

Idaho Alpine Club Bulletin

Volume 43 - Issue Number 5 - May 2003

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

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2002 Executive Council

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Secretary
Jeff Coward 522-8135
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Bob Kroupa 524-6273
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Donna Whitham 524-6119

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Barbara Brown 522-8977

Please mail completed common
adventure forms to the secretary.

Coordinators

Program
Donna Whitham 524-6119
Backpacking
George Cole 522-4084
Mark Whitham 524-6119
Caving
Dean Killian 357-7354
Climbing/mountaineering
Eric Peterson 529-9538
Kurt Myers 522-5279
Conservation
Tim Adkison 542-0786
X-Country Skiing
Mark/Donna Whitham 524-6119
Bicycling
Michelle Fox Benson 525-3238
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

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY IN IDAHO

May 7, 2003 at 8 PM

Idaho Falls Public Library - Large Meeting Room

The Nature Conservancy's mission is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. The Nature Conservancy's vision is to conserve a set of places that, if managed appropriately, will ensure the long-term survival of all their native life and natural communities—not just those that are threatened.

Tracie Salvador will discuss the Nature Conservancy's role in Idaho and what it means for us. She also plans to present an awesome 3 dimensional view of Hells Canyon. The presentation is open to the public and all outdoor enthusiasts are invited to attend.

President Speaks

This month we have the 3rd annual Spring wolf-watching weekend in Yellowstone which will include some dayhiking as well. With the warmer weather coming in, climbing at the local crags will also be starting up. Be sure and contact the climbing coordinators for specifics on posted climbs. For National Trails Day, the IAC will spend the weekend at City of Rocks, June 7th. This is an opportunity to give back to the climbing community with a little volunteer trail maintenance and some climbing afterwards.

If you are interested in the Wilderness First Aid course taught by N.O.L.S. and to be given here in Idaho Falls May 3-4, contact Donna Whitham at 524-6119. The person that you learn how to help just might be yourself or someone you know. Hurry though, it's a popular class that you won't want to miss.

Happy Trails,
Tim

IAC Council Meeting

Date: 4/15/2003

Attendees: Tim Adkison, Jeff Coward, Bob Kroupa, Barbara Brown, John Bisset

Note taker: Tim

- 1) Meeting call to order: 7:48 pm
- 2) Reading of last months meeting minutes: March minutes approved
- 3) Treasurers report

Income: \$ 83.32
Expenditures: \$ 166.80
General fund: \$ 3,228.84

Memberships to date: 68

4) Old business

Window stickers (*Jeff*) - discussed color combinations and pricing for several styles of window decals. Announcement to be made at next monthly meeting for IAC members to write down how many decals they would be interested in so that the council can decide if further pursuit of this item is warranted. Jeff to be contact person for IAC members to express interest by sign-up sheet and by email contact.

E-mailing of newsletter discussed. Members that prefer an electronic newsletter instead of a paper one to be given that option during the next membership renewal period on the waiver form. Possibility of putting the newsletter in a printed document format (.pdf) on the club website also discussed. Jeff requested a copy of the newsletter template be sent to him electronically to determine the feasibility of this option.

5) New business

IAC membership in other organizations discussed briefly. More information on the purposes of past memberships was determined to be needed for a decision to be reached. Jeff and Tim to try to obtain this info and present it at the next council meeting for further discussion.

General meeting snacks: Tim/Betsy Adkison

May council meeting at: Barbara Brown, call/email for directions; 522-8977, barbara@srv.net
June council meeting at: Tim/Betsy Adkison, 155 Chatham Drive, 542-0786

Meeting adjournment: 8:55 pm

Wilderness First Aid / Wilderness First Responder Refresher May 3 - 4, 2003

Mark your calendars for this intense hands on, two day, First Aid course like not other first aid course you have ever taken. Lance Taysom will be teaching the course for Wilderness Medicine Institute this time around. His hands on scenarios are fantastic. Watch the bulletin for more details on cost and location. To sign up contact the Whithams at programs@idahoalpineclub.org or call 524-6119.

