



# SKI TRACKS

## Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club

December 2014 — Volume 12 — Number 12

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view is southwest from the Overlook trail

## President's Message

Ski season is finally here! This is the time when all the hard trail work invested by volunteers during the off-season pays off. Many of you pushed the beginning of the season and have already skied on the Chief Joseph Trail System. Hopefully the rest of us have our skis waxed and ready.

The area around Chief Joseph Pass has already received three or more feet of snow. Our grooming crew spent a day rolling some of the classic trails and Lost Trail's PistenBully machine spent time working the trails. By the time you read this, all the trails should be in near-perfect condition.

Obviously it will take a while for the operators of the PistenBully to learn the trails system. During that time, expect some variation in where classic tracks are set (or not). Be patient. It will work out.

The change from using snowmobiles to grooming with a PistenBully will provide a couple of benefits that everyone should appreciate. First, those pesky sharp turns on the side-hill sections of Lost Trail and Vista View Trails will be much easier to negotiate. Once there is enough snow, those trail sections will be level from side-to-side. That was something which was impossible to accomplish with snowmobile grooming equipment. Second, this winter it really won't matter how large of snowfalls Chief Joseph Pass receives. The PistenBully machine will be able to handle it. Remember the trouble the snowmobiles had dealing with huge snowfalls last February? That should be a thing of the past!

Each week, Lost Trail will groom the trails either late Thursday or early Friday, depending upon the then-current weather forecast. And, if significantly more snow should fall after grooming is completed, the trails will be worked again to help ensure they remain skiable all weekend.

The trail system at Chief Joseph Ski Area has been significantly expanded over the past few years, to include not only the 13+ miles (*22.3 kilometers*) of traditional classic-style trails, but 19+ miles (*30.6 kilometers*) of multi-use trails appropriate for skate skiing, dog sledding, snow shoeing, fat-tire biking, and snowmobiling. Employing the services of Lost Trail's PistenBully to groom the trails will ensure that, as long as the pass receives snow, the entire system will remain in the best condition possible during the entire season, December 1st to April 15th.

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The December 11th meeting is a potluck dinner. Bring your favorite dish, plates and utensils. Apple juice and water will be provided. We hope to see you there!

The election of officers will also take place during the December meeting. Reine Hilton has agreed to stand again for Club Treasurer and I've agreed to continue as Club President if re-elected. If you wish to run for either of those offices, please let one of the Club's current officers know so your name can be added to the ballot.

Sometimes we have a difficult time finding you. If you change your mailing or email address, please notify Earl Philips so he can make changes to our records. Reach him at [Philips@montana.com](mailto:Philips@montana.com) or by phone at 406-961-0073.





# Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club

program presentation

## Hypothermia and Localized Cold Injury

...an interactive talk about the  
risks, appearance, and treatment

**WILDERNESS IN WINTER  
ARE YOU PREPARED?**

**LAWRENCE D BROUWER, MD**



Dr. Brouwer, a Family Physician, and his wife Kathleen Harder-Brouwer, MD have been in Hamilton since 2001 with their private practice, Ravalli Family Medicine.

6:00 - Annual Potluck Dinner - Everyone welcome

7:00 Meeting - Thursday - December 11

Presbyterian Church - 1220 West Main

## **Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club Board Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2014

**In attendance:** Michael Hoyt, Kelly Zeiler, Reine Hilton, Marrea Mathews, Mel Holloway, Jim Greenfield, George Corn, Richard Stone, Earl Phillips, Jack Cooley

**Call to order:** 6:30pm

Mike reported the Lower Loop Trail at Chief Joseph was not cut out; hence it will be used mainly by backcountry skiers. New trail map signs will cost \$1000. Mike made the motion to make the signs; it was seconded by Mel and passed by the committee.

Mel and Mike exchanged the kiosk signs. Track will be set the first of December.

The grooming contact between the club and Scott Grasser (operator of the PistenBully) has been signed. But agreements between the Club and the Forest Service (Volunteer Agreement) and Scott and Forest Service (Challenge Cost Share Agreement) are not yet signed. They are waiting for the Forest Service to prepare the contracts.

**Map Coordinator:** Jim Greenfield has the 2014-2015 maps designed and printed. They have been distributed. Jim is reaching out to someone to distribute the maps in Butte.

