

Idaho Alpine Club Bulletin

Volume 44 - Issue Number 4 - April 2004

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Bicycling

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Jeff Coward 522-8135

Kayaking

Rob Mullin 524-3594

Canoeing

John Page 356-6486

Sue Page 356-5118

Rafting

Greg Hulet 523-6199

Trail Maintenance

Open

Day Hiking

Mark/Donna Whitham 520-1728

Please mail completed common adventure forms to the secretary.

General Club Meeting

Held at **7:30 P.M.** on the first Wednesday of each month, normally in the large meeting room of the Idaho Falls Public Library.

NO GENERAL MEETING IN JULY.

Membership Fees

	Full Year	July 1 - October 1
Individuals:	\$20	\$15
Family:	\$25	\$20

After October 1, the payment of full year fee applies to the following year. Full-time students (18 or older) and seniors (65 or older): \$5 off the above fee schedule.

Council Meetings and Bulletin Deadline

Council Meetings held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM

April Council Meeting: Tim & Betsy Adkison's
155 Chatham Drive

May Council Meeting: Barb Brown's
201 West Commons Road

Materials for inclusion in the next bulletin are due by the weekend before the council meetings.

Please send electronically to the bulletin editor at editor@idahoalpineclub.org

May Deadline is Midnight April 18

RAILS TO TRAILS

Wednesday, April 7, 2004, 7:30 PM at the Idaho Falls Library

NOTE: IAC General Meeting time change to 7:30 due to change in library closing time.

The purpose of Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) is to enrich America's communities and countryside by creating a nationwide network of public trails from former rail lines and connecting corridors. Jeff Coward, one of the IAC's bicycling coordinators is going to provide a presentation about Idaho's "Rails To Trails". The presentation will include footage highlighting the Hiawatha Trail in northern Idaho. The Hiawatha is one of the planned IAC bicycle trips this summer. The 2004 bike schedule, that Jeff and Michelle have planned for the summer, will be available at the program. Jeff also has videos of the "Ride the Rockies" bike race among others in case anyone would like to watch those at the end of the regular program.

For information about the "Rails to Trails Conservancy" check out its website at: www.railtrails.org.

The presentation is open to the public and all outdoor enthusiasts are invited to attend. For more information contact programs@idahoalpineclub.org or check out the club website at www.idahoalpineclub.org or call D. Whitham at 520.1728.

President Speaks

Hi everyone - The snow is rapidly disappearing, which makes some outdoor types happy, but I hate to give up skiing yet. In any event, check out the spring and summer schedules in this month's bulletin and schedule yourself for some trips, and sign up too. If the trip leader doesn't get any responses the trip may not go and if the trip has to be cancelled suddenly you will be notified.

I mentioned last month that I was off for 10 days in Montana for some x-c and downhill skiing. One of our members, who shall remain unnamed, was poaching powder when downhill skiing and lost track of where the lifts were. It took the ski patrol an hour to find him and 30 minutes by snowmobile to bring him back. While waiting for him, with the temperature dropping and dark coming, I started thinking that most of us, when downhill skiing, don't have the extra clothes, food, water, etc that we carry when out on more IAC type activities. But then how many of us have gone out for a short hike, bike ride, canoe trip, or x-c ski without emergency supplies? Even on a short trip things can happen, so be prepared.

I would like to try to do some mid-week hikes and overnight backpack or car camping trips this summer. If anyone would like to participate let me know at 522-6128 or gah@ida.net.

See you at the meeting - Garney

IAC Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 03/23/2004

Invitees: Tim Adkison, Betsy Adkison, Michelle Benson, Jeff Coward, Barbara Brown, George Cole, Gary Vecellio, Garney Hardy (Attendees are underlined.)

Note Taker: Jeff Coward

- 1) Meeting call to order: 7:40 pm
- 2) Reading of previous month meeting minutes: approved.
- 3) Treasurer's Report:
Income:\$226.07
Expenses:\$1,193.45 (includes \$1,074.85 for new raft)
Members to Date: 74
- 4) Old Business:
IAC club window stickers (Jeff)
Stickers should be picked up for next meeting.

