

MCCALL HIKING CLUB
“EVERY TRAIL HAS A PERSONALITY”

SEPTEMBER 2005

www.mccallhikingclub.org

“It is hard to believe that we are approaching our last month of hiking for the 2005 season. It has been a very busy summer and we’ve had a lot of fun so far. Our club has been ‘discovered’ and we are getting calls from a variety of people interested in our group such as Tamarack Resort, McCall Magazine, Brundage Mountain, McCall Chamber of Commerce, The U.S. Forest Service and the Star-News. We have grown to approximately 75 people at this time and I suspect that we will keep on growing. Our goal, however, will be to keep the club as a fun place for friends to meet and enjoy exploring our trails.” ReNae

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

This year we have selected Six Mile Trail for our annual trail cleanup day. This trail runs from Grouse Campground at the south end of Goose Lake to FS Road 305 in Meadow Valley. It is approximately 3 ½ miles long and we will work in a gradual downhill direction. We need 14 volunteers who will work in 2-man teams. The heavy work on this trail has been completed so we will primarily be trimming back the overgrowth. Each volunteer should have a pair of long-handled pruning shears (lopper) capable of cutting up to 2” in diameter. We need two shovels and two rakes. The Forest Service will also provide some tools for us. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at Rite-Aid and plan to begin work at the trailhead by 9:00 a.m. We will have lunch on the trail and should be done by 3:00 p.m. with a return time home by 4:00 p.m. Bring extra water with you (100 ounces recommended) as well as a mid-morning snack. Suggested clothing is long pants, long-sleeved shirt, light jacket, extra shirt and socks, safety glasses with clear lenses, sunglasses and work gloves (not garden gloves). This trail passes through old-growth forest and is in a drainage with no roads giving it the potential to be a great trail for future hikes. For further information, please contact ReNae Bradfield at 634-2382 (dreamer@ctcweb.net), or Bob Bechaud after September 4th at (208) 720-6986.

END-OF-THE SEASON SOCIAL

On Sunday, September 11, at 4:00 p.m. we will hold our end-of-the-season social at the clubhouse of The Woodlands on Spring Mountain Road in McCall. The club will provide hamburgers, hotdogs and table settings. Please bring a side-dish or dessert and the beverage of your choice. Please RSVP Nancy Harvey, 634-4374 or

e-mail at nancyharvey@frontiernet.net so that we have an idea of how much food to provide.

At the social, in addition to our customary monthly awards, we will vote for our “Hiker of the Season” who will be awarded the “Trail Trash” Award. This hiker should be the person who is inspirational to the other hikers in the club, not necessarily the strongest or fastest person. If you are not able to attend the social but would like to cast a vote, please seal a vote in an envelope and give the sealed envelope marked “vote” to ReNae (who has excluded herself from this vote) or mail to her at P.O. Box 841, McCall. The vote must be received no later than September 10th.

TAMARACK RESORT

Our trip to Tamarack Resort was such a success in August that the resort has offered to host another hike for us in September to Council Mountain. The date has not officially been set at this time but details should be forthcoming shortly. The resort will provide lunch for the hikers. There will be a fee of \$10 per hiker for the trip.

RECAP OF AUGUST ACTIVITIES

Our first hike-a-thon was a success. Nine people stayed at the Camp Creek campground on the South Fork of the Salmon River for at least one night during the four-day event. Approximately 20 people hiked at least one day during this event. We hiked approximately 35 miles with an elevation gain of about 7,000 feet. It was a lot of fun to explore the many trails in this area as well as enjoying several hot springs following the hikes. If you have a suggestion for future hike-a-thon locations, please contact ReNae.

The trip to Tamarack Resort on August 24th finally came together at the last minute after a series of phone calls and e-mails. Thirty-one hikers arrived at Tamarack shortly after President Bush departed the resort. We rode the chairlift to mid-mountain and hiked to the ridge where we had a great view of Council Mountain and Long Valley. The trail varied from steep uphill/downhill conditions, stream crossings, and game trails to bushwhacking. Tamarack’s CEO, Jean-Pierre Boespflug, met with the group before and after the hike and extended an invitation to be their guests again in September.

We tried something new this month with a cross-over hike from Twenty-Mile trailhead to Duck Lake trailhead and the reverse. We broke into two teams of three with the men versus the women. Each team collected as many items as possible on a scavenger hunt list. Neither team admitted defeat on the final tally of items found (even though we girls believe we won since we got something in every category as well as finding some really gnarly wolf scat!). Gary Newby graciously volunteered to buy ice cream for everyone and the collection of trail trash will be turned over to Hal Wiking for the trail trash trophy.

MISCELLANEOUS

There are a few changes in the hiking club officers for next year. Helmi Schade is taking some time off from the position of treasurer. She has been our treasurer since the founding of the club three years ago and has done an outstanding job. Thank you Helmi for all you have done for us. She is not leaving us though and we can look forward to having her join us on many future hikes.

ReNae has agreed to be president for one more year and has asked Nancy Harvey to be her vice-president which she has graciously agreed to do. Nancy will take over the duties of publicity director in addition to those of vice-president. Leslie Siegle is taking over the Treasurer's position. We are in need of a Social Director for next year. If you are interested in taking this position, please contact ReNae. The other officers will continue in their positions as follows: Pam Houseman, historian; Susan Waters and Bill Starowicz, trail coordinators; Bob Bechaud, trail maintenance coordinator; and Hal Wiking, "trail trash" award coordinator.

Pam Houseman is still looking for photos of July hikes. Please send them to her at P.O. Box 1510, McCall or bring them to the next hike.

Jim Payne and Pat Rhodes are hosting a luncheon following the hike to Upper Jug Creek Reservoir on September 24th. They will provide the main course. Please bring a side dish or dessert as well as your own beverage. Thank you for the invitation Jim and Pat.

Hike leaders, please keep track of your hikers and their abilities. If there is a turn in the trail, please designate someone to show the trailing hikers the correct direction. We don't want to lose anyone. Also, drivers please make sure that whoever is following you knows which direction you turn off if there is a split in the road. We all want to get to the trailhead at the same time. Hikers, please gauge your abilities and know when to stop. Remember you need to be able to walk the same distance back, so preserve your energy if you need to do so. If you have guests, please monitor their hiking skills. If you are leaving the trail, please notify the sweep. We have walkie-talkies with the leader and the sweep so let them know if you are having trouble on the trail. We discourage anyone from going back alone so please don't plan on leaving the hike unless you have someone with you and have cleared it with the leader first.

In conclusion, we beat last month's record by a lot. We've hiked approximately 84.7 miles with an elevation gain of 13,110 feet as of 8/27. And we still have one hike left in August! We will finish the month with a total of nine lakes, two streams, two rivers, one meadow, four hot springs, and four overlooks. Give yourselves a pat on the back! We are awesome!