

Idaho Alpine Club Bulletin

Volume 40 - Issue Number 2 - February 2000

P.O. Box 2885, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83403-2885

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Kayaking

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Canoeing

John Page 356-6486

Sue Page 356-5118

Rafting

Vicki Hulet 523-6199

Trail Maintenance

Paul McCarthy 523-6486

Norm Kramer 522-8677

Day Hiking

Mark/Donna Whitham 524-6119

General Club Meeting

Held at 8:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, normally in the large meeting room of the Idaho Falls Public Library. NO GENERAL MEETING IN JULY.

Membership Fees

Full year:

Individuals: \$20

Family: \$25

After July 1:

Individuals: \$15

Family: \$20

After October 1, the payment of full year fee applies to the following year. Full-time students (18 or older) and seniors (65 or older): \$5 off the above fee schedule.

Council Meetings and Bulletin Deadline

Any interested member is invited to attend.

Materials for the bulletin are due by the weekend before the council meetings. Please send material to the bulletin editor at 2188 St. Clair Road, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83404 or by email to rener@srv.net

BEARS AND THE ECOLOGY OF THE KATMAI PENINSULA IN ALASKA

8 PM Wednesday, February 2, 2000

Idaho Falls Public Library - Large Meeting Room

Carter Mackley is a local attorney who publishes a magazine about bears with his wife, Jennifer. His slide show centers on a trip last year to the Katmai Peninsula in Alaska where he and a photographer for the magazine spent a week photographing bears at close range. "None of the photos that I took are good enough for my own magazine, but I think you will be impressed with what an amateur can get in some of these areas," he says.

Most of the slides are of bears and the discussion will focus on bears and the ecology of the Katmai Peninsula. Carter will also give advise to those interested in traveling to the region to view bears or to pursue other forms of recreation. He will also answer questions about his magazine and talk a little about amateur wildlife photography.

The magazine is called BEARS And Other Top Predators. Those desiring background on the slide show can read two articles authored by Carter that came out of the trip at <http://www.bearsmag.com/v1i3/v1i3contents.html>. Carter says that anyone really interested in the area may be interested to know that his magazine is sponsoring a contest that will give away several free trips aboard a coastal research vessel to view bears this July.

President Speaks

February is just around the corner and it is time to renew your membership for the year 2000 by February 15, so you don't miss any issues of the bulletin or the details of the upcoming trips, presentations, or classes planned for this year. This spring we will be able to brush up on or learn some new skills with a Map and Compass class taught by Gary Vecellio, a CPR class which will taught by the American Heart Association, and of course the annual "Snow School". Kurt, Gary, and Leon did an outstanding job of conducting the snow practice session last year. The mountaineering schedule is in this issue and it promises to be an exciting one again. A week long trip, into the Sawtooths to celebrate the 40th year of existence for the Idaho Alpine Club is in the planning stages for September 2 - 9.

February we will have an exciting program about bears from Carter Mackley and in

March we will have a high altitude program from Dr. Stan Griffiths.

Thank-you to all those members who have already renewed their memberships for the new year and a big welcome to the new members who have recently joined the IAC. Don't miss out by letting your membership lapse.

Donna

IAC LOGO T-SHIRTS!!

The t-shirts are really cool! Short sleeves, crew neck, heather grey (just dark enough to not show dirt unless you wallow in the mud) Dri Release material with embroidered club logo! The logo is sooo detailed that you can even see the rope hanging from the little climber! \$12 each. Sizes Medium, Large and X-Large. These shirts are great out in the field. They dry really fast and don't get stinky like the polypro stuff does after a couple days or even a week on the Teton Crest Trail. The shirts are available at the monthly meetings, but if you just can't wait until the next meeting, contact Mark or Donna at 524.6119 to get yours sooner.

Map and Compass Workshop April 14th & 15th

Have you ever wanted to travel cross country, hike up to the top of the knoll above camp, or take a short cut and weren't sure if you or your hiking partner was reading the map correctly? Or have you ever been out on a trail that was supposed to be going down a gully but is going straight up instead? Have you ever ended up at the wrong lake when you took what you thought looked like a short cut? Or have you ever realized you were probably lost and had a hard time figuring out where the heck you were on the map you brought along (much less admitting the situation)? We have all ended up in one or

another of those situations at one time or another. Well, here is your chance to find out another use for your compass other than being a handy mirror to see how your hair or beard looks on day 3 of a 9 day trip.