Preparation of old bulletins for CD scanning
(Barbara/Jeff)

Scanning and indexing of the first group is in progress.

Sample images will be selected for review and comments.

Raft purchase (Greg Hulet)

A new raft has been purchased with some of the rafting fund money.

Old raft for sale. Anyone interested in purchasing it can contact the rafting coordinator for details.

5) New Business:

Preparation for August picnic

Tim volunteered to check on getting Sealander Park for the August picnic location.

National Trails Day - June 5

We have not yet received word on the status of the grants for trail maintenance or the Harriman project.

We will check with Donna for updates and/or any plans she might have for a project for this year.

Highway Cleanup

The spring cleanup of our section of Highway 31 is scheduled for May 15th.

CPR class

Donna is working on this.

April General Meeting snacks: Jeff

April council meeting at: Tim & Betsy Adkison's
155 Chatham Drive

May council meeting at: Barb Brown's
201 West Commons Road

Meeting adjourned:8:15 pm

April 22 - CPR Class

American Heart Association Community Adult CPR will be offered to club members as a one night class. The AHA CPR class is a 2 year certification upon completion of the class. It is priced at \$20 / Person and will be taught by Joe Nickols who has taught the class for the IAC previously. The class is limited to a maximum of 12 students. Fees are due and payable to the IAC upon sign-up. Class is planned to be from 6PM to 10PM, however depending on how many of us are renewing our certifications, class could be much shorter. CPR is strongly recommended for trip leaders. For more information and to sign up, contact the Whithams at 208.520.1728 or dayhike@idahoalpineclub.org.

April 28 - Backpacking Idaho

**Douglas Lorain Book Signing & Slide Show
From Alpine Peaks to Desert Canyons
Multi Day Loop and Through Trips
Idaho Mountain Trading at 7:30 PM
Donation: \$1 per Person or \$2 per Family
Proceeds go to Idaho Alpine Club**

May 15 - Highway Clean-up

Spring is here and it is that time to don the stylish bright orange vests that the Idaho highway department provides, to fill matching bright orange bags with all the trash accumulated over the winter on the IAC section of Highway 31 between mile posts 6 & 8. Sturdy work boots and work gloves are required. Afterward, we are planning a finger food potluck picnic at the Victor Park, followed by a bike ride on the bike trails which leave from the park. The ride will be between 16 and 27 miles. For more details and to sign up contact the Whithams at programs@idahoalpineclub.org or 520.1728.

Dayhike Schedule

April 17 - Angels Landing: Short, steep, awesome views from the top. 2.5 miles one way with a 1,488 ft. elevation gain. We are itching for some camping and some hiking so we are heading down to Zion National Park. The plan is to leave Idaho Falls on the 15th after work and arrive at Zion on Friday morning. We are going to car camp at Watchman camp ground and explore the canyon a bit on Friday, hike up to the Landing on Saturday, then drive home on Sunday. Las Vegas is only a few hours away. For information on the park: <http://www.nps.gov/zion/home.htm> and for Angels Landing photos check out this website: <http://www.veiks.com/hiking/angelslanding/2697.html> Anyone going will be responsible for their own lodging or camping reservations. Contact Mark or Donna for more information at 520.1728 or dayhike@idahoalpineclub.org.

April 10 or 11 - Big Southern Butte via Webb Springs. Date will depend on date of Yellowstone ride. Annual early season conditioner to the lookout tower on top of Big Southern. Approximately 2 miles with a 2,000 foot elevation gain. Stout leather hiking boots mandatory. The basalt and obsidian terrain is rough on boots. Wind can be pretty much expected, we had 66 mph wind with 100 mph gusts by the time we reached the summit last time. This year, if the wind is blowing in excess of 25 mph at the INEEL site in the morning, the hike will be called off or will be at Hells. Contact Mark or Donna Whitham for more information and to sign up at 520.1728 or dayhike@idahoalpineclub.org.

