

SKI TRACKS

Newsletter of the Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club

Box 431 • Corvallis, Montana 59828

FEBRUARY 2008

The **Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club** will hold its **monthly meeting** on **Thursday, February 14**, starting at **7:00 p.m.** in the First Presbyterian Church, 1220 West Main Street in Hamilton. Toddy Perryman and Pat Leonard will show photographs taken last summer as they sailed and motored their 32-foot sailboat from Puget Sound, through the Inland Passage, to Alaska and back. The images cover the 1000+ miles from Washington to Wrangell, Alaska, and include whales, rock-walled fjords - and rain. Lots of rain.

/s/ Bob Schumaker

The President's computer crashed!!
No message this month.

XC Ski Trip Down May Creek.

On **Sunday, February 10**, some of us from the Bitterroot and from Salmon are planning on doing a XC ski trip from Chief Joseph Pass out the Anderson Mtn. Road and then down May Creek to the May Creek campground, weather permitting. This is an 11-mile trip and is not for beginner skiers. We will probably have to break trail quite a bit of the way. It depends on if anyone has been out that way recently. There is more downhill than there is uphill, of course. We will meet at the Chief Joseph Pass parking lot at 0930 on Feb. 10 and shuttle cars down to the May Creek Campground, as necessary. Bring a lunch and a few extra items of warm clothing. I will bring a small, down sleeping bag, foam pad, plastic tarp, snow shovel, and some carabiners and sections of rope. If you know of anyone who would like to go on this trip, pass the word. See you there.

/s/ Bob Schumaker
406-363-0364

Ravalli County Search and Rescue is considering changing its meeting night (2nd Thursday of each month) to a different Thursday, for two reasons. The first reason is many of the SAR membership would like to be more involved in the XC Ski Club. The second reason is SAR would hopefully recruit some valuable folks into our organization. We need people with back country and river skills, as well as those who might fill supporting roles for field teams on missions. I would like to speak briefly at your February meeting with some more details regarding this proposal. Thank you.

/s/ Alan Burgmuller

Trail Report: There was 6 inches of fresh snow this past week and the total is still 60 inches. All the trails were groomed and tracks set. We stayed overnight at the Hut to make sure the tracks were in good shape for the ski lessons on the 26th.

Above and beyond..... There are volunteers and then there are **VOLUNTEERS!** Della deserves the T.C. United of Montana Meritorious Award for service way above and beyond the call of duty. Some human seagull desecrated the toilet in the parking lot (I'll spare you the details) and Della, without a hazmat suit or pressure washer, took care of the situation, making a special trip with gallons of hot water, etc. Thank you, Della, you're an Angel.

/s/ Mel Mooers, Grooming Team Leader

Ski Lesson Report — Once again the Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club lesson day was a great benefit for the residents of our area. There were over 40 participants and probably 15 instructors with Gordon Reese doing the introductory instructions. Thanks so much to all who participated, and especially, thanks to all the people who came out to help with the instruction. We hope everyone had a great day.

JUST A REMINDER.....

The newsletter is available in e-mail format for all members who use computers and get e-mail. The new format for the e-mail newsletter is text only, with a link at the top of the page to our web site newsletter. You can click on the link and get the .pdf version of the newsletter to print out at home. It will look just like the version that comes in the mail. For those times when we include photographs in the newsletter, we will put both the .pdf version, which includes the photographs, and a text version on the web site. This is so that people who have a dial-up connection do not have to wait a long time for the newsletter to be available from the web. If, perchance you do not get your e-mailed version of the newsletter in its usual timely fashion, (perhaps due to some server malfunction, for instance) you can go to the web site www.bitterrootxcskiclub.net to see if it has been posted there. We are trying our best to get the newsletter onto the web site as soon as possible. It should be there by about the first Friday of each month. Happy skiing!

/s/ Toddy Perryman, web master

JANUARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

January 10, 2008

By Kay Fulton

President George Corn called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. There were approximately 50 people in attendance.

Membership Report: Jack Losensky reported that the membership now totals 317 which is down 40 members from the same time last year and almost 63 from 2 years ago. Jack had done a membership analysis in which he found the following: 213 from Montana, 6 from Idaho, 2 from Washington and Wyoming and one each from Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois and New Mexico. The Membership breakdown showed: 2 Complementary; 27 Sponsors; 55 Life; Family 59; Supporting Family 27; Individual 46; Supporting Individual 15: Totaling 317.

Treasurer's Report: Jeane Lippert reported: Income, \$1,350; Expenses, \$2,278; Checking, \$5,832; Savings, \$3,208.98. There is enough to pay for the new snow machine.

Upcoming Events and Items of Interest:

EXTRAVAGANZA: Linda Stoudt reported that sales are going great. The stores are having a contest to see who wins the night at the cabin and Linda has been making ticket sales at the cabin and out on the trail. The drawing will be at the Firenze Caf  in Florence on February 1, 2008. Tickets can be purchased over the Internet through Earl Philips.

SKI LESSONS will be on Saturday, January 26. Michele Thompson has been doing the advertising. More instructors are needed. A sign-up sheet was passed around. The instructors will meet at 11:00 a.m. and students are to meet at the trailhead at 12:30.

BIG HOLE WINTER FESTIVAL: February 4 &5. Mel Mooers reported there will be a relay from Wisdom to Jackson. The Club groomers will be doing the grooming for the racecourse.

The **Ridge Runners** snowmobile club has reported that there are some problems with dogs running loose on Skalkaho Road and have asked skiers to help with keeping their dogs leashed or under control.

New Business: Mel Mooers proposed that the immediate past president be made a member of the Board. This would be helpful since it aids in institutional memory. Because this would change the bi-laws, a motion would have to be made and passed at this meeting and then announced in two succeeding meetings. A motion was made, seconded and passed.

Trails Report: Mel Mooers, Grooming Coordinator, reported the new "**RED ROCKET**" is a fantastic machine. It has tons of power. The purchase will be finalized on Saturday and then can be turned in for the reimbursement from the grant. There is fresh snow and groomers will be grooming January 18. They will also groom Friday, the 25th and again Saturday, the 26th for the lessons. Patty Johnson who has been the coordinator for the cabin from the Beaverhead National Forest, is transferring to the Flathead. We do not know who will take her place. Dennis Havig will be retiring sometime later this year. Bob Schumaker reported he and Barb had the cabin on the night of the first and found the hosts from the 31st had not taken out any trash, as well as several one gallon water jugs. Earl Philips reported that the Cancellation System continues to work very

well, even on extremely short notice. A few times he has gone through two or more people saying they could take the cancellation and then finding out they couldn't and he was still able to fill it. People must be on his e-mail list. He is not contacting via phone.

Program: Liz Bradley presented an outstanding program on Wolves in the Bitterroot. Liz is a Wolf Management Specialist with Fish, Wildlife and Parks. She is responsible for a large portion of western Montana. She discussed the population of packs in the Bitterroot and the monitoring program, which includes radio collars and helicopter tracking.