



SKI TRACKS

Newsletter of the Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club
Box 431 • Corvallis, Montana 59828 May, 2005



LAST CHANCE FOR RAFFLE TICKETS FOR TRUCK FUND

By Pat Hastings

I'll be selling raffle tickets (for a dinner-for-two at the Big Hole Crossing Restaurant in Wisdom) up until the drawing, which will be at the May Potluck meeting (May 12th). Tickets are \$5.00 each and you need not be present to win. This raffle is for the benefit of the Club's Truck Fund, to acquire a truck to transport the trail groomers and the Club's trail grooming equipment.

APRIL, 2005 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

April 14, 2005

By Kay Fulton

Sonny LaSalle, President, called the meeting to order at 7:05. There were approximately 41 in attendance.

Treasurer's Report by Jeanne Lippert: Income, \$1625.74; Expenses, 1044.95; Net Income, \$580.79; Checking, \$2,465.75; Savings, \$10,161.67

New Business:

New National Recreation Reservation System (NRRS): Dennis Havig and Arlee from the Wisdom District of the Forest Service came to explain the above new system, which will include the Gordon Reese Cabin. As a result of the new Kinger Cohen Act all reservations of sites managed by the Forest Service as well as the National Park Service, BLM, and Bureau of Reclamation will be handled by a private, central contractor via a website or by phone; none will be done locally. In addition to the rental fee there will be a \$9.00 fee for the service and a \$10.00 fee for cancellation &/or changes. Compliance is required by February, 2006. Arlee gave us a handout and explained that reservations for cabins for this summer (such as, Hogans, Twin Lakes, Gordon Reese, & May Creek) are being handled locally and, in fact, July and August are already booked. For winter they are hoping to put an "administrative reservation" on the Gordon Reese Cabin so that they can continue to do the Host/trade for services locally. Due to budget and personnel cuts this might be a problem long range.

Chain Saw Training: Dennis reported that Patty couldn't come to the meeting but is working on setting up training for all interested people. Details to come.

MAY MEETING

Thursday, May 12, 2005

POTLUCK - 6:00 pm

Jeanne Lippert's house

354 Sweathouse Road, Victor (see map)

642-3379

Signage: Dennis stated that they would like to help with the new junction signs but once again are limited due to the cuts. He thought that they may be able to get about \$1,000 from some summer fees and that Bitterroot FS may come up with about \$700. The Ski Club might put up the rest. Someone suggested contacting the Job Corps to see if they could do the signs. Kit Sutherland from RC& D was suggested as a contact. Sonny said that the Club may look into some grant money as well.

Trails:

Satisfaction Survey regarding the trails and grooming at Chief Joe to be done in February, 2006. Sonny explained that a survey had been done in 1996 and suggested that the Club consider doing a new one since so much has changed in the last 10 years. After much discussion about the need to know what "our customers" think about our service; ie, the trails and how they are groomed, it was moved and seconded to do a questionnaire that will be developed by a committee which Sonny will appoint at the beginning of next season. Several people remarked about how much they enjoy the trails as they are now and thanked the groomers for such great work. People also mentioned the great benches. There was a question about switching Middle Fork and Joseph Creek (with Middle Fork going down and Joseph coming up). Gordon stated that Middle Fork is much too fast when the conditions are average to icy. They have looked for another trail to go up from the bottom but currently we cannot develop any more trails.

Sign-Ins were down about 34% this last season as were donations. The weather and conditions were, no doubt, most of the reason but it was suggested that the donation box be moved to the new bulletin board/kiosk.

Signage: There was much discussion about the junction signs and it was finally decided to table the funding issue until we know exactly what we need and what funds are available.

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Repair for the Alpine Grooming Machine: Gordon reported that some body rebuilding work is being done and will cost about \$500. A motion was made and seconded to fund this expense.

Old Business:

Truck Fund: Currently we have \$1960 with RC & D; \$5000 from the Club's sale of the grooming machine; and \$3685 from donations. Additionally, Earl Phillips reported that the Stock Farm gave us \$500 and that there are still a couple other donations he is waiting to hear about. Earl is working on a grant for \$3000 through the Bitterroot Resource Advisory Committee and Sonny is writing for a state grant for about \$7500. They are hopeful that one or some of these sources may come through. Once they know what we have they will be able to go the some of the car dealerships and offer to put their logo on our truck if they give us a good deal.

Program: Ted Davidson, author and anthropologist, talked about the process he had gone through to research and write his book, Donner-Reed Tragedy. He described it as an historical novel. He described some aspects of the book and handed out a sheet with some of the details.

THANK YOU NOTE
By Mary Ellen Reese

Ski season is over but the Club's heartfelt gratitude for our commercial sponsors remains. Thank you for your willing responses to my cards and visits to obtain help with the Club's ongoing trail grooming expenses. You play a major role in providing groomed tracks for Chief Joseph's skiers.

And a big thank you also to Club members who have responded to my challenge to raise \$20 from 100 members towards the Truck Fund. Thus far, the Club has received over 62 contributions, totaling almost \$6000, toward the Truck Fund. Your help, plus the assistance of others, is deeply appreciated.



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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

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