

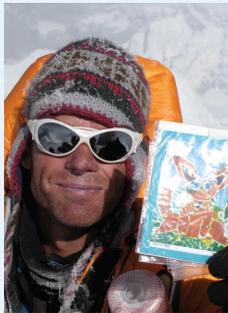
2019/2020 UTAH ADVENTURE JOURNAL SPEAKER SERIES



A benefit for the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance

THURSDAYS at 6:00pm • FREE • 21+
WILDFLOWER LOUNGE at the IRON BLOSBAM LODGE • SNOWBIRD

Only guests 21 + years are permitted into the Wildflower Lounge



12/12 WILLIE BENEGAS

Lessons Earned - 20 Years of Guiding Everest

Willie Benegas has spent the last 25 years working as a professional mountain guide, ski patroller, and educator in the Wasatch Mountains and beyond. He has led over 20 Himalayan expeditions, and achieved an astonishing thirteen Everest summits. In addition has been to the summits of famed peaks Cho Oyu, Ama Dablam, Makalu, Manaslu, Lhotse, had an attempt on the North Face of Jannu, three attempts on the highly coveted Pakistani peak Latok 1, in addition to the first ascent of "The Crystal Snake" route, yet to be repeated on Nuptse. During these climbing years, he has been witness to many significant and memorable events in the Everest and Himalayan community and beyond. Willie looks forward to sharing some of his experiences with you, through his eyes and photography.



1/9 PETER METCALF

Alpinism & Entrepreneurship: The Black Diamond Creation Story

Peter Metcalf's life has been forged and defined by climbing; in the 1970's and early 1980's his focus was on bold new technical routes on Alaska's highest peaks. One peak, and one climb in particular, the South Face of Mt Hunter, for which a book, *Breaking Point*, was written proved to be the integral life changing and learning experience whose lessons proved essential to pulling off the entrepreneurial equivalent - that of leading the creation, relocation, and growth of BD into a mission driven, global industry leader that helped change Utah, the industry, and the sports of climbing, alpinism and backcountry skiing. Peter will recount the inflection moment experiences that took him to Mt. Hunter, to the seismic "Big Bang" confluence of forces that nearly took down the American industry and sports that was the opportunity to create

Black Diamond to fight those Darth Vader forces, the journey to Utah and the lessons of Alpinism applied to business along the way. Without question it is remarkable tale of a most unlikely quixotic adventure had by an ever-evolving group of climbing and off-piste ski bums.



1/16 CODY HUGHES AND CLAY JAMES

Salt Lake City to Denali - By Fair Means

Cody Hughes grew up in a rural suburb 40 minutes north of Nashville, Tennessee and moved to Utah to attend college and spend his time loving life in the Wasatch Range. On March 20, 2019 Cody Hughes and Clay James left their home in SLC on bicycles with their sights set on the great white north with hopes to climb and ski the tallest mountain in North America - Denali. They chose to ship none of their gear ahead meaning they hauled roughly 170 lbs. worth of ski mountaineering equipment and expedition gear

on and behind their bicycles in trailers. They encountered many obstacles and hardships along the way but ultimately were successful and summited Denali - fully human powered - from their home in 84 days. What they learned on the road was way more than they could have ever imagined. A biking and skiing trip that turned into a trip about love, humbleness, community, and the beautiful souls they met along the way that provided them with endless positive energy and psych to continue moving them forward to the highest point on our continent. *This show is a benefit for the Denali Recue Volunteers*



1/30 MIKE BREHM

Adventure and Reward Through Public Service: 20 Years of Mountain Rescue

An east coast transplant to the Wasatch, Michael Brehm made his way to Utah in 1981 sight-unseen, having never even strapped a pair of skis to his feet. After earning his graduate engineering degree and starting a family, Mike discovered the little known world of mountain rescue, and joined a stellar band of committed volunteers as part of the Salt Lake County Search & Rescue Team. Thousands of call-outs and rescues later, and as he approaches his 20th year of SAR, Mike will share his experiences, stories and photos from a life-changing decision to say "yes", when a new friend spontaneously said "I think you'd be good at this." A self-described serial volunteer-er, Mike has found adventure and reward at every turn, with paths that veered into avalanche education, river running, and personal friendships. Where does the line between adventure and reward begin and end?



