

# The Mountain Ear

May 2019

## President's Message

Hello Members-

Spring is here in western Montana as evidenced by weather consisting of equal parts sunshine, rain, snow, wind and then back to sunshine again. It can be a great time of the year to get out, but just make sure you are prepared for, well, everything! I spent this past weekend shivering for two nights in my 15 degree above sleeping bag. I WANTED to believe summer was right around the corner. In reality, winter still had a firm hold on things at 8800'!

We have a lot going on over the next several days. Our annual spring BBQ and a slate of activities this Saturday. I hope you can join in the fun! We have had a lot of folks sign up already. Check below for more details. This coming Monday is our final quarterly meeting (we refer to it now as our annual meeting) of the season. We will finalize elections of our new slate of officers at that time. And, a week from next Tuesday we will host our final monthly presentation of the season (we take the summer months off). It should be a good one!

We have had a lot of success over the years, and especially over the past couple of years, with social events and functions. One of our goals is to continue to offer more of these. They provide a good opportunity for members to get to know one another, share ideas, make plans, etc. Be on the lookout for a few more of these this summer! The Glacier Classic will certainly be the highlight, so plan to attend that now!

This is the last President's message that I will need to compose for a while. I will turn this over to the more-than-capable hand of Joshua Phillips (pending election). It has really been a pleasure getting to know a lot of you over the last couple of years. I have been a member of this club now since 2004 and have really met some amazing people and climbing partners over the years. Many of these have become my best friends! I will continue to keep myself very involved over the next bunch of years; to me, it is really rewarding to have this group of folks to interact with who are passionate about outdoor mountain recreation.

I hope to see a lot of you this weekend. Everyone else, please have a great, fun and safe summer. Please continue to reach out to me at any time. Best of luck to the next slate of officers! Let's keep this club heading on the tremendously positive course that it is now on!

Sincerely,

Forest Dean

## **TRM Spring Fling and BBQ!!**

What: Several Activities during the day followed by our annual Spring BBQ

When: Saturday, May 4th

Where: See list of daytime activities below. BBQ is at Kiwanis Park in downtown Missoula and will begin at 6:00PM

Who: All members! (family members or guests are welcome)

**RSVP REQUIRED!**

### **DAY ACTIVITIES**

CH-PAA-QN PEAK- Hike, ski, snowshoe - Leader: Susanna Phillips

THE HEAP - Rock Climbing- Leader: Forest Dean

BITTERROOT SKI TOUR- Leader: Joshua Phillips

O'BRIEN CREEK/BLACK MTN- Hike - Leader: Steve Schombel

MILLER PEAK or DEAN STONE- Hike - Leader: Bryan Kercher

*See our website calendar for more details, or contact Forest*

### **BBQ**

All members are cordially invited to join us for our annual Spring BBQ picnic! Plan to arrive about 6:00pm. Dinner and drinks are on us! We'll be giving away some raffle prizes throughout the evening...including tech t-shirts, hats and beanies AND a few grand prizes (Black Diamond Ice Axe, Sterling Climbing Rope and BCA Tracker Avy Beacon). We will be selling raffle tickets for the grand prizes (\$5 each or 3 for \$10).

Big Sky Brewing Company will be donating the beer!!

- 6:00- Burgers, Brats, Dogs and sides being served
- 7:00- Announcements (Officer Introductions, Summer Plans, News and Notes)
- Lawn Games, music, camaraderie

We have the shelter reserved until 10:00, so feel free to stick around and enjoy the party!

Are you a musician? Feel free to bring along your instrument to play solo or with others for the group!

Membership required to attend (members may bring their family members or a guest). Feel free to bring your own food/beverage if you prefer (or a dish/dessert to pass). No cost to attend (donations accepted... but only if you feel so inclined!)

Please RSVP to Forest now to let us know you will be there!

Forest Dean- [mtnear1@gmail.com](mailto:mtnear1@gmail.com)

### **May Feature Presentation**

#### **Climbing Manaslu- Ben Darce**

Imagine Nation Brewing Company- May 14- 6:00-8:00 PM

Ben Darce will give a presentation on his recent (Fall/2018) Ski-Expedition to Mount Manaslu. Manaslu (8163m), which translates to "The Mountain of Spirit", stands as the world's 8th highest mountain and is located in the Mansiri Himal mountain range of Central Nepal. During the presentation, he will share photos and tell the story of his climb. In addition to sharing his experiences with the Nepali culture, he will also discuss the logistics, challenges, and realities of climbing and skiing an 8000 meter peak without Sherpa support or oxygen.

