



SKI TRACKS

Newsletter of the Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club

Box 431 • Corvallis, Montana 59828

November, 2002



NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

By Judy LaSalle

Vice President Mel Mooers called the meeting to order at 7:10pm. There were 70 people in attendance. The Treasurer's Report for the month was \$785 Income, \$1353 Expenses, and \$5508 in Credit Union. Under expenses was paid \$506 for Insurance.

Upcoming events and items of interest: December 8th and 9th the Trail Head Ski Shop will be in the parking lot at Chief Joe. Annie Creighton is selling tickets for the Ski Hut Extravaganza on February 7, 2003. Get your tickets at our December meeting. Annie passed out a sign up sheet for volunteers on 12/14 for the Continental Divide Ski Race at Chief Joe. Call her at 375-0852 if you would like to help.

Toddy Perryman reminded members to sign up for email delivery of your newsletter and save postage and resources.

Mary Ellen Reese had an example of the embroidered hats that Mountain Shirts can make. The hats are \$9.50. We also thanked Mary Ellen for the new area maps and all of her work with sponsors to contribute to the printing of these maps.

Mel mentioned that he and Jayne Brindle are ready to give up the organization of the Winter Outings. We need new leaders and volunteers to head up this activity. Mel will be calling people to see if they can help.

Pat Hastings asked if there was any interest in a group going to Alice Creek by Lincoln. It was suggested that she put a notice in the newsletter. Pat also said that she called John Firebaugh asking that a Wildlife Crossing sign be put up on Hwy 93 for the wild sheep that are in the East fork canyon near Sula. The sign will be in place very shortly.

Program: Tony Neaves and Annie Creighton gave a very informative program on varies types of x-county skis. They covered Skate, Classic, Basic Touring, Back Country Touring, Back Country Telemark and Telemark. We appreciate all of their good information and ideas.

Door Prize Donors and Winners are listed on page 2!

DECEMBER MEETING

Thursday, December 12, 2002 - 6:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
1220 West Main St. Hamilton

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS POT LUCK!

Everyone is invited for fun and great food!!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Sonny LaSalle

The Bitterroot National Forest has asked the Ski Club to co-sponsor a winter moonlight walk (ski or snowshoe) at Chief Joe on February 15, 2002. This would be open to the public & would have information stations similar to the moonlight walks held last summer. I have tentatively agreed to this depending on who has the Hut reserved for that night & their agreement for late company.

The December meeting will be a Christmas potluck & will start at 6:00 P.M. NOT at the usual 7:00 P.M. Everyone should bring one or more dishes to share as well as table service & a beverage. PLEASE do not bring any alcoholic drinks as the church does not allow that. Our attendance at meetings is growing & that is great. We had 70 people at the November meeting which may be a new record.

We have been given the same 4x4 Forest Service vehicle that we used last year & we have a formal volunteer agreement with the Bitterroot National Forest that enables our grooming crew to drive the truck. We need to find some younger grooming volunteers to learn the procedure & to become the groomers of the future.

We also need a secretary for the coming year as Judy agreed to do the job on a temporary basis. I look forward to seeing all of you at meetings or on the trails.

SPECIAL MESSAGE

By Sonny LaSalle

I know that we (our club) don't normally get involved in activities outside our normal ski club business, but I feel compelled to make you aware of some hearings that are extremely important to the residents of our Valley. As many of you know I am on the County Planning Board and we have been working for almost two years to develop a Growth Policy for the County. We have had a tremendous amount of help from over 150 people in the Valley and the "Hearing Draft" is ready for review and comment by Valley residents. There are three hearing dates — December 2, 3 & 5, for the formal Planning Board review and then the County

Commissioners will hold meetings in December or January before making their decision. The quality of life in our Valley is at stake and I urge all of you to read the Policy and participate in the hearings and the Commissioner meetings. The Policy can be found in local libraries, at the County Planning Office, and at the Ravalli County website: <http://www.co.ravalli.mt.us>. What happens here really is up to us! The hearing locations and times will be published in the newspapers and announced on radio stations. Thanks for your help!

Sonny

ON THE TRAIL WITH OUR ARMY

By Gordon Reese

As we begin our thirteenth season with groomed trails at Chief Joseph Pass there are many memories from the past. One that I will share with you is that in 1987, as I was attempting to get people interested and enthused about ski trails, I visited a local business man who told me that the idea for groomed trails in this location was sound, but volunteers could never carry out this type of endeavor. When I asked "why?" his reply focused on the idea that they would not be dependable!