May 16 - Flower Power: Day hike and learn some of the local flora. The location of the hike will depend on how warm the weather continues to be. The Mink Creek Gibson Jack trail near Pocatello is the planned destination. A car shuttle will be necessary. We will have some of our favorite guides and photos we have taken of flowers while out on the trails, to help identify flowers we see along the trail. There will be a test at the end of the hike to see how well everyone pays attention. Contact Mark or Donna Whitham for more information and to sign up at 520.1728 or dayhike@idahoalpineclub.org.

Backpacking Schedule

July 2-5 - White Cloud Mtns, Chamberlain Basin. Leave Idaho Falls on Friday after work and camp at the trail head. Backpack into Chamberlain Basin on Saturday morning, explore the basin on Sunday, then hike out and return to Idaho Falls on Monday. The 9 mile hike in is strenuous and goes over the Chamberlain Divide. The views are awesome of Castle and Merriam Peaks. Contact Mark or Donna Whitham for more information and to sign up at 520.1728 or Backpack@idahoalpineclub.org.

August 20 - 29 - Big Horn Crags Part 2: Reflection Lake, Turquoise Lake, Buck and Doe Lakes are all in a part of the Crags we haven't been into before. Ask for the time off at work now so you can come explore with us. The trail has been recently redone so it gently contours into that section of the Crags. Contact Mark or Donna Whitham for more information and to sign up at 520.1728 or Backpack@idahoalpineclub.org.

Run / Walk Races (for early season conditioning)

May 2, 2004 - Lilac Bloomsday, Spokane, WA - 12k run. <http://www.bloomsdayrun.org>

June 19, 2004: Scenic River Classic - 5k/10k run/walk <http://www.dwinc.org/run/>

June 5 - National Trails Day Project

This year's project is tentatively planned near Ririe Reservoir so mark your calendars for a fun trail work day. Details will be in the May and June bulletins.

Open Boat Practice

The Idaho Falls Aquatic Center is available for kayaking practice from 8:30 to 10PM on Mondays. Beginning March 20, alternating Saturday afternoons from 4:30 to 6:30PM will also be available until May 24, with the exception of April 17. Admission is \$5.30, exact change is required. Kayakers must provide their own boats & gear. Pool will close if no one shows up in first half hour.

Rafting Schedule

April 24-25, South Fork camping (class I-II, weather dependant). Must provide personal gear and boat. Contact Jim Lee, 524-5836

May 29-31, Annual Memorial Day float near Shoup (class III). Camp at Spring Creek campground. Pot luck dinner Saturday and Sunday night. Contact Greg Hulet 523-6199

June 5 (approx.), Fall River (class III-IV), Flow dependent, Whoever wants to go should call early and be flexible because the window for the right water level has been short. Contact Greg Hulet 523-6199

June 18, Blackfoot river (flow dependant, class III). Contact Jim Lee, 524-5836

June 23-27, Sunbeam day section (class III). Camp at O'Brien campground. Contact Jim Lee, 524-5836

July 17, Alpine Canyon (class III), Group permit required so sign up early. Contact Greg Hulet, 523-6199

Other Alpine Canyon trips will be scheduled, but group will be held to less than the number required for a permit. Call around to see who might be going.

July 21-25, South Fork Boise river (class III-IV). Camp near Danskin bridge. Contact Jim Lee, 524-5836

Aug 14, Henry's Fork (class III), Riverside campground to Hatchery Ford, Contact Jim Lee, 524-5836.

Mountaineering Schedule

April 24 - Snow School: So you've bought that shiny new ice ax, and now you're wondering what to do with it? Do you want to climb Everest someday? Or are you just tired of having to turn around when you hit the snow in the Tetons? Well then, come out for a fun day of sliding down the mountain. We will be covering the basics of ice ax and crampon use. Self-arrest, self-belay, rest step, glissading, and rope team travel will be covered. This class is a great introduction for beginning mountaineers, and an excellent way for more advanced climbers to review skills. If there is still snow at Kelly's canyon we will hold the school there, otherwise we may have to go up to Teton Pass. Bring your climbing harness, ice ax, and crampons. Don't have an ice ax and crampons? Don't let that stop you, we'll scrounge some up some for you. Call Eric Larsen (522-9354) or Kevin Coble (529-8142) for more information and meeting times.

