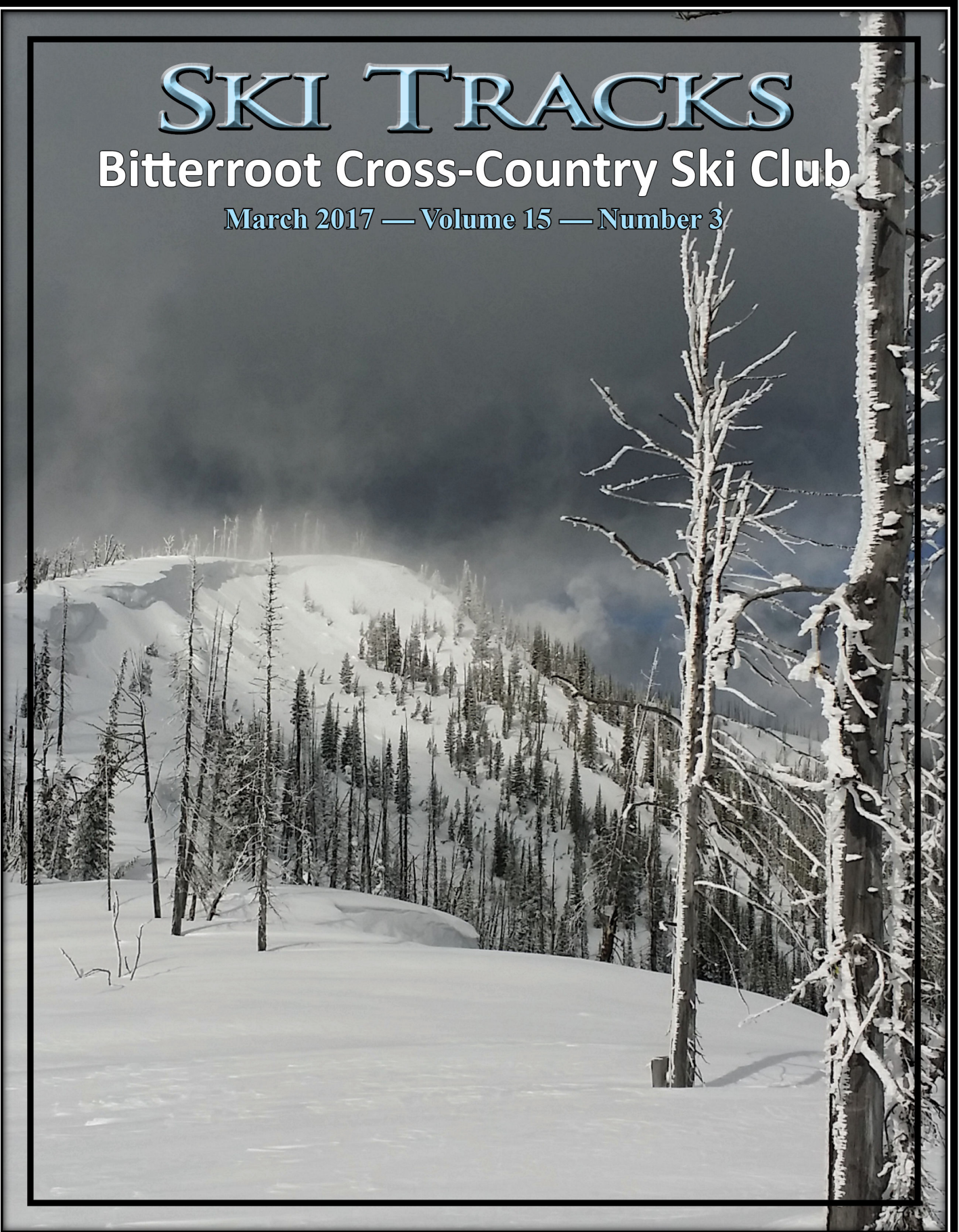


SKI TRACKS

Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club

March 2017 — Volume 15 — Number 3



Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club presents:

