

# The Mountain Ear

## January 2020

### President's Message

It's a new year and a new decade! Hopefully this new beginning will mean more snow for our local mountains. I'm anxious about our current snowpack and have not been inspired to get out and trust it. There is snow in the forecast, but we'll need to remain cautious with the new load on our currently fragile snowpack.

The new website is up and running and looks great, thanks to the efforts of Alden Wright and (new member and web guru) Carson Cantrell. We continue to make adjustments on the site to make it work better for our members. Thank you to those that have offered input on various issues you've uncovered. We are making progress!

We are in the process of reviewing our presentation venue and many will be happy to hear that next season we will be moving into the main tap room of Imagine Nation Brewing Company. We have had issues in the past with standing-room-only and are looking to accommodate our increasing membership and participation. Stay tuned for updates regarding our venue and scheduling changes.

Think snow!  
-Joshua Phillips  
TRM President

### January Presentation

Tuesday, January 14 - IMAGINE NATION BREWING- 6:00-8:00pm

### ***Dropped off in Wild Places with Few Ways Home***

This "throwback" presentation will focus on 1970's first ascents on Mt. Fairweather (Glacier Bay National Park), and Mt. Lucania (Kluane National Park Canada). Select photos and stories from elsewhere will also be shared.

**Dr. Steven Gaskill** grew up in Colorado in the 1950-60's and by age 18 had climbed all but one of the Colorado 14ers. It took him another 49 years to get back this fall and walk up Mt. Princeton. He was fortunate to grow up with a group of like-minded youth who ran freely around the Colorado and Wyoming mountains, eventually venturing to Canada, Alaska and Europe. Their goal was to get dropped off as remotely as possible in the middle of big mountains with plans for a potential pick-up in a month or more. In some cases, they planned no pick-up and had to hike out over major peaks. There were no satellite phones, GPS, and no outside communication.

Steven Gaskill was never a professional mountaineer or rock climber. Instead, it was a love of wild places and mountain joy, freedom to walk high in the clouds that kept him coming back. He had the opportunity as a teenager to learn rock climbing from some of Boulder Colorado's pioneering giants including Layton Kor and Pat Ament, but mainly climbed with a few good friends from the Denver Junior group of the Colorado Mountain Club.

*"It was always a better adventure when no one knew what we were doing."* - Dr. Steven Gaskill

Dr. Gaskill's notable accomplishments include:

- Climbed 53 of 54 of Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks by age 18 (1970), during both summer and winter and often by classic routes such as the Diamond on Long's Peak and the Ellingwood Arete on the Crestone Needle. Failed three times to hike Mt Princeton until the fall of 2019 when, after a 49-year hiatus, I completed the Colorado 14ers. By 1970 I had also climbed many of the harder 13,000 peaks in Colorado.
- North Face-Grand Teton - 1969
- Devils Tower - 6 routes - 1971
- Bridal Veil Falls Ice Climb, Telluride CO (probably 3 or 4<sup>th</sup> winter ascent) - 1972
- Wind Rivers - over 40 summits and many rock routes 1968-1975
- North Face Mt Robson (Mt Robson Provincial Park, BC, Canada) 1974
- First ascent route of Mt Fairweather's SSW ridge (Coastal Range, Glacier Bay National Park) 1974
- Mt Foraker -Sultana -(Denali National Park) 1975 (Reached 16,800 feet - 600 from summit)
- Mt St Elias (Coastal Range), 1975
- First ascent route of Mt Lucania's Harmony ridge and traverse over Mt. Steele (Kluane National Park, Canada, 1977)
- Mt Aconcagua, Argentina (22841 feet) Mendoza-Summit and back 6 days and cerebral edema-1977
- Many European climbs (1969-1985)
- Mt Sanford (Alaska) - South ridge - failed (1980)

- Currently slowly hiking / climbing the high point of each Montana mountain range with wife Kathy.
- Near death experiences: Aconcagua, Mt. Sanford and Lizard Head Peaks

The presentation will start at 6 pm at *Imagine Nation Brewing Company* on January 14. Free and open to all! Limited seating- first come, first seated!

