

Idaho Alpine Club Bulletin

Volume 42 - Issue Number 6 - June 2002

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

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2002 Executive Council

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Please mail completed common
adventure forms to the secretary.

Coordinators

Program
Donna Whitham 524-6119

Backpacking
George Cole 522-4084
Mark Whitham 524-6119

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Climbing/mountaineering
Eric Peterson 529-9538
Kurt Myers 522-5279

Conservation
Bob Tyler 523-5560

X-Country Skiing
Mark/Donna Whitham 524-6119

Bicycling
Don Cott 357-7595
Jeff Coward 522-8135

Kayaking
Rob Mullin 524-3594

Canoeing
John Page 356-6486
Sue Page 356-5118

Rafting
Greg Hulet 523-6199

Trail Maintenance
Open

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	July 1 - October 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.

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 rener@srv.net

Up Coming Programs:

IDAHO ALPINE CLUB MEETING

Wednesday, June 5, 2002, 8PM - At the Idaho Falls Public Library

JOSH BURNIM: SAWTOOTHS TO SELKIRKS HIKER SLIDE SHOW HIKING FROM THE SAWTOOTHS TO THE SELKIRKS

See Idaho's picturesque mountains, raging rivers, and wildlife through Josh Burnim's slides from his 5-month, 900-mile hike from the Sawtooths to the Selkirks. From Redfish Lake in the rugged Sawtooths near Stanley, Idaho to Kokanee Glacier in British Columbia's Selkirk Mountains, Josh hiked to promote connectivity of wildlands for healthy wildlife populations living alongside sustainable human communities. Josh's beautiful slides and adventures from the trail are a great way to renew bonds with the landscape where we live.

SAWTOOTH TO SELKIRKS - Continued

Josh Burnim grew up spending his summers by a small pond in the backwoods of northern Massachusetts, a place that he much preferred to city living. After graduating from college in the boonies of central New York, Josh moved to Idaho in 1996. Sometimes finding himself between a logging truck and the roadless country of central Idaho or speaking at a heated hearing, Josh quickly learned the temperaments and politics of rural Idaho. Over the past 5 years, Josh has covered a lot of ground becoming a naturalist and educator of Idaho's backcountry, trees and wildlife. The Sawtooths to Selkirks Hike is a dream come true for Josh as he grounds himself in his passions - people and the landscape. Josh began graduate school at the University of Montana in the fall of 2001.

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

President Speaks

With the passing of Memorial Day, the summer season has arrived! That means climbing, backpacking, hiking, and biking to your favorite spots is in order. Upcoming outings are listed in the bulletin but if you would like to organize additional trips, contact the appropriate coordinator to get started. Chances are that if you're wanting to take a particular trip, others probably are as well.

Just a reminder that we have the club logo shirts available for the upcoming hot weather in short-sleeve (and long-sleeve if you prefer). Keep the appropriate dress in mind when heading out this summer. As some of us know from experience, overheating is no fun!

Happy trails,
Tim

New Wilderness Report Card on Congress

Many of you are familiar with the League of Conservation Voters annual Score card that rates members of Congress on their environmental voting record. Now there's a more specific "report card" just for wilderness-related issues. On May 14, the American Wilderness Coalition proudly announced the release of WildCard, its exclusive grading of all members of Congress on wilderness bills and votes. Check out Wild Card at ["http://americanwilderness.org/reportcard/index.html"](http://americanwilderness.org/reportcard/index.html) to see what grade your Representatives and Senators brought home! Wild Card graded the full 106th Congress and the first session of the 107th, including the pivotal votes taken on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. An interesting feature of Wild Card is that it grades in part based upon cosponsorship of wilderness bills, so those members cosponsoring America's Redrock Wilderness Act were credited for their support. Make sure to let your member know how they fared!

Highway Cleanup and Potluck Picnic - June 8

Spring is here and we are planning the spring cleanup of our section of Highway 31 between mile posts 6 & 8, a little later this year, so it is a little warmer. Bright orange vests and matching bags will be provided for all participants. Sturdy boots and work gloves are required.

Afterward, we are planning a potluck picnic and BYOM to BBQ at the campground on Pine Creek pass. Call 524.6119 or email: programs@idahoalpineclub.org for more details and to sign up.

