



SKI TRACKS

Newsletter of the Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club

Box 431 • Corvallis, Montana 59828

November, 2002



COMMERCIAL SPONSORS OF 2002 - 2003 TRAIL MAP

By Mary Ellen Reese

The calendar says it's almost time to unveil the 2002 - 2003 edition of our Chief Joseph cross-country ski map. I would like to give our BRXC members a sneak preview of our new commercial sponsors, as well as remind everyone of the continuing commercial sponsors who have faithfully supported the Club over the years. The **new** commercial sponsors this year are:

**Bitterroot Pet Palace, Cutting Loose, CyberNet 1,
LuLu, Place to Ponder**

The commercial sponsors who are continuing their sponsorship this year are:

**Alpine Realty, Big Hole Crossing Restaurant,
Bitterroot Brewing, Bitterroot Community Federal Credit
Union, Bitterroot Grocery Emporium,
Bob Ward & Sons, Chapter One Book Store,
Farmer's State Bank, Gas 'n Grub Conoco,
Jackson Hot Springs Lodge & Resort, Lost Trail Hot
Springs Resort, Montana Shirts,
Open Road Bicycles and Nordic Equipment, Papa Murphy's
Take 'n Bake Pizza, Pipestone Mountaineering,
Ravalli County Bank, REI, Rendezvous Sports,
Rocky Knob Lodge, Spice of Life,
Sula Country Store, Trailhead,
Triple Creek Ranch, Valley Bicycles**

I want personally to thank all our sponsors for their support, and I urge all Club members to be sure to express your appreciation directly to the sponsors for their support when you patronize their businesses. Also, if you're needing or wanting a garment with the BRXC Ski Club logo, **Montana Shirts** is set up to do our logo via transfers or machine embroidery.

RACE REMINDER By Annie Creighton

It's time to start planning for the upcoming **Continental Divide Classic** to be held at the Chief Joseph trails. The race date is **Saturday, December 14, 2002**, with a start time of 11 a.m. This is a classic only event with 10K or 20K distances. Registration takes place in the Warming Hut beginning at 9 a.m. race day. There will be a post-race feed and raffle in the Hut. The course will be posted on the Hut bulletin board a couple of weeks prior to the race, in case you want to do a few practice runs!

Last year's race was a lot of fun both for those who were participants and/or spectators. Our great early season snow provided the groomers the opportunity to make a beautiful race course. Proceeds from this event will go to the grooming fund which we all know is a very necessary cause. So let's all rally the troops and generate interest in this fun event!

For more information on the race (or to volunteer your services race day), contact **Tony Neaves** at **375-0852** or email him at cyclesmith@msla.net.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Thursday, November 14, 2002 - 7:00 p.m.

**First Presbyterian Church
1220 West Main St. Hamilton**

Annual Membership

Door Prizes donated by members

(must be present to win)

**Program: Tony Neaves and Annie Creighton
on Equipment**

BITTERROOT X-COUNTRY SKI CLUB OCTOBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

BY JUDY LASALLE

The meeting, on October 10, 2002, was held at the First Presbyterian Church, Hamilton.

President **Sonny LaSalle** called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm. There were 64 people in attendance. The Treasurer's Report for the month was \$585 Income, \$1478 Expenses, \$856 in Checking Account and \$5508 in savings at the credit union.

Leo Joron made a motion that the membership period run from November 1 to October 31st, and Leo made a second motion that we no longer issue membership cards due to the expense. Both were voted on and approved.

Annie Creighton announced that the Ski Hut Extravaganza would be February 7, 2003. The raffle tickets will be available at the November meeting. They will be \$1.00 each or 6/\$5.00.

Tony Neaves announced that the **2002, Second Annual Continental Divide Classic Ski Race** would be December 14th at Chief Joe. The annual ski lessons weekend for the public will be on January 18 & 19, 2003.

Don Shaughnessy gave a report on the Relay for Life that was held in August. There were 41 teams participating with a total of \$77,715 donated. Our BRXC Ski Club team was #8 with donations of \$2,311. Good job, team members.

Arlee Staley from the Wisdom Ranger District was at the meeting to discuss the Hut winter host system. She brought with her the sign up sheets for the winter months. We were given the opportunity to sign up for our selected dates. There will be an effort to fax over the sign-up sheet before each meeting. A reminder that if you cannot attend our monthly meetings the Hut reservation call-in program will start on Oct. 21, 2002 at 7:00 a.m. The number to call is **689-3371**.

