



SKI TRACKS

Newsletter of the Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club

Box 431 • Corvallis, Montana 59828

January, 2004



DECEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

December 11, 2003

By Kay Fulton

President, Sonny LaSalle, called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. Approximately 65 people were in attendance.

Treasurer's Report by Jean Lippert: Income, \$2,348; Expenses, \$1,185.44. Donations are now coming in from the parking lot and hut.

Membership Report: Leo Joron reported that the membership is now at 347.

Upcoming Events and Items of Interest:

Dan Driscoll is the new newsletter editor.

The Race will be held on Saturday, December 13th. Annie Creighton requested few more volunteers. Registration is to start at 9:00 and the race at 11:00. It will take approximately two hours.

The Gourmet Extravaganza will be on March 26th. It is a gourmet meal for four people and a nights stay at the ski hut. Tickets are on sale now for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. See Annie Creighton.

Trail/Cabin Report: Gordon Reese reported that there was 15" to 16" of new snow since last Friday with temperatures about 9 degrees at night and 19 during the day. The groomers will be at work early Friday and Saturday to prepare for the race. **In regards to the cabin,** Gordon asked members to discourage any tunneling, cave digging, etc they see happening within 100 feet of the cabin, outhouse or ski trails. The dangers of the snow discharging off the metal roof are great. There could be as much as 4 to 5 feet discharged at one time. Signs will be posted. **He also stated that we should be very careful when lighting the propane lights.** The mantels are fragile and if touched with a match or lighter it will put a hole in it. The mantels cost \$9.00 each. **If you find out that you cannot be the host on the time you have reserved, please call someone.** You can call Gordon, Sonny, Pat Patterson, and/or Toddy Perryman to help find a replacement. You should also inform Arlee at the Forest Service.

Apparently there is someone who has a mining claim on Anderson Mountain and is allowed to use his snowmobile to check his claim. It is not known at this point what that might mean in terms of actual usage.

A Christmas tree has been cut and placed on the south deck. Bring ornaments. **Ed Hastings requested that people not pull their sleds on the tracks when bringing things to and from the cabin.**

New Business: The members approved a proposal to

JANUARY MEETING

Thursday, January 8, 2004 - 7 P.M.

**First Presbyterian Church,
Main St., Hamilton**

Bring in the new year with an inspiring presentation at the Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club meeting on Thursday, January 8. The Slide presentation by Pat Hastings will be a wonderful narrative of a five-day backpacking trip in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness taken by five women, the "Selway Sisters", in May of 2002. Pat and her companions on the trip, Marsha Reed, Jan Driscoll, Della Cothorn and Jeane Lippert will share their experiences during this once-in-a-lifetime 50-mile adventure. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 1220 West Main Street, Hamilton. For more information call Diane Boyd at 406-443-5227.

increase the mileage for people working at the Hut to 36 cents. It was also proposed and approved to give the groomers \$10 per day for their meals.

Elections were held and Mel Mooers was reelected as Vice President and Kay Fulton as Secretary.

It was suggested that if anyone is interested in carpooling to the Chief Joe on the weekends they should show up at the Mountain Power parking lot before 10:00 AM to meet other interested people.

There was a great deal of discussion with Tracy Hollingshead from the Forest Service about some issues related to policies regarding the groomers and their use of a FS truck. Since it appeared that there were a lot of questions and concerns, it was agreed by the Club to establish an "Issues Committee" which will pursue these issues and any future one. Earl Phillips was asked to head this committee.

Program: Chris Page presented an outstanding presentation on African Wild Dogs in Botswana where she participated in a research study for several weeks. Her slides and information were very fascinating.

In January, Pat Hastings will give a program about "The Selway Sisters' 2002 Trip down the Selway."

Diane Boyd will be moving to Helena and a new Program Chairperson will be needed. She will continue to coordinate the programs for this year. We will miss her.

