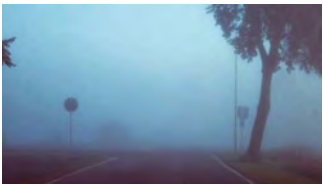

**MOUNTAIN WEST OUTDOOR CLUB
NEWSLETTER
February, 2024**



MEMORY TEST: What Weather Related Phenomenon Did We Not Experience this January ?!

MWOC MONTHLY MEETING

Date & time: Monday, February 5

Officers & interested parties, 6:00 PM

Agenda & program, 7:00 PM

Place: Idaho Fish & Game Headquarters, 600 S Walnut St, Boise. Enter by the southeast doorway, not the main entrance. There will be a club member at the door.

Winter meetings happen indoors at Idaho F&G and don't include dinner. In place of a potluck dinner, we have interesting speakers.

The meeting will include the presentation prepared by our own

Mountain West Outdoor Club Members

and Directed by

PEGGY KILLEN

**Mountain West Travels 2023, Oh such
Fun!**

**See the where, why, how, what, and when of club
members' 2023 adventures**

Note that sections of Warm Springs Ave *will be closed* through next Spring. At present, it is open from the west, including Walnut St.

Please note: *Doors in the Idaho Fish & Game Building are locked after regular business hours. A MWOC member will be stationed at the door to allow persons to enter for the MWOC meeting. As a courtesy to your fellow members, please arrive on time for the program. The door monitor will leave the door locked and unattended after the 7 PM program begins.*

CLUB EVENTS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

Thanks to everyone for sending current photos. There's a LOT that goes on between newsletters.

PLEASE KEEP THOSE PHOTOS COMING! Please submit photos and corresponding captions to Tom Weingartner at t.weingartner@yahoo.com or cell 907-388-0414.

Please include a brief description of the event and names of people in the photo!

A HUGE THANK YOU TO:

Pat Alexander, Rod Haars, Laura Jenski, Deena Kolb, Cindy Lawrick, Gary Wright, Shari Wright, and Janette Young

for volunteering to serve on the 2024 Picnic Planning Committee



**The Tuesday January 2 hike was cool, a tad foggy and on
crunchy snow!**



The Tuesday, December 12th, hike

**Judy Farnsworth, Dan Morrow, Carol Meli, and Scott Stolhand
Although cold and snowy, elicited bright smiles!**



The Wednesday, Jan. 17 Hike

Another chilly day but the hikers stayed warm and happy and were joined by a gaggle of geese (*Branta canadensis*)!



The 2024 McCall Ski Trip





About 30 people participated in the McCall winter trip, including alpine skiers, Nordic skiers and snowshoers. Everyone had a wonderful time and enjoyed great conversations during the nightly happy hours held in Judy and Ruth's cabin. The weather was much better than expected and the snow was "pretty darn good". Alpine skiers went to Brundage. Snowshoers and Nordic skiers used Bear Basin and Ponderosa Park as well as Jug Mountain. A few thawed out on the way home at the Golf Fork Hot Springs!

UPCOMING PLANNED EVENTS



EMPIRE STATE TRAIL BIKE TOUR, JUNE 2-7, 2024

"We'll start our tour at Battery Park in Manhattan and finish in Albany NY. We'll bike 200 miles of the trail, covering 28-47 miles each day. Along the route, we'll see all manner of scenery! The trail is a mix of paved bike path, rail trails, and quiet roads. At Albany we'll turn in our bikes and return to the City by train.

[Discovery Bicycle Tours](#) is putting together our tour. The package includes 5 nights lodging and most meals, a guided bike tour of Manhattan, detailed maps and itineraries. We'll have full van support – **PLUS** the use of a bike and a helmet. To learn more information about the tour, go to: [Empire State Trail](#).

COST. The cost of the tour is \$2895 (more for single occupancy). Airfare is not included. A \$500 deposit is required to reserve a spot. The deposit is refundable up to 60 days before the tour begins (which is the same day the final payment is due). We'll have a private tour *if* 10 people sign up *and* we will receive a 10% discount that will be refunded at the end of the tour.

Planning. We are planning to stay in Manhattan the night before the tour. A list of hotels in the Battery Park area will be available when we have the list of participants. Of course, you can spend time before or after the tour in the City on your own."

Come cycle with us!

1. Call Jane at (802) 457-3553 today to register. Tell her you are with Mountain West Empire State Tour with Peggy and Judy as contacts.

2. Then **text** Peggy Killen, (208) 484-7946, or **email** Judy Farnsworth, jfarnsw@me.com, to tell us you've signed-on!!

