



SKI TRACKS

Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club

November 2016 — Volume 14 — Number 11

President's Note:

Trail Use is up - Again
Users' grooming
appreciation Strong - Again
We're competitive
for Grants - Again
All we need, for another
great year, is our next
Club President!

November Program:

Angela Saporita,
local Physical Therapist,
leads interactive presentation

Prepare for
Ski Season

Membership Renewals are due:

And, to make it easy, the renewal
form is attached.

And More:

Grooming Trail Maintenance Report
Notes from recent Board and Club meetings

President's Message: A New Leader Is Needed – Rewarding Work for the Next President.

My third term (and six years) of serving as the Club's president ends in December. Thanks to the many members, sponsors, and volunteers who contribute, our Club had another banner year providing free, high-quality, groomed cross country skiing opportunities for everyone.

Our challenge in the year ahead?

It's not finances - - - due to generous members, sponsors, and grantors, we have a strong financial position. The Club received a 2016 RTP (federal Recreation Trails Program) Grant in the amount of \$45,000 to cover grooming costs this winter.

It's not finding volunteers to get work done - - - thanks to enthusiastic members, we have high functioning teams committed to trail maintenance, grooming, and many of our other tasks.

It's not attracting users or assessing our relevancy. Trail use in 2016 exceeded 11,000 user days; that's 2000 more user days than the previous year and 6000 more than five years ago!

It's not related to natural resources or snow conditions! Chief Joseph has some of the most reliably fine x-c ski conditions in Montana or Idaho, and with Scott Grasser's grooming, our ability to provide an excellent winter-long groomed trail system is second to none.

Our challenge is finding a new President – someone willing to step up and provide the leadership needed to support our volunteers and partners. I'll discuss options for the Club to consider at our November meeting, but the short version is: If you value what we've spent the past 30 years building, then consider volunteering to serve as President so high quality, *free* Nordic skiing can continue to be available at Chief Joseph Pass.

Other Observations:

- Once again, **Bill and Lois Sweet** along with **Paul Walzack** have completed an astonishing amount of trail work during this off-season and deserve a big "Thank You" from us all.
- **Diane Lee** is the new meeting coordinator and already has a presentation lined up for each of our meetings. **Edna Blanchfield** will be coordinating the snacks for each club meeting this season. **Karla Schiever and Patrice Loucks** have volunteered to manage the pickup and recording of the trailhead sign-in sheets. **Nan Christianson** has volunteered to be the newsletter editor for this winter. Thanks to each of them for volunteering to help.
- We still need ... someone to handle publicity for our monthly meetings and other events.

It's been a tremendous pleasure to serve as the Club's President, and I look forward to staying involved and skiing even more in 2017.

Mike H.

→ MEMBERSHIPS need renewing - - - a handy form is enclosed or you can renew online at [Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club membership website](#) using PayPal

→ The December meeting will begin at 6:00 pm with a potluck dinner.

Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club
presents

Prepare for Ski Season

Angela Saporita will lead an interactive presentation on flexibility, balance, and strengthening exercises to prepare your body for the ski season. She will stress the importance of pre-season training to reduce injury risk, combat age-related changes in our muscles, tendons and ligaments. Watch, take notes, and wear comfortable clothing!



Angela has a Doctorate of Physical Therapy and is a board-certified Orthopedic Clinical Specialist. She works as a PT at Catalyst Physical Therapy and is owner of Strong Mountain Yoga.

CATALYST
PHYSICAL THERAPY PC


Strong Mountain Yoga

Everyone Welcome - 7:00PM
Thursday - Nov 10
Presbyterian Church - 1220 West Main

Conditions at Chief Joe

Notes from Tony N.

- **Scott Grasser** spent almost 90 hours with a small excavator cleaning up logs and stumps on all of the upper trails last month. This will make it safer for the early season grooming and lessen the chances of damaging the Pisten Bully later in the season.
- **Scott & Tony** spent a couple of days widening the Middle Fork and several other trails while **Bill Sweet and several of his friends** put in quite a few days widening Vista View and Gold Medal Trail. Plus we had the work day with a group of volunteers who trimmed branches on the main trails.
- **Mike Hoyt, Kelly Zeiler, and Mel Holloway** spent a day putting up new signs at a number of intersections.
- The plan is to start packing the trails as soon as there is enough snow to get the machines on without hitting anything under the snow.



Notes from Mike H.

Another ski season is fast approaching. If the NOAA forecast is correct, we should have plenty of snow on the Chief Joseph Ski Trail System.

