

Idaho Alpine Club Bulletin

Volume 48 - Issue Number 2 - February 2008

BACKPACK DAYHIKE BIKE CLIMB MOUNTAINEER XC-SKI SNOWSHOE AND RAFT WITH US

web site: www.idahoalpineclub.org

e-mail: info@idahoalpineclub.org

2008 Council

President	Mark Whitham	520-7232
Vice-president	Teak Cummings	524-5136
	Jeff Coward	522-8135
Secretary	Jerry Painter	523-9428
Treasurer	Ken Krivanek	528-8224

Members-at-Large

Jim McBride	529-0586
Holly Preslar	359-1418
Jo Ann Sherwin	528-6489

Council Meetings:

Council Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM

Upcoming Council Meetings:

2.14.2008: Whitham's home, 706 Laurelwood Ave.

3.13.2008: Cumming's home, 1860 Whitney

Activity Coordinators:

Backpacking	Sam Pole	523-4970
Bicycling	Jeff Coward	522-8135
Climbing/Mountaineering	Kevin Coble	529-8142
	Eric Larsen	522-9354
Conservation	Open	787-2601
Cross-Country Skiing / Snowshoeing	Whithams	520-1728
Day Hiking	Sam Pole	523-4970
Rafting	Greg Hulet	523-6199
Trail Maintenance	Alan Crockett	529-5188
Bulletin Editor	Donna Whitham	520-1728
Bulletin Assistant	Mark Whitham	520-7232
Publicity	Open	787-2601
Historian/Librarian	Barbara Brown	522-8977
WebMaster	George Cole	716-0024
Program	Bob Tyler	787-2601

General Club Meeting

Held at **7:30 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.

MARCH Bulletin Deadline is:

5 PM on February 10

Materials for inclusion in the next bulletin are due by the 10th of the month due to bulk mailer deadlines.

Please send electronically to the bulletin editor at editor@idahoalpineclub.org

Note: Hand written or hard copy material will be included in the bulletin, time permitting.

IDAHO ALPINE CLUB GENERAL MEETING

"Idaho Roadless Areas"

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2008, 7:30 PM

IDAHO FALLS LIBRARY

Idahoans love the open space that our state provides. The quality of life in Idaho is in large part defined by the abundant opportunity for outdoor recreation. The state of Idaho has more public land and wilderness than any other state with the exception of Alaska. Idaho also has 9.3 million acres of land designated as Roadless Areas, lands that are accessed by trails only. Marv Hoyt and Kit McGurn from the Greater Yellowstone Coalition will host a lecture and discussion regarding the status of Roadless Areas on Idaho's public lands, and what they mean for Idaho's heritage and future. Topics will revolve around the history of the Roadless Rule and the unique qualities of Idaho's Roadless Areas. The recent move by Idaho State to petition for changes in the management of Idaho's roadless lands will also be examined. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the wildest parts of Idaho and to prepare for the public hearing to be held on Wednesday, February 20th in Idaho Falls on the Idaho Roadless Management Plan.

The meeting is open to the public and all outdoor enthusiasts are invited to attend. For more information contact programs@idahoalpineclub.org, log onto the club website at www.idahoalpineclub.org, or contact Bob Tyler.

President Speaks

Winter is upon us. A good old-fashioned Idaho winter with snow approaching historic levels and storms coming through one after another. Its time to partake in those winter activities that we love so much; X-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice climbing and backcountry skiing. There are a few things that we need to remember before we go. First of all try to avoid cotton clothing. It won't keep you warm once it has gotten wet. Synthetic fabrics or wool are much better choices. Remember to take the ten essentials whenever you go into the backcountry. You never know what the weather will bring in the local mountains, be prepared. Check the avalanche conditions before you go. There are websites listed in this bulletin where you can check the current conditions. Lastly don't forget your avalanche beacon, shovel, and probe if you are going to be in steep terrain even if the avalanche forecast is low. Taking the proper equipment with you and knowing how to use it will make your trip in the backcountry more comfortable and can save lives.