**Web Master:** Jack Crowley explained the need to update Word Press and the need for a member to take over the Web Master position. Jack and his wife, Jill, are moving back to Colorado.

**Youth Activities:** Richard Stone has set January 28-29 for ski classes for students and will need volunteers to help out. More sessions with students are expected to be on the calendar soon.

**Treasurer Report:** We have collected enough income to cover our expenses at this time. The board decided \$500 will be prepaid at Conoco Gas Station for grooming fuel.

**Membership:** Earl reported the membership is currently 92. There is a concern maintaining life members in the data base. Some have failed to keep the club informed of their contact information. Life members whose newsletters are returned with no other means of updating their contact info will be dropped from the database. They will be reinstated if contact info is provided.

Members are responsible for updating their membership. The first of February is the deadline for contacting the club to keep members contact/ mailing information current. The board voted to allow 2 years to continue sending notices after the last year dues are paid. After that, members will be dropped from the database.

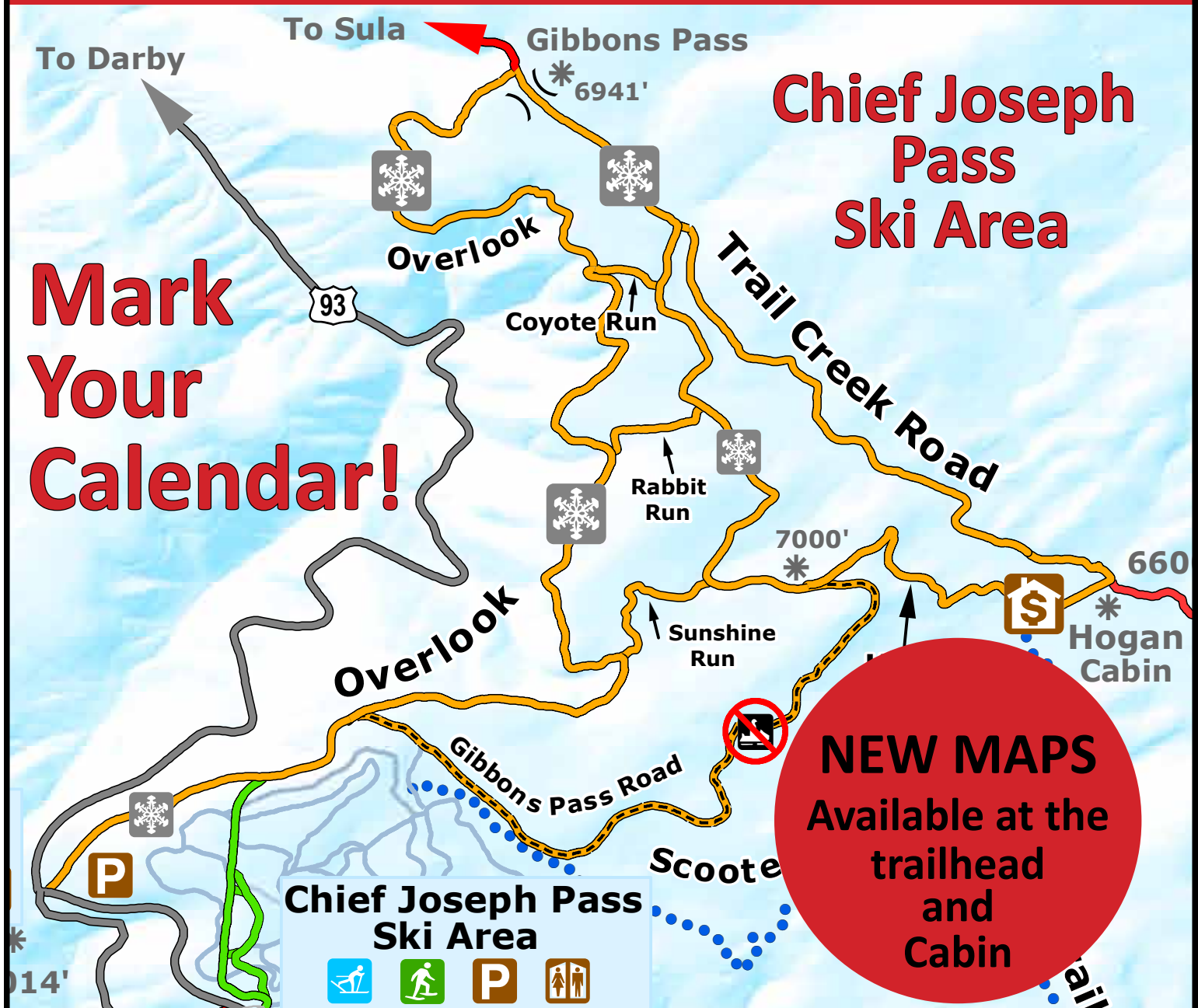
Businesses will remain in the database as long as they have paid their membership or supported the BXCSC trail map.

