

SKI TRACKS

May 2013 — Volume 11 — Number 5

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Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club
and Como Trails Ski Club present:

Our Annual

POTLUCK

Last Meeting of the Season

Come share your stories and celebrate the end of another memorable year of skiing the trails at Chief Joe and Como Trails

Bring your favorite dish to share!
Grilled Chicken, Burgers and Apple Juice provided
Bring plates, utensils, cups and preferred beverage
Chairs available but bring your favorite lounging chair for the deck

Potluck starts at 6:00 - Thursday - May 9, 2013 - Woods Cabin at Como Lake
The public is encouraged and welcomed to attend.



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Selections from George Corn's Remarks at the Memorial Potluck for Steve Powell on Friday, May 26th

Maureen asked that I say a few words about Steve's connection to the mountains forests and rivers, what is called nature. She knows that it is impossible for me say a few words about Steve Powell on any subject, but I'll try.

Sunday afternoon Steve was buried in the family burial plot near the northwest corner of the Victor cemetery. The Powells were there as mother, father, wife, daughter, sister, and kin folks to witness the end of Steve's complete circle of life in this beautiful valley which was his home.

There couldn't be a more fitting place for his body to be interred, here in the valley between the two great mountain ranges that Steve loved. I remembered that while we interred his body, his spirit is soaring over these peaks on these winds of the Bitterroot. In the alpenglow on the Sapphires in the winter we shall remember our friend who has such a strong connection with these great landscapes and nature writ large.

Steve's connections with these mountains and landscapes started before he was born. One of his forbearers, Charlie Powell, a legendary Bitterroot outdoorsman, hiked, snow shoed, and trapped up Blodgett Creek and over the Blodgett Pass into Lochsa County. Steve loved Bud Moore's account in the Lochsa Story of how Charlie Powell used his woodcraft one cold winter day to get his furs safely over Blodgett Pass into Montana while outsmarting federal game wardens on the way to arrest him.

Steve and I, along with many of our friends, were in the same congregation of the Church of the Great Outdoors—we fully embraced that old Norwegian saying that it is better “to go skiing and think of God, than go to church and think of skiing.”

It is my good fortune to have been one of Steve's companions on hikes, backpacks, and skis that ranged from the Beaverheads to the Canadian Border in Glacier National Park. In the words of the old mountain men I, like many of you here, had shining times out in the mountains with Steve.



We shared the joy and wonderment that being out in this great nature brings.

What is it that kept and keeps us going back again and again into the forests and mountains? It doesn't profit us much in worldly goods—it's not exactly a career move. We seldom talk about why we go, we just do it. I believe it is fitting that, as we remember our friend Steve for whom the forest, mountains, and rivers meant so much, we try to explain “why” as best we can.

I think I can speak for Steve, and maybe others in this congregation, when I say that we continually return because there is wholeness in nature which gives us strength. There is a completeness that nourishes us and replenished our spirits. Nature allows us to connect with the infinite from which we come and to which we will all return. Nature serves as an example for our lives. And who was ever more complete than Steve, who more whole?

Going to woods and mountains allows us to see life stripped and clean. There is no artifice that will make a trail shorter, no cant that can make a pass less steep, and no falseness in a rainstorm that turns to sleet and snow with a high pass yet to cross and 8 miles to go before reaching sheltering woods. Steve countenanced no artifice, suffered no cant, spoke directly, and was never false.

Going into the mountains allows us to walk with wonder and respect through cathedrals of peaks, pass alters of unhewn stone, and drink from grottos of cedar-shrouded creeks that live in the Selway and Bitterroot trail bottoms. We gaze at the sky over endless mountains, and all the junk that goes with being human simply drops away. Who cared less about what people had and more about who they were than Steve?

This morning I hiked Goat Mountain between Roaring Lion and Sawtooth Creeks—1,200 feet or so of elevation gain gets you to the top. It was a hike that Steve made countless times. It's the familiar walk, the quick way to return to balance if you only have an hour or two. Near the creek the first paint brush were showing color, the lupine is up in clumps, the buttercups have been out for weeks, and the balsamroot is in first flower. Glacier lilies along with a few shooting stars have come up since my Sunday walk. Higher on the ridge big cinnamon-colored Ponderosas were practically glowing with rising sap and new life. It was renewal after winter.

When you stand at the first highpoint, a spot where Steve stood so often, gazing west you see the headwaters of Roaring Lion south of the ridge and Sawtooth creek along the north. Both are narrow canyons with creeks in the bottom, side gullies, and ravines. Listening to the creeks you know that water is flowing into them from every side gully, ravine, and the melting snowpack at their headwaters—you feel part of that flow.

