



# SKI TRACKS

Newsletter of the Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club  
Box 431 • Corvallis, Montana 59828

May, 2002



## APRIL 11, 2002 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Vice President Mel Mooers opened the meeting, acknowledging several new members; there were 37 persons in attendance. Leo Joron stated the BRXC now has 458 members

Mel introduced Terry Ryan who gave a presentation on the July 12, 13, 14, 2002 Treasure State Art Show; she asked for assistance setting up from BRXC members.

Mel discussed a meeting that representatives of the Club had with Deb Gale of the Wisdom Ranger District regarding a summer rental program at the Gordon Reese Cabin. Dennis Havig is reviewing the process also. Some concerns are use, abuse and access to the cabin. The summer rental program season would be June 1 through Sept 4. There has been some irresponsibility from hunters in the past so the season will not continue beyond September 4. The front door will be locked and the lock changed monthly; also the access gate will be locked. Gordon Reese stated it will be walk-in experience. If it is necessary to drive in, special permission would be required. Gordon reminded members that three ranger districts are involved in the cabin area. The fee will be \$30/night accommodating four persons; if there are more, an additional fee would be charged. Host arrival time would be noon or 1 p.m. instead of the present 10 a.m. time to be there. Cleaning of the cabin will be contracted out 1-2 times a month. Use of spring water for drinking is questionable for possible contamination, boiling is still advised. The idea of a well has been suggested but no plans for that are in process. Gordon also stated that the second week of June 2002 will be a work week at the cabin. There are approximately 35 tasks to be done, such as: refinishing kitchen counter tops, repainting floors and chimney, building a wall in the basement, stacking wood, minor carpentry, replumbing the sink drain, and trimming the roof. He suggested a pot luck on a Saturday after a day of work.

Mel mentioned other issues addressed at the meeting with the Forest Service: research of 3.5 acres of the Picnic Meadow area and possible cutting of additional ski trails. Gordon passed out forms that could be sent to the Forest Service by individual members stating input for additional trails. George Corn suggested a formal letter by Sonny LaSalle on behalf of the 458 members of the BRXC be sent. Another issue is interpretive signs; members interested in being involved should contact either Mel Mooers, Gordon Reese or Sonny LaSalle. Gordon explained that interpretive sign possibilities could be: identifying species of trees and their use, the Continental Divide, the historic travel of Lewis and Clark, vegetation management and clear cutting.

Gordon showed a sample of cushions being done by Bailey Upholstery for the benches in the cabin.

Mel introduced Mort Arkava who gave a program telling of his third book on hiking Bitterroot Trails, introducing 11 new trails. He also told of others not in the book and showed some spectacular photos of various hike locations.

## MAY MEETING

**The May meeting will be Thursday, May 9, 2002 - a Pot Luck at the Hikers' Cabin at Lake Como, starting at 6:30 p.m. When you get to the lake, follow the signs the short distance to the cabin.**

**NO MEETING IN JUNE, JULY or AUGUST**

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

**The September meeting will be Saturday, September 14, 2002 - a Pot Luck at the Gordon Reese Cabin after an all day work session.**

## ON THE TRAIL

**By Gordon Reese**

While not many die-hard skiers are making the drive up to the Chief Joe ski trails, the snow is actually holding very well. As Tony Neaves wrote in his column last month, "crust cruising" is a great way to spend a few hours on one of these cool sunny mornings.

About the end of April, for the past 12 years, as another season sort of melts away, I have reflected on how fortunate we are to have so many people contribute their time, enthusiasm, ideas and dollars to help make our ski club a real success story. And I want to at least identify as many as I can and say "Thank You" on behalf of every one who skis with a free heel (free the heel and the mind will follow) for another great season.

- our Club officers, Sonny, Mel, Marion and Jeannie.
- everyone who has a part in our great newsletter, writing, editing, layout, printing, folding, stamping and mailing.
- our generous commercial sponsors who help make our mission possible.
- Mary Ellen, Della, Annie and Peg and Eve from IBID who work with our commercial sponsors and produce a superb ski map (Note: this past season over 3,400 copies of our map were used).
- our "outing" leaders - Mel, Jane and Ed for organizing trips that so many people took part in.
- our very dedicated and helpful members who took their time to help others improve their skiing skills.
- to everyone who helped make the first season of the Hut a great success - shoveling snow, building fires, sweeping, hosting and welcoming everyone who stopped by for lunch, hot chocolate or just a rest.
- to Deb, Arlee and Mikal (Wisdom Ranger District) - without your friendly assistance and help the first season of "hosting" would not have gone so well.

