



SKI TRACKS

Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club

February 2017 — Volume 15 — Number 2

Volunteers needed

Cross-Country Ski marketing video

Victor School ski day

February program showcases

a backpack trip along the

The Great Northern Traverse
Glacier National Park

photo by Diane Lee

Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club
presents

The Great Northern Traverse

Glacier National Park

The Great Northern Traverse in Glacier National Park passes through some of the wildest and most scenic areas in the park and is considered a challenge to be undertaken only by serious backpackers. The public is welcome to come hear how 2 local outdoor enthusiasts prepared for and completed this 64+ mile adventure. Deborah Duffy and Diane Lee will give you a glimpse of this journey through a slide show that started at Chief Mountain and finished 6 days later at Lower Kintla Lake.



7:00 - Thursday - February 9 - Everyone welcome
Presbyterian Church - 1220 West Main

President's Message

Greetings! Winter is in full swing up at Chief Joseph Pass so I hope all of you are getting outside and enjoying the snow.

I was lucky enough to spend a couple days at Chief Joseph Pass over the long MLK weekend, and while cold, the snow was wonderful. We were able to watch the sled dog teams go by, and had perhaps the nicest night ski I can remember.



Gordon Reese Cabin, mid-January ski and stay.

January 2017



Thanks to the work of our groomers the conditions are excellent as always.

We've had a few hiccups here and there with equipment, but overall we've been able to provide some of the best conditions anywhere.

And not just at Chief Joseph Pass! Thanks to Tony, the Fairgrounds tracks in Hamilton have been holding steady and are providing another resource for XC skiing.

We had almost 500 user days tallied for December, and many enthusiastic, kind comments about the quality of the trails and grooming. Remember to sign in every time you use the trails so we have an accurate count.

Overall everything is running smoothly this winter. The cabin is in good shape, and was clean and well-stocked when I was there. I hope everyone is enjoying the snow and looking forward to the next couple months of great skiing.

Please let myself or a board member know if you have any questions or concerns about the trails or the club in general.

See you on the trails.

Norman Singley, President.

Trails & Grooming

Tony & Anne and Scott Grasser are not only doing a phenomenal job of grooming, they also regularly post trail condition updates and grooming schedules on our Bitterroot X-C Ski Club [facebook page](#).

Bitterroot Cross Country Club & Gibbons Pass Multiple Use Trail System Grooming Report

Date: 2-4-2017 Temp: 27 F
Snowing During Grooming: Y No Snow During Grooming: ____

Grooming Disclaimer: The Piston Bully Crew is back up and rolling. We are a little behind but should be fully groomed out by the middle of today. All the multiple use trails should be completed by tomorrow. We are running 2 shifts today to catch back up. The trails groomed during the early shift (4am-9am) will be marked with an X-E the trails being groomed during the day (9am-completion) will be marked with and X. the emergency exit was groomed today. Have a great day out on the trails.

Trail Name: Easiest	Groomed	Comments:
CD Trail	X	
Broadway	X	
Cut Thru	X-E	
Sunny Meadows	X-E	
Timber Trail	X	
Technique	X	
Sentinel Meadows	X-E	
Moose Trail	X	
Solitude Trail	X-E	Still a little rough.
Windy Passage	X-E	Still a little rough.

Trail Name: More Difficult	Groomed	Comments:
Lost Trail Loop	X-E	
Herringbone	X-E	
Gold Medal Loop	X	
Vista View Trail	X-E	
Josephs Creek Trail	X-E	
Lower Loop	X-E	

Trail Name: Most Difficult	Groomed	Comments:
Whoopie	X-E	
Banshee Trail	X-E	
Middle Fork Trail	X-E	

Trail Name: Multiple Use	Groomed	Comments:
Gibbons Pass Road: mi 0-7		
Gibbons Pass Road: mi 7-8		
Overlook Trail		
Sunshine Run		
Rabbit Run		
Coyote Run		
Hogan's Run		
Trail Creek Road: Gibbons Pass Intersection to Hogan's Cabin Turn off: 2.5 miles		
Trail Creek Road: Hogan's Cabin to Hwy 43: 5.2 miles		

Trail Use & Marketing

Volunteers Needed

Increased marketing of great ski opportunities at Chief Joe =

More trail use =

Stronger likelihood of grants =

More funds to maintain and groom trails for free public use!

We received a call from the Ravalli County Tourism Business Improvement District (T-BID) inviting our Club to help market the great skiing at Chief Jo in fresh, new materials being developed. Materials include a video, brochure, billboard, and web-based content. The T-BID is working hard to freshen up tourism marketing materials for the Bitterroot Valley, and offered the opportunity for Chief Joe and the Bitterroot X-C Ski Club to be included in all of that.

The T-BID has state tourism promotion grant funds to pay for the videographer and still photographer. The Videographer would like to meet several club members who agree to volunteer as our 'models' - - - to ski (track & skate), put on skis, walk out of hut, laugh & look like you're having a great day ...at Chief Joe ... not a hard gig, right?

