

SKI TRACKS

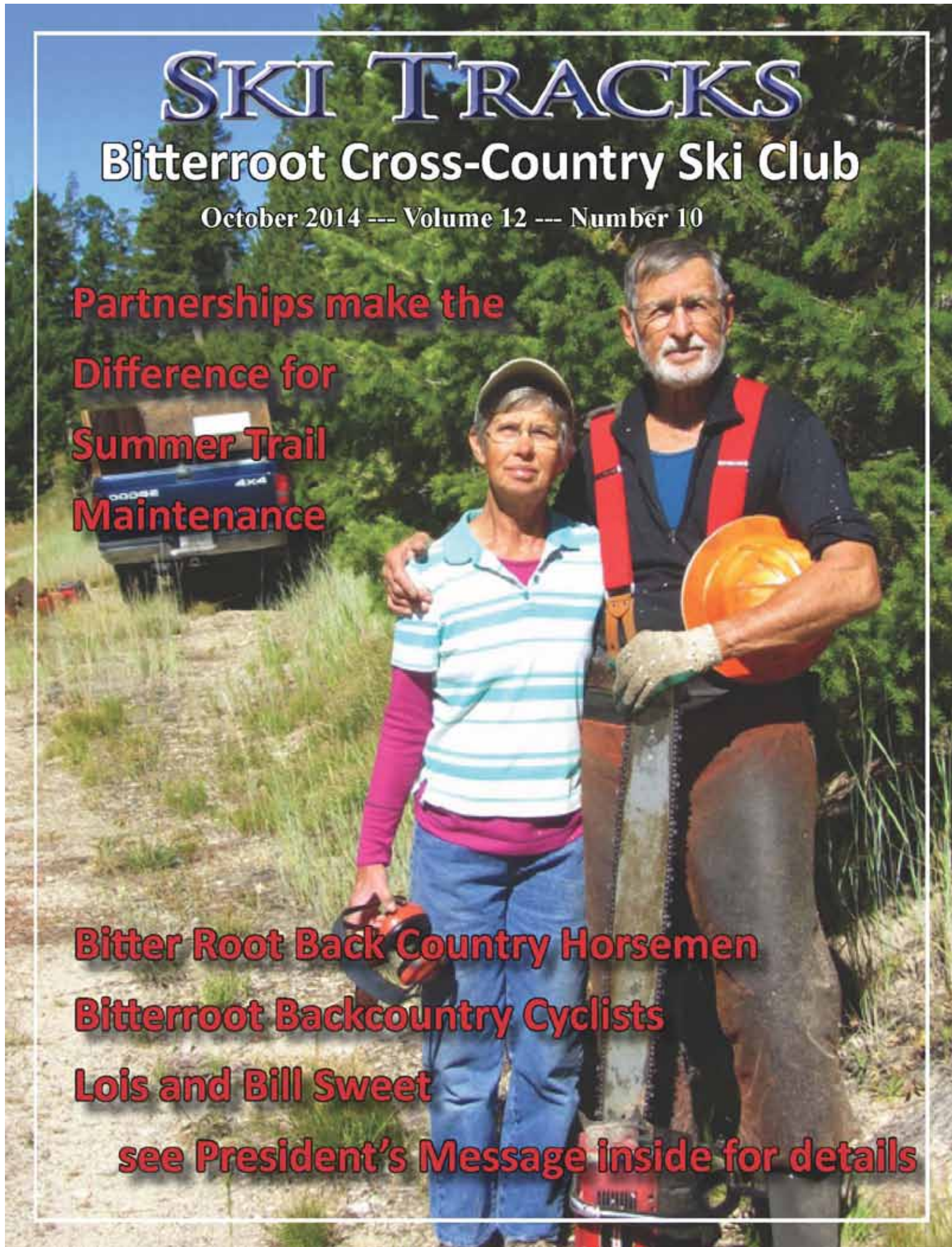
Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club

October 2014 --- Volume 12 --- Number 10

**Partnerships make the
Difference for
Summer Trail
Maintenance**

**Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen
Bitterroot Backcountry Cyclists
Lois and Bill Sweet**

see President's Message inside for details



President's Message

It's October already – where did the summer go? Most gardens have been harvested and nights are beginning to feel chilly. It won't be long now before we'll be skiing. Most years, snow begins to fall (and stick) by mid-November and the Chief Joseph Trail System is skiable sometime during December, some years by Thanksgiving.

Most of you will remember last winter's great skiing during December and January – the Chief Joseph Trail System was the only cross-country ski area for miles with adequate snow. But then, February's epic and almost continuous snowfalls made grooming almost impossible. Skiing remained possible only because of the grooming performed by the large PistenBully snow machine supplied by the Lost Trail Downhill Ski Area. However, Lost Trail's PistenBully was too wide to groom many of the ski trails so the number of groomed trails dropped drastically.