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## On the Trail – continued

- to everyone who shoveled and swept our toilets.
- to Ed, Lou, and Mel who rolled out of bed very early on Fridays to spend a fun day playing in the snow and hopefully getting the trails groomed.
- to everyone who snow-shoed or skied in support of the grooming crew when the big dumpings of powder arrived.
- to our Nordic Ski Patrol for devoting their time and efforts looking for someone to slide out on a toboggan.
- to Pat Patterson for doing a ton of work getting our web page up and running and providing lots of up-to-date info (Note: as of a few days ago over 1,300 folks had “hit” our web page).
- to Toddy Perryman for spearheading the effort to make our newsletter available to anyone who had one of “those there computer machines.”
- to Tony and Annie who late last summer started the planning and made the necessary preparations for the First Annual Continental Divide Classic ski race - a great addition to what our club provides. Annie should also be remembered for her instruction program “Babes in the Woods.”
- to Leo for just being Leo and doing another fantastic job as our membership coordinator. Can anyone honestly say that they knew we would have 470+ members?
- and finally, to everyone for being a member and helping us provide cross-country skiing for lots and lots of people.

One last note: The Forest Service has set aside the second week of June - June 10th through June 16th at the Hut for a week of maintenance, upkeep and “finish the few projects that didn’t get done last fall” week. For example:

- cleaning, window washing, brush pick-up.
- re-painting the main floor.

### OFFICERS - BITTERROOT XC SKI CLUB

President	Sonny LaSalle	375-0871
	<a href="mailto:lasalmom@montana.com">lasalmom@montana.com</a>	
Vice-President	Mel Mooers	961-3163
	<a href="mailto:m.mooersmt@juno.com">m.mooersmt@juno.com</a>	
Treasurer	Jeane Lippert	642-3379
Secretary	Marion Deeths	363-7508
Hiking	Ed Curran	961-5446
	<a href="mailto:edann@montananet.com">edann@montananet.com</a>	
Income	Mary Ellen Reese	642-3007
Instruction	Bob Brophy	363-2381
Membership	Leo Joron	961-8359
	<a href="mailto:lpj@bitterroot.net">lpj@bitterroot.net</a>	
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Editorial	Art & Kerstin Seifert	961-4411
	<a href="mailto:ajseifert@earthlink.net">ajseifert@earthlink.net</a>	
Production	Peg Hampton	363-1866 (Msg.) 363-1887 (H)
Mailing	Leo Joron	(see above)
E-Mail	Toddy Perryman	961-4959
	<a href="mailto:toddy@qwest.net">toddy@qwest.net</a>	
Outings	Jayne Brindle	363-4192
	<a href="mailto:CLP@bitterroot.net">CLP@bitterroot.net</a>	
	Mel Mooers	(see above)
Programs	(vacant)	
Publicity	Diane Williford	363-6290
Trails	Gordon Reese	642-3007
Webmaster	Pat Patterson	363-4192
	<a href="mailto:CLP@bitterroot.com">CLP@bitterroot.com</a>	

- re-finishing the kitchen counter.
- two or three small carpenter type jobs.
- finish the metal roofing trim.
- stacking firewood.
- walking ski trails.

We hope you can come any day or days. Bring a lunch and work gloves. You could bring your camper or tent, or bring a sleeping bag and stay in the cabin. A phone call to me at 642-3007 or to Ed Hastings at 777-2508 would help us with organization and would be advisable if you require vehicular access. A semi-pot luck (bring something to go with grilled hamburgers) is being planned for Saturday, June 15th at 4:00 p.m.

Again, THANKS to everyone for another great season.

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

By Leo Joron

From time to time I get comments such as, “I paid dues in February, March or April; why do I need to pay them again in June?” I can only answer in this way: Historically, the Club’s policy has been that the membership dues paying year runs from June 1 of one year to May 31 of the next year. But in reality, members who are in good standing on May 31 continue to receive the Club’s newsletter and other information (such as notices of activities such as hiking, biking, canoeing and pot lucks) up to and including the November “Membership” Meeting. If dues are not paid prior to or at the November meeting, members are dropped from the roster. I hope this clarifies the situation for those who have questions.

