

The Highpoint

December 2006

Visit our Website www.seniorsoutdoors.org

Go

Trash Tracker Program

Olin Kane

How does the idea of picking up trash in the desert for four days in the heat of the summer sound to you? Doesn't immediately strike you as a "fun thing to do" does it? Well actually this deal is fun, it must be as there is a waiting list.

We've done it three times over the years and enjoyed it more each time. As the name implies, you walk along the beaches of Lake Powell and pick up trash: beer cans, hats, spent fireworks, towels, golf balls, you name it. You live aboard a 50' houseboat and have the use of two other boats for your daily adventures along the shore line. The program runs from April 1st through the middle of November.

To get started, you apply and see if they can use you when you're available (more on this later). If you get an assignment and when the time comes, you drive over to Page, AZ, (5-6 hour drive) spend the night (we camped in the Lake Powell NRA (National Recreation Area)) and report to the Trash Tracker house boat the next morning. A host couple (usually retirees) welcomes you aboard along with another couple (six total) and off you go to pick up trash on the beaches of Lake Powell. We always sign up and go with a couple we know but one, two, three or four can sign up.

A typical day goes like this. Rise and shine about 7 am. First one up makes coffee. Cook up a full breakfast in a full kitchen including microwave oven. Fishermen will like to take this time to fish off the stern of the houseboat while breakfast is cooking. After breakfast, pack a lunch and jump in one of the small boats and head for a beach. Pick up trash for maybe three hours and then eat lunch. If you get hot at any time, relief is only a short dip away. After lunch pick up some more trash and then head back to the house boat around 3-4 pm. Fire up the generator and air condi-

tioner and kick back for an hour or so and enjoy a cold drink. Later, cook supper and then relax and chat or play cards or fish or something until bed time.

This goes on for maybe four days. One of the five days scheduled is usually spent sightseeing. Your host will take you to Rainbow Bridge or some other special spot. Maybe some will want to hike, others fish. Basically, you work about six hours a day for four days and socialize the rest of the time.

What does it cost? In addition to getting over to Page (a few trips leave from Bull Frog Mari~ which is even closer to Durango) and back, you (the four worker bees) provide the food and beverages for the duration. There is a big Safeway in Page so you can pick up any last minute things.

It's a great way to see Lake Powell, get a little exercise and perform a valuable service. For more information. visit: <http://www.nps.gov/archive/glca/tracker/tthome.htm>

A word to the wise from experience, if this interests you, sign up early. Mark your calendar and call the first day or two in February. You can pick the time of year that is convenient for you. The longer you wait, the less choice of dates you get. This program, is very popular but you can partake if you call early.



**There will be no
January newsletter**



Getting to Know.....

Bill Cagle

Co-President

I grew up mostly in Oregon, graduating from high school and the University of Oregon, in Eugene. I majored in accounting and spent four years after graduation working for one of the Big 6 public accounting firms in Portland, where I got my CPA certificate. I decided that public accounting wasn't for me, so I moved to Spokane, WA and started working in the private accounting sector.

In Spokane I met and married Letha. I spent 13 years there, working, playing and helping to raise her two boys. After the oldest son graduated, we moved to Portland, searching for better employment and recreational opportunities where we lived for about 15 years. In the mid 90's, we began our search for a place to eventually retire. It was a three year process, focusing on the West. When we discovered Durango, it clicked with us right away. We found a building lot that we liked, bought it, and started bidding our time until we could retire. In 2003, on one of our visits to Durango, I discovered a job opportunity with the Southern Ute Tribe that would enable us to move to Durango a couple of years early, so I took the job, Letha retired, and I worked as the Tribe's internal auditor for 2 ½ years. I am now retired, and loving every minute of it.

I have enjoyed outdoor activities for most of my adult life, so Durango is a natural for me. I like hiking, backpacking and sea kayaking in the summer, and snow shoeing and xc skiing in the winter. I also enjoy outings with the local archaeology group. My volunteer efforts, in addition to SO!, include serving on a County Advisory Board and helping KSUT with their financial matters.

