



SKI TRACKS

BITTERROOT CROSS-COUNTRY SKI CLUB
APRIL 2012 • NEWSLETTER



April 12, 2012 at 7pm.
First Presbyterian Church
1220 West Main Street, Hamilton, MT

***GETTING READY FOR SUMMER HIKING
IN THE BITTERROOTS***



District Wilderness Ranger, Bill Goslin will give us an update on the Bitterroot National Forest with which he has been associated for over 35 years. He will share his wide experiences, stories, and photos of the mountains, and he will give us some history, including changes he has seen over the years. Be prepared with your questions on trail maintenance, mapping, and the future outlook on usage of the BNF.

President's Message...April 2012

Those of you who have been paying attention to the ongoing saga of the interaction between the Forest Service and the Club are probably wondering what, if anything, is happening in that regard. And for those who have been concentrating entirely on skiing, here is a little history.

On February 2, 2012, the Club received notification from the Forest Service that the USDA Office of Ethics had informed them that the Forest Service was breaking the law by allowing our Club to offer a night at the Gordon Reese Cabin as a prize for the Extravaganza and therefore, we should not do so.

In addition the Forest Service was told by the Office of Ethics that allowing the Club to "reserve" half of the available nights at the Gordon Reese Cabin for Club Members was in violation of government regulations.

More recently the Forest Service was informed that the donation tubes at the Chief Joseph Trailhead and in the Cabin-along with the donation tubes at thousands of other locations throughout the country-may also be in violation of current regulations.

As you might imagine, this "situation" with the Forest Service and the Office of Ethics is consuming a major portion of time for the Club's Board, Officers, and Forest Service Officials. Diane Hipp, Sonny LaSalle, and I were appointed by the Club's Board of Directors to act as representatives for the Club and search for a solution, one that is equitable for both the Club and the Forest Service.

The first meeting between the Club's representatives-including George Corn as legal representative-and the Forest Service took place on Wednesday, March 28, 2012. As was expected, no quick solution was found. However, the needs of all parties were defined and provide a base upon which we can build a solution. We continue to expect that an equitable resolution will be found.

But, it must be pointed out that because of changes in the regulations that government employees are now required to follow, there will be changes in the way our Club interacts with the Forest Service. We can expect that, going forward, annual agreements between the Club and the Forest Service will include much more verbiage and detail. It should also be understood that if a way can be found for Club Members to continue being assigned to nights at the Gordon Reese Cabin, those nights are likely to include duties closely related to the operation and maintenance of the Cabin and have many more strings attached than in past years.

The Board of Directors and Officers will continue to work diligently to find the best solution available for the Club and its members. Given our changing world and the ever-increasing amount of bureaucracy we all have to live with, we still believe we'll be able to negotiate an acceptable path through this morass. It will take of plenty time and effort, but we'll stick with it until the end.

Michael Hoyt



April Honorary Skier of the Month

Linda Stoudt ...

My motto: "*Shut up and Ski!*"

Bill and I began cross-country skiing after he had a total hip replacement in 1999; since we are Flatlanders from New Jersey, we attended the skier safety classes given by Gordon Reese and Dr. Bob Brophy before even venturing on the slopes. Our first time was on a very snowy weekend when the BXCSC was giving lessons in 2000. The snow was blowing sideways and since the warming hut was still under construction, people had crock-pots warming lunch out of the back of their trucks and were tucking in

the food. Wow, this is a lot different from Jersey! We had some very kind volunteers help

us with basics; the rest was up to us. Like the fellow on the NYC Street says "So you want to get to Carnegie Hall? Practice! Practice!"

We have a schedule to ski three times a week, just like a job, only a lot more fun. Through the years we have made several friends and learned from them through observation and practice. I had a terrible time going downhill; once I had been given pointers by Steve Powell about plowing and body position, I was much more confident at defying gravity. Annie Creighton really helped me practice the snowplow and I became self-assured about stopping. Bill McCrum and Bill Sweet are patient and knowledgeable friends and instructors also. I kept turning into snowfields and running over small trees (thank goodness they were short!); Bill McCrum took one look at my ski tips as I headed down and advised me to keep them even. Hey, it worked! No more runaways.

My favorite ski trail is Middle Fork; conditions change daily and the trail always is an adventure. This year, I invested in a new pair of faster, wax-less skis, so there was a new learning curve and comfort zone to master. One day, the surface was icy with no purchase, what an adrenaline rush; two days later, there was champagne powder carpeting the trail. Of course, the new skis make climbing up Joseph Creek loads of fun too.

A highlight of cross-country skiing is introducing the sport to friends, thus witnessing their personal growth, proficiency and smiles.

As with road biking, I find skiing a meditative activity, it allows time to think and problem solve while enjoying the beauty of the mountains and company of my husband and friends.

Linda Stoudt

NOTE: Linda, the groomers and the club thank you for the years of delicious, nutritious energy food you graciously create and take to the trails on grooming day.