Mark your calendars for this beginner level workshop. Even if you have a GPS, you need to know how to read a map and use a compass with the GPS. Besides, what if your batteries go dead? Gary Vecellio is going to show us how to use those compasses and maps we lug around, in a classroom session in Idaho Falls on Friday night the 14th. Then, on Saturday the 15th, we will go out in the field with him to practice what we learned on Friday night. Compasses with adjustable declination and a topo map to be named by Gary will be required. Of course, proper footwear and appropriate clothing for the weather will be needed in the field. The cost will be based on how many people sign up but will be minimal. Call Mark or Donna to sign up. 524.6119.

Banff Mountain Film Festival

Thursday, Feb 10th - 7:30pm
Colonial Theater - 498 A Street

The Banff Film Festival is a collection of the best films on sports, mountaineering and environment. Over 140 entrees from 30 countries participated in the Festival. The best of the Festival goes on a world wide tour. The Idaho Falls Nordic Ski Patrol is honored to again present this event.

Proceeds from the benefit will be used to purchase first aid supplies, patrol radios, maintain the patrol shed at Harriman State Park and to support winter safety seminars.

Ticket price is \$10 advanced, \$12 day of show. All seats are general admission.

Tickets available at Mountain Trading, Timberline Outfitters, Stonewalls Rock Gym, Play It Again Sports.

Cross Country Ski Trips

1999-2000

February 18 - 21 - Lost Trail Hot Springs

North of Idaho Falls in Montana. Explore the many miles of groomed XC-ski trails on Chief Joseph Pass and Lost Trail Pass or try out Lost Trail Powder Mountain Ski Area. Soak in the hot pool evenings. Enjoy great food. Check out the Patagonia Presidents Weekend sale in Dillon. Last year the 7 of us had a fantastic trip despite the plumbing in the cabin being broken. Call Mark and Donna Whitham to sign up and for details by January 9, 524-6119

Ponds Lodge to Harriman ~ Feb 26

The trail starts at the Park & Ski parking lot near Pond's Lodge in Island Park and ends at Harriman State Park. The terrain is moderate rolling terrain with some short intermediate hills on the first 4 miles and is rated as advanced due to the 12 plus miles A shuttle will be needed so those who would rather ski or snowshoe at Harriman, could drop the rest of the skiers off at Ponds and drive the car(s) back to Harriman. This is a joint trip with the Idaho Falls Ski Club. Trip Coordinators: Mark & Donna Whitham - 524-6119. Sign up by Feb 24.

Huckleberry Hot Springs ~ Mar 18-19

North of Jackson, Wyoming near Flagg Ranch. An easy 2-miles of skiing over mildly rolling terrain. Depending on the trip participants, we may continue on to Polecat hot springs to soak and camp there. The terrain is also great snowshoeing terrain. This is a joint trip with the Idaho Falls Ski Club. NOTE: THIS IS AN OVERNIGHT WINTER CAMPOUT TRIP! Trip Coordinators, Mark & Donna Whitham, 524-6119. Sign up by Mar 10.

Meadow Lake ~ April 8

This day trip to a high mountain lake in the Lemhis mountains is not recommended for beginners. It is located 110 miles northwest of Idaho Falls in the Salmon River National Forest near the old Gilmore townsite. The trail is 11 miles round trip with a 2000 foot elevation gain to the Meadow Lake Campground. Bring towels, tevas, and hiking boots in case it is necessary to ski to the hot springs at Gold Bug instead. This is a joint trip with the Idaho Falls Ski Club. Trip Coordinators, Mark Donna Whitham, 524-6119. Sign up by March 29.

April 16 - Bradley and Taggart Lake

(Note: Date Change!)

Snowshoe into Bradley and Taggart Lakes over gently rolling moraine, open meadows, and winding stream drainages. The two lakes are situated at the very edge of the valley floor with the Tetons rising immediately to the west. This is a really fun trip and is great for getting in shape for the trails this summer. Round trip is around 6 miles. Call Mark or Donna to sign up and for the meeting place and time, 524.6119.

April 22 - Bike Trip in Teton Park

This one will depend on when the Park Service starts plowing the roads but is a great time to ride in the park with out having to dart the tourists. See last years trip report on the website to read more about this trip. Call Mark and Donna Whitham to sign up and for meeting place time and date, 524-6119.

Climbing/Mountaineering 2000 Schedule

This schedule is for beginner to advanced climbers and can be somewhat flexible in terms of the routes we choose and the difficulty of the climbs, depending on the

levels of the climbers taking part in each trip. The trips to City of Rocks, Massacre Rocks and Thursday night climbs will provide good opportunities for less advanced climbers to practice technique and learn more about rock climbing protection and placement of gear.

