



# SKI TRACKS

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

DECEMBER 2008



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**"Dryness, Dryness everywhere and never a snowy storm, Dryness, Dryness everywhere and how the skiers mourned."** (with apologies to S.T.C.)

Well, here we are on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> with virtually no snow and I, for one, am down about it. It is no comfort (I had to delete the term "cold comfort") that we are not alone in our misery. The Yellowstone Ski Festival held at West Yellowstone this Thanksgiving weekend didn't have enough snow on the Rendezvous Trails to ski. They ended up bussing folks to an area 5 miles from town and an additional 1,000 feet higher! Folks, when West Yellowstone doesn't have 10 inches on the ground at the end of November, it's dry.

A "Hazardous Weather Outlook" was just posted by NOAA last night. While I'm eternally hopeful, reports like this make me concerned about the "cover-of Sports-Illustrated-effect." The Effect, as it's popularly called, is a well-known atmospheric and sports phenomena occurring whenever a sports team gets on the cover of SI as #1 or NOAA calls for a winter snow storm. Although scientific debate rages about its cause, it is well documented in the literature and taken as gospel by all skiers and sports fans.

The leading theory of the cause of the Effect is that the hopeful thoughts of the faithful, in a process still poorly understood, most likely generate a reverse atmospheric, counter-harmonic effect transmitting and focusing millions of negative ions upon specific, hoped for outcomes which, in turn, create the opposite of the hoped for result. Occasionally, occurring in individuals, the effect is most striking in cases of desired outcomes by like minded groups. The Effect does have several important corollaries, minor theories and exceptions, but I will save those for future newsletters.

While pure science should never attempt to be practical, I do think there is a message here, which striped of its scientific jargon becomes my message for the month, which is, just don't think about "it" and "it" just might happen.

In the meantime, there will be good food and a great show at our December 11 meeting to occupy your time. The potluck starts at 6:00 pm. Be sure to bring food. Mike Hoyt will show us some of his wonderful pictures of his many hikes around the Bitterroot.

See you on the trails —eventually.

/s/ George

## POT LUCK MEETING!

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2008**

**Presbyterian Church**

1220 West Main Street, Hamilton

**6:00 p.m.**

**BRING FOOD**

Plus your own plates & utensils. Drinks will be provided

**Donations for Haven House are encouraged.**

*Let's Hear it for the Loose Caboose!*

Loose caboose owner Malcolm Lowe has supplied 3,000 paper cups and a supply of Hot Chocolate mix and Spiced Cider mix for the Warming Hut that should last the season. Solo donated the cups and Mr. Lowe donated the drink mixes.

The Loose Caboose has four locations in Missoula so consider paying a visit to one of them when in the area.

Our thanks to you, Malcolm. Every sip will be appreciated.

/s/ Mel Mooers

## Program for December Meeting

The Bitterroots by Mike Hoyt —Mike, an avid hiker, photographer, skier and Club member has become the foremost chronicler of the Bitterroots. As the photo hiker on summitpost.org, he has created a page devoted to the Bitterroots and has contributed pictures, trip descriptions, reports and historical background to it. You don't want to miss his power point program about the Bitterroots.

## Trail Report

I hope by the time you read this, we have received sufficient snow for us to have started grooming. This will be the latest start since I became involved in that operation. In '03 & '05, we first started to pack a base on November 14. The elk hunters didn't like it but they walked in our tracks instead of "post holing" in the compacted snow.

Kay and I took advantage of the four inches of fresh snow on November 21<sup>st</sup> and skied on Broadway, Moose and Timber/Solitude which are roads and lack the rocks, stumps and other hazards. It was great to get out and enjoy the area again. Do your Holiday shopping early so you can take advantage of the snow once it comes.

/s/ Mel Mooers

**NOVEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS****NOVEMBER 13, 2008****by Kay Fulton**

**President George Corn** called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. There were approximately 76 in attendance.

**Membership Report:** Barb Losensky reported there were 265 paid members. We ended last year with 363. (This time last year we had 236.) Looking good!

**Treasurer's Report:** Jeane Lippert reported: Income, \$5,821.20; Expenses, \$5,433.89; Checking, \$1,964.98; Savings, \$5,778.75.

