



SKI TRACKS

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

JANUARY 2007



MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

I am honored to be the new President of the Club. It seems like such a short time ago that Gordon Reese was asking me to attend a meeting he had convened with representatives of the three National Forests that converge in the area we know and love as Chief Joseph Pass. So many wonderful things have happened in the ensuing years. I would never have believed then that 17 years later the Club would not only exist, but be flourishing. I would never have believed that the Club's efforts to build a warming hut would have galvanized not only Club members, but the generosity of hundreds of residents of the surrounding counties, to build a first-class ski hut that is unrivaled in the Northwest. I would never

have imagined that the Club would be able to groom 26 kilometers of track weekly, all done by volunteers.

All this was created by Club members who had the vision, the generosity, and the foresight to give of their time and effort to create a unique and treasured area that has been enjoyed not only by our members, but thousands of other people over the ensuing years. Ron Waters, an outdoor writer, dubbed this creation a "Miracle at Chief Joseph" for the joy that the trails and hut have given countless people, as well as the fact that it was all created and is maintained by volunteers. Sonny LaSalle, as president over the last several years, has played a key role in overseeing the

completion of the Hut and seeing through the expansion and organization of the Club membership to sustain and enhance the area. I hope to do as well. However, without our dedicated members, who unselfishly continue to contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of the area, and to the sense of camaraderie of the Club, none of this would have happened.

So, in addition to being honored, I am humbled to be President of such an enthusiastic and generous organization. I will do my best to continue to direct the enthusiasm and energy of the Club in overseeing the best cross-country skiing experience in Montana.

See you on the tracks!

/s/ George Corn

Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club Meeting

The Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club will hold its monthly meeting on **Thursday, January 11** starting at **7:00 p.m.** in the First Presbyterian Church, 1220 West Main Street in Hamilton. The program will feature Mike McEachem presenting 3-D views of caves in Montana. Those attending are encouraged to bring nonperishable food items to be donated to Haven House.

/s/ Bob Schumaker

EXTRAVAGANZA TICKETS: Other than at our meetings, tickets can be purchased at four locations in Hamilton. **Chapter 1 • Gas & Grub • Spoke & Slope** and **Valley Bike** have tickets. Also, two places in Missoula, **REI** and **Open Road** have agreed to provide tickets. So take advantage of the extra mile by Mary Ellen Reese to contact these people and make it easier to grab a winning ticket.

/s/ Dan Driscoll

VEEP NOTES: A **Great Big Thanks**

to Linda (the *Angel of Goodies*) Stoudt for the Care Package she makes sure the groomers get every Friday. If it weren't for her, none of us would weigh over 118 pounds! They're wonderful. Thanks Linda, we love you!

The local snowmobile club, the Ridge Runners, gives a free membership to anyone that buys a snowmobile. This resulted in me attending their Christmas Party on the 20th at their building in Grantsdale. The two clubs share a good relationship to which I gave them credit. Often, there is great animosity between the two groups but they are proud of their efforts to keep the snow machines off the Chief Joseph trails, and we should be thankful of that. They offered their assistance on a joint project and also gave me a look at their grooming machine. Wow! It takes them two 12-hour days to groom the 65 miles (130 miles round trip) of roads in the Skalkaho/Rye areas. Thanks Ridge Runners and Happy New Year!

/s/ Mel Mooers

VOLUNTEERS to the RESCUE!

This past Friday, December 15th, there was about 20 inches of fresh snow and we managed to open up the Joseph Creek and Middle Fork trails. Due to lack of time and enthusiasm at that point, we didn't tackle Banshee.

On Monday, responding to my plea for help, Ginny Deck, Bettie Rhodes, Jan Driscoll and Barb Navarra happily agreed to snowshoe the trail, making the initial effort to groom Banshee much easier. They also alerted us to a large tree across the trail.

This is yet another example of the great spirit of our members to jump in and help, when needed.

Thank you so very much, ladies.

/s/ Mel

EDITOR'S NOTE: By necessity, any information intended for inclusion in the newsletter and not received by me by the last day of the previous month cannot be entered. It is simply out of my hands by then.

/s/ Dan Driscoll

DECEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

December 14, 2006

by Kay Fulton

Our Annual Potluck Dinner was held at 6:00 p.m. with the usual fantastic array of great foods. Following the dinner, our President, Sonny LaSalle, entertained us with a wonderful slide show of his and Judy's (and 60 Sicilian relatives) trip to Sicily in April. **Great program. Thanks, Sonny.**

Sonny then called the meeting to order about 7:30 pm. There were approximately 60 people in attendance.

Treasurer's Report: Savings, \$3,064.78; Checking, \$3,404.53. All except three sponsors have paid for their ads.

Elections: This was Sonny's last meeting. He announced that Jeane Lippert has agreed to continue for another term as treasurer and that George Corn had been nominated for President and he had accepted the nomination. Sonny opened the floor for other nominations. Since there were none, it was moved and seconded that we elect **George for President and Jeane for Treasurer.** The vote in favor was unanimous.

Trail Report: Gordon reported that last week there was less than 10", but that it had snowed Wednesday and Thursday and they would groom on Friday.

As for the Cabin: Gordon asked that hosts do just a minimum of shoveling between the cabin and toilet to avoid developing the deep trench we had last year. The groomers will pack the area with the machines. It may be necessary from time to time to fill in a trench. Also, he asked the Club members to just check in on the Hosts to see if they need any help since many may not be familiar with how different things work. There will be a "white" board put up in the cabin saying "Host for today is" so the names can be readily found.

Membership: Jack Losensky reported that there are currently 269 paid members, still down from last year. He will be meeting early next year with a contingent from the Salmon, Idaho area to encourage them to get involved with the Club. Jack also reported that the dues barely cover the cost of the mailed newsletter and not only suggested that those getting the hard copy try to get it electronically, but also we may need to consider charging more for memberships to cover these costs.

Extravaganza: Linda Stout reported that the Extravaganza will be March 3rd. She had tickets for sale and was also looking for volunteers to help her.

Thanks, Sonny!! George Corn and Mel Mooers, as well as others, thanked Sonny for his three terms as president. Mel presented him with a cap with the Club logo and "Our Leader" as well as a "Hot Shower" unit for campers and rafters. We hope you enjoy it in all the free time you now have, Sonny.

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, 2006 - Oct. 31, 2007
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 corn4@bresnan.net	363-1163
Vice-President	Mel Mooers m.mooersmt@juno.com	961-3163
Treasurer	Jeane Lippert jeaneenaiej@cybernet1.com	642-3379
Secretary	Kay Fulton kayinmt@cybernet1.com	642-3794
Membership	Jack Losensky losensky@bitterroot.net	961-3757
Newsletter		
Editorial	Dan Driscoll dandriscoll32@msn.com	375-9967
Production	Shermans	961-3355
Mailing	Barb Losensky	961-3757
E-mail	Toddy Perryman brxcski@logonfrog.net	961-4959
Programs	Bob & Barbara Schumaker bobcat@montana.com	363-0364
Trails	Gordon Reese	642-3007
Trail Map	Michelle Thompson	375-9524
Webmaster	Pat Patterson CLP@bitterroot.com	363-4192
Website	http://www.bitterrootxcskiclub.net	
Warming Hut Reservations (USFS Wisdom)		689-3371