

SKI TRACKS

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

OCTOBER 2006



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Ski Club Members,

We had an outstanding work day September 16. There were 27 members at the Hut along with three hard-working Forest Service folks from the Wisdom Ranger District. We moved about four and a half cords of wood from the piles to the basement of the Hut in less than two hours and the Hut was given a thorough cleaning. We then had a great potluck and a short business meeting where the proposed by-law changes were read. These changes are necessary for us to qualify for 501-(c)-3 status with the IRS and Mel has been working on them all summer. The firewood was cut last spring and skidded over the hard snow in tree lengths, and then another crew went up and cut the trees into firewood lengths and split them into useable pieces and covered the piles with tarps. I am telling you this because I want all of you to know how much work a small group of members do to keep everything running smoothly.

The October 12 meeting will involve our opportunity to sign up for hosting the Hut for one night this winter. We will do this the same way we have in the past few years. You will pick a number out of a container and that will be the number you use to determine when you get to select the one night at the Hut. The Forest Service folks will have a calendar with available dates from which to select. You must be present to select a date and it is one night per couple or family group. If you cannot be present

and/or you want more than one night, then you have to call the Wisdom Ranger District to reserve a night. Reservations will be open the following Monday, October 16, at 7 a.m.. If you were able to reserve a night at the Club meeting, please wait a week or so to reserve more nights. If you cannot be at the October 12 meeting, then start calling at 7 a.m. on the 16th and be prepared for many busy signals.

We will have a short business meeting on the 12th to approve the by-law changes mentioned above and to establish a search committee to find candidates to fill the position of club president. Mel Mooers will chair that committee and is looking for other members to help him as well as members who are interested in serving as club president.

We have applied to the Rapp Family Foundation (through the Bitter Root RC&D) for a grant of \$3,000 to help in our purchase of a new snowmobile for grooming. I do not have any information from the Foundation on that grant request at this time.

I want to offer my heartfelt thanks to all the hardworking, dedicated members of the Club who donate their time as officers, committee members, and laborers to make this Club the outstanding organization that it is. Our Club provides an opportunity for members and nonmembers to have an outstanding recreational experience on their National Forests in the winter (and summer). Without those efforts, this would not be possible!

/s/ Sonny

EDITOR'S NOTE: Because of the busy schedule of our October meeting, no program will be presented this month. Regular programs will resume at the November meeting. Our meeting will be Thursday, October 12, 7 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church, 1220 West Main Street in Hamilton. This is our night for trying for time of choice at the Hut, so keep it in mind. Also, as we have been doing, any donations of nonperishable food are gladly accepted and appreciated by Haven House for distribution to the needy. Surely we can be generous in our support of this worthwhile Food Bank.

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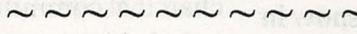
EXHIBIT A

Article Sixth of the Articles of Incorporation filed March 23, 1998, is hereby deleted and Articles Sixth, Seventh and Eighth as hereafter stated are hereby adopted:

Sixth: Said corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Seventh: No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article Third hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Eighth: Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.



— So, where did the summer go? —

Somewhere I read an article about volunteers that stated that folks who volunteer do so usually for one or more of three reasons —a) they enjoy being a part of something they believe in; b) they see the results of their efforts (and others) and these results actually accomplish something; c) they get a “warm, fuzzy feeling” when they get a pat on the back or a thank you.

As we swing into an incredibly colorful time of the year and before our members get really involved with skiing or other winter time activities (are there really other things to do when there is snow on the hills??)it is a perfect time to review what our Club has done to get ready for our seventeenth (17) season and say “Thank You.”

