



PHOTO BY JOHN WENTWORTH

A group of hikers at a panoramic summit on Dunderberg Peak

MLTPA Update

By Kim Stravers
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It's been said that the key to being a successful host is to know two interesting things about each of your guests, so that when you're flitting about the room, making people feel at ease, Jen in the corner will feel more comfortable when you introduce her to Bob, who's been lurking by the cocktail Wieners all night. Those types of conversation starters typically sound something like this:

"Bob, I'd like you to meet Jen. She's an investment banker with Goldman Sachs and just put a down payment on her vacation home in St. Barth's."

"Jen, this is Bob. He travels the country doing motivational speaking for software companies and likes to time himself when he does the *New York Times* Sunday crossword."

Jen and Bob shake hands. They chat

about their careers, their cars and their stock portfolios. They exchange business cards, but don't speak again, despite sincere promises to "do lunch soon."

Here in Mammoth, the icebreakers are a little different:

"Bob, meet Jen! Jen likes to backcountry ski and run with her Lab, Charlie. You like to ski, don't you, Bob?"

"Jen, meet Bob! Bob also likes to take his boat out on the lake and ride his horse, Red, in the meadow. Didn't you used to work at the pack station, Jen?"

Jen and Bob shake hands. They chat about the predicted snowfall for this coming season, debate which new gear to buy, make plans to ski the Sherwins together this winter. They exchange cell phone numbers and call each other a few days later to make plans for the following weekend.

But Jen and Bob's friendship doesn't stop there. Bob introduces Jen to his buddy Tom; Jen brings her friend Kelly to the stables to meet Bob. Word gets out to Billy and Katie and Chuck, and pretty soon, what started out as two people who liked to get together and play becomes an informal club.

And so it goes—the more people we meet in this town, the more likely we are to discover not only a new friend, but also a new hiking partner or climbing buddy. That's why most of us moved here, after all: to live in a community where people define themselves not by their occupation, but by what they do when they're out of the office.

We've got our share of clubs here, groups of people brought together by their shared love of being outside. There's MAMBO, the Eastern Sierra 4WD Club, Mammoth Nordic and the High Sierra Striders, among many others. Their members may meet every other week, or just keep in touch by email to plan trips and activities. Though they're different groups with different interests and agendas, however, they share two important traits: organization and communication. Big dump coming next week? There goes an e-mail blast. Impending trail closure? Special meeting scheduled ASAP. There is indeed strength in numbers, and sometimes the power of the collective voice is more effective at enacting change than the power of one.

MLTPA has been talking with many of these clubs over the last few months, listening to them outline their challenges and achievements, and telling us what they'd like to see happen with our local trail system. And though all of that is good information, it's *individual* information. We may be working with 10 groups, but

those 10 groups may not be working with each other.

Part of MLTPA's vision for the future is Mammoth Trails: a key component of MLTPA that will be the neutral ground and economic and logistic resource for all clubs and user groups in the Mammoth Lakes region. Clubs that are members of Mammoth Trails will be expected to provide credible and up-to-date information about their activity and the amenities they use; in exchange, member groups will have access to graphic designers and server space for their websites, the non-profit benefits of MLTPA, and the opportunity to apply for annual grants from MLTPA. We plan to host a Mammoth Trails Web site, where residents and visitors can log on and find a club for any activity they'd like to do, and where any club can easily locate and communicate with its sister groups. It's a unique idea—so far, I've been unable to find any sort of central resource like this anywhere in the West—but it's one that benefits our community by bringing it together.

But Mammoth Trails can't be the hub of a wheel with too few spokes. We've got a great start already with our existing and longstanding clubs, but there are still activities without a home: disc golf, backcountry skiing and snowboarding, climbing. So take a lesson from Bob and Jen: get your friends together, share phone numbers, and organize. If you've got something going already, give us a call and tell us about it. At the risk of sounding like some kind of "Successories" poster, together, everyone achieves more.

Satin jackets optional.

This is the third installment of the Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access (MLTPA) biweekly update to keep you informed about the projects MLTPA is working on, events they've got planned and progress they've been making.

EDUCATION

Mammoth College Center scholarships said to be "most ever"

A record number of local students are attending classes at the Mammoth College Center—a campus of Cerro Coso Community College—on full Mammoth Lakes Foundation scholarships. Twenty-four students are pursuing their A.A. degrees as part of the Local Scholarship Program. Stuart Brown, Development Manager for the Mammoth Lakes Foundation could not be more pleased.

"Twenty four is a record number of students, the most we've ever had on scholarship," Brown said. Since the Local Scholarship Program started in 2003, the Mammoth Lakes Foundation has awarded more than 100 scholarships to Mammoth and Sierra High School graduates and Mono County residents to pursue higher education in Mammoth Lakes. Brown encourages all area residents interested in furthering their higher education to attend the Mammoth College Center.

The following students were awarded scholarships on behalf of an individual donor or local business:

Megan Felkel (2006 MHS Graduate) – Mammoth Community Water District

Michael Berman – Chuck Tallman Scholarship

Peter Morning - Robyn R. Noll Memorial Scholarship for Journalism

The following students were awarded scholarships on behalf of the Tom Dempsey Endowment Fund and through individual and business donations via the Mammoth Lakes Foundation:

Kaelin Ashley, Jay Beebe, Pete Benchetler, Tara Clemons, Juan Jose Espitia, Tyler Flygare, Maria Galvin, Traci Hartless, Heather Hensler, Megan Mann, Bret Meier, Stephen Myers, Mitch Pain, Tony Perkins, Genevieve Pourzan, Brannon Santos, Chantal Sarha, Matthew Scollin, Mac Speedale, Melanie Vulgamore and Daniel Willey.

The scholarship covers students' fees and books for up to 60 units or two years of study. A GPA of 2.0 is required to apply for and continue the scholarship.

Funding for the scholarships is largely community based; scholarships are also awarded on behalf of the Tom Dempsey Endowment Fund, Robyn R. Noll Memorial Scholarship Fund (Journalism and Nursing), Chuck Tallman and the Mammoth Community Water District. –MT/MLF

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Did You Know?

THREE WITCHES APPEAR IN THE SHAKESPEAREAN PLAY, "MACBETH," WARNING THE MAIN CHARACTER ABOUT HIS FUTURE. THEY CHANT THE WORDS: "DOUBLE, DOUBLE TOIL AND TROUBLE; FIRE BURN AND CAULDRON BUBBLE."

How they SAY it in...

- English: SCARY
- Spanish: ASUSTADIZO
- Italian: SPAVENTOSO
- French: EFFRAYANT
- German: SCHAURIG