



SKI TRACKS

December 2013 — Volume 11 — Number 12

Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club's Annual Potluck Dinner

*Bring you favorite dish and share
in our
Annual Winter Feast*

Date: December 12, 2013

Time: Dinner at 6:00 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Place: First Presbyterian Church, 1220 W Main St, Hamilton, MT.

Juice provided — Bring plates and silverware

6th Annual

10K or 20K



Continental Divide Classic Ski Race

Sat - December 14, 2013

Chief Joseph Cross Country Ski Area



**BRING
YOUR
FUN!**



Drawing for
SKATE SKIS
CLASSIC SKIS
more PRIZES

Registration \$20
8:30 to 11:30

Mass Start
Noon

**Hot Soup
Celebration**
After Race



All Events
Gordon Reese
Warming Hut



Sponsored by The Trail Head - Como Trails Club



Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club

All proceeds go to trail grooming



Info and snow conditions:

Tony Neaves, Race Director 406-381-3943

Permitted by DeerLodge-Beaverhead National Forest

Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club presents:

UNUSUAL BIRD & WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS IN THE BITTERROOT VALLEY

Wolverines moving through the Sapphires?
1,800 Turkey Vultures migrating?
Osprey in Winter?

What to watch for now?



Long-eared owl and owllet



Western wood pe-wee



Kate Stone's presentation will highlight some of the research she is conducting, some of the more unusual bird and wildlife sightings, and how private lands conservation and research can fit into the overall picture of how we understand the world around us. She'll also let you know how individuals like you can contribute to what we know about wildlife in the Bitterroot Valley.

Kate works as an Ecologist for the MPG Ranch, a private conservation property near Florence. Her research focuses on using bird populations as a means of evaluating the success of restoration treatments. Kate also oversees several projects aimed at learning more about little-known bird species.

Our December meeting Annual Potluck starts at 6:00 - Join us!

Meeting starts at 7:00 on December 12, 2013 at the Presbyterian Church, 1220 West Main Street, Hamilton

The public is encouraged and welcomed to attend all meetings.

Photo by Joshua Lisbon

Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: November 14, 2013

Call to order: Mike Hoyt called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM

Number attending: 39

Seeking New Officer: The Club is seeking an individual to run for Secretary for the next two year term. Anyone interested in serving as an officer, please contact Mike Hoyt or Deborah Duffy.

Trail Report: Mel Holloway has an opportunity to purchase a used Scandik and would in turn sell the Yamaha Viking. He also suggested investing in a second new drag and roller.

George Corn so moved that the Club purchase a drag and roller.

Seconded by Bill Peters.

All in attendance were in favor of purchasing the used Scandik—no nays.

Scott Grasser's grooming staff will help groom most of the new trails at Chief Joseph—at least all that are wide enough for his equipment.

If you have ideas for trail names, please submit them prior to the next meeting.

Mike shared that more new trails are being planned for next year and that the Backcountry Horsemen are interested in helping to do some of the clearing.



President's Space: Mike Hoyt shared the following--

- Tony Neaves will be running the CD Classic again this year. This race will be held on December 14th. Tony will be promoting the event more this year and we just need to hope for more snow. Volunteers are needed to help on race day. Please let Tony know if you are interested in helping out at this unique event.
- Maps will be available soon and Jim Greenfield will once again coordinate the distribution of these maps throughout the valley. Jim was looking for one more volunteer to cover the locations between Darby and Lost Trail Pass.
- The Cross Country Skiing Instruction Manual that the Club produced is available.
- The Club is working with ski rental locations to distribute a free packet containing one year free membership with BXCSC, our Cross Country Skiing Instruction Manual, BXCSC brochure and map of Chief Joseph ski area trails.
- We will continue to offer instruction for youth in the valley. Richard Stone is the coordinator for this effort. He already has commitments with Corvallis, Victor and Darby schools. Volunteers are needed to assist with instruction. Please contact Richard if you would like to help.
- Club bandanas are available in an assortment of colors. These make great gifts at just \$8 each.

Next Meeting is the annual Potluck

- Bring a dish to share, your appetite and your favorite skiing stories to this ever-popular annual club meeting.

Guest Speaker

Zack Porter, NEXGen Wilderness Leaders Program Director, was the guest speaker for November. His presentation, Unknown and Unprotected, Montana's best backcountry destinations you've never heard of, left many of us with new locations to add to our bucket list of places to explore in Montana. And, it reminded us all of the specialness of this state we call home. If you wish to learn more about the advocacy efforts of this organization, or if you wish to get involved, go to www.wildmontana.org.

The meeting closed at 8:39 PM

These minutes prepared by: **Deborah Duffy**

Bitterroot X-Country Ski Club Board Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2013

To: Board Members and Officers
From: Deborah Duffy, Secretary

If you no longer want to receive the newsletter, please send an email message to michael.hoyt@gmail.com stating you wish to unsubscribe.

