

SKI TRACKS

Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club

January 2016 — Volume 14 — Number 1

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**Summiting Mexican Volcanoes
with Bob Schmaker**

President's Message

The last month of 2015 has come and gone and skiing on the Chief Joseph Pass Ski Trails has been terrific. Thanks to the hard work of our grooming crew and the use of Lost Trail's PistenBully, the large snowfalls during December were dealt with quickly and effectively.

Scott Grasser deserves special recognition and thanks for offering the use of Lost Trail Powder Mountain's PistenBully and working with our Club to make it happen. Although it may not always be to Powder Mountain's financial benefit, Scott continues to help make Lost Trail and Chief Joseph Passes "The Best Place for Winter Recreation."

While heavy snowfalls continued for several days last month, it was sometimes difficult to get in and out of the trailhead parking lot for a couple of days; however, the trails were usually groomed to perfection. All trails are now open for use and have been for the last several weeks.

For several years now, the volunteer spirit, once a hallmark of the Bitterroot Ski Club, has been gradually disappearing. If the Ski Club is going to continue, that trend must reverse.

It takes far more than our shared wish to ski on groomed trails once or twice each week to keep the Chief Joseph Trail System operating. It requires even more than a willing group of groomers. Often overlooked is a long list of activities and functions, including:

- The need to coordinate grooming activities;
- Taking care of machines and equipment;
- Raising money for operations;
- Keeping track of Club membership;
- Putting together a monthly newsletter;
- Finding ad sponsors and producing the annual trail map;
- Keeping accurate Club records of meetings, decisions, and finances;
- Managing the Club's website and keeping it up to date;
- Producing up-to-date information for the Club's Facebook page and website;
- Keeping the public informed about Club activities;
- Tracking ski trail use;
- Organizing monthly Club meetings presentations and other Club activities;
- Organize summer trail maintenance; and
- The list goes on.

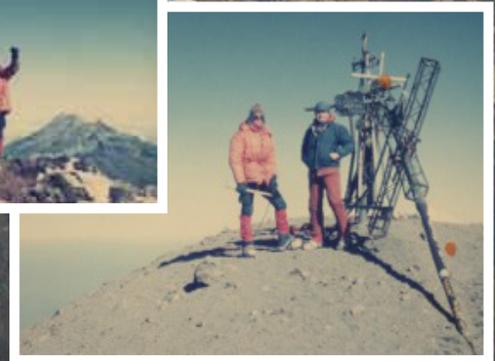
Within a couple of weeks, the Club's Board of Directors will be putting together a committee to address this disturbing and possibly fatal trend. Committee members will have short-term and well-defined assignments.

You may be asked to participate. When asked, please remember that the future of the Club is at stake as is the continuation of free public skiing on the Chief Joseph Ski Trail System.

Michael Hoyt

Summiting Mexican Volcanoes

Popocatepetl and Pico de Orizaba



The Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club hosts a slide show presented by Bob Schumaker on his 1984 travels to climb Popocatepetl, Mexico's highest mountain (18,491') as well as Pico de Orizaba, it's second-highest peak and active volcano (17,802').

Meeting starts 7:00 - Thursday - January 14
Presbyterian Church - 1220 West Main Street - Hamilton
The public is encouraged and welcomed to attend all meetings

Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club

General Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday December 10, 2015

Number attending: about 38

Mike opened the meeting by welcoming all in attendance which included several new people.

Treasurer's Report: Reine reported the deposits from dues are down about \$400 from last season. The total for checking and savings is about \$45,800. At this time the largest expenses are for trail sign and maps. Scott of Lost Trail gets paid \$60/hour which is the rate that is reimbursed from the RTP Grant.

Grooming Report: Mel reported Scott will be grooming the classic trails with the new PistenBully tomorrow (*Friday 12/11/15*). The cut-through trails will be rolled to prepare them for the Piston Bully. Comments were made about the wonderful trail conditions found this past weekend by a few different members. Mel reported that a problematic snowmobile was traded in for a better machine.

President's Report: If you run into anyone who insists on driving snowmobiles or conversion bikes on the ski trails, please inform them they are in a restricted area and, if possible without causing a confrontation, take some pictures of their vehicle including the required license sticker. Pass any information you collect to Mike and he will see that it gets to the proper authorities.

