

# Idaho Alpine Club Bulletin

Volume 52 - Issue Number 1 - January 2012

CLIMBING•MOUNTAINEERING•BACKPACKING•DAYHIKING•BICYCLING•XCSKIING•SNOWSHOEING•RAFTING

web site: [www.idahoalpineclub.org](http://www.idahoalpineclub.org)

e-mail: [info@idahoalpineclub.org](mailto:info@idahoalpineclub.org)

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## 2011 Council

President	Sam Pole	523-4970
Vice-president	Lisa Hamilton	251-4893
	Ken Krivanek	390-8471
Secretary	Susan McKinley	529-4583
Treasurer	Donna Whitham	520-1728

## Members-at-Large

Colleen Bohan	529-0151
Karl Bohan	529-0151
Mark Whitham	520-7232

## Council Meetings:

Council Meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM

Upcoming Council Meetings:

Jan 10: Whitham's home

## Activity Coordinators:

Backpacking	Sam Pole	523-4970
Bicycling	Jeff Coward	522-8135
Climbing/Mountaineering	Kevin Coble	201-1840
Conservation	Open	
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	
Historian/Librarian	Barbara Brown	522-8977
WebMaster	George Cole	716-0024
Program	Bob Tyler	787-2601

## General Club Meeting

Held at **7:00 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.

## ***FEbruary Bulletin Deadline is:***

**5 PM on JANUARY 5**

Trip descriptions, reports, and material for inclusion in the next bulletin are due by the **5<sup>TH</sup>** of the month due to bulk mailer deadlines.

Please send electronically to the bulletin editor at [editor@idahoalpineclub.org](mailto:editor@idahoalpineclub.org)

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

## IDAHO ALPINE CLUB GENERAL MEETING

### "TREKKING IN BHUTAN"

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2011 @ 7:00 P.M.

### SKYLINE ACTIVITY CENTER

### near the Idaho Falls Airport and 1575 N Skyline Dr

Bhutan, known as the "Land of the Thunder Dragon", is a predominantly Buddhist country with landscapes ranging from subtropical plains to high mountain peaks separated by deep river valleys. Until 1962 when the first hard-surfaced road was built, almost no wheeled vehicles existed in the country. Today, Bhutan is known for its unspoiled environment and traditional culture and in 2006 was rated by Business Week as the happiest country in Asia.

This month's speaker, John Galazin, visited this intriguing country in October, 2010 when he took part in an REI trek along the trail to Chomolhari, a 23,997 foot peak that straddles the border between Bhutan and Tibet. The peak was first climbed by a British expedition in 1937. Before the start of their trek, John's group of 12 people spent some time sightseeing in Bhutan's capital city of Thimphu. They then traveled to the Paro River Valley where their trek started at an elevation of about 8,600 feet. Over the course of the next 10 days, the group reached a high point of 17,500 feet on the western slopes of Chomolhari before returning by a different route to their starting point. Eighteen to twenty pack horses carried the group's camping gear up to 13,000 feet where yaks took over carrying the load. Along the trail, John's group hiked 10-12 miles a day and visited ancient monasteries and temples and mountain fortresses called dzongs. John's slideshow will feature both the mountain scenery along the trail as well as some of the sights in and around Thimphu.

In addition to enjoying hiking, John likes to keep in shape by running and has won silver medals in the 400 meter run, 300 meter hurdles and in the long jump in USA Track and Field's master's division. He is also an All American competitor (top 1/10 of 1%) in the master's division of these events and the 200 meter run, 800 meter run, high jump and triple jump.

The meeting is open to the public and all outdoor enthusiasts are invited to attend.

For more information contact [programs@idahoalpineclub.org](mailto:programs@idahoalpineclub.org), log onto the club website at [www.idahoalpineclub.org](http://www.idahoalpineclub.org).

## President Speaks

As this is written, it is snowing outside which means it is time to tune-up the x-cross country skis and get out the snow shoes. Alan Crockett and others have been clearing trails for the winter excursions and with the steady accumulation of snow outings should be great fun. Established trail systems are available at Harriman State Park, Ponds Lodge and of course above Kelly Canyon ski area. Additionally, there are numerous other x-cross country and snowshoeing opportunities in our area, as well as in West Yellowstone, Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, Craters of the Moon National Monument, Big Sky Ski area, and on and on. With all that is available, it is silly to question why we live here, so make your outing list and check it twice and then get out there.

