

# Idaho Alpine Club Bulletin

Volume 48 - Issue Number 1 - January 2008

BACKPACK DAYHIKE BIKE CLIMB MOUNTAINEER XC-SKI SNOWSHOE AND RAFT WITH US

web site: [www.idahoalpineclub.org](http://www.idahoalpineclub.org)

e-mail: [info@idahoalpineclub.org](mailto:info@idahoalpineclub.org)

## 2008 Council

President	Mark Whitham	520-7232
Vice-president	Teak Cummings	524-5136
	Jeff Coward	522-8135
Secretary	Jerry Painter	523-9428
Treasurer	Ken Krivanek	528-8224

## Members-at-Large

Jim McBride	529-0586
Holly Preslar	359-1418
Jo Ann Sherwin	528-6489

## Council Meetings:

Council Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM

Upcoming Council Meetings:

1.10.2008: Jim McBride's home, 1935 South Blvd.

## Activity Coordinators:

Backpacking	Sam Pole	523-4970
Bicycling	Jeff Coward	522-8135
Climbing/Mountaineering		
	Kevin Coble	529-8142
	Eric Larsen	522-9354
Conservation	Open	787-2601
Cross-Country Skiing / Snowshoeing		
	Whithams	520-1728
Day Hiking	Sam Pole	523-4970
Rafting	Greg Hulet	523-6199
Trail Maintenance	Alan Crockett	529-5188
Bulletin Editor	Donna Whitham	520-1728
Bulletin Assistant	Mark Whitham	520-7232
Publicity	Open	787-2601
Historian/Librarian	Barbara Brown	522-8977
WebMaster	George Cole	522-4064
Program	Bob Tyler	787-2601

## 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.

## FEBRUARY Bulletin Deadline is:

### **5 PM on January 10**

Materials for inclusion in the next bulletin are due by the 10th of the month due to bulk mailer deadlines.

Please send electronically to the bulletin editor at [editor@idahoalpineclub.org](mailto:editor@idahoalpineclub.org)

Note: Hand written or hard copy material will be included in the bulletin, time permitting.

## IDAHO ALPINE CLUB GENERAL MEETING

### "Rafting the Grand Canyon"

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2007, 7:30 PM

### IDAHO FALLS LIBRARY

Rob Thornberry and Martin Moore recently spent 18 days ushering a raft down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. They put in at Lee's Ferry in late season on October 24, 2007 and took out at Diamond Creek on November 10, 2007. This meant their party of 4 rafts and 2 kayaks had shorter days and longer nights than they would have experienced during the height of the summer season, but they were rewarded with increased solitude because of fewer people on the river. The trip was a "do it yourself trip". Rob, the outdoor editor for the Post Register for the last 17 years, and Martin, a CH2M-WG Idaho LLC employee, along with the rest of their party, had to plan the trip themselves; from obtaining the rafts and organizing the equipment to planning the food and cooking their meals. Through their slides, Rob and Martin will convey the beauty and excitement of rafting the Grand Canyon so come and enjoy.

The meeting is open to the public and all outdoor enthusiasts are invited to attend. For more information contact [programs@idahoalpineclub.org](mailto:programs@idahoalpineclub.org), log onto the club website at [www.idahoalpineclub.org](http://www.idahoalpineclub.org), or contact Bob Tyler at 787-2601.

## President Speaks

While we are cognizant that some of our members are active participants in all types of outdoor recreation, the greater majority of our members participate in primarily silent / non-motorized sports. As a silent sports recreationist living in Idaho Falls, do you ever feel like you suffer from an inferiority complex? Have you noticed that the local shops catering to dirt biking, four-wheeling, snowmobiling and jet skiing enthusiasts are city block size affairs that dwarf the small shops that cater to our activities? Have you ever heard Jackson folks smugly refer to us as living behind the spud curtain as though we are infected with a potato nematode that makes us forever uncool? Ever notice that we lack a safe network of bike paths around our city, unlike Jackson, Ketchum and Boise?

If it feels like we've been relegated to mediocrity and irrelevance by virtue of where we live, it's time for a little self respect.

Along with Idaho State University's Outdoor Club and Teton Valley Trails and Pathways, the Idaho Alpine Club is one of the few silent sports outdoor clubs in the state and, unlike ISU's club, we sponsor monthly speaker presentations. We have climbing and boating members who can stand head to head with non-professional recreationists anywhere else in the country. Our community boasts one of the largest ski clubs in the country with a couple thousand members.

