



**December 13, 2012**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**1220 West Main Street, Hamilton, MT**  
**Winter Potluck 6 pm & Lolo Pass Program 7 pm**

### December Club Meeting

Our Winter Pot Luck will take place during the Club meeting on December 13th. It's not too soon to make the preparations required for bringing your favorite dish to share. The Club will provide Apple Cider and Cups, but you need to supply your own Plate and Utensils. We'll begin eating promptly at 6:00 so we'll be finished in time for the business meeting and presentation at 7:00. See you there!



FOR YOUR DINING ENJOYMENT SIT BACK AND LISTEN TO HENRY YAPLE at our annual Winter Potluck. Henry's brand new book about the first 75 Years of Lost Trail Pass Powder Mountain is just hot off the press.

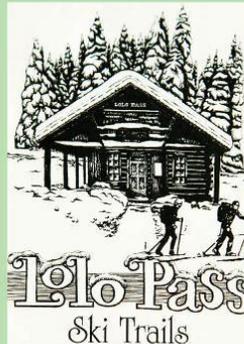
"Never A Bad Year For Snow" is the result of Henry's extensive research and interviews with the people who made Lost Trail what it is. He discovered many little known or unknown facts, which will amaze you.

In addition, he has included a chapter on our Chief Joseph Pass Cross-Country Ski Area, resulting from more research and interviews with Gordon Reese.

Bring your money because you will want to buy one of these great books!!

### President's Message - December 2012

Ski season is upon us and, like last year, Chief Joseph Pass has more skiable snow earlier than just about every other nearby cross-country ski area.



## **Lolo Pass Visitor Information Center**

The Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club hosts a program presented by Manager Buffie Cerutti about the historical and cultural significance of the area as well as the recreational opportunities available in summer and winter along with other special events and what the Visitor Center itself has to offer.

With a rich history dating to an ancient trail, Lolo Pass was used by the Nez Perce to travel east to hunt buffalo and by the Salish to travel west to fish for salmon. Traveled by Chief Joseph during the Nez Perce War in 1877 and in 1805 by Lewis and Clark when they spilled out of the thick woods and came upon the lush meadows near the Pass. One of many historical landmarks along Highway 12, the buildings were once part of the Old Mud Creek ranger station near Lolo Hot Springs. Travelers visit now to enjoy Lolo Pass as a major trail head for cross-country skiing and snowmobiling in winter, for the vast fields of Camas in Packer Meadows in the early summer, the MOUNTAIN-TO-MEADOW Half Marthon and 5K FunRun and endless other attractions during all seasons.



Buffie Cerutti has been with the Forest Service for over 10 years, arriving in the Clearwater National Forest in 2007 as a Wilderness Ranger and currently as the Lolo Pass Visitor Center Manager. Before Idaho she worked for the Mark Twain National Forest located in the Ozark Highlands of Missouri, the Coconino National Forest located on a 7000' plateau in central Arizona and other locations across the country primarily as a helitack wildland firefighter crew member.

Meeting starts at 6:00 for a Pot Luck Dinner and 7:00 for the Program on December 13, 2012 at the Presbyterian Church, 1220 West Main Street, Hamilton. The public is encouraged and welcomed to attend all meetings.

All the upper trails have been compacted with rollers a couple of times (as of this writing) but we need a little more snow before the lower trails can be worked. Because of the excellent snow conditions on Chief Joseph Trails, expect at least as many skiers during the month of December as the 2,000 (estimation based on sign-in sheets) skiers who visited last year during the same period.

By now you are probably aware of the 12 new miles of trails (using existing roads) north of the long-established Chief Joseph Trail System that will be groomed this winter for the first time. The new trails are multi-use and therefore will not have set tracks for classic-style skiing. Besides skate skiers and classic-style skiers who like to ski without set tracks, expect to periodically see people on snowmobiles, snowshoes, or riding a dogsled.

Part of our continuing effort to make the job of trail grooming as easy as possible, our Club has purchased, and taken delivery of, a new Ski-Doo Skandic SWT snowmobile (specifically designed for grooming) and several pieces of Yellowstone Track Systems grooming equipment, 2 Compaction Drags, 1 more Compaction Roller, and 1 Ginzugroomer with an electrically controlled tracksetter.

We have also ordered an Arctic Cat Bearcat, another snowmobile designed for grooming, and will be taking deliver during the 2nd week of December.