While attending the University of North Texas, Ben would spend every summer working in Glacier National Park for the concessions. It was during this time that his passion for the mountains began to grow. After graduating with a degree in Jazz Performance in 2012, Ben relocated more permanently to the town of East Glacier Park, MT. He spent the following years playing music, waiting tables, learning how to ski, and pursuing summits throughout GNP and the Northwest. In the fall of 2015, he was invited to join an expedition to Ama Dablam (6812m), located just 10 miles south of Mount Everest. After successfully making the summit, his mind became fixed on returning to Nepal and the possibility of climbing an 8000m peak. During the summer, he waits tables and performs music at the Glacier Park Lodge. He is active within the music scene surrounding GNP and is a member of the Glacier Mountaineering Society. When he is not working, he enjoys splitting his time between practicing, training, and being in the mountains.

Show begins at 6:00pm. Come by, grab a beer and a seat, and enjoy an evening with Ben and The Rocky Mountaineers!

*Note: No monthly presentations June through August. See you again in September!*

### **Membership Renewals**

#### **DUES NOTICE**

The Rocky Mountaineers annual membership runs from May 1 to April 30. If you have not yet renewed, we would really appreciate you taking the time NOW to do so. Your current

membership will expire at the end of this month. (If you have joined since January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, your membership will be good through April 30, 2020).

What are the benefits of membership?

- Ability to participate in any of our Trips!
- Ability to participate in our educational events or clinics
- Social events
- Attend the Glacier Classic! (see below)
- Monthly Newsletter
- Be a part of a group of like-minded outdoor recreation enthusiasts!

Annual dues:

- \$25 - Individual
- \$40 - Family
- \$15 - Student/Youth (under 23 years old)

Please visit the Membership tab on our website ([www.rockymountaineers.com](http://www.rockymountaineers.com)) to renew.

Questions? Contact our Treasurer- Susanna Phillips ([susannaqirolamo@gmail.com](mailto:susannaqirolamo@gmail.com))

### **Business Meetings**

The next quarterly business meeting will take place on Monday, May 6th. (This is also considered our "Annual Meeting"). All members are very welcome (and encouraged) to attend! Please consider joining us and assisting with the direction of your club.

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!). See the end of this newsletter for the Agenda.

### **Board of Director Elections**

The following individuals have been nominated to serve as our club officers for this coming year. All are running unopposed for the respective positions. TRM bylaws require a quorum consisting of 10% of the membership to cast a vote to certify the election of these individuals. You will have three opportunities to cast your vote: via electronic (surveymonkey) method in next few days; in person at the TRM BBQ this Saturday; at the annual meeting next Monday. Please participate!

PRESIDENT- Joshua Phillips

VICE PRESIDENT- John Bardsley

SECRETARY- Fintan Maguire

TREASURER- Susanna Phillips

The following are some brief bio's for these folks:

### Joshua Phillips

I have been serving as your Vice President for the past year and have been nominated to serve as your President for the next term. I have been involved with The Rocky Mountaineers for over ten years and have served as President long ago. I have been playing in the mountains of Montana for the past 26 years and this club has been a large part of my mountain skills development.

Originally from Houston, Texas (don't hold that against me), I came to Missoula for college. After earning a degree in Geology, I decided to commit to doing what it took to stay in Missoula permanently. Through those years I've actively pursued rock climbing, ultralight backpacking, trail running, ski mountaineering, and most recently, free flight (paragliding and hang gliding).

Perhaps my biggest passion is for building friendships in the mountains. Several of my closest friendships were formed on Rocky Mountaineers trips. My desire is to see this club continue to grow in membership, inclusiveness, diversity, activity and remain a resource to the outdoor community long into the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

### John Bardsley

I am a professor of mathematics at UM and have been since 2003. I'm married with two kids in college and have been a passionate biker/skier/peakbagger/wilderness nut for my entire adult life. I've been a Rocky Mountaineer for several years, have run several trips for the group, and I served on the board as Secretary two years ago.

### Fintan Maguire

I was born in Ireland but lived most of his life in Canada and the Western US. My wife Mary Ellen introduced me to backpacking after college and a few years later I also became interested in mountaineering. While living in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho I completed a very thorough introductory mountaineering course with the Spokane Mountaineers. I have climbed in the Cascades, the Canadian Rockies, Denali, and all over Montana. Besides mountaineering I also enjoy backcountry skiing, snowboarding, backpacking, ice climbing, and hunting. We moved to Missoula in 2016 and I have been a member of the Rocky Mountaineers since 2017. Thanks for considering me for this position.

### Susanna Phillips

Hello, fellow Rocky Mountaineers!

I have been your Treasurer for the past two years and would love to continue to serve in this capacity.

I was born and raised in Switzerland, but I permanently moved away and have made Missoula, Montana home since 2013 where the mountains and rural landscape remind me of my birthplace.

