

Bill Van Moorhem – Dedicated Outings Leader

by Ann Wechsler

The Salt Lake Group Outings Program will miss Bill Van Moorhem. He and his wife Julie, and an assortment of automobiles, are relocating to Oregon, a state he sees as environmentally friendly and more favorably aligned with his political views than his Utah home of more than 30 years. Bill has been a Sierra Club member for 35 years, and has participated in outings with the Salt Lake Group of the Chapter since the mid-1980s.

Hardly a Tuesday night summer hike went by without Bill participating in or leading it, or filling in for another leader with a last minute conflict. In winter, we followed his lead into the backcountry blizzards to attempt to telemark, a futile effort on my part but fun nonetheless. As snowshoeing became more popular among our Group participants, more leaders emerged and the club became less dependent on Bill. But he still "nagged" us into providing first aid training for outings leaders, ably conducted by Rebecca Wallace last winter, and was always available for the quarterly planning meetings. Oh, those tedious newsletter deadlines!

Bill's outdoor interests were never limited to the Wasatch. An aficionado of the Canadian Arctic, he has been to Greenland twice, Ellesmere Island three times, Alaska three times, and Axel Heiburg. Closer to home, his

southern Utah canyon trips with friends from around the country are famous for their exploratory nature and camaraderie, especially during the University of Utah spring break. Bill has taught in the Department of Mechanical Engineering since 1973 and has brought his slide shows back to a faculty thirsting for new experiences. Students and faculty are equally sad to be losing a highly

respected teacher and colleague to other pursuits.

Now that Bill has retired from the U., we know that tinkering with his British cars won't be sufficient, as adventurous and unpredictable as that hobby can be. I will expect to see a future email broadcast to his wide network of friends announcing a new adventure – anyone want to take a hike? Count me in, Bill.

