



SKI TRACKS

January 2014 — Volume 12 — Number 1

President's Message

For those of you who have yet to visit the Chief Joseph Ski Trails this winter, you'll soon discover the trails are in terrific shape. Visitation numbers are up over previous winters and the donation box at the trailhead is taking in larger amounts than ever, both indicators of skiers' overall happiness with the trails.

Our grooming crew did a superb job of dealing with the large amount of unusually wet snow that dumped on the trail system a few days before the 6th Annual Continental Divide Classic Ski Race held on Saturday, December 14th. Working in shifts, the groomers needed three and a half days of very hard work to beat the snow into submission, just in time for the racers to do their thing.

Thanks to the concentrated efforts of Tony Neaves, race director, the race was a complete success. We had more racers participate and most race times were four to five minutes faster than last year. To a person, the participants were overjoyed with the condition of the race course and praised both Tony for his trail choices and the groomers for their hard work required to prepare the course. If the racers are to be believed, we should expect this annual event to continue to grow as the years go by.

Another indication of the popularity of the race is the fact that the day after the race, visits to our website reached an all-time high, 240 hits. That is a very impressive number for the website of a small non-profit organization like ours. We must be doing something right!

Since Christmas, the ski trails have had hundreds of visitors a day, our Facebook page is extremely busy, and our website is receiving in excess of 100 visits per day. Those are all indications of the popularity of cross-country skiing at Chief Joseph Pass.

Marrea Mathews has expressed a willingness to serve as our Club's secretary for the next two years. The "official" election will be held during the January meeting. Thanks, Marrea!

We will be hosting groups of skiers from three different area schools during January—Corvallis on the 13th, Darby on the 20th, and Victor on the 28th. As most of you are aware, the future of any organization, especially our Club, depends on its ability to attract new, younger members. This is your chance to help ensure our future by helping those in these classes discover the joys of cross-country skiing. You do not have to be an expert skier to help. Please volunteer!

Our Club has entered into an agreement with the lost Trail Downhill Ski Area to help us groom—using their gigantic grooming machines—some of the new multi-use trails that have been incorporated into our trail system over the last two winters. Those trails are proving to be extremely popular and are helping us attract new members. Thanks goes to Scott Grasser for his willingness to explore this new partnership, one which improves the experience for all who use the new trails, whether they are on skis, snowshoes, snowmobiles, or dog sleds.

Mike Hoyt

Michael.hoyt@gmail.com

Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club presents:

Sailing and Skiing in Antarctica

In December, Skip Horner led a small group of adventurers on a skiing expedition to Antarctica. He chartered a 67' steel-hulled sloop out of Ushuaia, Argentina, the southernmost city in the world, and they sailed 770 miles across the treacherous Drake Passage to and from the Antarctic Peninsula. Then for two weeks they sailed



through an archipelago of glacier-covered islands along the mainland, dodging icebergs and avoiding the pack-ice, as they chose new ski ascents and descents each day.



Skip has guided a wide variety of adventures worldwide for over 40 years. He was the first to guide the 7 Summits, the highest mountain on every continent. He led the first descents of over a dozen wild rivers on 5 continents, including the Zambezi, the Indus, and the Yangtse. He has skied the highest peaks in the Arctic and the Antarctic, led camel caravans across the Sahara, and chased solar eclipses across 3 continents. Skip is a popular lecturer and an accomplished photographer, and he lives in Victor.

Meeting starts at 7:00 on January 9, 2014 at the Presbyterian Church
1220 West Main Street - Hamilton
The public is encouraged and welcomed to attend all meetings

TRANSCEIVER TRAINING AND WEENIE ROAST



**JANUARY 12, 2014
HOGAN'S MEADOW**

**DO
YOU
HAVE
AN
AVALANCHE
BEACON?**



**DO
YOU
KNOW
HOW TO
USE
IT??**

Avalanche victims who are buried for more than 15 minutes have a low survival rate. When the worst happens, you don't have time to read the instruction manual!!

The Bitterroot Ridgerunners Snowmobile Club (BRR) is offering **FREE** avalanche transceiver training to all winter sports enthusiasts on January 12, 2014 near Hogan's Cabin from 11am to 2pm. It's a great opportunity to learn to use your avalanche beacon or sharpen your existing skills. Like all emergency equipment, effective use of a beacon requires practice.

BRR will also provide **FREE** dogs & buns for all participants. Need more information? Call Lee Scharff at 370-0849 or Dan Thompson at 642-9824.

**CHECK OUT THE AREA
TRAILS AND JOIN US FOR A
WEENIE OR TWO!!**



McCALL
RE-MASTERED



idaho
nordic

GRAVITY
SPORTS

JUG MOUNTAIN RANCH
MCCALL, IDAHO



City of McCall

ACECO
INDUSTRIAL KNIVES

EDIBLE ART
Catering

Precision Snow Grooming
McCall, Idaho



McCall 2014 Re-Mastered

February 8th & 9th, 2014 - McCall, Idaho

Saturday Feb. 8th

Freestyle Event

2008 World Masters course

Ponderosa State Park

15K, 30K, & 45K

Sunday Feb. 9th

Classic Event

Jug Mt. Ranch

5K & 10K



mccallremastered.com

Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: December 12, 2013

Call to order: Mike Hoyt called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Number attending: 47

The meeting followed our annual potluck dinner between 6:00 and 7:00. Lots of good food and cheer was shared.

