

# February 2012 Newsletter



Skiing at MacPass, February 2011, photo by MaryAlice

**Celebrate with us  
Helena Outdoor Club's 40<sup>th</sup> BD!**

## Special February Program

**with Rick Graetz, founder and first  
president of the Helena Outdoor Club**

You are invited to a free public presentation on **Thursday, February 9 at 7:00 pm** at **the Montana Wild Center** next to the MT Wildlife Rehab Center at Spring Meadow Lake (coming from town on Euclid, turn right at the flashing light across from Kessler School, then right again into the parking lot). Enter through the side door.

**Details of our full evening schedule & festivities will be mailed in January.**

## THIS IS MONTANA!



It's been called an Uncommon Land, High Wide and Handsome, the Treasure State, The Land of the Shining Mountains and Big Sky Country ... **Montana** is a grand mix of geography, history, time and space that go well together in this corner of North America.

What makes Montana so special? Why are its residents so tied to the land, struggling to stay rather than go elsewhere? It is an atmosphere, a mystique, deeply rooted in our ancestors' stubbornness to live in this wild and magical place.

Through their highly acclaimed photography and enlightening narration, **Rick and Susie Graetz** shed light on the answer by showing off the beauty and uniqueness of the Montana landscape and filling in the colorful past the state has experienced.

## Day Trips

All trips are weather-dependent and subject to last minute cancellation. Check with the leader.

**Show & Go Monday morning trips:** Join Barb on short hikes in the Helena area. Meet at 9:00 am at the parking lot next to Ben Franklin on Euclid. Call Barb (443-1159) for details or read about each hike on our Yahoo group.

**Show & Go Tuesday evening hikes:** Meet at 5:30 pm in the parking lot next to Birds & Beasleys across the L&C Library. Hike on Mt. Helena, Rodney or Ascension trails. Bring headlamp & ice cleats. Call JoAnne (449-7971).

**Friday, February 10: snowshoe hike to Casey Meadows in the Elkhorns.** Intermediate hike, 5-6 mi. RT. Depending on access road conditions, we'll pick a trailhead. Meet at noon. Call Julie (410-1037) for details and meeting place.

**Saturday, February 11: snowshoe hike at MacDonald Pass.** Beginner-intermediate, fairly easy 3-5-mile hike, starting at MacDonald Pass going South. Meet at 10:00 am. Call Helen (461-6741) for details and meeting place.

**Sunday, February 12: Rooster Bill XC ski.** Starting at Stemple Pass and requiring a short shuttle, this trip for *advanced* skiers is beautiful but has some challenging downhill parts. Meet at 9:00 am. Call Ann (459-8830) for meeting place.

**Friday, February 24: XC ski at Stemple Pass.** Intermediate ski on trails at the Pass. Meet at noon. Call Julie (410-1037) for details and meeting place.

**Saturday, February 25: XC ski at Seeley Lake.** Maintained by the Seeley Lake Nordic Ski Club, the 32 km trail system offers groomed trails of varying difficulty. Leaving at 8:00 am. Call Ann (459-8830) for meeting place.

**Thursdays or Fridays: downhill or XC ski with Ann and Monique.** Depending on weather & snow, we may drive to Discovery, Showdown or even Big Sky for some downhill skiing, or XC ski somewhere. We'll post trips on the Yahoo group, or call Ann (459-8830) or Monique (495-9206) for trip info, meeting place and time.

For up-to-date information on ski conditions at Mac Pass, the golf course and elsewhere in MT, as well as training and other ski-related events, visit the **Last Chance Nordic Ski Club's** blog page: <http://lcnsclub.blogspot.com/>

**The HOC has two pairs of snowshoes for use by members. Call MaryAlice (495-8787) to borrow them.**

## February Weekend Events

**NOTE:** weekend events are open to the public but we give priority to members of the HOC. If you want to invite a friend who is not a member we'll put them on the waiting list (or ask them to become a member to secure their spot). HOC's cancellation policy applies. Contact leaders for details.

**Friday-Sunday, February 3-5: stay in a yurt and XC ski on groomed trails around Homestake Lodge (near Butte), or beyond.** We've reserved a cozy, magical yurt in the middle of a meadow for 2 nights. It sleeps 6 people and you may reserve your bed for either one or two nights. **Cost: \$15/night.** If there are extra people, dormitory-style bunk beds may be rented at the Lodge itself for \$20/night (reserve that sleeping space by calling 406-585-8052). Bring sleeping bag & pillow. Trail fee for using the extensive, well-groomed XC ski trails on the property: \$15/day. **MT Haggin XC ski trails** are fairly close as is the **Discovery Ski Area** for those who would like to **downhill ski** on one of the days. Meal arrangements will be made later. Call Monique (495-9206) for details and to register. First come, first serve. Your yurt space is reserved once she receives your check, made payable to HOC.

**President's Day Weekend, Friday-Monday, February 17-20: downhill ski at Lookout Pass (on the MT-ID border) and XC ski/snowshoe on nearby trails.** Join us at the historic Savenac Cookhouse in Lolo NF for 4 days and 3 nights, located only 10 miles from Lookout Pass and close to Hiawatha & other trails. It has electricity, a huge kitchen, bathrooms & showers, and sleeps 9 people on twin beds. Bring sleeping bag & pillow. **Cost for 3 nights including 3 family-style dinners is \$50.** Bring your own breakfasts & lunches. Call MaryAlice (495-8787) for details and to register. First come, first serve. Your place is reserved once she receives your check, made payable to HOC.

## Community Events

For a schedule of Montana Wilderness Association's Winter Walks, visit [www.wildmontana.org](http://www.wildmontana.org).

Montana Discovery Foundation sponsors moonlight (and other) snowshoe walks. For more information go to [www.montanadiscoveryfoundation.org](http://www.montanadiscoveryfoundation.org).

**Stay in touch through our Yahoo group:** Reminders, additional and last-minute trips will be posted 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 members and a super way for everyone to post their own outings *and* find out about other people's trip ideas all year long!

## 2012 HOC Memberships are due

It's only **\$10/year** for you *and* your family, one of the cheapest deals in town. Your check will help us continue to bring outstanding monthly programs to the community and to coordinate outings all year long. Please mail your check to HOC, PO Box 135, Helena, MT 59624 or give it to MaryAlice at our monthly meeting. We truly appreciate your support!

**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	461-6741
Weekend Event Coordinator	Jan Horan	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!



Feasting after a glorious day of skiing at Lakeside, February 2011