Just as Roaring Lion and Sawtooth Creeks flow to the Bitterroot River, the Bitterroot into the Clark Fork, the Clark Fork into Lake Pondera then into the Columbia before reaching the Pacific, our lives are flowing through time just as Steve flowed through our lives, a part of the natural cycle. The grand show of the naturalness of that cycle of flow brings lessons for those who have the eyes to see. It is the natural cycle which brings peace and calm to our lives—surely one of the reasons we return again and again to the rivers, forests, and mountains.

It was fitting that the day Steve was buried was John Muir's birthday. Muir wrote, "Walk quietly in any direction and taste the freedom of the mountaineer. Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their freshness into you and the storms their energy, while cares will drop like autumn leaves."

From that peace and renewal we receive strength to hope, and with hope we can do good works. Steve did many good works, none better than his efforts with the Bitterroot Land Trust to preserve this great landscape which surrounds us.

I'll close by reading words of hope from a southern Appalachian writer who grew up surrounded by the beauty of that great range. To me it applies to Steve's life and, in particular, the hope that springs from the eternal of nature.

"Something has spoken to me in the night, burning the tapers of the waning year; something has spoken in the night, and told me I shall die, I know not where. Saying, 'To lose the earth you know, for greater knowing; to lose the life you have for greater life; to leave the friends you loved, for greater loving; to find a land more kind than home, more large than earth..."

'Whereon the pillars of the earth are founded, toward which the conscience of the world is tending—a wind is rising, and the rivers flow.'"

(This piece was edited down from George's original remarks so it would fit our newsletter – Mike Hoyt)



Bitterroot X-Country Ski Club Board Meeting Minutes for April 11, 2013

Prepared by: Deborah Duffy, Secretary

The board meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Michael Hoyt, President.

Attendees Present:

Michael Hoyt, President	Jim Greenfield, Program Coordinator
Kelly Zeiler, Vice-President	Mel Holloway, Trails & Grooming
Deborah Duffy, Secretary	Richard Stone, Youth Activities Coordinator
Reine Hilton, Treasurer	Earl Phillips, Membership Coordinator

- May Potluck at Woods Cabin on May 9th
 - o Mike suggested we invite ht Como Trails Club members to join us at the May Potluck at Woods Cabin. All agreed to invite them.
 - o It was also agreed that the main course will be provided for grilling—hamburgers, chicken, etc.
 - o We will start the potluck at 6 PM instead of 7 PM to take full advantage of daylight hours
- Gift certificates for grooming crew
 - o There were fifteen groomers this year putting in a total of 930 hours. Time per groomer ranged from 247 ¼ hours to 10 hours. It was first suggested to give them each a \$25 gift certificate for Wild Mare restaurant, but all ultimately agreed on a \$50 certificate.
 - o Given that one goal of the Board was to increase the number of groomers in order to make it a more manageable commitment, all agreed it was great to see that fifteen members had helped out this year.
 - o Reine will write a check for \$750 to Wild Mare Restaurant.
- Free memberships with ski purchase from area retailers
 - o The Board voted to pursue this effort at the last meeting. Mike has been working on a instruction booklet to include in the package. He would like a cartoonist to illustrate the booklet. It was suggested to ask for volunteers during the meeting which Mike will do.
- Available Grants for 2013/2014
 - o TIPP and RTP grants will both be applied for again this year. They can help cover the potential UTV purchase to further enhance the Club's grooming capacity and/or rental costs if we team up with Lost Trail to assist in grooming. Mike will work on these this summer.
- Summer clearing on trails
 - o Mike would like to do summer clearing on the Gibbon's Pass trails and have volunteer crews working up there periodically throughout the summer.
- Meeting with Forest Service
 - o Mike is planning a meeting with Nate to discuss a few things:
 - * Idea of adding a warming yurt at Gibbon's Pass at some point in the future
 - * Additional summer clearing to be done this summer (*including Gibbon's Pass area*)
 - * New trail options
 - * The Board would like to see other officers and board members to join Mike at this meeting
 - * In the past, the Club had an annual meeting with the FS and was a good means to keep communications open and to build a cooperative effort between Club and FS
 - * Mike will notify the Board when a date is set.
- Membership—80% of 2012 30% did not renew this year; 20% are new members
 - o It was suggested that we seek a volunteer to serve as a Publicity Coordinator—Mike will ask for a volunteer during the meeting and in the next newsletter.