The cost of all this new equipment is being covered by grants. Yes, we have received the checks from the Montana Bureau of Tourism (TIIP), \$22,000, and the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), \$7,595. We have also begun amassing volunteer and grooming hours which, at the end of this ski season, will allow us to request a reimbursement for another portion of the remaining funds we were awarded on our RTP grant.

The new trail maps have arrived and are available for free from many retail and other outlets around the Bitterroot Valley, Missoula, and Salmon, ID. This year's map raised \$6,125 which will help cover ongoing grooming expenses. Special thanks is due Jim Greenfield for almost singlehandedly producing this year's offering-Debbie Leick, a cartographer and Club member, produced the actual maps. Helping with the map distribution this season are Bettie Rhodes, Richard Stone, George Corn, Parnelli Sharp, Nancy Pollman, and Wayne Heckman.

Jim also found and corralled all the map's sponsors, many of whom are repeats from last year-they each especially like our full-color maps and low rates. Remember, those sponsors provide most of the money needed to groom the ski trails. Be sure to say "Thank you," the next time you're in their place of business, and please, support them with purchases of their goods and services.

For the first time, our Club has enlisted the services of a brochure distribution company to distribute a free handout containing information about the Chief Joseph Ski Area and our Club. The distribution area covers 5 valleys in western Montana. Our brochures will be distributed for a three month period during the winter months. We wish to discover if a distribution of this sort has an effect on the number of skiers who visit Chief Joseph Trails and/or our membership levels.

Let's go ski !

Mike Hoyt

## **Trail Report**

Groomers: On Monday, the 6th of November, the groomers had a certification session with Nate Gassmann from the Wisdom Ranger District. This year's groomers are Bill Peters, Jim Swanz, John Love, Kelly Zeiler, Mike Conner, Jim Aronson, Nathan Stone, and Mel Holloway.



Trails: We've rolled the upper trails twice. We also made a pass from Let-er-rip to Whoopee to Five Corners and Joseph Creek between Timber and Five Corners. There still isn't enough snow for using the leveler-compact drags. So there are a few stumps and the occasional rock barely covered by snow, but we seem to be building a good base. We won't be able to set tracks for a while yet.

The junction of Gold Medal and Timber has been changed, but we notice skiers have avoided it because of the saplings poking their head through the snow. Some work by a volunteer with a machete could fix that.

We extend grooming to the lower trails when we get a few more inches of snow.

Equipment: The new Skandic has proved itself already. It has all the good features of the older machine and several improvements like the straight shift lever, higher handlebars and running boards that don't collect ice.

The addition of the second roller made initial passes over new snow much less labor intensive, haven't had to stop to dig out a drag or a sled. We were able to get over the logs with less snow than previously.

During the certification runs, we pulled one of the leveler compaction drags along the course. It leaves a great surface, but we realized there isn't enough snow depth over most the trails to justify using it just yet.

The Ginzugroomer with track setter is awaiting delivery of the Arctic Cat Bearcat sled. It was originally expected to be delivered in October, but is now scheduled to be shipped on 28 November.



## **Ski Races at Chief Joseph Pass**

Tony Neaves is resurrecting the early-season classic-style ski race that was held on the Chief Joseph Trail System in the past. This year's race will be held on Saturday, December 15th. There will be 2 events. The 10 kilometer race is one loop of the course and the 20 kilometer two loops. The entry fee is \$20. Races begin at noon.

Proceeds from the race will go toward our ongoing grooming costs

## **Hear Ye, Hear Ye: BXCSC Members - especially "OLDER" ones!!**

Ginny Deck and I have embarked on a project to pull together all of the history we can find of Chief Joseph Ski Area (even before the trails were established), the beginnings of CJ, the Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club, the process of planning, funding and building the Gordon Reese Cabin and ALL OF THE PEOPLE WHO MADE THIS MAGIC HAPPEN! We'd like to get personal stories (including dates if possible), anecdotes of special outings/events, fables and folklore. We hope to interview many of you as well as obtain written information. We would appreciate all the help we can get: Please e-mail us at [kayinmt@cybernet1.com](mailto:kayinmt@cybernet1.com) or [gindeck@cybernet1.com](mailto:gindeck@cybernet1.com) with whatever data and information you would like to share. Be sure to give us your name, phone number, address, & e-mail. Include dates of when you got started with CJ & BXCSC, what your early memories are and descriptions of any fun &/or interesting events. Thanks so much for your help.

