

# Idaho Alpine Club Bulletin

Volume 48 - Issue Number 3 - March 2008

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)

## 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:

3.13.2008: Cumming's home, 1860 Whitney

April: Painter's home, 1439 Riviera Drive

## 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.

## APRIL Bulletin Deadline is:

### 5 PM on March 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](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 Nepal"

WEDNESDAY, March 5, 2008, 7:30 PM

### IDAHO FALLS LIBRARY

Steve Bengston was on a two month trek from Makalu base camp to Everest base camp thirty years ago when, along the way, he paused to stare down into the upper Hongu Valley. The view intrigued Steve and he thought it would be a nice place to come back and visit some time. Thirty years later, this past October and November, Steve finally had a chance to realize his desire to go back and visit the Hongu Valley. Steve, a former member of the IAC, along with two other former members, Bob Hammer and Dean Millsap, and a fourth friend Dave Wright spent 30 days exploring this beautiful area of Nepal. Steve also took time out to do a non-technical ascent of 21,830 foot Mera Peak using crampons and ice ax. Steve and his friends put the trip together themselves, hiring a guide and 8 or 9 porters to carry their gear. Come enjoy Steve's slideshow of this beautiful and remote area of the world. The meeting is open to the public and all outdoor enthusiasts are invited. For more information log onto the club website at [www.idahoalpineclub.org](http://www.idahoalpineclub.org) or contact Bob Tyler at [programs@idahoalpineclub.org](mailto:programs@idahoalpineclub.org).

## President Speaks

This is the time of year to get your reservations for backcountry camping sites in the national parks. If you wait till summer you have to show up 48 hours in advance and hope a site is still available. Reservations guarantee you a spot. You just have to pick up your permit on time. This includes climbing and backpacking and kayak/canoe trips. The rules are different for each park.

Grand Teton National Park accepts requests from January 1st -May 15th. Requests for advance reservations may be submitted by mail, fax, online or in person. GTNP's web page <http://www.nps.gov/grte/planyourvisit/back.htm>. There is also a neat link for climbing and backcountry information including current weather forecasts and avalanche conditions or the conditions of trails and climbing routes in the summer months.

Yellowstone National Park starts processing requests for its backcountry permits April 1st. Requests for reservations must be submitted by mail or in person only, not by phone or by fax. Reservation requests submitted before April 1st are processed in random order. Reservations requested after April 1st are processed on a first come, first served basis. Access YNP's web page <http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/backcountryhiking.htm> then click on Online Backcountry Trip Planner.

Another option for summer trips that require reservations are trail building projects with the Continental Divide Trail Alliance or the American Hiking Society. The CDTA trips are free for members or \$19 for non-members, but you may be asked to bring your own food. The AHS trips on the other hand provide food but cost \$245 for members or \$275 for non-members. These projects are a great way to improve trails in our backyard and have great fun at the same time.

Now that you are dreaming about all the great trips that you want to do next summer, think about leading a trip for the Idaho Alpine Club. Anyone can lead a trip, just contact the activity coordinator for information. If your not up to leading a trip you can always talk to the activity coordinator and suggest trips you would like to see the club to do. This is an exceptional way to meet new people and see new country.

Getting involved and having fun are what the club is all about. Mark Whitham

**PLEASE NOTE: IF YOUR ADDRESS LABEL INDICATES "LAST ISSUE" THIS IS YOUR LAST ISSUE.**

### **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 during the winter depending on conditions.

#### **March 8 XCSki/Ricks Basin:**

Please Note Date Change to Saturday. 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](http://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  
Kelly Canyon Nordic Area Guide  
[www.Delorme.com](http://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](http://www.lmranch.com/lmr_content/winter/ski_cond.shtml)

Bohart Ski Ranch  
<http://www.bohartranchxcski.com/weather.php>

Chief Joseph Ski Trail Conditions  
<http://bitterrootxskiclub.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.

#### **March 20 Running Wild: Mountaineering Adventure in Greater Yellowstone**

In this 90-minute presentation, author Thomas Turiano takes you on a mountaineering tour of the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem, describing his adventures climbing, pack-rafting, ski mountaineering, and exploring in each of the region's 13 major mountain ranges. Animated with several virtual terrain fly-throughs, Turiano shares his unique perspective on wilderness along with thoughtful accounts of mountaineering history, camaraderie, hardship, glory, harrowing escapes, and close wildlife encounters.