#### **Looking Ahead:**

**February-** *"Lord, Give Me the Confidence of an Average Bro": A Woman's Guide to Backcountry Skiing- Leah Samberg*

**March -** *The No-Holds-Barred True Story of Summitting Everest's Next-Door Neighbor- Lhotse--the World's Fourth Highest Mountain - Chris Dunn*

**April -** *Nutrition for Mountain Athletes - Jessie Thomas (Sustainable Wellness)*

**May-** TBA

#### **Upcoming Trips and Activities**

BC Skiing- **Stonewall Creek (Lincoln area)-** Sun, Jan 5

XC Ski - **Lolo Pass to Lee Creek** - Sun, Jan 5

BC Skiing - **Backcountry Skiing Basics - Lolo Pass-** Sat, Jan 11

XC Ski- **Lubrecht Ski Trails-** Sat, Jan 11

BC Skiing- **TRM Cabin/Little St. Joseph Peak-** Fri-Sun, Jan 17-19

BC Skiing- **Ward Mountain (Bitterroots)-** Sat, Jan 25

XC Ski- **Lolo Pass to Pack Creek-** Sun, Feb 2

BC Skiing- **TRM Cabin/Little St. Joseph Peak-** Fri-Sun, Feb 7-9

BC Skiing- **Mini Gash Point-** Sun, Feb. 16

BC Skiing- **Introductory Backcountry Skiing, Stonewall Creek-** Sat, Feb 22

*Please visit our website for all the details on these trips and more! Also scan further ahead in the online calendar to see some future listed trips.*

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

#### **Education- Roundtable Chats!**

These events will be held at the second floor conference room at **Big Sky Brewing Company**. What is a TRM "roundtable"? Basically, we sit around a table and have a moderated discussion on a specific topic (Ice Climbing and Backcountry Skiing, for example); we will talk about necessary skills, gear, fitness and anything else that pertains to the topic. It isn't a lecture. Everyone is encouraged to participate. New to the sport? Come and learn. Lots of experience? Come and share!

**Avalanche Rescue Basics- Wednesday, January 15th**

Join us for this indoor/outdoor roundtable discussion and practice session concerning the basics of Avy rescue. We will discuss the gear requirements and basic skills for safely recreating in the mountains in winter, and then go outside and do a little practice in Big Sky Brewing's beacon park. Everyone is welcome to attend. Roundtable discussion will begin at 6:00pm in the second floor conference room at Big Sky Brewing. Come in, grab a pint (if desired) and head upstairs. After some discussion we will head out behind the Brewery and do some practicing on their beacon park. Come prepared to go outside and bring your transceiver if you have one. Contact: Joshua Phillips- mtsurveyor@gmail.com with any questions

### **Navigation Apps- Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>**

Do a search for navigation apps on your phone these days and you will find a multitude of options. How do you know which ones are best for doing the type of backcountry travel that you like to do? Or maybe you are using one and you feel there is a better option out there? Well, we decided to host a roundtable event to try and make sense of the options! Please join us to share with everyone what you use and why AND to learn what others are using and why. Yes we are getting a little geeky here! But don't forget- this does take place in a brewery so we can drink beer while we are getting geeky! Location: Big Sky Brewing Company- 2nd floor conference room Time: 6:30-8:00pm

### **Level 1 Avalanche Course- February 6-9, 2020**

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

This course is available exclusively to members of The Rocky Mountaineers. TWO SPOTS STILL AVAILABLE!

#### **Course Description**

##### **Format:**

2 part classroom component + 2 day field component

##### **Date | Location:**

Thurs-Fri Evenings (2/6-2/7) Classroom Component | UM Campus

Sat-Sun- All Day (2/8-2/9) Field Component | Lolo Pass Backcountry

**Price:** Discounted TRM member rate- \$225.00

#### ***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

#### **Business Meetings**

The next quarterly business meeting will take place on **Wednesday, March 4th**. 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.