Please let Nan Christianson (nkcmontana@gmail.com) know if you'd like to participate in this project, scheduled for Feb 9th. Nan needs 4-6 volunteers.

In addition to tremendous grooming efforts by our designated groomers, Russ Lawrence led a group that remarked the Scooter Creek Trail with blue arrows. Russ was ably assisted by Maureen Powell, Skip Horner, George Corn, Mike Phillips and Kent Meyers. Great snow and a good down hill run capped the day.



Darby School Ski Class. Thanks to volunteers who assisted Richard, and to Linda Hoyt for the photo.

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 9th – Victor → **Need 3-4**

Volunteers to assist!

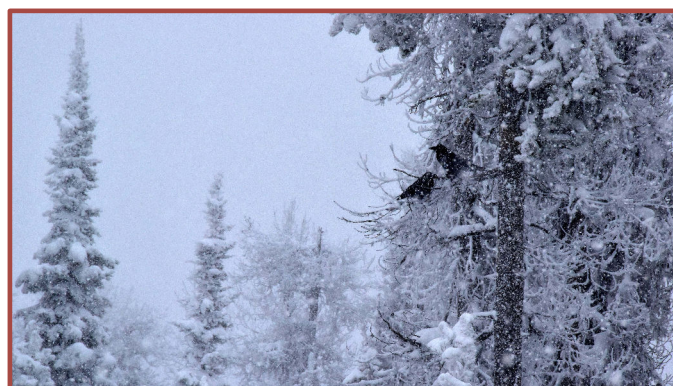
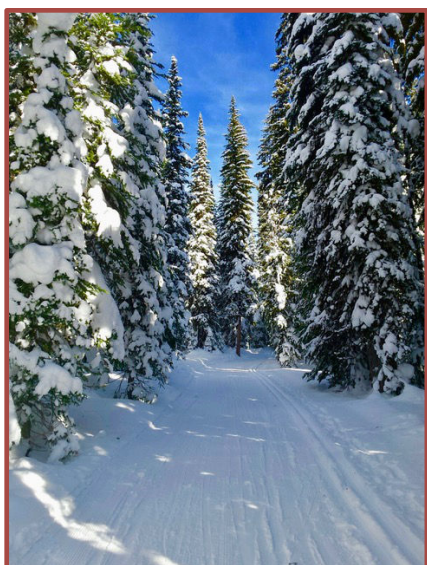
February 22nd – Salmon

Please email if you can assist: rcstone1@msn.com

Richard Stone, Youth Ski Coordinator



A Bird in the hand is supposed to be worth more than two in a tree, right? Thanks to Karla Schiever for photos at left, and to Mike Hoyt, for photo below



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 supports 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.

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

Thanks and have a great ski season.

Earl Philips, Membership Coordinator

Club Business

Marrea Matthews, Club Secretary & **Colleen Hoeben**, Acting Club Secretary

Highlights of the January 12, 2017 Ski Club Board Meeting and General Meeting

Grant: Michael Hoyt reported that the RTP grant deadline had been shortened to February 1, 2017 and that he would need Board approval to write the grant for next year. A unanimous vote was given to him to proceed with the grant writing.

Finances: Reine Hilton stated that the books were up to date but suggested they be audited. Michael Hoyt volunteered to complete this process. She stated that even though membership was somewhat lower than last year the finances were \$900 greater. The increased income has come from donations. Major expenses such as the grooming have been accounted for. Further, she stated that the 501C3 forms for state and federal taxes has been completed. Two additional items of interest included the following: The first involved the cross-country skiing loops at the Hamilton fairgrounds that have a donation box to assist with grooming by the Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club. The second item involved the Gibbon Cross-Country Ski Trail, which does not have a donation box but may become a possibility at a future date. Board members suggested that a sign in box at the Gibbons trailhead could be made more visible by a small change in location adjacent to the trail. After balancing membership dues, donations, and other sources of income against contracted grooming and other expenses, the Club has \$31,000 in checking & savings.

School Lesson Programs: Richard Stone said that volunteers would begin the program to teach school children. He added that cross-country ski trails at Chief Joseph have some newer and wider trails to accommodate wider skis, snowshoes, and the 1-2% of skate skiers. He requested having double tracks on these trails and that information about these "wide lanes" be explained in the newsletter.

Membership: Membership chairperson Earl Phillips stated that current membership was 212 members. Last year's total membership was 251 members. New memberships continue to come in as the year progresses. He requested that if members have a change in their email address that they let him know. His contact information is in the newsletter and on the website.

President Norman Singley mentioned that he would be meeting with Scott Grasser of Lost Trail Ski Resort to discuss mutual goals in skiing programs.

Anne Creighton addressed grooming. She mentioned that the Hamilton fairgrounds had two loops, parking and restroom facilities. She also stated that the grooming was going well and that she was also open to feedback regarding trail grooming.

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

Photo of Gordon Reese Hut at Chief Joe, thanks to Karla Schiever