Durango has proven to be a great fit for Letha and I, and we hope to spend many more enjoyable years here.

Seniors Outdoors! is an outing and social club providing organized year-round outdoor activities and related educational opportunities

To Join Seniors Outdoors!
Contact Anne Rendon, 884-2729
or e-mail: TRTRendon@mydurango.net

Membership forms are available on the website: <http://www.seniorsoutdoors.org/>, at the monthly meetings, and on outings.

Board Briefs

Treasurer's Report: December, 2006
Income-----\$6,106.50
Expenses-----\$1,560.45
Balance-----\$6,308.14

Board Members

Co-Presidents:
Bill Cagle, 385-4566
Tom Rebbin 247-0551
Secretary: Mary Ann Bryant 259-4278
Treasurer: Dick Reitz 375-1870
Outings Committee Chair:
Sharron Chambers 259-9271
Board Meetings are OPEN to all members

Other Positions

Circulation: Dianne Rebbin, 247-0551
Sandy Bauman, 375-9589
Email Message Coordinator:
Wally Schmidt 385-1804
Ruthanne Gartland, 884-5478
Hospitality: Letha Cagle, 385-4566
Aggie Owens, 247-0463
Membership: Anne Rendon, 884-2729
Newsletter Editor:
Inge Silton, 259-6881
Outings Schedule Publisher:
Sharon Kinton, 375-1152
Olin Kane, 375-0060
Phone Tree: Susan Beck-Brown,
375-0948
Programing Chairs:
Tricia Bayless 375-2618
Public Relations:
Grace Deltscheff, 259-3040
Trip Equipment Coordinator:
Travis Ward, 247-1310
Diana McMichael, 764-4190
Website Manager:
Bob Chaput, 247-9332

Seniors Outdoors! Sub-Groups

Downhill Ski: John Montle, 259-9469
Horse Riders: Dell Manners, 382-9967
Single Seniors: Carol Milliet, 259-0496

Welcome New Members as of 11/25/06

Ken Carmichael
Fran Evans
Ron and Pat Hoenninger
Andrew Kayner and Jennifer Wrenn
Darryl and Marilyn Metz
Keith and Bev Wells

*Our total membership is now 399
since the renewals of July 2006*

HOW TO IDENTIFY WILDFLOWERS An Introductory Workshop

Are you a wildflower lover frustrated every year when you cannot identify gorgeous plants you see on the trail? Learn methods to use in identifying plants, flower structure, characteristics of major flower families, the use of plant keys, and more.

Date: Saturday, February 10th
Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Place: San Juan Public Lands Center

For more information see <http://www.conps.org/southwest.html>, or call or email Al Schneider: (970-882-4647) webmaster@conps.org



The EXtra Mile

Many Senior Outdoors! Members go the distance in contributing the time and the expertise that is so vital in moving our group forward - SALUTE

December Trip Leaders: Sharron Chambers, Joan Huntley, John Martin

December Hosts: Dell Manners, Toini Babinski, Marie Estocin, Parker Lovelady, Ruth Wagner

December Clean-up: Warren Levingston, Ed and Mary Handrick

January Trip Leaders: Travis Ward, Betty Kilpatrick, Howard Drake, Jim Beatty, Clark Lagow, John Martin, Harry Hance, Jim O'Brien, Brooks Taylor, Jim Shadid, Mary Handrick

January Hosts: Carol Fifield, Carol McGuire, Pat & Ron Hoenninger, Sandy Bauman

January Clean-up: Larry Bruckner

Ski Groups

Linda Murray

Jack and I have been members of the SO! for several years now and have enjoyed skiing with the Monday and Friday ski group. When we first joined the group, Jack was delighted to have others to ski the blacks and bumps and I was usually running to keep up due to a past injury. I would rather ski groomed slopes for the rest of my life rather than push myself and perhaps have another injury that would keep me from skiing at all. So, at one of the meetings last winter I announced that there must be some others out there that wanted to ski the groomed and stop to enjoy the scenery. I had a number of people come up to me after the meeting and tell me that they felt the same way and that their spouses or friends skied a little beyond their comfort zone but did not want to be left out. Well, we formed a group and now everyone breaks off into their own little comfort zone and fun level and we all meet for lunch and then ski a few more runs or ski off the mountain with each other. It all worked out great and the advanced group did not need to wait around for the intermediate and lots of fun was had by all. I would like to propose that this season we have three groups, advanced, intermediate and beginner. It is always so much fun to ski with others and share the beauty of the mountain. Please e-mail me or give me a call if you are interested. See you at the SIX PACK Monday and Friday