The Bitterroot Mushers (<http://www.bitterrootmushers.org/index.html>) will host the dogsled races January 16 & 17, 2016. This is an incredible sight to witness. Check out their web site later for schedule of each race category.

The Bitterroot Cross Country Ski website and the club's Facebook have the most up-to-date report of the trail/weather conditions at the Chief Joseph Ski Trails.

The forest service is still developing the paper work to transfer the possible maintenance of the Como Trails to the Bitterroot Cross Country Club.

Election results: Kelly Zeiler was reelected as vice-president, and Marrea Matthews was reelected as treasurer.

Membership: Earl Phillips reported the membership is down about 80 members when compared to this time last year. One may join the club through the club website, by mail, or at the monthly meetings.

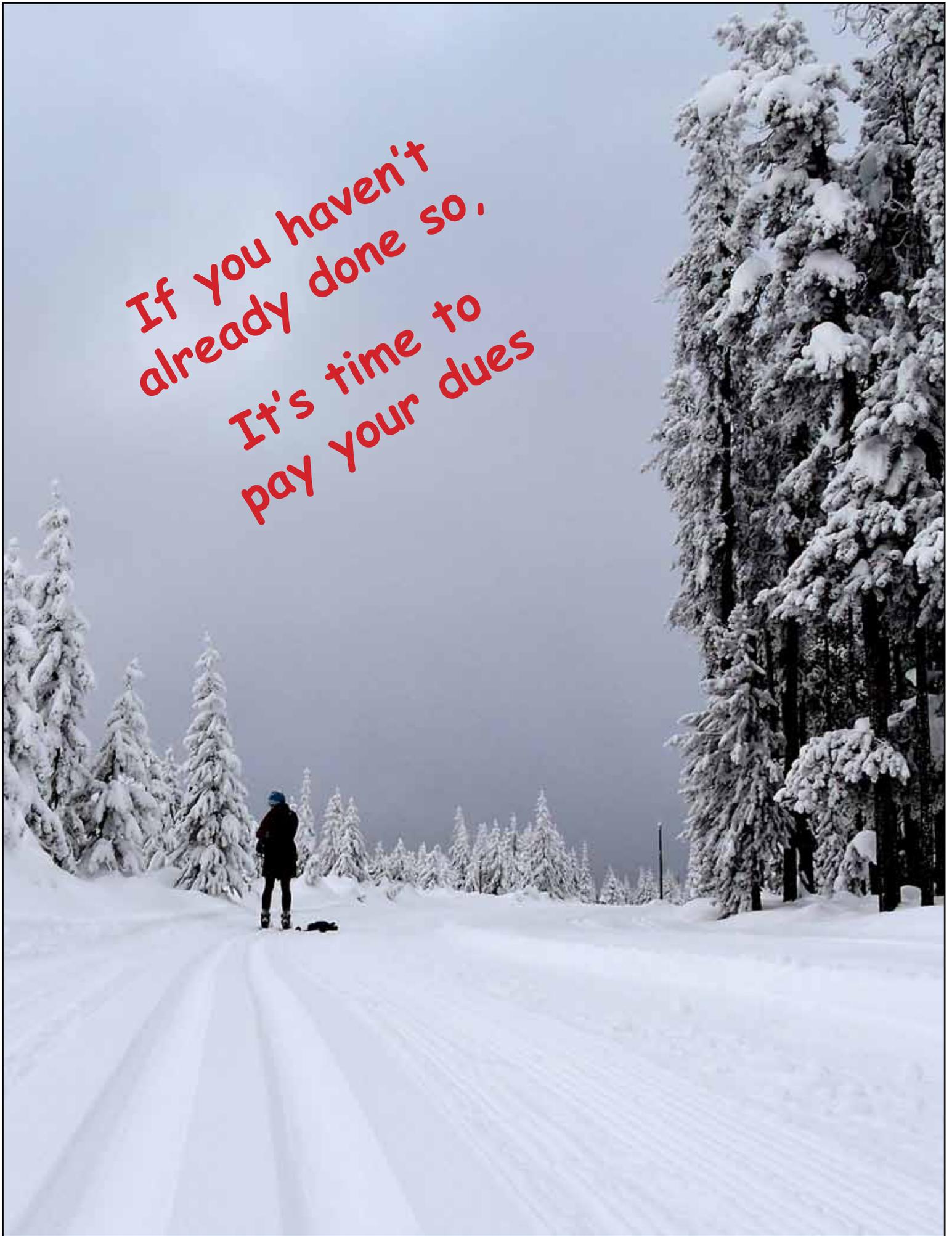
Program: So Much Whisky... So Little Time

