



SKI TRACKS

Newsletter of the Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club
Box 431 • Corvallis, Montana 59828



DECEMBER 2007

President's Message —

Important note: Our December 13th meeting will be held at the First Christian Church at 328 Fairgrounds Road, right across the street from the Hamilton High School.

Pot luck starts at 6:00 pm with our program starting at 7:00 pm. Bring your own plates and utensils. You are also encouraged to bring nonperishable food items to be donated to Haven House.

Kudos to Kay Fulton and all who brought items for the silent auction. \$700 was raised for the Club.

On Dec. 9th between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., the Trailhead will host a demo day at Chief Joseph. They will have a variety of track skis and touring and backcountry touring skis available for trial runs. They will not have any telemark skis at this event, but contact the store if you are interested in them.

Good News: We are in for a great, early ski season. The 20" storm on the opening day of hunting season, followed by several weeks of warm weather, has consolidated and frozen into a bomber base. Last Sunday's storm put down 6-8" which, thanks to the cold weather, had settled nicely to 4-6" of fluff (powder and surface hoar) by midweek. The result is a solid, consolidated snow pack the likes of which I haven't seen at the Pass since November of 1985. I say this after some first-hand research on Thursday and Sunday assisted by Jud Corn. (Rather than rush home and see the 'rents, Jud felt compelled to stop by the Pass for a ski on his way home from MSU on Wednesday afternoon and didn't get in 'til way after dark, excusing himself by saying it was all in the name of research.)

In addition to providing good touring, this pack, although only about 18-24", is so strong that down hillers and snowboarders have been hiking Lost Trail all week and turning, albeit cautiously, through the bear grass. At Chief Joe, the parking lot is plowed and

many have already been touring the upper trails. I can personally attest to the excellence of Lost Trail Loop and Broadway. Ed and Pat Hastings, along with Gordon and Mary Ellen Reese, skied all the upper trails on Sunday and were carded for having too much fun.

On top of this, there is more good news. As I write this, on the evening of 11/27/07, snow is predicted for tonight, tomorrow and Thursday. Mel and the grooming crew plan on being up by Wednesday to start the tracking. See you on the trails.

/s/ George Corn

Trail Report: There were about 6 inches of fresh snow this past week and the total now is about 20 inches. We groomed most of the upper trails Friday, November 30, and set track on those that have sufficient snow to cover the obstacles.

Anything that was not groomed should be avoided because of stumps, rocks, logs and other debris that is not well covered by packed snow.

Cold temperatures are predicted and skiing should be very good on those trails that are open.

Allan Meyers will join Jim Aronson and me as the regular grooming crew this year and Ed Hastings, Mel Holloway, Jim Swanz, Jim Anderson and Gordon will be alternates.

By the meeting date, I hope to have positive information about our grant request. Keep your fingers crossed.

/s/ Mel Mooers

Miscellaneous Notes

Webmaster / E-mail Changes

Nancy Gresham has taken over the keyboard for e-mailing the newsletter. Her e-mail address is nancy@importswest.com. Feel free to send her a thank-you note for taking on this important job. The e-mail newsletter project saves on the order of \$50 per month for the Club. This savings allows more of the Club's money to go into the grooming program.

Toddy Perryman is now the new web-master, as you may have noted. She can be reached at toddyapat@bitterroot.com or at brxcski@cybernet1.com or at 961-4959.

The newsletter will be posted on the web site as a pdf file which requires the Adobe Acrobat Reader to access. There is a free download for this program at adobe.com. Posting the newsletter in this format allows people to open the web site and print out the newsletter in a size format that is the same as one would get through the USPS mail (hard copy).

The e-mail address of brxcski@amerion.com has been changed to brxcski@cybernet1.com. Please note this in your address books.

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**We** need someone to step up to the plate and agree to coordinate our annual ski lessons on January 26<sup>th</sup>. It entails lining up instructors and getting the word out. You don't necessarily have to be an instructor and there are Club members who will help you.

**Diane** Havig is working on a Big Hole Winter Festival to take place January 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. There will be ski judging, a snow person-making contest, and a dance on Saturday night. Sunday will include a relay race from Wisdom to Jackson with a dip in the hot springs at the end. It should be great fun and the Club has been asked to help, as well as being encouraged to participate. More information to follow.

## December Meeting Program

**Speaker:** Norman Smyers

Norm is a retired U.S. Forest Service Geologist and the current president of the Glacial Lake Missoula Chapter of the Ice Age Floods Institute.

**Program Title:** Glacial Lake Missoula and the Ice Age Floods.

**Talk Brief:** Fifteen thousand to twelve thousand years ago a series of cataclysmic floods roared across northern Idaho, central Washington, and down the Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean. Many geographic features in the Pacific-Northwest have been attributed to these floods, the result of repeated failures of an ice dam that blocked the Clark Fork River near Sandpoint, Idaho, thereby creating Glacial Lake Missoula. At times, the Bitterroot-Missoula Valley portions of Glacial Lake Missoula reached as far south as Darby.

Not only has Glacial Lake Missoula and its associated floods had a significant effect on the topography of the Pacific Northwest, but they also have had a lasting effect on the area's environment and land-use patterns.

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Also, at this month's meeting, Adam Risien will present a brief overview of the Forest Service Travel Plan. Adam is working to put together a coalition of groups interested in Quiet Recreation.

NOVEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

November 8, 2007

by Kay Fulton

Vice President Mel Mooers called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.. There were 66 people in attendance.

Membership: Barb Losensky reported that there are now 236 paid members.

Treasurer's Report: In Jeane's absence, Ed Hastings is handling the bills, etc. He reported: Income, \$3,600; Savings, \$3,297. Eleven of the sponsors for the Trail Map have paid.

Upcoming Events and Items of Interest: December 13th at 6:00 p.m. is the Annual Potluck. Remember to bring silverware and plates, in addition to something to eat. Drinks will be provided. There will be a brief meeting, plus a presentation on the Forest Service Travel Plan, as well as a program on the "Ice Age of Montana and Lake Missoula.

The Extravaganza will be February 23rd. Linda Stoudt reported that she had just begun selling the tickets and already had \$40. The tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5.00. The Extravaganza is a special evening at the Hut with an elegantly set table, dinner and wine for four, prepared by a gourmet crew, and a night at the Hut (which might even include moonlight skiing). There will be PSAs and tickets sold on-line and at businesses in Hamilton and Missoula. Get your tickets early!!!

Trails Report: Mel reported that we are just waiting for snow. IF we get enough snow, they will do an initial run on November 26th. Cross your fingers! Contact Earl Philips about getting on his "Cancellation List."

Old Business: "TCU United" once again awarded two of the Founding Members (who had previously missed the other meetings) Bob and Barb Shumaker, for their pioneering work and contribution to the "Union." Kay Fulton awarded them