Linda Murray (970)247-3688
condosew@aol.com

WINTER TREATS

We have so many goodies to choose from on the Winter Schedule: snow shoe treks, bird outings, downhill and X-Country skiing. There is something for every appetite. For new or returning X-country skiers we have an added treat: a X-Country Workshop led by Mary Handrick, a X-country instructor. Mary will hold the Workshop January 31, and if members want more workshops, Mary will add them to the schedule. More icing on the cake is the series of "Saturday Snow Shoes with John". These are John Martin's moderate snow shoe outings held several Saturdays during the season. Check your e-mails for details a few days before the outings. And for a break, Bill Cagle has "An Escape the Cold and Snow" hiking/camping trip at Arches National Park in Utah planned for February 26-28.

Restoration and Recovery of Federal Forests after Catastrophic Wildfires

by Inge silton

To Log:

Federal land management agencies have a major responsibility in ensuring the recovery and reforestation of the forest after a catastrophic event such as a wildfire.

Salvage or harvesting of dead trees is the most controversial issue. Forest experts believe that post fire action should include the timely removal of dead trees for both ecological and economic benefits, the planting of tree seedlings, and vegetative control. If left on the land, dead trees eventually fall to the ground and become fuel, competitive brush will thrive providing ready to burn kindling, paving the way for even more devastating future fires with the loss of thousands of acres of nesting and rooting habitat. Carefully done salvage would reduce future fuel loads and help hasten re-growth and recovery. It also makes a more aesthetically pleasing landscape.

The California 'Storrie' fire of 2001 burning 55,000 acres, swept through private and national forest land. The private land managers of 3,200 acres moved swiftly to remove dead and dying trees thereby reducing future fire danger. In the process they harvested enough wood to build nearly 4,300 homes, enough biomass fuel to heat 3,600 homes for a year, contributed more than \$500,000 in county yield taxes, and provided jobs that generated millions of dollars in state and federal income taxes. They then planted nearly one million seedlings of seven different species, some of which are now 5ft. tall. Environmentalists blocked all but 1,200 acres of national forest from tree harvesting, which could have helped to reduce our need for foreign timber imports. Oregon lumber mills have turned to foreign imports from Canada, New Zealand and Chile to stay in business and help sustain the sagging local economy. Only 400 seedlings were planted in the burned national forest. Reforested areas also need to be maintained. Young conifers will not survive because of competing vegetation if not properly maintained.

There are advocates for no salvaging regardless of how sensitive the agencies are in developing and implementing harvest plans that are designed to protect the

environment. The advocates for no timber harvest have taken the position that all forests should be natural areas or designated as wilderness. Areas left alone would recover at a rate dictated by slowly encroaching natural regeneration and conversion to hardwood and brush species. Many years of research and applied experiences on reforestation have demonstrated that it is highly likely that natural regeneration of conifer species in severely burned areas will not occur for decades or possibly a century or more and that plantings will recover areas of large conifers more quickly.



Or not to Log:

One of the effects of fire disturbances is the creation of dead trees, both standing "snags" and downed logs. Fire-killed snags and logs are important for natural recovery processes because they provide food and shelter to wildlife, fish, insects, microbes, and fungi. They help retard surface water runoff, retain and build soil, and help cycle nutrients and water to plants and soil. Fires can cause short-term adverse effects such as increasing erosion from rain, snowfall and subsequent runoff. These impacts vary depending on the severity of the fire, the steepness of slopes, natural erodibility and precipitation. In general, burned soils are highly vulnerable to additional disturbance. When large-diameter snags fall to the ground across the slope contour, they serve as natural check-dams that slow runoff and retain soil. Salvage logging directly displaces soils by felling trees and dragging large-diameter logs across the exposed ground surface, which causes soil compaction. The result of decreased water infiltration and retention is increased surface runoff and subsequent sedimentation in streams.

