

McCALL HIKING CLUB

2011 END OF THE SEASON REPORT

Our 2011 hiking season got off to a slow start in June due to all the snow the previous winter. We had to find places to hike that were below six thousand feet. We were able to hike every Wednesday and Saturday by staying close to the valley floor. We were not able to help with National Trail Day on June 4th at Ponderosa State Park as their trails were still closed due to the late snow. We decided we would join the Adopt-A-Trail program with the Payette National Forest and signed an agreement with them to maintain the Goose Creek Falls Trail from the upper elevation snowmobile parking lot off Brundage Road. On July 11th we had eleven club members who volunteered their time to cut back brush, remove rock and clean waterbars. We checked to make sure all signs were in place and visible and reported back to our forest service supervisor. We all felt good that we could help our community.

Our club membership continues to grow. At the end of the season we had 118 paid members plus many from outside our area who joined us on hikes while they were visiting McCall. We had a total of 623 hikers on our 37 hikes for an average of 17 hikers per hike. We had 78 different people who attended at least one hike. This year we hiked to 39 different lakes. Over the summer club members hiked 4,264 miles. The elevation gain for these thirty seven hikes was almost 44,000 feet. Our average hike was approximately 6.8 miles. We held monthly socials where we had a great potluck dinner and gave out awards to people who had a few minor problems on the trail. Hopefully these little gifts will help them with future hiking experiences. We continued our Canoe/Kayak Day at North Beach in July and added another one in August to Horsethief Reservoir.

Our "End of the Season Social" was held at the Woodlands Clubhouse in McCall. We had many awards to give out and the potluck dinner was fantastic. Club members voted for "Hiker of the Year" and their favorite hike. Sally Sanders was voted "Hiker of the Year". This award is given to a person who frequently attends hikes, is willing to help other hikers and gets involved in club activities. Sally was presented with our beautiful "TRAIL TRASH TROPHY". This trophy is changed every year with articles found on the trail and is hard to describe. You have to see it to believe it! The best new hiker award went to Billie Jo and Gary Premoe. The club voted Boulder Mountain Lookout their favorite hike for the second year in a row followed by Jughandle Mountain, Malony Lake, Blue Lake and Granite Mountain Lookout.

We honor our members by giving out 100 mile pins for every mile they walk during our hiking season. We set a new record this year giving out 46 pins. We gave out (11) 100 mile pins, (10) 200 mile pins, (10) 300 mile pins, (6) 400 mile pins, (1) 500 mile pin, (1) 600 mile pin, (1) 700 mile pin, (1) 800 mile pin, (1) 900 mile pin, (2) 1,000 mile pins and (2) 1,100 mile pins.

Our club will be making some changes for 2012. Many of you will be happy to hear that we will be adding "More Relaxed Hikes". These will be closer to McCall, less distance and elevation gain, and at a more relaxed pace. We have even decided to let hike leaders choose which days they would like to lead a more relaxed hike as long as it is open to all club members and is included in a club e-mail.

Some of these hikes will be open to well socialized dogs. We will still follow our rule that dogs will not be allowed on our regular Wednesday and Saturday hikes. We will continue with our winter activities starting in January and extending through March. This will include x-country skiing, snowshoeing and socials. We will continue to give miles to club members who snowshoe.

I would like to thank our 22 hike leaders for making this season so special. We were able to add 8 new hikes to our schedule this year. I would be lost without my club officers who put in so much time making this club what it is. Sallye Sanders was our VP and wrote up all our hikes for the Star News. She also kept track of our 118 members hiking mileage. Becky Deibert was our social director and organized so many great socials. She purchased all those special awards, bought food, paper goods, and just made our evening so much fun. She remembered every little missed step that some of our members took on the trail and gave out some great awards. Gay Foster our treasurer took care of all our money and made sure that the check book was balanced. She also ordered our club t-shirts and hats. Rhonda Roy and Ginny Ernsberger were our club historians and spent countless hours taking photos and organizing them in our annual club photo album. Linda Corder was our publicity manager who made sure our special activities were included in our local Star News. Tom Derieg was our trail guru who spent countless hours on the trail trying to find that perfect hike. I cannot forget Sheree Sonfield who organized our website and keeps it up to date. I have had so many compliments from people outside of McCall on what a beautiful website we have.

In closing, I have to share one special memory which I will never forget. Our club was hiking in Ponderosa State Park and we had just stopped for lunch at Osprey Point. It was a beautiful June day. The sky was crystal clear and the lake was like glass. Everyone was enjoying lunch when someone yelled "There is Sharlie." Sure enough, on the other side of the lake we all saw a large wave that had formed. There were no boats around and whatever was causing the wave seemed to be coming to the surface, dipping back into the lake and then surfacing again. This continued a good five minutes. We had 18 people on that hike and everyone was watching the water move like there was something that wanted to be seen. We were all glued to whatever was making that area of the lake choppy. What could cause something like that? Then it was gone. Could 18 people be wrong? We all looked at one another and thought "That is the beauty of magical McCall!"

HAPPY HIKING,

Roberta Thompson,

President McCall Hiking Club