

Idaho Alpine Club Bulletin

Volume 44 - Issue Number 6 - June 2004

P.O. Box 2885, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83403-2885

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X-Country Skiing

Mark/Donna Whitham 520-1728

Bicycling

Michelle Fox Benson 525-3238

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

June Council Meeting: George Cole's
1704 E. 25th St.

July Council Meeting: Purple Gecko

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

June Deadline is Midnight June 13

"Adventures on the Select Peaks of Greater Yellowstone"

Wednesday, June 2, 2004, 7:30 PM at the Idaho Falls Library

In his book, "Select Peaks of Greater Yellowstone" (Indomitus Books, 2003), Thomas Turiano describes climbing, skiing, and history of 107 dominant peaks in the Tetons, Beartooths, Absaroka, Wind Rivers, and nine other mountain ranges. During his 90-minute slide show on June 2, he will share some of his own adventures with still images and animations of flying through virtual terrain. He will feature ascents and ski descents of the Grand Teton, Gannett Peak, Washakie Needles, Granite Peak, Hilgard Peak, Ishawooa Cone, and many others. Also, he will have tidbits about geology, encounters with grizzly bears, and the anecdotes of mountaineering in the 1800s.

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 - It's about the time of year for getting into the back country and it's also tick season, so be sure to check yourself and your clothes when you get out. And even a day or two later, check all over again. If you do find an embedded tick, one product that works well is Campho-Phenique. It's a smelly, oily liquid that you smear on, probably more than once, and in 15-20 minutes the tick will drop off. If it really likes its new home, it may take 30 minutes. Don't pull at it. Then save the tick until you are sure you have no reaction to the bite, because the doctors want to see it if you have a problem. Another message from a personal experience!

Also, since Idaho is such a neat place in the summer, you may be subject to visiting friends and/or relatives. Although they usually want to see the usual places like Yellowstone, try to get them off the main roads a little, and even on some short hikes. But be gentle on lowland couch potatoes, don't throw a backpack on them and set off to a 10000 foot lake.

Most importantly, have a safe and fun summer. Remember there is no July meeting and we have a picnic in August. You will receive a July bulletin.

See you at the June meeting and around and about.

Garney

IAC Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 05/18/2004

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

Note Taker: Jeff Coward

- I. Meeting call to order: 7:40 pm
Reading of previous month meeting minutes: approved
- II. Treasurer's Report:
Income: \$48.00
Expenses: \$86.20
Members to Date: 76
- III. Old Business:
IAC club window stickers (Jeff)
Stickers to be picked up. Distribution methods for them were discussed.
Ideas were presented for discussion and consideration. No decisions were made.

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

Scanning and indexing progressing.

August picnic

Sealander Park has been confirmed as the location. No fee is required, but donations are accepted. Donation amount to be determined.

Arrangements for food & beverages to be made, and ideas for activities are needed.

IV. New Business:

IAC Bulletin printing & mailing

Current costs from various places were discussed.

One additional estimate will be obtained that would include printing, addressing, folding, stapling, and mailing.

Member List

Concerns about distribution of the member list were discussed.

The list is NOT included in the Bulletin copy that is available on the club web site. Bulletin copies available at various locations to non-members do not presently appear to be a major concern.

It was suggested that a check box be included on the membership form to allow members the option of not including their name and/or phone number in the list included in the printed Bulletin.

V. Miscellaneous

Requests for a t-shirt and other information were received and were forwarded to the appropriate persons.

Web hosting bills to be paid. A possible stand-in for the Treasurer may be needed for the June meeting.

June General Meeting snacks: Garney

June 15th council meeting at: George Cole's
1704 East 25th Street

July 20th council meeting at: Purple Gecko

Meeting adjourned: 8:30 pm

Idaho Falls Ski Club Trail Work at Kelly Canyon Nordic Area - June 5, 2004

We plan to make a portion the Upper Hut Trail flat on one of the steepest side hills. Meet at McDonald's by Fred Meyers at 9:00 a.m. Bring shovels, pick ax, pulaski's, etc for moving dirt and of course lunch, etc. Call Norm Kramer (522-8677) if you have questions.