Enough about safety, I would like to thank a number of club members for their time and efforts over the last year. First, the activity coordinators and anyone else that took the time to lead a trip last year, thank you. You are the people that make this club work. Remember anyone can lead a trip, just call the activity coordinator with your idea for a trip and they will tell you how. Next I would like to thank the outgoing board members: Judy Williams and Sandy Pew for all the work that they did while on the council over the last year. I would also like to thank Bob Tyler for all the work and guidance that he has given the club during the last two years that he has served as president, thank you for a job well done and some big shoes to fill. Finally I would like to thank the current council members for volunteering their time and knowledge to help guide the club for the next year. Together we can make this club great. Mark Whitham

PLEASE NOTE: IF YOUR ADDRESS LABEL INDICATES "RENEW NOW" THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST ISSUE.

Baniff Mountain Film Festival

7pm, Thursday, Feb. 7, 2007

The program will feature 2 - ½ hours of best international adventure films (winter sports, rock climbing, whitewater, cycling, aerial stunts and adventure trekking).

Support the Nordic Ski Patrol. Proceeds from the benefit are used for first aid equipment, training, supplies, and maintenance of the patrol hut at Harriman State Park. For information and tickets, contact the Colonial Theater

498 A Street Idaho Falls

Ph: 208-522-0471

E-mail: ifac@idahofallsarts.org

Lobby opens at 6pm, general seating begins 6:30pm

Tickets

\$10 in advance / \$15 Day of Show
Tickets are also available at Idaho Mountain Trading (523-6679), 474 Shoup Ave.; Scott's Ski & Sports (232-1449), 244 N. Main, Pocatello, or from Nordic Ski Patrol Members.

Here is a link to the 5 minute introductory video:

<http://www.banffcentre.ca:80/mountainculture/tourhost/2007/na/media/video/>

XCSkiing / Snowshoeing

Contact the Whithams 520.1728 or, xcski@idahoalpineclub.org for trip information, meeting location, and to sign up to go on a scheduled trip, unless otherwise indicated in the trip descriptions. Additional trips to be added during the winter depending on conditions.

January 26 XCSki/Kelly Canyon Nordic Ski Trails: Meet at 10:00 A.M. at the Kelly Canyon Nordic Skiers Parking Lot. We'll also visit Heise Hot Springs after skiing if there is enough interest. To sign up to go on this trip, call: Bob Tyler, 787-2601.

February 17 XCSki/Harriman State Park: Meet at the park to Classic or skate ski the over 10 miles of groomed trails at Harriman State Park. Day pass is \$2 plus parking fee approx. \$3.

March 9 XCSki/Ricks Basin: Depending on conditions we will skate or XC ski on the groomed Nordic trails at Grand Targhee Resort. There are 10 miles of groomed trails that range from beginner to advanced. Day passes are \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors or children.

March 15 Snowshoe/Teton Park: Snowshoeing in Teton Park in the winter is an excellent time to see wildlife and/or signs of wildlife in the snow. Join us on a late winter trip in to Phillips Lake or Bradley Taggart or maybe Signal Mt. Area. Park entrance fees or Park pass may be necessary. Plan to eat in Jackson afterwards.

East Idaho XC-Ski Guides & Maps

Kelly Canyon XC Ski and Snowshoe trails are included in the new black and white Kelly Canyon Nordic area brochure that will be available locally and at the trailhead. A full color version of the current map can be downloaded from the IF Ski Club's web site, www.ifskiclub.com. Another new feature at Kelly is the large parking lot and permanent toilet at the Y-Junction which were provided under a grant request approved and funded by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Off Road Motor Vehicle Fund. Additional area maps are available on the Idaho Falls Ski Club Website: <http://ifskiclub.com>
Bear Gulch-Mesa Falls Guide Map
Brimstone-Buffero River Guide Map
Fall River Ridge Guide Map
Harriman State Park Guide Map
Harriman-Brimstone Connector Map
Kelly Canyon Nordic Area Guide Map
www.Delorme.com kindly allows the ski club to use these maps.

