

SKI TRACKS

March 2013 — Volume 11 — Number 3

2013 RAFFLE WINNERS

Triple Creek Ranch – An All-inclusive Adult Retreat for Two
Jeff Kern & Jessica Randozzo

Bob Ward & Sons – Complete Cross-Country Ski Package
Paul Stanton

Taste the Best of the Bitterroot – 6 Fine Dining Evenings for Two
Spice of Life—The Wild Mare
Mission Bistro—Caffé Firenze
The Naughty Moose—Broad Axe Lodge
Tonia Bloom

Trail Head – 7 Days of Raft Rental
Pierre Satkowiak

Chico Hot Springs – Getaway for Two
Mary Garl-Sullivan

REI – Quarter Dome 3-Season Backpacking Tent
Ty Capelle & Cynthia Stolz-Capelle

Congratulations to each winner! A special thanks to each of the Club's business partners who contributed prizes and to every one of you who, by purchasing chances for this year's raffle, helped provide funds to keep the trails at Chief Joseph Pass groomed for another great season of cross-country skiing.

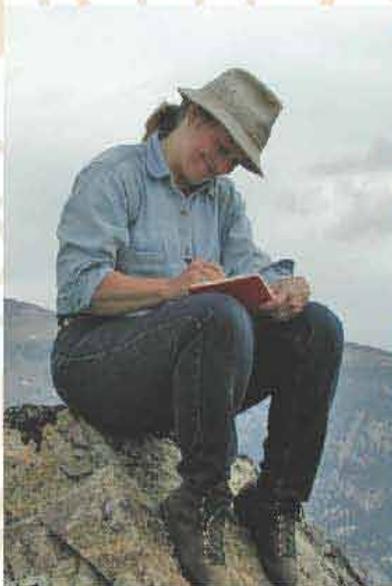
Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club

presents:

Place Names of the Bitterroot Valley



For the times you have wondered about the origin of a name in our Valley, your answers are here. Mary Horstman Williams, Forest Historian, Heritage Program Manager and Tribal Relations Coordinator for the Bitterroot National Forest will present a program on Place Names of the Bitterroot Valley that will end the mystery of your curiosity. Mary brings to life the history of places and the names that set the character and identity of the unique setting we call home. If you are looking for more validation about the affinity you feel for the Bitterroot, Mary's two decades in our area alone qualify her as one of the most knowledgeable resources we could have. Add to that vested interest the research she has done to discover her own blood lines to Butte miners, French Canadians, Milk River homesteaders and the Blackfeet tribe and she becomes legendary. Come learn more reasons we all enjoy our Valley from someone who loves her job and brings her own history!



Mary graduated from high school in Springfield, Illinois where the influence of Abraham Lincoln and history of his residence there must have changed her life forever. She came west to the University of Montana in 1975 completing her Masters Degree in History in 1989 with other majors in English and Latin along the way. A two-year stint teaching high school in Deer Lodge, and several research and independent contracting jobs all revolving around history in mining, land use, water rights, tribal rights and environmental issues played their role in preparing her for the next 20 years with the Forest Service. Although having served in temporary assignments from the Black Hills to the Idaho Panhandle, her current responsibilities are for researching and writing overview and evaluation documents for historic mining sites; performing cultural resource inventories to identify prehistoric and historic archaeological sites; serving as crew leader on archaeological projects, and assisting with volunteer and other outreach projects.

Meeting starts at 7:00 on March 14, 2013 at the Presbyterian Church, 1220 West Main Street, Hamilton.
The public is encouraged and welcomed to attend all meetings.

President's Message – March 2013

We've managed to get through most of this ski season in one piece, and have only a month or so of the season left. I thought this might be a good time to look at the financial state of our Club that has been around for almost a quarter of a century.

A comparison of financial information from a 23-year period can be quite intimidating to study and understand when all details are included. Rather than do that, I produced an average of the historic information that was reliably available (*the 13 years prior to the winter of 2011-2012*) and compare that with the figures from the last 2 fiscal years—the Club's fiscal year begins each July 1st and ends the next year on June 30th.

When looking at the following table, keep in mind that like any long-lived organization, finances fluctuate from year to year. Be aware that individual income sources and specific expenses for some years were much higher than the average and for others, much lower. For instance, there were many years when the Club received no grants, had little income from fundraisers, and did not experience a gain or loss from sale of assets (*older equipment*).

The income figures that stand out are the current drop for memberships and donations along with a substantial increase in fundraising and grants. The income from memberships almost reached an all-time high in 2011-2012 as did the amount for donations. Given that we had made a concerted effort to increase both, that should not be surprising. However, this season we've experience a drop in both. This was not unexpected. To increase either of those numbers will take a serious long-term effort.

Although the first table does not show all the details, our fundraising efforts have been increasingly successful over the last 3 seasons. During 2010-2011 we raised \$7,135 and continued to increase that amount last season and this—our trail map and the raffle were the main contributors.

