



SKI TRACKS

Newsletter of the Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club

Box 431 • Corvallis, Montana 59828

FEBRUARY, 2006



JANUARY, 2006 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

January 12, 2006

By Kay Fulton

Vice President, Mel Mooers, called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. There were approximately 71 people in attendance.

Membership: Leo Joron reported that there are 360 members at this point.

Treasurer's Report by Jeane Lippert: Income, \$3,077.25; Expenses, \$2,952.68; Net Income, \$124.57; Checking, \$3,419.84; Savings, \$80.86.

New Business: New Membership Chairperson: As was reported in the last newsletter, Leo Joron is retiring from this position after 11 years. We all want to thank him for his years of great service. A description of the responsibilities was spelled out also in the newsletter and Jack Losensky has stepped up to take over the data part of the position. There was still a need for someone to manage the printing of bulletins and getting them mailed and Mel asked for volunteers. Lo and behold, Barb Losensky volunteered and now we have a Husband/Wife Team Membership Chair! Thanks, Jack and Barb.

It was also pointed out that we can save money on mailings if people will get their newsletter by e-mail. Let Toddy Perryman know if you can do that.

Upcoming Events and Items of Interest:

The Extravaganza will be February 25th and the drawing on the 9th at the meeting. Be sure to get all the tickets you can!!! The funds will help with the grooming expenses. Linda Stoudt is assisting Katya with selling tickets.

Steve Schombel, from the Rocky Mountaineers Club, was at the meeting to share

information and brochures about their club, which does hikes, ski and snowshoe trips, etc. He was also selling raffle tickets for a copy of the "Climber's Guide to Montana" by Pat Caffrey, which was printed in 1985, and is a great resource on Montana mountains. The raffle is a fundraiser for the Mountaineers.

The Forest Service has published a "Recreational Tool Kit" brochure that explains the process of signing up for their cabins all around the country. The Gordon Reese Cabin is not included for winter since it is handled locally. Apparently you need to sign up almost 240 days ahead of time for some places. The brochures are available through the Forest Service.

Ski Swap: Jill Davies, who suggested having a ski swap was coordinating those efforts before and after this meeting in the adjacent room. Several items were brought in and sold. Jill still hasn't found new boots!

Mel reported that he had found out about a design for sleds called "pulk" in Norwegian. There is a website describing these designs: skipulk.com

Gordon informed the Club about an effort to work with the Montana Department of Transportation on getting a bike trail from Lolo to Missoula. Meetings will be held in February and

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FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Thursday, February 9 at 7:00 p.m

First Presbyterian Church

1220 West Main St. in Hamilton

Attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to Haven House. The program will feature Art and Kerstin Seifert showing slides of their recent trip to Antarctica.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Ski Club Members,

We are having a great ski year aren't we. The snowfall has been as good as we have seen in a long time and use of Chief Joe has been really heavy. Everyone I have talked with has said there have been more families with children than we have ever seen. We also agree that non member use is significantly higher than member use. This is showing up in our collections at the parking lot and the Hut as they are on a record pace. The use by families is something of which we should all be proud, but with the use by children comes additional responsibility. That responsibility is primarily that of the parents, but they may need some help understanding hazards to their children and other skiers. Lets start with some of the things we have observed. Jumps-- Gordon and the other groomers have found jumps on her-ringbone hill, the trail from the parking lot to Banshee, and the thinned but ungroomed trail in Picnic Meadow. I don't know too many of the older skiers who build jumps because they want to get air on their skinny skis, so we must assume our younger skiers are building these fun structures. This may be ok on the ungroomed thinned area in Picnic Meadow but it is definitely a hazard on the groomed trails. The next concern is snow caves-- there have been snow caves dug on the trail from the Hut to the toilet and in the berm under the eaves of the Hut. Snow caves have some inherent danger of collapse when not constructed properly and this is compounded when they are under the eaves as the roof is prone to slide at any time. The caves along the trail to the toilet present a hazard to the digger as well as to the people walking the trail, especially in the middle of the night. The bottom line is we need help from all the Club members using the area to point out these hazards to the parents and their children. We want everyone to have a great time on their National Forests, but we also want them to be safe. The Hut is holding up remarkably well considering the amount of use it is getting. The groomers hauled in 35 gallons of water on a Friday a few weeks ago and by Monday there were only 15 gallons left. That is a lot of hot drinks and drinking water, so we know we have been

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he was asking for people to go to them in support of this effort. Check with Gordon or MDOT for more information.

Trail Report:

Gordon Reese reported 28" fresh snow and that the Ski Lessons would be Saturday, January 21st at 1:00P.M. The lessons will be advertised in the paper.

He pointed out that more and more new people are using the area and asked for our help with the following: On Fridays, be sure to be aware of the grooming going on and alert others to the need to watch out for the machines and get way off the trails. Some of the equipment is 44" wide and others up to 72" wide. Also help out the hosts in the cabin if you see that they are swamped. Assist with families with issues such as snowball fights, ski jumps, tunneling, etc. It would also help if we could clean off the benches on the trails if we find them covered with snow.

Finally, Gordon made an impassioned plea for us to understand the words, DO NOT ENTER (this included a little dictionary lesson on definitions) and comply with the signs!

Mel informed us that, although there had been a rumor that the Highway Department may not continue plowing the parking lot, this is not the case. They are asking that people be aware of heavy snow conditions and park so they can still blow out the lot. There are new directions posted at the Hut for the hosts regarding overnight parking.

Program: Guy Barel from Adventure Cycling in Missoula put on a great slide show program telling us about the 75 day bicycle trip he led from Missoula to Fairbanks and on to Anchorage in 2000. Our own Dusty Samouce was one of the hardy participants. It looked like an incredible trip with beautiful scenery and rain! Guy passed out a brochure on other trips they do which are not so challenging such as one that Barb and Bob Schumaker did in Colorado (still not easy!).

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discovered, and people are having a great time.

I want to thank Leo Joron again for his years of service as our Membership Chair and I want to welcome Barbara and Jack Losensky as our new Membership Chairs. Jack will be the keeper of the records and is a real computer whiz, and Barb will ensure the newsletter gets mailed. Toddy will continue to send the newsletter via email. Barb and Jack have been working with Leo to have a seamless transition and Jack already has all our members in his database. We all owe our volunteers a big thank you for all they do and it would mean a lot for you to thank them personally.

We have a great program for our February 9th meeting and don't forget to bring a non perishable food item for Haven House.

— Sonny LaSalle



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, 2005 - Oct. 31, 2006

MAIL TO: Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club

P.O. Box 431, Corvallis, MT 59828

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Type of Membership: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____ (Listed above)

Newsletter preference: (Check all that apply)

Send by USPS _____; Send by e-mail _____

NOTICE: LOST CAMERA

Hi, Sonny! Thanks so much for getting back to me! I really appreciate any help I can get. I believe I lost it after leaving the Hut and heading to the car. It could have been on the main trail or in the parking lot, I'm really not certain. Unfortunately, we didn't notice it was missing until we arrived home in Missoula. We made one stop in Hamilton, but we had the homeowners check all around to no avail. I am hoping it was in the parking lot and someone picked it up and turned it in somewhere or will put an ad in the paper.

Anyway, that's all the info I have as to where it was lost. It's a Kodak digital camera in a case (I can describe to whomever turns it in/calls). Have them contact me at one of the numbers below, please.

Again, thanks so much for your help!!! Let me know if there is anything else you can think of to help locate it.

Sincerely, Patricia

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