



Mountain West Outdoor Club Newsletter

February, 2023

"At dawn, with no one coming, we awoke to syzygy of ice blossoms and whispered rumor of Spring leaves.

It was a few ghosts at steamed windows. It was the wind's acapella score in voices from our past. A few birds sang over mandalas of frost, and a paroxysm of what is called 'now'.

At dawn, calculating the end, there was no one coming to bridge the gap and chaos of distant stars, and we awoke to blossoms of ice, where we could only begin again."

Snow Garden by S.K. Yeatts

- Don't you love that word, "syzygy"?
- I went to high school with this guy.

TAKE THE ADVENTURE PHOTO TEST! Which adventure appeals to you?

Left photo: Backpacking the Grand Canyon, rim-to-rim-to-rim, 46 miles, 11,000 feet of climbing, over three days, in December 2022. Does it seem like fun to you? On the bright side, there was no competition for a trail permit. (Age 23)

Right photo: Hiking in Arizona with your best friend / spouse while camping in a motor home with an espresso machine and a beer keg, in January 2023. Does it seem like fun to you? (Age 75)

{Somebody please sign me up for option #2....}

MWOC Monthly Meeting, Monday, January 2

The general meeting included a review of recent and upcoming events. In particular, the Christmas party at Wendell and Janette's house was very well-received. I hope we can continue this fine tradition!

The evening's entertainment was a vacation slide show put on by the members themselves. We have a pretty adventurous group!

(Disclosure: I missed the meeting so I can't say what was presented)



MWOC FEBRUARY MEETING, Monday, Feb 6, 7:00 PM
Idaho Fish & Game Headquarters, 600 S Walnut, Boise

General Business Meeting will include a brief Treasurer's report, the upcoming Hike Leader's meeting, the Facebook page, administrator privileges on Wild Apricot, and the issue of MWOC business cards. The latter topic is pertinent because we often encounter people, on hikes and in our personal lives, who are interested in joining.

"Mickey Myhre's Magnificent March".

A blinding blizzard! A helicopter escape!! Scientific intrigue!!!

Our very own Mickey Myhre and his family spent three weeks trekking to Everest Basecamp in Nepal last summer. He'll tell of his adventures in the Sherpa's footsteps, the sights he saw along the way, his collaboration with a scientific contingent of mushroom hunters, and his take-aways from the experience.

Mickey is the current president of the Southern Idaho Mycological Association (SIMA). He used his "retirement" to establish the only laboratory in Idaho for DNA sequencing of mushrooms.

{Artwork courtesy of Terry & Kay Stoll's granddaughter, Sklya}

An administrative meeting will be held beforehand at 6 pm in the Fish & Game Building.

UPCOMING MWOC EVENTS



MWOC Nordic Ski and Snowshoe Group will continue on Thursday afternoons through February. The general schema is to meet at Miller's Gulch trailhead to set up carpools to Bogus Basin, leaving the parking lot at noon. Miller's Gulch trailhead is a parking lot with toilet, located about 3 miles north of Highlands Elementary School on Bogus Basin Road. Trail passes and rental gear are available at the Nordic Lodge. Snow sports will take place at Bogus Basin for a couple of hours, followed by snacks in the Nordic Lodge, and returning to Miller's Gulch no later than 5:00 PM. Historically, snacks were brought to be shared. Look for email announcements every week. Contact Ruth Garcia, the organizer, if you have any questions.



WEISER RIVER TRAIL

According to a recent newsletter, the Friends of the Weiser River Trail (FWRT) have acquired a snow groomer and opened a portion of the trail for snowshoe and Nordic skiing. The trail is a popular, nicely maintained rail-trail that extends 84 miles from New Meadows ID to Weiser ID. Additional events include the annual Idaho Sled Dog Challenge (happening now), a marathon in April, the annual Wagon Train in May, a bike event in June, and the annual October trek. The October trek (biking the entire trail) was massive fun in 2021, and I hope to go again soon. For more information, check out their website, <https://weiserrivertrail.org>. {FWRT events are not affiliated with MWOC but are generally safe and fun.} {Photo is MWOC's Doug Ramsey, not on the Weiser River Trail, but I couldn't resist such a nice photo of him.}

"STATE OF THE WORLD'S RAPTORS"

