



Mountain West Outdoor Club Newsletter

December, 2022

"Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.

The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep."

"Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" by Robert Frost

PHOTO CAPTION: Extremely cool photo of Mountain West kayaking.
Lucky Peak, I think.

MWOC Monthly Meeting, Monday, November 7

At the administrative meeting, we talked about the upcoming MWOC election and proposed changes to the Bylaws. Similar stuff at the general meeting, including nominations for the December election. Intrepid MWOC adventurer, Chuck Staben, made a very interesting presentation of his 1000-mile trek this year on the Pacific Crest Trail. A favorite story was the helicopter rescue of another hiker, assisted by Chuck. Trekking gear was demonstrated so that the rest of us will have something to dream about.



MWOC DECEMBER MEETING, Monday, Dec 5, 7:00 PM

Idaho Fish & Game Headquarters, 600 S Walnut, Boise

The general business meeting will include discussion of this month's election for MWOC officers and proposed Bylaws changes. The bylaws and proposed amendments can be viewed

at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Z1G_2g2LVkp8yI7VUNRNPIhRgw5a8Wm3/edit?usp=sharing&oid=101250936586367040476&rtpof=true&sd=true

"South Fork of the Boise River and Smith Prairie Virtual Field Trip"

Steve Cox will be your guide on a virtual road trip along the south fork of the Boise River and Smith Prairie. He'll describe various geologic sites along the route and tell stories about the sites. Have you ever wondered who built Anderson Ranch Dam? Or how safe the dam is? There was a *big landslide* nearby in the past!

Steve is the president of Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology (IMMG). He's a man of varied interests – biology, geology, especially Idaho geology on a landscape scale. IMMG is a local organization dedicated to “promoting education and understanding of the importance of mining and geologic sciences to the development of Idaho”.

An administrative meeting will be held beforehand at Deli George, 220 S Broadway Ave, at 5:30 PM. Food and drink are available for purchase. Interested members are always welcome to attend.

Don't attend either meeting if you're feeling ill. Masks are optional.

UPCOMING MWOC EVENTS



McCall Winter Trip, January 24-26, 2023

Hello winter enthusiasts!

Ruth Garcia is reviving the annual MWOC winter trip to McCall. It's a few days before the Ice Carnival so you will still see some sculptures in process. This trip is open to Nordic and Alpine skiers as well as Snowshoers. However, it is easier to be in the same cabin and carpool depending on the activity you choose.

Go online to reserve a cabin in Ponderosa State Park at ReserveAmerica.com. When you open it, be sure to go to the right side of the screen and specify "cabins, yurts or lodgings" then look to see what cabins (and their specifics) are available for those dates. (Jan 24-26). If there is a "C" beneath the date, then call 1-888-922-6743 to make the reservation. (Hint; the newer cabins are Eagle, Owl, MuleDeer and Whitetail.) There is already a men's cabin and a women's cabin in process, and there may be openings in those.

Breakfast and lunch are on your own. Evening meals are usually done as a group -- more information to come. So find your roommates and be ready to assign one person to each cabin for the refundable credit card payment when booking. Be sure to read the fine print on the website!!

If you choose to book other lodgings in town we will stay in touch about each days' meet times. Let me know if you have any questions.

Ruth Garcia

ruthg1617@gmail.com (preferred)

208-891-3146 (text)



Lava Hot Springs Trip, May 15 – May 19, 2023

You are invited on a *Hot Springs Adventure* in Lava Hot Springs, ID. Save the date and call NOW to make your own hotel or KOA campground reservations!

Lava Hot Springs (elevation ~5000 ft) and the surrounding area has lots of hiking, soaking, and history to explore. I've scheduled a variety of adventures. Every day you can soak in hot mineral springs if you'd like.

Monday: Drive to Lava Hot Springs by way of *Craters of the Moon* (180 miles/3 hrs) and take a break at the *Craters* for lunch and a hike. Arrive in Lava Hot Springs (Craters to Lava – 130 miles/2 hrs) around 5 pm. Cocktails at 6:00 PM.

Tuesday: Morning, hike Goodenough Campground Trail (4.7 miles/3 hours) only 20 miles/30 minutes away. Afternoon, Donata Hot Springs in Downey (~10 miles away). Evening, potluck supper.

Wednesday: Head East toward Soda Springs, pack lunch, visit Chesterfield Settlement, Soda Springs, Hooper Springs, Miter Cave, Black Canyon, Sheep Rocks Canyon ... other sights ... Back to Lava in late afternoon. Free evening. 7-9ish - Visit Hot Springs for evening soak.

