

## Helena Outdoor Club

January 2008



Remember last year at Elkhorn Hot Springs? Were going back!

### ***January Meeting and Presentation***

The Helena Outdoor Club will meet at 7:00 on Thursday, January 3, 2008, in the large meeting room at the Lewis and Clark Public Library.

### ***Nature's Symphony in January!***

Tim & Jan Horan welcome you to the special beauty of winter. We have vivid memories of past club trips with people who love this season for the special qualities that only it can bring. We are presenting a short series of skiing & hiking photographs set beautifully to music. Perhaps you may recognize yourself or other trip participants as photographs drift into view. Come join us for a special, wonderful time!

### ***January Trips***

**Every Tuesday Night**, Tuesday night hikes have changed to Tuesday night

walks starting from the Carroll College P. E. Center parking lot at 5:30 pm we will walk the trails from that area. Call Jo Anne 449-7971

**Saturday, January 5:** We will drive up to the ghost town of Comet. From there, we will hike or snowshoe up forest roads and possibly off-road to the hills behind Comet. If we get up high enough and the weather is clear, we will be able to see several mountain ranges off to the south. There are some transmission lines along the way and evidence of logging, so this is not pristine wilderness, but it is a seldom used area relatively close to Helena. We can also explore the ghost town a bit. This hike/snowshoe will be at an intermediate level. For more information, call Jeff at 449-2041.

**Sunday, January 6:** "Mystery ski - wherever there is good snow!" Leader: JoAnne Thun 449-7971.

**Friday, Jan 11:** Helena Regulating Reservoir or Black Sandy area. Enjoy the sights and sounds of ice or a brisk winter hike. Depending on conditions we'll ice walk, hike, or skate. It's a whole new world. 3-4 hours from Helena to Helena. Call Barb. 443-1159.

**Sunday, January 13:** Grassy Mountain, north of Townsend Ski, snowshoe or hike depending on conditions, moderately strenuous. Leader: Maryalice Chester 495-8787.

**January 19, 20, 21:** Elkhorn Hot Springs (all levels) Ski (downhill & X-country), snowshoe, ice skate/sightsee at Bannack Ghost Town, soak in hot springs, good food, very rustic lodging.

Few cabin spaces remain. Call ASAP.  
Tim/Jan Horan 442-1619

**Friday, Jan 25:** MacDonald Pass  
Ski near town. Intermediate level. Both a  
good workout and wonderful, varied  
trails. Call Barb .  
443-1159.

**Saturday, January 26:** Queen Gulch  
Ski: Very popular, very scenic. Long  
downhill run suitable for advanced  
beginners. Starts at Elkhorn Ghost  
Town. Option to soak at Boulder Hot  
Springs after skiing. Tim/Jan Horan 442-  
1619

**Saturday, Feb. 2:** Montana Discovery  
Foundation & Helena Outdoor Club co-  
sponsor a Winter Survival Program,  
watch for details!

**February 16-18,** Presidents Day long  
weekend: Marias Pass/Glacier Park Ski  
(Intermediate level): Autumn Creek  
Trail, 6 miles. Magnificent views of  
Summit, Little Dog and Elk peaks. Trail  
starts at summit of Marias Pass. Some  
steep hills and creek crossings which  
merit caution, especially in icy  
conditions. Has a steep downhill access  
road to a shuttle car. Other trails offered  
as well. Tim/Jan Horan 442-1619.

**Learn to Ski** Beginning and  
intermediate cross country ski lessons  
will be available this winter through  
Helena College of Technology, contact  
Mary Lannert at 444-7378. The lessons  
will be conducted by Joanne Thun of the  
Helena Outdoor Club.

Montana Wilderness Association will  
have snowshoe hikes at various locations  
beginning in January. Check their Web

page at [www.wildmontana.org](http://www.wildmontana.org) for  
complete information.

The Montana Discovery Foundation  
sponsors nature hikes each month;  
including moonlight snowshoe hikes in  
the winter. These are especially suitable  
for young folks or others who want an  
opportunity to go slowly and appreciate  
the surrounding beauty. Hikes are  
posted in the Independent Record  
outdoor section, or call 495-3711.

## **Notes**

Have you taken an interesting trip or  
outing? We are always looking for  
presenters. Contact a Board member if  
interested.

**Upcoming vacancy on the HOC  
Committee.** Help co-chair the Trips  
position. Work as a team. Get plenty of  
support. Call Barb to check out the  
duties. 443-1159

Because of printing and mailing  
expenses, we are asking members to  
receive the HOC newsletter by e-mail  
when possible. Please e-mail Monique  
Mandali and give her your e-mail  
address. Her e-mail address is  
[monique@mandali.com](mailto:monique@mandali.com) .

## **About the Helena Outdoor Club**

Helena Outdoor Club  
PO Box 135  
Helena MT 59624

**A club for non-motorized recreation  
for 35 years**

The Helena Outdoor Club is for everyone, regardless of age. Our Outdoor Interests are many and varied. This can include hiking, snow shoeing, skiing, backpacking, rock climbing, canoeing, kayaking, or anything else enough people are interested in. Most activities are free. From beginner to expert, volunteers organize and guide our trips. We offer a monthly newsletter and presentations on adventure and travel in Montana and around the world. Anyone can join—no experience necessary. Yearly memberships are \$10/family

### **Web Site**

The club's new web site is now online. The address is [www.helenaoutdoorclub.org](http://www.helenaoutdoorclub.org) . Please bookmark the site and come back often as we continue to enhance the site. Our site is a little sparse so far so your trip reports, pictures, stories, etc. would be most welcome. Contact Jeff Dobb if you have some good content to contribute. Also, the group communication site is still available at [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hoc\\_members/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hoc_members/) . Remember to check this site for late planned events and messages from other members.

### **HOC Officers and Board Members**

Presidents	Tim/Jan Horan	442-1619
VP Trips	JoAnne Thun	449-7971
VP Trips	Barb Belt	443-1159
Newsletter/Webmaster	Jeff Dobb	310-1293
Treasurer	Mary Alice Chester	495-8787
Database	Monique Mandali	495-9206
Refreshments	Becky Blend	449-2041
Board Member	Mike Pasichnyk	442-8722
Board Member	Toby Benson	443-3676

Board Member Gary Wiens 495-0533

**Remember:** Outdoor trips can be dangerous! See Below! Plan ahead, prepare, think safety, file a flight plan, bring a buddy, and above all, ENJOY!

“Be careful out there. After ice skating on the regulating reservoir on York Road on Sunday and proclaiming how nice it was I went back today for more. I was skating by myself out in the middle of the deepy deep about 150 yards from shore. I attempted to skate across the same pressure ridge that I had skated across the day before. Bam !! I crashed through the ice and was up to my armpits in frigid ice water. My head did not go under. I hit my right side on the ice as I went down. That explains the bruising and sore ribs. I got my mittens off and attempted to get a grip on the ice. More ice caved in. I turned the other direction and managed to get a grip with first one hand then both hands. There were several ice fishermen about 100 yards away. They had not seen me go down. I shouted HELP several times. No one could hear from that distance. I screamed a couple times thinking that would work better. Still no one noticed. I then decided that the only way out of the ice was to pull myself out. Somehow with both hands finding grips I managed to pull myself out flat onto the ice in a couple of short moves. I crawled on my belly for about 40 feet before daring to stand up to skate back to shore. Scared and cold, I thought I was a goner. I had left my ice spikes at home on the porch. I Won't do that again.”

Tom Kilmer

