the terrain you can expect, and what hut is best suited for you and your fellow powder hounds. There are a myriad of options: traditional helicopter accessed week long huts; more off the radar snowmobile accessed huts; and those only reachable by old-fashioned trudging.

The presenter, **Minot Maser**, has been backcountry skiing in British Columbia's interior ranges for 27 years. During this time he's skied at over 30 huts throughout BC's interior. Integrated with his passion for backcountry skiing, Minot, has worked as the Northern Rockies tech rep for Backcountry Access (BCA) for 17 years, which was preceded by an initial career as a ski and mountaineering guide in BC, Alaska, and Washington.

Doors open at 6:00. Come in, grab a beer (if desired), and be inspired!

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

Upcoming Trips and Activities

Alpine Climb- **Bell Mountain (Lemhi's)**- Sat-Sun, Jan. 5-6

XC Ski- **Lee Creek (Lolo Pass)**- Sun, Jan 6

BC Ski/TRM Cabin- **Little St. Joseph Peak**- Fri-Sun, Jan. 11-13

Snowshoe- **Pistol Creek Lookout**- Sat, Jan. 19

Ice Climbing- **Hyalite Canyon**- Sat-Sun, Jan. 19-20

BC Ski- **Stonewall Creek**- Sat, Jan 26

Level 1 Avalanche Course- **FULL**- Thurs-Sun, Jan. 31-Feb 3

BC Ski- **Mini Gash Point**- Sun, Feb. 10

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

www.rockymountaineers.com

The Rocky Mountaineers Cabin- Status Update

As many of you know, our club owns and maintains a winter-use-only cabin on the eastern flanks of Little St. Joseph Peak in the Bitterroots. The cabin is on National Forest land and we are allowed to have this amazing asset via a special use permit with the USFS. In the past our club has not placed any regulations or restrictions on the use of the cabin- it has been open to the "general public".

With the increasing popularity of backcountry skiing (in particular), our little cabin has been receiving more and more use. From our "analysis" over the past couple winters, most of the use has been from folks who are not club members. Certain weekends have seen quite crowded conditions. The potential for a negative experience or even conflict seems to be ripe.

Additionally, upon closer review of our permit (by the officers and also an attorney) we determined that we weren't exactly meeting certain contract conditions in the past. To help keep this treasure in our possession as well as limit any potential liability and stay in the good graces of the Forest Service, changes needed to be made. Thus....

The Rocky Mountaineers cabin is now for MEMBERS ONLY. Members may bring guests, but please be respectful and give priority to any other members who may wish to use it at the same time. (Always check the online calendar and/or contact an officer prior to planning an overnight stay at the cabin.) A portion of our dues goes towards the annual permit fee and (larger cost) liability insurance. It is only fair that those paying for it get exclusive rights to it. Also, if you are bringing guests with you- please ask them to join our club! Or, at the very least, go online and make a donation for their stay.

To help make this new situation work, we have installed a combination lock on the door leading up into the cabin. This combination will change from time to time to keep from having the entire outdoors community know the code. Again, please contact an officer in advance for news on others that may be planning on using the cabin as well as the current code.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to any of us if you have questions or concerns! Thanks!

The Year Ahead

In my opinion, dreaming and planning for trips and adventures can be almost as much fun as actually doing them. In these shortest daylight days of the year, few things beat poring over maps, reading guidebooks and making plans for the upcoming year. Quite often these adventures don't come to fruition due to many circumstances, but that is all part of the game. Providing you keep dreaming and planning those dreams, many do eventually happen!

With that said, I wanted to share some of the plans TRM is working on for 2019. Some have dates, some don't, some are just ideas. The list is fairly small right now- we hope it will grow! See something of interest? Let us know you are interested. Want to share some ideas? Please do! As always, keep an eye on this newsletter and our website calendar for firm dates and plans.

January- See "Upcoming Trips and Activities" section above

February- Roundtable session: "Navigation"
- Social at the TRM Cabin- Feb. 9 and/or 10th

March- Spring Equinox Social- March 23

April- Snow Climbing and Glacier Travel- Roundtable and Field Days

May- Annual club BBQ and spring trips day- May 4th

June- Summer Solstice Party, Activities, 24 Hours of Sentinel- June 15 or 22

July- Mt. Forbes climb (Banff NP)- July 4-7

August- Week in the Winds (Wind River Range, WY)- August 2-11
- 15th Annual Glacier Classic- August 16-18

September- Welcome Back Party and Awards- Sept. 10th

October- TRM Cabin Workday- Oct. 5th

November-

December- Bozeman Ice Festival- Dec. 11-15

Merchandise

We have **TRM Logo Beanies and Baseball (Trucker) hats** for sale! (\$20). We are also still 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

Business Meetings

The next quarterly business meeting will take place on Monday, March 4th. All members are very welcome (and encouraged) to attend! Please consider joining us and assisting with the direction of your club.

- March 4
- May 6 (Annual Meeting)

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