MISCELLANY

The following business items crossed our desks recently. Interested members are invited to discuss with one of the officers:

- MWOC submitted a letter of support to the city of Stanley, favoring development of trailhead facilities for the new trail that connects Stanley with Redfish Lake. The 4.6 mile trail passes through the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. It is already open to non-motorized travel year-round plus snowmobiles in winter. Planned trailhead facilities include parking areas, restrooms, signage, and disability access. Nearby Pioneer Park offers a playground, picnic area, and a ball field.
- A movement is afoot to change up the annual MWOC picnic by adding a live music band, changing caterers, and scaling back the raffle prizes. I don't know -- crazy things could happen if you get MWOC people dancing!
- Carpooling to weekly hikes is encouraged so as to minimize traffic at trailheads. Some of our trailheads have only limited parking, whereas recent hikes have had up to 25 participants. Growing pains! The lead person on this issue is Scott Stolhand.
- **NEW ITEM:** Are you and your significant other or both MWOC members but receive two separate invoices for annual membership renewals? You can be "bundled" as a two-member household and have one invoice for both memberships sent to one of you (the "bundle coordinator"). Contact [Laura Jenki](#) or [Patti Campbell](#) to set up your "bundle."

RECURRING CLUB EVENTS

Tuesday hikers visited Upper Hulls Gulch Trail, Corrals/HardGuy Trail, Peggy's Trail, and the Greenbelt. Inclement weather is bringing a lot of pavement hikes this winter.



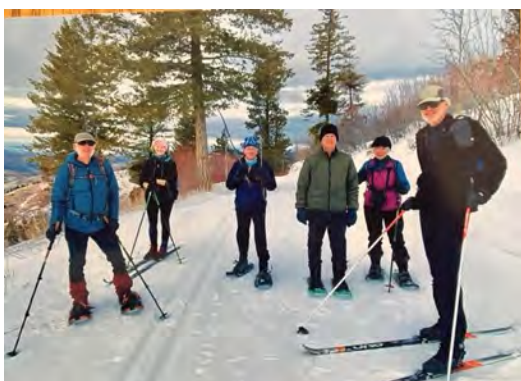
Wednesday hikers visited Cartwright Ranch, Polecat Trail, Camel's Back Trails, and Eagle Island State Park. Eagle Island hikers got to witness snowmaking for the sledding hill (photo below).

Thursday hikers visited Veterans Memorial Park, Bob's Trail, Polecat Trail (on Thanksgiving), and the Greenbelt. The latter hike included a stop at Boise Pie Company (Yum!)



Kayakers are off-season. It finally got too cold even for them!

Friday bikers will be continuing assuming conditions will not be too icy. Watch your e-mail for weekly plans



Thursday Afternoon Nordic Ski/Snowshoe group will resume on Thursdays in January and February. Warm temperatures and poor snow conditions means that Bogus Basin Nordic skiing has been open intermittently only.

PARTING SHOTS

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson went on a camping trip. As they lay down for the night, the fire dwindling nearby, Holmes said: "Watson, look up and tell me what you see".

Watson said "I see a fantastic panorama of countless of stars".

Holmes: "And what does that tell you?"

Watson: "Astronomically, it suggests to me that if there are billions of other galaxies that have roughly similar stellar population densities as represented by my view, that, potentially, trillions of planets may be associated with such a galactic and, therefore, stellar population. Allowing for similar chemical distribution throughout the cosmos it may be reasonably implied that life-and possibly intelligent life-may well fill the universe.

Also, being a believer, theologically, it tells me that the vastness of space may be yet another suggestion of the greatness of God and that we are small and insignificant.

Meteorologically, the blackness of the sky and the crispness of the stellar images tells me that there is low humidity and stable air and therefore we are most likely to enjoy a beautiful day tomorrow.

Why? - What does it tell you, Mr. Holmes?"

Holmes: "Someone stole our tent".

"In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous." *Aristotle*



**“If you wish to
know the divine,
feel the wind on
your face and the
warm sun on
your hand.”**

BUDDHA

General Announcements

EMAILS Local mid-week activities (hikes, paddles, bike-rides, etc.) are announced through Wild Apricot emails. If you have questions about sending or receiving e-mails, please contact Tom Weingartner at:

t.weingartner@yahoo.com

Planning or thinking of an excursion where you would like to invite like-minded souls? Any officer will help you post an email. For inclusion in this monthly newsletter send details to

t.weingartner@yahoo.com

MWOC WEBSITE You don't have to login to visit most of the MWOC pages, including the calendar of events, news, and resources. The pages that require login are your own profile, membership directory, and Gallery. If you haven't already created a password for the website, click on Login at the top of the page, enter your email address, and click "Forgot password." You will receive an email message with instructions. Please address questions to laura.jenski@gmail.com.

Are you and your significant other both MWOC members but receive two separate invoices for annual membership renewals? You can be "bundled" as a two-member household and have one invoice for both memberships

MWOC officers

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sent to one of you (the
“bundle coordinator”).
Contact [Laura Jenki](#)
or [Patti Campbell](#) to
set up your “bundle