June 5 - National Trails Day Project

This year's project is planned to working on trails in the Tex Creek Wildlife Management Area near Ririe Reservoir. Depending on the how large our group is, we will be doing trail maintenance or trail construction. Sturdy work boots and work gloves are required. Safety glasses, pulaskis, pick axes, shovels, etc. are desired. After work we plan to car camp in one of the camp areas located in the WMA. Potluck dinner Saturday night. Sunday morning we are planning to go for a short dayhike in the WMA to observe some of the wildlife, birds, and flowers. Contact the Whithams for more details and to sign up: dayhike@idahoalpineclub.org

Dayhike Schedule

June 6 - Tex Creek Wilderness Management Area: See Trails Day Project for details. We will be in the WMA over night and hope to rise early for a bit of wildlife watching. Contact the Whithams for more information and to sign up at 520.1728 or dayhike@idahoalpineclub.org.

July 9 -11 - Car Camp and Day Hike the Trail Creek / Ching Creek areas of the Dubois Ranger District. Several of the trails are located on the Continental Divide Trail. This area is above Killgore about 65 miles north of Idaho Falls. It will be fun to explore several trails in one trip but those who want to join us for either day will be more than welcome. Contact the Whithams for more information and to sign up at 520.1728 or dayhike@idahoalpineclub.org.

August 13 - 14 - Mount Borah: The plan is to car camp at the trail head on Friday night, (maybe we will get lucky and see another display of northern lights), arise EARLY on the 14th to hike up while it is cooler and be on our way down before afternoon electrical storms. This is a steep, strenuous, mostly class 3 hike with one short, section of class 4 scrambling. The elevation gain is about 5400 feet with a little over 2100 feet in the first of the 3.5 miles to the summit. Contact the Whithams for more information and to sign up at 520.1728 or dayhike@idahoalpineclub.org.

Backpacking Schedule

July 2-5 - White Cloud Mts., 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.

July 17 -18 - Annual Chick Trip - Kane Lake - We will leave the guys at home while we do this moderate 5 mile hike into the Pioneer Mts. Multiple waterfalls drop into this pretty little lake that nestles below the Devils Bedstead. Mountain goats are often seen on the cliff shelves above the lake and the last time we were there, the fishing was excellent. Contact the Donna 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)

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

Rafting Schedule

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.

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.

Climbing / Mountaineering Schedule

August 13 - 14 - Mount Borah: See Dayhikes for details. Contact the Whithams for more information and to sign up at 520.1728 or dayhike@idahoalpineclub.org.

Thursday Night Climbing Schedule Summer 2004

Date	Location	Leader
June 3	Ross Park, Pocatello	Peterson
June 10	Ririe Dam	Peterson
June 17	Blackfoot	Peterson
June 24	Paramount	Peterson
July 1	HOLIDAY No Thursday Night climb	
July 8	Ross Park, Pocatello	Peterson
July 15	Blackfoot	Peterson
July 22	Ross Park, Pocatello	Peterson
July 29	Blackfoot	Peterson
August 5	Paramount	???*
August 12	Heise Boulder (If Dry) otherwise Paramount	???*
August 19	Ross Park Pocatello	Peterson
August 26	Blackfoot	Peterson

**Eric Peterson not available for Thursday night climb, leaders sought.

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

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.

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.

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

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

[Overview](#)

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).

Safe Riding Tips...

These tips for "safe group riding" are intended primarily for pace groups but I think they apply to our slower groups. Most of us are not comfortable riding pace lines. I think they're fairly obvious but maybe at the beginning of season reminders are worthwhile. They're paraphrased from an article written by Bill Harris for cycling.utah.com, the freebie that appears monthly at the downtown Great Harvest bakery.

1. The lead rider has the responsibility of pointing out obstacles in the road such as potholes, glass, debris. As the leader approaches the hazard, take one hand off the bars and point out the obstacle. Those behind continue to signal to those behind, kind of like a wave at a football game.
2. On narrow roads the lead riders should yell out "car up" to warn those behind of approaching traffic. Those at back of the group should yell "car back" to warn those ahead of traffic wanting to pass from behind.
3. When turning a corner, the lead rider should signal by pointing the direction of the turn. Those behind should continue—wave theory again.
4. (Tips cont.) Maintain a constant pace and avoid quick accelerations and sudden braking.

5. Do not overlap wheels... any turn will result in a crash.
6. Stay relaxed. Do not put death grip on handlebars and keep arms bent and relaxed. Then if another rider bumps you, your body to absorb contact force and your steering is less likely to be affected.
7. Practice looking several riders ahead and recognizing when changes in pace will occur.
8. On descents, spread out to allow more reaction time (and a better view).

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.