Time: 7:00-9:00pm

Location: Idaho Falls, Idaho

Venue: Colonial Theatre, 450 A Street

Admission: FREE

Sponsored by the Greater Yellowstone Coalition (208)522-7927

## Dubois Grouse Days

**April 11-12, 2008**

The small, western, high-desert crossroads town of Dubois lies on the Upper Snake River Plain about a dozen miles south of the beautiful Centennial Mountains. Every spring, Greater Sage-Grouse and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse congregate on traditional strutting or dancing grounds called leks. These magnificent birds are in need of effective conservation efforts to reverse downward population trends. To experience these birds during their mating rituals is a rare treat that leaves memories that are permanently etched in the mind like fine art. Become one of the fortunate few to experience the magic of grouse during the Annual Dubois Grouse Days Festival! Residents of Dubois, Idaho, and an array of private, state and federal agencies will host the Sixth Annual Dubois Grouse Days to celebrate Greater Sage and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse and the wonderful environments that are their home.

Registration fee: \$40 for adults and \$25 for children (12 or younger) for all activities. \$35 for adults and \$20 for children for all Saturday events only. \$20 for individual events. Extra \$5 to register at door so register early. To reserve space in a photography blind, please pay an additional \$25 fee. The full registration fee covers the Friday night social and Sloppy Joe dinner, early Saturday morning coffee & doughnuts, lek tours by bus, breakfast, other events, Closing Banquet, and a commemorative poster. Questions or to request a registration form: Call Jeri at (208) 374-5422

e-mail: [jtavenner@mudlake.net](mailto:jtavenner@mudlake.net)

## Bicycling

For spring bicycling information and trips, contact Jeff Coward at 208.522.8135 or by email:

[bicycling@idahoalpineclub.org](mailto:bicycling@idahoalpineclub.org)

## Highway Clean-Up May 3

It is that time of year to contribute to the community and have a great time with friends while helping to clean up our little 2 mile section of Highway 31. The section is located between milemarker 6 & 8 near the old Pine Basin Ski area.

Benefits include getting out in the fresh air, exercise, spotting those early spring flowers blooming as soon as the snow melts, the feeling of pride in your efforts every time you drive thru that section of highway, the potluck picnic, and bike ride or hike afterwards. In return matching bright orange safety vests and trash sacks are provided for our use.

Work gloves are required. Leather boots & safety glasses recommended.

For more information and to sign up for this easy fun trip, call the Whithams at 520.1728.

## Trip Reports

### January 26 XCSki/Sandcreek Golf Course & Kelly Canyon:

At the last minute, Alan and Alice Crockett and Bob Tyler decided to change the ski trip planned for Kelly Canyon to the Sandcreek Golf Course to suit their schedules better. Alan brought a GPS to map the 2 ½ miles of trail that the city grooms on the course. He will eventually post the map to the ski club and city recreation department websites. We found a handful of other skiers out enjoying the bracing morning temperatures on the course. Groomed for both skating and classic, Sandcreek is flat and offers a good close by workout for those pressed for time to get a little skiing in. Children's skis and boots are also available to rent. According to the Post Register, Sandcreek's hours of operation are: Thursday, Friday and Sunday from noon to 4:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$1 per person and kids ski equipment rents for \$5.

On a side note, if you haven't seen Alan's professional looking maps,

check out his maps of eastern Idaho ski venues on the ski club's website. His maps are so good the State of Idaho has asked him to map the trails in the entire state park system. Meanwhile, we heard Kelly Canyon offered cold temps, deep snow, and great skiing for those who did meet at Kelly Canyon. Those of us who went to the Winter Ecology class at Craters of the Moon, enjoyed sun, no wind, and plenty of snow to snowshoe to the tops of Paisley Cone and North Crater.

## 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; [lyнна.ward@mac.com](mailto:lyнна.ward@mac.com) [leland@wildernessbooks.com](mailto: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

## White 'n' Grey Sale!!!!

All long sleeve white and grey silk screened IAC logo T-shirts are now \$14 instead of the normal \$21. All short sleeve grey silk screened IAC logo T-shirts are now \$10 instead of the normal \$14. These would make a great gift for the hiker that has everything. We will not be ordering any more white or silk screened logo T-shirts; this is your last chance. Contact the club Treasurer for size availability and to buy now.

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW**

Dates to Remember:

March 5: General Meeting / Trekking in Nepal

March 8 XCSki: Ricks Basin

March 15 Snowshoe: Teton Park

March 20: Slideshow / Running Wild: Mountaineering Adventure in Greater Yellowstone

April 11-12: Dubois Grouse Days

April 22: Earth Day

May 3: Highway Clean-up

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](http://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](http://www.idahoalpineclub.org)

**DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN TRIPS, DISCOUNTS, INTERESTING MONTHLY PROGRAMS, MEETING NEW PEOPLE, AND THE WINTER & SUMMER PARTIES:**

**CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL IF IT INDICATES "LAST ISSUE", MAIL YOUR DUES TO THE CLUB TREASURER. IF YOU ALREADY MAILED YOUR DUES, PLEASE CONTACT THE CLUB TREASURER TO VERIFY RECEIPT.**

**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.

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