

## McCall Hiking Club 2009 End of the Season Report

It is hard for me to believe that our summer is over. I spent a good hour yesterday looking at the beautiful photo album that our historian Gary Newby put together. Each hike had its own personality, good times, tough trails, beautiful scenery, a variety of hikers, and of course being together with good friends. When I closed the album I reflected back to all the places we went and was amazed at what our club had done.

Our membership grew over the summer to 135 people with 45 new members. We set a new record for people attending one hike. I was overwhelmed when 42 people showed up for our hike to Deep and Summit Lake. We divided into smaller groups and had a beautiful lunch together at Summit Lake. We traveled 222 miles on our 32 hikes and climbed 35,676 feet in elevation. Our average hike was approximately 6.9 miles. McCall is known for its many beautiful lakes and we were fortunate to hike to 31. We are always looking for new places to go. At the end of the season social members voted for their favorite hike and there was a tie between Loon Lake and Granite Mountain Lookout. We also voted at this time to change our hiking days from Wednesday to Tuesday as many members were missing McCall's Farmers Market held on Wednesday and Saturday. Beginning in June 2010 we will hike on Tuesday and Saturday.

Our end of the season social was held on Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. We had a great turnout, delicious food and many special awards given to members. We had 11 members who received their 100-mile pin, 3 members who received their 200-mile pin, 3 members who received their 300-mile pin, 1 person who received their 400-mile pin, 3 members who received their 500-mile pin, and 1 person who received their 700-mile pin. Ginny Ernsberger was selected as "Best New Hiker of the Year" and Gary Newby was voted "Hiker of the Year". Gary received the beautiful trophy that is made from items found on the trail that is redone every year by selected club members. Congratulations to Ginny and Gary. I would also like to thank my 13 hike leaders who volunteered to lead members on our many beautiful hikes. Our club would not exist without these people who volunteer to make sure that everyone reaches our destination safely.

Our club held a few special events over the summer. In addition to our monthly socials we added a canoe/kayak day in August. Members met at North Beach for a scenic paddle on the upper North fork of the Payette River. We had approximately 25 members who either paddled their own boat or rented from a local vendor. We also had a boat social in late July at North Beach. Members had a choice of a boat ride from Mile High Marina to North Beach or driving their own vehicle. We had a great turn out and as usual the potluck was a big success. Our annual camping trip was cancelled due to a lack of reservations; however, we have scheduled a new campout in the Wallowa Mountains of Oregon from August 2nd to August 6th in 2010. Reservations will be made in early November of 2009. Please contact Tom Derieg at [tomderieg@cox.net](mailto:tomderieg@cox.net) for further information.

I would like to thank the following people who have worked with me this summer to make our club such a success. Joan Apodaca who put in many hours sending out

membership information. Joan was our Vice President until the middle of this year when ReNae Bradfield volunteered to take over for the remainder of the season. Both Joan and ReNae made sure that our local paper had information on all our hikes. Our new Vice President for 2010 will be Ron Hines. Thank you Ron for stepping up! Gay Foster was our treasurer and not only kept the books in order she also handled membership information and sent out our list of club members. Vreny Middleton was our social director. What a fantastic job she did of buying special awards, setting up socials, and then making the socials so much fun when she gave out these "special awards". We will miss Gary Newby who is retiring from being our Historian for the last three years. He will be hard to replace. After viewing the three photo albums he put together from 2007-2009 I am amazed at his ability to finalize our summer hikes. Last, I would like to thank Sheree Sonfield who manages our website. I have had many compliments from people who view our site and want to be a part of our club. I am looking forward to the summer of 2010 where we have already scouted out new trails, lakes, destinations and the beauty of McCall. "HAPPY TRAILS".

Roberta Thompson