### **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- Joshua Phillips

Vice President- John Bardsley

Secretary- Fintan Maguire

Treasurer- Susanna Phillips

Website- Alden Wright

Archivist- Julie Kahl

Newsletter and Past President- Forest Dean

## **The Rocky Mountaineers Quarterly meeting**

12/18/2019 at Big Sky Brewing Company 6-8 pm

### **1-Call to Order:**

Members present:

Joshua Phillips- President

John Bardsley -Vice President

Fintan Maguire-Secretary

Julie Kahl

Forest Dean

Paul Jensen

Kris Kahoon

### **2-Treasurer's Report:**

TRM account \$4939.10, GMAR account \$2228.20

Cabin liability insurance was paid \$48.68/mo

Forest Service permit will be paid on 12/21/2019 (\$77.00)

### **3-Monthly Presentations:**

January- Steve Gaskill

February- Leah Samberg

March- need to find a speaker. Forest may ask Spencer Gray who is an alpinist (Chris Dunn will present)

April- Jessie Thomas, she is a Smoke Jumper and will talk about nutrition for the mountaineer

May- need to find a speaker

Fintan suggested that we could use social media to try and solicit future speakers

Brief discussion about recent presentations:

The room at Imagine Nation Brewing has been full and several people have had to stand during the presentations this fall. We could try and fit additional chairs or consider using the main room so we can accommodate more people. If we use the main room, the club may want to purchase a microphone and speakers. Joshua will speak to the owner of Imagine Nation Brewing to find out more details about moving our talks to the main room.

Recent Missoula Avalanche talk: The overall consensus was that they have done better presentations in the past. We may request that Travis give the presentation in the future. We also discussed sponsoring Missoula avalanche up to \$500/year. Joshua said he would send an email to Missoula avalanche to discuss sponsorship.

### **4- Upcoming Calendar Events:**

Roundtables:

January 15/2019 - Avalanche rescue with Beacon park transceiver practice

February – Navigation in the backcountry using phone apps

April- Glacier travel class and field day.

Forest may also ask Taylor Brugh to talk about backcountry self-rescue. Forest also talked about scheduling regular transceiver practice at Big Sky Brewing.

Social Events:

Holiday party Saturday 12/28/2019 at Imagine Nation Brewing

Joshua and Susanna will offer a ski tour trip and Laurel is also going to offer a hike up Bonner peak

Trips:

We should try to add some ice climbing and more ski touring trips to calendar

Glacier Classic:

We all agreed to have the Glacier Classic at the same campground next summer. Forest will try to reserve it for us.

### **5-Website:**

Joshua said the new website is about 90 % functional.

We also discussed how the new website compares to the GMS website. Everyone agreed that we may want to have a "Members only" portal so that only members can get the detailed trip descriptions and trip leader contact info. The cabin info (gps location, lock combo) and waivers could also be part of this member's portal. We would make the trip reports open to the public to help encourage new membership.

Joshua requested a copy of the by-laws so that they can be put on the website.

### **6-Avalanche 1 Rescue Clinic:**

7 people have already paid, 3 others are interested out of the 5 remaining spots.

Forest said some people have had difficulty trying to pay using our website.

### **7- Path to 501(c)3:**

Kris Kahoon is trying to find out our correct EIN. He will need Joshua to send him an email giving Kris the authority to speak to the state on behalf of the club. Kris said that we should have done taxes for 2018 if we earned over about \$1500. Some of the benefits of becoming a 501C are we could solicit donations, volunteer at a Big Sky concert to raise funds, and we may be able to get Pro deals.

### **8-Additional Agenda Items:**

Susanna suggested we reward our best Trip leaders with discounted educational opportunities. Forest mentioned a course at Lubrecht is being offered this spring by REI and NOLS. We decided this was a great idea but we would need to further discuss the details.

### **9-Bozeman Ice Fest -debrief:**

18 members attended this year, about 10 people stayed at the AirBNB.

Most people were happy with the AirBNB(especially those that slept on beds). Fintan and Forest would prefer if we could find a house within walking distance to the Emerson. We agreed that we should try to reserve a house ASAP for next year.

We agreed with the increased attendance of our members we should be better organized so that more people can get opportunities to ice climb.

Next Quarterly meeting set for March 4, 2020

Meeting adjourned- 8:10pm