We do know that a new book entitled "Never A Bad Year For Snow!" has just been published. It was written by Henry Yaple and is about Lost Trail Ski Area. It includes a chapter on Chief Joe based on interviews with Gordon Reese. This will help us as well. Kay Fulton

## **November 8, 2012 Meeting Notes**

*Call to order: Mike Hoyt called the meeting to order at 7:10pm*  
*Number attending: 34*

Current Membership:

We have less memberships than last year. The October meeting has historically driven a big renewal with the hut drawing being a big draw. Without that first big meeting, the renewal is slower as we had expected.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Total Income	\$5,827.10
Total Expenses	2,097.22
Net Income	3,729.88
Savings Account	1,436.33
<u>Checking Account</u>	<u>7,699.68</u>
Total	\$ 9,136.01

#### Trail Report:

Mel Holloway recently picked up one of the new grooming machines and he loves it. Training and classroom time is being coordinated with the Forest Service. We have received official written permission to groom 16.4 miles of trails for multi-use, however just 12 miles will be available for use this winter.

#### President's Space:

The Club received over \$50,000 in grant money to cover, along with grooming expenses, the cost of the two new snowmobiles and new grooming equipment that was requested by the groomers. The grants were from Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and State Tourism Bureau.

- A request for reimbursement for last winter's grooming has been filed and we should receive a \$7,500 payment soon from the RTP grant.
- A \$22,000 check is on the way from the State Tourism Bureau. Much thanks to Russ Lawrence for writing this grant!
- Thanks to Jim Greenfield for his excellent work again this year on producing the ski area map for this season. He did the layout and sold all of the advertising spaces on the map.
- The 10k and 20k races will be held again this year on Saturday, December 15th. Tony Neaves is working with the Forest Service on this classic style race on the upper trails. This had been a very popular event in past years. Thanks to Tony for volunteering to organize this again this year. He will undoubtedly need volunteers to help on race day.
- Club members put in 150 hours of hard work cutting trees and clearing trails-this will really help the groomers this winter. Having to jump off the snowmobile to clear debris can really slow down the grooming process.

#### New Business:

Volunteers will be needed for map distribution throughout the valley, for the fundraising efforts this year and for other activities such as the middle school program. A sign-up sheet was passed around and we appreciate the number of people willing to volunteer. Let one of the officers know if you would like to assist the club with activities this year.

#### Upcoming Meeting -- Thursday, December 13th

Parnelli Sharp has been our elections coordinator with three positions up for election this year--President and Treasurer positions are both up for two-year terms; the Vice President position is up for a one year term.

Annual Potluck at the December Meeting—bring a dish to share and your own plate and silverware.

#### Guest Speaker:

The Landscapes of the Bitterroot and Sapphire Ranges-Glacial and Otherwise

Presenter, Kevin McManigal

Attendees were enlightened with a better understanding of how the ranges surrounding us were formed. This was a most engaging and informative presentation!

Meeting closed at 8:15 PM

These minutes prepared by: Deborah Duffy

## BITTERROOT XC SKI CLUB OFFICERS

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<b>Secretary</b> Deb Duffy <a href="mailto:darbydeb1@gmail.com">darbydeb1@gmail.com</a> 406-821-2276	<b>Membership</b> Earl Philips <a href="mailto:philips@montana.com">philips@montana.com</a> 406-369-0073	<b>Trails &amp; Grooming</b> Mel Holloway <a href="mailto:tromper@bitterroot.com">tromper@bitterroot.com</a> 406-381-1334
<b>Programs &amp; Map</b> Jim Greenfield <a href="mailto:jkgreenfield@q.com">jkgreenfield@q.com</a> 406-363-21110	<b>Newsletter</b> Diane Hipp <a href="mailto:fit4fun@montana.com">fit4fun@montana.com</a> 406-546-3848	<b>Webmaster</b> Toddy Perryman <a href="mailto:toddypat@bitterroot.com">toddypat@bitterroot.com</a> 406-961-4959

## Membership Renewals / Dues

Annual Memberships EXPIRE November 1st

**Renew Your Membership Now!**

\*Individual \$15

\*Family \$25

\*Supporting Individual \$30

\*Supporting Family \$40

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

Nov. 1, 2012- Oct. 31, 2013

**Mail To: Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club, PO Box 431, Corvallis, MT 59828**

**NAME(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:**(see above) \_\_\_\_\_

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED:\$** \_\_\_\_\_



BITTERROOT CROSS-COUNTRY SKI CLUB  
DECEMBER • 2012 NEWSLETTER