The board meeting closed at 7:00 PM.

Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club Meeting Minutes, April, 2013

Meeting Date: April 11, 2013

Call to order: Mike Hoyt called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

Number attending: 37

Meeting Notes

Current Membership: *Earl Phillips reported that 30% of prior year members did not renew this year, however we did gain 20% new members.*

Treasurer's Report: Reine Hilton shared the following—

- Savings Acct at \$19,246
- Donations were down \$500
- Grooming expenses were down \$800 (*mostly in maintenance expenses since we had new equipment*)
- Club is financially in good shape thanks to grants.

Trail Report: *Mel Holloway reported that we had fifteen volunteer groomers this year. This is a big commitment and all groomers were given a round of applause with Bill Peters giving a special thank you to Mel Holloway for all of his hours given to making the trails at Chief Joseph as good as they are.*

A Club goal was to reduce the overall grooming hours needed to get the job done. Even with more trails to groom this year, the grooming hours were down significantly.

President's Space: Mike Hoyt shared the following—

- A huge thanks to the groomers for the volunteer hours they put in this year.
- Thanks to the members who provided refreshments for meetings.
- The May Potluck gathering will be held on May 9th at 6 PM at the Woods Cabin at Lake Como. We are inviting the Como Ski Club to join us.
- Please submit pictures and stories to share in our newsletter and website.
- Reminder that the summer distribution of the newsletter will be emailed only. The newsletter will not be mailed during the summer months.
- We'll have work days throughout the summer this year to continue efforts to clear trails. Last summer's work was a huge help to groomers.

New Business

- Seeking volunteers—
 - o Club is seeking a volunteer to serve as the Publicity Coordinator. Anyone interested in taking on this very important role is asked to contact one of the Officers or Board members.
 - o Looking for a cartoonist to help Mike with an instruction manual for beginner level cross-country skiers. The manual will be part of a package provided to local retailers to give away to anyone purchasing or renting cross-country skis. The package will also include a free one year membership to the BXCSC.
 - o Linda Stoudt was selling an assortment of colors in the new bandanas with the club logo during the meeting. The Club makes \$1 for each bandana sold. We will sell more of the bandanas at the May Potluck.

Guest Speaker

In Russ Lawrence's presentation, *Encounter Peru by Bicycle*, he described a tour he and his wife, Jean Matthews, led to southern Peru last October. It was an extraordinary trip and we were able to vicariously take in the scenery, culture, and llama power the group experienced.

The meeting closed at 8:15 PM

These minutes prepared by: Deborah Duffy

President's Message

Spring has sprung and the annual renewal is underway. Dandelions are in bloom, turkeys are on their nests, grass is beginning to grow, cooler mornings cause icy fields below early-season wheel lines, and we're all planning our summer activities. Many are waiting for confirmation that their chosen trips in Glacier National Park have been reserved (or not). A few are planning vacations to visit relatives or exotic places around the world. Some of us have begun to work the soil and are waiting patiently for the eventual warm up so we can plant our gardens.

I am busy planning another season of hiking and climbing in the Bitterroot Mountains. And as always, I invite anyone who would like to be included on the email notification list to send a request to michael.hoyt@gmail.com. If the weather and smoke cooperate, this season will include more (and earlier) multi-day backpack trips than previous years.

With the exception of those willing to climb (skin) or travel, our ski season is over. That means it's time to begin planning for the next one. Grant funding will be sought to help cover expenses, equipment repaired and replaced, and trail work performed. We completed lots of work on the long-established classic trails last summer and fall, so may not need to do more than make sure they're clear of debris this year.

However, we do need to complete plenty of branch trimming along the newer skating trails (Gibbons Pass Road, etc.) and will be scheduling workdays beginning soon after the snow melts. Rather than attempt to complete all the work in a single week, we'll spread it over the summer and early fall. Notification of the work to be done and when will appear in our monthly newsletters and on our website and Facebook page. I hope you will volunteer your time and labor so that come next winter, the trails will be in good shape both for our groomers and visiting skiers.

Mike Hoyt



Seeking a Volunteer

The Board of Directors believes that our Club has now reached the point where we require a publicist. That person will be responsible for coordinating most of Club's publicity—newspapers, radio, etc. In addition that person will work with the Board to publicize Club activities and coordinate with other non-profit organizations when required. This is a position we desperately need to fill. If you are interested please contact any of our Board Members.

Notice

Over the summer months, June through September, the Club's newsletter will only be distributed by email. The latest version is always available on our website, bitterrootxskiclub.net.



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: \$ _____