Thursday: Head East and South to Bear Lake (60 miles/1 hr). Visit Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge for birders OR alternative hikes in morning (West Mink Trail) and afternoon. 6ish - Group Dinner at local restaurant. 7-9ish pm - Visit Hot Springs for evening soak.

Friday: Check out, head to Massacre Rocks (along I86 in American Falls) and then Minidoka National Historic Site (WWII Japanese Internment camp - just east of Jerome) ... maybe, maybe ... if we need more hot springs, stop at Miracle Hot Springs in Buhl on way home ... only adds about 40 or so miles, soak for 45 min – 1.5 hours. 5-6ish – be home in Boise.

{An intervention will be held for victims of permanent prune-skin after this outing.}

Lodging:

- **Riverside Hot Springs Inn and Spa** (255 E Portneuf St, 208-776-5504, ask for Senior Special, available M-Th nights only, this hotel has 3 soak tubs in the basement, includes free breakfast each morning for 2, \$35 food coupon each day for use in the restaurant for dinner, unlimited, but scheduled indoor soaking).
- **Lava Hot Springs Inn** (1 Center Street, 1-800-527-5830, this hotel has multiple room options, 4-6 outdoor hot springs on property, breakfast included, and unlimited outdoor soaking included for guests.) For non-guests of the hotel, it has unlimited all day soaking for \$15/day.
- **Lava Hot Springs WEST KOA** (89 N Center St, 208-776-5209) 3 tents sites, 4 pulls throughs and 4 deluxe cabins. No discounts for groups, but sites/cabins/pull thru sites are available, and this KOA is literally across a side street from the Lava Hot Springs Inn, sits along the river and about 100 yards from Indoor Olympic size hot springs pool.

The world-famous Lava Hot Springs is walking distance from the hotels, it has 5-6 big pools from 102-114 degrees and costs \$8.00/soak (less for seniors). Plus, an Olympic-size hot springs swimming pool – indoor and outdoor – is close by.

If you would like to join us, please book your own reservations, and then email me back that you are going with us. I'll develop a separate email list once we get to April 2023.

Dorothy Sammartino

Dorothy.Sammartino@gmail.com

208-412-9705

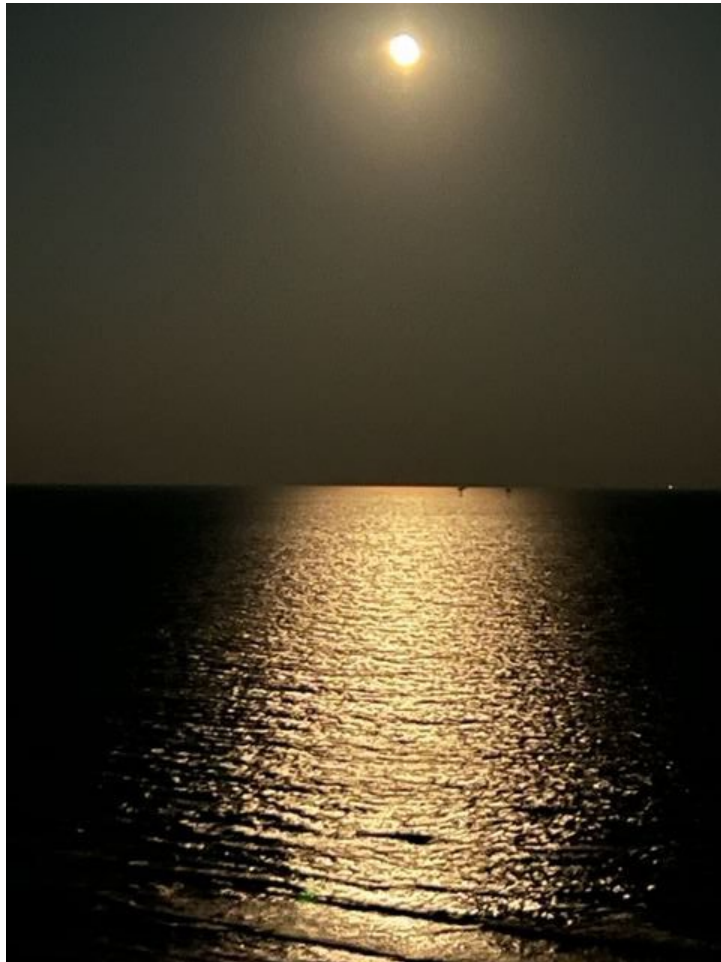
MWOC DOG-SITTING CO-OP (proposed)

Our own irrepressible and peripatetic Jean Weingartner would like to start a dog-sitting co-op to watch each other's pets while traveling. If interested, please contact Jean at wein330@gmail.com.