March 25-26	Massacre Rocks (by American Falls)
April 28 - 30	Smith Rocks, Oregon
May 6th	Snow School
May 26-28	City of Rocks or Red Rocks
June 24-25	Sawtooths (Elephant Perch or Finger of Fate)
July 7-9	Mt. Jefferson, Oregon
July 28-30	Tetons: Mt. Moran (CMC, South Buttress routes)
August 25 - 27	Grand Teton or Middle Teton
Sept 15 - 18	Yosemite, Owens River Gorge, or Red Rocks
Oct 2 -3	Blodgett Canyon, Montana

There will probably be other climbs or hikes not on this schedule, as well as activities coordinated by others. Call Kurt Myers or Eric Peterson for climbing and scheduling information.

Thursday night climbs will start June 1st. These are short, local-area climbing outings which take place every Thursday evening for much of the summer. We leave at 6:00pm from the lot behind the old McDonalds (between Burger King & Albertons), travel to the area and climb for 1 1/2 to 2 hours. The schedule details will be released soon.

Check it out...

Wild Vagabond Web Site

Trip Reports and Other Wild Stuff by Rob Jones.

Rob has reworked his web site and has great photos, quotes and trips reports for your enjoyment. Below is his trip report for Borah

Mountain that will get you thinking about those upcoming summer hikes. The Wild Vagabond site can be found at <http://users.sisna.com/vagabond/>

Borah! Borah! Borah!

Scrambling Mount Borah,
Highest Point in Idaho (12,662')

August 12, 1999
by Rob Jones

Some useful links:

Ryan Cargo's hiking & climbing page has a great description of the "easy" route up Mount Borah: <http://www.srv.net/~cnicho/ryan/>

Ralph Maughan's page on Borah Peak and the Borah Roadless Area:
<http://www.poky.srv.net/~jjmrm/wpages/borahpk.htm>

Ralph Maughan's Idaho Wildcountry page:
<http://www.poky.srv.net/~jjmrm/wpages/twild.htm>

America's Roof report and links about Mount Borah: <http://www.americasroof.com/id.html>

Highest point in each of the United States (America's Roof):
<http://www.americasroof.com/>

Highpointers Club:
<http://www.highpointers.com/>

Also see (a book): Lopez, Tom (1990). *Exploring Idaho's Mountains: A Guide for Climbers, Scramblers, & Hikers*. The Mountaineers: Seattle, WA

According to the list of state highpoints ordered from the highest to lowest elevation, Borah is ranked 11th among the 50 states.

And, according to America's Roof, Borah is the 6th most difficult to summit, in regard to round trip mileage, vertical gain, elevation, and climbing classification. See Ryan Cargo's website about Borah at:

http://www.srv.net/~cnicho/ryan/Mount_Borah.htm

I adapted the name for this report from the film "Tora! Tora! Tora!" It just seemed to ring true, and it may serve to help describe a friendly assault on Mt. Borah, the highest point in Idaho at 12,666'. Of course, one could softly say "Bora, Bora, Bora" and think about tropical venues, but not today. With 5200' vertical feet of plodding over a mere 3.5 miles (one way), there is little resemblance to a sandy, horizontal, beach.

The cloud enveloped the peak and rolled down the ridge toward where I easily gripped one of the chicken-head holds on the Idaho rock, pondering the next move above this crux, the aptly-named Chickenout Ridge. Nearby features blurred, and the retreating form of Jeanine was next swallowed by the creeping white. The two-tone layers thrusting unnaturally skyward on Chicken Out ease back into view and I continue my solo jaunt to Mount Borah. What faulting and tilting, I mused between gasps due partly from a tinge of anxiety and oxygen deprivation. I wondered how many would-be summiters were psyched out by the ridge.

Thus began my third attempt to climb Mount Borah. The first two attempts occurred many years ago. During these endeavors, we were turned back by thunderstorms or snow storms. Both times we settled in as best we could, at the base of Chickenout Ridge, waiting for a climbers' break. Both times, impending hypothermia arrived before any break did. Today, the clouds seemed more mystical than threatening, and these phantoms wafted up from the depths below the ridge, silently propelled by unseen forces. It was calm.

Chickenout Ridge was not as difficult as it looks, go over it. Then, after perhaps 200 feet (laterally, not vertically), traverse right - around to the next tiny saddle. From here, traverse left and then across the snowfield, stay left beyond the snowfield to the next, wider, saddle. From this relatively broad saddle, it's a high-altitude rock-hop to the top. Once again, this looks much worse than it is, especially from a distance. Some say Chickenout is negotiated most easily by going over the summit all the way. I didn't try this, but the route seems doable either way.