Wolf Watching in Yellowstone

May 10-11

We will be heading up to Yellowstone Park's Lamar Valley to look for wolves and watch some of the spring wildlife. The winter trip was absolutely spectacular earlier this year and with the dividing of the Druid Peak pack into several smaller groups in the same valley, the chances of viewing wolves will be the best to date. We will be staying in Gardner, MT, Mammoth Hotel, or Mammoth cabins. Self-made reservations are required. Contact Tim Adkison for further details at 542-0786, or Ga2idaho22@msn.com.

Dayhikes ~ 2003

May 10 - Rescue Creek Yellowstone Park.

Eight miles of moderate hiking terrain with scenic views and abundant animal life. We are looking forward to our first good hike of the season. A wolf watching trip is planned for this weekend too. For more information on the dayhike and to sign up contact the Whithams at dayhikes@idahoalpineclub.org or 524.6119.

National Trails Day - June 7 & 8:

(Note Project Update)

Mark your calendars so you won't miss out on doing another fun trail work project with your IAC friends. This will be a chance to repair erosion effects on old user trails and build staging areas to mitigate user damage before the Castle Rocks area of the City of Rocks is eventually opened to the

general public. The City of Rocks depends on volunteer labor to help build trails, repair eroded areas, and mitigate user damage in order to stretch its lean budget as far as possible. Last year a dozen of us constructed nearly 200 feet of trail to replace a badly eroded trail near the Twin Sisters at the City of Rocks. We hand moved approximately 10 cubic yards of gravel (which everyone keeps reminding me it was all uphill) but we had loads of fun in the process of working together and even got some awesome climbing in too. We plan to camp overnight. The City of Rocks not only has fantastic climbing, but also has a great trail system for hiking and biking. To keep posted on work details and to volunteer to help with this years project, contact the Whithams at programs@idahoalpineclub.org or call 524.6119.

Rafting ~ 2003

May 30 - June 1

Annual Memorial Day trip to Shoup. Participants will camp at Spring Creek Campground on the Main Salmon near Shoup. Pot luck dinners Saturday and Sunday nights, so get out your BEST recipes. Those interested should sign up at the May club meeting or call Greg Hule 523-6199. Those with suitable life jackets should so indicate when they sign up. Help will be needed in transporting gear to Spring Creek and in running shuttles, so please plan to haul your share. Those not helping will be charged a gas fee. The club is not a guide service, so plan to do your part. Trip organizer - Greg Hulet - 523-6199

June 7, Fall River (if flows support)

Trip organizer - Greg Hulet - 523-6199

June 21, Madison River (if flows support)

Trip organizer - Greg Hulet - 523-6199

Rafting Continued...

July 19?, Blackfoot River

Trip organizer - Jim Lee - 524-5836

July 24 - July 27, South Fork Boise River (class III - IV, recommended flows should be around 1500cfs) Trip organizer - Jim Lee- 524-5836

Summer afternoon rafting in Alpine Canyon:
Leave IF 1pm - 2pm, return IF 8:30pm - 9:30pm, Monday through Friday, or Sunday. Call to arrange trips. Low crowds, low stress, fun water. Contact Greg Hulet (523-6199) or Jim Lee (524-5836)

Thursday Night Climbing Schedule Summer 2003

Date	Location	Leader
June 5	Ross Park, Pocatello	Peterson
June 12	Blackfoot	Whitham
June 20	Ririe Dam	Peterson
June 26	Paramount	Peterson
July 3	HOLIDAY No Thursday Night climb	
July 10	Ross Park, Pocatello	Peterson
July 17	Blackfoot	Peterson
July 24	Ross Park, Pocatello	Peterson
July 31	Blackfoot	Whitham
August 7	Paramount	Whitham
August 14	Heise Boulder (If Dry)	Peterson
August 21	Ross Park Pocatello	Peterson
August 28	Blackfoot	Peterson

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

Weekday Social Cycling:

Barb Brown is updating her "Bike2002" e-mail list. If you'd like to be added to the Bike2003 list, send your e-mail address to Barbara@srv.net. Once on the list, you're subject to weekly (usually) notifications of meeting place and time and destination for Tuesday morning rides, and, occasionally, another bike-related tidbit or another day. Rides are mostly on paved county roads with occasional rides on dirt roads in the wildlife refuges or desert. Most of us opt out on weather-challenged days (wind).