May 20 - 23 - Mount Hood, Oregon: Mount Hood, at 11,239, is the tallest mountain in Oregon and one of the most prominent of the Cascade Volcanos. It's also a great introduction to glacier climbing. The plan is to leave IF Thursday the 20th after work and spend the night in a hotel in Boise. Friday we will drive to Government Camp, Oregon, and set up camp at the campground there. If time permits we will drive up to Timberline Lodge for a quick skills review. Then it's off to bed for an EARLY wake-up call. We will try and start climbing by midnight. The route up will be the standard South Side/Hogsback Ridge route. We should hit the summit about sunrise for some fantastic views of Mts. Rainier, Adams, Jefferson, and St. Helens. The round trip climb should take about 10-12 hours. After the climb, we can either drive back to IF on Saturday, or send an extra night and return on Sunday.

The route is a relatively easy glacier climb, but it is very strenuous. It's just over 5000' from base to summit. It's equivalent to Mt. Borah for physical stamina, with the added element of climbing roped and in crampons in the dark. Basic knowledge of ice ax and crampon use is required (snow school on April 24th would be perfect), as well as excellent physical conditioning. But if you're up to it, it's a great climb on a fantastic peak. This trip is limited to 8 climbers.

Keep in mind, the snow in May on Hood is generally good, but the weather can be really bad. The trip leaders will be monitoring the weather leading up to the departure date and may cancel/postpone the trip at the last minute. After all, who wants to drive 10 hours just to watch it rain?

For more information call Eric Larsen (522-9354) or Kevin Coble (529-8142).

Raptor Closures:

From American Alpine Club E-news Spring is just around the corner—on the calendar, if not necessarily in your area—so thoughts begin to turn from ice climbing and winter ascents to warm rock and alpine climbs. However, it's also mating and nesting time for falcons and other cliff-dwelling birds. We need to do all we can to ensure these majestic birds bounce back in number, so before heading out for your latest climb, check to see if your favorite formation is closed for seasonal raptor nesting. The Access Fund maintains the most comprehensive nationwide list at http://www.accessfund.org/access/access_restrictions.html

Find Escaped Ski - Earn \$25 Ski escaped from top of Table Mountain on March 2004. Lime green, Rossingnol, backcountry touring ski, size 178, with BC NNN bindings. Look for it on the south facing side of Table Mountain about a quarter mile west of the summit. May be at or near the bottom of Roaring Fork. Contact Jerry Painter for more details jpainter@postregister.com.

Bicycling Schedule

Note: If anyone has any rides that they would like to do that are not listed, or any other information of interest, please contact the Idaho Alpine Club bicycling coordinators, Jeff Coward, at 522-8135 (home) or 529-0775 (work) or jdc1100@srv.net or Michelle Benson at 525-3228. Both can be contacted at bicycling@idahoalpineclub.org Your ideas and input are always welcome. Dates for IAC rides are bolded.

April 10 (Saturday) (or April 11, Sunday - contact Jeff Coward with preference). Yellowstone Park ride This is planned as a ride before the park opens to normal automobile traffic. There will be a few cars belonging to the Park Service and concessionaires however. The start will be in West Yellowstone, and riders can ride into the park as far as the road is open, then back out. There is usually plenty of wildlife to see. Last year a river otter was spotted, as well as the usual birds, elk, and bison. There will be a few cars belonging to the Park Service and concessionaires however.

April 24 (Saturday) and April 25 (Sunday)

Teton Park ride This will be a ride along the road from the Moose visitor center to Jackson Lake dam before the road is open to motorized traffic. The starting point is usually the parking lot for the Taggart Lake trail head. Riders can go whatever distance they want. At least some riders usually go all the way to the dam, and the return can be on the Jenny Lake loop. If it is open, hard core types can climb up the Signal Mountain road. Contact Jeff for the Saturday ride. Since Saturdays ride conflicts with Snow School there will also be a ride on Sunday. Contact the Whithams for Sundays ride meeting place and time dayhike@idahoalpineclub.org.

