

SKI TRACKS

November 2013 — Volume 11 — Number 11

Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club presents:

Unknown and Unprotected

Montana's best backcountry destinations

you've never heard of

with Zach Porter



MONTANA WILDERNESS
ASSOCIATION

Montana is blessed with more wild country than almost any other state, but little of it is well-known to even the most intrepid backcountry travelers. While iconic, protected landscapes like the Selway-Bitterroot and Absaroka-Beartooth Wildernesses receive well-deserved attention, Montana's unsung gems often struggle to find their voice. Through photos, hiking tips, and discussion of ongoing conservation efforts, Zack Porter of the Montana Wilderness Association will help you become familiar with these special places so that you can explore their wild beauty and speak up on their behalf.



Zack Porter is the Montana Wilderness Association's NexGen Wilderness Leaders Program Director, where he works to inspire and train the next generation of Wilderness stewards and champions. Zack is a UM alum and a former Wilderness Ranger in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, as well as Washington State's Alpine Lakes and Henry M. Jackson Wildernesses. When not working to protect wild country, Zack can be found exploring it.

Meeting starts at 7:00 on November 14, 2013 at the Presbyterian Church, 1220 West Main Street, Hamilton.
The public is encouraged and welcomed to attend all meetings.

PLAYA PART

If you have been looking for a way to participate in the Club that can be done on your own time, at your own pace, without attending meetings, and meet some interesting people, this may be for you. The distribution of our maps each year is a vital link to the cross-country skiing community, both as an introduction for new people to what is available at Chief Joe, and also as a continuing communication for changes, new trails and basic navigation for the rest of us. It represents strong support from community businesses who sponsor ads and enjoy broad exposure because of our wide distribution. We appreciate them immensely! No special skills are required and there is absolutely no expectation to do more than help out for just this year. Each year we want to make this available to new participants as an opportunity to do something simple, yet not make any multi-year commitments. If you helped last year and want to again this year, that's great, but don't feel obligated.

CHIEF JOSEPH PASS



and nearby Cross-Country Ski Trails

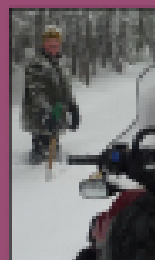
2013-2014

Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club
P.O. Box 431

Corvallis MT 59828-0431

www.bitterrootccskiclub.net

What's Involved



On behalf of the grooming crew, WELCOME to Chief Joe. We hope you thoroughly enjoy your experience, whether Classic, Skate, Snowshoe or Snowmachine as allowed on the 32 miles we groom each week on Friday. This 2013-14 season we have expanded our trails for multiple use, with more groomed for skate skiers in particular. Check it all out on our new map. At 7200'+ elevation we have abundant and excellent snow conditions. Our all-volunteer crew works hard to provide you the best skiing you'll find in Montana. Thank you for your continuing support and donations that make it all possible. Follow our trail reports, donate, volunteer, or become a member at <http://bitterrootccskiclub.net/> Follow us on Facebook.

See you on the trails,
Mel, Chief Groomer

Last year we divided the delivery points up between 7 helpers into 7 routes (one mail route) that covered the Bitterroot Valley from Missoula to Lost Trail Pass and Salmon. Points within each route varied from 7 to 18, with an average of 14. We start as soon as the maps are received from the printer, which should be by mid-November. After the first delivery, we try to check monthly to see if replenishment is needed. Each route is provided a log to track map numbers to determine the next year's total map order size and each point's needs. The log also provides contact information with names, phone numbers, email addresses and open times, if any of it would be of help for you. We try to take the hassle out.

Take the step

With your pre-season anticipation of gliding along perfect tracks in our pristine winter wonderland, here is a worthy activity to direct that energy and build the suspense! For questions and signup call Jim Greenfield at 363-2110 or jkgreenfield@q.com. I'll be out of town until November 11th, but leave a phone message and I will still be monitoring email. We will also have a signup sheet at the November 14th meeting, although earlier signups will help and are appreciated.

President's Message

In spite of the recent warm spell—why do we call them “cold snaps” and “warm spells”; why not “warm snaps?”—the snow is still building up in the mountains. It's looking like a good year for skiing of all sorts. And even though there was an extended period of rain up high, so far there is no sign that we'll have as many trees uprooted and over the trails to cause the grooming crew extra work. Keep your fingers crossed!

We received signs for the new multi-use trails and have placed most of them at the intersections of the new trails. Because there was already too much snow on the Overlook Trail, the remaining five signs will be installed by the grooming crew (*from snowmobiles*) later this month. Similar to the trail signs on the long-established ski trails at Chief Joseph Pass, the new signs should keep people from getting lost.

Although the newer trails will be groomed without tracks and will likely be used by skate skiers most of the time, classic-style skiers are welcome (*and expected*) to use the multi-use trails, too. In fact, if you like to ski on groomed trails with your dogs, these new routes are perfect. Portions of the new trails will be shared with snowmobiles, but if past years are any indication, don't expect many, especially after December.

