



# SKI TRACKS

Newsletter of the Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club

Box 431 • Corvallis, Montana 59828

MAY, 2006



## EDITOR'S NOTES

As you are probably aware, this will be the last bulletin this season. Many thanks to those members who have contributed (on time) messages to be included each month. That has made my job much easier. Special thanks to Peg Hampton and Eve Meng for their cooperation in doing the layout work, sometimes having to tolerate me as I asked for a quick job to enable me to get the material in for printing when the calendar has forced early due dates on us. A map with directions for finding Jeanne Lippert's house is on page 2. See you all there.

— Dan Driscoll

## APRIL, 2006 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

April 13, 2006

By Kay Fulton

**President, Sonny LaSalle** (& still speaking Sicilian), called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. There were approximately people in attendance.

**Treasurer's Report by Jeanne Lippert:** Income, \$664; Expenses, \$1233.53; Net Income, -\$569.53; Checking, \$4330.18; Savings, \$304.32. Most of the money in the checking account will be put in a C.D.

**Membership:** Jack Losensky reported that he and Mel Mooers worked on revising letters for new members and some other promotional material. Sonny shared an experience that he and Judy had in just visiting with someone at one of the benches and he in turn sent in an extra \$100. That kind of personal contact really makes a difference.

**Newsletter:** Dan Driscoll reported that Peg Hampton asked us to find another lay-out person since she will not be able to do it anymore. Someone suggested that Birdie Sherman, who does the Eagles newsletter, might be able to help. Dan will do some research on options.

**Old Business:** Sonny reported that we still are searching for a few volunteers: 1. To fill Mary Ellen's position, 2. To be part of an "Appreciation Team", 3. To be an "Historian" for the club. Kevin from PBS said that he could do a special but did not want to do the Club's history.

**Trail Report:** Gordon reported that the cabin looks great. There's still 7 feet of snow. He and Mel went up to cut firewood last Tuesday and took down 27 trees and skidded them into the loading area. They plan to go up again next week, weather permitting, and asked for volunteers. REI has donated two pairs of small snowshoes to be used for work

## MAY PROGRAM

Thursday, May 11 at 7:00 p.m.

Pot Luck at Jean Lippert's House

See over for the map to her house.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Club Members.

The snow is still deep at Chief Joe but our interest has turned to other activities in the valleys. We have one more meeting this spring and that is our annual season ending potluck at Jeanne Lippert's house at 6:00 PM May 11.

All of you know that our organization is made up of volunteers and run by dedicated volunteers. Four of them were recognized by Gordon in the April newsletter and I had a list of jobs that need people to accomplish our mission. If people don't volunteer these jobs will not get done as I will not ask people already donating lots of time to do more. That's how you burn people out and lose them early. The biggest job is that of trail map coordinator previously held by Mary Ellen Reese. The job starts in May or June and Mary Ellen has offered to train her replacement. This is a part of my job that I don't like, that is asking you numerous times to help our organization run smoothly. All of us benefit from the efforts of a few and we periodically need to have people step up to help us keep providing benefits to about 400 members and hundreds if not thousands of non members. So, how about it, don't you think its about time some of you (95% of members) decide it's your turn to give something back to the organization? Look at April's newsletter to see a list of the jobs we need filled.

I hope to see you at Jeanne's and if not then at our September work day meeting.

— Sonny

at the cabin. As for Grants for new grooming machines. It looks like it will take some time to go through the various grant writing and submission processes. The Recreation Trail from FWP may take until 2008, if we are awarded. There might be smaller grants such as the RAP foundation and REI announced that they will have \$10,000 for grants in the state of Montana, which we will apply for. Mary Morris and Jim Anderson are currently attending a grant writing workshop and are willing to help. Hopefully the two Alpine machines, which seem ok at present, will get us through a couple more seasons.

(Continued on page 2)



## Highlights - continued from page 1

### Report from Dennis Havig, District Manager at Wisdom:

Dennis thanked everyone for his or her hard work, especially Mary Ellen, Leo, Ed and Katya. A lot more people are using the ski area. Chief Joe had the best snow this year. The removal of the trees is still in court and a decision should be made June 8<sup>th</sup>. Reimbursement for gas is still a possibility but not for mileage. He asked that we get figures to him. He also stated that he thinks the Club should work out a Challenge Cost Share agreement with the Forest Service.

**Forest Service continues to downsize:** Arlee is moving to the campground job and they are holding her position vacant to see what is the best solution. As a result, Michael Reese is attempting to handle two jobs. There is a group in Jackson area trying to develop a small cross country ski area, (10 to 15 miles) and would like assistance from some of the people who developed Chief Joe. The Forest Service may be able to assist but if they lay trails one place you have to take them away elsewhere and also must evaluate the impact on wildlife. The Summer Cabin Rental system is up and running. There have been some problems in some areas but not in others. Let them know if we have a problem.

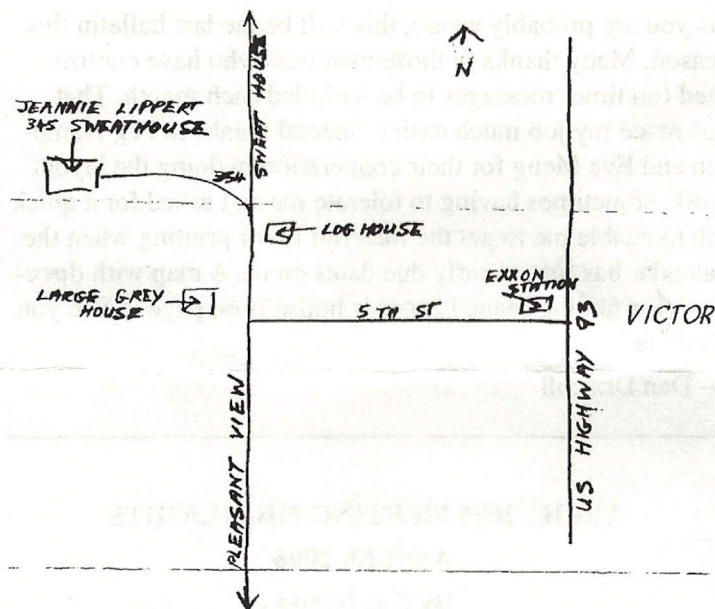
**Program:** John Ormiston, soon to retire wildlife biologist, presented a fascinating program on Winter Wildlife. He wowed us with facts and information, slides and recordings of bird sounds, and specimens. Did you know that Boreal Owls are sitting around at Chief Joe watching us ski during moonlight ski nights?? It was a great program.

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### POTLUCK:

MAY 11 AT 6:00 P.M. AT JEANE LIPPERT'S



### 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, 2005 - Oct. 31, 2006

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Listed above)

Newsletter preference: (Check all that apply)

Send by USPS \_\_\_\_\_; Send by e-mail \_\_\_\_\_