

Mountain West Outdoor Club Newsletter

June, 2023

Editor's note: Thanks to everyone who responded to my request for photos! I am blessed with almost SIXTY photos this month and will display as many as will fit the narrative. Please keep sending those great photos!

PHOTO CAPTION: Strong coffee for those long early-season bike rides.

MWOC JUNE MEETING, Monday June 5, 6:00 PM

The pavilion in Kristin Armstrong Municipal Park, 500 S Walnut St, Boise

Summer has finally arrived, bringing hikes in the Foothills, bike rides, kayaking events, and outdoor potluck meetings! There will be a brief administrative meeting at 5:30 PM (interested parties are welcome to attend), followed by a potluck dinner at 6:00 PM. Bring a dish to share, and drinks and a place setting for yourself. No alcohol is allowed in Municipal Park. There are no speakers at our summer meetings.

UPCOMING MWOC EVENTS



WANDERING WHEELS BIKE GROUP

We've been working on a joint enterprise between MWOC and the Wandering Wheels (WW) bike group. You can find them on Facebook. WW has been around Boise for decades, slowly fading out in recent years after their founder moved away and then...Covid. MWOC member, Rob Fisher, is working to resurrect the group with regular meetings and monthly rides. Interestingly, a contingent of the Old Guard (WW previous management) has been about the same thing, resulting in some competing events. We'll have to see how this plays out.

Some of the planned events have taken a break in June. For instance, there's a Wednesday coffee ride that is on hiatus until June 28, I think. An overnight ride was scheduled for June 24 but I haven't seen any details or an identified leader. Stay tuned to their Facebook page for updates.

On a positive note, an MWOC member, Deb Rose, has already biked TWO overnight rides, one to Montour campground (near Emmett) and one to Three Island Crossing. Deb has an extensive history of adventure biking, including the Great Divide route.

Upcoming events include:

- Wandering Wheels has posted a social event at Barbarian Brewery Taproom, 114 E 32nd St, Garden City, on Monday, June 26, at 6:00 PM. These events are low-key gatherings to drink good beer, tell biking stories, and plan biking events. The patio should be open. No food truck on Mondays. Everyone is welcome. I will endeavor to attend so there'll be at least one familiar face! Tell your sweetie that you're going to sweep her away to the (ahem) Cashbar.
 - Our esteemed president, Greg Farmer, started regular Friday morning bike rides for MWOC members. You should see them announced in your email. These rides have been well attended (see above photo). Rides are relatively short (~20'ish miles), all pavement, little elevation gain. The most recent ride was accompanied by a pastry stop!
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KIRKWOOD HISTORIC RANCH IN HELL'S CANYON, August 1-15

volunteer opportunity

The Kirkwood Historic Ranch is located within the Wild and Scenic Snake River corridor of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. The main purpose of the site is preservation and interpretation of Hells Canyon and historic ranching. Visitors are introduced to the historic ranching lifestyle in the canyon and thereby gain an appreciation of man's presence and influence since the turn of the century.

The volunteer program at Kirkwood provides the backbone and support for this interpretive effort. While the Ranch is both remote and isolated, Kirkwood hosts over 15,000 visitors each year. Visitors access the site via jet boat or hiking the 6 mile Snake River Trail from Pittsburg Landing.

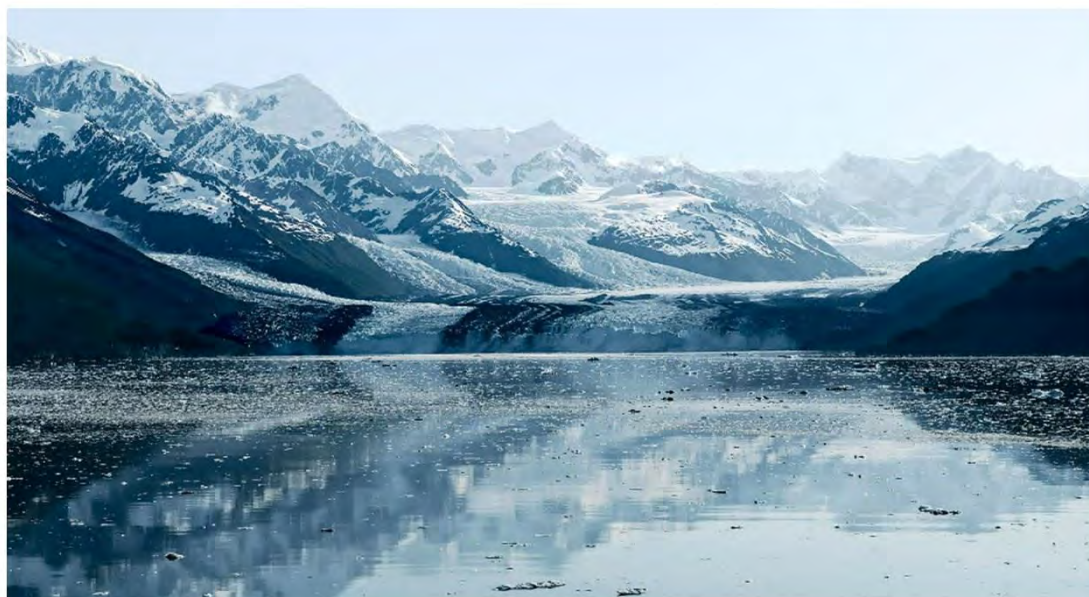
Volunteers live in the historic ranch house, a small two-story frame building. The downstairs has a bath, kitchen, and root cellar, while the upstairs has a living room, two bedrooms, and a sleeping porch. The water source is the Kirkwood Spring, currently on a solar filtration-purification system. Kitchen appliances consist of a wood cook stove, a three-burner propane hot plate, and a propane refrigerator with a small freezer. The house is completely furnished.

