



September 2014 Newsletter



Cataract Falls on the Rocky Mountain Front, June 2014

September Program

You are invited to our free public presentation on **Wednesday, September 10 at 7:00 pm**, at the **Montana Wild Center**:

Best and Worst trips of 2014



Barb at Rock City near Valier, June 2014

Where have we been this year? HOC members will tell stories and show photos in 5 to 10 minutes of "the good, the bad and the ugly" adventures during these past few months.

All you need to do is bring photos on a laptop, USB drive or disc, or just tell us your story. *It's grade school show & tell all over again!* Contact MaryAlice (495-8787) if you have questions or want to sign up!



"Let's go this way", Little Belt Mountains near Geysler, July 2014

Day Trips

All trips are weather-dependent and subject to last minute cancellation. Please check with the leader to make sure the trip is a go.

Show & Go Tuesday evening hikes: meet at 5:30 pm in the parking lot across from the L&C Library. Hike on Mt Helena or Ascension trails. Call JoAnne (449-7971) for details.

Show and Go Tuesday evening flatwater paddling: join an easy-going group of kayakers and canoeists who paddle on lakes somewhere close to town for a couple hours. We decide each Tuesday where we'll meet the following week and get the word out through e-mail. We usually meet on the water at 6 pm. If you have your own boat & lifejacket, like to paddle and are comfortable in your boat, call Susan Nimick (443-5980) or email snimick@mt.net for more information.

Show & Go Thursday hikes: join Barb on short hikes in the Helena area. Meet at **9:00 am** next to Ben Franklin on Euclid. We're usually back by mid-afternoon. Call Barb (443-1159) or read about each trip via the HOC Yahoo e-group.

More day trips will be posted on our Yahoo group list.

See below on how to join our e-group if you're not already a member. It's FREE!

Weekend trips

NOTE: weekend events are open to the public but we reserve the right to give priority to current members of the Helena Outdoor Club. If you want to invite a friend who is not a member we'll put them on the waiting list until the registration deadline when we'll let them know if there is still room. Or ask them to become a HOC member to secure their spot.

Friday-Monday, August 29-September 1: LABOR DAY Weekend on the River. Come for all or part of this river kayak, canoe or raft plus camping trip at nearby locations. Saturday starts at a bridge with challenging whitewater and tight turns around rocks for intermediate

and higher level paddlers. Sunday and Monday have easygoing Class II waves suitable for advanced beginners. We'll car camp at Forest Service campgrounds or FWP access sites. Call Jo Anne (449-7971) for details and to register.

Friday-Sunday, September 12, 13 & 14: Dragon Boat Race Paddlers, Alternates and Cheerleaders. You still have a chance to participate in the only 20-paddler canoe race in Montana. Called the "ultimate team sport" and held on Flathead Lake near Bigfork, the Helena Outdoor Club team is entering the novice class race with a group of enthusiastic but untutored paddlers. Just watching this group negotiate the course could be a thrill -- imagine being part of the team!
Race entry is \$32 and group camping at Swan Lake Village is \$9.09. Call JoAnne (449-7971) to be part of a historic event and check out the Montana Dragon Boat Festival website www.montana.racedragonboats.com for more information.

Extra bonus: bring your own watercraft and we'll organize a float on the Swan River or one of the lakes.

Friday-Sunday, September 19, 20 & 21: a river & camping trip. Intermediate-level kayaking plus camping trip on another nearby Montana river. Call Jo Anne (449-7971) for more information and to register.

Community Events

Friday-Sunday, September 5, 6 & 7: 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act Celebrations in Seeley Lake. Montana Wilderness Association sponsors tours, hikes, speakers and entertainment during the 3 days. Free and open to the public. Jack Gladstone and Mission Mountain Wood Band are featured. For more information, click on www.wildmontana.org/50th.

Saturday & Sunday, September 13 & 14: more celebrations at Fort Peck. Eastern Wildlands Chapter of Montana Wilderness Association celebrates at Fort Peck with hikes, tours and entertainment.

www.MontanaDiscoveryFoundation.org contains information about their monthly moonlight hikes and other programs. The September full moon hike will be on **Monday, September 8**. Join their Google group to get automatic updates.

National Public Lands Day, the largest single-day of volunteer effort devoted to public lands. It began in 1994 and happens on the last Saturday in September. Last year 175,000 people participated in many projects in all 50 states. **Here are two ways to help out in Montana** (watch for news releases on other events):

*** Saturday, September 27: Montana Wild hosts its annual Outdoor Fest at Spring Meadow Lake State Park.** A family event, the activities are aimed at getting kids involved in outdoor pursuits such as fishing,

archery or kayaking. PLEASE HELP make this event a success by volunteering to help that morning. The always popular kayak station needs help getting children (and some adults, too) into the boats. You'll get a free lunch and lots of good vibes, as well as a chance to try the kayaks yourself. Let JoAnne (449-7971) know if you can be there to help her.

*** Saturday, September 27: Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park is hosting a cave cleanup day.** The thousands of visitors to the caverns leave a coating of lint, dust and hair on the beautiful formations there. All cleaning supplies are provided, as is lunch and probably a program by a Montana cave explorer. For details and to volunteer, call the L&C Caverns State Park (287-3541).

Stay in touch through our Yahoo group: Reminders, additional and last-minute trips will be posted on our YAHOO group, a network of over 120 local outdoorsy folks and potential trip companions. You can find us here: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hoc_members/.

If you aren't already on this list and want to know how to sign up, email monique@mandali.com and she'll send you an invitation. It's FREE to members and a super way for everyone to post their own outings *and* find out about other people's trip ideas all year long!

THE HELENA OUTDOOR CLUB is for everyone, regardless of age. Our outdoor activities vary with the seasons and include hiking, backpacking, canoeing and kayaking, bicycling, snow shoeing, XC and downhill skiing. Most activities are free. Members organize and guide trips for the casual recreationist. No experience necessary. We also offer free public presentations on adventure travel in Montana and around the world.

Yearly memberships are only \$10/family. Mail your check to PO Box 135, Helena, MT 59624.

www.helenaoutdoorclub.org

A club for non-motorized recreation since 1972

Steering Committee:

Trip Coordinator	Jo Anne Thun	449-7971
Trip Co-Coordinator	Helen Fee & others	461-6741
Weekend Event Coordinators	Jan Horan & others	442-1619
Memberships & Treasurer	MaryAlice Chester	495-8787
Database & Newsletter	Monique Mandali	495-9206
YAHOO Group Moderator	Monique Mandali	495-9206
Website	Monique Mandali	495-9206



Maude K., age 9, on top of Red Mountain, July 2014,
photo by Tom Kilmer