

SKI TRACKS

**Newsletter of the Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club
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M A R C H 2 0 0 8

No President's Message this month

The Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club will hold its monthly meeting Thursday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 1220 West Main Street in Hamilton. The program will feature Scott Battaion from the Wright Center for Science Education with a Power Point presentation of the United States deep ice coring project in West Antarctica that will develop climate records for the last 40,000 years. Those attending are encouraged to bring nonperishable food items to be donated to Haven House.

/s/ Bob Schumaker

AN EVENTFUL AND TRYING MONTH FOR THE GROOMERS

It started when I heard on Thursday, February 7th that there was 21 inches of fresh snow at Lost Trail. Deciding we would need more than one day to handle that much snow, we started for Chief Joseph only to be hit on the way to Hamilton, and the Club truck badly damaged. Allen Meyers and I suffered minor injuries as the seat belts held but the air bags didn't deploy. Still determined, we transferred the equipment to my truck, with the help of Ed Hastings, and tackled the recent snowfall. We encountered drifts to five feet and by dark on Friday, had only opened up some of the upper trails.

On the following Tuesday a group of volunteers snow shoed out the lower trails. Thanks to you all, we couldn't get along without you!

By Friday we had 26 more inches of fresh snow and only ran to the Hut and back, the memory of the previous attempt to handle that much now

still fresh in our minds. Snow does settle and on the following Tuesday, we started to groom which continued on Thursday and finished on Friday, setting track and leaving the trails in good shape once again.

My thanks to Jim and Allen for all their hard work not only for their grooming efforts but for getting the machines unstuck more times than I want to think about. Jim is now known as "Cannonball" for his method of breaking trail at "warp" speed.

Allen's and my aches and pains are mostly past. The truck sustained over \$10,000 damage and repairs still haven't started.

The appreciative comments we receive makes it all worth it. THANK YOU!!

/s/ Mel Mooers

Look on website <http://www.bitterrootxcskiclub.net> for photos showing the process of snow removal from cabin roof in February.

FEBRUARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

February 14, 2008 By Kay Fulton

President George Corn called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

There were approximately 45 in attendance.

Membership Report: Jack Losensky reported that our membership numbers are now at 345 (close to the 358 of last year). This number includes 30 supporting families.

Treasurer's Report: Jeane Lippert reported: Income, \$2,058; Expenses, \$10,662.42 (includes new snow machine); Checking, \$5,048.75; Savings, \$3,227.77.

Upcoming Events and Items of Interest: Alan Burgmuller, member of Search & Rescue, spoke to the group about the need for more members on Search & Rescue. Their numbers are dropping and they

provide a very important service to the community. He emphasized that membership doesn't only mean going out to save someone, but also supportive efforts. He encouraged people to join; especially since they may be changing their meeting night so as to not conflict with the Ski Club meeting. More information will follow.

Kerry Davis, a new member and resident in the Valley, informed us that he is setting up a discussion group focused on global warming and he encouraged anyone who is interested to contact him.

A Bio-fuels Symposium will be held at the Fairgrounds in Hamilton on Saturday, March 1st. Sonny LaSalle reported that there will be 12 presenters and the keynote speaker is Kevin Furry. The programs start at 8:30 A.M. and last all day. Sonny also told us about an article on the "Drying of the West" in the current National Geographic Magazine.

EXTRAVAGANZA: Linda Stoudt reported that we made \$1,210 this year. Last year we made \$511!! **WAY TO GO, LINDA!!** She thanked those who helped with the sales —Bill Stoudt, Bill McCrum & Earl Philips. The winner is Randy Lovell of the Valley Bike store. The business that won a free night for the most sales is Chapter One Bookstore. Mel Holloway, Pat Hastings and Linda are the chefs for the event.

New Business: The Board is preparing a letter to the Bitterroot National Forest on the Proposed Travel Plan as it relates to the Chief Joseph Ski Area. Members are encouraged to make individual comments. All comments for this period are due in by the 29th of February.

Groomers' Truck Accident: Mel Mooers reported that because there had been 21 **new inches of** snow at Chief Joe, he and the other groomers were going up on Thursday, January 31, to try to get a head start on grooming. It was a snowy, icy day on the roads. Mel and Alan were driving south on 93 near the Hamilton Meat Packing Co. when a woman driving north lost control and crashed into them. No one was hurt badly although both Mel and Alan have some very sore muscles. The damage to the truck is estimated to be around \$10,500. The insurance company is still working on the settlement. They are currently reimbursing Mel for the use of his truck, **By the way, the groomers went on up to work on the trails later in the morning of the wreck!!**

Trails Report: (please note that this refers to the status as of this meeting, 2/14): Mel reported that another 30 inches of new snow has fallen on top of the 25" last week. The groomers started working on the trails on Tuesday and Thursday of this week and will go back again tomorrow. **What Dedication! Thank you for all of your hard work!**

Grooming of Como/Little Rock Creek area by Tony & Randy of the Valley Bike Store: The road up to the Little Rock Creek Trailhead and beyond (more than 11 miles) is being groomed weekly for both skate skiing and traditional. If you are planning to up, check at the store to see what the status is. This is a great addition. Donations are welcome!! Stop by the Bike store to donate and say thanks.

Program: Sailing Up the Inside Passage to Alaska: Once again, Toddy Perryman and Pat Leonard wowed us with another one of their feats! They spent 4 months on a sailboat they bought in Washington and restored. Their trip started at Fort Townsend, Washington, and they went 2,000 miles round trip. They presented a marvelous PowerPoint show with amazing pictures of the places they saw, as well as wonderful anecdotes of their experiences! Thanks for the great program, Pat and Toddy.

LOST: One set of REI graphite adjustable Ski Poles in the parking lot at Chief Joe on Sunday, February 10th. If found, please call Malcom Lowe, 880-6414.
