



UINTAH MOUNTAIN CLUB NEWS

Number 258 • June, 2009

EARLY SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Friday, June 12

Moonshine Trail Maintenance / Summer Kick-off Potluck

MORNING: MEET AT THE FLAGPOLE AT UINTAH HIGH SCHOOL AT 9:00 A.M.

In honor of National Trails Day, we will join Chad Hamblin and his student crew to walk the 6-mile Moonshine Trail from Taylor Mountain Road to U.S. 191. The young folks will handle any heavy-duty trail work; the rest of us can pitch in or just enjoy the slickrock scenery. Bring good boots, hat, sunscreen, plenty of water, sack lunch, and your enthusiasm for quiet recreation on our public lands.

EVENING: MEET AT DINOSAUR TRACKWAY TRAILHEAD, 7:00 P.M.

In a rocky alcove behind Red Fleet, we'll have our traditional gathering to celebrate the change from spring to summer. Potluck dinner and music until sunset, then stargazing with telescopes. To reach the site, drive 11.8 miles north of Vernal on U.S. 191; turn right (the junction is marked with a sign) just past the phosphate mine entrance roads, and drive another 2.3 miles to the trailhead parking.

For more information about either or both of these events, contact Tom Elder, 789-3336.

Saturday, July 4

Independence Day Cookout at Patty's, 6:00 p.m.

Patty McCourt (12 North 1500 East) will host a potluck dinner and fireworks-watching. She'll supply burgers and brats; you bring a dish to share and your drinks. **Please RSVP by July 1st: 828-0114.**

Friday-Saturday, July 10-11

Trout Creek Guard Station Service Project and Hiking

Mark your calendar now for this overnigher that will include a cleanup of the guard station cabin and surrounding area. Work on the cabin may include some painting, so bring appropriate clothing for that, as well as sleeping bag, hiking gear, and personal food. When the work is done, we'll enjoy day hikes in the nearby area, with clear streams, colorful wildflowers, and classic Uinta Mountain scenery as our well-earned rewards.

Call Diane Ackerman, 789-9212, if you'd like to sign up. Further details will be mailed/emailed closer to the date.

VERNAL ♥ S DRILLING!

A huge crowd greeted David Hayes, Deputy Secretary of the Interior, heatedly but definitely not warmly at Western Park May 26. His visit addressed Interior Secretary Ken Salazar's withdrawal (and subsequent lawsuit by Uintah, Duchesne, and Carbon counties) of 77 of the controversial oil/gas leases offered by the BLM last December. The leases had drawn criticism because of their proximity to protected areas, including Dinosaur National Monument.

Of 16 speakers who addressed comments to Hayes (and countless more who clearly wanted to), only three supported the withdrawals. Two of these brave souls were UMC's President and Secretary. For their mere suggestion that recreation and tourism are also valid components of the Basin's economy and quality of life, they were rudely booed and interrupted (rather belying other speakers' comments that the local populace are "not just hicks and rednecks"). Diane and Patty deserve medals for standing up for the land in such a hostile setting — you go, girls!

No doubt we'll see plenty more about this issue in the future. If you happen to converse with anyone on the subject, point out that questioning a few poorly-sited leases does not mean environmentalists are bent on shutting down the whole energy industry, and explain (for the umpteenth time) that "multiple use" does not mandate every possible use on every available acre of public land.

CHECK THE UMC WEBSITE, www.untahmountainclub.org, TO SEE WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON WHILE WE TAKE OUR USUAL SUMMER BREAK FROM MONTHLY MEETINGS. SEE YOU OUT ON THE TRAILS AND RIVERS!