

The Mountain Ear

February 2019

President's Message

Greetings Members,

I apologize for the delayed February newsletter. Participated in our Level 1 Avalanche Course last weekend and then immediately headed to southern California for a work conference. (As I write this, I'm still in not-so-sunny San Diego). I know....excuses! Going to need to keep this short.

We had an excellent Avy Course this past weekend. 12 participants and two really great instructors. We will definitely work with the West Central MT Avy Center to offer this course (exclusive to TRM members) again next year. For those looking to get into BC skiing, this course is a must!

We've filled up the remainder of our presentation slots through May. Should be some great speakers. See below for more info. We are also looking to add some more roundtable discussions, beacon training evenings, social events, and of course, Trips! Keep checking the calendar in the near future to see what is going on.

Have a great rest of February!

Forest Dean

February Feature Presentation

The Crown of the Continent Program- Rick and Susie Graetz

Tuesday, February 12th - Imagine Nation Brewing Company- 6:00-8:00pm

Get there early if you want a seat! The room only holds 45.

Rising in northwest Montana, southern Alberta and British Columbia, a swath of elevated geography is cast on a colossal scale - immense, vast and dramatic. Here nature mustered many of her greatest powers to create a glorious 13 million-acre masterpiece. Mountain building not only thrust massifs skyward, but also pushed them eastward over the sedimentary strata underlying the prairie grass. Eventually, massive forces of ice created valley and alpine glaciers, which when set in motion shaped an uncommon landscape that stands with the best mountain majesty on earth.

At 6:00pm on Tuesday Feb 12th at Imagine Nation Brewing Company's "The Center" room, Rick and Susie will present a program on the Crown of the Continent. A narrative will accompany about 115 photos of all corners of this intact natural system.

Rick and Susie Graetz are publishers, authors and photographers and own Northern Rockies Publishing Co. Rick is a Geography professor at The University of Montana and teaches courses on Montana, The Crown of the Continent, The Greater Yellowstone, High Asia and numerous field courses under the heading Mountain Field Studies. Susie is the Managing Editor of the Crown of the Continent and Greater Yellowstone Magazine. Together they have penned articles for numerous national publications and were the authors of the syndicated newspaper column This Is Montana. The couple has authored more than 30 books for many areas of Montana, Southeast Asia, the Himalaya and West Indies. Through The University of Montana Press, they have written books on Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan and were part of a team that produced a textbook on Central Asia.

NOTE: The Center Room has very limited seating (approx. 36 seats) plus standing room for another 10-12 people. First come, first served!

Doors open at 6:00. Come in, grab a beverage, and JOIN US!

March- **Jeff Shapiro**- Climbing Expeditions to China and India

April- **Jesse Crocker**- 2018 Tour Divide Mountain Bike Race

May- **Ben Darce**- Manaslu Climbing Expedition

Upcoming Trips and Activities

BC Ski- **Mini Gash Point**- Sat, Feb. 16

Ice Climbing- **Bass Creek Falls**- Sun, Feb. 17

BC Ski/Camp- **Southern Mission Mtns**- Fri-Sun, March 1-3

Snow Climb- **East St. Mary's Peak**- Sun, March 17

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

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