The biggest gain in our income has been from the successful writing of grants. We were awarded a \$40,000 RTP Grant during 2011-2012. But, because that grant is in the form of reimbursements, its payments do not begin to appear as income until this season (*2012-2013*)—we still have a large amount of the RTP grant available to help cover grooming expenses for this season and next. During 2012-2013 we were awarded a TIIP Grant in the amount of \$22,000. In spite of negative pressures on some of our income sources, if we continue to be successful at writing grants, our Club should easily be able to remain solvent.

	Historic Average	2011-2012	2012-2013
Income	\$14,143	\$18,212	\$46,817
Memberships	\$4,526	\$5,085	\$3,640
Donations	\$2,306	\$3,190	\$2,096
Fundraisers	\$4,794	\$9,630	\$9,682
Grants	\$2,614	\$0	\$29,595
Interest	\$66	\$106	\$4
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Assets	(\$166)	\$200	\$1,800
Expenses	\$14,144	\$19,968	\$14,736
Administrative	\$3,690	\$7,298	\$6,094
Grooming	\$9,711	\$12,082	\$8,393
Warming Hut	\$743	\$588	\$250
Profit (Loss)	(\$2)	(\$1,756)	\$32,081

	30 jun 09	30 jun 12	2013 YTD
Assets	\$35,892	\$26,858	\$58,939
Current	\$9,612	\$16,655	\$20,646
Fixed (equipment)	\$26,280	\$10,203	\$38,293
Liability & Equity	\$35,892	\$26,858	\$58,939
Retained Earnings	\$13,443	(\$21)	(\$1,777)
Membership Equity	\$28,635	\$28,635	\$28,635
Net Income	(\$6,186)	(\$1,756)	\$32,081

The second table shows a comparison of Club's balance sheet between June 30, 2009 (*the fiscal year before I became president*), the end of the last fiscal year, June 30, 2012, and this fiscal year-to-date.

Without knowing some of the details behind the figures in this table, the fixed assets (*equipment*) on Club's balance sheet looks a little screwy. You might wonder how the value of the equipment could drop about \$16,000 so quickly. There is a simple explanation. For many years no depreciation was entered in the Club's books. The Board decided that the equipment should be depreciated so our books would show a more realistic value for the equipment we owned. That depreciation was entered in our books during the period between June 30, 2009 and June 30, 2012, thus the big drop in equipment value on our books.

This season we purchased new equipment which accounts for the big increase in the value of fixed assets on the books, about \$28,000.

You will also notice that our current assets—cash on hand—are now about double the historical average. That increase enables us to be better prepared for dealing with emergencies.

The most telling numbers in the table show the trend of our net income. This is due to our success with fundraising and at writing grants over the last couple of seasons.

There is an old story about a bank robber. When asked by the sentencing judge why he robbed banks, he replied, "Because that's where the money is." There is a lesson there for us. Grants are where the money is. If we expend concerted efforts to access those funds, the Club is likely to remain more financially stable than if we spend excessive time pursuing sources that have minimal amounts to offer.

Board Meeting Minutes for February 14, 2013

The board meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM by Michael Hoyt, President.

Attendees: Michael Hoyt, President, Jim Greenfield, Program Coordinator, Earl Phillips, Membership Coordinator, George Corn, Past President, Jack Cooley, Webmaster, Mel Holloway, Trails & Grooming, Richard Stone, Youth Activities Coordinator, Reine Hilton, Treasurer, Deborah Duffy, Secretary, Kelly Zeiler, Vice-President

- Earl shared that membership is at a 60% renewal. He shared the renewal reminder letter that he had written and it was approved. Reminder will be sent to all non-renewals.
- Also on the topic of membership, Mike asked if the board would be interested in asking the businesses that sell cross-country skis to offer a free one year membership with the club to anyone purchasing skis. All agreed this was a great opportunity. It was suggested to include the brochure and map with the membership.
- Jim Greenfield has a speaker for the March meeting—it will be a history of Chief Joseph with a speaker from the FS.
- Raffle fundraiser—Earl has a system developed for the random selection of entries in all prize categories. He asked how we would address a situation where the same person won more than one prize. After discussion, it was agreed that since we had not previously stated that one individual could not win more than one prize, we should allow that this year.
- May meeting—this is usually the potluck gathering. Mike asked if we wanted to do a restaurant like last year or if anyone wanted to host a potluck. Board suggested we bring the topic up at the meeting and ask anyone interested in hosting the potluck to let one of the officers or board members know.
- Richard would like the Club to consider buying skis for the youth program. This is often a hurdle for schools. Richard has applied for a \$300 grant from Farmers State Bank to use for rentals at Valley Bike and Ski for the Corvallis Middle School. After discussion on the pros and cons of this investment, it was agreed that the Club should not commit future boards to continuing a youth program or managing the ski inventory and upkeep. For now it was suggested we can help districts and youth clubs procure their own equipment or continue with the rentals which are available from Valley Bike and Ski and Western Fly and Guide Service. Valley Bike can handle up to thirty kids at the middle school age.
- Treasury—donation boxes at CJ are down about \$350 from prior year.