### Membership Renewals

Annual memberships EXPIRE on **MAY 31, 2002.**

**Renew your membership now!**

INDIVIDUAL - \$10 • FAMILY - \$20

SUPPORTING INDIVIDUAL – \$25

SUPPORTING FAMILY – \$35

LIFE MEMBER – \$100

### Membership Dues

**June 1, 2002 - May 31, 2003**

MAIL TO: Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club

P.O. Box 431, Corvallis, MT 59828

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Listed above)

## A MESSAGE FROM TERRY RYAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE SECOND BIENNIAL TREASURE STATE ART SHOW

Call for Volunteers! Imagine a three day weekend filled with art, entertainment, and fabulous food set in an authentic Victorian garden with an imposing mansion silhouetted against alpine mountains in the backdrop...

The Second Biennial Treasure State Art Show and Auction will be held on the grounds of the Daly Mansion on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, July 12, 13, & 14, 2002. Opening day, the first paintings from Charlie Fritz' new series: An Artist with the Corps of Discovery will be on display. Friday evening will feature an entertaining show called "The Clark and Lewis Show" put on by the Vigilante Players. Other entertainment will be offered throughout the weekend.

Original art by 90 top western and wildlife artists will be auctioned during the four-course Gala Dinner on Saturday, July 13. Proceeds from the event go to the Ravalli County Museum. We have forty artists signed up to be present in booths. We have the sponsors signed up and the entertainment planned. We have a committee busily selling tickets.

But, we have one big problem. The three day event needs a large number of mature, responsible volunteers willing to help with set up the day before the show and breakdown the day after the show. Additionally, throughout the entire event we need teams of four to six for shifts of four hours to be on the premises willing to do whatever is needed to make things flow smoothly. Don Giles, our volunteer recruitment Chairman, who performed this task so efficiently at the first art show, died unexpectedly last month. Thus we are in dire need of help from groups like yours to insure the success of this second show.

Please talk to your friends and see if you can find time to sign up for a four hour shift any time from 9am to 1pm, 1-5pm, Thursday, July 11 (set up day, Moving and hanging art.) 9am-1pm, 1-5 pm or 5-9 pm Friday, (opening day), 9am-1pm, 1-5 pm, Saturday, or Sunday from 9am -1pm or 1-5 pm. Lastly, 9 am-1pm or 1-5pm on Monday, July 15, for breakdown. Call toll free (866) 649-0111 to sign up. Thank you for your consideration.



*Enjoy the outdoors!*

## USFS NEWS RELEASE RE: GORDON REESE CABIN RENTAL

WISDOM, MT April 23, 2002 - The Forest Service will rent the newly built "Gordon Reese Cabin" this summer. The building is located one-mile off of Highway 43 at Chief Joseph Pass, west of Wisdom. Starting May 6, at 7 a.m., the Forest Service office in Wisdom will accept reservations on a first-come-first-served basis. Call a special phone number, (406) 689-3371 to make reservations. Each caller will be limited to one, three-day stay and one weekend during the summer. Up to eight people may use the cabin at any one time. The cabin rents for \$35 a night. The Forest Service will use proceeds from renting the cabin to maintain it. The cabin was completed last year and is used as a "warming hut" for cross-country skiers in the winter. The log building comes with firewood, a propane stove and oven, solar and propane lighting, a well-equipped kitchen with dishes and cooking utensils, and outdoor toilet and beds. Renters must bring in their own water, bedding, food and towels. For more information prior to May 6, call Deb Gale, at the Forest Service office in Wisdom, at (406) 689-3243.

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### SHERPAS WANTED

Bill Goslin, USFS Wilderness Ranger at the Stevensville Ranger Station has contacted the BRXC Ski Club as well as other organizations to spread the word that there may be employment opportunities relating to work projects (such as dam repair) in designated wilderness areas. Those employed would be "sherpas" to backpack tools, instruments and other duffle into wilderness areas where access was not suitable for stock (e.g., because of the difficulty of the trail or snow) and to reduce the need to use helicopters. Assignments would be mostly day trips in the Bitterroot Valley from May - October. Each individual would provide his own gear, would carry 40 - 60 pounds, and would be employed by the Irrigation Association or Dam Operator who was doing the project. Compensation would be negotiated between the individual and the employer. Goslin is acting as a contact point to collect names of persons interested. His number is 777-7419.

