

# Thin Air

The Student Mountain Club Newsletter

Spring XXXX Volume 1, No. 1



## *From the President*

*Welcome to the first edition of the SMC Newsletter! We hope it will create a reliable medium for keeping in touch with you about club activities and events. In this newsletter you'll find announcements about club activities as well as other information we hope you'll find interesting and useful.*

*Our officers have some exciting programs and trips planned for this year. I hope you enjoy all of them.*

*Chris Jones, President*

## Fall Trip to Mount Washington

During the Thanksgiving break several club members drove to the Presidential Range in New Hampshire. They climbed Mt. Washington and surrounding peaks in excellent conditions clear skies, above-freezing temperatures, and wind velocities under 50 mph. That was a pleasant surprise: Mt. Washington holds the wind velocity record, and snow starts to fly in early fall.

Club members camped in a nearby National Forest and hiked to the summits of Madison, Adams, and Jefferson, following the Appalachian Trail for nearly forty miles.

All members spotted moose along the trail. The club will definitely consider the Presidential Range for future trips.

## Trail Volunteers Needed

Volunteers for clearing trails are needed in several state and national forests and parks. This is a great way to learn about a mountain ecosystem while preparing the trails for the summer season for your fellow hikers.

Spend your spring break in the Rockies or the Appalachians where the streams run clear, the trees open their canopies, and the rhododendrons bloom. Housing is provided free, and car

## Mountain Lectures

◆ Thursday, February 12, Jim Spitzer, "Which Mountain Will Be the Next St. Helens?" Find out about the geology of the Cascades and how itâ€™s likely to change within the coming decades.

◆ Wednesday, March 17, Mary Ann Woodling, "High Terrain Mammals." Learn about the amazing adaptive qualities of bears, marmots, and other mountain creatures.

◆ Monday, April 21, Liu Chang, "The Mountain People of Tibet." Discover this unique culture from an anthropology graduate student who has lived and worked in Tibet.

## Club Meeting Schedule Spring Semester

We'll meet every other Tuesday evening at 7:00 in the Student Union Lounge. Bring your friends.

## Dressing for the Climb

Climbing a "fourteener" in Colorado can be an exhilarating experience -- if you're prepared. Most novices, however, make the mistake of underestimating the brute force of nature above the timber line. That can be a big mistake -- even a fatal mistake.

At this February's first meeting, Fred Carlson will conduct a seminar on dressing for the climb. Fred, who worked for the National Park Service the past three summers, has lots of experience outfitting backpackers and climbers. Join us and let Fred help you plan your next mountain adventure.

## Spring Trip to the Big Horn Mountains

We've chosen the Big Horn Mountains in Northern Wyoming for this year's spring trip because it is one of the best kept secrets in the West-- uncrowded, challenging, and rugged.

Here's our itinerary:

We'll leave from the Union on Monday, March X, and stay overnight in Sheridan, Wyoming. Tuesday afternoon, we'll be on the trail in the Big Horns, heading southwest. We'll camp four nights, then return on Saturday from Buffalo.

The approximate cost for members will be \$175.

Sign up soon so we can line up transportation and supplies.

## Congratulations to Jerry, Brenda, and Fred

In June Jerry Smith, Brenda Talbot, & Fred Carlson climbed Mt. Rainier in Washington St. Although they were caught in a snowstorm on their descent, they made it back safely. "We had a clear view at the top," said Jerry. "It was worth every step -- an incredible experience! I can't wait to go back."

## Annual Fundraiser

We'll be selling mountain T-shirts, mugs, and calendars for our annual fundraiser. These items make great gifts anytime of the year. We need volunteers for our booth displays. Contact Sue at 782-2222.

## Planning the Summer Break Tour

Our annual summer tour (the week before classes begin) is still in the planning stages. Scotland, Norway, Switzerland, Chile, and Hawaii are just a few of the many destinations being considered. Give us your ideas and input. We need to finalize our plans by the end of March to get the airfare discounts. Call Joe (2-4593) with your ideas and preferences -- soon.

---

## Welcome

## New Members & Officers!

*Last fall we've had nearly 20 new members both from around the country and around the globe.*

---