



# SKI TRACKS

Newsletter of the Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club

Box 431 • Corvallis, Montana 59828

September, 2005



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Ski Club members;

We will start our fall 2005 season Saturday, September 17, with our annual work day at Chief Joseph Ski Area. We will do our annual cleanup and maintenance on the Hut and surrounding area, move three or more cords of firewood into the basement, dig a few post holes and clean up the 2 miles of highway 43 for which we have responsibility. The highway cleanup will take about 4 people and we will have bags and vests at the Hut. Ed and Ann Curran have been performing this duty for many years and will not be able to continue so we need a person to take over the coordination duties as well as the cleanup this fall. This stretch of road gets very little trash so the work is quickly accomplished.

We will start work at 10:00 am at the Hut and the gate will be open to drive in. We will have a potluck lunch so bring dishes to share, table service including silverware, and your beverage of choice. If the weather is nice we could eat outside so bring chairs also.

We will have a short business meeting to make two important decisions. We will have bids from car dealers from Hamilton to Missoula to sell us a used pickup for hauling the groomers and snowmobiles to Chief Joseph. Your truck committee has been busy this summer applying for grants, designing a bid form, getting it distributed to dealers and working with Bitterroot RC&D as our fiscal agent for grants and donations. The RC&D has been a great help to us and I will provide you with the results of our fund raising in a different section. The truck committee will have a proposal for the pickup purchase ready for a vote at this meeting and we plan to start the purchase process September 19. This is an exciting time and I want to thank all of you that have donated to this project.

The second decision concerns replacing all the trail junction maps. The present maps are old, not completely accurate and falling apart. Gordon Reese has been working on this project this summer and has a proposal to present for the purchase of new maps for around \$2000. If we decide to do this the maps can be completed and installed this fall.

Our fall work party is always a lot of fun and we have a lot to celebrate this year. I hope you can join us at Chief Joseph September 17 at 10:00am.

Well folks, in baseball terms we are batting a 1000 with our grant applications. Lets back up to last winter—the Club decided to raise funds to purchase a pickup for hauling the grooming equipment and groomers to Chief Joseph. We launched a fund raising campaign, appointed a truck committee and decided to dedicate \$5000 of Club funds for the truck. We also asked Bitterroot RC&D to be our fiscal agent to receive funds (tax deduction purposes) and for grant applications. We had a little over \$2000 donated through the RC&D and \$4380 donated directly to the Club. We really can make it happen when we want to can't

## ANNUAL WORK DAY

**SATURDAY , SEPTEMBER 17, 2005**

**CHIEF JOSEPH SKI AREA**

**(See Message from President for details)**

we? We applied to the National Forest Foundation (NFF) for a \$7500 matching grant and we received the grant and the money is sitting in our account at the RC&D office. We also applied for a \$3000 straight grant from the Bitterroot Resource Advisory Committee with \$1500 for the pickup and \$1500 for the trail junction maps and we were approved for that grant August 23. We must have projects that are deemed valuable by a number of people!

We are deeply indebted to: The Bitterroot RC&D; The National Forest Foundation; The Bitterroot Resource Advisory Committee and all of the Club members and non Club members that donated to this effort!

The truck committee has developed and distributed a bid form to ten dealers from Hamilton to Missoula. They decided to cap the amount available to spend for the pickup at \$17,500. The bids are due back to me by September 9. The committee will meet September 12 to narrow the options, view the pickups and prepare a proposal for the September 17 meeting at the hut.

The funding math goes like this: NFF grant—\$7500 + \$8500 from Club (\$6000 in donations and \$2500 from Club funds) and \$1500 from the Bitterroot RAC. This totals \$17,500 as the maximum amount we will spend. If you have any questions give me a call.

We have had a great funding campaign, thanks to you, and the last and exciting step is to select the pickup that will serve us for the next 20 plus years.

Sonny LaSalle, Club President

## HARD COPY NEWSLETTERS FOR THIS ISSUE

Toddy Perryman, who usually send out the e-mail ski club newsletters is out of town. Therefore, all members will receive their newsletter via USPS.



## 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**

MAIL TO: Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club

P.O. 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

HAND COPY NEWSLETTERS FOR THIS ENTRY

They returned, we newly sent out the e-mail list. Newsletter is out now. Thank you all members who made their newsletter via USPS.



**Subject: Fw: Forest Plan response**

**Date: Tue, 23 Aug 2005 10:23:08 -0600**

**From: "LaSalles" <lasalmom@montana.com>**

**To: "Dan Driscoll" <driscold@in-tch.com>**

Dan please include this in the newsletter & I will send you more tomorrow. Sonny

Ski Club members—The letter below is the official Club response to the Beaverhead Forest concerning the Forest Plan. I am including this in the September newsletter to inform you of our response and also to encourage you to respond individually. The deadline is September 30, 2005 so time is short. You may use any or all of this letter or develop your own, but it is important to respond to the Plan that can have a significant impact on our area. For email responses send them to [comments@in-beaverhead-deerlodge@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments@in-beaverhead-deerlodge@fs.fed.us) and for snail mail send them to Marty Gardner, Beaverhead National Forest, 420 Barrett Street, Dillon, MT 59725. Thanks in advance for taking the time to express your opinions. Sonny

----- Original Message -----

From: LaSalles

To: Dennis Havig

Cc: Judy LaSalle

Sent: Monday, August 01, 2005 10:50 AM

Subject: Forest Plan response

Dennis, please consider this as an official response to the proposed forest plan for the Beaverhead--Deerlodge National Forests from the Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club. I am sending this to you so that you will know our position, and I am asking you to forward it to the appropriate person on the planning team.

The management emphasis (page 95) for the Chief Joseph Ski Area is for non motorized quiet recreation except for snowmobile use for grooming and other administrative activities. This is excellent and we totally support this action. It appears that the same area is open to motorized use during the non winter months and we believe it should have a non motorized emphasis both winter and summer. The Warming Hut is a very popular cabin rental in the summer and the hiking and mountain bike riding is increasing each year as the "word" spreads. The Trail Cr Road and Gibbons Pass Road provide ample opportunity for the motorized user, and the area between them and highway 43 should remain closed to motorized recreation use. There is also the issue of security for the Hut and motorized use in the area would significantly increase the chance of vandalism. The presence of the Continental Divide Scenic Trail through this area is further rationale for a non motorized recreation experience. The Chief Joseph area is managed by three National Forests and two Regions and we sincerely hope that all of you are coordinating your revised forest plans for this area. It appears that the Anderson Mountain area is closed to motorized recreation use both winter and summer (we appreciate that emphasis), and we strongly support that same emphasis for the north side of highway 43.

The Ski Club also has an interest in the management emphasis for the May Creek Area as we donated over 500 hours to renovate the May Creek Cabin. We support the non motorized emphasis for this area during the summer months and we suggest that the same emphasis be applied during the winter months. This area gets a significant amount of winter cross country ski use and little snowmobile use, and it doesn't make much sense to deliberately mix the two uses and create potential conflicts where they don't exist at the present time.

Dennis, we are convinced that the best way to deal with the escalating conflicts between motorized and non motorized users of the national forests is to prevent them from starting by separating the uses as early as possible and keeping them separated. The areas of concern mentioned above are small in comparison to the vast areas open to motorized use, and they do not provide a quality motorized recreation experience. Consequently, motorized use is light in both areas and closures should not be too controversial. Again, prevention and separation are the best tools to deal with the user conflicts occurring in many national forests.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed revised forest plan and we hope our comments are useful and prudent.

Sincerely,

Veto J "Sonny" LaSalle  
President, Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club