Fortunately, over the summer Lost Trail purchased a narrower machine which will fit on the Chief Joseph Trails. That machine will be used this coming ski season (2014-15) to groom all the trails at Chief Joseph Pass.



THIS IS THE MACHINE THAT WILL BE GROOMING OUR TRAILS NEXT SEASON. IT WILL HAVE 2 TRACK-SETTERS ATTACHED BEFORE DELIVERY TO LOST TRAIL.

Using a large PistenBully grooming machine to groom will help in three obvious ways.

- Our grooming crew will have to spend very little time riding snowmobiles this coming winter. Instead, each groomer will be riding shotgun in the heated comfort of an enclosed cab.
- Trail grooming will require a single pass rather than the 2-3 required during past winters. That saves fuel and time.
- No matter how big the snowfalls, the PistenBully will be able to groom with ease.

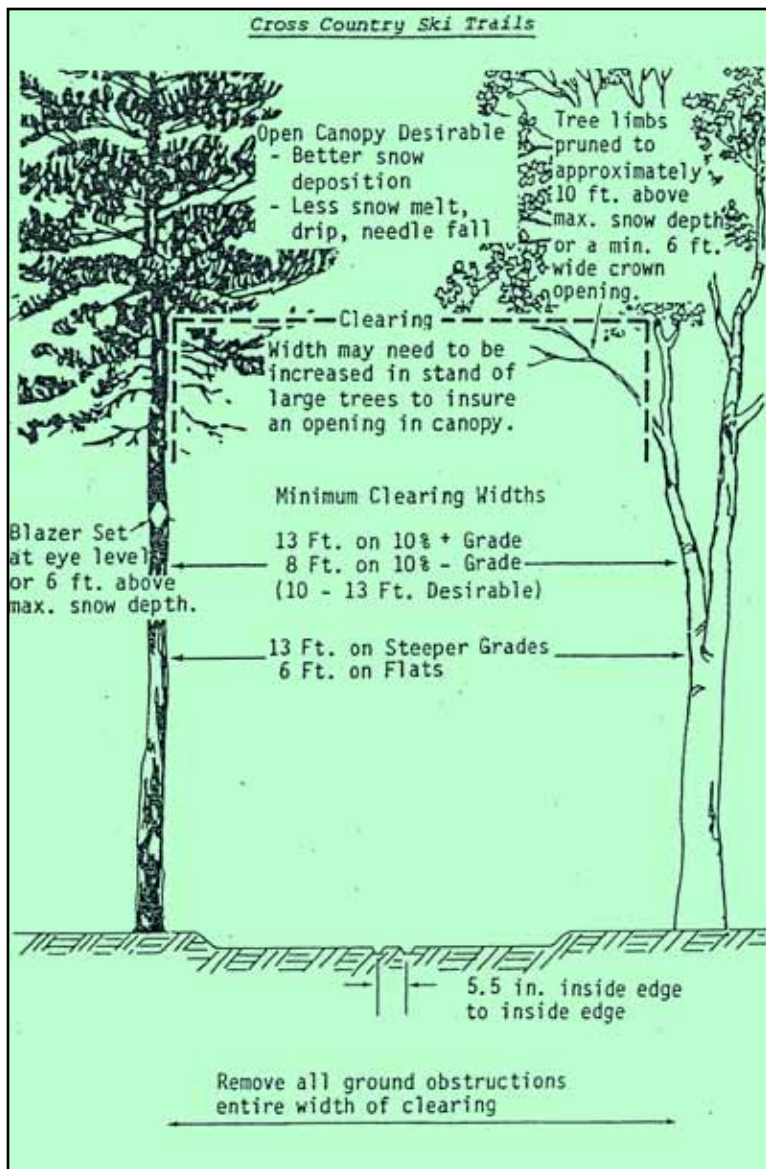
A substantial amount of trail maintenance was required to ensure all the ski trails would accommodate the new snow-grooming machine. Most of that work was needed to recover the original width of the roads in the system which the newer multi-use and skate ski trails follow. Over 350 hours of time by Ski Club members were required to complete that task.

In addition, members of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen volunteered more than 50 hours of their time to help remove deadfall, mostly lodgepole pine trees, from a section of road that now extends the north end of the Overlook Trail to Gibbons Pass. The Back Country Horsemen cleared half of the new section while Ski Club members cleared the other half. Some members of the Bitterroot Backcountry Cyclists also helped with the clearing. It was truly a group effort. Everyone who worked that day was treated to barbeque ribs supplied by the Back Country Horsemen. Yum!

Because of the maintenance that had been performed on Chief Joseph's classic trails over the past three years, those trails did not require nearly as many volunteer hours in preparation for the new grooming machine. Thanks to the hard work completed during 2012 by a few of the Club's expert sawyers, Mel Moers, Bill Sweet, and Jim Aronson, the lower trails, Banshee, Joseph Creek, and Middle Fork required nothing more than the removal of a few hazard and fallen trees.