The board meeting was called to order at 6:20 PM by Michael Hoyt, President.

Attendees:

Michael Hoyt, President - Jim Greenfield, Program Coordinator - Earl Phillips, Membership Coordinator - Reine Hilton, Treasurer -
Mel Holloway, Trails & Grooming - Deborah Duffy, Secretary - Jack Cooley, Webmaster

- Reine provided a financial update with the following highlights:
 - * Membership is down \$900 from prior year-to-date dues paid.
 - * We also did not receive money from the RTP grant that we received last year during the same time period, putting us down another \$8,000.
 - * Overall, the Club's income is down \$10,000 for the same period during 2012.
 - * Net Income this year-to-date is \$14,000.
- Mike shared that the free membership packets the Club is providing for businesses with ski rentals are ready and being distributed. Each packet will contain:
 - * Ski instruction manual (*this is the one BXCSC produced*)
 - * Map of Chief Joseph Ski Area trails
 - * One year free membership to BXCSC
 - * Club brochure.
- Jim has learned that Jeff Grey, owner of Western Flies and Guides, is not planning to do ski rentals and wants to sell the ski equipment he has. It was discussed that perhaps the school districts in the valley or Randy at Valley Bike and Ski might be interested in purchasing equipment.
- Mike has been in touch with Scott Grasser at Lost Trail. Scott is planning to do the grooming on the wider trails that his equipment can get into. We still have \$19,000 of RTP grant money that can be used to pay for this extra expense.
- Mike and Kelly installed most of the new trail signs. A few will be posted once there is enough snow to allow for easier access.
- Mike is planning to apply for the RTP grant again in 2014. They will be accepting grant applications from January through April.
- Mike indicated some new trails are planned for next year. Karen Phillips suggested that the Backcountry Horsemen would be interested in clearing the trail that connects Gibbons Pass trail to the north end of Overlook Trail.
- Grooming Update:
 - * Mel has learned that Seeley Lake Club is selling a Scandic snow mobile. Mel proposed that the Club sell an older machine and buy this one with that money. This would provide the groomers with a much better machine for the grooming.
 - * Mel also proposed purchasing another roller and drag so that two teams can be working.
 - * These requests will be put to club members for approval at the meeting.



- Mike questioned if we should continue with the December potluck. It was agreed that at least for this year, we should still plan on having it.
- Declining attendance at meetings was discussed. Earl shared that membership is down by over 50% from prior year-to-date enrollment. In prior years, the Club always saw a big membership renewal at the October meeting when members had the opportunity to reserve the cabin. Now that we don't have that draw, there is less urgency and incentive to become a member. We discussed the need for something to draw members to meetings which in turn gives a boost in membership sign-up. There were no clear cut answers to these challenges.
- Raffle-ganza—Mike wondered what we wanted to do this year. Try something new? Discontinue this fund raising effort? Who would run it if we did it? Try something at the brewery? If anyone is interested in taking charge, let Mike know.

**If you haven't already done so,
please renew your membership**

The board meeting was brought to a close at 7:00 PM.

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President's Message

Ski season is here, with a vengeance. The approximately one and a half feet of snow that was forecast for the area around Chief Joseph Ski Trails ended up being in the range of two and half to four feet.

Our grooming crew made a valiant effort to whip the new snow into submission on Monday, December 3rd. Unfortunately, the snow won! They did manage to partially compress the snow on the CD Trail between the trailhead and the Cabin. But after spending more time digging snowmobiles out of deep snow than was spent actually grooming, the groomers decided during lunch that it made sense to wait a few days for the snow to settle AND for air temperatures to rise—nighttime temperatures below zero and daytime temperatures no higher the four degrees are forecast until early next week. So, the chances of grooming activities taking place before Wednesday of next week, December 11th, are minimal.

Other ways to tell that ski season has arrived are to count the increased activity on the Club's website and FaceBook page. It seems that, like last season, our pages are popular for their information regarding current weather and trail conditions. Especially Thursday through Sunday, our website is visited over hundred times per day by people checking skiing conditions. If you haven't visited our information-filled website, the address is <http://www.bitterrootxcskiclub.net/>.

Elections will be held for two officer positions during the business meeting, Vice President and Secretary. Kelly Zeiler is running for the next 2-year term of Vice President. So far no one has stepped forward to run for Secretary. The

person in that position will have a seat on the Club's Board or Directors, take minutes during each Club and Board Meeting, and provide input and vote on Club business.

The time and skills that YOU volunteer are required to ensure that the Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club continues to exist, enabling it to provide a much-needed and appreciated recreational opportunity to the Bitterroot Valley and surrounding communities.

Don't forget our very popular Annual Winter Feast (*potluck dinner*) will be held at 6:00 p.m., before our next meeting, December 12, 2013. Hope to see you there with your best dish!

Mike Hoyt
Michael.hoyt@gmail.com



Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club Officers

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

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: \$ _____