Mel and Mary Alice Holloway shared memories of their trip in November to Scotland. Some highlights were the Island of Islay and Jura and their tours of the finer distilleries.

The meeting closed: at 8:10 pm.

Minutes prepared by: Marrea Matthews

If you haven't
already done so,
It's time to
pay your dues



THE GREAT RIMO EXPEDITION: The Biggest Adventure of My Life BY SKIP HORNER

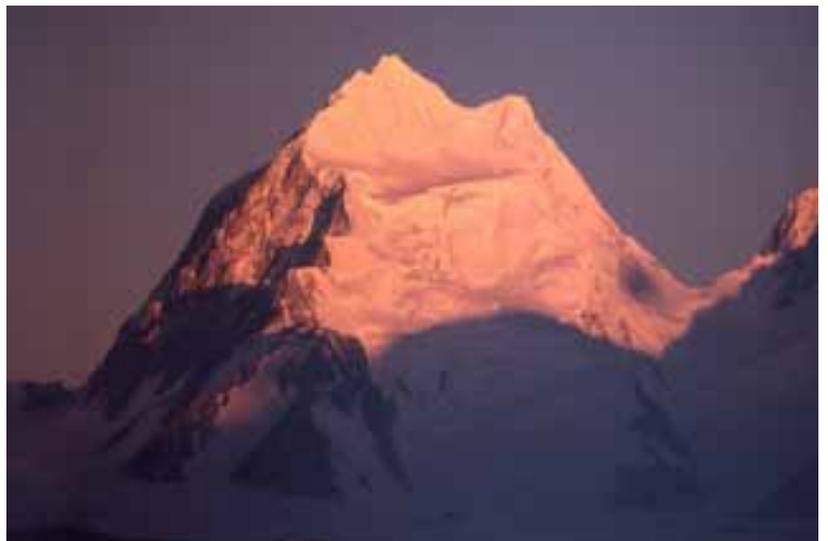
On January 16, 2016, Skip Horner, well-known Adventure Guide, popular lecturer and accomplished photographer will recount one of the most impactful adventures of his life, a program not to be missed.

"It was a multi-national expedition into India's remote and officially inaccessible Eastern Karakorum Mountains to climb Rimo I, 24,230', one of the highest unclimbed peaks in the world at the time, and to raft the wild and un-run Shyok River that drains it. It was a two-month expedition that lasted four months, highlighted by excellent climbing conditions and great camaraderie, but also fractious group in-fighting, and the theft of all of our film and the last morsels of food. Foul weather, government duplicity and intransigence, deceitful support staff, implacable border guards on horseback, and threats of espionage all played a part. It was a grand adventure."

Skip has guided a wide variety of adventures worldwide for over 40 years. He was the first to guide the 7 Summits, the highest mountain on every continent. He led the first descents of over a dozen wild rivers on 5 continents, including the Zambezi, the Indus, and the Yangtse. He has skied the highest peaks in the Arctic and the Antarctic, led camel caravans across the Sahara, and chased solar eclipses across 3 continents.



Join Bitterroot Audubon, Monday, January 18th, 7:00 p.m. at the Forest Service/Natural Resources Building, 1801 North 1st (*north end of Hamilton, west side of HWY 93*) for another of Skip's great adventures. Enter on the west side of the building. **THE PUBLIC IS INVITED.** Contact Kay Fulton (642-3794) for more information





***Bitterroot Mushers
Dog Sled Race
January 16th and 17th***



Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club Officers

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	Youth Coordinator Richard Stone rcstone@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: \$ _____