Dayhikes ~ 2002

June 9 - Craters of the Moon / Echo Crater

West of Idaho Falls. Easy to moderate hike to Echo Crater is approximately 4 miles one way. Tree molds created by lava flows are along the trail. Bitterroot's should be in full bloom along with many other varieties of flowers. The "10 E's," sturdy boots or shoes, and plenty of water required. This is a trail that will give your new boots that broke in look if you are lacking a puppy to create that effect for you. Entrance fee, National Park Pass, or Golden Eagle Pass is needed for entrance to park. Contact Mark and Donna Whitham to sign up and for meeting place, 524-6119 or dayhikes@idahoalpineclub.org

Biking ~ 2002

West Yellowstone to Warm River

June 29 & 30

This is a mountain bike ride over the old railroad grade. The upper section actually uses Forest

Service roads until you reach the top of Reas Pass, since the railroad trestles have been removed in Montana. Total length is about 65 miles. It can be done as a one day trip if you are in good shape, or in two days with overnight camping at the campground next to Big Springs. I rank this ride as one of the best mountain bike rides in Idaho. The scenery and wildlife viewing are second to none. A car shuttle is required for both the one day and two day versions of this ride. Contact Jeff Coward at 522-8135 (home) or 529-0775 (work) or jdc1100@srv.net if you are interested.

Hiawatha Route - Taft Tunnel Ride

This ride is currently scheduled for July. The Helena Bicycle Club has this ride on their schedule for July 6th. I have not yet decided whether to ride with them or schedule a separate ride for the Idaho Alpine Club. The ride follows the old railroad grade of the Milwaukee Road where it traverses St. Paul Pass. There are several trestles and tunnels, including the Taft tunnel at 8,700 feet long. Lights for the tunnels are required. Distance is about 15 miles one way, with a shuttle available, or you can just ride back. More information can be found at <http://www.helenabicycleclub.org> or at http://www.skilookout.com/bike_home_page.html If you are interested in doing this ride, please contact Jeff Coward at jdc1100@srv.net or 522-8135 (home) or 529-0775 (work).

Rigby Lake

This is a road ride from Idaho Falls to Rigby Lake via the lesser used back roads (not on any highways). I am currently planning doing this ride at least once in July and once in August. Distance is about 42 miles round trip.

I will be doing the 2002 version of the Denver Post's Ride the Rockies from June 14th through June 23rd. If you would like a list of rides or tours in the western U.S. or if you have any requests for rides that you would like to do, please let me know and I'll provide you with any information I can.

Other rides of interest:**Tour of Marsh Creek Valley**

Fifth Annual Tour of Marsh Creek Valley is scheduled for June 22. This 28, 60, or 100-mile ride starts from Pocatello and heads south towards Malad Summit through some really nice country on back roads. \$10 fee For more information see <http://www.idahocycling.com>

Rafting ~ 2002

Cost per person per day on club trips \$10/day with life jacket.

June 15

Fall River (water level dependent.) Contact Greg Hulet for more information at 523-6199.

June 16-23

Main Salmon, Sunbeam day section (class III). Camping at O'brien campground. We also plan to float the Main Payette from Banks to Beehive Bend (class III) during this trip. There are a lot of other things to do in this area, apart from rafting, including hot springs, hiking, and lakes. Call Jim Lee (681-9057), lees@cablone.net

Anyone interested in joining a group that would call in for a Middle Fork or Main Salmon permit, call Greg Hulet 523-6199. Getting the permit does not mean that you are required to lead the trip.

Raft Rental Prices 2002

Udisco 14' \$25/day

Ryken 14' \$30/day

Self-bailer 14' \$45/day

Self bailers 16' \$50/day

Life jackets only \$3/day

Includes paddles or oars and life jackets.

Contact Greg Hulet for more info at 523-6199

Climbing ~ 2002**Schedule for Beginner to Advanced Climbers**

This schedule 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 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.

July 12-14 Sawtooths (Warbonnet Peak, Elephants Perch)

Oct 18-20 Sinks Canyon, Wild Iris;
Lander, WY

There will be other climbs or hikes not on this schedule, as well as activities coordinated by others (including some Boise members). Call Kurt Myers, Eric Peterson, or Ken Lamson (Boise) for climbing and scheduling information.

Eastern Idaho Thursday Night Climbs

These are short, local-area climbing outings which take place every Thursday evening for much of the summer. We leave at 6:00 pm from the Yellowstone McDonalds parking lot, travel to the area, and climb for 1 ½ to 2 hours.