IAC council members met at the end of November to select officers for 2012. Those officers are Susan Mckinley – secretary, Donna Whitham – treasurer, Ken Krivanek and Lisa Hamilton – co-VPs, and Samuel Pole – president.

## Participation on Club Activities

**Common Adventures / Trips:** With the exception of rafting trips or trips limited to club members: Non-members may attend a maximum of two club trips or activities, then must be members in good standing to continue participating. Participants on rafting or limited to club member trips or rafting rentals must be members in good standing. Participants on a club trip must pay any established trip fee, abide by club rules and activity guidelines, and must follow instructions of the activity coordinator.

An individual may not participate in any common adventure/trip of the club unless that individual has read and signed the common adventure form for that specific activity prior to embarking on that adventure / trip / activity.

### Caribou-Targhee Maps on Line

From the Caribou-Targhee NF home page, click on Maps & Publications. This will take you to: "Motorized Vehicle Use Maps" (which don't show non-motorized trails), new official "Forest Maps" covering the whole forest (without topography), and "Other Maps". The "Other Maps" are full color printable maps with topography and are available for the Palisades, Teton Basin, Dubois and Westside ranger districts at a scale of 1:112,500. Hiking scale (1:50,000) maps of popular areas are also available. Other detailed forest and non-forest maps of popular hiking and mountain biking areas (new) are now available on the Idaho Alpine Club website under Local Maps.

### XCSkiing / Snowshoeing

Contact the Whithams 520.1728 or, [xcski@idahoalpineclub.org](mailto: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 over the winter, depending on conditions. If the roads are closed, or the weather too severe, the location of a trip may change or the trip may be canceled at the last minute.

#### Carry or Bring Your Own:

1. Water
  2. Food/snacks
  3. Dress in layers. Bring adequate extra Winter appropriate protective clothing-no cotton. Hat and gloves or mittens.
  4. Minor first aid items including sun screen, personal medications, as needed during the day.
  5. Headlamp (& Batteries)
  6. Map & Compass
  7. Sunglasses
  8. Lightweight shelter / space blanket.
  9. Appropriate equipment-skis or snowshoes, boots, poles, skins, shovel and avalanche transceiver depending on activity or terrain.
  - 10 Repair kit for your own equipment including duct tape and wax kit or glide liquid.
  - 11 Mat to sit on
- Other personal items of interest.

Check with us on weekends that are not scheduled in advance. Even on domestic weekends we usually will go over to one of the parks to skate or classic ski or snowshoe for a few hours with the dogs.

**January 1 XCSki or Snowshoe / Harriman State Park:** Celebrate the New Year. Meet at the park to classic or skate ski or snowshoe the over 10 miles of groomed trails at Harriman State Park. Effective January 1, 2012, Harriman's grooming day pass is \$4 per skier, plus parking fee is \$5.

**January 15 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. 2012 day passes are \$10 for adults and \$6 for seniors or children. This may change to Teton Ridge Ranch Trail if we find out if the ranch will allow skiing the day after the Teton Ridge Classic.

**January 21 Snowshoe / Caldera Rim:** We plan to explore this new snowshoe trail at the top of Ashton Hill. The Caldera Rim Snowshoe Trail was created in 2010 after several skiers trekked along the rim and thought the route would make a nice trail. After getting permission from the Forest Service, a trail was cut and marked with red flagging. It eventually grew into a 5-mile loop for snowshoeing with cutoff to shorten the loop to 2.5 miles. The rim portion of the trail is suitable for skiing but parts of the loop are steep and skins are needed. From Idaho Falls, the trail is reached by driving 60 miles north on Highway 20 to the top of the Ashton hill where there is a large parking lot on the west side of the Highway. The trail is marked with red flagging; it begins near the center of the parking lot and splits after a short distance. The recommended direction of travel is counter clockwise. Take the right fork (don't get on the road), it offers scenic views, and is an easy introduction to the trail and avoids a long uphill slog. The trail follows the Caldera rim for about 2 miles and then drops 220 feet to begin the return loop. The return portion goes over hill and dale to avoid Rattlesnake road and eventually winds up on Rattlesnake road for a short distance before descending to the parking lot. The trail map can be found on the IF Ski Club's web site under Trail Maps and Guides.