The recently cleared trail through Picnic Meadows needs a name. Give your suggestions to **Gordon Reese**.

Our November 14th meeting will be our annual membership meeting. The members donate the door prizes and you need to be present to win

Jeremy Lurgio presented our program for the evening on some extreme, awesome and bold backcountry skiing in the Bitterroot. The slides and stories were outstanding. Thanks to **Gordon Reese** and **Diane Boyd** for our good programs. November's program will be **Tony Neaves** and **Annie Creighton** on ski gear

TONY'S TIPS By Tony Neaves
RESOURCES AND ENTERTAINMENT

Winter is coming, and we are all hoping it will happen soon, right? The only drawbacks this time of year are that we are getting chased indoors by earlier darkness and the evenings are a whole lot longer! Time for some indoor projects and entertainment.

Now that computers have become more common in most households, it's quite entertaining to check out some of the information available to us in the nordic department.

For local info, our club's website: www.bitterrootxcski.club.net is a great start and will get better as more folks take advantage of its potential. Next, the Missoula Nordic Ski Club site: www.missoulanordic.org which you will find has many pertinent links. Skiing info for the Bozeman and West Yellowstone region is at the following addresses: www.bozemanxc.org, www.rendezvouskitrails.com, and www.westyellowstonecrb.visitmt.com. To get more general info around the state, check out www.wintermt.com.

If you are looking for some very deep reading on everything from racing to equipment and more opinions than you thought possible about one subject, look up these sites: www.xcski.org, www.dreamofit.com, www.xcskiworld.com, www.faster skier.com, www.nordicequipment.com, www.alpinasports.com and lastly www.ernordic.com. For an in depth view of precise ski tuning, go to www.ultratune.net where you will find the brain of Nat Brown. He is regarded by most people in the industry as one of the best ski tuners in the nation! He has put out a very good book on ski care and tuning.

OFFICERS - BITTERROOT XC CLUB

President	Sonny LaSalle lasalmom@montana.com	375-0871
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Treasurer	Jeane Lippert	642-3379
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	Mel Mooers	(see above)
Programs	Diane Boyd director@tellerwildlife.org	961-4058
Publicity	Diane Williford	363-6290
Races	Tony Neaves & Annie Creighton montannie2@yahoo.com	375-0852
Trails	Gordon Reese	642-3007
Webmaster	Pat Patterson CLP@bitterroot.com	363-4192
Website	http://www.bitterrootxcski.club.net	
Warming Hut Reservations (USFS Wisdom)		689-3371

Since my next subject is for the gear heads out there, I want to point out that the big S.O.S. fair in Missoula will be on November 16th & 17th. It can be hit or miss, but there are always a few gems to be found.

If you are looking at new gear this year, here are most of the companies' sites: www.madshus.com, www.rossignol.com, www.fischerskis.com, www.atomicsnow.com, and www.salomon.com. You could also do a search for these companies to get info on back-country gear: Voile equipment, Black Diamond equipment, Scarpa boots, Crispi boots, Life Link equipment, etc. etc!

A topic to look into and that will make your head spin is WAX! Every company believes that they make the slickest stuff and if you are not on their wax, you won't slide at all! Here are a few of the wax sites we know about: www.swixsport.com, www.tokous.com, www.jenex.com, and www.holmenkol.com. If I remember right, the swix site has a place where you can enter temperature and humidity, and it will spit out the correct wax to use for those conditions!

If you can absorb even one tenth of the information from this list, you will be able to hold your own in even the most intense techno-babble conversation! Have fun, and think snow!

ERRATUM

In the September newsletter, the telephone number to call at the Wisdom Ranger District to make a reservation to be a "Cabin Host" for this winter season was incorrect. The correct (and only) number to call is **689-3371**. This correct number is now included in each issue of the newsletter along with data concerning the officers, website, etc.

Membership Renewals / DUES

Annual Memberships EXPIRE November 1!

Renew your membership now!

INDIVIDUAL - \$10 • FAMILY - \$20

SUPPORTING INDIVIDUAL - \$25

SUPPORTING FAMILY - \$35

LIFE MEMBER - \$100

Membership Dues

Nov. 1, 2002 - Oct. 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: _____

(Listed above)

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Newsletter preference: (Check all that apply)

Send by USPS _____; Send by e-mail _____