Salvage logging causes nutrient losses not only through removal of topsoil, but indirectly through the removal of snags and logs. Large logs function as an important source of organic matter and a long-lasting nutrient reservoir for microorganisms, plants, and animals.

Extracting snags that would have become downed logs eliminates their ability to intercept precipitation and retard erosion. Large-diameter logs are also capable of storing vast amounts of water. When logs fall across streams, they trap sediment and form backwater areas and "stair-step" stream profiles that dissipate the energy of flowing water even on high gradient slopes. These check-dams and backwater pools help maintain clean water and create vital nesting, feeding, and spawning habitat for aquatic habitat. Additionally, the interiors of large-diameter logs are capable of storing vast amounts of water, releasing water slowly into soil and streams over time. Other effects of removing shade-producing large snags and logs are increased solar radiation causing lower relative humidity and soils and vegetation are more exposed to the drying effects of increased surface winds.

Wildlife populations often respond positively to fires and are attracted to burns for the flush of nutrients and new vegetation and the pulse of new snags and logs. 62 species of birds and mammals use snags, broken-topped, diseased or otherwise "defective" trees for roosting, denning, foraging, or other life functions. 96% of all dead trees within monitoring plots showed evidence of foraging by woodpeckers within one year after the fire.

Salvage logging proponents acknowledge the essential ecological roles and values of snags and logs but these values may be negated because of a desire to reduce fire risks and fuel hazards. However, there is growing scientific evidence that large-diameter snags and logs have naturally low flammability. Large snags are important ignition sources during lightning storms, but from the standpoint of the physics of combustion, it is the fine fuels such as grass, needles, and small limbs that carry fire.



Pictures are of the 1988 fire in Yellowstone taken 8/10/06 by Jill Ward.



*Downhill Skiing
at DMR
9:30
Every Monday and
Friday
base of "6 pack" lift*

*Join the group every Monday
and Friday through the ski
season. All abilities-find a com-
patible skier. The group usually
meets at Dante's at noon for
lunch (when open)
No RSVP needed,
just show up*

Christmas Bird Counts

Members interested in participating in the Christmas bird counts in Durango and /or Silverton in late December or early January, contact
Jim Beatty 385-0184

**January Meeting
January 9, 2007
Rec Center**

Are you sticking to your New Year's resolutions? Dick Shappell, our speaker, will give us the benefits of proper diet and exercise. Dick has a doctorate degree in exercise science and is Professor Emeritus of Oxford College of Emory University. He will follow his talk with a question/answer session.

**Meeting Place Change
High Country Winter Outings**

Because of construction at DMR, our high country winter outings meeting place (not downhill skiing) will be at Tamarron/Glacier Club. Turn east (right, coming north) at Tamarron/Glacier Club, circle left around pond, then turn right into the small parking area just opposite the north end of the pond, NOT the Lodge parking area.

**February Meeting
February 13, 2007
Rec Center**

"Photographing Rock Art" John Ninnemann, Dean of Natural and Behavioral Sciences at Fort Lewis College.

We are fortunate to live in a place rich with history and very accessible remnants of the past cultures that once flourished here. This "rock art" has much to teach us about the people who once lived here and John will discuss the process of recording images and discuss some helpful tips. We will place the images in the context of the cultures that produced them.



EASY

*Get the newsletter on the Web
www.seniorsoutdoors.org
Contact Anne Rendon at 884-2729
to have your name removed from the
mailing list.*



Seniors Outdoors!
Membership Chair
265 Pine Valley Road
Bayfield, CO 81122

*Merry Christmas
Happy Hanukkah*