Idaho Falls has several organized weekly group bike rides in the summer months as well as an active racing community and a newly- formed group is addressing the bike path problem. So relax and take pride in what we have accomplished and anticipate a future that holds great promise for the kind of recreation we enjoy. Bob Tyler

## **XCSkiing / Snowshoeing**

Contact the Withams 520.1728 or, [xcski@idahoalpineclub.org](mailto:xcski@idahoalpineclub.org) for trip information, meeting location, and to sign up to go on a scheduled trip, unless otherwise indicated in the trip descriptions. Additional trips to be added during the winter depending on conditions.

**January 5 XCSki: Brimstone:** The trailhead is a Park-n-Ski area and is located ¼ mile north of the Island Park Ranger Station near Ponds Lodge Resort. There are four large loops that are classified as beginner to intermediate. The terrain varies from gentle grades to downhill runs through tree groves. There are nine miles of trail in this area and offer views of the Island Park Reservoir, Box Canyon, and the Buffalo River.

**January 6 XCSki/Harriman State Park:** Meet at the park to Classic or skate ski the over 10 miles of groomed trails at Harriman State Park. Day pass is \$2 plus parking fee approx. \$3.

**January 26 XCSki/Kelly Canyon Nordic Ski Trails:** Meet at 10:00 A.M. at the Kelly Canyon Nordic Skiers Parking Lot. We'll also visit Heise Hot Springs after skiing if there is enough interest. To sign up to go on this trip, call: Bob Tyler, 787-2601.

**February 17 XCSki/Harriman State Park:** Meet at the park to Classic or skate ski the over 10 miles of groomed trails at Harriman State Park. Day pass is \$2 plus parking fee approx. \$3.

**March 9 XCSki: Ricks Basin:** Depending on conditions we will skate or XC ski on the groomed Nordic trails at Grand Targhee Resort. There are 10 miles of groomed trails that range from beginner to advanced. Day passes are \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors or children.

**March 15 Snowshoe/Teton Park:** Snowshoeing in Teton Park in the winter is an excellent time to see wildlife and/or signs of wildlife in the snow. Join us on a late winter trip in to Phillips Lake or Bradley Taggart or maybe Signal Mt. Area. Park entrance fees or Park pass may be necessary. Plan to eat in Jackson afterwards.

## **PARK 'N' SKI INFORMATION**

While we all would prefer to ski free, Park N' Ski permits have financed much of the cross-country skiing development in Idaho during the past several years. Purchasing a pass provides a funding source for ski clubs and agencies interested in maintaining and developing cross-country skiing facilities. Services offered to skiers vary from year to year depending on volunteer support, donations and revenue generated through the sale of Park N' Ski permits. Poor snow years and no support of the program often translate into low income, thus reduced services. When you purchase a \$25 annual permit, or a 3- day temporary permit for \$7.50, the money is dedicated by law to be used exclusively for improving cross-country skiing opportunities. When skiers purchase a permit, they are asked to designate a specific Park N' Ski area they would like to see improved.

For more information about the Park 'N' Ski Pick up a guide at one of the permit sellers in Idaho Falls, Pocatello, or Island Park. Two of the permit sellers in Idaho Falls are:

Idaho Mountain Trading 474 Shoup Ave Idaho Falls 523.6679

Eastern Idaho Visitor Info 505 Lindsay Blvd Idaho Falls 523.1012

Please note: Ponderosa and Harriman State Parks are no longer apart of the Park N' Ski program. These parks provide Premium Nordic experiences and are subject to Premium Nordic Ski Grooming Fees.

The US Forest Service Ashton/Island Park District plans to continue grooming all the ski trails at Buffalo/Brimstone, Bear Gulch/Mesa Falls and Fall River Ridge on a weekly basis depending on snow conditions.

**Bear Gulch/Mesa Falls** – Last year a new trail was established between the Lower Falls and the snowmobile trail leading to the Upper Falls. The new trail is on the east side of the main snowmobile trail and was established because snowmobiles were routinely trashing the set tracks along the canyon rim. To find the trail, leave the south entrance to the Lower Falls scenic overlook and cross the snowmobile trail by the large entrance sign.