Volunteers are provided with a Forest Service radio for daily check-ins and a satellite phone (for emergencies). There is no cellphone service and no electricity. Volunteers provide their own food and personal effects. There will be time to hike, fish, and explore the area. Volunteers need to be healthy, outgoing, and adventurous with basic skills necessary to function effectively and safely in a primitive setting. Responsibilities

include welcoming and escorting visitors around the site daily, and maintaining the buildings and grounds.

I have reserved the first two weeks in August 2023.

For additional information contact Lyn Siebold at SIEBOLDJL@YAHOO.COM.



ALASKA CRUISE, Wednesday August 23, Vancouver BC

We have about 12 cabins. Please note the contact person at Princess has changed. Also, if you would like to go and prefer having a roommate, please contact me. I might be able to make suggestions.

Princess 7-day cruise plus 5-night land tour, leaving Vancouver on August 23, 2023. Late August to early September allows for the possibility of seeing the Northern Lights as well as wildlife before they 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>

Questions about the cruise can be directed to Mike McKeen with Princess Cruise. His number is 1-800-901-1172, ext. 21775. Give my name and Mountain West Outdoor Club. We will get additional onboard credit for scheduling as a group. His email

is mmckeen@princesscruises.com. Please reserve through Mike. There is no additional cost but will increase our discounts.

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



PADDLE THE MEANDERS IN McCALL, Thursday August 24

The "Meanders" is not a cow disease but rather a lovely, placid section of the Payette River, just north of Payette Lake near McCall. The river is cool and often shaded, so August is the perfect time to kayak or SUP it.

Meet at 9:45 AM sharp in the parking lot off Warren Wagon Rd. (Contact Liz for directions to the parking lot. It's about seven miles north of the intersection of Highway 55 with Warren Wagon Road in McCall.) Kayaks/Canoes/SUPs are available to rent (cash only) at Backwoods Adventures, 208-469-9067, no reservations. We will paddle upstream from Payette Lake for about an hour, take a lunch stop, then return about one hour or more. BYO lunch, beverage, sunscreen, etc. There are no rapids, but participants must have some experience. The drive from Boise takes about 2.5 hours plus 30 minutes down Warren Wagon Road. Rentals can be busy; we will leave promptly. Contact Liz McWhorter at 208-891-0426, LIZBETH83703@YAHOO.COM.



MWOC ANNUAL PICNIC, Monday September 11, 2023

If you attended one of these in the past, you'll know it's lots of fun! There is a delicious catered meal, games, and prizes. **Volunteers are needed now** for the food committee and the prize committee. Please contact the coordinator, Janette Young, if you're interested.

For September only, the monthly meeting / annual picnic will be held on the second Monday, September 11. The first Monday in September is Labor Day. Despite numerous inquiries, I cannot tell if Cheri Worsley will return from Alaska in time to reprise her Hawaiian hula outfit.

Janette Young, janettey99@gmail.com



CROSS CANADA BIKE TOUR, 2025

MWOC member, Fran Wolfe, suggested this event. It is not an MWOC-sponsored event and has not been vetted, but it sounds pretty interesting for a certain kind of person. A dedicated biker, for sure. CCCTS is Cross Canada Cycle Tour Society, CCCTS.ORG (not to be confused with CCTS, Close Combat Training System, LOL).