Well, proving people wrong is always a kick, but my motivation (and, I believe the motivation of our Army of volunteers) probably centers more on simply providing and enjoying good ski trails on public land in an area that has great snow, great natural terrain and is easily accessible for lots of people.

My old college dictionary (emphasis is on old) gives as its first definition for "volunteer" - "a person who enters or offers to enter into any service of his / her own free will."

Truly we have an Army of volunteers. And we need every one of them! Our club officers; our many coordinators; our special events people (think Continental Divide Classic); the ladies / men who provide goodies at our meetings; people who volunteer to present programs; our newsletter crew; our web page and e-mail providers; the Warming

Hut floor finishers (**Earle and Joe**); the wood splitting "special forces" under the whip of the not - to - be - identified - by - me lady who used a stop watch to motivate the stackers; the Darby Regiment who, along with a few raw recruits set a new world's record putting our firewood in the Warming Hut basement; the **Main Street Rug Company** folks who provided rugs for the loft - which will keep our hosts' toes warm when they arise; (a special salute to **Terry Ryan**, who learned that a third rug would finish the job and she provided it); our **Forest Service** partners - **Arlee Staley**, Wisdom cabin reservations and **Jim Sharp**, recreation tech who wields a mean chain saw; **Craig Bobzien** and **Dan Ritter** from the Darby - Sula District who make sure we have a pickup to drive each week for trail grooming; the **Montana Department of Transportation** guys who give TLC to the highway and "our" parking lot; the "horde" who attacked the small defenseless trees on Picnic Meadow - that open up some fun skiing areas; (as of 11/25 skiers were already making tracks); our generous commercial sponsors who help make this all work; **Peg** and **Eve** from **IBID NW** who designed and printed a truly fabulous trail map; and all the rest of our Army who contribute in so many ways to make the Bitterroot Cross - Country Ski Club a going concern:

Thanks to all our volunteers - and, yes - you are really dependable!



Door Prize Donors and Winners

During the meeting door prizes were drawn and we thank all those that donated the items and congratulations to those that were winners.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Winner</u>
Fabric Wall hanging	Judy LaSalle	Bobbie Lockhart
Cherry Wine	Sonny LaSalle	Joe Rousoff
Raspberry Jam	Chris Johnson	Cathy Hanson
Ski Tune	Tony Neaves	Ron Kullick
Apple Treats	Annie Creighton	Reine Hilton
Merlot Wine	Karen Gardner	Ed Currin
Book	Pat Hastings	Patti Eldredge
Hut T-shirt	Janis Cooper	S. Kelly
Bottle of Sherry	Mel Mooers	Roger Looyesen
Ski Tune	Valley Bikes	Mary Ellen Reese
Rental Snowshoes (2)	Valley Bikes	Grace Will
Rental x country ski (2)	Valley Bikes	Carlton Clifford
Ski Hats	Lane Mead	Ed Hastings
Angel Pillow	Jean Swanz	Maire Estar
Wine	Marsha Reed	Dan Driscoll
Raspberry Jam	Ginny Deck	Anna Hughes
Afghan	Louise Bare	Kay Fulton
Gift Certificate	Ed & Ann Curran	Bob Curry
Wine	Neff Walker	Toddy Perryman
Wood Carving	Bill McCrum	Jan Love
Pie	Gordon & Mary Ellen Reese	Bill McCrum
Candy	Barbara Losensky	Mel Mooers
Choc. Cheesecake	Linda Stoudt	Neff Walker
Chocolate Fudge	Ann Hughes	Pat Leonard

EXTRAVAGANZA RAFFLE

By Annie Creighton

Every year we put on this fundraising event and have a lot of fun with it. What is it, you ask? It is a gourmet dinner and overnight stay for 4 people at the Gordon Reese Warming Hut. This is your opportunity for a chance to stay at the hut and have dinner all taken care of for you! When is it, you ask? The date is set for Friday, February 7, 2003. The money raised from this raffle will go towards the grooming fund for the Chief Joe trails so it's a win-win deal to purchase some tickets!

Tickets will be available for purchase at the next two club meetings (December 12, 2002 and January 9, 2003) and are \$5 for 6 tickets or \$1 apiece. If you can't make it to the meetings, call Annie @375-0852 and she can arrange to sell you some.