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/>

Trip Reports

STOKR - Scenic Tour of the Kootenai River, May 8-9, 2004: Six Idaho Falls cyclists and one Pocatello cyclist journeyed to Libby, Montana for the 10th annual Scenic Tour of the Kootenai River. While passing through southwestern Montana along Interstate 15 we noticed that there were already many brown and dry areas due to the continuing drought. Some had already turned brown, while others appeared to not have had any new green plants growing at all this year. The Clark Fork River already had lots of green algae and plant growth this spring due to lower than normal water levels and higher than normal spring temperatures, added to the usual spring agricultural runoff. Despite these unusual conditions, the trip was quite scenic, especially the section from Ravalli to Libby along Montana highways 200 and 56, and U.S. highway 2.

The Scenic Tour of the Kootenai River is sponsored by Kootenai Valley Partners Habitat for Humanity

This event is normally held the second weekend in May. Cost this year was \$35. There are two route options for Saturday's ride. Both routes start out heading west on U.S. 2 towards Troy. At the first food stop near the junction with Montana 56, the short 45 mile route heads south along a stream and through forest and farm land areas, then back to Libby on U.S. 2. There is plenty of time to stop at Kootenai Falls on the return. The long 98 mile route continues on U.S. 2 through Troy, then turns north towards Yaak along the Yaak River and past Yaak Falls. There are food stops at Sylvanite and Yaak, where routes turns south and climbs to Pipe Creek Pass and another food stop.

After that it is a 25 mile descent back to Libby, with a pie stop after the steep portion of the downhill. The Sunday ride heads out to Libby Dam and Lake Koocanusa on a private road, and returns via U.S. 37. Snacks are available at the dam, and the visitor center with many interesting displays is open. There is a limit of 350 riders due to the availability of motels, restaurants, and other support in Libby. The ride has grown considerably over the last few years with about 220 riders in 2002, almost 300 in 2003, and almost 450 applications received this year. Anyone planning on doing this ride next year will want to get their application in early to make the 350 rider limit.

The Cabinet Mountains Wilderness is just south of Libby. Forested mountains, some with snow capped rocky peaks can be seen all around. With more annual precipitation than areas to the east, the forest contains many types of evergreen and other trees and plants. The diversity was a welcome change from the sagebrush, lodgepole, and Ponderosa pine that we usually see.

A police escort leads the cyclists through town on the 5 lane portion of U.S. 2 both days, with the riders taking up one whole lane and not having to stop for traffic lights. The volunteers providing support on this ride are numerous, friendly, and among the best to be found on any bicycle tour anywhere. Many thanks to them for their efforts in making the STOKR so enjoyable and successful.

At 8:00 am on Saturday all of the riders met at the Libby Chamber of Commerce for the start. The skies looked threatening and the first raindrops were felt about 100 yards from the start. The rain became significant after one mile, and at two miles everyone who had not started out wearing rain gear stopped to put it on. The rain lasted for about 14 miles, then stopped and patches of blue sky appeared just before we reached the first food stop. The short loop riders did not encounter any more rain showers on their ride. The long loop riders continued on U.S. 2 to Troy, where a new paved bike and pedestrian path allowed us to bypass a small section of steep narrow roadway. After crossing the Kootenai River there is a 2 mile climb up to the Yaak River valley. The road climbs very gradually through the valley to the next food stop at the Sylvanite School and on up to the lunch stop at the Dirty Shame Saloon in the town of Yaak. Hot soup, sandwiches, cookies, brownies, fruit, and hot and cold beverages were available at the lunch stop. Another rain shower arrived as we ate lunch, so we put our rain gear back on for the 12 mile climb to Pipe Creek Summit. The climb starts out gradually and gets steeper as it approaches the summit. The climb seems to take a lot longer to complete than it actually does, and this was not helped by the few unpaved dirt sections near the top that were now slightly muddy. As we

approached the summit, the grade became steeper, the rain fell harder, and a headwind began to blow. One mile from the top the traditional first set of signs in the Burma Shave tradition appeared out of the rain to encourage us, and the second group of signs appeared with half a mile to go. There was a small canopy at the summit food stop so we could get out of the rain, but we did not stay long. The rain stopped and we decided to descend to sunshine and warmer temperatures at the pie stop.