Date	Location	Leader
June 6	Ross Park, Pocatello	Peterson
June 13	Blackfoot	???*
June 20	Ririe Dam	????*
June 27	Paramount	Peterson
July 4 - HOLIDAY	No Thursday Night climb	
July 11	Ross Park, Pocatello	Peterson
July 18	Blackfoot	????*
July 25	Ross Park, Pocatello	????*

August 1	Blackfoot	Peterson
August 8	Paramount	Peterson
August 15	Ririe Dam	******
August 22	Ross Park Pocatello	******
August 30	Blackfoot	Peterson

**Eric Peterson not available for Thursday night climb, leaders sought.

Trip Report

Teton Park Bike Ride - April 27, 2002

Gray skies and a downpour began the day for us this year. It turned out to be a very nice day for a ride out to Jackson Dam, despite the blustery beginning. Michelle Fox, Ken Krivanek, Betsy and Tim Adkison, Karol, Sydnie, and Doug Clark, and Mark and Donna Whitham met at the Taggart Lake Parking lot midmorning. On the way over to the park, snow reports were received from Betsy and Tim, who spent the night at the park. Most of it had melted off by the time we arrived though. Rain sprinkled on us throughout the ride, but never enough to soak us. No ice riding this year. Jackson Reservoir was partly thawed and slushy. Even the Tetons popped through the clouds occasionally for incredible views. Upon arrival back at the cars, the wind was howling, more snow was flying sideways, and those of us who planned to camp out; decided that pizza in Jackson and going home sounded much better.

Donna Whitham

Trip Report:

West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce 2002 Spring Lakeside Ride

The yearly spring Chamber ride went from West Yellowstone along Henry's Lake, through Reynold's Pass, along Earthquake Lake, along Hebgen Lake, and back to West, for a total of 65 miles.

Henry's was really pretty, with snow on the mountains surrounding it. And Hebgen still had ice on part of it! This year, though mostly sunny, it started out windy for the first 18 miles. Pretty windy and cold, as a matter of fact! Thank goodness for the feed stations that refueled us to go against the wind!! Then, at the Ennis highway junction, just when we thought we might take the sag wagon back to West from Quake lake, poof! our headwind was gone after we turned the corner. Yay!!

After a pleasant climb up to the Quake Lake Ranger Station and a good feed break, some of us took the sag wagon back to West (hey, 32 miles ain't half bad!) and others chose to continue around Hebgen Lake and back to West. Not really bothered by wind at all after the initial 18 miles, the rest of the ride was great, with a last feed stop half way home. 'Got my fill of Clif bars that day! (Actually, at the food stops they also had oranges, bananas, water and juice). Later that evening, there was a spaghetti feed with ride video, drawings for prizes, and pictures of us bikers. Included in the registration fees is a great long-sleeved T-shirt too! This is a highly enjoyable ride (as long as you don't mind the risk of a little weather!) and highly recommended too! For more info go to: www.wyyellowstone.com/cycletour/ Michelle Fox

Trip Report:

TOSRV-West: 2002 Tour of the Swan River Valley

How do you cram details of such a great, long ride into a little trip report? :) This trip goes from Missoula to Big Fork, MT, on Flathead Lake for a total 254 miles (or approx. 200 miles for those who started a little farther up in Potomac, MT like me).

Saturday started out a little sprinkly, but that stopped while we chowed down a yummy hotcake

breakfast. It was the perfect cool day for cycling with great snack stops, a generous lunch, and beautiful scenery. Nothing like riding along on a perfect day with the snow capped Swan Range and the Bob Marshall Wilderness on one side and snowy Mission Mountains in a pretty green forest on the other. We enjoyed a string of beautiful, clear lakes: Salmon, Seely, Summit, and Swan Lakes to name some.

In Big Fork, we ate a yummy pasta dinner with the all the trimmings; after a long ride like that, it tasted like the best food in the whole world to me!! Some people got hotel rooms in Big Fork for the night, some camped at the Big fork School, and I rode back to Swan Lake and camped there. Slept like a baby. Sunday morning, after breaking down camp and a breakfast of breakfast burritos, Missoulians on Bicycles, the club who sponsors the ride, took all of our stuff back to Missoula (of course they had brought it up for us).

The ride back was the same route as the ride up; the previous return route on Highway 93 has become too risky because of heavy traffic. The weather got really warm for a time - we all stripped off all our layers and rode in shorts and jerseys. It was so cool to see all of the colorful jerseys people had on going down the road! The traffic got a little heavy in spots but not bad overall. Again, more super food stops to keep us full and energized, and a terrific, long downhill at the end finished the ride off perfectly. In fact, except for a sore rear and temporarily lost car key incident, the ride was perfectly wonderful! I am going to make it a tradition. For more info go to: <http://www.missoulabike.org/>
Michelle Fox

Trip Report **Pocatello area Mountain Bike Trails**

I have ridden two different mountain bike trails during the spring season in the Mink Creek area near Pocatello. These are good springtime rides, since this area is free from snow earlier than many others and the spring temperatures are better for riding the uphill sections.

