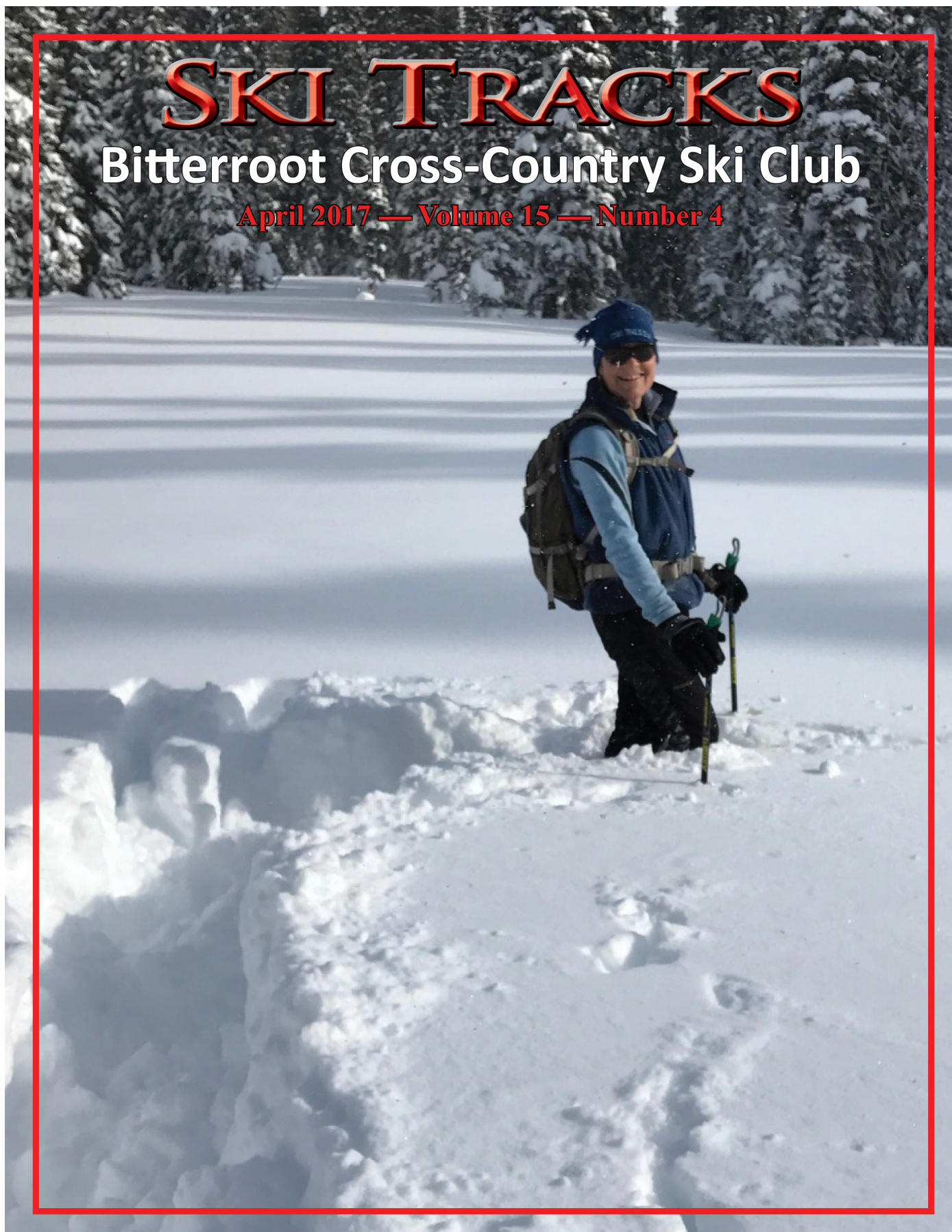


SKI TRACKS

Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club

April 2017 — Volume 15 — Number 4



Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club
presents

Sunburst Wildflowers

Steve Slocumb will take you on his journey to getting the perfect wildflower photo starting with simple macro photography and up to his ultra wide angle sunburst series and into the fairy world he creates in photoshop. If he runs out of flowers to show he might delve into the world of Disney theme parks films with the Muppets and others. In any case it should be a fascinating evening.



7:00 - Thursday - April 13 - Everyone welcome
Presbyterian Church - 1220 West Main

President's Message

April 2017

Greetings! As another successful ski season draws to a close, I hope everyone has made it out to enjoy their last few ski outings on our trails. The grooming continued until early April and it looks like as usual, the trails were in fantastic shape through the end of grooming. While we aren't grooming anymore, spring conditions will linger for quite a while. Thanks to the groomers and everyone who supports them for another great season.

Keep your eyes out for notifications of a couple work days we will be having this summer. We hope to do some trail work soon to open up a couple areas for the groomer – mostly cutting some lower branches that interfere with grooming as the snow piles up. We are also hoping to have a firewood cutting day to restock the hut sometime in June.

Our Program Chair, Diane Lee is stepping down from this position after the April meeting. Many thanks to Diane for organizing exceptional programs for the club meetings. We are looking for a new Program Chair, so if you feel like you could bring your talents to this position, please let me know. We have meetings once a month from November to April, and enjoy slideshows and talks about various outdoor activities in Montana and beyond.

Once again, I just want to thank everyone who is a part of this club for your enthusiastic support of outdoor recreation in the Bitterroot. Our club runs on volunteers, so thank all of you for your work. We will continue to work with the Forest Service, other winter recreation clubs and the public to make sure we can continue to provide excellent outdoor recreation at the pass for years to come.

Enjoy the summer, volunteer with club work projects this summer if you can, and we'll see you on the trails next year.

Norman Singley

Please Enter the Church quietly for our April Meeting:

Earl Philips advised us that there will be a service in the sanctuary at the same time as our BXCSC ski club meeting.

We have managed this in the past and members just need to be aware concerning parking and showing respect for the service in the Sanctuary as we enter and leave the building.

Other Club News

Grants – Michael Hoyt prepared an application from the Club for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks' Recreation Trail Grant Program. Funds applied for would help fund grooming for 2017-2018. Notifications of grantee selections will be made later this summer.

Memberships - Current BXCSC membership numbers are almost identical to Club membership in 2016. In 2016 we had 252 memberships and in 2017 we have 250 memberships. BXCSC member count shows a similar decrease of 11 members from 2016 to 2017. The member count decrease was a little larger than the membership count due to a decrease in family memberships and an increase in individual memberships.

Grooming – Grooming has ended but we can't let the year end without acknowledging the tremendous work of Tony and Scott in keeping our trail system in great condition. They invested 265 hours of grooming this year (compared to 295 last year) – and the long hours showed. Comments from skiers who signed in were genuinely grateful for the well-groomed trails.

Trail Use – The number of skier visits documented on our sign-in cards was down slightly this year. We attribute that to the late start (no snow over Thanksgiving or early December) and to very cold temperatures in January. Still – It seems all the skiers were very happy to be there and especially commented on how wonderful the grooming was (thanks to Tony and Scott—numerous accolades on their part!) There were comments on moose sightings, perfect snow, and beautiful days. Most of our skiers came from the Bitterroot, Missoula, and Salmon and we also had skiers from Oregon, California, Colorado, Iowa, Utah, Washington, Kentucky, Texas, Hawaii, Nebraska, and Australia.

Club Meetings – This is the last Club meeting and the last newsletter for the 2016-2017 ski season. We'll resume meetings in November 2017 but watch our facebook page or your own emails, for notes about Club workdays. We don't do too many during the summer, but a few – clearing trails and cutting firewood – will make next winter's ski days just that much more enjoyable.