



Mountain West Outdoor Club Newsletter

September, 2022

"...That's the thing about Lady Luck -- she can show up dressed in rags, smoking a corn cob pipe, and reappear twenty years later looking like Glinda in "The Wizard of Oz", it being a matter of translating your own life to yourself, which is what I'm doing every day.... Everybody and nobody in the same milkshake; you put in a scoop of chocolate, a scoop of raspberry-dishwater

sorbet, a squirt of kerosene, and lo and behold, there's a cherry, and what can you do but put it on top."

From "Ode on Luck" by Barbara Hamby

PHOTO CAPTION: Four Corners Fire near Cascade. It's been blazing for three weeks and still only 34% contained. Smoke, an Idaho summer tradition.



MWOC ANNUAL PICNIC, MONDAY, AUGUST 1

The Hawaiian-themed annual event was well attended and greatly enjoyed. People were friendly and engaged despite the heat. There were games, contests, raffles, and excellent plentiful food. The event was alcohol-free, notwithstanding the levity of the Picnic Committee (above). We called it a night when it started to get dark.



DRAMA THAT MOST OF US MISSED

I didn't hear this story until after the picnic. As you may recall, we had more food than we could eat. Members were invited to gather it up and take it home. At about that time, one of our members noticed an older man sitting on a bench nearby, watching our festivities with interest. He had a walker at his side. She asked the man if he'd had dinner yet, to which he replied in the negative. He accepted the offer of a dinner plate with gratitude. As it turned out, "Stan" was 63 years old and had worked as an electrical lineman until suffering a sudden stroke. He was unemployed now, being unable to climb poles after the stroke. He was released from hospital only recently and, being unable to afford physical therapy, was spending his days walking up and down the Greenbelt, teaching himself to walk again. That plate of dinner was his first regular meal since leaving hospital.

There's a lot else to be said about this. Could we donate our excess food to a charity? Could some of our own members be food-insecure and need the help? How could we handle a donation without having our picnic overrun with homeless people? I don't know. But I like the story nonetheless. I want to thank our anonymous member who noticed someone in need. She deserves (yet more) gold stars in heaven.



MWOC Monthly Potluck Dinner, Monday, September 5, Labor Day!

The event begins at 6:00 PM at the pavilion in Kristin Armstrong Municipal Park. Please bring food to share as well as your own beverage and place-setting. Alcohol is not allowed in the park. You may wish to bring an outdoor chair so we can spread out from under the shelter if it's not raining. There is no speaker at outdoor events. Hope to see you there!

Don't attend if you are unwell, unvaccinated, or unboosted. Thank you for looking out for yourself and others.

P.S. watch out for Ruth if she has a can of bug spray.



CROOKED RIVER TRAIL, Friday, September 30

This favorite hike is always a lot of fun, lead by Ruth Garcia. It's a day trip to the eponymous river above Idaho City, a little over an hour's drive from Boise. There is often an option to stop for dinner on the way home. It's also an opportunity to plan additional swimming, camping, etc, on your own. Further details will be published soon, but **SAVE THE DATE!**

Volunteer Wood Splitting Events at Idaho Parks and Recreation Yurts

North of Idaho City.

Both events could be done as a Day Trip Only, a Day Trip with Dinner provided, or an Overnight Trip with both Dinner and Breakfast provided.

September 7th (Wednesday) at the Hennessy Yurt with optional dinner and optional overnight stay inside the yurt, tent camping, or car camping.

September 12th (Monday) at Rocky Ridge Yurt with optional gourmet dinner and optional overnight stay inside the yurt, tent camping, or car camping.