Note: One of the two possible May 8-9 weekend ride locations will be selected, depending on the interest of other riders.

May 8 (Saturday) Lakeside Ride - Henry's Lake, Quake Lake, Hebgen Lake This ride is sponsored by the West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce. It is a 65 mile loop that starts and ends in West Yellowstone. The route goes west over Targhee Pass, then north past Henry's Lake over Reynolds Pass, then east along Quake Lake and Hebgen Lake, and south back to West Yellowstone. You get a t-shirt, dinner, and a chance to win door prizes. <http://wyyellowstone.com/bicycle/>

May 8-9 Annual Yellowstone Ride

This ride is sponsored by the Helena Bicycle Club. Details to follow.

May 8-9 STOKR - Scenic Tour of the Kootenai River

Note: If anyone is going to the STOKR ride, and/or if anyone is going to ride the 98 mile loop on the first day, please contact Jeff Coward. This ride is sponsored by the Kootenai Valley Partners Habitat for Humanity. There are two distance options for the first day - 45 miles or 98 miles. Both options start from Libby, Montana and head west along the scenic Kootenai River past Kootenai Falls. The 45 mile option then follows a meandering blue ribbon trout stream for a distance, then goes over a small farmland plateau and returns to Libby along the Kootenai River. The 98 mile option follows the Yaak River, past Yaak Falls and through remote countryside with little one room schoolhouses and bars like the Golden Nugget and the Dirty Shame. The route gradually climbs 4000 foot Pipe Creek pass for a scenic 25 mile descent back to Libby. The second day's route follows a 37 mile route out and back alongside the Kootenai River to Libby Dam and Lake Koocanusa along a private side road with little vehicle traffic. <http://www.libbymt.com/events/stokr.htm>

May 22-23 TOSRV-West - Tour of the Swan River Valley This ride is sponsored by the Missoulians on Bicycles. It goes from Missoula to Bigfork (just south of Kalispell) and back. There are 205 mile and 260 mile distance options. The scenery and food on this ride are second to none. You will need to be in shape for the distance however. A detailed route map and applications are available on the web site listed below. Printed copies can be obtained from the IAC cycling coordinators. <http://www.tosrvwest.org>
<http://www.missoulabike.org>

May 23, 2004 - Knobby Tire Series race #1, Coyote Classic - mountain bike race
<http://www.knobbytireseries.com/>

May 15/16 or 29/31 A possible ride in the Sun Valley & Ketchum area may be scheduled, possibly the Harriman Trail.

June 6 (Sunday) America's Most Beautiful Bike Ride - Lake Tahoe ride. This ride has several distance options, including 100 miles, 72 miles, and 40 miles and a boat cruise option. The boat cruise is available for non-cyclists as well. The scenery in the Lake Tahoe area is fantastic, and there are lots of mountain bike trails available as well. More information can be found at the link below. <http://www.bikethewest.com>

June 12 (Saturday) West Yellowstone to Warm River - mountain bike ride This ride is sponsored by the Idaho Alpine Club. It can be done either as a one day ride or a two day ride, depending on the preference of those interested. If done as a two day ride, the campground at Big Springs is the overnight stop. Most of the trail is

(Bike cont.) either nearly flat or downhill, since railroad grades are generally less than 3%. The only significant climbing is going up Reas Pass, and that is short. There are a few sections of loose sand or cinders and washboard sections, but even those are not overly difficult. Total mileage is about 55, with 27 of that from West Yellowstone to Big Springs. A possible side trip to Warm River Springs adds about 3 miles to the second half of the ride. This ride has excellent scenery. There is generally lots of wildlife as well as large meadows filled with wildflowers. A car shuttle is required on this ride.