Skiers have come to expect the grooming at Chief Joseph Pass to be world class and we do not want to disappoint them.

A forest thinning and hazard-tree removal project began during September along the cross-country ski trails located on the Salmon-Challis District—Lost Trail Loop, Broadway, and a portion of the Continental Divide (CD) Trail. Expect that area to look different this winter, definitely more open. The project should be finished by November and definitely by December 1st when the ski area officially opens.

Last spring, the Club received an RTP Grant to pay for a new double-stall outhouse at the Chief Joseph Trailhead parking lot. Unfortunately, the Wisdom Ranger District was not able to complete the installation during this past summer. Maybe next summer?

In addition to that Forest Service project, some of the other trails have had a few trees removed to make it easier for the PistenBully to maneuver through curves and around sharp corners.

There differences are not hugely recognizable difference so unless you have a nearly photographic memory, you may not even notice the changes. You'll simply realize at the end of the day, that the grooming and the trail system just keep getting better!

→ Visit the Bitterroot X-C Ski Club website for [latest weather and trails conditions](#).

Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club Officers and Key Volunteers (some terms end in Dec 2016)

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 live2ridetoo@gmail.com 406-381-8377
Trails & Grooming Mel Holloway tromper@bitterroot.com 406-381-1334	Map Production Jim Greenfield jkgreenfield@q.com 406-363-2110	Webmaster Jesse Crocker jesse@datamongers.net	Membership Data Earl Philips philips@montana.com 406-961-0101
Meetings Diane Lee fit4fun@montana.com 406-546-3848	Youth Coordinator Richard Stone rcstone@msn.com 406-642-9648	Communications: Publicity ? Newsletter Nan Christianson nkcmontana@gmail.com 406-369-0793	Meeting Refreshments Coordinator. Edna Blanchfield Trailhead Sign-in Sheets Coordinators Karla Schiever and Patrice Loucks

Membership Renewals & Dues

Annual Memberships Expire on November 1st of each year
Please renew your membership now

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

Names (families, please include children's names)	
Mailing Address	
Email Address (for monthly newsletter)	
Check Type of Membership <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Family - \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Family - \$40 </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Individual - \$15 <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Individual - \$30 </div>	Amount Enclosed

Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club – March 2016 Board Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Michael Hoyt, Reine Hilton, Marrea Mathews, Mel Holloway, Jim Greenfield, George Corn, Richard Stone

Mike has submitted the RTP Grant for \$45,000 and will know around June if it is awarded.

Trail Conditions: Mel will have an idea of how much more grooming will be needed after he tends the area tomorrow. He suggested a plan to define the expectations for the Pisten Bully and the snow mobiles. It was discussed the advantages of paying by the month or season versus by the hours. It's estimated about 9 hours a day to groom the multi-use and classic trails. All agreed the Pisten Bully provides a superior grooming. For the first time, the trails surpassed 10,000 user days.

The board discussed the correspondence from Russell Riebe, Wisdom District Ranger. After conferring with his supervisor, office staff and volunteer coordinator and reviewing condition reports, Mr. Riebe related the forest service has declined the club's requests to increase the number of maintenance days from 40 to 45 citing loss of impartiality and 80% of the rental surveys indicate the cabin was left clean and in satisfactory condition. However the club is invited to request the forest service set aside nights at the cabin for work days or events such as races or instruction.

Last Meeting: There was discussion of making April the last meeting and having a potluck.**Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club**

March 2016 General Membership Monthly Meeting

Treasurer Report: Reine reported our membership is up \$1000 over this time last year. The donations at trailhead and parking lot are up about \$800. Between checking and savings we have about \$20,000.

Trail Report: The trails will be groomed tomorrow. Future grooming will be temperature and moisture dependent. Hopefully as in the past grooming will continue until mid April depending on weather and number of users. Check the website and Facebook.

Ski Classes: Richard reported 4 school districts have attended the ski lessons. He arranged for Farmer's Bank to support a school that did not have the resources for equipment rental and transportation. Several club members have supported this effort.

The trails have been the best they have ever been. The user days have reached 10,000 for the first time ever.

Diane Lee has agreed to act as the Program Coordinator; Jesse Crocker is willing to act as the Webmaster.

We continue to need volunteers for publicity, trail maintenance next year, pickup sign in sheets, etc.

April 14 will be our last meeting. Locate your best chili recipe for a chili cook-off competition.

Program: In 2011, Jesse Crocker skied 220 miles alone and unsupported through the High Sierras along the John Muir Trail.

These minutes were prepared by: Marrea Matthews