Many that ski the canyon rim to the Lower Falls return to the Bear Gulch parking lot via the snowmobile trail because the return loop has been hard to find and has sometimes been trashed by snowmobiles. A couple of years ago the Forest Service rerouted loop 2 from the Lower Falls view area through the campground (the trail initially follows the road through the campground). This makes for a much more pleasant ski.

For a few years, the return route of Loop 1 has been difficult to follow: it was poorly marked and blocked by trees. This year volunteers cleared and marked this trail so it can be skied on the return and making it much more preferable to the snowmobile trail.

**Fall River Ridge** - A work party recently cleared and marked Loop 3 at Fall River Ridge and it currently has the most snow around, 6 inches as of November 28.

**Brimstone/Buffalo River** – The trails were at least partly cleared by a Forest Service fire crew this year. There are no changes, but if you haven't skied the Buffalo River Loop, check it out. It is on the east side of the highway and starts from the Island Park Forest Service Office parking lot. It is a winter interpretive trail, easy to ski and great for kids.

## **East Idaho XC-Ski Guides & Maps**

Kelly Canyon XC Ski and Snowshoe trails are included in the new black and white Kelly Canyon Nordic area brochure that will be available locally and at the trailhead. A full color version of the current map can be downloaded from the IF Ski Club's web site, [www.ifskiclub.com](http://www.ifskiclub.com). Another new feature at Kelly is the large parking lot and permanent toilet at the Y-Junction which were provided under a grant request approved and funded by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Off Road Motor Vehicle Fund. Additional area maps are available on the Idaho Falls Ski Club Website:

<http://ifskiclub.com>

Bear Gulch-Mesa Falls Guide Map

Brimstone-Buffalo River Guide Map

Fall River Ridge Guide Map

Harriman State Park Guide Map

Harriman-Brimstone Connector Map

Kelly Canyon Nordic Area Guide Map

[www.Delorme.com](http://www.Delorme.com) kindly allows the ski club to use these maps.

## **AVALANCHE INTERNET SITES**

### **Cyberspace Snow & Avalanche Center**

This one stop site provides links to just about everywhere, plus tons of information about avalanche safety in the back-country:

<http://www.csac.org/>

#### **North America:**

<http://www.avalanche.org/>

#### **J a c k s o n   A r e a :**

<http://jhavalanche.org/>

#### **Bozeman Area:**

<http://www.mtavalanche.com/current/index.shtml>

#### **Island Park Area:**

<http://islandparksnow.net/>

### **Avalanche Safety Instruction:**

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

### **XC Ski Trail Conditions**

Lone Mountain Resort

[http://www.lmranch.com/lmr\\_content/winter/ski\\_cond.shtml](http://www.lmranch.com/lmr_content/winter/ski_cond.shtml)

Bohart Ski Ranch

<http://www.bohartranchxcski.com/weather.php>

Chief Joseph Ski Trail Conditions

<http://bitterrootxcskiclub.net/conditions.htm>

West Yellowstone

<http://www.rendezvouskitrails.com/report.html>

Rick's Basin (Grand Targhee)

<http://www.grandtarghee.com/winter/snowrpt.php>

Teton Valley (Driggs, Victor, Alta)

<http://www.tvtap.org/>

Harriman State Park

Phone: 208-558-7368

A web cam at Rainbow Reality gives you an idea of the snow on the ground conditions: <http://www.rainbw.com/>

Island Park Ranger District for Brimstone/Bufalo

Phone: 208-558-7301

Ashton Ranger District for Bear Gulch/Mesa Falls and Fall River Ridge

Phone: 208-652-7442

Mink Creek Nordic Grooming Report

<http://www.pokyxc.org/7128.html>

### **XC Ski Yellowstone National Park:**

Book Yellowstone Nordic Ski Packages which do offer discounts by calling the individual reservations office at 307-344-7311 and requesting the Nordic Heaven package. This will include a welcome gift, breakfast each day of the stay, a snowcard per person (good for 10% discounts on SELECT gift shop, food, snowcoach transportation, activities, and ski shop items), 1 full day ski rental per person, unlimited ski drops per person and 1 hour hot tub rental per room (at Mammoth only). This package is good at both Mammoth Hot Springs and Old Faithful Snow Lodge. Make reservations for snowcoach transportation into Old Faithful at the same time and receive 10% off with the snowcard.

### **Climbing**

For information on fall and winter trips, driving instructions, or to sign up to go, contact Kevin Coble at 529-8142 or Eric Larsen 522-9354.