AVALANCHE INTERNET SITES

Cyberspace Snow & Avalanche Center
This one stop site provides links to just about everywhere, plus tons of information about avalanche safety in the back-country:
<http://www.csac.org/>

North America:

<http://www.avalanche.org/>

Jackson Area:

<http://jhavalanche.org/>

Bozeman Area:

<http://www.mtavalanche.com/current/index.shtml>

Island Park Area:

<http://islandparksnow.net/>

Avalanche Safety Instruction:

<http://www.avalanchecourse.com/>

XC Ski Trail Conditions

Lone Mountain Resort

http://www.lmranch.com/lmr_content/winter/ski_cond.shtml

Bohart Ski Ranch
<http://www.bohartranchxcski.com/wether.php> Chief Joseph Ski Trail Conditions

<http://bitterrootxcskiclub.net/conditions.htm>

West Yellowstone

<http://www.rendezvouskitrails.com/report.html>

Rick's Basin (Grand Targhee)

<http://www.grandtarghee.com/winter/snowrpt.php>

Teton Valley (Driggs, Victor, Alta)

<http://www.tvtap.org/>

Harriman State Park

Phone: 208-558-7368

A web cam at Rainbow Reality gives you an idea of the snow on the ground conditions: <http://www.rainbw.com/>

Island Park Ranger District for Brimstone/Buffero

Phone: 208-558-7301

Ashton Ranger District for Bear Gulch/Mesa Falls and Fall River Ridge
Phone: 208-652-7442

Mink Creek Nordic Grooming Report

<http://www.pokyxc.org/7128.html>

Climbing

For information on fall and winter trips, driving instructions, or to sign up to go, contact Kevin Coble at 529-8142 or Eric Larsen 522-9354.

Weekly climbing continues indoors at Stone Walls Climbing Gym. Contact Kevin to find out how to get on the email list for the weekly climbing night

Trip Reports

December 2 XCSki/Ricks Basin:

Susan McKinley, Rod Metcalf, Donna and Mark Whitham, and Judy Williams met at Starbucks to fortify for a cold, windy day of XC skiing on the Nordic trails in Ricks Basin at Grand Targhee Resort. Bob and Marie Tyler met us at the ski area. We skied most of the 10 miles of groomed trails that range from beginner to advanced. At the end of the day Garney Hardy, Jo Ann Sherwin, and Paul Worth compared notes with us in the day lodge. The consensus was that the skiing had been fabulous irregardless of the somewhat marginal snow conditions.

December 9 Snowshoe/XCSki/Annual Christmas Tree Hunt:

Barbara Brown, Garney Hardy, Ken & Sammy Krivanek, Colleen Thompson, Donna & Mark Whitham, and Paul Worth went in search for the perfect tree in the Big Holes. Snow gently fell on us as we tromped through the woods, up and down ridges, and gullies, scrutinizing and way pointing potential candidates. At last, the perfect trees were found, felled by the mighty saw, tagged, wrapped in plastic, and hauled up and down those same ridges and gullies back to the cars. What a great way to begin the Christmas holiday season. ☺

January 5 XCSki / Brimstone Trails:

There are 9 miles of trail in this area that offer views of the Island Park Reservoir, Box Canyon, and the Buffalo River. Karl Bohan, Garney Hardy, Carolyn and Ken Katsma, Ken Krivanek, Donna Nicklaus, Sandy Pew, Colleen Thompson, Donna and Mark Whitham, and Paul Worth braved the wind and snow to explore 6.5 miles of the Brimstone trails. Strong winds and heavy snow over night had completely made a mess of the trails which had been set on Friday morning by the Forest Service groomer. Regardless of having to break trail both ways, skiing the fresh snow was like skiing on velvet, skiing up several of the hills was actually easier and the Eagle loop was pleasantly slow. We were glad the trails had been packed because any time we moved off of the depression for the trail, we were pretty much thigh deep. Through the spindrift, we did spot a Kingfisher

whipped about by the wind while trying to dive for fish, a Bald Eagle soaring high above the tree tops, Mountain and Blackcap Chickadees flitting in the trees, Mallards, Barrows Goldeneyes, Ringnecks, and the requisite Trumpeter Swans in the river. The fireplace and hot soup at Pond's Lodge at the end of the day was quite enjoyable too.

January 6 XCSki/Harriman State Park:

More snow fell overnight and during the day on Sunday, while Garney Hardy, Ken Krivanek, Donna and Mark Whitham, and Paul Worth skied 5 of the over 10 miles of trails at Harriman State Park. Again we had to break trail due to the weather conditions. We pretty much had the park to ourselves even though the wind had died down quite substantially by Sunday morning. Lunch was in the patrol hut near Golden Lake while we warmed up in front of the little wood stove. The birds were hiding from the weather although we did see an American Dipper bobbing up and down in one small body of water and a few swan blobs trying to stay warm on the ice covering the river next to the Henry's Fork trail.