2/6 JAY DASH

A Visual Tour Through the Wasatch and Beyond: One Photographer's Journey to Reconnection With Nature and Himself

Jay is a commercial photographer based out of Salt Lake City, specializing in lifestyle, nature and action sports photography. His journey from a corporate finance career in Manhattan, to a self taught professional photographer in Utah, proves we are all the creators of our own destiny. Follow along as Jay will take you on a beautiful journey, through words and images, and of how a desire to be outside lead him to photography and beyond. Over the past 10 years Jay has explored the Wasatch in a way very few have in a quest to witness and capture the magic of Mother Nature. Along the way he has also been lucky enough to shoot in some of the most breathtaking mountains this planet has to offer. His imagery is a documentation of his personal experiences and his desire to motivate others to seek their own connection with nature.



2/20 MIKE MERU

Splitboarding: 20 Years Exploring in the Wasatch and Beyond

For the past 20 years Mike has been exploring ranges all over the Western US, Canada, and Alaska via his splitboard and snowboard. During this time the sport of splitboarding has evolved and progressed from an underground upwelling of off-beat powder fiends to a mainstream sport. As both a participant, as well as driver behind multiple innovations, Mike has seen the sport grow up from the inside out. In the end though, its the search, the exploration, the ascent, and the descent that keep him motivated to push his own personal limits of where his splitboard can take him. From the Wasatch to the Sierra, the Sawtooths to the San Juans, follow Mike this evening as he shares through pictures and video some of the highlights, lowlights, mistakes, and triumphs of his unique journey.



2/27 MARY MCINTYRE

Across Zanskar - Riding Disappearing Trails in Northern India

On what we supposed would be a dry and warm 16-day bike traverse through Zanskar, a Tibetan Buddhist enclave deep in the Indian Himalaya, we were caught off guard when 2 feet of snow fell during the first 48 hours at our drop-off point in the middle of nowhere. It caused some problems (to say the least) but didn't mean the whole trip was a failure. We still visited small mountain communities that have retained Tibetan Buddhist heritage and customs thanks to their severe isolation even as the rest of India explodes with population growth and modernization. But as with everywhere, times are changing. Roads are slowly replacing the ancient trail network that has connected hilltop monasteries and valley farming communities for 2,000 years as the Indian Military expands their stronghold in this contentious region near the Pakistani and Chinese borders. We wanted to ride these trails before they're gone forever.



3/5 STACY BARE

Adventure Not War: A US Army Veteran Returns to the Places America has Fought to Find Adventurous Terrain and Change the Narrative of These Places

Stacy Bare is an accidental adventurer. Raised on the plains of Eastern South Dakota, Stacy joined the military through an ROTC Scholarship at the University of Mississippi. He served in Arizona, Germany, and Bosnia from 2000-04 before leaving the Army to work with The HALO Trust in land mine clearance. He completed work in Angola and Abkhazia in the Republic of Georgia before being recalled to active duty service in Iraq for one year from 2006-07. Upon his return he struggled with addiction, trauma, and alcoholism before beginning to climb in 2009. He moved to Salt Lake City with his then girlfriend, now wife, in 2012 to learn to ski. They have since married, bought a house, had a kid, and moved to the suburbs. In 2015, he launched his project

Adventure Not War, to return to all the places he had fought or cleaned up after war, to rewrite his own narrative and share a different side of these beautiful, but conflict plagued regions. He has put up first ascents in Angola and Iraq, and skied in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Abkhazia, and the United States remain on his to do list.

ADMISSION IS FREE

A donation to the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance gets you entered into a drawing each night with great prizes from our sponsors.