Weekly climbing continues indoors at Stone Walls Climbing Gym. Contact Kevin to find out how to get on the email list for the weekly climbing night

### **Trail Etiquette & Safety**

- Be considerate of other traffic on all trails.
- Yield to skiers on a downhill run.
- Make every effort to clear the trail if you stop or fall.
- Do not walk or snowshoe on either skier set or machine set ski tracks on marked ski trails. Note: Skiers may choose to skin up or run down a snowshoe track that is marked or may even parallel a ski trail to avoid breaking trail but that is their choice.
- Ski under control always; avoid trails that are beyond your ability.
- Register your trip at the trail sign-in locations; use trail maps and signs to plan your trip.
- Let someone know where you will be and when you expect to return before leaving town. Then stick to those plans.
- Ski with a partner, especially on the ungroomed trails and back country ski runs.

- Make it a habit to carry the 10 "E's"; extra gear, water, snacks, flashlight, a compass and or a GPS (with extra batteries), trail or area maps, a cell phone (very poor reception if any except for on the ridge tops in most areas), and fire starting tools, even on short trips.

- Be aware that trail conditions can change greatly with changing snow, trail and weather conditions.

- Watch for and yield to trail grooming equipment.

- Keep your dogs under control (leash or in your immediate line of sight) and off of groomed tracks, and clean their refuse from the trail. Remember even other dog lovers do not care for someone else's dog showing up unsupervised, ill mannered, and leaving refuse in the trail.

### **Support merchants who Support the IAC**

Show your membership card for 10% discounts on regularly priced merchandise:

- ★ Idaho Mountain Trading  
523-6679  
Shoup & B, Idaho Falls
- ★ Canyon Whitewater Supply  
522-3932  
450 S Yellowstone, Idaho Falls
- ★ Alpine Schwinn 523-1226  
1352 S. Holmes Ave.
- ★ Bill's Bike Shop 522-3341  
805 S. Holmes Ave.
- ★ Lynna and Leland Howard offer members of IAC a 10% discount on all of their published books.  
357-1917 or 357-3166;  
[lyнна.howard@mac.com](mailto:lyнна.howard@mac.com)  
[leland@wildernessbooks.com](mailto:leland@wildernessbooks.com)
- ★ Stone Walls Rock Gym. \$1 off of Daily Rate. Call 528.8610 for information and winter hours.
- ★ Discounts on Jerry Painter's Hiking & Biking guide books

### **White Sale!!!!**

"All long sleeve white T-shirts are now \$14 instead of the normal \$21.

These would make a great gift for the hiker that has everything. We will not be ordering any more white; this is your last chance. Contact the club Treasurer for size availability and to buy now.

Dates to Remember:

January 2: General Meeting /Rafting the Grand Canyon

January 5 XCSki: Brimstone Trails

January 6 XCSki: Harriman State Park

January 26 XCSki: Kelly Canyon Nordic Ski Trails

February 2 XCSki: Ricks Basin

February 17 XCSki:Harriman State Park

March 9 XCSki: Ricks Basin

March 15 Snowshoe:Teton Park

Now you have no excuse,  
so get out there  
and experience it!

**Enjoy the outdoors with the IAC**

**Join today**

*For more information write to the address below or visit our web site to download a free newsletter and application:*

**Idaho Alpine Club**

**P.O. Box 2883**

**Idaho Falls, Idaho 83403-2883**

[www.IdahoAlpineClub.org](http://www.IdahoAlpineClub.org)

**Membership Fees**

Full Year 7/1 to 10/1

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.

IAC Council Meeting Minutes

**NOTE:** Monthly minutes are available at

[www.idahoalpineclub.org](http://www.idahoalpineclub.org)

**IAC Logo T-Shirts!!**

Short sleeves or long sleeves, crew neck, heather grey Dri Release material with embroidered club logo! Short sleeve \$14 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 the club Treasurer to get yours sooner.

**IAC Stickers**

Two styles: 4.25" high x 3.5" wide with the IAC logo, web address, and list of club activities. 1.5" high x 11" wide "Idaho Alpine Club" sticker. The stickers are white graphics on a transparent background with adhesive on the face so they can be applied to the inside of a window on a vehicle. 50 cents per sticker or \$1 if you want one mailed to you. Contact the club Treasurer to obtain stickers.

*Idaho Alpine Club*

*P.O. Box 2883*

*Idaho Falls, Idaho 83403-2883*