Support merchants who Support the IAC

Show your membership card for 10% discounts on regularly priced merchandise:

- ★ Idaho Mountain Trading
523-6679
Shoup & B, Idaho Falls
- ★ Canyon Whitewater Supply
522-3932
450 S Yellowstone, Idaho Falls
- ★ Alpine Schwinn 523-1226
1352 S. Holmes Ave.
- ★ Bill's Bike Shop 522-3341
805 S. Holmes Ave.
- ★ Lynna and Leland Howard offer members of IAC a 10% discount on all of their published books. 357-1917 or 357-3166; Lynna.howard@mac.com leland@wildernessbooks.com
- ★ Stone Walls Rock Gym. \$1 off of Daily Rate. Call 528.8610 for information and winter hours.
- ★ Discounts on Jerry Painter's Hiking & Biking guide books

Trail Etiquette & Safety

- Be considerate of other traffic on all trails.
- Yield to skiers on a downhill run.
- Make every effort to clear the trail if you stop or fall.
- Do not walk or snowshoe on either skier set or machine set ski tracks on marked ski trails. Note: Skiers may choose to skin up or run down a snowshoe track that is marked or may even parallel a ski trail to avoid breaking trail but that is their choice.
- Ski under control always; avoid trails that are beyond your ability.
- Register your trip at the trail sign-in locations; use trail maps and signs to plan your trip.
- Let someone know where you will be and when you expect to return before leaving town. Then stick to those plans.
- Ski with a partner, especially on the ungroomed trails and back country ski runs.
- Make it a habit to carry the 10 "E's"; extra gear, water, snacks, flashlight, a compass and or a GPS (with extra batteries), trail or area maps, a cell phone (very poor reception if any except for on the ridge tops in most areas), and fire starting tools, even on short trips.
- Be aware that trail conditions can change greatly with changing snow, trail and weather conditions.
- Watch for and yield to trail grooming equipment.
- Keep your dogs under control (leash or in your immediate line of sight) and off of groomed tracks, and clean their refuse from the trail. Remember even other dog lovers do not care for someone else's dog showing up unsupervised, ill mannered, and leaving refuse in the trail.

Summer Activities: This is the time of the year to start reserving those coveted campsites in advance:

Grand Teton NP: Jan 1 - May 15

<http://www.nps.gov/grte/planyourvisit/bcres.htm>

Yellowstone NP: April 1 - end of season

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/backcountryhiking.htm>

Glacier NP: April 15 - end of season

<http://www.nps.gov/glac/planyourvisit/backcountry.htm>

Dates to Remember:

February 5: General Meeting /Roadless Health

February 17 XCSki:Harriman State Park

March 9 XCSki: Ricks Basin

March 15 Snowshoe:Teton Park

Now you have no excuse,
so get out there
and experience it!

Enjoy the outdoors with the IAC

Join today

For more information write to the address below or visit our web site to download a free newsletter and application:

Idaho Alpine Club

P.O. Box 2883

Idaho Falls, Idaho 83403-2883

www.IdahoAlpineClub.org

Membership Fees

Full Year 7/1 to 10/1

Individuals: \$20 \$15

Family: \$25 \$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.

IAC Council Meeting Minutes

NOTE: Monthly minutes are available at www.idahoalpineclub.org

IAC Logo T-Shirts!!

Short sleeves or long sleeves, crew neck, heather grey Dri Release material with embroidered club logo! Short sleeve \$14 each. Long sleeve \$21 each. Sizes Small, Medium, Large, and X-Large. The shirts are available at the monthly meetings, but if you just can't wait until the next meeting, contact the club Treasurer to get yours sooner.

White Sale!!!!

"All long sleeve white T-shirts are now \$14 instead of the normal \$21.

These would make a great gift for the hiker that has everything. We will not be ordering any more white; this is your last chance. Contact the club Treasurer for size availability and to buy now.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW

*Idaho Alpine Club
P.O. Box 2883
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83403-2883*