

March 2013 Newsletter



HOC trip to East Glacier, March 2010

March Program

You are invited to a free public presentation on **Thursday, March 14 at 7:00 pm** at **the Montana Wild Center** to the MT Wildlife Rehab Center at Spring Meadow Lake.

Hiking the Appalachian Trail



Join **Bretagne Byrd**, a vivacious young adventurer, as she hiked a total of **2,178 miles** from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Katahdin in Maine, averaging about 15 miles a day.

Bretagne's experience with the Trail started growing up in Waynesboro, VA, a town that regularly filled with long-distance hikers. After graduating from college, she made plans to hike the Appalachian Trail herself. She bought gear and was dropped off, alone, at Springer Mountain in Georgia on March 5, 2007.



Eight months later she reached the end of her trip on Mt. Katahdin, the highest mountain in Maine (5,268 ft).

Bretagne will share stories and beautiful photos of her many experiences along the Appalachian Trail. She'll talk about long days of backpacking, dealing with extremes in weather, learning about the trail community, meeting people from all walks of life, seeing many wild animals and experiencing incredible landscapes. And she'll tell you about the most amazing as well as hardest parts of her trip.

In the end, it's a story about a gutsy young woman nicknamed Pebble, and how her pilgrimage along the Appalachian Trail transformed her.

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 on our Yahoo group list to favorite local spots.

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, March 2, 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.

Saturday, March 9: Brooklyn Bridge snowshoe hike with MWA. An easy hike, approx. 3 miles round-trip. Meet at 10:00 am. Snowshoes will be provided if you need some. Call MaryAlice (495-8787) for meeting place.



March 10: Daylight Savings time begins. Spring 1 hour forward.

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.

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 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 leader(s) for details.

Sunday-Tuesday, March 3-5: XC ski or snowshoe near Ovando.

We have rented the popular **Monture Guard Station**



north of Ovando at the southern edge of the Swan Range, for two nights. There are eight single bunks upstairs in this beautifully restored Forest Service Ranger Station. We'll ski or

snowshoe for about a mile to the cabin with our bedding, food and personal items. Our motto: play in the snow, eat great dinners and relax in the evening with fun board games. \$35 per person includes two nights and two dinners. Those unable to stay overnight may join us for dinner at \$5 per person. Call MaryAlice (495-8787) for details and to sign up. Your place is reserved when she receives your check (made payable to HOC) & mailed to PO Box 135, Helena, 59624.

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 2013 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 & 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 dedicated volunteers! Thank you!



Some of us cannot wait to start biking again.
Photo by Tom Kilmer