Drawing will be at the January 9, 2003 club meeting although you need not be present to win. Good luck!

PERSONNEL NOTE

Craig Bobzien, the District Ranger at Darby - Sula, has received a promotion and he and his family will be headed for the Idaho Panhandle where he will be a Deputy Forest Supervisor. Thanks, Craig, for your support and help and come back and ski with us.

OFFICERS - BITTERROOT XC CLUB

President	Sonny LaSalle lasalmom@montana.com	375-0871
Vice-President	Mel Mooers m.mooersmt@juno.com	961-3163
Treasurer	Jeanne Lippert	642-3379
Secretary (acting)	Judy LaSalle lasalmom@montana.com	375-0871
Hiking	Ed Curran edann@cybernet1.com	961-5446
Income	Mary Ellen Reese	642-3007
Instruction	Bob Brophy	363-2381
Membership	Leo Joron lpj@bitterroot.net	961-8359
Newsletter		
Editorial	Art & Kerstin Seifert ajseifert@earthlink.net	961-4411
Production	Peg Hampton	363-1866 (Msg.) 363-1887 (H)
Mailing	Leo Joron	(see above)
E-mail	Toddy Perryman brxski@logonfrog.net	961-4959
Outings	Jayne Brindle CLP@bitterroot.com	363-4192
	Mel Mooers	(see above)
Programs	Diane Boyd director@tellerwildlife.org	961-4058
Publicity	Diane Williford	363-6290
Races	Tony Neaves & Annie Creighton	375-0852
	montannie2@yahoo.com	
Trails	Gordon Reese	642-3007
Webmaster	Pat Patterson CLP@bitterroot.com	363-4192
Website	http://www.bitterrootxskiclub.net	
Warming Hut Reservations (USFS Wisdom)		689-3371

CONFUSION

By Leo Joron

The Ski Club has adopted a new policy pertaining to the annual membership dues year. In the past, the annual membership period ran from June 1, xxxx to May 31, xxxx. That will no longer be the case.

From now on, the annual membership period will be from November 1, xxxx to October 31, xxxx.

Members who have paid dues anytime since the latter part of April 2002 to the present will be "grandfathered" in and their annual membership will not expire until October 31, 2003.

This new policy was adopted because of the confusion caused when memberships expired on May 31, but newsletters (because of summer activities) continued to be sent up to and including the newsletter for November. The November meeting has always been considered the "Membership Meeting" where annual memberships were renewed.

There will be current rosters at meetings if there are questions as to membership status.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

By Leo Joron

At the beginning of our new membership year, November 1, 2002 to October 31, 2003, the Club's total present membership of 265 is broken down into these categories:

Individual: 66 • Supporting Individual: 13

Family: 73 • Supporting Family: 21

Lifetime: 63 • Sponsor: 29

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 _____

TONY'S TIPS
By Tony Neaves

CAN YOU FIX MY SKIS?

Over the last 26 years that I have been repairing other peoples skis, I've seen just about everything a person could do to a pair! Since early season is when the majority of damage occurs, I thought I would talk about what can or cannot be repaired and how it is done. Most damage is caused by hitting something hard like a rock or stump or dirt. If it is on the smooth part of the ski and not near the edge, it can easily be repaired. If it is on the edge of an edgeless ski or in the waxless pattern of a waxless ski, it is very hard to do a permanent repair.

Repairs are done using several methods. The first thing to consider is the base material you are going to repair. Older, cheaper skis use extruded base material that is softer, which makes the filler material bond to it well. Sintered bases are made of a much harder plastic and tend to be trickier to get the repair material to bond to. The old standard way to do a repair was to drip melted P-tex into the damaged area and scrape off the excess. Unfortunately, this is a temporary fix on hard bases and will have to be redone often!

Hard bases require the use of an extruder gun (glorified hot glue gun) which puts a much harder P-tex at a high temperature into the damaged area. The other option would be a base welder which uses super heated air and P-tex sticks to fill the damaged spot.

The main thing to remember is that the ski is permanently damaged and will never be perfect again! The repairs can minimize the damage and are better than doing nothing. You regain some of the glide and/or grip that was lost due to the damage. Small, fine scratches (like those caused by skiing across the parking lot!) DO NOT hold repair material very well if at all. Damage to the edge of an edgeless ski is nearly impossible to do a good repair on. The most you can really do is sand it down so it is smooth again.

