

## **McCall Hiking Club End of the Season Report**

2006 was very good to the McCall hiking club. Overall the weather was wonderful. For the most part we stayed dry and warm. There was only one hike in real snow, one lightning show, only one or two hikes where we did not actually find our destination. Only one, the "bloody trail" formerly known as the Granite Lake to Upper Payette hike, generated a lot of scratches and bruises. The fires impacted our schedules but did not cancel any of our Wednesday and Saturday hikes.

### **Positives**

ReNae Bradfield did a great job as President. Nancy Harvey was vice-president and handled publicity. Nancy had to step down and was ably replaced by Janis Seufert. Others doing a great job were Bill Starowicz and Susan Waters as the Trail Gurus, Leslie Siegle was Treasurer, Pam Houseman was the Historian and Photo Album Creator, Peggy Derieg served as Social Chairman, Bob Bechaud was the Trail Maintenance Coordinator, Sheree Sonfield was again our Webmaster, and Hal Wiking did his normal outstanding job as the Trail Trash and Hiker of the Year Award Creator. Vern and Char Farris graciously opened their house for the June Social. The Siegles, ReNae Bradfield, Hal Wiking, and the Waters-Derieg -Blas partnership provided their boats for the Boat Social.

New Hikers. We had a large crop of new hikers this year. Al Apodaca and Bruce Hovey were the co-new hikers of the year, barely beating out Marcy Hovey and Roberta Thompson. Each of the four hiked over 100 miles. Bruce and Roberta also served as hike leaders. Marcy also co-shared the Hiker of the Year Award with Tom Derieg.

Jughandle Mountain was chosen again as the favorite hike of the year. Nineteen hikers made it to the top.

Accomplishments. We covered 249 miles of hiking trails this summer and gained 37,700 feet in altitude. There were 518 hiker days and the club members hiked a total of 3,526 miles. We hiked to 40 lakes.

Since we started keeping track of individual mileage last year one hiker, Bill Starowicz has hiked over 400 miles. ReNae Bradfield has 333 miles. Five hikers have over 200 miles. Thirteen other hikers have earned their 100 mile pins.

### **Disappointments**

Camping. The Lick Creek fire closed our planned camp and hike marathon. We tried to move the site, but timing and the non-availability of some of our more dedicated campers led to the cancellation of the camp plan.

Trail Maintenance. Every year right after Labor Day we take a day for trail maintenance. This year due to some miscommunication and timing issues we did not get it done. We

are trying for a make up date of October 14<sup>th</sup>. Anyone who can help should contact Bob Bechaud at [bechaud@telus.net](mailto:bechaud@telus.net).

### **The Future**

Winter Activities. ReNae Bradfield and Bill Starowicz will again schedule some outdoor and/or indoor winter activities this year.

Next Years Hikes. As the hikers have grown stronger and more adventurous we have been doing longer and higher hikes with more off trail bushwhacking. Some hikers do not like going off trail, so next year we will try to balance our hikes so we will not end up with three or four difficult climb or bushwhacking hikes in a row.

Also some hikers have asked for closer in, shorter, more scenic trails with less altitude gain. Susan Waters and Lou Blas have volunteered to each lead at least one “scenic” hike each month next year.

### **2007 Club Officers**

Tom Derieg is the new president. Joan Apodaca is the vice-president. Bill Starowicz remains the trail master. Leslie Siegle will continue as treasurer. Janis Seufert will be the social chairman. Bob Bechaud will again be the trail maintenance coordinator. Sheree Sonfield remains the Webmaster. Pam Houseman will still be the historian/photo album guru. Hal Wiking will continue to be the trail trash/hiker of the year trophy creator.

For you McCall full timers, have a great winter season. The rest of us snow birds will see you on the trail next June. Keep track of what is going on at [www.mccallhikingclub.org](http://www.mccallhikingclub.org).

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