Membership: Earl Phillips reported that the membership is down by 60 from last year at this time.

Trail Report: Mel Holloway and the groomers will be in good shape by Friday afternoon. They are readying the trails for the big race on Saturday, December 14th. Most of the new skate trails have been packed.

Treasurer Report: Mike Hoyt reported that we are in good financial shape with more than \$25,000 in the bank.

Elections: Mike Hoyt moved that Kelly Zeiler be voted in as Vice President of the Club for a two year term.

- This was seconded by Jim Greenfield.
- All present voted in favor.
- The Secretary position is still open. If you are interested in filling this position for the next two years, please talk to one of the Officers.
- As I leave this position, I want to take a moment to say how much I appreciate having had the opportunity to serve as Secretary for the past two years. I've appreciated the support of the board and fellow officers and look forward to continued involvement with the Club.

6th Annual Continental Divide Classic Race: Tony Neaves has once again organized the 10 and 20 K races. We are hoping for increased participation this year. Tony is looking for additional volunteers to help up at Chief Joseph on race day—December 14th.

Maps: Jim Greenfield was given a round of applause for his considerable work on the trail maps this year. The advertising generated more than \$6,000 for the Club. Maps are available at businesses and restaurants throughout the valley. Volunteers help to distribute the maps and monitor the supply at the various locations. Thanks to these volunteers! Maps are also available at Chief Joseph in the hut and at the registration box. All the new trails are included on the map.

Youth Program: Richard Stone has three upcoming ski events planned with schools.

- January 13, for Corvallis
- January 20, for Darby
- January 28, for Victor

Fundraiser for 2014: A coordinator is needed if we intend to have a fundraising event for 2014.

- Please let Mike Hoyt know if you are interested in coordinating this effort.
- Linda Stoudt still has handkerchiefs with the Club logo available in a rainbow of colors.

Guest Speaker

Kate Stone from the MPG Ranch gave a great presentation, Little Known Wildlife in the Bitterroot Valley. She offered a great slide presentation and the focus was certainly on the rich variety of birds that we have to view and watch after here in the valley. Everyone present was given a rare glimpse of the birds and other wildlife that make MPG Ranch home for all or a part of the year.

The meeting closed at 8:35 PM

These minutes prepared by: Deborah Duffy

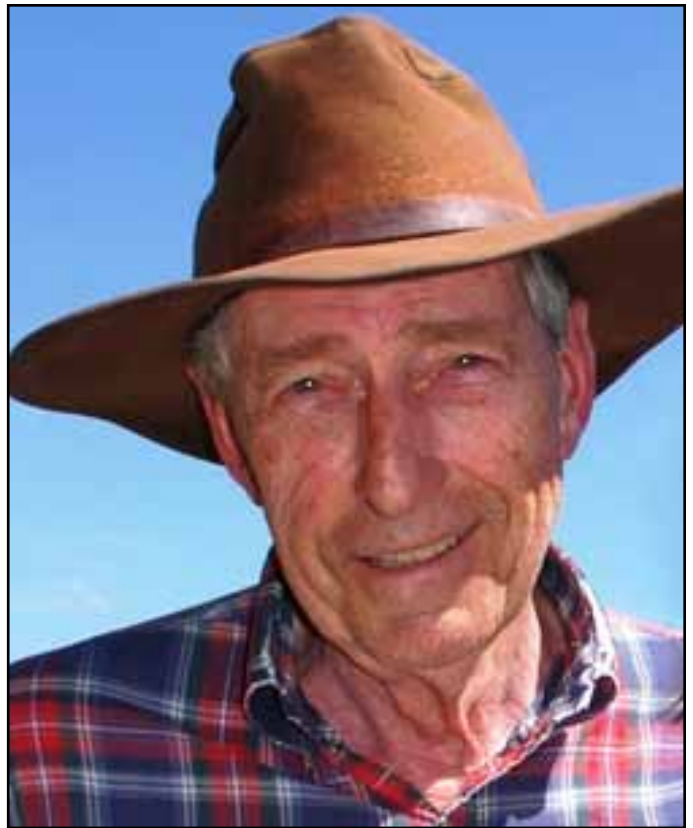
Farewell

Arthur “Art” Seifert, 83, a long-time member of our Club, died at his home near Tucson, Arizona, on December 23, 2013, following a year of treatment for multiple myeloma.

Following his retirement in 1992, Art and his wife, Kerstin, moved to Hamilton, Montana, where they spent 20 years enjoying life in the outdoors. They moved to Saddlebrooke Ranch, a retirement community north of Tucson in 2012.

During their years in Hamilton, Art and Kerstin were dedicated supporters of our Club, contributing their expertise and sharing their friendship. They have many friends remaining among our members.

For those wishing to do so, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Mayo Clinic (www.mayoclinic.org; 13400 East Shea Blvd., Scottsdale, AZ 85259), the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (www.themmr.org; 383 Main Ave, 5th Floor, Norwalk, CT 06851), or the charity of your choice.



Art's obituary/guest book is now posted on line: www.VistosoFH.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 (open)
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: \$ _____