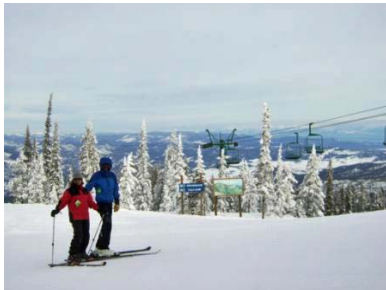


January 2012 Newsletter



Barb and Jim at Blacktail Ski Area near Lakeside,
January 2011

January Program

NEW LOCATION!

You are invited to a free public presentation on **Thursday, January 12 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.

Trekking and Touring in Southern Patagonia



Join **David Nimick** and **Angie Leprohon** as they share incredible photos and stories of their 2010 trip to southern Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego. They trekked in Torres del Paine National Park, kayaked in Puerto Natales, Chile, and took a boat from Punta Arenas, Chile, through the Strait of Magellan and the Beagle Channel to Cabo de Hornos and then on to Ushuai, Argentina, Tierra del Fuego. Their presentation includes photos of gorgeous vistas of the Southern Patagonia Ice Field from the air, as well as cute penguins, valley glaciers, estancias and numerous mountain ranges.



Start the New Year Soakin' & Skiin':

Saturday-Sunday, December 31-January 1: some of us plan on staying at the Spa Hot Springs Motel (406-547-3366) in White Sulphur Springs to soak in the pools, snowshoe/XC ski the Skidway loop in Deep Creek Canyon, or downhill ski at Showdown. You are welcome to join us overnight or just for the day! Call JoAnne for more information (449-7971).

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, January 6: XC ski up the Little Blackfoot road (by Elliston). We will ski from the start of the non-plowed road to Larabie Gulch. 5-6 mi. RT. Meet at noon. Call Julie (410-1037) for details & meeting place.

Saturday, January 7, 10:00-noon: beginning classic XC ski class at Bill Roberts Golf Course with JoAnne (assuming suitable snow conditions). This UM-Helena class is for anyone who wants to learn how to kick and glide. Call Christy at UM-Helena (444-6858) to register.

January 14, 15 or 16: XC ski or snowshoe by Seeley Lake. Julie will be staying at a Lodge by Seeley Lake and invites us to join her on day trips in the area. Contact her (410-1037) for meeting places & time.

Saturday, January 21, 10:00-noon: beginning classic XC ski class at Bill Roberts Golf Course with JoAnne (assuming suitable snow conditions). Same as above.

Saturday, January 21: Snowshoe from the Moose Creek Picnic Area to the CD Trail. Moderate hike with plenty of switchbacks and elevation gain. Approx. 6 miles. Meet at 10:00 am. Call Helen (461-6741) for details & meeting place.

Saturday, January 28, 10:00-2:00 pm, Stemple Pass practice classic XC ski class with JoAnne. This UM-Helena class is for people who took the Beginner's class and want more experience & advanced training on "real" hills. Call Christy at UM-Helena (444-6858) to register.

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.

January 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.

MLK weekend, (Friday), Saturday-Monday, January (13), 14-16: downhill ski at Lost Trail & XC ski/snowshoe at Chief Joseph Pass and Lake Como.

We've rented a lovely vacation home for 2 nights for 10 people near Conner, 16 mi. north of Lost Trail ski area. **Lodging plus 2 delightful family-style dinners is \$70/person.** If more people join us, they can stay at the nearby Rocky Knob Lodge, \$40/night for 1 person or \$47/night for 2 people (plus tax). Make your own motel reservation (406-821-3520) and add \$14/person for 2 après-ski delights & dinners with the group. Some of us may want to travel on Friday and reserve a room for an additional night at the Rocky Knob Lodge. Bring your own breakfasts & lunches. Call Jan (442-1619) to register and make dinner, room sharing & car pooling arrangements. First come, first serve. Your place is reserved when she receives your check, made payable to HOC.

Friday-Sunday, January 27-29: XC ski or snowshoe in the East Pioneers, Canyon Creek area, where there are lots of silver mine relics, ghost towns and well-preserved old charcoal kilns. We'll spend 2 nights at the Sportsman Motel in Melrose, 40 mi. S. of Butte (make your own reservations, 406-835-2141). A room with 2 double beds is \$40/night for a 1 person and \$45/night for 2 people (plus tax). A larger room with kitchenette, 2 double beds plus sofa sleeper is \$50/night (plus tax). We have reserved the small Canyon Creek FS cabin to use as our warming & lunch hut on Saturday. Contact Jan (442-1619) to register and make meal, room sharing & car pooling arrangements.

Community Events

Montana Wilderness Association Winter Walks begin in January. Visit www.wildmontana.org for the schedule.

Montana Discovery Foundation sponsors moonlight (and other) snowshoe walks. For more information go to 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/

If you aren't already on this list and want to know how to sign up, email 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 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

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 volunteers. Thank you!



Tim, Jan and MaryAlice goofing off at Chief Joseph Pass, March 2010