

March 2012 Newsletter



Julie snowshoeing at MacPass
("It's almost as good as a bike ride", she says ☺)

March Program

You are invited to a free public presentation on **Thursday, March 8 at 7:00 pm** at **the Montana Wild Center** 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 to Machu Picchu and other ancient Inca sites



Seven friends from Helena including **Ann Schile** and **Laura Stafford** from the HOC, hired a guide and embarked on an incredible 8-day mule-supported trek through the Peruvian Andes in June 2011. They'll share stories and show photos of well-preserved, nearly one thousand-year-old irrigation systems and the recently discovered site Choquequirao, also known as the "Cradle of Gold", an amazing Inca outpost comparable in size to Machu Picchu and dramatically located on a promontory 1700 m. above the roaring Apurimac river. Camping along the way, they followed trails off the

beaten track to Machu Picchu itself. They visited the beautiful Sacred Valley near Cuzco and ended their stay by attending Inti Raymi, the spectacular Festival of the Sun with Inca dancers in full regalia.



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).

Saturday, March 10: Mt. Haggin XC 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. Meet at 8:00 am. Call Pat (406-241-6336) for meeting place.



March 11: Daylight Savings time begins. Spring 1 hour forward.

Sunday, March 11: Stemple Pass XC ski. Ski on the trails around the Pass. For moderate skiers, 3-5 miles. Call JoAnne (449-7971) for details and meeting place.

Saturday, March 17: Mystery snowshoe hike. We'll go where the snow is best. Meet at 9:00 am. Call Helen (461-6741) for details and 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.

March 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 (Monday), March 2-4 (5): XC ski or snowshoe near Glacier NP. If East Glacier has good snow this year, we plan on a weekend trip to this winter wonderland for 2 nights with an option to spend an extra night & day (Monday). As we have done in previous years, we would rent a vacation home or stay in a motel. There are several nice trails in the area, some well-suited for intermediate back country skiers, other easier ones for classic XC skiing or snowshoeing. Location and cost for lodging & meals will be decided later. Call Jan (442-1619) to sign up for this potential trip and get more details.

Tuesday-Thursday, March 6-8: XC ski trip to West Yellowstone. We'll be staying 2 nights at the beautiful Stagecoach Inn (make your own reservation, 406-646-7381). A room with 1 double bed is \$49/night; a larger, updated room with microwave & refrigerator and 2 Qs or 1 K bed is \$59/night (plus tax). We'll prepare meals in our room & eat them in the lobby, or eat out. Nearby XC ski trails include one north of West Yellowstone and the Madison River ski trails, both inside the Park, as well as the extensive, groomed Rendezvous Ski Trails (\$8/day pass). Contact Joyce or Bill K. (457-8246) for details, to register and make meal, room sharing & car pooling arrangements.

Community Events

For a schedule of Montana Wilderness Association's Winter Walks, visit www.wildmontana.org.

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!

Some 2012 Memberships are still 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

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!



XC skiing through a cool aspen grove near Glacier NP, March 2010, photo by Tim Horan