



July & August 2012 Newsletter



Sue B. on a bike ride in Little Prickly Pear Canyon,
photo by Monique Mandali

Day Trips

All trips are weather-dependent and subject to last minute cancellation. Please check with the leader to make sure the trip is a go.

Show & Go Monday hikes: join Barb on short hikes in the Helena area. Meet at 9:00 am at the old Center Stage 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. Call JoAnne (449-7971) for details.

Show & Go Tuesday evening flatwater paddling: Come join an easy-going group of kayakers and canoeists who paddle somewhere close to town for a couple hours on Tuesday evenings. Locations include the Helena Valley Reservoir, York Bridge, Chinaman's Gulch on Canyon Ferry, Riverside Campground below Canyon Ferry Dam, Black Sandy and others. We decide each Tuesday where we'll meet the following week and get the word out through e-mail. We usually meet on the water at 6 p.m. If you have your own boat & lifejacket, and would like to join us or want more information, call Susan Nimick (443-5980) or email her: snimick@mt.net.

July

Thursday, July 12: free kayak rolling class at Spring Meadow Lake with JoAnne for anyone who has taken the class and wants to practice.

Thursdays, July 18, 25 or August 1: 5:30 - 7:30 pm: kayak rolling classes at Spring Meadow Lake with JoAnne. Each event is a fee-based UM-Helena class. Max. 3 people/class. Call Christy at UM-Helena (444-6858) to register.

Friday, July 13: hike to Our Lake in the Rocky Mountain Front. This is a MWA-sponsored hike co-led by MaryAlice and

Maggie. Moderate, 6 miles. Our Lake is adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Bob Marshall Wilderness that would receive permanent protection in the Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act. We'll do plenty of climbing with many rewards of excellent views along the way. Meeting at 7:15 & drive to Choteau. Call MaryAlice (495-8787) for meeting place.

Saturday, July 14: beginner whitewater class on the Blackfoot River. This is a fee-based UM-Helena class. Call Christy at UM-Helena (444-6858) to register. Volunteers needed to help with the class.

Saturday, July 28, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm: Missouri River flatwater kayak class with JoAnne. This fee-based UM-Helena class is for anyone who wants to experience paddling on the Missouri. Call Christy UM-Helena (444-6858). Volunteers needed to help with the class.



"Our" tree, *photo by MaryAlice*

HOC has been holding program meetings at FWP's Montana Wild Center since January 2012. In appreciation for letting us use their conference room, the Helena Outdoor Club purchased and donated this aspen tree to FWP's landscaping effort around the building. As a portion of your membership dues contributed to this gift, a big THANK YOU to everyone!

August

Saturday, August 4: Elkhorn & Crow Peak hike. An all day hike, must be in good shape. Call JoAnne (449-7971) for meeting time & place.

Wednesdays, August 15, 22 or 29: kayak rolling classes at Spring Meadow Lake with JoAnne. Each event is a fee-based UM-Helena class. Max. 3 people/class. Call Christy at UM-Helena (444-6858) to register.

Saturday, August 18: beginner whitewater class on the Blackfoot River. This is a fee-based UM-Helena class. Call Christy at UM-Helena (444-6858) to register. Volunteers needed to help with the class.

Saturday, August 25, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm: Missouri River flatwater kayak class with JoAnne. This fee-based UM-Helena class is for anyone who wants to experience paddling on the Missouri. Call Christy at UM-Helena (444-6858) to register. Volunteers needed to help with the class.

Weekend Events:

NOTE: Weekend events are open to the public but we reserve the right to give priority to current members of the Helena Outdoor Club. If you want to invite a friend who is not a member we'll put them on the waiting list until the registration deadline when we'll let them know if there is still room. Or ask them to become a HOC member to secure their spot.

Tuesday evening, July 3 – Tuesday, July 10: a week-long backpacking trip to the Chinese Wall in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, starting at the Benchmark Trailhead. Must be in good shape. Max: 8 people. Call JoAnne (449-7971) for details. Planning meeting is on Thursday, July 28.

Friday evening - Sunday, July 20-22: kayak trip on the North Fork of the Flathead River. We'll float a different section of the river on Saturday and Sunday. Car camping. For intermediate kayakers. Call JoAnne (449-7971) for details and to register.

