

The Mountain Ear

February 2020

The Rocky Mountaineers Turn 60!!

Around this time in 1960 this club of ours was being created. A small group of active local Missoulians came together to "organize a non-profit joint-venture club for the mutual benefit of its members to promote all phases of recreational use of mountainous areas with primary emphasis on rock and ice-snow climbing". The first dues (\$5.00!) were paid by several folks on 2/9/60. Gardner Miller was elected as the first President. On March 3, 1960, the first By-Laws were approved and The Rocky Mountaineers became official!

Over the course of this year we would like to celebrate our founding and our history. We will be planning an "official" 60th anniversary celebration, likely to be held in conjunction with our annual Spring BBQ. A lot of history, however, can't just be "celebrated" at a one time event. So, over the course of the remainder of 2020, we will take some other opportunities to look back at the people, places and events that have led to this club not only surviving but now flourishing after 60 years.

If you are interested in learning more about how we came to be and all the adventures we have had, please be aware that we have (nearly) every newsletter archived on our website going back to 1960. Our archivist, Julie Kahl, put a great deal of time and effort into this several years ago and we owe her our gratitude! Looking for trip ideas? Looking to see if some older friends of yours participated in a climb three decades ago? Just interested in the cool history of western Montana outdoor adventure? Well, then check out these archives!

<https://rockymountaineers.com/Newsletters/>

President's Message

The President is on vacation at this time and could not provide a message here. He will be back at it next month!

February Presentation

Tuesday, February 11th - IMAGINE NATION BREWING- 6:00-8:00pm

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

Backcountry skiing is a complex, demanding, and sometimes dangerous pursuit. It's also a beautiful and rewarding way to spend time wandering around in the mountains. For many women, gaining the confidence and experience necessary to ski confidently (and safely) in the mountains requires navigating issues of risk tolerance, group dynamics, fitness, and the many time constraints of life, work, and family.

Leah Samberg Story is a backcountry skier, scientist, and mom living in Missoula, Montana. Leah will talk frankly about her experience as a woman in the back country. She will discuss local ski objectives of various lengths and difficulty as well as some adventures further afield. Both men and women are encouraged to come listen, ask questions, and share their experiences.

The presentation will start at 6 pm at *Imagine Nation Brewing Company* on February 11th. Free and open to all! Limited seating- first come, first seated!

Looking Ahead:

March - *The No-Holds-Barred True Story of Summiting 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

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 - **Gash Bowl** - Sun, Feb. 9
XC Ski or Snowshoe - **Lolo Pass** - Sun, Feb. 9
BC Skiing - **Mill Point**- Sun, Feb. 16
BC Skiing - **Introductory Backcountry Skiing, Stonewall Creek**- Sat, Feb 22
BC Skiing - **Ward Mountain** - Sat, Mar 7
BC Skiing - **Bass Lake Overnight**- Sat-Sun, Mar 7-8
BC Skiing - **TRM Cabin/Little St. Joseph Peak** - Sat-Sun, Mar 14-15
BC Skiing - **Sky Pilot** - Sat. Mar 21
BC Skiing - **Trapper Peak** - Sun. Mar 29
BC Skiing - **Ward Mountain** - Sun. Apr 5

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

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!

Navigation Apps- Tuesday, February 18th

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.

Snow Climbing & Glacier Travel Basics - Thursday, April 16th

This moderated talk will cover the basics of steep alpine snow climbing and glacier travel techniques as well as gear requirements. Perfect for those looking to move beyond mere summertime scrambles or those wanting to set their sights on big Cascade or Canadian peaks. Folks with experience are strongly encouraged to attend as well to share their ideas and experiences! This event will also be held in conjunction with a 2-day field day this coming weekend.

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. The course is full but we will hopefully be offering this (and perhaps additional courses) again next winter.

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://rockymountaineers.com/trip-reports/>.

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