### Climbing

For information on club climbing trips contact Kevin Coble at 201-1840. Otherwise to find out about winter weekly climbing locations or impromptu weekend trips you will need to subscribe to the IAC climbing mailing list by visiting:

[http://www.macrobotics.com/mailman/listinfo.cgi/iac\\_climbing](http://www.macrobotics.com/mailman/listinfo.cgi/iac_climbing) or, via email, send a message with subject or body 'help' to: [iac\\_climbing-request@macrobotics.com](mailto:iac_climbing-request@macrobotics.com)

### YMCA Rock Climbing Gym

Call 528.8610 for information. Hours currently are:  
4-9 PM Monday - Friday & 12-9 PM Saturday  
Idaho Alpine Club members may show their membership card to receive 10% off of daily rates or the 10 punch card.  
Please support the gym as it is an asset to the community and a valuable training source for climbing.

### RENEWAL NOTICE

IF YOUR ADDRESS STATES NEED TO RENEW, PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP RIGHT AWAY. DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN OR THE DISCOUNTS, ESPECIALLY THE NEW 10% DISCOUNT AT THE YMCA CLIMBING GYM. GOTTA SHOW YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD TO GET IT!!!

## **Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour**

7pm, Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012

The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour, brought to you by the Idaho Falls Nordic Ski Patrol, will be presented 7 pm to 10 pm Thursday, February 9, 2012 at the Colonial Theater in Idaho Falls. The evening program presents 2 ½ hours of adventure films plus door prizes. The films vary in length (5 to 45 minutes) featuring skiing, climbing, water sports, trekking, and environment.

General admission is \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Limited reserved seating is available for \$15 by contacting the Colonial ticket office. The lobby opens at 6pm, general seating begins at 6:30pm. Tickets are on sale at Idaho Mountain Trading (523-6679), 474 Shoup Ave and the Colonial Theater Box Office (522-0471), 498 A St., credit cards accepted.

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.

## **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://jhalavalanche.org/>

**Bozeman Area:** <http://www.mtavalanche.com/>

## **Avalanche Safety Instruction:**

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

## **XC Ski Trail Conditions**

### **Lone Mountain Resort**

[http://www.lmranch.com/lmr\\_content/winter/ski\\_cond.shtml](http://www.lmranch.com/lmr_content/winter/ski_cond.shtml)

## **Bohart Ski Ranch**

<http://www.bohartranchxcski.com/trail-conditions/>

## **Chief Joseph Ski Trail Conditions**

<http://bitterrootxcskiclub.net/trail%20reports.htm>

## **West Yellowstone**

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

## **Rick's Basin (Grand Targhee)**

<http://www.grandtarghee.com/the-mountain/conditions>

## **Teton Valley (Driggs, Victor, Alta)**

<http://tvtap.org/nordic-grooming>

**Harriman State Park** (sign up for their Facebook page for current conditions) or call: 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/Buffalo  
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>

## **Bicycling 2012**

Even though winter has just begun, it is already time to start planning for the 2012 bicycling season. As with rafting permits, there are several rides that you will need to think about signing up for in January or February if you want to participate in them. These rides include STOKR, AMBBR (Lake Tahoe ride), and Ride the Rockies. Applications for the STOKR and Ride the Rockies must be mailed or completed online in February. Applications for the AMBBR will be accepted starting January 1st. The ride will probably fill fairly quickly, so don't count on getting in if you apply later than early March. Also, the TOSRV-West ride will be returning to the traditional loop route for 2012. More details on this should be available in 2012. Ride information and web sites for them are below. If anyone has any questions about these or any other rides, please contact the Idaho Alpine Club Bicycling coordinator.