We tagged onto the back some pacelines during the long ride, the first one just past the Kootenai River crossing until we began the first climb, the second one along the Yaak River past Yaak Falls to Sylvanite, and the third and last on the descent after the pie stop. We picked up that one at the point where the center stripe on the road started again when some fast riders had stopped for a minute. We wound up going between 21 and 25 miles per hour in that paceline, with a maximum speed of about 36.5 on a short descent, which was amazing and fun after 90 miles of riding. We arrived back in Libby just after 5:30 pm.

The Sunday ride started at 9:00 am at the Chamber of Commerce. After riding through town, we turned onto a private haul road with no motorized traffic other than the support vehicles. We turned north at the junction with U.S. 37 for the short climb up to the top of Libby Dam. After passing through the security checkpoint we rode across the dam to the visitor center and the snacks, including cinnamon rolls. There was a video camera available that was focused on a nest of raptors so you could watch their activity. The ride back to Libby on U.S. 37 included some headwinds. The drivers on the highways during the tour were generally more courteous than those we usually see. We returned to Libby at about 1:00 pm.

In addition to the bicycling, there are some excellent scenic drives available in the area, with many things to see. Kootenai Falls and Yaak Falls should not be missed if you didn't see them on the Saturday ride. The Saturday short loop riders filled the rest of their day by driving up one side of Lake Koocanusa to the bridge just south of Rexford, across the lake, and back down the other side to Libby. On Sunday we drove from Libby to Yaak so the Saturday short loop riders could visit the Dirty Shame Saloon, then we continued east on the Yaak River Road and over the mountains on F.S. 596 to the west side of Lake Koocanusa, then back to Libby. Many whitetail and mule deer were seen, as were ospreys and one wild turkey.

On Monday, we drove back to Idaho Falls. The weather during the ride was quite reasonable considering the time of year. It has snowed twice on the ride in the past, and Monday's weather was colder and rainier than it was on the weekend. All of us enjoyed the tour and look forward to doing it again.

Aldous and Hancock Lake May 22: Being as we didn't have any takers for a beginner backpack, we decided to do this hike as a dayhike. Round trip the hike is 5.3 miles. It took about 2 hours and 15 minutes for the hike. From the trail head to Aldous the trail was pretty much clear of snow. Little Creek rushes down the canyon below the trail which gently climbs through the forest to Aldous Lake. After crossing a footbridge over Little Creek you can head around the west side of the lake to a junction with the Continental Divide Trail. That trail will take you to Trail Creek, (see July Dayhikes). Continuing on around the lake, you arrive at the junction for the trail to Hancock Lake. The main campsites at the lake were dry but the campsites where we camped in 1999 were still quite buried in the snow. The trail to Hancock Lake climbs more moderately up the ridge before dropping down to the rock lined basin that Hancock Lake lies in. Hancock Lake was frozen and there was full snow coverage on the ground. Due to the amount of snow between Aldous and Hancock lakes we had to do a bit of route finding. Rain, snow, hail, lightning, and thunder were all part of the weather mix. On the way to the trailhead we stopped to take photos of flowers and to observe a Redtail Hawk, a Kestrel, a nesting Blue Heron, Sandhill Cranes, and Canadian Geese. Armed with the GPS we also took the time to find a geocache between a rock and a hard place.

Highway Cleanup May 15: Despite snow and rain earlier in the week, the weather was partly cloudy and mild for highway cleanup day. Eight IAC members picked up 10 bags of trash, noting the usual large number of cigarette butts and beer containers. The canyon is protected from the wind and we were all peeling layers by the time we were finished picking up the trash. Afterwards, we enjoyed a finger food picnic in the Victor city park.

After stuffing themselves with cream cheese rollups, tuna points, oatmeal-cherry-nut bars, the biker contingent of the cleanup crew took off on road bikes for a 26-mile loop through the burgeoning suburbs and still pristine pastures and wetlands between Victor and Driggs. Riders were sweep Jeff, leader Mark, and in between Judy and Barb, attempting not to slow the pace too much. The "back road" on the west side of the loop was characterized by at least 3 miles of breaking-up pavement, the bike trail between Driggs and Victor by a minor-for-Idaho head wind, the weather by threatening clouds, the scenery by the incredible Teton Range glistening in last week's fresh snow. Good ride!

(Route: 4.5 miles west from Victor on the Cedron Rd, about 8+ miles north on the Victor-Cedron-Bates Road, 4.5 miles east on Bates Rd, and about 8 miles south on the bike path paralleling Hwy 33).

