

SKI TRACKS

Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club

January 2017 — Volume 15 — Number 1

Welcome our new Club President:
Introduction from Norman Singley

New Year: Renew **Memberships**
thanks to all who have already renewed

Trailhead **Sign-in Boxes**:
numbers are critical for us to convey
our relevance to potential Grantors

School **Ski Program**:
volunteers needed to help teach local school children

Join us for monthly meeting and **Program**:

**Yellowstone
in Winter**

Epic **Grooming**:
Ski Trails' Condition Report

Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club presents

Yellowstone in Winter



Barb and Bob Schumaker will present a slide show on their cross country ski trip to a Yurt camp in Yellowstone. The Yurt Camp (elevation 8,000 feet) is located in a small meadow surrounded by a pine forest, only one-half mile from the Grand Canyon and Falls of the Yellowstone River. The Yellowstone Skier's Yurt Camp is accessed by a 40 mile snowcoach shuttle from West Yellowstone. Come and enjoy the beauty of Yellowstone National Park in the winter.

Everyone Welcome
Meeting - 7:00PM - Thursday - January 12
Presbyterian Church - 1220 West Main

President's Message

January 2017

Greetings. I am honored to volunteer with the Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club as the next president. The club has a long history of enabling an exceptional winter recreation experience for Western Montana and Idaho, and it is our job as members and volunteers to continue the tradition of providing this opportunity.

My name is Norman Singley. I've lived in Missoula for the past 11 years. I grew up in Pennsylvania, and after a few stops along the way, moved to Missoula in 2005. I work at the University of Montana in the Information Technology department.

In late winter of 2006, I took a trip during spring break from the school where I worked at the time, to visit my uncle in West Yellowstone. Along the way, I stopped for the first time at the Chief Joseph Pass XC ski area. The trails were wonderfully groomed so I spent the day exploring as many as I could. I eventually stopped by "The Hut" to warm up and have a snack. I was blown away by how beautiful this "Hut" was, and what an amazing journey it must have been to construct it through the sheer force of will of volunteers.

I pored over the photo books documenting the construction of the cabin, read the newspaper clippings on the wall describing the club and all the efforts along the years to bring this quiet spot on the top of the pass to become a XC ski area the whole of Western Montana can be proud of. I left that day so happy to have found a place that exemplified so many wonderful ideals – most importantly the ability of good folks with vision and dedication to create something so positive for the community.

Over the years, I've maintained membership in the club and have skied there as often as I can. I've stayed at "The Hut" numerous times over the years. I have so many incredible memories of friends and family celebrating good winter times, skiing every trail at the area, and sharing food and stories.

I've watched with interest as the club's membership has grown, and as the board of directors' and presidents have changed. We have all shared good times and uncertain times as various aspects of management at Chief Joseph has changed. I feel we are in a good spot now, going forward. Our finances are solid, membership is growing, the grooming is better than ever, and there are more user days on the trails every year.

Our challenge going forward, as it is with most volunteer organizations, is continuing to maintain volunteer enthusiasm and the willingness of folks to do the work necessary to keep skiing at the pass as good as it is now, and free. As the current set of volunteers and directors have to move on for various reasons, we need to make sure the membership as a whole steps up to continue our efforts. I believe we can do this.

I embrace the efforts the club has made over the last several years to help bring in additional user groups, welcoming dog sledgers, skate skiers, fat tire bikers, and snowmobiles to the appropriate trails. I am especially proud of the work the club does to introduce schoolchildren to our sport. The more people who use and enjoy this incredible resource, the more folks will understand what an amazing thing we have at Chief Joseph.

I look forward to working with the current Board of Directors, the Forest Service and all the various user groups, and of course our members to help steer the club's direction so we can serve our ultimate purpose: promoting Nordic skiing and other outdoor recreational opportunities.

Since winter is finally here, I invite you to enjoy the trails, ski often, smile, say hello out there on the trails, and work with us to keep Chief Joseph Pass the treasure that it is.

Please always let me know of any suggestions, questions, concerns, etc.

Kick and glide.

Norman Singley, President, BRXC Ski Club.



Trails & Grooming



We may have had a slow start but once the snow started falling, our groomers got busy. Between Chief Joe, the Ridgerunners' trails, and the Fairgrounds, they put in almost 100 hours of grooming in the last 2 weeks of December.

Chief Joe update: Mid-Dec snow falls that contained more moisture finally allowed us to get the Pisten Bully and tracksetter out. The big dump on the 27th of nearly 24" really helped get us up to full speed. By the 30th we were finally able to get the Pisten Bully down into the lower trails, Middle fork, Joseph Creek and Banshee are finally ready to ski.

Much credit for getting the lower trails open is due to Annie Creighton and Chip Fisher for spending many hours ski packing Banshee and Middle fork. They pre-packed by side stepping all of the problem areas, made getting the snowmobiles and Pisten Bully down for the first time much less exciting. **Also a big thanks to Annie, Chip, Randy, Don and Jesse** for donating their time and backs to the effort, it's never an easy job getting the base established to create the ski trails. Could not have gotten it done without all of their efforts.