Tuesday, Feb 14, 7:00 PM

Idaho Outdoor Association, 3401 S
Brazil St, Boise

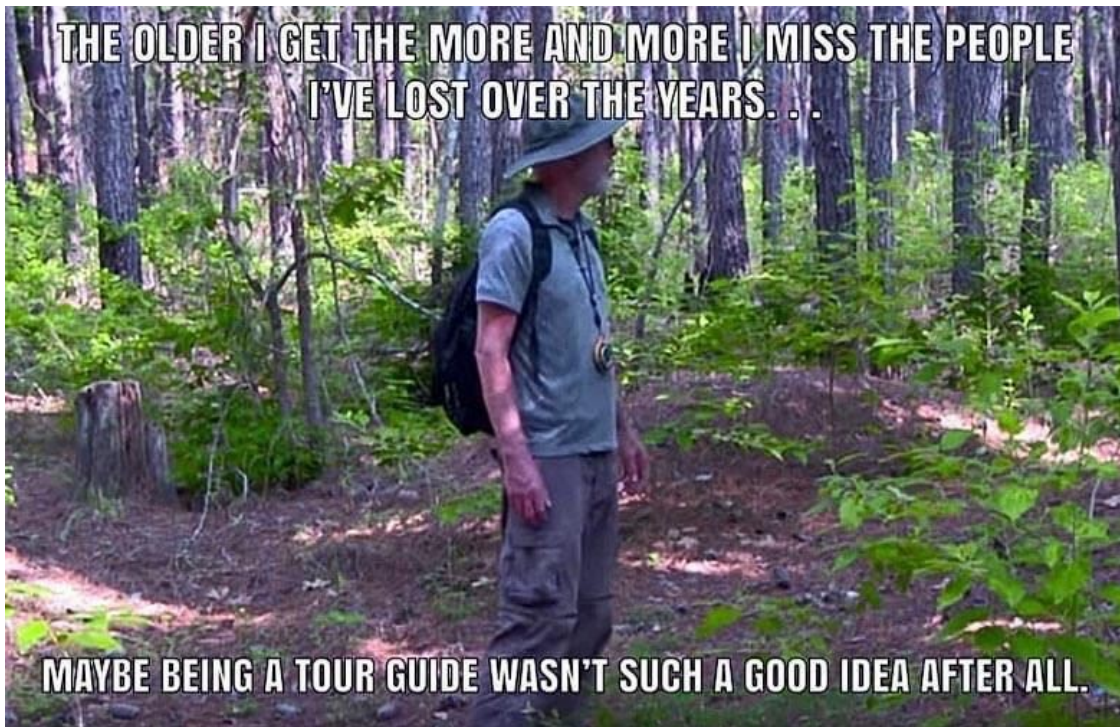
Presented by Christopher McClure, PhD, Exec VP of the Peregrine Fund. "Chris will talk about the Peregrine Fund's amazing programs to conserve our birds of prey. The Peregrine Fund is dedicated to conserving birds of prey worldwide for the benefit of all wildlife and humans. Like all ... Idaho Outdoor Association presentations, this event is free and open to the general public."



Brochure: <https://idahooutdoorassn.org/event-5129926>

Register at: <https://idahooutdoorassn.org/event-5129926/Registration>

{This is not an MWOC event but may be of interest to our members. Thanks to Rosalie Skefich for referring the event.}



ONCE AND FUTURE HIKE LEADER MEETING

**Saturday, February 18, 4:00 - 6:00 PM
3344 E Red Stone Dr, Boise ID 83712
(hosted by Rod Haars and Laura Jencki)**

Join your fellow MWOC members over drinks and snacks for a fun and informative leadership meeting. Seasoned *and prospective* leaders of hikes, bike rides, kayaking, multi-day trips, and more are invited to celebrate the club's volunteerism and discuss future events. Those who haven't yet led events but who are interested in doing so are encouraged to come and learn the ropes. Pitching in to help is what makes the MWOC the best!

Leaders are needed for all activities but especially for Tuesday and Thursday hikes.

Drinks (beer, wine, soda, tea, coffee, water) will be provided. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

Questions? Use the [member directory](#) to contact club president Greg Farmer or meeting hosts Rod Haars and Laura Jencki.



WANDERING WHEELS BIKE GROUP

Next Meeting: Monday, February 27, 6:30 - 8:30 PM
Ironwood Social (Bar & Grill), 5467 N Glenwood St
Next Ride: Saturday, March 4, TBA

We've been working on a joint enterprise between MWOC and the Wandering Wheels (WW) bike group. Our initial meeting took place on January 23 at Barbarian Brewing Taproom. There was no formal presentation so it was mainly a chance to make / renew acquaintances. A cultural difference was perceptible but I think we should give it some time. MWOC riders are interested mostly in day rides, whereas WW riders wanna' go camping. The two groups are very similar in age distribution so we may find some common interests. The first ride of the season took place on the following Saturday, January 28, making a loop of Willow Creek Road, Chaparral Road, and Pearl Road, north of Eagle, a distance of about 15 miles (photo). I'd be interested to learn if any MWOC members were there.

