
Mountain West Outdoor Club Newsletter

APRIL, 2020

MEET THIS MONTH'S FEATURED ACTIVITY COORDINATOR:

LIZ McWHORTER



Arriving in Boise in 1977, I was immediately impressed with the beauty of Idaho's mountains and lakes, especially the Sawtooths. Growing up in SE Wisconsin along the shores of Lake Michigan gave me an appreciation for the outdoors through beach walking, canoeing and camping. No mountains though, except for a ski trip to Iron Mtn (bordering Michigan) where I actually thought I

knew how to ski on that little hill. Then when I tried skiing in Lake Tahoe, it was quite a disaster and sometimes now still is. I lived there in the early 70's after experimenting with the California lifestyle in San Jose for 3 yrs.

Working as a temporary secretary I picked up a good overview of each place I lived. I met my husband Ed in San Jose and he helped to raise my two children, adopting them as his own. I was extremely lucky to find him and now I have 3 college-aged grandsons too. Ed was from Michigan and also enjoyed the outdoors. That was the reason I found myself in Idaho where he could hunt and fish often. I didn't want to move here, thinking the winters were 6 months long like the Midwest. So glad I took the gamble.

After a few temp jobs in Boise, I worked at HP for 10 yrs, and Ed and I ran a small home building business. After Ed passed away, I started a property management business while working P/T at the Dept. of Water Resources. So now in retirement I still manage just 1 property to keep me mentally challenged.

Judy Schwartz (a Tuesday hike leader) encouraged me to join her singing group, where we perform each month at assisted living facilities around Boise. This group was started about 20 yrs. ago by the Happy Hoofers who found they were enjoying singing as they walked the Greenbelt. It is really fun and we could use new members.

Having held all the offices at MWOC in the past, I found it rewarding, learned new things, and got to know people well. You should try it!

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 2: ADOPT-A-TRAIL CLEANUP 9 AM We'll be maintaining the Rabbit Run, REI and Big Springs trails. Sam Roberts will supply all the necessary tools, but if you have a favorite loppers or a special shovel, bring it. Meet at the Big Springs Trailhead (West Big Spring Boulevard off Horseshoe Bend Road). Questions? call Judy Farnsworth 208-344-7973

APRIL 6: MONTHLY POTLUCK: Cancelled. Thanks to our March potluck speaker, Tom Lopez. Here is his contact information if you would like to follow up with him:

<https://www.idahoacimbingguide.com>

MID APRIL: KAYAKING Pretty soon we will mourn the end of snow and put away our winter toys. Bikes will be dusted off, spring and summer plans made. Warm weather brings birds, fresh air, the sound of paddles in the water. We will explore Lake Lowell in the spring, hunt for the waterfall on Lucky Peak and watch birds of prey catch their meal. Watch for paddle plans by email. Information about location, weather and paddle distance will be included in the notice. Thanks to those who paddled last year. You encouraged me to keep going. Hope to see you this year. I know we have more kayakers in the club. Hope you will consider joining us. Thursday kayak trips are planned with club members in mind. RSVPs will be helpful to keep the group size small for now. Thanks, Winnie 208-631-4065

APRIL 18: ANNUAL WILDFLOWER DRIVE/WALK: Let's meet at the northwest corner of the WinCo parking lot in Meridian at 8:00 AM. This will be a long day, so pack a lunch, water, snacks, and probably a dinner to eat on your way home. We will go to Jordan Valley, and drive the Owyhee Uplands Backcountry Byway. We'll be stopping often to look for any flowers that are blooming, with lunch at the North Fork Crossing campground. This trip is WEATHER dependent! No dogs, please! If interested, call Alvena at 208-658-9081 for details.

APRIL 20: Deadline for submissions for May newsletter. Send to Chris at clq83706@yahoo.com

MAY 2: PERJUE CANYON DAY HIKE Let's meet at the northwest corner of the WinCo parking lot in Meridian at 9:00a.m. This is a pretty little canyon off the Mud Flat road out of Grand View, Idaho. We'll drive to the trailhead, spend the day exploring the canyon, and area. Pack a lunch

and possibly a dinner, too. Limited to 8 people. No dogs, please. This trip is WEATHER dependent! Call Alvena at 208-658-9081 if interested.

OCTOBER 27- NOVEMBER 12: EVEREST BASE CAMP TREK Join Wendell, Janette and "Hike With Sherpa" on a 12-day trek to Everest Base Camp. Group size is a maximum of 10. Fly from Kathmandu to Lukla to begin the hike. The medium-slow pace and 6 or so miles per day with plenty of time to acclimatize are promised as we approach Base Camp at 17,598 ft. All food, lodging, porters, guides and flight from Kathmandu to Lukla is included in the \$2500 price. Tips are extra. Round trip airfare from Boise to Kathmandu is not included. Please contact Wendell or Janette at janettey99@gmail.com. Hike With Sherpa website: <https://hikewithsherpa.com/>

Watch for emails announcing other small group April activities as they are planned. Spring is a great season for a wide variety of outdoor excursions. Have an idea and would like others to join you? Any activity coordinator or MWOC officer would be happy to help you plan or post your small group/safe distance event.

HIKE CANCELLATIONS Organized Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday hikes are suspended until about April 18th. Watch for an email update at that time.

"This was a difficult decision to make as we enjoy our social time together while hiking and it seemed that we could maintain the 6 foot limit, though in practice last week I noticed how difficult that really was. So, no matter how remote the chances of getting or transmitting the virus seems, we need to err on the safe side and avoid any type of social gathering.

That said, I would like everyone to continue to hike on their own or with your small social circle. Avoid busy trailheads, like the Greenbelt and Table Rock at peak times. Seek out new and less traveled destinations and routes that you can share with all of us when this thing passes.

Get outside and stay healthy!" Wendell Martin, MWOC president



MID-WEEK ACTIVITIES

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY HIKES SUSPENDED FOR NOW

THURSDAY KAYAK TRIPS We kayak rivers with ripples to small rapids, lakes and reservoirs. Watch for email announcements for information on current plans. If you have questions, contact Winnie, 208-631-4065

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

EMAILS Local mid-week activities (hikes, paddles, bike-rides, etc.) are announced through email. If you have questions about sending or receiving e-mails, please contact Kay Stoll at teksas2steppe@gmail.com Group emailing is not to be used to advocate for any political issue, whether national or local. Messages that provide only factual information, such as the time and place of a meeting, or an issue of likely interest to members are welcome.

MWOC ACTIVITIES Planning a MWOC excursion? Or thinking of an excursion where you would like to invite like-minded souls? For publication in the newsletter send details to clq83706@yahoo.com.

AIR ST. LUKE'S MEMBERSHIP A reduced Air St. Luke's yearly membership rate is available to MWOC members on request. Contact information: stlukesonline.org/air or 208-706-1000

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.



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