~Pat Hastings~ Club Member In The News

Winter Games: Thanks to Bohart Cross Country Ski Center for again hosting our Nordic Ski Races. Jean MacInnes and her crew always roll out the red carpet for our group. Also we certainly appreciate the continuing support of Jerry Coffey, Race Director plus the registration and timing crew who were Ann Banks, Kathy Brown and Bob Wade. Results follow:

Free style 5K

Women: **45-49** Christie Strock Belgrade 29:39 **50-54** Anita Moore Nall Bozeman 18:33
55-59 Carolyn Roche Bozeman 17:55

Men: **55-59** Rick Roche Bozeman 14:38 **60-64** Matt Montagne Jackson, WY 22:02

Free style 10K

Men: **50-54** Jay Marshall Billings 31:56

Classic 5K

Women: **70-74** Jean MacInnes Bozeman 28:02 **75-79** Pat Hastings Stevensville 31:37 🏔️

Men: **65-69** Jim Simons Bozeman 28:35 **75-79** Norm Bishop Bozeman 26:33

Classic 10K

Women: **45-49** Sarah Keller Billings 45:06 **54-59** Magdalena Bowen Bozeman 33:18
70-74 Frieda Johnson Bozeman 51:04

Men: **60-64** Dick Swanson Bozeman 40:43 **70-74** David Gibson Bozeman 39:14

YOUTH SKI ACTIVITIES & January Ski Lessons Video

If you missed the great lesson day in January you may view it now! [CLICK HERE](http://vimeo.com/evid/bitterrootski) or you can paste the link in your browser (<http://vimeo.com/evid/bitterrootski>). You will get to a Vimeo page that asks for a password. The Password is **ski**. It is worth the wait for the 10 minute video to upload.



On March 15, 25 very excited middle schoolers from Hamilton arrived at Chief Joe for a fun four hours of skiing! And lessons. As you can tell from the pictures, a great time was had by all, even some of the older "kids" had a good time. Thanks to Dick and Diana Pernsteiner, Mike and Linda Hoyt, and Bill Stoudt for help with the lessons. We hope to get more kids out more often next year, so if you are interested in helping, please contact Richard Stone: rcstone1@msn.com or 642-9648.

See you next year!

Richard Stone
Youth Coordinator



**QUICK
LINKS**

[Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club](#)

[NOAA Weather](#)

[Como Trails](#)



Dear Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Grooming Team,

The club wants to thank you for a **great** ski season and all the hours of back breaking work you voluntarily gave so that others could get out and enjoy the beauty of the Chief Joseph Ski Trail system.

Mel Holloway, Head Groomer strategizes how to tackle 2.5 feet of snow.

Membership News

Our current membership count includes 117 - Individual Memberships; 138 - Family Memberships, and 42 - Business Memberships for a total of 297 memberships. This translates into 433 individual members.

In our last newsletter I indicated that I was having trouble finding two of our life members. I recently located *Ellen Marsh* who is now *Ellen Marsh Hendricksen*. She sent me a very nice letter which listed some of her fond memories with BXCSC. She is now traveling extensively and spending winters in Yuma, Arizona. She is 75 years young and still keeps track of BXCSC through the newspaper. However, she now leaves the skiing at Chief Joe to her daughter and son in law.

I am still searching for *Susan Gillan*, who I believe is living in the Missoula area, but

the phone number that I was provided was not correct. Please let me know if you have contact information for her.

Please remember that my job is greatly simplified if you contact me with any errors or changes in your contact information.

Earl Philips
Membership Chair

March Meeting Highlights

Meeting Date: March 8, 2012

Call to order: Mike Hoyt called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM

Number attending: 64

Meeting Notes:

Current Membership: Earl Phillips reported that our membership is continuing to grow this year and is currently 432.

Treasurer's Report: Reine Hilton was not able to attend this meeting and Mike gave a recap of our year-to-date financial figures. Bank balance is \$20,700. We have taken in more than we've spent at this point.

Profit and Loss Highlights are:

- Membership Dues-up 23%
- Trailhead Donations-up 45%
- Total Income-up 13%
- Grooming Fuel-up 35%
- YTD Profit \$4,600

Trail Report: Mel Holloway requested the purchase of a new snow machine for grooming. The groomers are researching some makes and models, but likely will choose a Scandic which gets around well in varying conditions. When asked if the club had the money, Mike Hoyt explained that the RTP grant we were awarded by Congress has been approved for \$17,000 and we can ask for reimbursement of fuel and maintenance expenses which we currently are doing for \$10,000. So we have additional money from that grant that can be applied to the purchase of the snowmobile. There was also discussion of the type of snowmobile which should be

purchased. The decision is ultimately up to Mel Holloway and his team of groomers. Sonny LaSalle moved to approve the purchase of a snowmobile, the type to be at the discretion of the groomers. George Corn seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the purchase.

New Business:

Youth Group: Richard Stone has a big group of Hamilton Middle School students going up to Chief Joseph on March 15th and is in need of more instructors.
President's Space:

- Mike asked if members were interested in full-moon skis at Chief Joe next winter? There was a definite interest in pursuing this next year.
- A meeting is being set up with the Forest Service later in the month to work out details of a solution for continued Club Member Cabin Hosting. Mike Hoyt, Diane Hipp and Sonny LaSalle will represent BXCSC. Sonny explained some of the issues and that we will work to demonstrate that volunteer work is being done when we have cabin access. We are all confident that there is a way to comply with the FS laws and continue our volunteer efforts.
- A questionnaire is being developed which will give Members a chance to weigh-in on the results of the tests the groomers have been conducting this ski season. We hope Members will weigh in when they receive the questionnaire.

Presentation:

Peru From Sea Level to 20,000 Feet by Russ Lawrence and Jean Matthew.
Ginny Deck introduced our speakers for the evening-Russ Lawrence and Jean Matthews shared their experiences in Peru where they lived for two and a half years with the Peace Corp. They shared their photos and the various backcountry experiences they were able to take advantage of while there. You really missed an interesting presentation if you missed this one!

Meeting closed at 8:13 PM.

These minutes prepared by: Deborah Duffy

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Membership Renewals / Dues

**Annual Memberships EXPIRE November 1st
Renew Your Membership Now!**

*Individual \$15 *Family \$25
*Supporting Individual \$30 *Supporting Family \$40
 *Life Member \$500

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Nov. 1, 2011 - Oct. 31, 2012

Mail To: Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club
PO Box 431, Corvallis, MT 59828

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP** _____

E-MAIL: _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:(see above) _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED:\$ _____