

# SKI TRACKS

April 2013 — Volume 11 — Number 4

Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club presents:

## PEDALING PERU

with Pachamama

...is the title of Russ Lawrence's presentation at April's BRXCSC, describing a tour he and his wife, Jean Matthews, led to southern Peru last October, including several club members. After honoring Pachamama, or Mother Earth, with a sacrifice, the group enjoyed an extraordinary trip, experiencing the culture, countryside, and people, traveling by mountain bike to bring them closer. Whether descending from 15,800' on the flanks of Andean volcanoes, sharing alpaca steaks and herbal tea during homestays, dodging condors on the edge of the world's deepest canyon, or climbing the spire that overlooks Machu Picchu, the group was always grateful for Pachamama's generosity, and her granting of safe passage for all.



In 2009 Russ and his wife, Jean, fulfilled a decades-long dream, spending 27 months as Peace Corps volunteers in Peru. He vowed to return to his village of Chivay, in southern Peru, and to bring tourists with him, a promise he and Jean fulfilled last October with their highly successful, "Encounter Peru by Bike" trip, designed to maximize interaction with local culture, and with Peru's spectacular landscape. Russ expects to duplicate the adventure this October. He and Jean are expert cooks of alpaca, tolerant of rocoto hot peppers, and Life Members of the BRXCSC.

Meeting starts at 7:00 on April 11, 2013 at the Presbyterian Church, 1220 West Main Street, Hamilton.  
The public is encouraged and welcomed to attend all meetings.

A  
P  
R  
I  
L

M  
E  
E  
T  
I  
N  
G

## Newsletter Notice

Beginning this month, those of you who receive the newsletter by email, that's almost everyone, will notice that the newsletter is no longer attached to the email notification. Rather a link is included in the email which directs you to the newsletter (*PDF version*) which is posted on our website. This method allows your email notification to remain small and load much more quickly when you access it. If you have any problems with retrieving the newsletter from our website, please let me know – [michael.hoyt@gmail.com](mailto:michael.hoyt@gmail.com).

To save time and money, during the summer months the newsletter will only be distributed by email—it will also be available on the Club's website, [www.bitterrootxcskiclub.net](http://www.bitterrootxcskiclub.net).

## President's Message – April 2013

The weather has turned away from skiers to favor other spring activities, like hiking, fishing, gardening, and biking. Some of us hoped for a slightly longer skiing season, but it was not to be.

Our head groomer, Mel Holloway, had hoped to level the trails one more time on Friday, March 29, but the crew arrived that morning only to discover that temperatures had never gotten below freezing the night before and were quickly climbing. He reported that, in spite of the warm temperatures, tracks set the previous Friday were holding up well.

For those of you not yet ready to give up skiing, the next few weeks is “crust cruising” season—morning skiing on the crust that forms on top of the snow during nights that dip below freezing. Just remember that the best crust cruising lasts only until the snow softens, usually by noon, so get up early if you plan to ski!

Ski season is about over for me. It's time to put up the skis, plan my hiking and climbing season, and get the garden started. And when not otherwise engaged, I plan to sit on the deck and watch the grass grow!

Michael Hoyt



## Keep Your Skis in Top Shape

To ensure that your skis will be in good shape for next winter, it's imperative they have a good thick coat of wax applied to the skiing surface before putting them away for the summer. Left unattended, the base of your skis will dry out and be less efficient (*that means lots slower*) next ski season. If you don't want to do this yourself, Valley Bike and Ski will do it for a small fee.

## Recap of the BXCSC March Meeting

**Current Membership:** Earl Phillips reported current individual membership at 232.

**Treasurer's Report:** Reine Hilton shared the following.

Income--\$47,339 (up 169% over prior year)  
    Donations --\$383  
    Fundraising--\$9,757  
    Grants--\$29,595  
Expenses--\$15,260 (down 11% compared to prior year)  
    Administrative--\$855  
    Grooming--\$722  
    Warming Hut--\$283  
Total Assets--\$58,937 (up 101% compared to prior year)  
    Current Assets (cash)--\$20,644  
    Fixed Assets (equipment)--\$38,293

### New Business

- Linda Stoudt recently took on having handkerchiefs made with the BXCSC logo. She shared the first run. They show the logo and the words that anyone skiing with Linda has heard, "Shut Up and Ski." These will be sold at upcoming meetings.
- A member asked if anyone knew the number of nights at the hut that were not filled this past season. Another member commented that it seemed the day use has continued to grow, but the warming hut has not always been warmed up and ready to support them.

### Guest Speaker

Jim Greenfield introduced Mary Williams. Mary's presentation, Place Names of the Bitterroot Valley, gave us an entertaining and insightful history of the names of roads, towns, trailheads and other popular locations in our valley. The presentation was followed with a lot of questions about the place names for specific locations. Thanks to Mary for sharing these stories. It felt like storytelling hour around a campfire.

A special thanks goes to the folks who helped with this years annual Hamilton Middle School outdoor activities day. A group of 13 kids and 6 adults were guided around the Chief Joseph Trail System by, Diana and Dick Pernsteiner, Kelly Zeiler, and Mike Hoyt.