(OK, yeah, brrrr. I wimped out. I'm hitting the gym and servicing the bikes, hoping to ride in March.)



Women's Field Trip to the Skyline Yurt, February 28 - March 3

Looking for one more woman to round out a group of 4 to snowshoe into the Skyline Yurt on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, departing on Friday, March 3. Cost is \$92.50 per person. Plan to do some snowshoeing, game playing, reading, and kick-back relaxing. Contact me for more info.

Darla Rhude

darlar0220@gmail.com

727-688-6645

{Note: This email was sent months ago, so the single spot may be filled. But you never know, or there might be a cancellation, so inquire if interested.}



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.

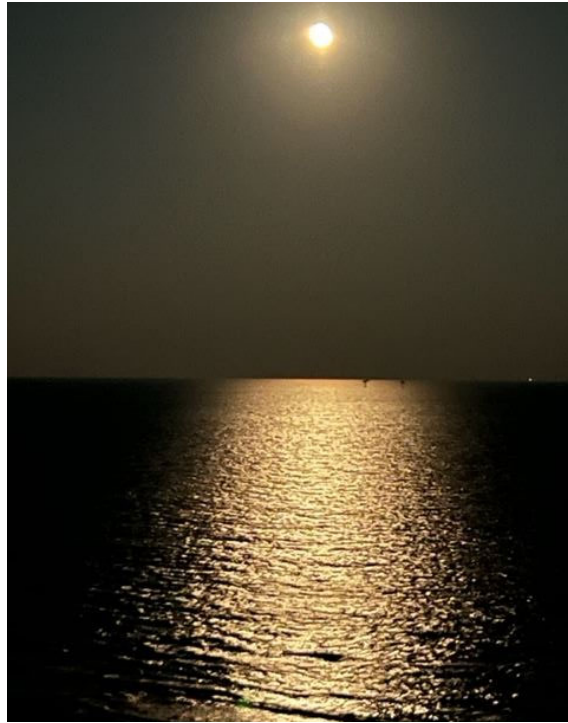
The world-famous Lava Hot Springs is walking distance from the hotels, it has 5-6 big pools from 102-114 degrees and costs \$8.00/soak (less for seniors). Plus, an Olympic-size hot springs swimming pool – indoor and outdoor – is close by.

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



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

MWOC annual dues were payable by January 1st on the MWOC website, mountainwestoutdoorclub.wildapricot.org. Twenty bucks gets you activities with your friends all year long, monthly meetings, a free catered picnic in August, and the inestimable pleasure of reading these newsletters twelve times.

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

New password requirements for login to MWOC website (Wild Apricot):

- 12 characters or more
- both upper and lower case letters
- at least one number
- at least one of the following special characters: #?!@\$%^&*-

Email laura.jenski@gmail.com for assistance.

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.)





McCall Winter Trip, January 24-26, 2023

Ruth Garcia revived the MWOC McCall winter trip after a two-year Covid hiatus. It was a resounding success. There was snowshoeing and a pot-luck Happy Hour on Tuesday, followed by skiing at Bear Basin on Wednesday and at Ponderosa State Park on Thursday. (I don't know if they made it to the hot tub at the RV park nearby, but that is a really pleasant memory from years past.) Attendees submitted too many photos to include here, but the universal element was happy people with big smiles. Let's do it again next year!

Tuesday hikers visited Reid Merrell Park / Eagle, Foote Park / Sandy Point, Quail Ridge / Collister, Broken Horn / Avimor, and Eagle Bike Park.





Wednesday hikers visited Broken Horn / Avimor, Table Rock, Camels Back / Nines Ridge, and Colchester / Eagle.

Ever eager for a challenge, Dave Horsman led us on the latter hike, 8.3 miles without chocolate. But there were heated restrooms, so all good.

Thursday hikers visited Camels Back / 8th St, Barber Park / Bown Crossing, and Polecat Trail.



Thursday Afternoon Nordic Ski/Snowshoe group goes to Bogus Basin every Thursday in January and February.

Kayakers are on hiatus, I think, having frozen solid at last. They will thaw out again in Spring.



PARTING SHOT: Where in the world are Wendell and Janette? Anyone recognize this scene?

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 continues every Thursday 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

MWOC officers

Greg Farmer,
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Judy Farnsworth, Vice
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Laura
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Jim
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this monthly newsletter send details to jawolf05@msn.com.

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

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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