The meeting closed at 6:25

**These minutes were prepared by:** Marrea Matthews

# TOUR THE DIVIDE - FREE Special Trail Tours

SEE 30.6K (19 MILES) OF NEW MULTI-USE TRAILS



Tours begin 11:00AM - Gordon Reese Cabin

Saturday - December 20th

Call Tony for more information: 381-3943

Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club

## **Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2014

**Number attending:** 49

**Mike Hoyt** opened the meeting by welcoming new attendees.

**Membership:** Earl Phillips informed the members to keep their email address updated. Currently there are 240 members in the database. This is about the same as last year at this time

**Treasurer Report:** Reine Hilton reported the treasury is in good standing. Mike explained that throughout the year it looks like the treasury is in the hole, but once reimbursements from grants are received, the club recovers its expenditures.

**Trails and Grooming Coordinator:** Mel Holloway announced the team will soon start rolling and compacting the trails. Tracks will be set beginning December 1st. It was clarified the skiing is still good before the tracks are laid down.

**Mike** reported the Lower Loop of the trails at Chief Joseph was not cut out this year to accommodate the PistenBully. So it may not be groomed this winter if it is determined the groomer will not fit. If not groomed, the loop will still be good for backcountry skiing.

**Mike** reported new metal signs will soon be placed at all the intersections on the multi-use trails. We're waiting for the signs to be completed by the sign shop.

**Bill Peters** presented the 2015 Audubon Calendar, a wonderful souvenir of the Bitterroot. It features the work of local photographers and student artists. It costs \$15. The proceeds stay in the Bitterroot Audubon Education, Conservation and Scholarship Fund.

**Web Master:** Jack Cooley asked for a volunteer to take over maintaining the web site. He and his wife are moving back to Colorado.

**Mike** announced the meeting next month, December 11, is the club's potluck dinner; it will start at 6:00PM. Bring a dish to share. Also, elections for president and treasurer will be held. Please make it known should you wish to serve. Mike Hoyt and Reine Hilton both have agreed to continue to serving in their current capacities, Mike as president, Reine as treasurer.

**Map Coordinator:** Jim Greenfield announced the 2015 maps are available and have been distributed. Please support and thank the sponsors.

**Youth Activities:** Richard Stone asked for volunteers to help with the ski lessons for the valley school children.

**Program Director:** Jim Greenfield introduced Richard Layne. Richard shared his story and photos of his trials and tribulations of winter travels especially negotiating the Continental Divide through Glacier National Park via Browns Pass and Hole in the Wall during the winter. He autographed and sold his book Inaccessible.

**The meeting closed** at 8:25 pm.

***These minutes were prepared by:*** Marrea Matthews





# Avalanche Transceiver Training & Hot Dog Roast December 14, 2014

IF YOU EVER HAVE THE MISFORTUNE TO BE INVOLVED IN AN AVALANCHE,  
YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO READ THE INSTRUCTION MANUAL FOR YOUR  
TRANSCIVER: YOUR REACTION HAS TO BE AUTOMATIC,  
AND THAT MEANS TRAINING AND PRACTICE

The Western Montana Avalanche Center and the Bitterroot Ridgerunners Snowmobile Club will host a transceiver training session at Hogan's Meadow starting at 12 noon on Sunday, December 14. This is a great opportunity to learn how to use your transceiver and conduct a search for an avalanche victim. The class is free and the public is invited to participate. Hotdogs provided – bring your own beverage.

Where: Hogan's Meadow, just east of Hogan's Cabin

When: 12 Noon, Sunday, December 14

Contact: Lee Scharff, 370-0849



# Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club Officers

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

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**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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_