WARNING: These rides are easy, not even semi-hard-core, rides. They are NOT Alpine Club sponsored-or even formally led or supported. Generally we're back after 2-3 hours and only ride 15-25 miles, usually with shorter and longer options and sometime with a faster group leaving the rest in the dust. Most of the participants are retirees, sometimes visiting children, grandchildren, or shift workers join us. Everyone is responsible for his or her own extra tube and rudimentary tool kit (and skin repair kit). Real mechanics (or paramedics) are not provided in the event of flat tires, etc. (Advice and unhelpful comments are.)

Trip Reports:

Yellowstone National Park

February 21, 2003

Kelly Mathis, Kelly Katula, and I drove from Boise to Tim and Betsy Adkison's house in Idaho Falls on Friday night, Feb 21, 2003. We sorted our gear and went to bed. On Saturday morning we drove to Ashton and met the shuttle drivers we had hired. We loaded our gear and ourselves in their two rigs and went to West Yellowstone, where we transferred to a 1966 Bombardier Snow Coach for the 3 hour, 30 mile trip to Old Faithful. We saw lots of bison, a few elk, and many snowmobiles. We checked into the OF Snow Lodge Western Cabins that we had reserved, relaxed a bit, got our backcountry permit from the ranger, and then went to watch Old Faithful erupt. We posed in front of the OF webcam for our loved ones back home. Later, we ate at the restaurant and retired.

After breakfast Sunday morning, we headed out, four pulling sleds and one backpacking. We were finally on our way to Bechler Ranger Station. After watching snowmobiles wiz by for two miles, we left the road at Kepler Cascades and started up the 2.5 mile trail to Lone Star Geyser. We arrived just in time to see the impressive eruption. At this point, the trail was difficult to follow, and we made a wrong decision to pull the sleds across the snowy and grassy meadow near the Firehole River. Mud and moisture got on the sled bottoms and froze, making them pull like bricks in a bag. We stopped to scrape the sleds about a half mile upstream from LSG, near the bridge, when Tim had a major sled failure. One of the two main connectors between the aluminum traces and the sled had broken. We decided to make an early camp to assess our options. The temperatures plummeted when the sun went down that night.

It was -31.1 degrees F when we awoke on Monday morning. Since we had no way to repair Tim's sled, he and Betsy headed back to OF, using rope traces. The remaining three of us decided to press on.

It was a tough slug breaking trail over Grants Pass and down to Shoshone Creek where we camped. Again the temps plunged after the sun went down. It was -15 when we finished melting snow and retired.

In the morning, while still in my sleeping bag, I extended the digital thermometer probe about a foot from my head into the tent vestibule. It was -44.2. It may have been colder outside, but I wasn't leaving my warm bag to find out. The eleventh "essential" proved invaluable. After the sun warmed things up some, I emptied its warm lemonade-looking contents into the deep snow.

From Shoshone Creek to Ferris Fork, there was no evidence of trail usage and few trail markers were visible, being either buried under the deep (~8') snow or under the heavily snow-laden branches. We had to route-find using GPS virtual waypoints that I had set up prior to the trip. It took us two long, arduous days to break trail to FF. We camped near the continental divide on Tuesday night. It was our highest camp at 8500 feet, but the temp only dropped to a relatively balmy -14.5. We

finally arrived near FF Hot Springs at dark on Wednesday night.