MWOC CHRISTMAS NIGHT POTLUCK, Sunday Dec 25, time TBA

Wendell and Janette are reviving a wonderful MWOC tradition, hosting a potluck dinner for members who find themselves alone at Christmas. The tradition was held for many years until the hosts could no longer manage it. Now it's revived! Guests will be limited to about 25 people due to parking and meal space. Please contact Wendell at wendellmartin2@aol.com to express interest. (*Hint: Wendell is currently trekking in Nepal so he won't respond till next month.*)



ALASKA CRUISE, Weds August 23 2023, Vancouver BC

"Taking an Alaska cruise has been on my bucket list for awhile. I'm hoping it is of interest to you too. I think traveling as a group would be a blast. Please contact {Cheri Worsley} if you are interested. You may also contact Brian, the trip planner with Princess Cruise Lines.

Princess 7-day cruise plus 5 night land tour, leaving Vancouver August 23, 2023. Late August to Sept. allows for the possibility of seeing the Northern Lights as well as wildlife before they go to hibernate AND the kids are back in school. The cruise is a voyage of the glaciers with several stops along the way. Land travel is done by rail to two different Denali area lodges. The tours are guided with lodging and meals included. Princess has a program that includes Naturalist and Park Rangers for a more educational experience.

Check out full details here: <https://www.princess.com/cruise-search/details/?voyageCode=H326&resType=T&tourCode=T3APA5&fareType=BESTFARE>

There are many different options with prices starting about \$2000 per person, double occupancy. It is also possible to only do the cruise without the land portion that starts about \$650 but will not count towards a group discount. I'm planning on getting a package that includes the tips, some drinks, and wifi. The current promotions allow for only a \$100 refundable deposit so the risk is small. I recommend you reserve a cabin now if there is any interest at all. We may be able to set up special group excursions depending on the number.

Questions about the cruise can be directed to Brian with Princess Cruise. His number is 800-901-1172 ext 41057. Give my name and Mountain West Outdoor Club. We will get additional onboard credit if we schedule at least 5 cabins. His email is bmeece@princesscruises.com. Please reserve through Brian. There is no additional cost but will increase our discounts.

Also, you can call or email me cheriworsley@gmail.com 208-870-7444. I will maintain a separate email list rather than sending to all MWOC members

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Members are invited to **update their MWOC profiles** to insure accurate information, including phone numbers for emergencies.

Here is the updated 2022 Mountain West Outdoor Club member directory.

[Members Mountain West Outdoor Club Directory \(Nov 2022\).xlsx](#)

A PDF copy of the directory and the interactive member directory are online at www.mwocid.org, under "Members Only" (you must login to view members-only resources).

You can always change your contact information (Profile) in the Member Directory by going to the club website, www.mwocid.org, logging in with your email and password, and clicking on your name in the upper left hand.

Don't know your password? Click here to create/change your password for the MWOC website: <https://mountainwestoutdoorclub.wildapricot.org/Sys/ResetPasswordRequest>.

Thanks,
Claire Veseth
Membership Chair

Vacation & travel photos are needed for the January member travelogue

Our January program will be a travelogue put on by you! It's your chance to share the highlights of your favorite trips that you took during 2020, 2021 or 2022. It's also an opportunity for your MWOC cohorts to garner ideas for trips they might like to take.

It's easy to participate! All you need to do is send me 7 to 10 slides of your trip, I'll insert them in a slide presentation, and you'll have five to seven minutes to tell us about them.

Please email your slides to pegkillen@me.com. Even if you need to send me several emails, choose "actual size" for the image size. That way they won't be blurred when they are shown on a large screen. Text me, (208) 484-7946, if you need to make other arrangements to send me your slides.

In order for me to put the slideshow together in a timely manner, send me the slides by Saturday, December 10th. If you'd like the photos to appear in a special order, please send me a message that tells me the order.

Thank you!

Peggy Killen

pegkillen@me.com

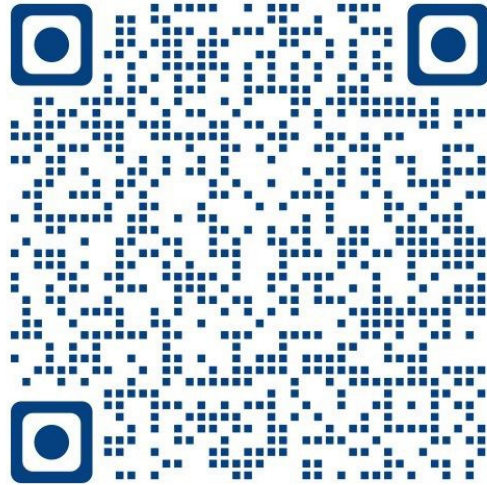
Text only: (208) 484-7946

South Dakota Beech Diet

A Motorhome Murder
Mystery



Laura Jenski



INVITATION TO PROOFREAD AND COMMENT ON MYSTERY STORIES

I'm looking for people who like to read humorous stories to be beta readers for my next Motorhome Murder Mystery, *The South Dakota Beech Diet*. The story is based loosely—very, very loosely—on the MWOC, but rest assured, none of the characters are actual people we know (okay, maybe Rod and me). The novella (only about 40,000 words) is set in South Dakota and follows protagonists Wendy and Franklin as they join the diet-conscious Black Hills Outdoor Club on a backpacking trip.