In April, working on about 4 or 5 feet of snow with a very firm crust, Mel Mooers, Jim Anderson, Jim Aronson, Allen Meyers and I cut about seventy dead lodge pole snags. Using our snow machines, the trees were easily skidded to three locations. In early June the same crew cut the trees into stove lengths. And in late July Bill Stout, Bil McCrum, Allen Meyers, Mel Holloway, Mary Ellen and a neat young man named Conner Carr used the Stouts wood splitter to make lots of smaller ones out of longer ones.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of September, thirty very energetic folks were at the Hut to set a new world record for putting 4½ cords of prime fire wood in the basement. They also did the usual spic and span cleaning of the Hut, had a business meeting (see meeting notes) and had another great club potluck. Thanks to everyone and I wish I could have been there especially for the potluck!

Also this summer, Ed and Pat Hastings spent a full day using wire brushes and sandpaper to remove the “flaky” material on the Hut railings and on places on the outside walls and then stained and sealed these areas. They also spent a day filling and sealing large cracks or checks in the walls. Thanks to both of them for a super job. Wall maintenance will be an on-going task that the Club and USFS needs to include in our future plans.

This fall lots of little projects have gotten crossed off the list. All our new junction maps (November of 2005) are now permanently mounted on posts or trees. Lots of new growth on our ski trails has been cut. Two large trees and a number of small ones that came down on our lower trails have been removed. Both emergency cache shelters that were damaged by the snow load last winter have been repaired and strengthened. (Fire the structural engineer!) When we get the chimney cleaned at the Hut, we should be about ready for snow!

Michelle Thompson has been working very quietly but doing a great job putting our 06-07 edition of the ski map together and securing our commercial sponsors. A special thanks to Michelle from Mary Ellen!

The hazard trees that were cut by the USFS folks in October of ‘04 will not be removed this fall. Hopefully in 2007.

I am sure elsewhere in the newsletter you will get more details on the proposed changes to our “By-Laws” that will put the Club in a good position to receive 401-C3 status. Mel Mooers has been the shaker and mover on this project (one that the Club has talked about for years) and we thank

him for pushing forward and for putting up the dollars to achieve this benefit.

You are probably already aware that this summer the Club received a \$4,000 grant from Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) to be used towards our new snow machine. This type of financial aid is somewhat unique in that employees in REI stores nominate projects and then encourage and help clubs apply. The folks of the Missoula store received 10 applications, seven of which were sent on to the Seattle office and four of these received funding, including our Club.

Grants of any kind do not just happen! Mel's early conversations with Brent Pence, out-reach coordinator at REI, got the ball rolling. Sonny did the tedious work of filling out the application, answering the questions, supplying the required information, dealing with the followup questions and, in general, pulling it all together. Please give him a pat on the back or a hug and a "Thank You." You should know his work was first class because the other projects that received REI grants were: Camp-Make-A-Dream • Glacier Institute • and Ecology Project International. As you can see, we were in with some heavy hitters!!

Sonny has also done the writing for our application to the Rapp Family Foundation and we should be hearing about this soon.

Our new Skandic Super-wide Track has spent the summer traveling from Finland where they are manufactured and is now in Bozeman and will be at Mountain Motor Sports soon. We have taken our two 1994 Alpines to get their pre-season check over and tune-up and we will be selling one of them.

The Forest Service folks from the Wisdom Ranger District did an awesome job this summer stopping three lightning-caused fires on, or near our trail system **before** they could get rolling and do major damage. Also, at the September workday, thanks to Arlee, Walker and Dean for coming up and being part of the crew. Thanks again.

Special thanks to Jeanie Lippert for giving us a safe place to store our equipment trailer and Allen and Judy Meyers for putting our Club pickup in their garage.

If I have forgotten someone, it is because of C.R.S. (can't remember stuff)! Have a great fall, enjoy the beauty of our Valley and we will see you on the trails.

/s/ Gordon

### 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, 2006 - Oct. 31, 2007

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 \_\_\_\_\_

### BITTERROOT XC SKI CLUB

|                                        |                                                                                         |          |
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| Warming Hut Reservations (USFS Wisdom) |                                                                                         | 689-3371 |