**Upcoming Events and Items of Interest:**

**The Extravaganza will be February 21<sup>st</sup>.** We have a volunteer chef (who is remaining anonymous at the moment) but George announced we still needed someone to coordinate the ticket sales. The great news is that Carol Battcher volunteered that evening! Thanks, Carol. The Extravaganza is our biggest fund raiser and the money goes to pay for the grooming expenses. Last year, thanks to Linda Stoudt, we made about \$1,300. The tickets are \$5 each or 6 for \$25. You can buy tickets at the meetings, Valley Bike, Chapter One or by contacting Carol at 821-0950 or e-mail ([battcher@wildblue.net](mailto:battcher@wildblue.net))

**Gordon Reese gave a short talk about Len LeBuffe** who recently passed away at 58. Len was one of the founding members of the Ski Club 19 years ago. He presented the idea and design for the ski maps. He and Dan Dahlberg owned "Open Road," a bike/ski shop in Missoula. Gordon attended his memorial at Marshall Mountain to which people biked. It is important that we remember Len. He will be greatly missed.

**Old Business:** Kay Fulton passed around the sign-up sheet for "Toilet Cleaning" at the ski area. The open dates are 12/26, 01/02, 02/13, 02/27, 03/06, 03/20, 03/27. Please remember we are doing this so the groomers don't have to handle this job as well. Thanks.

**Trail Report:** Mel reported that everything is ready for SNOW!! and asked us all to do a "SNOW DANCE!" Also, the Trail Maps are finished and look great, **Thanks to Michelle Thompson's hard work.**

**SILENT AUCTION:** Both before and after the meeting, people had the opportunity to bid on the more than 36 items, which were donated. The bidding was wild at times! We all had fun and ended up with wonderful things. **The Club made \$614!!** Thanks to everyone.

**Program:** Richard Layne, a Montana Backcountry Adventurer and Photographer, and his wife came from Helena to treat us to his amazing story of snow shoeing the Bitterroot-Selway Wilderness in March and April this year. He shared his pictures and stories. He plans to "do" Glacier and eventually the Continental Divide Trail.

**Membership Renewals / Dues****Annual Memberships EXPIRE November 1!****Renew your membership now!**

INDIVIDUAL \$15 • FAMILY \$25

SUPPORTING INDIVIDUAL \$30

SUPPORTING FAMILY \$40

LIFE MEMBER - \$500

**MEMBERSHIP DUES****Nov. 1, 2008 - Oct. 31, 2009****MAIL TO: Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club  
PO Box 431, Corvallis, MT 59828**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Listed above)

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter preference: (Check all that apply)

Send by USPS \_\_\_\_\_; Send by e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**BITTERROOT XC SKI CLUB**

President	George Corn <a href="mailto:gcorn@bresnan.net">gcorn@bresnan.net</a>	363-1163
Vice-President	Earl Philips <a href="mailto:philips@montana.com">philips@montana.com</a>	961-0101
Treasurer	Jeane Lippert <a href="mailto:jeaneenaej@cybernet1.com">jeaneenaej@cybernet1.com</a>	642-3379
Secretary	Kay Fulton <a href="mailto:kayinmt@cybernet1.com">kayinmt@cybernet1.com</a>	642-3794
Membership	Jack Losensky <a href="mailto:losensky@bitterroot.net">losensky@bitterroot.net</a>	961-3757
Newsletter		
Editorial	Pat Leonard <a href="mailto:toddypat@bitterroot.com">toddypat@bitterroot.com</a>	961-4959
Production	Shermans	961-3355
Mailing	Barb Losensky	961-3757
E-mail	Nancy Gresham <a href="mailto:nancy@importswest.com">nancy@importswest.com</a>	961-9309
Programs	Bob & Barbara Schumaker <a href="mailto:bobcat@montana.com">bobcat@montana.com</a>	363-0364
Trails	Mel Mooers <a href="mailto:m.mooersmt@juno.com">m.mooersmt@juno.com</a>	961-3163
Trail Map	Michele Thompson <a href="mailto:mkthamilton@peoplepc.com">mkthamilton@peoplepc.com</a>	375-9524
Instruction Coordinator	Mel Holloway <a href="mailto:tromper@bitterroot.com">tromper@bitterroot.com</a>	
Webmaster	Toddy Perryman <a href="mailto:toddypat@bitterroot.com">toddypat@bitterroot.com</a>	961-4959
Website	<a href="http://www.bitterrootxskiclub.net">http://www.bitterrootxskiclub.net</a>	
Warming Hut Reservations (USFS Wisdom)		689-3371