



**MOUNTAIN WEST OUTDOOR CLUB
NEWSLETTER**

NOVEMBER, 2023

PHOTO CAPTION:

Big Creek Lodge, Idaho
(northeast of McCall, near Frank Church Wilderness)
last month

UPCOMING MWOC EVENTS



MWOC MONTHLY MEETING

Date & time: Monday, November 6

Officers & interested parties, 6:00 PM

Agenda & program, 7:00 PM

Place: 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.

Winter meetings happen indoors at Idaho F&G and don't include dinner. In place of a potluck dinner, we have interesting speakers.

In addition to the usual business topics (budget, membership) this month, there may be discussion of Zoom meetings and carpooling for hikes. A recent hike numbered 25 participants! There is some concern for crowded parking at trailheads as well as wear-and-tear on the trails. Creative ideas are welcome!

The November meeting will feature noted explorer and travel writer, Scott Marchant. He is the author of five guidebooks featuring great hikes in central and southwest Idaho. To give you a taste of what's out there, he'll highlight a hike from each of his guidebooks and offer several ideas for short backpacks. He'll soon publish a sixth guidebook of the Seven Devils. He'll have tales to tell you of hiking the area to ensure his guidebook has the most up-to-date information. To learn more about Scott and his work, go to his website: <https://hikingidaho.com>

NOTE: Sections of Warm Springs Avenue will be closed until December 8th. At present, Warm Springs is open from the west, including Walnut St. Warm Springs is blocked east of Locust St.

Please note: Doors in the Idaho Fish & Game Building are locked after regular business hours. A MWOC member will be stationed at the door to allow persons to enter for the MWOC meeting. As a courtesy to your fellow members, please arrive on time for the program. The door monitor will leave the door locked and unattended after the 7 PM program begins.

Photo courtesy of roving photographer, Deb Rose.



RAKE-UP BOISE, Saturday, November 18

It's that time of year again! Soon the leaves will turn color and flutter to the ground. Rake Up Boise is a city-wide volunteer program that cleans up yards for veteran, disabled, and senior homeowners each November. An MWOC team has participated in this activity for over 20 years. It's always a great time together! We will rake on **November 18** this year. A bit later than other groups perhaps, but more likely to allow leaves to be on the ground rather than still up in the trees.

We will work from 10:00 AM to noonish. We will be assigned our yards in early November. Tee shirts and fleece hoodies are available to purchase if you are interested. <https://stores.inksoft.com/rake-up-boise/shop/home>.

Send me an email to sign up for the event. I'll post more details as they're available. Mary Brown, brownmeb@gmail.com.



McCall Winter Ski Trip, January 23-25, 2024

Our leader, Ruth Garcia, has announced the dates for this annual favorite ski trip. In past years, participants were asked to arrange their own housing buddies and accommodations, often in the rental cabins at Ponderosa State Park in McCall. The group gets together for daily skiing, snowshoeing, dinners, and hot tubbing. Most people are Nordic skiers but there have been contingents of downhill skiers in the past. Full details will be forthcoming soon, or contact Ruth at ruthg1617@gmail.com.



EMPIRE STATE TRAIL BIKE TOUR, JUNE 2-7, 2024

"We'll start our tour at Battery Park in Manhattan and finish in Albany NY. We'll bike 200 miles of the trail, covering 28-47 miles each day. Along the route, we'll see all manner of scenery! The trail is a mix of paved bike path, rail trails, and quiet roads. At Albany we'll turn in our bikes and return to the City by train.

[Discovery Bicycle Tours](#) is putting together our tour. The package includes 5 nights lodging and most meals, a guided bike tour of Manhattan, detailed maps and itineraries. We'll have full van support – **PLUS** the use of a bike and a helmet. To learn more information about the tour, go to: [Empire State Trail](#).

COST. The cost of the tour is \$2895 (more for single occupancy). Airfare is not included. A \$500 deposit is required to reserve a spot. The deposit is refundable up to 60 days before the tour begins (which is the same day the final payment is due). We'll have a private tour *if* 10 people sign up *and* we will receive a 10% discount that will be refunded at the end of the tour.

Planning. We are planning to stay in Manhattan the night before the tour. A list of hotels in the Battery Park area will be available when we have the list of participants. Of course, you can spend time before or after the tour in the City on your own."

Come cycle with us!