Fairgrounds update: Re-groomed the skate lanes last night (Fri. 1/6). Tracks are still holding up well. Some thin spots, ski aware! The NWE meter reader accidently made quite a mess out of some of the tracks, did my best to clean it up but some of the ruts are going to be there until we get more snow or it melts to the grass. Anyone see the news coverage on channel 8 last night? It's famous now! Still a great place to get in a quick couple of miles on the skis in this cold weather

Tony Neaves, Trails & Grooming Coordinator

Youth Skiing Coordination

The schools are clamoring for dates to go ski!

So far, the tentative dates are:

January 13th – Corvallis → Need 6 Volunteers to help out!

January 17th – Darby

February 22nd – Salmon

I need 6 volunteers to help out with the Corvallis Schools on January 13th. It's coming up quickly! Please email if you can assist: rcstone1@msn.com

Richard Stone, Youth Ski Coordinator

Memberships

→ SUPPORT ONE OF THE BEST SITES IN MONTANA

Join or renew your membership to the Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club

The Chief Joseph cross-country ski area is noted as a premier site for both skiing and snowshoeing activities. Your membership dollars provide the primary support for maintaining this great site and related activities.

We hold monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. on the second **Thursday** of each month from October to May in the Presbyterian Church lunchroom on 1220 West Main Street, Hamilton.

Your membership helps support a whole host of advantages and winter-time adventures including:

1. Monthly meetings with a wide variety of programs.
2. A monthly newsletter keeping you up to date on happenings.
3. Assurance of weekly groomed trails for your skiing enjoyment.
4. Maps of the Chief Joseph ski trails.
5. An opportunity to take advantage of free ski classes.
6. A place for our children to learn the art of cross-country skiing and winter skills.
7. A web site (www.bitterrootxcskiclub.net) that provides up to date snow conditions and other cross country skiing information.

If you have questions about our club or its activities please contact Earl Philips at (406) 961-0101 or at skihut@montana.com or visit our web site listed above. We are a friendly group and skiing skills range from beginner to very advanced. Ages vary from very young to elderly.

If you have not joined or renewed your membership yet, its easy... you can join or renew your membership by hard copy mail or online:

Hardcopy Renewals – just complete the form attached to the back of the newsletter, and mail it and your check to:

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

Online Renewals – simple as clicking this link:

<http://bitterrootxcskiclub.net/membership/>

You can pay with Paypal, or a credit card.

Thanks and have a great ski season.

Earl Philips, Membership Coordinator

Trail Use & Sign-In Sheets Coordination

Numbers collected so far seem low compared to observed use ... please remember to sign in for everyone in your group each time you ski. These numbers are critical to the success of our grant applications, so thanks – in advance – for taking the time to share your use info!

This year we are tracking daily number of skiers (classic or skate), snowshoes, snowmobiles *and dogs* ... Remember to record the number of dogs in your party. There is also a column for snowmobiles so encourage them to sign in too. If you are on a bicycle - write it in the comments column.

And, Thanks to Bill Sweet and his daughter for fixing the broken sign in collection box at the Chief Joe trailhead.

Patrice Loucks & Karla Schiever, Trail Sign-In Use Coordinators

2017 Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club Officers & Key Volunteers

President Norm Singley normsingley@gmail.com 406-370-3739	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 Annie Creighton Montannie3@gmail.com 406-375-0852	Map Production Jim Greenfield jkgreenfield@q.com 406-499-2842	Webmaster Jesse Crocker jesse@datamongers.net	Membership Data Earl Philips skihut@montana.com 406-961-0101
Equipment Maintenance Mel Holloway tromper@bitterroot.com 406-381-1334	Youth Activities Coordinator Richard Stone rcstone1@msn.com 406-642-9648	Ski Instruction George Corn gcorn@dmlaw.com 406-363-1163	Grant Writer Michael Hoyt Michael.hoyt@gmail.com 406-360-3803
Meeting Presentation Coordinator Diane Lee fit4fun@montana.com 406-546-3848	Meeting Refreshments Edna Blanchfield ednablanchfield@gmail.com 406-225-5541	Communications: Publicity & Newsletter Nan Christianson nkcmontana@gmail.com 406-369-0793	Trail Use Data Coordinators Karla Schiever kjschiever@q.com 406-961-3956 and Patrice Loucks Patrice.loucks@gmail.com 406-363-1919

Membership - Memberships Expire on November 1st of each year - Please renew your membership

Hardcopy Renewals – just complete the form below and mail it and your check to:
 Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club
 PO Box 431
 Corvallis, MT 59828-0431

Online Renewals – simple as clicking this link:

<http://bitterrootxcskiclub.net/membership/>

You can pay with Paypal, or a credit card.

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