



SKI TRACKS

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

NOVEMBER 2008



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The days are getting shorter, the nights longer and colder. There's a storm coming in this weekend that, with luck, will start our base. At least one Club member has been skiing at Chief Joe already. The wooly worms I have seen on my afternoon walks are fat and furry. My prediction is snow to ski on before Thanksgiving.

See you at the November meeting.

/s/ George

Food for Thought

The upcoming meeting includes a silent auction as a fund raising effort. These have been quite successful in raising cash, which is used judiciously for fuel and other expenses along with the money we receive from dues, sponsors and contributions. It also helps with accumulating a "nest egg" should some unforeseen event occur which would jeopardize our ability to continue our efforts at Chief Joseph.

There is a discrepancy, it seems, between those who bring things and those who buy. Members who bring items are truly contributors. Those who buy, and many do both, are benefactors as they receive great value in unique hand crafted items worth, in many cases, more than is bid.

Please consider also becoming a contributor as you're placing your bid.

/s/ Mel Mooers

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

SELWAY-BITTERROOT WILDERNESS WINTER CROSSING

Richard Layne, Montana Backcountry Adventurer and Photographer, will share his story and pictures of his amazing snowshoe trek over Blodgett Pass, down to Elk Summit, out to Lochsa Lodge and back again through the Selway, up White Cap Creek, over Boulder Pass and out to Sam Billings Campground in March & April of 2008!!!! Although he is a "Bitterroot Boy," he now lives in Helena and will be coming to Hamilton just for us. Come and enjoy Thursday, November 13th, 7:00 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church, 1220 W. Main.

Public is welcome.

3RD ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH

BRING ITEMS TO DONATE AND MONEY TO SPEND!!!

COME EARLY FOR SET UP AND BIDDING

Here are a few of the fantastic items people are bringing:

Wine, Rum Cake, Juniper Candlestick, Hand-forged Hooks, Pottery, Spinning Rod & Reel, Fanny Packs, Gift Certificates, Peanut Brittle, "Industrial Strength Chocolate Cheesecake" and MORE!!!!

Call or e-mail Kay Fulton with items you plan to bring if you know ahead of time, 642-3794 or kayinmt@cybernet1.com
Otherwise just bring them early to the meeting.

Trail News

If you wanted to be the first to ski this year, you've missed out unless you were there before Marsha White who, on October 13th reported 8 to 9 inches of snow, skied Broadway and Gold Metal and sent us a picture! Her earliest ski in 28 years at Chief Joseph. Thanks, Marsha.

We have received the go ahead to flag some snowshoe trails at the area. Dale and Judy LaScala lascala@bitterroot.net have tentatively agreed to take on the project with the help of Art and Kerstin (?) Seifert. The first effort would be a loop to the Hut and back. After that, it's a matter of exploring the area to find attractive corridors. The tracks that cross our trails at various locations indicate there are folks who have roamed about and their input would be welcomed. Join the team to enhance this aspect of winter recreation that has many participants.

Wax your skis, it won't be long now!

/s/ Mel Mooers

Hi, Mel. Just wanted to let you know that I got home from Scotland and Wales this last weekend in time to go on my first ski of the season at Chief Joe on Monday (10/13/08). Yahoo!!! In 28 years of skiing up there, this is a new record for the earliest first ski!

I skied the CD trail (Broadway? —the long straight-away, I call it) checked the cabin/warming hut, and took a photo of myself there for the record using a sawhorse over by the woodpile. From the west end of the long straight-away run, I then turned right and broke trail out the Gold Medal run (?) to the hill where there used to be a bench, only hitting one rock on this part. Sorry I don't know the names of the different trails —I've skied them too many years to keep track of the names anymore. Anyway, I tested the snow depth on the CD trail (Broadway) and got 8-9 inches using my ski pole. I could tell from the covered ski tracks that folks had been out before me at least the day before and maybe even two days before me. I've enclosed the self portrait for you to see what it's looking like up there. Cheers mw

*/s/ Marsha White, Fisher Technician
Salmon Region, ID Dept of Fish & Game*

OCTOBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER 9, 2008

by Kay Fulton

President, George Corn, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. There were approximately 89 in attendance.

Membership Report: Jack Losensky reported that annual memberships are being collected in great numbers at this meeting. So far there are many more "Supporting" memberships and donations coming in. Jack also reminded people that the Club now has 501c3 status and donations are tax deductible.

Treasurer's Report: Jeane Lippert reported: Income, \$2,826.20; Expenses, \$3,144.73; Checking, \$1,259.14; Savings, \$5,770.75.

Upcoming Events and Items of Interest:

The Extravaganza will be February 21, 2009. A new Coordinator is needed. Linda Stoudt has retired. Last year the event raised \$1,200 to \$1,300. Please contact George if you are willing to help with this important activity.

A new Program Chairperson is needed now!!! George and others will try to arrange programs and will announce them in the newsletter. Please step up to help with this activity as well.

Ski Lessons are scheduled for January 17th. Mel Holloway has volunteered to be our Education Chairperson.

Sonny LaSalle talked about a new organization called "Citizens for Ravalli County's Future" which is focused on informing citizens about the facts of the "Growth Policy," how it was developed, and why. He encouraged everyone to understand what he or she is voting for since even the wording on the ballots is confusing: Vote "Against Repeal" to keep the GP or vote "yes" for repeal.

Trail Report: Mel Mooers reported they are ready for snow!! The workday was fantastic with two splitters and a number of chainsaws. An excellent potluck resulted in filling the basement with the wood needed for the season, as well as stacked wood piled and covered for the future. There have been over 399 volunteer hours logged in the 3rd quarter, not including the workday. Thanks to Mel and his "Gang."

Cancellation Program: Earl Philips reported that the program was 90% effective. There were a few times when he was not informed about a cancellation but could fill them even on a very last minute basis so be sure to call him. He has a new e-mail address for the program. It is skihut@mt.com.

Kay Fulton passed around sign-up sheets for the Silent Auction, Treats and Toilet Cleaning. If you missed an opportunity to sign up, see Kay or contact her at 642-3794 or kayinmt@cybernet1.com.

Program: The evening's "program" was signing up for the Hut. The new Wisdom District Ranger, Russ Riebe, came to the meeting. He is from Salmon. Along with Russ was Arlee Staley and John Ericson, Recreational Specialist. They did a great job getting everyone signed up in record time. Thanks.

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, 2007 - Oct. 31, 2008

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 _____

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