



January 2013 Newsletter



Bluebird skiing west of MacDonal Pass,
Photo by MaryAlice Chester

January Program

You are invited to a free public presentation on **Thursday, January 10 at 7:00 pm** at **the Montana Wild Center** next to the MT Wildlife Rehab Center at Spring Meadow Lake.

Exploring Glacial Valleys of Patagonia



Join **David Nimick** and **Angie Leprohon** as they share incredible photos and stories of their 2011 trip to Patagonia. First in Argentina, they day-hiked in Los Glaciares National Park, trekked to the base of Monte Fitz Roy and explored the area around the immense Perito Mereno Glacier.

In Chile, they trekked in one of the most remote areas of Patagonia on the Aysen Glacier Trail, exploring glacial valleys that descend from the Northern Patagonia Ice Field and then rafting to the ocean on the Rio Baker. This adventure led to David's glacial research project that took them back to the same area in 2012.

Their presentation includes photos of gaucho life and

estancias, crossing the Nef Glacier, other-worldly mushrooms, the Patagonia Ice Fields from the air, and a



glacially-dammed lake emptied by a catastrophic glacial outburst flood.

Day Trips

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

ABOUT SKI & SNOWSHOE TRIPS:

Snow conditions change daily. If you find snow somewhere, let us know by posting a message on the Yahoo group list. When it snows, we'll add spontaneous day trips to favorite local spots such as Stemple & MacDonal Passes, the Continental Divide & Rimini trails and we'll post them on our Yahoo group list as well.

If you're not yet a member of our HOC group, sign up!

Show & Go Monday hikes: join Barb on short hikes or ski trips 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, January 5, 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.

Sunday, January 13: XC ski at Bohart Ranch or downhill at Bridger Bowl. We'll carpool to the Bridger valley and will split up for skiing. Meeting at 7:00 am, back in town that evening. Call Ann (459-8830) for details & meeting place.

Saturday, January 26: XC ski the Queen Siding Trail in the Elkhorns or snowshoe hike around the ghost town of Elkhorn. This is a 5-6 miles, intermediate level XC ski. Beginner snowshoers are welcome. Optional before going home: soak in the pools of Boulder Hot Springs. Meeting at 9:00 am. Call Helen (461-6741) for details and meeting place.

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

REMINDER:

If you sign up for a hike and cannot go, let the leader or someone in the group know that you won't be there.

For up-to-date information on ski conditions at MacDonald 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/>

January Weekend Event

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-Monday, January 18-21: downhill ski at Discovery & XC ski or snowshoe in the area around Georgetown Lake. We've rented a lovely vacation home for 3 nights for 7 to 10 people near the Brown Derby Restaurant. **Lodging plus 3 delightful family-style dinners is about \$125/person.** Bring your own breakfasts & lunches. Call Ann (459-8830) or MaryAlice (495-8787) to register and make dinner, room sharing & car pooling arrangements. First come, first serve. Your place is reserved when MaryAlice receives your check, made payable to HOC & mailed to PO Box 135, Helena, 59624.

Community Events

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

Two MWA area snowshoe hikes in January:
Friday evening, 1/18 & Saturday, 1/19: Winter Wildlife Monitoring & Tracking. Call Laura Parr (443-7350, ext. 110) by January 13.

Sunday, January 26: Trout Creek Canyon Snowshoe Hike. Call Bill Halinan (461-9876) by January 22.

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!

2013 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.

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 Coordinator	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 volunteers. Thank you!



Lookout Pass XC ski, February 2012
Photo by MaryAlice