



# SKI TRACKS

Newsletter of the Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club

Box 431 • Corvallis, Montana 59828

March, 2005



## EDITOR'S NOTE HUT RESERVATIONS

To maximize days that the Warming Hut is hosted, Earl Philips has agreed to be a clearing house for communicating available dates to anyone that is interested. These dates become available when circumstances make it impossible for individuals to use their reserved date for hosting the Warming Hut. If you desire to have your name included on a list to be a host when dates become available send an E-mail to Earl Philips ([Philips@montana.com](mailto:Philips@montana.com)) or call Earl at (406) 961-0101. Anyone who cannot use their reserved hosting date at the Warming Hut should also contact Earl.

## February, 2005 Meeting Highlights

February 10, 2005

By Kay Fulton

**Mel Mooers, Vice President**, called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. There were approximately 39 members present. **Leo Joron** reported a membership count of 362.

**Treasurer's Report by Jean Lippert:** Income, \$2117; Expenses, \$94.68; Net Income, \$2,022.32; Checking, \$2546.99; Savings, \$4140.09.

**Extravaganza March 4th:** Annie sold tickets throughout the evening. Then the winning ticket was drawn. **Toddy Perryman and Pat Leonard were the winners! Congratulations!**

**Old Business:** Dan Driscoll again announced that he needs someone to substitute for him the last of April to do the newsletter for April. **Please help him out with this task!**

**Trails Report:** Ed Hastings reported that the trails are in good shape. They will not groom on February 11th. The skiing is excellent. Off track skiing is also good as is snowshoeing.

**Host No Shows:** There continues to be a need to coordinate finding replacements for hosting the cabin when someone can't make their date. Earl Philips has volunteered to set up a formal system whereby those who can't would contact him and he will keep an e-mail list of people interested in being contacted at the last minute. The Forest Service has indicated a willingness to assist with this

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## MARCH PROGRAM

**Thursday, March 10, 2005**

**First Presbyterian Church**

**1220 West Main Street in Hamilton • 7:00 p.m.**

The program will feature local videographer **Steve Slocomb**. **Steve** will present a video of the history, botany and cultural aspects of the Bitterroot plant. Please bring non-perishable food items for Haven House if you so desire.

## MESSAGE FROM SONNY

At first glance one could conclude that we are not very lucky with our snow this year at Chief Joe. That was my view until Judy and I talked with skiers from other areas last Saturday while skiing at Chief Joe. We are drawing many "first timers" from around the State due to their lack of snow. One group of five from Helena said we were about the only game in town. Another group, from Missoula, said they didn't realize what a great area we had as they always skied close to home until this year. So, I guess we should be thankful for what we have and that's true for many things.

I received a note from a new member with information about a couple from Missoula deliberately taking a dog on the trails. The member recorded the license number and vehicle description which I have forwarded to the Forest Service for action. This is exactly the procedure we should use under these circumstances.

Our efforts to raise funds to purchase a pickup for the groomers are not progressing well. We have a total of \$1430.00 (end of January) at the Bitterroot RC&D. There was a thousand dollar donation from Teri Ryan and \$430.00 from six other members. There may have been more donations in February but I don't have a report for last month at this time. We have a challenge from Mary Ellen Reese for 100 members to donate \$20.00 each. This was done at the January Club meeting. I hope all of you recognize the importance of providing transportation for our groomers and the equipment. We are applying for grants but the basic responsibility falls on Club members and other users of the area to provide the necessary equipment for grooming. We are getting a great deal at Chief

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## Highlights - continued from page 1

effort. Earl will put some information in the next newsletter regarding this system.

### New Business:

**Pat Patterson, webmaster, has been revising the website.** He needs someone to help him in running the webpage, especially when he is out of town. He has been doing it for three years and eventually would like someone to take over the whole thing. **Please contact Pat.**

**New Raffle to Raise Funds for the Truck:** Pat Hastings announced that Diane and Dennis Havig have given a gift certificate for dinner for 2 at their Big Hole Crossing Restaurant in Wisdom To be raffled off. The use date is open. Pat has agreed to handle the process. It was moved and seconded that the tickets would sell for \$5.00. **Thanks to the Havigs.**

**Fund Raising for New Truck:** Earl Philips, representing the committee, reported that donations are coming in. Also the Stock Farm has been contacted regarding their donation fund. They seem interested. A member of the club has also offered to investigate getting "501C3" status for the club which would give it a non-profit designation and allow people to donate directly

to the club and get a tax write off rather than go through RC&D (Ravalli County & Development) who takes 5% of the donation.

**Program:** Don and Jane Schmidt gave a very interesting program on their 17 day trip to Madagascar last September to visit their daughter, Kiley, who is in the Peace Corps. They showed pictures and brought various items from the country. The Schmidts are a wealth of information about the country.

## Message from President - continued from page 1

Joe as many other areas have to pay groomers and this would cost us over \$7,000 a year not counting equipment costs. To do this we would have to raise dues and perhaps charge a daily use fee and we do not want to do that. We have a great dedicated grooming crew and we need to provide them with quality equipment with which to work. We need to have our funds in hand by our last meeting this spring so we can begin the search for our best deal. So it's time to get those checkbooks out! The instructions for mailing the checks were in the January newsletter.....Sonny

## BITTERROOT XC SKI CLUB

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Warming Hut Reservations (USFS Wisdom)	689-3371

## 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, 2004 - Oct. 31, 2005**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

## SPRING SKIING!

Looking back through the tips columns, it seems that every year there is a spring edition. We're not trying to sound like a broken record, but some things just need repeating!

Spring can be a challenging time of year as far as snow conditions, but with a little planning and being aware of what's going on with the snow, it can be great fun. First, you have to pay attention to the weather and try to gain a rough idea of what its been doing and what the temperatures have been like. This will allow you to make a game plan. If it hasn't snowed for awhile, plan on it being icy in the morning (good "crust cruising"), good at mid-day, and sloppy in the afternoon. If it snows the night before you go and then is sunny, be ready for some very sticky snow. For this scenario, waxes that contain flouorocarbons will help prevent the dreaded "high heels" or snow build-up on your ski bases. Colder and snowy days can still occur this time of year, so just wax the same you would on any other winter day.

The best way to make sure your skis will glide and not succumb to the stickies is to make sure they have an ironed on layer of wax on the tips and tails. Yes, your

"waxless" skis need wax just like all skis! You can also use a wipe on wax in between the times you iron wax on the tips and tails. The best wipe on wax for this time of year needs to contain some form of flouorocarbon, which acts as a water repellent.

The KEY to applying any wipe-on wax is to do it the night before or morning of your ski day. Apply it to the entire dry, room temperature ski (fish scales and all), let it sit and dry for 5 minutes, then buff it with either a soft cloth or a nylon brush. When you are done the bases should look nice and shiny. If you put it on a cold or wet ski at the parking lot and just take off, it will last for about 200 yards!

For those hardy and diligent souls who like to use waxable skis, just remember that if it hasn't snowed for awhile and the conditions are icy, the only thing that will work is KLISTER! Don't worry though, the rewards for hitting the right klister and having bomber kick and mucho glide are well worth dealing with the mess. If there has been fresh snow and the sun is out, you don't even want to consider klister as it will ice up and you will get no glide. For this condition, try a red hard wax with a little purple over the top to prevent iceing.

With a little planning and care, you can still get out and enjoy our wonderful spring conditions! Happy Trails and don't forget the sunscreen.