June 19, 2004 - Kelly Canyon Challenge - mountain bike race. <http://www.knobbytireseries.com/>

June 26?? (date not yet known) - Tour of Marsh Creek Valley, Pocatello, ID This ride is sponsored by the Idaho Cycling Enthusiasts in Pocatello, Idaho. Several distance options available. <http://www.idahocycling.com>

July 11, 2004 - Tamarack Cross Country - mountain bike race <http://www.knobbytireseries.com/>

July ??-?? (dates not yet set - make your preferences known to Jeff Coward) Route of the Hiawatha rail trail (Taft Tunnel), Trail of the Couer d'Alenes, and Centennial Trail, Couer d'Alene to Spokane

This ride is sponsored by the Idaho Alpine Club. The ride starts near the Taft Exit 5 on I-90 near the Idaho - western Montana border. It is suitable for riders of all ages, since the outbound leg is all downhill and there is a shuttle back to the top for those who don't want to ride back up the 2% grade. The first thing you do is ride through the 8,700 foot long St. Paul Pass (or Taft) tunnel. Lights are required for this ride, as are trail passes. The passes are \$8 for adults, \$4 for children ages 3 to 13, with children under age 3 free. The shuttle cost is \$9 for adults and \$6 for children ages 3-13. There are many other tunnels and trestles, with views of the forested hills and mountains, and many streams in the valleys. There are also numerous trail signs detailing the local history of the area and the railroad. There is a small museum in Avery for those who want to ride a little farther. We may also visit the museum in Wallace if there is time. We will also ride at least part of the new Trail of the Couer d'Alenes - a 76 mile long paved trail on the old Union Pacific rail line through the Silver Valley and along Lake Couer d'Alene. The web sites below have maps and photos of these trails. We may also ride part or all of the Centennial Trail between Couer d'Alene and Spokane. If enough people want to go, I am planning on taking my motor home and boat so we can go boating on Lake

Couer d'Alene. Anyone who is interested in this trip should contact Jeff Coward.

http://www.skilookout.com/bike_home_page.html

http://www.skilookout.com/bike_lodging.html

lodging information

<http://wallace-id.com/skilookout/taft.html>

http://wallace-id.com/CdA_trail/index.html

New! Trail of the Couer d'Alenes, 76 mile paved trail!

<http://wallace-id.com/> -info on Wallace, map, etc.

<http://wallace-id.com/recreate.html#hiawatha>

http://friendsofcdatrails.org/photo_trail.html

http://friendsofcdatrails.org/links.html#ride_the_wall

<http://www.harrisonidaho.com/Maps/TrailMaps.html#Overview>

August 7-8 White Knob Challenge - mountain bike race

<http://www.knobbytireseries.com/>

August 14-15 Double Divide Ride - Montana

This ride is sponsored by the Helena Bicycle Club. It starts in Helena and heads west on US 12 over the Continental Divide, with a snack stop at the top of the climb, to the junction with Montana 141. The lunch stop is at Nevada Lake, and the routes continues northwest to the junction with Montana 200. Riders then head east to Lincoln for the dinner and overnight stop. The ride continues on Sunday east on 200 to the Flecher Pass road where the climb back over the Continental Divide begins. There is a snack stop at the top of the pass, then the riders continue back to Helena for a barbecue lunch. Mileage is about 89 miles on the first day and 52 on the second day. <http://www.helenabicycleclub.org>

August 21 Idaho State NORBA XC Finals at Soldier Mountain - mountain bike race

<http://www.knobbytireseries.com/>

September 12, 2004 (Sunday) Lake Tahoe ride Another chance to do this very scenic ride.

<http://www.bikethewest.com>

September 18-19 Tour des Lacs, Spokane, WA & Couer d'Alene, ID <http://www.roundandround.com>

October 1 - 3 Moab Century

<http://www.skinnytirefestival.com/>

October 2-3 Trail of the Couer d'Alenes Details to follow later. <http://www.helenabicycleclub.org>

October 9 Old Faithful ride This ride is sponsored by the West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce. It is a 65 mile in and out that starts and ends in West Yellowstone and goes to Old Faithful. You can ride in and back out, or you can ride one way and shuttle the other way. If you are doing that, I recommend shuttling in to Old Faithful and riding back out, as there is more downhill that way. You get a t-shirt, dinner, and a chance to win door prizes. <http://wyellowstone.com/bicycle/>