On Thursday morning, I was feeling dehydrated, and we were all tired, so we took a rest day. Mr. Bubble was delightful and deserving of its ranking as the best hot spring in the west. The atmosphere was surreal with rushing and bubbling hot water, deep snow, ghost trees, and vast steam clouds. Another party reached FF and complimented us for our route finding and trail-making. They let us use their satellite phone to inform our shuttle service that we would be coming out on Sunday instead of Saturday. We had tried, unsuccessfully, to make cell phone contact near Douglas Knob.

We departed on Friday morning, following the half-mile trail we had made along FF. It was the easiest going since the road section leaving OF. The crossing of FF was easy, since the water was only ankle deep. The next mile was tough, with steep hills and portages around several thermal areas. We finally picked up a faint ski trail near the old ranger cabin. A ranger had skied out the previous weekend. Following the tracks saved us a lot of route-finding time, but we had some difficulties with our sleds sliding or rolling into the deep tree wells. Amazingly, I only broke through one of the many snowbridges we crossed. It snowed about 3-4 inches at our camp in Bechler Canyon that night.

On Saturday we left the canyon and entered Bechler Meadows. The Bechler River crossing was not too bad. The snowbanks tapered gently on both sides and our stocking foot waders worked well in the knee-deep water. Two miles later, the crossing of Boundary Creek proved more difficult. We had to shovel down the vertical snowbank, making a ramp to reach the water, cross the muddy-bottomed, thigh-deep creek to the other side, then dig another ramp to exit. The crossing took an hour. We made camp about a mile beyond.

It was -3 when we got up on Sunday morning. We quickly broke camp and chugged to Bechler Ranger Station. Our shuttle service came early to pick us up, arriving with four snowmobiles, a large gear sled, and a 12 pack of beer. We put on some colder weather clothing for the 11-mile ride to the nearest plowed road and my waiting truck. We

drove to Tim and Betsy's house to return their stove. Kelly K showed them his frostbitten feet, which were now blistering.

We pigged out at BK, and headed back to Boise, knowing how easy life is in civilization.

April 19 - Highway Clean-up Trip Report

Seventeen of us, Michelle Benson, John Bisset, Ken and Caroline Katsma, Donna and Mark Whitham, Garney Hardy, Barbara Brown, Judy Williams, Jeff Coward, Kevin, Katherine, and Nate Coble, Marvin Lambrecht, Tim and Betsy Adkinson, and Paul Worth, enjoyed the cool sunny weather ordered up for highway clean-up. We were able to find all the trash covered by nearly a foot of snow last fall plus the winter accumulation which filled 20 bags with trash. Afterwards we all enjoyed a wonderful potluck lunch at Pioneer Park in Victor, before a 25 mile bike ride on the backroads and bikepath in Teton Valley. Thank-you to everyone who participated and helped make short work of picking up after our fellow citizens.



The Nature Conservancy's mission is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. The Nature Conservancy's vision is to conserve a set of places that, if managed appropriately, will ensure the long-term survival of all their native life and natural communities—not just those that are threatened.

To achieve such an ambitious goal, we have developed a strategic, science-based planning process, called Conservation by Design, which

helps us identify the highest-priority places—landscapes and seascapes that, if conserved, promise to ensure biodiversity over the long term. In other words, Conservation by Design allows us to achieve meaningful, lasting conservation results. Worldwide, there will be thousands of these precious places. Taken together, they form something extraordinary: a vision of conservation success and a roadmap for getting there—the Conservation Blueprint.

The Nature Conservancy in Idaho

The Places

Garden Creek Ranch, Hells Canyon

Reaching remote Garden Creek Ranch is a journey across rough terrain spanning a wide range of elevations.

Silver Creek

Flowing at the base of the Picabo Hills, this high-desert spring-fed creek attracts eagles, hawks, songbirds, waterfowl, coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions, deer and elk. Silver Creek's globally unique aquatic ecosystem features one of the highest densities of stream insects in North America, and supports a world-class fishery.

Flat Ranch

Located fifteen miles west of West Yellowstone, The Nature Conservancy's Flat Ranch offers a great place to view wildlife and learn about the Conservancy before entering Yellowstone National Park. The working cattle ranch protects important habitat along the Henry's Lake outlet, the headwaters of the famous Henry's Fork.