It's beneficial to remember that two things are required to keep an organization such as ours in operation, volunteers (hours invested) and money. Each year thousands of people benefit from our Club's volunteer efforts, free skiing at Chief Joseph Pass during the winter and use of the trail system during the summer.

As is the case with most all-volunteer organizations, there is a core group of our Club's members who volunteer



TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEW PISTENBULLY AND TO MEET "DESIRABLE" FOREST SERVICE STANDARDS, TRAILS HAVE BEEN WIDENED (12' - 13').

copious amounts of time to complete the never-ending tasks required to keep our organization viable. Many thanks are due those members. Without their continued efforts our Club would cease to exist.

However, if you, for whatever reason, are unable to volunteer time, you can still help the Club. Continued membership dues and monetary donations are always needed. Taking care of ski trails is not cheap. When possible our Club seeks grant money to help cover costs. But annual membership dues and generous donations continue to cover a substantial portion of the Club's annual operational costs. Please, give freely and often!

Mike Hoyt

Michael.hoyt@gmail.com



Club members who volunteered their time to help clear trails this year are:

<p> Diane Hipp David Hipp Annie Creighton Tony Neaves Randy Leavell Keri Leavell Kelly Zeiler Wendy Woods Jim Greenfield Mike Hoyt Linda Hoyt Mel Holloway Dave Spildie Howard Whitford Joe Rousoff Chad DuVall Rich Buchanan Karen Philips Brad Pollman </p>	<p> Nancy Pollman Bill Sweet Lois Sweet Randall Schmitt Eve-Marie Maggi Marrea Mathews Jill Davies Linda Stoudt Werner Gottschalk Nancy Gottschalk Bill Peters Paul Wolzak Deb Duffy Barb Schumaker Bob Schumaker Bettie Rhodes Judy Young Ginny Deck Larry Johnson </p>
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the new Map is coming together

and should be out
earlier this year. **We
are looking for help
with distribution!**

If you would like
to volunteer (**or
volunteer someone
else**) please contact
Jim Greenfield
at 363-2110 or
jkgreenfield@q.
com or **sign up
at the October
meeting on the
9th.**

Your help is



appreciated!

The plan is to have maps available in early November
and distribution done before Thanksgiving to have
them in place on December 1 when the season starts.



BILL AND LOIS SWEET, TWO LONG-TIME CLUB MEMEBERS VOLUNTEERED MANY HOURS OF THEIR TIME TO HELP WITH THE TRAIL WORK THE LAST COUPLE OF MONTHS. SAY "THANKS," THIS WINTER WHEN YOU SEE THEM ON THEM SKIING. WITHOUT THE GENEROSITY OF PEOPLE LIKE BILL AND LOIS, OUR SKI CLUB AND THE TRAILS AT CHIEF JOSEPH PASS WOULD CEASE TO EXIST!



THE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN, BITTERROOT BACKCOUNTRY CYCLISTS, & BITTERROT CROSS-COUNTRY SKI CLUB MEMBERS FORMED A PARTNERSHIP TO CLEAR TRAIL AT CHIEF JOSEPH PASS.

Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club

BINDINGS AT TOURING POLES NORDIC



WAX CLINIC

An introduction to why waxing for kick and for glide continues to provide the ultimate in performance and how properly waxed skis enable longer glides with less effort. Learn about wax alternatives, application, and base maintenance.

AND

EQUIPMENT REVIEW

Do you have the right equipment for what you want to do? Does your new skill level deserve an upgrade? What works best on groomed or ungroomed trails? What about backcountry touring?

Tony Neaves and Randy Leavell have years of experience to share and ignite the season. Bring your questions to learn from the experts and get your equipment ready now!



BC TOURING SKATE TELEMARK BOOTS

7:00 - Thursday - October 9 - Everyone welcome
Presbyterian Church - 1220 West Main

Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club Officers

President Michael Hoyt michael.hoyt@gmail.com 406-360-3803	Vice President Kelly Zeiler krz-inc@live.com 406-363-8631	Treasurer Reine Hilton hilton@mcn.net 406-375-1952	Secretary Marrea Mathews mmathews5@aol.com 406-381-8377
Trails & Grooming Mel Holloway tromper@bitterroot.com 406-381-1334	Programs & Map Jim Greenfield jkgreenfield@q.com 406-363-2110	Webmaster Jack Cooley jackc@jcphotography.com 970-227-1360	Membership Data Earl Philips philips@montana.com 406-369-0073
	Youth Coordinator Richard Stone rstone1@msn.com 406-642-9648	Ski Lessons George Corn gcorn@bresnan.net 406-363-1163	

Membership Renewals / Dues

Annual Memberships Expire on November 1st of each Year

Please Renew Your Membership Now

Family - \$25

Supporting Family - \$40

Individual - \$15

Supporting Individual - \$30

Mail To: Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club, PO Box 431, Corvallis, MT 59828-0431

Name (families, please include childrens names): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Email (to receive monthly newsletters): _____

Type of Membership (see above): _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____