Mark Wetherington will present a program on the Selway River Trail. This is a great and close to home early-season backpacking trip -- it's blooming with wildflowers when many of the mountain passes are still snowed in from winter. Its remote, rugged, full of charm, and an adventure every hiker should put on their bucket list! This program will detail the route and provide information on possible campsites, the best times of year to hike, and other tips on how to have a great time on this 48-mile journey through the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

SELWAY RIVER TRAIL



Everyone Welcome - 7:00 PM - Thursday - March 9
Presbyterian Church - 1220 West Main



Greetings!

I don't want to say that winter is coming to a close yet, but now that spring is around the corner, our days of enjoying the snow at Chief Joseph for this year are getting fewer in number. Although the days are lengthening, so maybe we get more bang for our buck? I hope everyone is getting out as often as they can to enjoy the great winter conditions. All reports are that the grooming has been excellent, and the snow quality, as usual is the best in the area. Thank you to all of you members who help support XC skiing and outdoor recreation at Chief Joseph.

A quick heads up for anyone using the trails in the early part of March: We were informed by the Forest Service that there is a leak in the propane lines at the Hut. They shut down all propane for this week (the week of Feb 27th onward) until at least March 7th. On that day a professional repairman will head into the Hut to replace all of the valves under the lamps. Be aware that he will be heading in via snow machine from the Gibbons Pass road, so do not be alarmed at snowmobile tracks on the trails. Hopefully this will quickly rectify the situation. Until then the propane lights and the stove/oven will not be operational.

I will be meeting with the Forest Service soon for a first meeting as President to discuss the club and our role at Chief Joseph. I'm looking forward to working with the Forest Service to represent our interests and to continue to make Chief Joseph the incredible resource it is today. Please contact me with any comments, concerns, etc that you would like the Forest Service to know about management of the area.

We have signed a new agreement with the Forest Service and Lost Trail Pass to continue the existing grooming agreement for the next couple years. There has also been some talk of adding an additional trail connector to facilitate easier access to some of the farther trails, without steeper trail access. We will be investigating options to see if we can create some new connectors to make it easier for less experienced skiers to explore all of the trails at Chief Joseph. Any comments on this are most welcome.

As for now, though, please continue to sign in every time you use the trail and remind others to do so as well. The more user days we record, the easier it is to continue to secure funding for grooming. Enjoy the last weeks of this year's season, and I hope to see you on the trail.

Your President,

Norman S.



Ski Schools:

Thursday, March 2 is our last lesson day with Victor Schools.

Thanks to all those who have volunteered (some, multiple times) this year. This is what makes this program work! Thanks also for the GREAT grooming, in the middle of the week, which makes teaching easier and more enjoyable for all.

Richard Stone
Youth Activities Coordinator

Facebook Page Use:

It would be curious to know how many of our members utilize the Bitterroot X-C Ski Club facebook page for the most current information.

There are almost daily posts sharing news of recent grooming and trail conditions, a successful day with a local group of school kids, moose on the trail, a propane problem at the cabin, or using pictures as well as words just to remind the rest of us that are valley-bound on any given day, what a glorious day we are missing by not being at Chief Joe.

	Feb 13-20	Feb 21-28
Facebook Page Visits	99	106
Weekly Total Reach	754	3,200
People Engaged	74	205
Message Response Rate	0.0%	0.0%
Total Page 'Likes'	785	790

Like our website, our Facebook page is accessible to all who are interested in the x-c ski trails at Chief Joe. It serves as a very effective outreach tool for us to attract new members and more users, which in turn, helps us secure the grants that fund the trail grooming that we all enjoy. A lot of interconnectedness there!

We'll have to explore the 0.0% message response rate to see if we're missing the chance to respond to questions or concerns. Otherwise these statistics indicate that our Facebook page gets a lot of traffic, and participation. Thanks to each of you who share your pictures and experiences.