Board meeting closed at 7:00 PM.

Minutes prepared by: Deborah Duffy

Grooming Report

As the end of the season draws near, the new equipment is performing as hoped and expected. There was some initial difficulty with new Skandic, but with improved low speed ventilation under the hood (*a factory-designed fix*), the machine has performed pretty much flawlessly. Once we got the wiring between the Bearcat and the Ginzugroomer squared away, we've been able to make adjustments to the cutters. Being able to raise and lower the track setter without dismounting makes a groomer's job somewhat easier. The Bearcat continues to gain admiration.

Having four snowmobiles provides additional flexibility in keeping up with the weather. With four machines, and wider equipment options, we've been able to cover more ground in single passes. AND get off the mountain earlier.

We are mostly up-to-speed with rollers and drags, but the weather is always ready to provide a challenge. The most critical factor after large snow falls is the temperature. As the snow gets warmer, it no longer flows easily and has a tendency to build up on the drags and stick to the rollers. Last Friday (*March 1*), we spent a fair amount of extra effort shoveling snow from the drags. The snow would build up to the point where the snowmobiles couldn't pull them.

With an expanded list of groomers, most weeks we've been able to groom the added multi-use trails in addition to the classic trails. On a couple of occasions, with four machines we've rolled both the multi-use and classic trails on Wednesdays. This allows some time for the classic trails to set-up and be ready for setting tracks on Fridays.

Of course, the weather will determine how much longer we can continue grooming.

Mel Holloway



Club Meeting Minutes for February 14, 2013

Call to order: Mike Hoyt called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM

Number attending: 17 (*It was Valentine's Day*)

Meeting Notes

Current Membership: Earl Phillips reported that we are at 60% of 2012 membership. A reminder letter is being mailed out with the goal of increasing the renewal rate for the year.

Treasurer's Report: Reine Hilton shared that we are doing well, despite the fact that renewals and collection box donations at Chief Joseph are down from prior year.

Trail Report: Mel Holloway reported that the groomers have had to deal with some equipment problems and weather challenges. It seems that the equipment is working well now and the conditions have been good at the trails.

President's Space:

- The new website continues to get daily views.
- Chances for the 20th Annual Raffle are being sold at thirteen business sites throughout the valley and in Missoula. The drawing is March 1st. Help support the costs of grooming the trails at Chief Joseph by purchasing a chance at any of the outstanding prizes being offered this year.
- There have been a lot of out-of-state skiers at CJ this year.
- Mike asked for input on the May meeting—this has traditionally been a potluck dinner. If anyone is interested in hosting the potluck or has other ideas on locations we could meet, please let one of the board members or officers know.

New Business

- The Salmon schools had a group of fifty kids up there one day and they had a great time.

Guest Speaker

We had two guest speakers this month from The Rocky Mountaineers. Tom Hanou and Alden Wright shared information about the club which is dedicated to the enjoyment and promotion of outdoor adventure. Check out upcoming activities at their website, rockymountaineers.com. They hold monthly meetings at the Trailhead in Missoula at 7 pm on the second Tuesday of each month. One of their popular annual events is the Glacier Classic in August—a week-end of hiking, climbing, sharing adventures and as is important in any outing, good food.

The meeting closed at 8:15 PM

These minutes prepared by: Deborah Duffy



Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club Officers

<p>President Michael Hoyt michael.hoyt@gmail.com 406-360-3803</p>	<p>Vice President Kelly Zeiler krz-inc@live.com 406-363-8631</p>	<p>Treasurer Reine Hilton hilton@mcn.net 406-375-1952</p>	<p>Secretary Deb Duffy darbydeb1@gmail.com 406-821-2276</p>
<p>Trails & Grooming Mel Holloway tromper@bitterroot.com 406-381-1334</p>	<p>Programs & Map Jim Greenfield jkgreenfield@q.com 406-363-2110</p>	<p>Webmaster Jack Cooley jackc@jcphotography.com 970-227-1360</p>	<p>Membership Data Earl Philips philips@montana.com 406-369-0073</p>
	<p>Youth Coordinator Richard Stone rcstone@msn.com 406-642-9648</p>	<p>Ski Lessons George Corn gcorn@bresnan.net 406-363-1163</p>	

Membership Renewals / Dues

Annual Memberships Expire on November 1st of each Year

Please Renew Your Membership Now

Family - \$25

Supporting Family - \$40

Individual - \$15

Supporting Individual - \$30

Mail To: Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club, PO Box 431, Corvallis, MT 59828-0431

Name (families, please include childrens names): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Email (to receive monthly newsletters): _____

Type of Membership (see above): _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____