

# December 2012 Newsletter



Winter Solstice tree, *google image*

## December Program

You are invited to a free public presentation on **Thursday, December 13 at 7:00 pm**, at **the Montana Wild Center** next to the MT Wildlife Rehab Center at Spring Meadow Lake (turn north at the light across from Kessler School).

## Haiti: Land of Dark and Light



Life in Port Au Prince, *photo by Sandy S.*

Join HOC member **Sandy Standley** as she relates her unforgettable experiences during two weeks in Haiti this August with six other people from Helena. After landing in the capital Port Au Prince they stayed in a well-established mission facility and orphanage, a true haven in the midst of a city so devastated by decades of extreme poverty as well as the 2010 earthquake. They helped a pastor who had taken in 20 orphans in his 3-

bedroom house with several cleaning and repair projects, in addition to spending as much time as possible with the kids.

A few days later Sandy hiked 15 miles to a high mountain village to serve in a small church community. Other members of the group endured an eight-hour drive over practically impassible roads to their final destination. The scenery was breathtaking and the mountain air a wonderful relief from the heat and pollution of the city. They helped clean, organize and serve food in a tiny medical clinic and were humbled by the warmth and appreciation of the villagers.



Trail to the village, *photo by Sandy S.*

## Day Trips

All trips are weather-dependent and subject to last minute cancellation.

**Show & Go Monday hikes:** join Barb on short hikes in the Helena area. Meet at 9:00 am in the parking lot next to Ben Franklin on Euclid. We're usually back by mid-afternoon. Call Barb (443-1159) or read about each trip via the HOC Yahoo e-group.

**Show & Go Tuesday evening hikes:** Meet at 5:30 pm in the parking lot across from the L&C Library. Hike on Mt. Helena or Ascension trails. Bring a headlamp. Call JoAnne (449-7971) for details.

**Saturday, December 1: King's Hill XC ski.** Hoping for good snow, we'll drive to the XC trails north of White Sulphur Springs. For those interested, we'll oak in the hot pools on our way back to Helena. Leaving at 8:00 am. Call Ann (459-8830) for meeting place.

**Sunday, December 2:** hike the **Grant Kohrs Ranch** Nature Trails and enjoy Victorian Christmas events at the historic ranch near Deer Lodge. Starting at 1:00 pm, there will be tours of the decorated house, hay rides, treats and more. Suitable for all ages. Leaving at 11:30. Call MaryAlice (495-8787) for meeting place.

**Saturday, December 8: Stemple Pass snowshoe hike.** We'll explore different parts of this area not far from Helena. Leaving at 9:00 am. Call Julie (410-1037) or Helen (461-7421) for meeting place.

**Saturday, December 15: Mt Haggin ski or snowshoe, near Anaconda.** Ski or snowshoe on a large network of nicely groomed trails. We'll end the day with some delicious soup at the Soup Shack. Leaving at 8:00 am. Call Ann (459-8830) or JoAnne (449-7971) for meeting place & details.

## Community Events

**Early December: Winter Survival Workshop.** Call the Montana Discovery Foundation (495-3711) for details and to register.

**Weekends, Dec. 15–30: Lewis & Clark Caverns Candlelight Tours.** These tours are awesome and show off these unique caverns in most magical ways. Call 287-3541 for reservations.

**Friday evening, December 28: Moonlight Walk.** Call the Montana Discover Foundation (495-3711) for details and to register.

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When we get good snow, watch for other impromptu ski or snowshoe trips on our Yahoo Group:  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hoc\\_members/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hoc_members/)

### Stay in touch through our Yahoo group:

Reminders, additional and last-minute trips will be posted by HOC members on our YAHOO group, a network of over 100 local outdoorsy folks and potential trip companions. You can find us here:

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hoc\\_members/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hoc_members/).

If you aren't already on this list and want to know how to sign up, email [monique@mandali.com](mailto:monique@mandali.com) and she'll send you instructions. It's FREE to HOC members and a super way for everyone to post their own outings and find out about other people's trips all year long!

## Coming Up:

**Snow weekend trips in January, February and March 2013.** If you have special requests for downhill, XC-ski and/or snowshoe trips, or want to help plan them, call Jan (442-1619), JoAnne (449-7971) or MaryAlice (495-8787).

**THE HELENA OUTDOOR CLUB** is for everyone, regardless of age. Our outdoor activities vary with the seasons and include hiking, backpacking, canoeing and kayaking, bicycling, snow shoeing, XC and downhill skiing. Most activities are free. Members organize and guide trips for the casual recreationist. No experience necessary. We also offer free public presentations on adventure travel in Montana and around the world.

**Yearly memberships are only \$10/family.** Mail your check to PO Box 135, Helena, MT 59624.

[www.helenaoutdoorclub.org](http://www.helenaoutdoorclub.org)

A club for non-motorized recreation since 1972

### Steering Committee:

Trip Coordinator	Jo Anne Thun	449-7971
Trip Co-Coordinator	Helen Fee & others	461-6741
Weekend Event Coordinators	Jan Horan & others	442-1619
Memberships & Treasurer	MaryAlice Chester	495-8787
Database & Newsletter	Monique Mandali	495-9206
YAHOO Group Moderator	Monique Mandali	495-9206
Website	Monique Mandali	495-9206

And many other dedicated volunteers! Thank you, and

**Happy New Year from all of us!**



Mt Haggin trails, photo by MaryAlice

and ...

**Remember to be generous with people who offer to drive to trailheads and weekend events.**