

SKI TRACKS

Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club

February 2014 --- Volume 12 --- Number 2

Inside:
Students Learn to Ski
The Stateline Yurt
Forest Service Meeting

Photo by Jack Cooley

Backcountry Adventures of the

Stateline
Yurt

BACKCOUNTRY SKI LODGING
AT LOST TRAIL PASS

a presentation of the

Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club



With the early snow, just getting into the backcountry proved to be a major challenge. Through access challenges to winter deck construction and yurt assembly, we have created a comfortable yurt shelter in a backcountry winter wonderland! Come find out more about the Stateline Yurt adventures so far and what is to come.

Seth Tonsmeire, Operations Manager for Wilderness River Outfitters, spends most of his time rafting, kayaking, fishing, snowboarding/skiing, hiking, camping, and working on Hayden Creek Ranch near Lemhi, Idaho in the winter. A MSU grad in Geography with a minor in Native American Studies, Seth leads WRO trips in Idaho, Montana, Alaska and Canada.

Meeting starts at 7:00 February 13, 2014 at the Presbyterian Church
1220 West Main Street - Hamilton

The public is encouraged and welcomed to attend all meetings

Students Learning to Ski the Trails of Chief Joseph

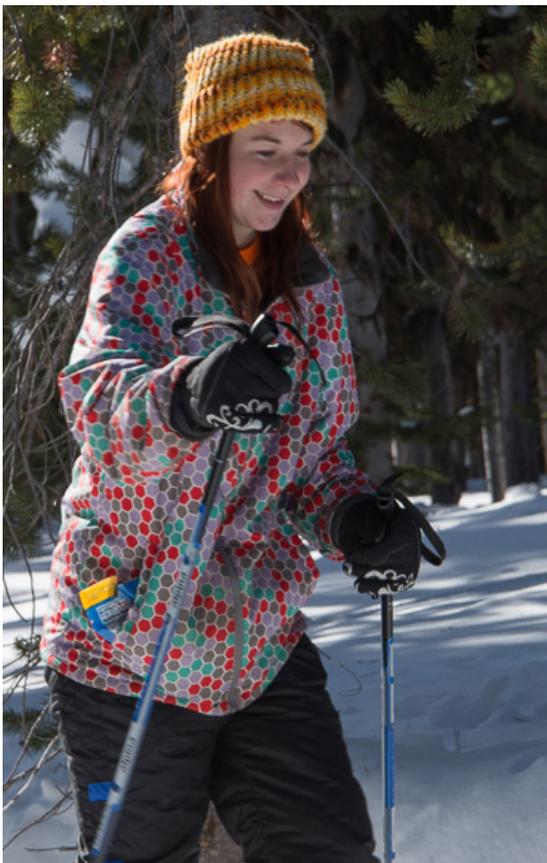


Listen! Listen to the sounds as you ski down the trails at Chief Joseph! You might hear the twitter of birds, the scolding of a squirrel, the whoosh of skis on the snow, the plop of a snowball falling off of a pine tree, or just the sound of silence. In the last few weeks, some new sounds have been added to the mix. The whoop, screams, laughter and giggles of area youth who have been coming to Chief Joe for some cross country ski instruction on our classic trails.

A concerted effort has been made this year to get more youth up to Chief Joe to introduce them to cross country skiing. Why is the Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club doing this? The

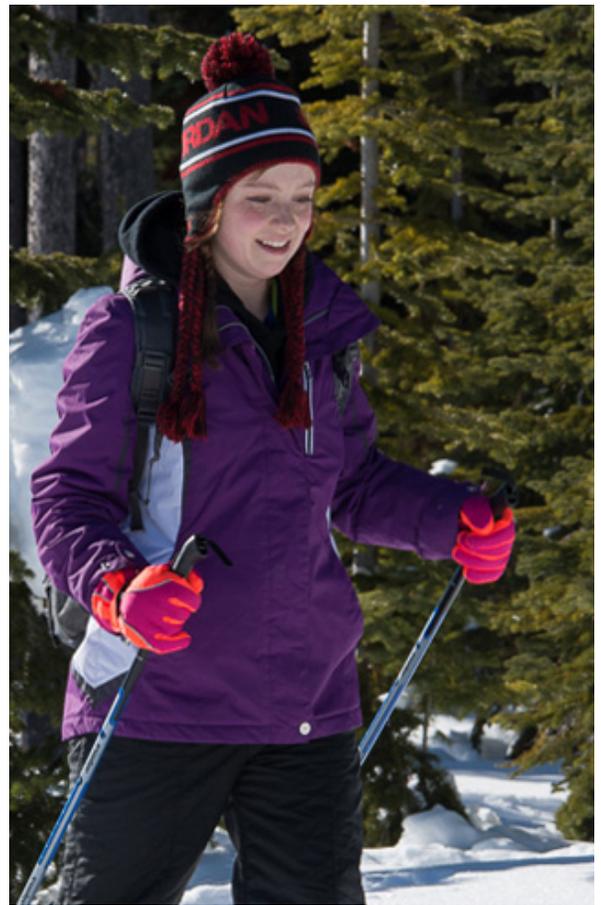
answers are obvious.

