



SKI TRACKS

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



OCTOBER 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Given this beautiful fall weather, it's hard for me to realize that we'll be on skis in just a couple of months. But, we've had snow on the Como's at least twice and the larch are starting to turn so winter can't be too far off.

Thanks to all the thirty or so Club members who turned out for the workday on Sept. 6. The wood crew had worked all summer and had an enormous supply of wood cut and ready for splitting. So, between the workday crew and two hydraulic splitters, we restocked the cabin wood supply for the winter, which was sorely needed. The cabin was rented quite a bit this summer and the bare walls in the basement testified to the popularity of the fire ring outside.

A special thanks on work day to Joe Rousoff, who with Earl Phillips' help, painted and sealed the outside of the outhouse, re-varnished the floor in the loft, painted the floors downstairs and sealed steps, rails and most of the outside decks. Thanks, also, to Karen Phillips for washing and pressing all the curtains.

The potluck lunch, which is always good, somehow seemed even better this year. It could have been the record amount of wood we split and stacked this year, it could have been the company or it could have been the cooks; but for all those reasons, don't miss it next year.

Many thanks again to the wood crew who worked so hard all summer and were at it again today bucking and stacking logs for next year's work day.

We should all be proud of what the Club has done at Chief Joseph but one of the things I'm most grateful for is the chance to do some fun work in a beautiful place with a great group of people in a project that benefits the community.

In responding to magazines' request for information this summer, I directed them to Ron Watter's book "Winter Tales and Trails" which has a section on the Club's work at Chief Joe. Ron, who writes nationally on cross country skiing, said this about our trails — "if there is really an elixir of life, then skiing here, in the crisp, rarefied air of Chief Joseph Pass, comes as close as anything to the real thing." Thank goodness it won't be long now.

So, don't forget the drawing for the cabin is at our next meeting on October 9 at 7 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church. Remember that dues must be paid up before you can draw.

Get out for a larch hike or two and see you at the meeting.

/s/ George

MEETING

October 9, 2008 7:00 p.m.

**Presbyterian Church
Main Street, Hamilton**

Program:

Sign up for Gordon Reese warming hut hosting dates.

Must be present for sign-up.

Must have dues paid up to date

Trail Report

Another Successful Annual Work Day.

Our ever faithful core group of volunteers (you know who you are) showed up with great enthusiasm and exceptional food for our Annual Work Day on September 6th. An extra rick of wood was readied in the basement for our winter hosts and a record amount split and stacked for later use. Thanks to Jeane Lippert and Bill Stoudt for the loan of their splitters. And thanks to all of you who diligently worked to assure no one would get cold at the hut for a long time.

On September 25, a much smaller, but equally dedicated group spent the day salvaging more of the hazard trees previously felled. Trying to keep as much as possible from going to waste is indeed challenging.

Still some trail work to be done but we'll be ready come the ski season, which from looking at the hills, isn't far away.

We're looking forward to another great snow year. Get your skis ready.

/s/ Mel Mooers

ADVANCE ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be a silent auction at the next meeting, 13 November. Come to the 9th October meeting prepared to sign up with an item to donate. This is not only a way to raise money for the Club, but it is also a way to get some really great items such as wickedly rich cheesecake, hand-made wines, rare crafted goods, etc. So, get busy and schedule some cheesecake baking!! Did I mention cheesecake?

/s/ Editor Pat

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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