## May Meeting

Next month's meeting will be the Club's annual Spring Potluck and be held at Wood's Cabin on the south side of Lake Como. It's not too early to begin planning for the delectable dish you will bring to share with the other members. The Club will supply soft drinks, but you will be responsible for bringing your own plates and utensils.

### Recap of the BXCSC March Board Meeting, March 14, 2013

Prepared by Deborah Duffy, Secretary

We met just before the Club's general meeting with Michael Hoyt, Earl Phillips, Mel Holloway, Jim Greenfield, George Corn, Reine Hilton, Kelly Zeiler and Deborah Duffy present.

#### Key areas of discussion included:

- The Woods Cabin at Lake Como has been reserved for our May potluck gathering.
- Grooming Update: Mel shared information on the John Deere Gator UTV which would be a valuable addition to the grooming machine fleet. Mel tested one of these machines up at CJ in 2012 and he was very impressed. Scott Graser from Lost Trail Ski Area has asked if the Club would be interested in hiring their groomers to groom the wider trails at CJ once a week using their big equipment. RTF grants are available to reimburse up to \$60/hour for rental. This will be discussed further over the next several months.
- Club Financials: Reine shared the balance sheet and we discussed purchasing a CD with cash on hand. Reine will research this.
- With Club assets being over \$38,000, George asked about insurance on the equipment, especially snowmobiles. Mike had looked into this recently and reported that we appear unable to insure our snowmobiles.
- Membership: Earl sent out the reminder letter to all non-renewals. There was a 10% bump in renewals from this effort.
- Out-of-state skiers are up to 16% compared to 10% last year.
- Newsletter:
  - o Mike asked for approval to only send an email notification with the link to the newsletter which is posted on the website. This was approved by all.
  - o Mike also asked for approval to only send an email version of the newsletter during the summer months, no print version. The Board requested that members be given notification during the next club meetings and in the next newsletters to notify all members of this change.
- Mike requested approval to pursue giving free memberships with ski purchases from area retailers. This was approved by all. Mike will work on this.

The board meeting closed at 7:00 PM.

## Summer Club Activities

As during previous years, we need to do some trail work this summer and fall. There is always some trimming required along the trails and, this year the new multi-use trails need special attention. None of the work will be technically difficult—mostly branch trimming—but more hands (*and backs*) make the job easier. Notice of dates and times will appear in the newsletters over the summer. Please support our Club and especially the grooming crew by volunteering to help.

## **Thank you to those who helped with the 2012-2013 Ski Trails Map**

The credit for the success of this past year's map project goes to the volunteer efforts of many individuals. Probably the highest praise goes to Debbie Leick who spent over 80 hours in the re-creation and design of the front and back map insets. Her artistic skill, combined with experience with multiple software packages for mapping and graphic design, provided new maps with enhanced readability, new skate ski trails and color details which made this map the most informational and best we have ever had. The many complements we heard about our map were a result of her outstanding job.

Thanks first to the legions of map distributors of yesteryear who somehow got them into the hands of skiers. This season's team distributed a record 4,000 maps covering over 100 points from Salmon to Missoula along with mailings to Butte, Dillon, Seeley Lake, Wisdom, Jackson, Lolo Pass and Anaconda. Bettie Rhodes, Parnelli Sharp, Nancy Pollman, Richard Stone, George Corn, and Wayne Hecker all deserve a round of applause for spending the time to visit dozens of locations to initially place maps and to re-supply them throughout the season. Mike Hoyt's training and oversight with software and printing would have been difficult to do without. He and the groomers kept the Gordon Reese Warming Hut and the trailhead registration cabinet well stocked. As with many other Club projects, the map we have continuously produced for many years could not have been accomplished without the help of unsung heroes from the past as well as the current team of volunteers. Thank you all.

Finally, to the almost 50 sponsors of our map who placed advertising to provide funding for the volunteer grooming everyone enjoys, thank you for supporting our cause. All your dollars have been re-invested in the community we share the privilege of enjoying. For members: Don't forget to thank them when you patronize their businesses!

Jim Greenfield, Map Coordinator



### **Mel's Trail Report**

The last day of grooming was 15 March. At the end of the following week, the tracks was in very good condition. Daytime temperatures had risen quickly and but still fell below freezing at night and with little new snow the tracks were preserved. On 22 March it was unlikely that any improvement would have been accomplished by dragging equipment over the trails. The upper few inches were quite icy.

The snow machines have been pulled off the mountain and are undergoing some warranty work and preparation for summer storage.

Significant limb pruning along the multi-use trails should make it a more pleasant experience next season. If trailside tree removal plans come to fruition over the off season, we'll be able to groom them to full width.

I want to thank the grooming crew; Bill Goslin, Bill Peters, Dick Pernsteiner, Jim Swanz, Jim Aronson, John Love, Kelly Zeiler, Mike Conner, Nathan Stone, Randy Leavell, Tony Neaves, Allan Myers, and Mel Mooers for their help and cooperation during the 2012-2013 season.



## Newsletter Submissions

We would love to include contributions from our Club's members in each month's newsletter. If you would like to submit an article related in some way to outdoor recreation (*a trip report, your point of view about a specific activity, etc.*) or pictures which you believe other people would enjoy, please send your submission to:

[bitterrootxcskiclub@gmail.com](mailto:bitterrootxcskiclub@gmail.com).

Thank you.



# Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club Officers

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