Kids and young adults need to get out of their comfort zone and experience new things. The students can be active, enjoy the magnificent outdoors, gain self confidence, and have fun all at the same time. The skill of cross country skiing can be enjoyed throughout a lifetime.



Although some groups have been coming for years, this year they have been able to take advantage of the experience and instruction our club members have to offer. After an initial period of general instruction, the group is divided into small groups for more individualized instruction.

We could not work with these large groups of students without the generosity of the cadre of volunteers. It is very gratifying to work with these kids and watch them improve their skills over the short period of time they are with the volunteers. Some start out very apprehensive at times having difficulty just staying upright. Within a short time with patient help, constructive corrections and encouragement, they have a big grin on their faces as they glide down the trail. THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS for the future of the sport and our club that you offer these kids.



To date we have been host to a total of 43 students. On January 28th, thirty students from Victor High School made their first trip. With a little support and encouragement they had a very successful outing to Chief Joe.

Superintendent Lance Pearson said, "They would definitely be back next year!"

The school groups and dates currently scheduled are:

Corvallis	Monday	February 10	30 students
Salmon ID	Thursday	February 13	60 students

If you are interested in helping out on any or all of these dates, please contact

Richard Stone (Youth Activities Coordinator) at rcstone1@msn.com or 642-9648.

**THANK YOU
VOLUNTEERS!**

Photos by Jack Cooley



Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday January 9, 2014

Call to order: 7:05 pm

Number attending: about 55

Membership: Compared to last year, we lost 70 old members but have gained 50 new members, which brings us close to the membership we had last year at this time.

Trail Report: All classic trails have been groomed and Hogan and the skate trails will be hit next. The lights and brakes on the snowmobile trailer were repaired earlier this week. There was discussion of posting a large to-scale map with distances in at the trailhead and possibly another at the cabin.

Jim Aronson initiated a discussion about waiting until after a big snow to commence groom. The consensus was to defer to the decision of the on-location groomers regarding rolling, setting tracks, etc.

Treasurer Report: Our income this year is commensurate with last year at the same time, excepting income from grants awarded last year. We are in good financial standing at this time. Membership dues are similar to this time last year.

Website: Our website and Facebook pages are the best way to get the latest update on the trail conditions. They are usually updated within 30 minutes after information from the groomers is received. Please share our Facebook page and feel free to add photos and comments.

Elections: A motion was made by Norma Gilmore to accept Marrea Matthews as treasurer and seconded by Linda Hoyt. The membership voted and Marrea was approved.

Youth Ski: Instruction has been set up for four weekends to expose children to cross-country skiing. A plea for volunteers was made. Contact Richard Stone



- January 13, Corvallis
- January 20, Darby
- January 28, Victor
- February 13, Salmon

Free Ski Lessons: January 18 for the public. Volunteers are needed. Please contact George Corn.

Guest Speaker: Skip Horner presented his Antarctic skiing expedition. After reaching Antarctica they sailed for two more weeks through ice covered islands along the mainland and chose new ski ascent and descents each day. Skip regaled us with stories of pitch and yaw, the midnight sun, scotch chilled by 2000 year old glacial ice, blue-eyed shags, and leucistic birds. Check out Skip's website for more information, www.skiphorner.com.

The meeting close: 8:55 pm

Minutes prepared by: Marrea Matthews

President's Message

On Friday morning, January 24th, I represented our Ski Club at a meeting with Forest Service Officials at the Sula Ranger Station. Also attending were several officers from the Bitterroot Ridgerunners Snowmobile Club. It was our first chance to meet Melany Glossa, the newly appointed Forest Supervisor for the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest. Melany Glossa was most recently based in Bedford, Indiana, the location of the headquarters for the Hoosier National Forest.