For more information or to sign up please **contact Steve Schaps via email** at thewildwestguy@gmail.com

IDAHO TRAILS ASSOCIATION is looking for volunteers to do trail work in early to mid-September. More information can be found online at

<https://idahotrailsassociation.org/projects/>

Independence Day Parade 2023

Boise's longstanding traditional July 4th parade fell victim to the Covid pandemic. City councilperson Luci Willits and a host of others are trying to revive it. Sponsors, organizers, and volunteers are needed. If you're interested, get more information at:

<https://www.idahostatesman.com/news/local/community/boise/article264345081.html>

<https://boise4th.com/>

what3words.com

Thanks to Mickey Myhre for referring a newspaper article about a quirky iPhone app, "what3words". No, it's not a successor to Wordle; it's a map locator app! This UK-based company has divided the entire world map into 3-meter squares (about 10 ft x 10 ft), then assigned names to each square using three random words. For example, the pavilion at Kristin Armstrong Municipal Park has a what3words address of "gaps.public.crops". The words have no meaningful relationship to the place; they are random words. But, knowing the words, you can find any precise location on the planet. If nothing else, that tells us how many words there are in the English language! (64 trillion 3-word combinations)

A couple of examples might be in order:

- Suppose you want to meet a friend at a particular place in town. Instead of a street address, you can tell your friend the corresponding what3words address, which could be a street corner, a park bench, or a particular entrance of a large multi-entrance building. The phone app will navigate you there using Google maps.
- Suppose you are injured or lost in the Boise foothills but don't know exactly where you are. You can call 9-1-1 and tell them that your phone has the what3words app. According to the newspaper article, 9-1-1 systems have access to what3words. If you tell them your current what3words address, they'll know exactly where you are within 10 feet.

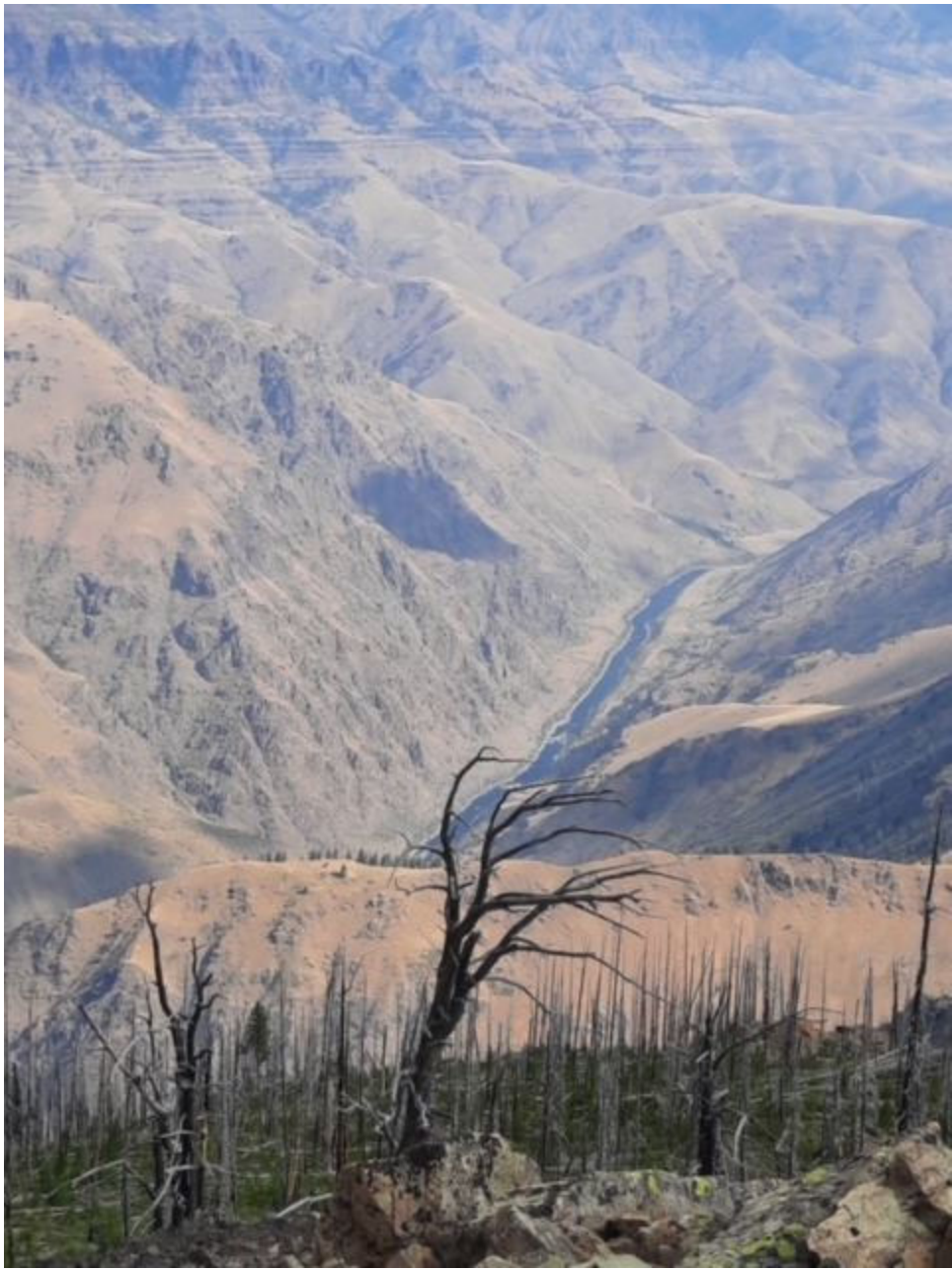
Comments:

- I think this is a clever accessory for specific situations and for navigationally challenged people. Mapping applications and GPS accomplish much the same thing in the backcountry, and Google maps in town. GPS can be technically complex.

- Much of what3words functionality depends on a cell connection so it's a front-country application. In the 9-1-1 example, emergency services can do almost as well by triangulating your phone signal using cell towers.
- I don't know if there's a what3words app for Android.
- MWOC is not endorsing the use of what3words for any purpose. We have not vetted it thoroughly. It's possible that there's something horribly wrong with it. It's presented here solely for your information and amusement.

CLUB EVENTS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

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





SEVEN DEVILS BACKPACKING EXPEDITION, AUGUST 2-6

Mary Brown, Judy Farnsworth, and Fran Wolfe make it look easy, lugging their camping gear 10-15 miles/day through the wilderness. I understand there was some scrambling but no major challenges or adverse events. Beautiful vistas were enjoyed. Gotta' admire these sturdy folks!

A second backpacking expedition was mounted to the White Cloud mountains in late August and early September. We'll try to report on that one next month.



PADDLE THE PAYETTE RIVER MEANDERS IN McCALL

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

Ten intrepid kayakers and SUP'ers made the passage up and back on the Payette River Meanders north of McCall. It's usually lovely and peaceful in there. No one fell victim to Sharlie, the Payette Lake monster. There may have been ice cream at some point in the day. Thanks to Liz McWhorter for organizing the event.

Tuesday hikers visited Bogus Basin, Stack Rock trail, Upper Hull's Gulch, and the Greenbelt.





Wednesday hikers visited Shafer Butte, Around-the-Mountain trail, Cobb trail, Stack Rock trail, and Military Reserve. (OK, this is a Tuesday hike picture. I didn't have any Weds pictures. But it's a good picture of Francesco, don't you think?)

Thursday hikers took a hiatus because of the hot weather.



Bikers went on hiatus because of hot weather and because yours truly had an unfortunate interaction with some roadside gravel. Now would be a great time for someone else to lead some rides!

Kayakers and SUP'ers visited Robie Creek, Montour, and Discovery Park.



CLUB ACTIVITIES

MONTHLY MEETINGS are held on the first Monday of the month at the pavillion in Kristin Armstrong Municipal Park in Boise. We will return to indoor meetings in October, 2022.

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 has finished until next Winter.

KAYAK GROUPS and **BIKING GROUPS** occur (mostly) weekly. If you are interested in kayaking, please contact Francesco Satta (capitanosatta@yahoo.com). If you are interested in biking, please contact Jim Wolf (jawolf05@msn.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

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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 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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