Since moving to Missoula, I have enjoyed learning a variety of mountain skills. This year I'm planning to lead several off-trail Class 2 and some Class 3 trips in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, Swans and Mission Mountains. I hope you will join me on an adventure!

### TRM Cabin Update

Some of you may be aware that last fall we put a combination lock on the (*winter-use-only*) Little St. Joe Cabin and asked members to "reserve" it by contacting club officers to put a notice on the club calendar. This was done in an effort to keep cabin use sustainable, minimize overuse and conflict, and better safeguard it from vandalism and misuse.

Per language in the Special Use Permit we have with the USFS, we also purchased liability insurance for the cabin. The Stevensville Ranger District has given their blessing for this change in use approach and verbalized appreciation for our concerted effort to operate in accordance with the Special Use Permit.

They said that we could continue to keep the cabin locked, utilize it for **members only**, and manage our own reservations. A big **THANK YOU!** goes out to those members that have gone above and beyond in their stewardship of the cabin ...you know who you are.

Thank you to all dues-paying members for helping to support and sustain this treasure. Please consider also joining us for our Cabin Work Day in October where we perform maintenance, stock firewood, and socialize!

### Upcoming Trips and Activities

Spring Fling and BBQ- Kiwanis Park- Sat, May 4

Hike- **Cha-pp-qn Peak**- Sat, May 4

Rock Climb- **The Heap**- Sat, May 4

Hike- **Miller Peak**- Sat, May 4

Hike- **O'Brien Creek**- Sat, May 4

BC Ski- **Bitterroots TBA**- Sat, May 4

BC Ski- **McDonald Peak (Missions)**- Sat, May 11

Hike- **Pattee Canyon to Miller Creek**- Sun, May 19

Climb- **Lost River Range (Multiple Peaks)**- Fri-Mon, May 24-27

Hike- **Wild Horse Island**- Sun, June 9

Scramble- **Rocky Mtn and Old Baldy (Rocky Mtn Front)**- Sat-Sun, June 22-23

Alpine Climb- **Mt. Forbes (Banff NP)**- Wed-Sun, July 3-7

Scramble- **Scapegoat Mtn**- Sat-Sun, July 6-7

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

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

## **The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Glacier Classic**

This is The Rocky Mountaineers most popular and signature event! Every year since 2005, we have gathered in Glacier National Park in the latter half of August to climb peaks, hike trails, and have a grand ole time in camp. This year we will once again be basing out of St. Mary, but this time we will be camping at Divide Creek Campground. The event will take place August 15-18. A complete list of the planned activities are still being put together; preliminary list includes the following options (more to come):

- Mt. James- class 2-3 hike and scramble
- Allen Mountain- class 3 scramble
- Ipasha Peak- class 3-4 scramble
- Piegan Mtn- class 2 hike and scramble
- Mt. Cannon- class 3 scramble

There will be a couple trips on Friday, several on Saturday and 1-2 on Sunday. You can arrive when you like, participate as much as you like, and depart when you like. Most folks will arrive at Johnson's sometime on Friday afternoon/evening. Carpooling can be arranged (and is encouraged).

It's never too early to let us know you want to attend! It will be a great time- guaranteed! See website calendar for contact info and continue to watch for more details.

## **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.

## **THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS**

### **Business Meeting Agenda**

**May 6, 2019- 6:00 PM**

**Big Sky Brewing Company- Conference Room**

- 1- Call to order (Attendance)
- 2- Approval of March Meeting Minutes
  - A- Archiving of minutes
- 3- Treasury Report
- 4- Old Business Items
  - A- Website Status
  - B- Merchandise Order
  - C- Cabin Update
    - 1- Status
    - 2- Insurance
    - 3- Repairs/Door Reinforcement

- 4- Scheduled Fall Workday(s)
- 5- New Business Items
  - A- Education
    - 1- Roundtables at BSBC
    - 2- Field Days
    - 3- Other ideas
  - B- Presentations
    - 1- September- Welcome Back Party
      - a- Format
      - b- Awards/New Ideas?
    - 2- Future speakers
    - 3- INBC- use of entire facility
  - C- Trips and Events
    - 1- Never-ending need for filling calendar
    - 2- Trip Leaders- how to get more involved
    - 3- Events:
      - a- Summer Solstice event
      - b- Glacier Classic
      - c- Wind River trip
      - d- Fall Social?
      - e- Bozeman Ice Festival
  - D- Roles of Individuals other than officers
    - 1- Past President
    - 2- Newsletter
    - 3- Website
    - 4- Committees?
    - 5- Potential future officers
  - E- Collaboration with BSBC for Concert
- 6- Officer Elections
- 7- General membership comment period
- 8- Adjourn (8:00pm)