We had left the trailhead at 7 a.m., and I was on the summit for an early lunch (about 6 hours, round trip). The clouds continued to swoop in, then retreat, but today there were none of the long-ranger views one can get on Borah. The summit log box looked like it had been cooked by the Lost River Electric Company (lightning). It's broken hulk was charred and split open. The logs were soggy, and some pages retained bits of snow from yesterday's storm. I could mostly see to the SW, where the skyline bump of Hyndman protruded. For many years, Hyndman, at 12,009', was believed to be the highest point in Idaho. Apparently, there was quite an uproar when Borah was discovered to be higher. Hyndman certainly is more visible and impressive-looking than Borah, and today it's one of the few easily-identifiable features through the revolving mist and clouds. Nevertheless, it was delightful to be inside a cloud, although I did not see any silver lining.

The trip down was a knee buster. Back at camp, Jeanine and I were tired enough to lounge away the afternoon, talking to a few Highpointers and watching the changing weather fronts.

Club Member Benefits

K & R Adventure Gear - is offering club members, with a current member card, a 10% discount on hiking, climbing, and outdoor

equipment. For more information the web address is www.knradventuregear.com and email: knrgear@srv.net or call Kurt or Rebekah locally at 208.522.5279 or toll free at 1.877.369.7407.

Canyon Whitewater Supply - is offering club members, with a current member card, a 10% discount on rafting and kayaking non-sale supply and accessory items. For more information call 208.522.3932

All Topo Maps on CD-ROM are now available to IAC members who have a current membership card at a 15% discount through Timberline Outfitters

Discount membership to the American Alpine Club. Singles may join the AAC for \$40 (instead of \$65) Couples may join for \$65 (instead of \$92.50). Applications must be accompanied by a copy of your Idaho Alpine Club membership card to get the discounted rates. Applications can be accessed on the AAC website: <http://www.americanalpineclub.org> or at IAC general meetings.

10 % discount on (nonsale) outdoor equipment at the following stores:
 --Idaho Mountain Trading, Shoup & B
 --Timberline Outfitters, Eagle Rock Station
 --Sports Korner, Inc., 660 Northgate Mile

\$1.00 discount at Stone Walls Climbing Gym

Discounts on Jerry Painter's Hiking and Biking guide books

Outdoor (nonrafting) gear is available for free use by paid up club members

Rafting gear available at a low rental fee

Connect with climbing, whitewater, hiking, backpacking, biking, ski, expertise

Great activity schedule

Two annual socials (January and August)

Specialized information on outdoor activities from local experts
Informative, fun, and even occasionally educational programs

And last but not least, a subscription to this wondrous newsletter. . .

Alpine Club Rental Gear:

Gear is available to paid-up members. Call the appropriate coordinator for more information.

North Face VE-24 tent--George Cole
Climbing helmets-- Leon Wolfram
Climbing harness, carabiner & figure 8-- Eric Peterson
Caving helmets-- Dean K.
Carbide lamps-- Dean K.
Ice axes-- Leon Wolfram
Clinometer & compass for cave mapping---Dean K.
PLUS rafting equipment --Vickie Hulet

Newsletter Advertising

Members: Free space is usually available for members' ads for used or needed equipment. Free space (up to half pages depending on space) is also available to businesses that offer discounts to members.

Nonmembers: Half page ad - \$25
12 half-page ads, purchased at the same time - \$20 each for a total of \$240
Full-page ad - \$40
12 full-page ads purchased at the same time \$33.34 each for a total of \$400.

Stone Walls Rock Gym

Hours are 3:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Mon-Fri
1:00 a.m. -9:00 p.m. Saturdays
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sundays.
The gym offers a \$1 discount to Alpine Club members. *[Note: these hours may be out of date--please call to check.]*

Web site news

Have you visited the Idaho Alpine Club's homepage at <http://www.srv.net/~iac> lately?

Have you tried the great interactive features that have recently been added to the site:

- * An IAC CLUB BULLETIN BOARD where you can post information, announcements, ask questions, make comments, whatever you'd like. It's like our own club newsgroup!
- A 'SHARE-A-LINK' page where you can link to WWW sites submitted by members. You can even submit your own favorite links and they'll automatically be added to the list.
- * Looking for specific information on the site? - use the IAC SITE SEARCH feature to locate pages of specific interest

Don't Forget!

Time to Renew Your Membership!!