TONY'S TIPS
by Tony Neaves

SNOW

It's that magic stuff that we love to slide on! If you've ever wondered why the eskimo's have many different words for snow, all you have to do is notice how different it can be from one day to the next. One week your skis are running great, the next you get the dreaded 3" snow build up otherwise known as "high heels". Welcome to the world of changing snow conditions. Snow is affected by many factors - mainly by what the weather was like when it fell and what it's like now. It can go from one extreme to another - from cold and dry to wet and sticky. Different climates and regions will produce radically different types of snow such as Colorado's "champagne" powder vs. California's "Sierra cement!" Typically, coastal mountains have snow that carries a much higher moisture content than inland mountain ranges. As storms pass across the continent and over mountain ranges and desert plains, they lose much of their moisture so dryer snow falls in the inland mountains.

Our local ski trails seem to collect mostly wetter snow that can be tricky to wax for, but makes for a tremendous, high moisture snowpack. We do also get a fair amount of cold, dry snow that is very abrasive to ski on - it's almost like skiing on sand. It takes a very hard wax to make skis slide on it. Very wet snow can be slow to ski on also

BITTERROOT XC SKI CLUB

President Sonny LaSalle	375-0871
	lasalmom@montana.com
Vice-President Mel Mooers	961-3163
	m.mooersmt@juno.com
Treasurer Jeane Lippert	642-3390
	jeaneenaaj@juno.com
Secretary Kay Fulton	642-3794
	kayinmt@cybernet1.com
Hiking Ed Curran	961-5446
	edann@cybernet1.com
Income Mary Ellen Reese	642-3007
Instruction Bob Brophy	363-2381
Membership Leo Joron	961-8359
	lpj@bitterroot.net
Newsletter	
Editorial Dan Driscoll	375-9967
Production Peg Hampton (Msg.)	363-1866
	(Home) 363-1887
Mailing Leo Joron	961-8359
E-mail Toddy Perryman	961-4959
	brxcski@logonfrog.net
Outings Darel Seibert	375-1999
	drdarel@yahoo.com
Programs Diane Boyd	961-4058
	director@tellerwildlife.org
Publicity Diane Williford	363-6290
Races Tony Neaves & Annie Creighton	375-0852
	montannie2@yahoo.com
Trails Gordon Reese	642-3007
Webmaster Pat Patterson	363-4192
	CLP@bitterroot.com
Website	http://www.bitterrootxcskiclub.net
Warming Hut Reservations (USFS Wisdom)	689-3371

because of the water present and the suction it creates on the base of the ski. For many of the different snow conditions, there are as many waxing strategies that can help make your skis glide a little or a lot better! So if you have ever experienced the dreaded "high heel" snow build up, it may be time to have your skis waxed, or to look into getting a wipe-on liquid wax designed for waxless skis. If you would like to learn more about snow, snow crystals, and the fact that yes, every flake is different - check out this website: snowcrystals.com. Til next time, enjoy the snow!

SKI CLUB GOURMET EXTRAVAGANZA

It's time to purchase your raffle tickets for a chance to win a gourmet dinner and night's stay (for 4 people!) at the Gordon Reese warming cabin at Chief Joseph. Imagine an evening filled with nothing but good food, companionship, and the magical setting of our ski trails and cabin. The date for this traditional event is set for Friday, March 26th, 04'.

Tickets will be available for purchase at the monthly meetings, or by contacting Annie Creighton@ 375-0852. The tickets are \$1 a piece or 6 for \$5. Proceeds go to the club's general fund. The lucky winner will be picked at the March meeting.



Membership Renewals / DUES

Annual Memberships EXPIRE November 1!

Renew your membership now!

INDIVIDUAL - \$10 • FAMILY - \$20

SUPPORTING INDIVIDUAL - \$25

SUPPORTING FAMILY - \$35

LIFE MEMBER - \$100

Membership Dues

Nov. 1, 2003 - Oct. 31, 2004

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: _____

(Listed above)

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Newsletter preference: (Check all that apply)

Send by USPS _____; Send by e-mail _____