Its very hard to repair damage to the waxless pattern of a waxless ski. Only the really big gouges can be filled and it will affect how well the ski grips! Also, it is extremely labor intensive to fill in the damage and then try to carve it back out so that it resembles the original pattern. Skis with edges are a little easier to fix using a P-tex that has an epoxy formula in it which makes it stick to the metal. Unfortunately, this material may still pull out if you hit that spot again! Just something to think about when you hear that buzzing sound as you go over a rock!

In addition to skiing over rocks, you can easily damage your skis by shoving them into snowbanks (a common but very bad habit)! The hard snow, ice, and small stones in snowbanks cause the tail of the ski to delaminate and split! You are much better off laying your skis down than jamming them into the snow. Also, the liquid de-icer used on highways now is very corrosive to steel edged skis, therefore it is a good idea to put them in a bag or carry them inside your vehicle. If this stuff is left on your skis, it will cause the metal edges to rust.

The bottom line is that if you take good care of your nordic skis, they will last many years. Happy trails!

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.

AN INVITATION
By Pat Hastings

Here is further information on the proposed ski trip that I mentioned at the November meeting. We tentatively plan to go to the Alice Creek Ranch Cross Country Ski Area in Lincoln, MT in January or February. The Area has 30 km of trails, which they groom daily for both classic skiing and skating. The Senior (over 60) rate for a ski pass is \$8 per day. The Area has two small cabins, capacity four persons each, which rent for \$30 per day per person. The cabins are "rustic" (outhouse and carry in water). If you are interested, call me at **777-2508**.

FISCAL NOTE
By Art Seifert

In connection with the completion of the Warming Hut and the Club's de facto partnership with the Forest Service in its operation, we are in the process of reviewing and improving the Club's systems for financial data collection and reporting. We are following the K.I.S.S. principle, but we could still use some counsel and advice from a member who has training and experience as an accountant. If you can help us out, call me at **961-4411**.

Since the Club has changed over to a November 1 - October 31 membership year, it seems appropriate to present to the membership a summary of the Club's financial position at November 1, 2002 and the results of its operations for the twelve months ended October 31, 2002. Accordingly, these statements are set forth on the next page.

**Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club
Balance Sheet
October 31, 2002**

Assets

Bitterroot Community Federal Credit Union Savings Account	\$5,433.64
Ravalli County Bank Checking Account	846.34
Inventory for Resale	50.00
1994 Skidoo Alpine II No. 1; cost, new, 1993: \$8,300; estimated present value:	5,000.00
1994 Skidoo Alpine II No. 2; cost, used, 1995: \$6,000; estimated present value:	5,000.00
1997 Polaris Indy LX; cost, used, 1999: \$5,000; estimated present value:	3,500.00
Grooming equipment	
Leveller, track setter, drags; cost (new and used, various years) and estimated present value:	1,000.00
Other (mostly Club fabricated) cost and estimated present value:	800.00
Snowmobile trailer; cost, new, 2000: \$6,300; estimated present value:	6,000.00
Total Assets	27,629.98
Liabilities	nil
Members' Equity	27,629.98

**Bitterroot Cross - Country Ski Club
Revenue and Expense
Twelve Months Ended October 31, 2002**

Revenue	Membership dues	\$6,674.00
	Sponsorships	\$2,950.00
	Donation box - Warming Hut	\$1,575.10
	Donation box - Trailhead	\$1,441.00
	Donations - Individual	\$250.00
	Sales	\$67.00
Total Revenue		\$12,957.10
Expense	Warming Hut	
	Food, Drink & Paper Products	\$204.81
	Supplies - Repair, Maintenance & Cleaning	\$1,754.45
	Services - Repair, Maintenance & Cleaning	\$595.24
	Chief Joseph Ski Area	
	Trailmap	\$848.56
	Signs	\$105.50
	Trail grooming & maintenance	\$4,378.79
	Newsletter	
	Printing & Postage	\$941.03
	Club Administrative	
	Postage / telephone	\$50.17
	Member recognition / gifts & awards	\$190.80
	Meetings	\$250.00
	Contributions	\$150.00
	Miscellaneous	\$142.72
	Insurance	\$928.00
Total Expense		\$10,540.07
Net Revenue (Expense)		\$2,417.03