



September 2011 Newsletter



September 23: Autumn Equinox

September Program

You are invited to a free public presentation on **Thursday, September 15 at 7:00 pm**, in **Room 002 (lower level)** at **UM-Helena**, 1115 N. Roberts, just east of Helena High.

To Kilimanjaro and Back



In June 2009 **Alan Weltzien** and son Alec spent two weeks in East Africa travelling to Kenya, Tanzania, Serengeti National Park and the Ngorongoro Crater World Conservation Area. The highlight of their trip was a week in Kilimanjaro National Park trekking to the peak. All members of their guided party of eight successfully reached the summit of Africa's highest mountain (19,300'). Weltzien's riveting program includes many personal stories as well as fabulous photos of Nairobi and the incredible flora, trees and fauna in Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater and Kilimanjaro National Park.

Weltzien has been "obsessed with mountains" all his life, climbing and backpacking extensively in western Montana and Washington. He has authored a new study of Pacific Northwest volcanoes titled "Exceptional Mountains" which will be published next year. A book of poems about his African experiences, "To Kilimanjaro and Back," will be released next month.

Day Trips

All trips are weather-dependent and subject to last minute cancellation.

Show & Go Monday morning trips: Join Barb on short hikes in the Helena area. Meet at 9:00 am at Center Stage near Van's IGA on Euclid. 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 next to Birds & Beasleys across from the L&C Library. Hike on Mt. Helena or Ascension trails. Call JoAnne (449-7971) for details.

Show & Go Tuesday evening paddling: If you would like to join this relaxed group of flat water kayakers or want more information, call Susan Nimick (443-5980) or email her: snimick@mt.net.

Saturday, September 10: moonlight kayak trip on the Missouri, from Mid-Canon to Prewett Creek (8 miles). Meeting at 7:00 pm. Call JoAnne (449-7971) for meeting place.

Saturday, September 17: day hike to Our Lake, west of Choteau. This popular 7-mile (round trip) hike in the Rocky Mountain Front is considered moderate with 1,500 ft. elev. gain. Outstanding scenery and excellent opportunity to view wildlife! Meet at the Choteau Visitor Center at 9:15 am or at the trailhead at 10:00 am. Call Helen (461-6741) for carpooling from Helena and details.

Sunday, September 25: day hike to MT. Blackmore, south of Bozeman. A good 11 miles round trip, this hike is classified as strenuous with 3,500 ft elev. gain and takes about 6-7 hours. Excellent views at the top with a good chance at spotting mountain goats along the way. Meeting at 7:30 am. Call Helen (461-6741) for meeting place.

Weekend trip:

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.

Friday evening-Sunday, Sept. 30 - Oct. 2: Camping at Pine Creek Campground, south of Livingston. Most people will arrive on Friday but you may join us at any time. Reserve your own campsite and share meals.

On Saturday, we plan to **hike** to Pine Creek Lake, a steep 5-mi. climb up the east side of Paradise Valley to the beautiful alpine lake beneath 10,941-ft Black Mountain. Lots of scenic vistas and potential of wildlife sightings. If you're not camping, meet us at the campground at 8:00 am.

On Sunday, we may take it easy, hike or possibly **kayak** on the Yellowstone River with JoAnne. Call Helen (461-6741) for camping & hiking details, and JoAnne for boating details (449-7971).

Community Events

Friday, September 16, 5:30– 9:00 pm: Coalition to Protect the Rocky Mountain Front Annual BBQ at the Chateau Country Club. For details and to RSVP, contact Holly Baker (406-466-2600) or email her at hbaker@wildmontana.org.

Saturday, September 24, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm: 4th Annual Helena Outdoors Fest, hosted by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks at Spring Meadow Lake State Park and the Montana Wild Center. Join in the free family activities and hands-on clinics such as fishing, geocaching, rafting, kayaking, climbing, archery, backcountry/outdoor skills, and much more. For more information, go to <http://fwp.mt.gov/events/helenaOutdoorsFest.html>.

Sneak October Preview

Saturday, October 8: hiking or mountain biking in the Sun River Game Range, west of Augusta, with Monique (photo at right).

Saturday, October 15: hiking to Humbug Spires, south of Butte, with Helen.

Let us know where you'd like to go! We're always looking for adventures to new places and for co-leaders.

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!

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!



Tom and Linda mountain biking in the Sun River Game Range with Castle Ridge in the background. Photo by Monique Mandali.

Enjoy the last few weeks of summer!