You can access the new trails from several points: the parking lot at the corner of Highways 43 and 93 (*if you're skiing with dogs, this is the only access*), from the north end of Broadway, and along a (*newly groomed*) trail connecting Windy Corner and the Gibbons Pass Road.

People wishing to reach the new trails from the Chief Joseph Trails parking lot (without dogs), can use Broadway, the CD Trail, or descend directly from the parking lot to Timber then ski around Sentinel Meadow on Solitude to Windy Corner and use the newly groomed connecting trail to Gibbons Pass Road.

The new trail maps will be available soon—they're being printed now. For those of you who may not know, I want to pass on some history and the recent evolution of our trails map to its current form.

A little more than three years ago Jim Greenfield mentioned that it might be nice if our maps were printed in color. Having been a local business owner for many years, he believed color would provide a more beneficial service to those businesses who sponsor the map. We did some research and discovered that, as had once been the case, it was no longer more expensive to print in full color than black and white. So, the map began a transformation to a larger sized, full-color, easier-to-understand product and became THE major fund raiser for our Club.

Jim not only initiated the new map concept, but has been the driving force behind its evolution. Last summer, Jim invested much of his time in an extraordinary effort to learn to use GIS software. Now, because of his dedication, the Club is able to make changes or additions to the map in a timely manner.

Thank you, Jim, for changing the Club's map into an easy-to-understand product that not only provides our sponsors with an improved “bang for their buck” but now raises more than \$5,000 a year for our Club.

Mike Hoyt

Michael.hoyt@gmail.com



Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club Meeting Minutes, October 10, 2013

Meeting Date: October 10, 2013

Call to order: Mike Hoyt called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM

Number attending: 30

Meeting Notes

- Mike Hoyt reviewed the new trails that will be opening this ski season.
- New maps are ready and Jim Greenfield will arrange for distribution points.
- The Club has a new **How to Ski** manual ready for the ski season.
- We need members to sign up to help teach school kids in January.
- Discussion of Club website.
- Discussion of fundraiser and ticket sales.
- The special program for the evening was a slide show presented by Linda Stoudt and Linda Hoyt. They went on a trip to Italy in May and shared highlights of their trip.

These minutes prepared by: Kelly Zeiler

* * * * *

Bitterroot X-Country Ski Club Board Meeting Minutes for October 10, 2013

Meeting Date: October 10, 2013

Call to order: Mike Hoyt called the meeting to order at 6:223 PM

Attendees:

Michael Hoyt, President, Earl Phillips, Membership Coordinator, Jim Greenfield, Program Coordinator, Richard Stone, Youth Activities Coordinator, Kelly Zeiler, Vice-President, Jack Cooley, Webmaster, Mel Holloway, Trails & Grooming, George Corn, Past President.

- Mike provided the financials as Reine was not able to be at this meeting. We have about \$28,000 in the bank.
- It was agreed that we should send out the monthly email newsletters to both current and past members.
- Mike shared the new **How to Ski** manuals that will be distributed this year.
- Mike shared maps of the new ski trails. There are 32 total miles of trail available this year!
- There was a discussion of the need for 17 new trail signs. It was agreed to go with a larger sign with a cost of about \$700.
- Jack has worked on the website and dues and donations will be able to be made using PayPal or credit card.
- The annual fundraiser ticket sales was discussed. Should we give a bonus to the individual who sells the most tickets? Pros and cons were discussed and it was agreed to ask Club members for their opinion.
- Mel requested the purchase of a Go Pro video camera to film grooming activities and post on the website. All agreed to this purchase.

The board meeting closed at 7:00 PM.

Minutes prepared by: Kelly Zeiler

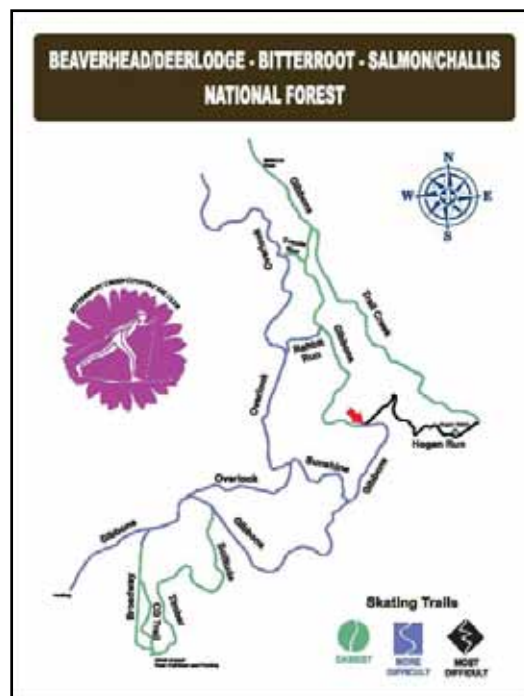
Needed

Club Secretary for 2014-2016

Deb Duffy's term ends at the end of 2013 and we need someone to fill the position.

Duties:

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.



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: \$ _____