Here are some preliminary details on a potential Cross Canada 2025 tour:

- **Timeframe** – About 3 months or 90 days over the summer,
- **Route** – Begin in Victoria, B.C. and end in St. Johns, Newfoundland,
- **Daily Distances** – Average about 90 to 120 kilometers, but there could be a few days that are longer and days that are shorter,

- **Cost** – Cost of the tour is unknown at this early stage but a rough estimate is \$8,000 to \$10,000 CAD per person. Efforts will be made to economize whenever possible but without sacrificing comfort.
- **Group Size** – Minimum 16, maximum 24,
- **Method of Travel** – Follow the “CCCTS camping system”, which involves renting a truck to carry gear and for emergencies, group cooking in teams, using CCCTS camping equipment, etc.,
- **Camping vs. Motels** – Camp about 5 nights per week and stay in motels about 2 nights per week or possibly sometimes 3 nights a week,
- **Rest Days** – Rest days, averaging 1 day per week, usually following the first night in the motel,
- **Food/Meals** – This tour will eat well. All tour members will serve on a cook team, and each team will cook approximately 1 day per week. There will be plenty of nutritious and delicious food provided as part of the tour (no scrimping on the food budget) for 3 meals per day plus snacks, except for layover days when tour members will have the opportunity to eat out.
- **Driver** – Hire a dedicated driver so tour members can ride the entire distance. ("EFI" in bikepacking parlance)
- **E-Bikes** – E-bikes welcome, since we will use campgrounds set up for power plug-ins. Spare battery(ies) on the truck will be required,
- **Planning Committees** – All participants will be required to serve on one or more planning committees (e.g., Route, Accommodations, Safety, Equipment Management, Food)
- **Senior Advisory Committee** – A Senior Advisory Committee (SAC) will be formed with a few longtime club members who have led CCCTS camping trips and/or ridden the Cross Canada tour with our club. This committee will review and provide guidance on all aspects of planning for the tour.

Direct inquiries to Fran Wolfe at FLYINGBYTHESOMP@GMAIL.COM or email the Tour Director, Robin Howe, at ROBINCOOKSANDSEWS@GMAIL.COM.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

WILD APRICOT SMARTPHONE APP

Are you interested in an app that has many features of the MWOC website but runs on your Android or iPhone? Are you an event leader who needs quick access to a member's contact or emergency contact information?

Wild Apricot (the company MWOC uses for membership, website, emailing, etc.) has a Members App you can download from [Google Play](#) or the [App Store](#). With it you can view a directory of members, send an email to a member, renew your membership, view and

register for events, and more. (There are a few things you can't do, mostly related to event registrations.)

Let me know if you have questions or need assistance. Wild Apricot has posted user guides for [iPhone](#) and [Android](#). I'd also be interested in your feedback on this app, which I will share with Wild Apricot.

Laura Jenksi, laura.jenski@gmail.com

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>.

Please direct questions to Claire Veseth, Membership Chair, at CBVESETH@GMAIL.COM.



GUEST PARTICIPANTS

We welcome guests and prospective members to join our activities (hiking, biking, kayaking, etc). New members are always welcome! But participants must know their own capabilities and participate at their own risk. Accidents and medical emergencies do happen sometimes. We'd like to limit the potential liability of MWOC administrators and event leaders by having everyone sign (electronically) a liability waiver. Members sign the waiver as part of the electronic renewal process every year. Event leaders are expected to carry an electronic link on their cellphones so that visitors can sign the waiver at the trailhead. (The link is depicted above. It can best be downloaded from Scott Stolhand's email dated 05/15/23.) Most (but not all) trailheads have cell service. If you know that someone will attend a future event, please sign them up ahead of time.

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.)





Thank you, Dorothy, for organizing this wonderful trip! (above center)



Lava Hot Springs Trip, May 15 – 19, 2023

Judging by the number of photos submitted, a good time was had by everyone! Every day brought hot spring soaking, enhanced by a generous

agenda of hiking, exploration, and abundant food. I'm exhausted just by reading the accounts and reviewing the photos!

This MWOC road trip was organized by Dorothy Sammartino: "Thank you all for a great trip! I'm so glad that you all had a great time! And thank you to all the good folks who pitched in when needed to make the trip a little nicer. A special thanks to Bonnie and Judy for helping me adjust the itinerary when we had thunderstorms or 5-water crossings on an otherwise dry hike and just general "great" trip advice and guidance. Thanks to Cheri for suggesting the 2nd potluck, Sue for the soaking tickets that everyone enjoyed, and Vicki and Jim for leading the Bear Valley expedition on Thursday... Kudos to you all!!! Thank you!

Highlights included Lava Hot Springs, Soda Springs, Bear Valley, and Gray's Lake Wildlife Refuges, viewing SandHill Cranes, Oregon Trail History, Chesterfield Historical Settlement, Black Canyon and Sheep Canyon, Miter (ice) Cave, and lots of great hot mineral springs soaking and making of great new friendships."