The latest was a variation of the Gibson Jack - West Fork Mink Loop. This was done with a car shuttle so the road section could be bypassed. The start was at trailhead on Mink Creek Road with the finish at Gibson Jack Creek trailhead. The uphill section at the start required low gearing, but was excessively steep, and riding it was not difficult. The trail flattens out for a while at the top, and the remaining section is a fast and fun downhill. Most of the downhill section is free from rocks, making the descent quite enjoyable. Total mileage (with shuttle) is a little over 9 miles. The road section adds about 10 miles. This is ride #48 in Steven Stuebner's Mountain Biking Idaho from Falcon Press.

There is also a loop of about 9.5 miles that starts from the same Mink Creek trailhead and goes in the opposite direction towards Scout Mountain. It is very similar in character, with the uphill start through the forest and the return through meadows and down the road. This is ride #49 (or #50) in Mountain Biking Idaho.
Jeff Coward

Trip Report **Harriman Trail - Ketchum / Sun Valley** **May 25, 2002**

This trip was originally planned as a road ride from the SNRA headquarters to the overlook on the west side of Galena summit and back, but developing weather conditions on the climb to the summit as well as legs that had not yet fully recovered from TOSRV caused a change of plans. I was riding my mountain bike with the idea of comparing the available lower gear ratios to those on my road bike, so I had other options available.

If you are planning on riding this trail as an out and back ride, I highly recommend changing to a loop ride instead. Highway 75 has a good shoulder for most of the 13 mile distance from the SNRA headquarters to the upper trailhead at Galena Lodge, and the sealcoat is of the type found in Montana with one quarter inch or smaller size gravel instead of the one half inch or larger size usually found on Idaho's roads. There is no sealcoat on the shoulders.

Traffic on the highway was light, especially considering the Memorial Day holiday. The road provides a much easier ride for the uphill portion. Riding up the Harriman Trail would have required considerable additional effort and would not have been as enjoyable.

The trail is 19 miles long, the additional 6 miles over the road distance being due to extra loops and twists in the trail. Riding from Galena Lodge back to the SNRA headquarters you will encounter only one uphill section that requires extra low gearing, and two other uphill sections of any significance. The rest of the trail is mostly downhill or flat, with a few gradual uphill sections. The surface is packed gravel with a few short paved sections where water crosses the trail. There are several bridges where streams are crossed, and there are two crossings of Highway 75 in the lower 6 miles since part of the trail is on the north side of the highway. Many of the downhill sections where faster speeds can be achieved have a line about eight inches wide created by other bicycle riders where most of the gravel has been swept away. If you want to go fast I recommend watching for and following this line through the curves. There are at least two curves sharp enough to require slow speeds to prevent running off the trail or crashing.

Most of the trail was free from ice and snow on this trip, and the few sections that remained could easily be ridden over or through. There were also areas where meltwater was flowing across the trail, but these were short and presented no problems. Most of the trail, especially the upper half, goes through the forest, with the remaining sections traversing open meadows. There are several benches and picnic tables available along the trail for stops, and you also pass through three Forest Service campgrounds. I saw only two people on the lower half of the trail as I was riding up the highway, and I met no one as I rode back on the trail. If you don't want to ride the entire trail, there are several trail access points along its length. At the lower end of the trail the sign has a box for a \$9 daily use fee. I saw no method provided to obtain a proof of payment however, and the other trail access points did not have any such boxes, although some are included in the SNRA's trailhead fee program.

Maps of this and the other trails in the Ketchum and Sun Valley area can be obtained from the SNRA headquarters about 8 miles north of Ketchum on Highway 75 or from the Elephant's Perch in Ketchum. I can also provide anyone who is interested with copies. I highly recommend this ride and riding in the Wood River Valley in general, as well as other rides in the Stanley Basin area.

Jeff Coward

Club Member Benefits

10 % discount on (non sale) outdoor equipment at the following stores:

- Idaho Mountain Trading - Shoup & B
Idaho Falls - 523-6679
- K & R Adventure Gear - 522-5279
or 877-369-7407 www.knradventuregear.com
- Canyon Whitewater Supply - 450 S Yellowstone
Idaho Falls - 522-3932
- Free Heel and Wheel, 40 Yellowstone Ave. West
Yellowstone, Montana, 406-646-7744.

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

Discounts on Jerry Painter's Hiking and Biking guide books

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-- Kurt Myers
Ice axes-- Kurt Myers
Caving helmets-- Dean K.
Carbide lamps-- Dean K.
Clinometer & compass for cave mapping
--Dean K.

Rafting equipment --Greg 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.-9:00p.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.]*

IAC Logo T-Shirts!!

Short sleeves or long sleeves, crew neck, heather grey Dri Release material with embroidered club logo! Short sleeve \$12 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 Mark or Donna at 524.6119 to get yours sooner.

IAC Website

Have you visited the Idaho Alpine Club's homepage at www.idahoalpineclub.org 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