To be a beta reader, you simply send me your feedback: What did you like/not like about the story? What made you laugh or piqued your interest? What confused or bored you? Any input is helpful! We can go for coffee and talk if you'd like; I'll buy.

I expect to have ready a readable draft in January 2023. Please email me at laura.jenski@snowboundstories.com if you'd like to participate. I'd like your feedback within three or four weeks, but no pressure! All help is appreciated. If you want a sample of the first three novellas in the Motorhome Murder Mystery series, use this link <https://snowboundstories.com/motorhome-murder-mysteries/>.

CLUB EVENTS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

Thanks to everyone for sending current photos. There's a LOT that goes on between newsletters. Keep those emails and photos coming! (Email addresses at end of newsletter.)



Shaw Mountain (Lucky Peak) Day Hike, Monday, Oct 31

Mary Brown and Judy Farnsworth, 9 miles round trip with a 2000' elevation gain. Need I say more? A good time was had by all. The photo makes one nostalgic for warm temps and dry trails!



HALLOWEEN happened. Although not an official MWOC event, I just couldn't resist showing Terry Stoll in a cow suit. George Moses and Kay Stoll are shown herding Terry away from the bar, er, barn.



RAKE UP BOISE, Thursday, Nov 17

The annual event was scheduled originally for Saturday, Nov 12, but was re-scheduled on Thursday, Nov 17, due to bad weather. All available volunteer slots were filled! Fourteen members pitched in to clean up yards for two houses in need. Spirits were high, and everyone was pleased to do good work.

Tuesday hikers visited Chukar Butte & Frog Pond, Greenbelt, Lucky Peak Dam, and Kingfisher Trail near Lake Lowell.



Wednesday hikers visited Tablerock, Kelton Ramp, Greenbelt, and Broken Horn / Avimor.

Thursday hikers visited Tablerock, Cottonwood Creek Trail, Greenbelt, and Military Reserve.



Kayakers visited Lucky Peak Reservoir, among others.

Can you say "Brrrrr"?



Thursday Afternoon Nordic Ski/Snowshoe group will start up again in January and February. Look for announcements by Ruth Garcia in late December.





PARTING SHOT: Isn't this a great picture of Liz McWhorter?

CLUB ACTIVITIES

MONTHLY MEETINGS are held on the first Monday of the month at Idaho Fish & Game Headquarters, 600 S Walnut St, Boise. Enter by the southeast doorway, not the main entrance. There should be a club member at the door.

TUESDAY HIKES email announcements are sent each week with location and time. Hikes are of moderate difficulty, 4 to 6 miles, lasting approximately 2 to 2.5 hours. Starting time varies with time of year and weather conditions. If you have questions, contact Pat Dailey, 208-272-0639.

WEDNESDAY HIKES email announcements are sent each week with location and time. Hikes are fast-paced, of challenging difficulty, 5 or more miles and lasting 3 or more hours, depending on trail and weather conditions.

Challenging difficulty means that you'll need to be in good hiking condition because of significant elevation gain and/or increased mileage. If you have questions, contact Scott Stolhand, 208-891-2214.

THURSDAY CASUAL HIKES email announcements are sent each week with location and time. Hikes are slower-paced, less than two hours, and involve minimal elevation gain/loss. If you have questions contact Liz McWhorter, 208-891-0426.

THURSDAY SKI GROUP starts up again in January and February.

KAYAK GROUP occurs (mostly) weekly. If you are interested in kayaking, please contact Francesco Satta (capitanosatta@yahoo.com).

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 Jim Wolf at jawolf05@msn.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 jawolf05@msn.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

MWOC officers

Wendell Martin,
President wendellmartin2@aol.com 208-888-2858

Judy Farnsworth, Vice
President jfarnsw@me.com 208-344-7973

Ruth Garcia, Treasurer ruthg1617@gmail.com

Jim
Wolf, Communications jawolf05@msn.com 208-860-2193

Claire
Veseth, Membership cbveseth@gmail.com 208-301-3841

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.

[Unsubscribe](#)