MEMORIAL DAY HIKE, Monday, May 29

I don't have any information or photos about this hike, organized by Mary Brown. I particularly like her plan to time the hike so as to witness a flyover by military airplanes!

"7.5 mile loop hike with some good hills. I'm planning to do a favorite hike in reverse, which should position us for views of the Memorial Day Flyover

featuring four vintage WWII planes. They fly over several hospitals and veterans' cemeteries and should be over St. Lukes and the VA."

Tuesday hikers visited Corrals Trail, New York Canal Path, Hull's Gulch, Hillside Park, and the new Hawkins loop.



Wednesday hikers visited Polecat Gulch, Somerset Ridge, Hull's Gulch, Scott's Trail, Frog Pond, and the new Hawkins loop.

Thursday hikers visited Seaman's Gulch, Military Reserve, Greenbelt, Harrison Hollow, and Merrill Park.





Thursday Afternoon Nordic Ski/Snowshoe group stopped meeting due to lack of snow. But here's Professor Young expounding on something.

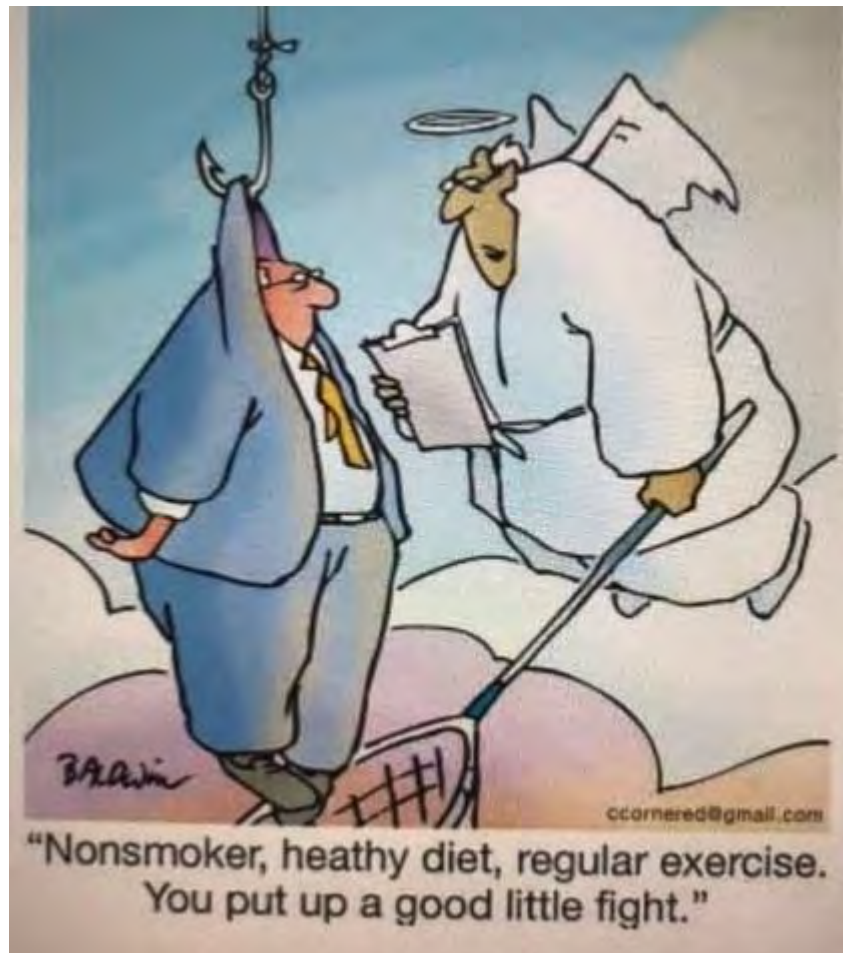
Kayakers are active again, I think, but I have no information and no photos. Come on, guys, send us some pix! Meanwhile, here's Judy describing her technique for mud diving.





Friday bikers visited the Boise Bench, Lucky Peak Dam (twice!), and Eagle neighborhoods with pastry!





MISCELLANEOUS PHOTOS

Above: Feeling sheepish on Upper Hull's Gulch

Middle: a) the new Hawkins loop

b) for extra points, does anyone remember this movie?

Below: Self explanatory (but probably most MWOC members)

CLUB ACTIVITIES

MONTHLY MEETINGS are held on the first Monday of each month. Winter meetings (October thru April) take place 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. Summer meetings (May thru September) take place nearby at the pavilion in Kristin Armstrong Municipal Park, 500 S Walnut St, Boise. Summer meetings are a potluck dinner -- BYO drinks, place setting, and a dish to share. No alcohol is allowed in Municipal Park.

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 January.

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

General Announcements

MWOC officers

Greg Farmer,
President remraf@rocketmail.com 208-908-8124

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 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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