1. Call Jane at (802) 457-3553 today to register. Tell her you are with Mountain West Empire State Tour with Peggy and Judy as contacts.
2. Then **text** Peggy Killen, (208) 484-7946, or **email** Judy Farnsworth, jfarnsw@me.com, to tell us you've signed-on!!



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.

- **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

UPCOMING ELECTION OF MWOC OFFICERS

As you may remember, MWOC transitioned to a system in which we elect half our officers every year. The new system provides continuity in that the new, incoming officers will overlap with half of the old, outgoing officers.

In December, we'll hold an election to replace the Vice President (currently Judy Farnsworth), the Membership chairperson (currently Claire Veseth), and the Communications chairperson (currently Jim Wolf). So far as I know, none of the incumbents are seeking re-election. Please contact one of the current officers if you have questions or would be interested in one of these positions.

MWOC MONTHLY MEETING, Monday January 8, 2024

The monthly meeting is usually held on the first Monday of each month. We're delaying the January meeting until the second Monday, January 8, to avoid New Year's Day. I know we're all dedicated members but surely we'll have something more important on NYD.

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

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.

CLUB EVENTS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

Thanks to everyone for sending current photos. There's a LOT that goes on between newsletters.

PLEASE KEEP THOSE PHOTOS COMING! (Email addresses at end of newsletter.)



College of Idaho Football Game, October 14

I have no photos or stories to report other than we think it happened. Attendees included Rod Haars and Butch Fox so you know there had to be mischief afoot. No information on what positions they played....

Photo by [Dave Adamson](#) on [Unsplash](#)



KATY TRAIL RIDE, OCTOBER 5-14, 2023

Judy Farnsworth led an intrepid biking crew on a tour across the state of Missouri. Massive fun was had. The tour consisted of seven days' riding for a total distance of 250 miles. Total altitude gained was, um, 500 feet? Numerous historical markers and scenic vistas were enjoyed as well as some mighty fine restaurants and hotels. Boise participants included Judy Farnsworth, Judy Secrist, Fran Wolfe, Cynthia Alleman, and Jim Wolf, along with other friends from eastern Idaho and Montana. One of my favorite moments was riding along the bank of the Missouri River and outpacing a tow boat and barge. (That boat must have been going very slowly!) We hope that Judy F will give a more complete account at one of our monthly meetings in the near future.

RECURRING MONTHLY EVENTS

Tuesday hikers visited Sunset Peak Road, Marianne Williams Park to Barber Park (Greenbelt), Chukar Butte / Frog Pond, Camels Back Trails, and Chief Eagle Eye Trail / Castle Rock.



Wednesday hikers visited Stack Rock, Homestead Trail, Dry Creek Headwaters Trail, Lydle Gulch, and Dry Creek / Hidden Springs Trails. The Lydle Gulch hike started in the rain but was glorious in the end. Hidden Springs offered striking views of the Foothills and some municipal utilities.

Thursday hikers visited Bethine Church Trail, Greenbelt, Hidden Springs, and Camels Back Trails. These folks always seem to have a lot of fun!

Note: one of the pictured participants is actually a scarecrow.





Kayakers dialed back their outings due to cold weather. Not that it has stopped them in the past!

Friday bikers visited Crescent Rim / Bench, Greenbelt to Eagle, and leaf-peeping along Mountain View Drive.

Okay, the photo isn't us. But it looks fun, doesn't it?



Thursday Afternoon Nordic Ski/Snowshoe group will resume on Thursdays in January and February. Bogus Basin opens the season on Thanksgiving Day this year. Eager skiers are welcome to organize something in December as well!

PARTING SHOTS



3 HORSE RANCH VINEYARD, EAGLE ID

A recommended lunch break while biking out Willowcreek Road. It's advisable that you attempt any challenging parts of the ride before lunch.

Photo courtesy of Deb Rose.



Katy Trail, Missouri

Wait, what?!?! When did I enter it?



Campaign sign encountered while biking in Wisconsin. Self-explanatory.

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 officers

Greg Farmer,
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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.

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 Shari Wright, 208-391-8598.

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 but will start again before you know it!

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

FRIDAY BIKING GROUP email announcements are sent each week with location and time. Rides are moderately-paced with no drastic elevation changes. Almost all are pavement rides. No one will be left behind. Rides last 2-3 hours and often include a coffee stop. If you have questions, please contact Greg Farmer, 208-908-8124.

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