**STOKR – Scenic Tour of the Kootenai River:** Dates announced in January 2012, but are likely to be May 12-13, 2012, 2 days, 98 or 45 miles on Day 1, 35 miles on day 2. This is an excellent spring 2 day ride with very little traffic and excellent support. The ride starts and ends in Libby, Montana each day. Route information and dates will be available in January at: <http://www.libbymt.com/events/stokr.htm> & <http://www.libby.org/~gregrice/STOKR/>

**AMBBR – America's Most Beautiful Bike Ride** (Lake Tahoe spring ride), June 3, 2012, 1 day, 100, 65, 35 mile options. This is a very scenic ride around Lake Tahoe, starting from South Lake Tahoe. The route goes clockwise around the lake, with an out and back to Truckee for the 100 mile option, and a boat cruise to Crystal Bay for the 35 mile option. Support is excellent as are the views. <http://www.bikethewest.com/>

**Ride the Rockies:** June 10-16, 2012, 6 days, about 65 miles per day, This is a 6 day (for 2012) tour through the Colorado Rockies sponsored by the Denver Post. Support is excellent, and includes busses to transport you in the overnight towns and a daily cycling seminar. The route will be announced February 5, 2012 at: <http://ridetherockies.com/>

**TOSRV-West:** May 19-20, 2012, 2 days, 230 miles. The route goes from Missoula, Montana to Potamac and then through Seeley Lake to Swan Lake, then to Bigfork, Polson, Ronan, St. Ignatius, Ravalli, Arlee, and back to Missoula. More details available in January at: <http://www.missoulabike.org/tosrvwest>

## **IAC Logo T-Shirts ~ Retro IAC Patches!**

Short sleeves or long sleeves, crew neck, heather grey, some black and some white. Dri Release material with embroidered 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary IAC Logo! Short sleeve \$20 each. Long sleeve \$25 each. Sizes Small, Medium, Large, and X-Large.

A women's style short sleeve shirt is available for \$20 on a prepaid special order basis. It is fitted with shorter sleeves in a wicking material.

A limited number of embroidered Color IAC Logo Patches are available for \$10 each.

The shirts and patches are available at the monthly meetings or contact the club Treasurer to get yours sooner.

Dates to Remember:

Jan 4: IAC GENERAL MEETING  
TREKKING IN BHUTAN  
Bring a friend to the Meeting

Jan 1: XCSki or Snowshoe /  
Harriman State Park

Jan 15: XCSki / Rick's Basin

Jan 21: Snowshoe / Caldera Rim

Climbing: Subscribe to find out  
updates to the weekly  
winter climbing plans. See  
page 2 for information on  
how to subscribe.

**Become a Fan**

Find us on Facebook. Last minute  
trips can be posted on the wall.  
Additionally, photos from club trips  
you have gone on can be easily posted  
on the wall singly or as an album if  
you took a lot of photos.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW IF  
YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY  
Happy New Year

**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](http://www.IdahoAlpineClub.org)**

Membership Fees

	Full Year	
	10/1	7/1-12/31
Individuals:	\$25	\$20
Family:	\$30	\$25

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 Monthly minutes  
are available on line.

**Support the Merchants who  
Support the IAC**

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

- ★ Idaho Mountain Trading 523-6679  
Shoup & B (Non-Sale Items Only)
- ★ Bill's Bike Shop 522-3341  
805 S. Holmes Ave. (Excludes  
bicycles)
- ★ Canyon Whitewater Supply  
522-3932 (Accessories Only)  
450 S Yellowstone, Idaho Falls
- ★ YMCA Climbing Gym 528-8610  
755 South Capital Avenue
- ★ 3 Peaks 523-PEAK  
910 E. Lincoln Rd. (Non-Sale Items  
Only)
- ★ Lynna and Leland Howard offer a  
10% discount on all of their  
published books. 357-1917 or  
357-3166; [lynna.howard@mac.com](mailto:lynna.howard@mac.com)  
[leland@wildernessbooks.com](mailto:leland@wildernessbooks.com)
- ★ Discounts on Jerry Painter's Hiking  
&  
Biking guide books

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