While everyone else rode bikes, Donna went off to explore the Aspen trail which is a pleasant little trail that

contours along just above the base of the west slope of the Teton mountains. The trail is about 3 miles or so and starts above Driggs and comes out on the Darby Canyon road. It was a bit muddy and only a few flowers were in bloom: Clematis, Woodland Star, Larkspur, Spring Beauty, Yellow Violet, and Arrowleaf Balsamroot.

West Fork Mink Creek -Gibson Jack Creek May 16: Ominous black clouds, rain, and wind in Idaho Falls didn't look too promising for a pleasant hike, but we drove down to Pocatello anyway thinking at the worst we could do a short hike before the weather got too bad. After meeting a Pocatello member and her guest at the Gibson Jack trail head we decided to go for it and set up the shuttle for the entire hike. After hiking a few hundred yards up the canyon, the wind was nonexistent and the sun quite warm. The Hobbit houses covering the springs near the beaver ponds are starting to look a bit worse for the wear. Alan, Donna, and Mark were armed with flower books and cameras. The loop hiked is a wonderful place for observing a large quantity of flowers. Chris, Jeff, Susan, and Sandra were obliging 'students' or at least humored us while we pointed out: Yellow Mountain Violet, Yellow Bell, Oregon Grape, Buttercup, Cous Biscuitroot, Arrowleaf Balsamroot, Spring Beauty, Blue Violet, Blue Mustard, Woodland Star, Shooting Star, Phlox, Field Chickweed, Larkspur, Wild Strawberry, Blue Bells, Salsify, Vetch, Yarrow, and Western Peony amongst others.

On the final descent of the 9.1 mile trail, we did a little geocaching. The geocache was found with a little bushwhacking off of the trail. After logging our find and leaving a couple treasures including several IAC cards, we replaced the cache in its hiding spot then continued on to Sandra's car. Somehow we crammed all seven of us, seven daypacks, and Buster, the happy little hiking dog, into one small car to make the trip back to the rest of the vehicles.

Huckleberry Hotsprings Winter Campout Trip Report

March 20 - 2: Huckleberry Hot Springs is located east of Idaho Falls and north of Grand Teton National Park, near Flagg Ranch. After an easy 1.4 mile snowshoe hike over mildly rolling terrain Debby Harrison, Jan Carpenter, Mark and Donna Whitham set up camp on a gentle slope overlooking Huckleberry Creek. The hotspring was somewhat crowded and with nearly 60° temperatures it was quite nice to hang out in the sun. After a bit the crowds thinned out. We made our way to the water and enjoyed a wonderful afternoon soak. The water was rather hot but the main pool was pleasant to cool off in occasionally. While cooking dinner we enjoyed a sunlit view of Huckleberry Mt. The mountains were resplendent with alpen glow as we serenaded Mark a happy birthday and helped him eat a yummy birthday pie. Mark thought we needed some practice with our singing though.

Once the sun went down it rapidly cooled off. The tents were a welcome retreat. As the sky darkened the howling of wolves could be heard. The temperature was below freezing during the night. We were toasty in our tents, but any water left out froze and the snow was solid enough to walk on without snowshoes in the morning. Debby enjoyed a pre-breakfast soak with a majestic bald eagle to keep her company. The 4 of us cooked breakfast on a knoll overlooking the hot spring. After breakfast, we hiked up to Polecat hot spring to see what kind of shape it was in this year. The pools were all rather gungy and didn't look too appealing for soaking. We returned back to camp to pack and hike out to our vehicles. It was a enjoyable backpack with fun company. We had a great time and are looking forward to a summer of backpacking.

Geocaching and Letter Boxing: These are fun things to do if you want to practice with your GPS or just get out for something to do. With Geocaching you enter waypoints in your GPS then navigate to the location to find the cache, or to find directions to other caches kind of like a treasure hunt. The caches vary from being virtual caches where you describe something to claim the find to micro caches to quite large caches with treasures left by other geocachers. If you take something you leave something for someone else to find. For more information go to www.geocaching.com. According to the website there are geocaches located all over the world. You don't have to even leave town to find them although it is more fun to look for them out hiking. Letterboxing is similar except you follow clues to a hidden box or container. Once you find the letterbox, you take a carved stamp from the box and stamp your personal logbook. You then take your stamp and stamp the letterbox's log book. Letterboxes are more commonly found around town but we have found them out hiking too. For more information about Letterboxing see: www.letterboxing.org.

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.