Thousand Springs

Idaho's "lost rivers" sink into porous lava near Craters of the Moon National Monument, only to re-emerge two centuries later along the Middle Snake River near Hagerman. These clear waters gush out of the canyon walls, creating a series of rare springs.

Cougar Bay Preserve

Just minutes from downtown Coeur d'Alene, visitors walking the trails of the 88-acre Cougar Bay Preserve will discover a virtual wildlife nursery on the northwest shore of one of Idaho's most beautiful mountain lakes. Bordered by towering coniferous forests and lush meadows, Cougar Bay attracts migrating and nesting waterfowl, numerous shorebirds, songbirds, moose, beaver, otter and deer.

Ball Creek Ranch Preserve

Located in the heart of the Kootenai River Valley, the 2300-acre Ball Creek Ranch Preserve includes four miles of Kootenai River frontage, two tributaries to the river, a wetland pond, and 200 acres of riparian habitat. The Conservancy has been managing the property for a variety of uses including wildlife habitat, public recreation, farming, and cattle ranching.

Nature Conservancy Work

Understanding Conservation Easements The Nature Conservancy has protected more than 10,000 acres around Idaho using easements, and it has been a "win-win" situation for landowners and conservation.

Easement Protects South Fork of the Snake River Land For the past ten years, The Nature Conservancy has been protecting land in this important part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. This protection has reached a new milestone with a conservation easement to protect the Fisher Bottom property, an awe-inspiring tract upstream from the Conservancy's South Fork Preserve.

The Hells Canyon Project: Saving Biodiversity in a Weed-Infested Landscape Superlatives define Hells Canyon. It is the deepest river gorge in North America, dropping dramatically from He Devil Peak at 9,393 feet to just 1,480 feet at the mouth of Granite Creek. It has the highest diversity of plants, animals, and natural communities statewide. The snow pack in the Seven Devils and the Wallows has begun to melt, watering the native bunchgrasses and wildflowers that make the Canyon so ecologically important. But this lifeblood of water is also being siphoned off by non-native invaders – yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) and cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*). These destructive species are crowding out the natives, hoarding critical resources like water, and destroying the forage and habitat on which Hells Canyon's abundant wildlife depends.

Noxious Weed Threatens Habitat in Hells Canyon A wildfire of sorts is burning in Hells Canyon, cutting a bright yellow swath through the continent's deepest river gorge and destroying tracts of native vegetation along the way. That wildfire is yellow star thistle, capable of spreading seven miles a year, The Nature Conservancy says. The environmental group is employing satellite, hand-held global positioning computers and shoe leather to locate and eradicate the patches from the canyon, considered one of the most biologically rich ecosystems in the West.

The Crooked Creek Project: A Cooperative Project for Sage Grouse Management There are not many places in the West where you can still find a 200-bird sage grouse lek. That's why the North American Grouse Partnership and The Nature Conservancy of Idaho are forming a partnership to protect an important piece of this habitat, using management practices that can provide a model for sage grouse and sagebrush habitat conservation throughout the West.

FOR SALE: North Face Expedition 25 1995 model, with attached footprint. In good condition. Packed weight 11#. \$499 new, \$250 FIRM. Mark or Donna for more information. 524.6119 or programs@idahoalpineclub.org

Web Site News

For your convenience, the most recent club bulletins are included as well as all the posted club activities. Additionally, you can:

- Download membership applications and Common Adventure Release forms
- Look up contact information for club officers and activity coordinators
- Read the club By-Laws
- Search the club classified ads or post you own ad
- View pictures from recent club activities
- Find out about Donna's 10 E's (what are the 10 E' anyway?)
- Get a blank IAC Common Adventure Release Form by sending an email to CommonReleaseForm@IdahoAlpineClub.org
- Check out club members' Restaurant Reviews or submit your own review
- and find lot's of other stuff of interest to IAC members!

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.

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