Some may not be aware that the Chief Joseph Ski Area sits directly on the intersection of three different forest management designations, Bitterroot, Salmon-Challis, and the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forests. When the Ski Area was first proposed, the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest was chosen to handle management and oversight.

Because our Club is so closely associated with skiing at Chief Joseph Pass, we have an interest in the goings-on in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest and are especially concerned with all changes in management personnel.

The main topic of discussion centered on the wintertime use of a section of the Gibbons Pass Road (1260). Some Forest Service officials have interpreted the current Forest Plan, adopted during 2009, as indicating a 3-mile section of that road is designated non-motorized use during winter months. Many others, including the Ridgerunners, claim the Forest Plan does no such thing and is at best ambiguous and contradictory on that particular point.

Agency officials reiterated that they intend to modify the Forest Plan—a claim they have been making for the past four years—to ensure that motorized use remains acceptable on the entirety of the Gibbons Pass Road. They suggested that in the meantime snowmobile riders use a portion of 73537 Road (*our Overlook Trail*) and a connector trail (as-yet-to-be-determined) which would intersect with the Gibbons Pass Road a short distance north of the supposedly “closed” section.

For several reasons, there is a strong likelihood the Ridgerunners Club will reject the Agency's proposal. And for reasons of our own—complications and implications implicit in our Club's accepting the Agency's proposal—it is likely we will support the Ridgerunners' position.

Also discussed during the meeting, was the wish for a double-outhouse at the Chief Joseph Trailhead. Both the Forest Service and our Club have good reasons for this to happen. The most obvious reason is that during the winter the single outhouse receives extensive use because it is the only open facility of its sort near the pass. The existing single-seat outhouse is not only used by skiers and other recreationists, but by many who are simply driving over the pass. Therefore, our Club will seek funding to make an additional outhouse, of the double-seat variety, possible.

Mike Hoyt
Michael.hoyt@gmail.com

**Parking for
the
Dogsled Races
held on
January 18th**



**The Corvallis Middle School Science Olympiad Team
is proud to announce a fundraiser for the
National Competition to be held in Orlando, Florida, in May 2014**
(A Karen Bleibtrey Memorial Lecture)

Presenting: Dr. Scott Parazynski — Astronaut, Everest Climber, Physician

Dr. Scott E. Parazynski, a graduate of Stanford University and Stanford Medical School, went on to train at Harvard and in Denver in preparation for a career in emergency medicine and trauma. In 1992 he was selected to join NASA's Astronaut Corps and eventually flew 5 Space Shuttle Missions and conducted 7 spacewalks (EVAs). In addition to being a life-long SCUBA diver and accomplished mountaineer, Scott is also a commercial, instrument, multiengine and seaplane-rated pilot with over 2,500 flight hours. On his second attempt to scale Mt. Everest, on May 20, 2009, he became the first astronaut to stand on top of the world. He currently serves as Director and Chief Medical Officer of UTMB's Center for Polar Medical Operations in Galveston. He oversees the medical screening and on-ice care of the National Science Foundation's US Antarctic Program

For more information go to: parazynski.com

Friday, March 14th, 2014i — V.I.P. Reception, 4:45 to 6:15

Bitterroot River Inn Conference Center, Hamilton, Montana. Tickets \$200.00, enjoy food and drink, pictures with Dr. Parazynski, and an opportunity to meet and talk with our featured guest. Tickets have to be purchased prior to the event. No tickets will be sold at the door. Contact Doug Martin for tickets to this event at 406.531.8110.

Friday, March 14th, 2014, 7:00 pmi — “An evening of exploration with Dr. Scott Parazynski.”

Our speaker will discuss climbing Mt. Everest, scuba diving in the highest Volcano on earth, and space exploration. Tickets \$20.00, tickets have to be purchased prior to the event. No tickets will be sold at the door. Bitterroot River Inn Conference Center, Hamilton, Montana.

Tickets for the 7:00pm presentation can be purchased at Corvallis Physical Therapy, 1050 Eastside Hwy, Corvallis, Hamilton Physical Therapy, 336 Fairgrounds Road, Hamilton, and Chapter One Bookstore in Hamilton. Please note, tickets are not available yet at these locations but should be available in the next week. If you have any questions, please call Doug Martin at 406.531.8110.

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 Marrea Mathews mmathews5@aol.com 406-381-8377
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: \$ _____