Thursday-Friday, August 9-10: 2 days of hiking in Glacier National Park. We'll camp at Swiftcurrent campground near Many Glacier. Camping spaces are on a first-come first-serve basis so come a day early or extend your stay into the weekend. On Thursday we'll head for Shangri-La Lake (6,565 ft), and on Friday we'll hike to Snow Moon & Falling Leaf lakes (6,632 ft). Both hikes are off-trail and offer spectacular views. Call Tim and Jan (442-1619) for additional information (they may be able to reserve a campsite for you) and to be added to this adventurous hiking group in Glacier NP.

Wednesday, August 29-Monday, September 3 (Labor Day weekend): Glacier National Park in a lovely vacation home in West Glacier. Max. 8 people. Participants will divide into small groups to hike, bike and boat in or around the park during the day and reunite for hot showers & meals in the evening. You may also just want to hang out, relax with a book & delicious homemade huckleberry ice cream. \$47/night/person including 5 dinners. Call Monique (495-9206) for details.

Saturday-Monday, September 1-3 (Labor Day weekend): kayak trip on the Stillwater & Yellowstone rivers. Enjoy the whitewater of the Stillwater and the rolling waves of the Yellowstone. For intermediate boaters. Car camp in the Columbus campground. Call JoAnne (449-7971) for details.

Any other summer day or weekend trips will be announced on our HOC Yahoo list.

Community Events:

Montana Discovery Foundation volunteers will lead tours of historic Charter Oak Mine near Elliston on Saturdays, **July 14 & August 11**. They'll have moonlight hikes on **Friday, June 29, Tuesday, July 31** (MacDonald Pass) and **Wednesday, August 29** (Refrigerator Canyon). "Jazz in the Woods" with Wilbur Reiman is **Sunday, August 12** at Moose Creek Cabin. Check www.montanadiscoveryfoundation.org/ for details or to sign up for e-mail notices.

Montana Wild Center hosts "Wild Thursdays" at the Center and Spring Meadow Lake. To get notices of these events, call 944-9944 or write to LEvarts@mt.gov.

Montana Wilderness Association's 50th Anniversary of "Wilderness Walks" continues with hikes near Helena to Nevada Mountain on **July 9**; Red Mountain out of Lincoln on **July 28** and Alice Creek on **July 21**. Volunteers are very much needed to **rehabilitate the Continental Divide Scenic Trail**. Work on Stemple Pass area is in late July and Granite Butte Lookout in September. Details are in the Wilderness Walks booklet, or contact Shannon Freix at 781-0627 (sfreix@wildmontana.org). You don't have to be a woodworker to help out, anyone can do it! Details on these and others are in their booklet available at outdoor stores in Helena or the MWA office (443-7350).

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/.
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 HOC members and a super way for everyone to post their own outings *and* find out about other people's trips all year long!

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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.

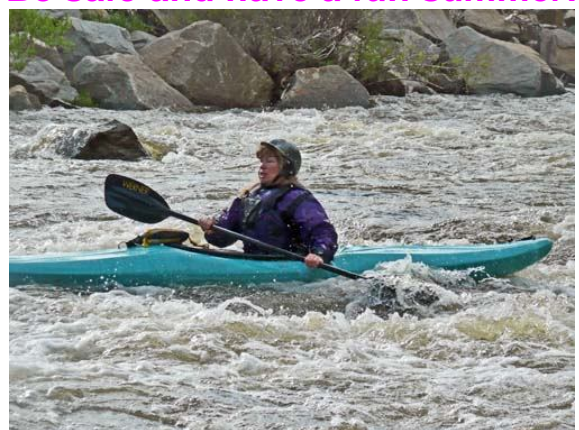
www.helenaoutdoorclub.org
A club for non-motorized recreation since 1972

Steering Committee:

Trip Coordinator	Jo Anne Thun	449-7971
Trip Co-Coordinator	Helen Fee	461-6741
Weekend Event Coordinator	Jan & Tim 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!

Be safe and have a fun summer!



HOC's fearless leader & kayak class instructor JoAnne on the Boulder River, May 2012, photo by Phil Cohea