

MCCALL HIKING CLUB
“EVERY TRAIL HAS A PERSONALITY”

JULY 2006

www.mccallhikingclub.org

“At long last hiking season is here! It was interesting to see whether we would get rained on or not, but we have endured our first month of our fourth season. It looks like with the advent of the warm weather recently, we should be able to get into the high country soon. We have a lot of new members this year and are looking forward to a fun summer getting to know them. We’re always looking for new trails, and hike leaders to guide us, so hopefully we will find some new places to explore this year. I’m looking forward to seeing all of you soon.” ReNae Bradfield, president.

RECAP OF JUNE SOCIAL

Our first social of the hiking season was held on June 25th at the home of Char and Vern Farris. We had approximately forty people attend. After the potluck, our dubious hiking “awards” were presented to the following people: ReNae Bradfield was presented a pair of toy binoculars to keep track of her hikers while acting as hike leader. She is the only hike leader recently to have lost one of her followers on a hike (especially embarrassing as it was Ponderosa Park where she is employed). Jim Thompson received a whistle so that if he is ever lost again by a hike leader, he can be found promptly. For his daring bravery in saving Joan Apodaca from receiving another rubber ducky this year on the Rapid River hike, Tom Derieg received a bag of LifeSavers. In absentia, Joanne Uberuaga received a rubber snake since she seemed to have gotten an extra burst of energy moving up the trail after spotting a real snake to the side of the trail at Hazard Creek Falls. Also, received in absentia, was a tube of suntan lotion awarded to Dee Stilinovich for inadvertently baring her buns to a truck driver while going off trail. She is the second member of the “Bare Buns Club” founded by ReNae last year after inadvertently discovering a switchback in her trail. Special thanks go out to Vern and Char Farris for opening their beautiful home to us.

ONE HUNDRED MILE PINS

We now have the lapel/hat pins in for those members who have hiked 100 miles with the club. The mileage was tracked at the beginning of last season and will carry over based on the length of each hike. We currently have eight 100-milers who have earned this award as follows: Marlin Jones (150.8), ReNae Bradfield (238.8), Tom Derieg (127.5), Joan Apodaca (157.8), Bill Starowicz (224.2), Susan Waters (136.7),

Janis Seufert (101.8) and Bud Keys (175.3). Several designs were submitted by Char Farris and the winning design was voted on by club members.

JUST FOR GRINS

Pauline Hines submitted the following poem written by her granddaughter, Kelly Sund, after our hike to Grassy Mountain Twin Lakes last summer.

**I felt reluctant to join the ambitious energetic elderly mountain hikers.
I felt bored and uninspired to attack the steep rugged trail.
I felt the bite of pine scent in my nose and throat in the thick forest.
I felt my muscles burn from the strenuous work to keep up with the group.
I felt kindness as the grandmothers included me in conversation to keep my
mind focused.
I felt agile and cat-like as I danced from stone to stone to cross the stream.
I felt gratitude for every resting minute as my lungs struggled for oxygen.
I felt peace overlooking the lake munching on chips and sandwiches.
I felt awed by the beauty of the crystal blue water as it mirrored the sky.
I felt the snow on the crisp air as it brushed softly against my face.
I felt surrounded by perfume in the colorful meadows of wildflowers.
I felt the warmth and strength of the sun on my back.
I felt the majesty and power of being on top of the world.
I felt inadequate to the challenge, relief to finish, grateful that I survived.**

MISCELLANEOUS

Don't forget that our hikes for July and August will start at 8:00 a.m. We will continue to meet at the south end of the Rite-Aid parking lot. The earlier time allows us to wander a little farther on our treks and also helps us to beat the heat to some degree. Please remember that our hikes are generally all day trips so bring plenty of food and water and please free up your day of prior commitments unless you plan on taking your own transportation. We will do everything possible to group hikers according to ability, but sometimes we may be delayed in returning to the parking lot due to circumstances beyond our control. Also, please be aware of your abilities and don't try to go beyond your limits.

Our mid-summer social has been scheduled for Sunday, July 30. We will again take the boats to North Beach for appetizers. There is limited space on the boats so make your reservations early. If you are a boat owner and would like to participate, please contact Peggy Derieg at 634-9781 or e-mail tomderieg@frontiernet.net. We will submit more details closer to the time of the social.

Pam Houseman is our historian and is responsible for keeping a scrapbook/photo album of all of our hiking activities for the year. Please send photos to her at P.O. Box 1510, McCall, 83638.

Hal Wiking is looking for anything of interest found on the trail for our traveling “Trail Trash” award given to our hiker of the season at our last social of the year. If you find any bones, metal objects, unusual flowers, bottles, etc., please contact Hal at 634-3709. Past items in our trophy were such things as a railroad spike, fishing lure, elk jawbone, rusty bike chain, etc. Anything can be a “treasure”. Our hiker of the season is voted on by members of the club prior to our last social in September.

Char and Vern Farris are teaching line dancing at the McCall RV Resort on Tuesday nights, 7 – 9 p.m. as well as at the Sagebrush in New Meadows on the first and third Thursday of each month. It is a great way to keep in shape for hiking and is a lot of fun. Cost is \$5 per night. For more information, call 634-3837.

Nancy Harvey has reluctantly tendered her resignation as vice-president of the club due to conflicts with her job. Nancy assures us, however, that she will remain an active member of the club and hopes to get some hikes in with us this summer. Janis Seufert has agreed to take Nancy’s place as vice-president for this season. Thank you Janis!

In conclusion, we have hiked approximately 41.7 miles in June with an elevation gain of 3,927 feet. We went along 2 streams and 2 rivers, went to two lakes and two waterfalls, as well as 2 viewpoints along both sides of Payette Lake. Not too bad for one month of hiking considering that we had to stay low until the snow melts.