October 18, 2003 (Saturday) (should be on the same date for 2004, will be updated later) Las Vegas / Red Rocks Century <http://www.vegاسبikeclub.org/>

York Road construction situation: The road is closed except for local traffic between S 5th W (Rollandet - the road on the west side of Tautphus Park) and S 15th W (the road that goes past the east side of the Budweiser plant). One bridge is half gone, and there will soon be several dozen trenches, holes, ruts, and assorted bomb craters in the pavement if the paint on the asphalt is any indication. Jeff will update us on alternate routes after checking them out.

Weekday Bicycling

Of perhaps interest to some of the club membership -- retirees, shift workers, and housewives or house husbands, or worker bees wanting to take a morning off -- is this year's continuation of the Tuesday morning rides. These are not Alpine Club sponsored rides but many of the participants are members. If you're not on the "bike2004" e-list and would like to be, let me know (barbbrown212@msn.com).

We're putting together a very tentative Tuesday morning ride schedule starting April 13th. Unless the participation changes a lot, these rides are fairly social, NOT even semi-hard-core. Riders are mostly retired folk—some in a lot better shape than others. All sorts of bikes: mountain, hybrid, road, an occasional tandem or recumbent. Generally we're back after a 2-3 hours and only ride 15-25 miles, usually with shorter and longer options at rates ranging from 10 up to 15(?) mph. We try to keep track of laggards but not the 50-milers. They're on their own! We do try not to leave anyone completely alone unless they're equipped with a cell phone or radio or legs of steel.

Everyone is responsible for his or her own extra tubes and rudimentary tool kit (and skin repair kit). Real mechanics are not provided in the event of flat tires, etc. Helpful advice and unhelpful comments are. Note that I am not a "leader." I often ride "sweep" mostly because I can't keep up with the legs-of-steel crowd!

Notification of meeting place and alternative route details is generally sent by the Sunday evening previous to the ride. We begin riding at 9 am during April to

beat the cold; 8 am in May to beat the wind; 7:30 am (and earlier for those farther away) in July and August to beat the heat. If we're still riding in September and October, we'll meet later again.

The rationale is to pick a local meeting place in the spring and early summer such that we can ride either north or south depending on the wind forecast (so as to ride into the wind on the way out). Once the variable spring weather settles (dreaming), we'll plan some rides to the north and farther from Idaho Falls.

In the past 3-4 years, about a third of our scheduled rides in the spring have been weathered out or severely shortened—usually because of wind. When conditions are good, they're very, very good. When they're bad, they're horrid. Generally if a ride is weathered out, we'll re-schedule it for later in the season. If I'm not willing to ride, I send last minute notice on the morning of the ride. But that doesn't mean the hard-core contingent has to cancel!

Notes Of Interest...

Eastern Idaho XC Ski Guides and Maps Available on the Idaho Falls Ski Club Website: <http://ifskiclub.com> (These also make good biking & hiking trails in the summer, printed on 8.5"x11" paper). www.Delorme.com kindly allows the ski club to use these maps.

Teton Park Rd. Open for Spring Activities

Due to recent mild weather and rapid snow plowing progress, the Teton Park Road in Grand Teton National Park is now open to hikers, bikers, inline skaters and other non-motorized activities from the Taggart Lake parking area to Signal Mountain. The southern portion of Jenny Lake Scenic Loop Road from String Lake to the junction with Teton Park Road (the one-way section) was plowed 3.22.2004 and may have patches of snow and ice until more melting occurs. For the next 6 weeks, non-motorized users need to be alert for administrative vehicles occasionally traveling the roadway. Both the Teton Park Road and the Moose- Wilson Road will open to vehicle traffic on May 1.

The annual springtime opening of the Teton Park Road is a much anticipated event for local residents and visitors. It allows for a unique and excellent opportunity to enjoy access to the roadway before vehicle traffic begins for the coming summer season.

Leashed dogs are permitted on the Teton Park Road, Antelope Flats Road, Moose-Wilson Road and other park roads and byways. Dogs are restricted to roadways and turnouts – they are not permitted to travel beyond fifty feet from roadbeds or into the park's backcountry. Rangers will closely monitor park roadways and violators may receive citations. Owners failing to keep pets on a leash (six foot maximum length) may force the prohibition of dogs on the Teton Park Road during this popular time. Mutt Mitt stations are in place at the

Taggart Lake parking area; pet owners are reminded to use waste disposal bags to pick up after their dogs.

As a reminder, entrance stations are operating and collecting fees. Fee options are as follows: \$10 7-day Pass for bicycle entry into Grand Teton & Yellowstone national parks \$20 7-day Pass for vehicle entry into Grand Teton & Yellowstone national parks \$40 Annual Parks Pass valid for one-year entry into Grand Teton & Yellowstone \$50 National Parks Pass valid for one-year entrance to all national park units \$ 5 Satellite Pass used in conjunction with either a National Parks or Annual Parks Pass to allow entry into Grand Teton only for family members traveling in a separate vehicle When entering the park using a pass, please be sure to bring personal identification.

The Grassy Lake Road within the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway is closed to all motorized vehicles from April 1 to May 31, due to springtime grizzly bear activity.

This website is a good source for plants although you do need to have an idea of what plant family you are looking for: <http://plants.usda.gov/>

Web Site News

If you haven't noticed, the IAC web site (www.IdahoAlpineClub.org) has recently been redesigned. For your convenience, the most recent club bulletins are included as well as all the posted club activities. Additionally, you can:

- Download membership applications and Common Adventure Release forms in PDF format.
- Look up contact information for club officers and activity coordinators
- Read the club By-Laws
- Search the club classified ads or post you own ad
- View pictures from recent club activities
- Find out what the 10 E's are anyway?
- Check out club members' Restaurant Reviews or submit your own review
- Find links to other cool outdoor websites
- Activity coordinators and officers wishing to publish information on the web site can contact the IAC Webmaster (George Cole) at 522-4084 or Webmaster@IdahoAlpineClub.org

IAC Logo T-Shirts!!

Short sleeves or long sleeves, crew neck, heather grey Dri Release material with embroidered club logo! Short sleeve \$12 each. Long sleeve \$21 each. Sizes Small, Medium, Large, and X-Large. The shirts are available at the monthly meetings, but if you just can't wait until the next meeting, contact Michelle Benson to get yours sooner.

Club Member Benefits

10 % discount on (non sale) outdoor equipment at the following stores:

Idaho Mountain Trading - Shoup & B

Idaho Falls - 523-6679

K & R Adventure Gear - 522-5279

or 877-369-7407 www.knradventuregear.com

Canyon Whitewater Supply

450 S Yellowstone Idaho Falls-522-3932

Free Heel and Wheel,

40 Yellowstone Ave. West Yellowstone, Montana, 406-646-7744.

Discounts on Jerry Painter's Hiking and Biking guide books

Alpine Club Rental Gear is available to paid-up members. Call the appropriate coordinator for more information.

North Face VE-24 tent--George Cole

Climbing helmets & Ice axes--

Caving helmets-- Dean K.

Carbide lamps, Clinometer & compass for cave mapping--Dean K.

Rafting equipment --Greg Hulet

Stone Walls Rock Gym - 528.8610

Winter Hours are 12 p.m.-9p.m. Monday-Thursday

12-10p.m. Friday and Saturday 12- 5 Sundays.

The gym offers a \$1 daily pass discount to Alpine Club members.

Newsletter Advertising

Members: Free space is usually available for members' ads for used or needed equipment. Free space (up to half pages depending on space) is also available to businesses that offer discounts to members.

Nonmembers: Half page ad - \$25

12 half-page ads, purchased at the same time - \$20 each for a total of \$240

Full-page ad - \$40 12 full-page ads purchased at the same time \$33.34 each for a total of \$400.

Coming...

Thursday Night Climbing Schedule

Kid Hikes

Full Dayhike and Backpacking Schedule

Spring Trip Reports