

A snow groomer, a red and white vehicle with a large front-mounted blade, is shown working on a snowy trail. The machine is moving through a dense forest of tall evergreen trees heavily laden with snow. The groomer's headlights are on, illuminating the path ahead. The scene is a winter wonderland, with a thick layer of snow covering the ground and the branches of the trees.

SKI TRACKS

Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club

December 2017 — Volume 15 — Number 12

December Meeting includes Annual Christmas Potluck!

Need Equipment Donations for Ski Schools

Grooming Update

Skate and Many Classic Trails are ready for use

'Tis the Season... To Update Your Memberships,
And Invite a Friend to Join, Too!

photo by Annie!

The Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club presents:

Kate Davis

Educator, Photographer, Author, Artist, Speaker and
founder of

Raptors of the Rockies



December 14, 2017

The First Presbyterian Church

1220 West Main St, Hamilton

Potluck Dinner 6PM, Meeting and Presentation 7PM

Everyone is welcome!

Presentation includes live birds!

December Membership Meeting:

- ❖ Great Program
- ❖ Annual Potluck – Bring Along ...
 - A dish to share,
 - Your own plate & utensils, and
 - A drink if you want something other than water or juice.

Thursday Dec 14th at 6:00 pm

Presbyterian Church, 1220 W Main, Hamilton

President's Message

December 2017

Greetings Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club Members!

Happy Holidays, and happy new ski season to you. It's officially the season now, and the groomers and volunteers have put in many hours prepping the trails for the season. We've cleared trail, placed the signs and sign-in boxes and double-checked the signage. If you see anything amiss out on the trails, let us know.

The warming hut is open to skiers during the day, and the volunteer nights at the Gordon Reese Cabin have begun.

Last year many skiers inquired about the status of the slash piles left over from the previous summer's logging. This fall, the Salmon-Challis National Forest went in and ignited the slash piles. This put out quite a bit of smoke and ash, which impacted snow quality. But as we continue to get snow, the groomers will do their work and we'll have excellent conditions like all of you expect.



Jesse Crocker has generously volunteered to be our new Vice President and we welcome him to this position. He has served as our webmaster/tech guru and will continue in this role. We are still in need of a Program Coordinator to help organize monthly meeting presentations. Reach out if you can take this on, or reach out if you have suggestions for programs.

This month, December 14th will be our annual holiday potluck and a presentation by Kate Davis of Raptors of the Rockies. Please join us for a great dinner and what is always a fantastic presentation. As grooming ramps up, we will continue to post grooming updates on the FB page, our website, and missoulanordic.org. Things are shaping up to be another great season.

Once again, I remind all skiers (and other trail users) to sign in every time you use the trails, as complete records of user days are crucial in securing grants to help pay for grooming. I also encourage you to update your membership for the year, either online at <http://bitterrootxcsclub.net/membership/> or by mail.

Please reach out to me or to another officer with any questions or concerns about the club and the trails. Have a great holiday, and get out there and enjoy the snow. See you out there.

Norman Singley, President
normsingley@gmail.com
406 370 3739

Trails & Grooming

As of Dec 8th: The multi-use trails were groomed with the snowcat. Our volunteer snowmobile grooming crew spent the day on the ski trails... All the upper trails have been groomed, and have tracks set. Joseph Creek has been snowmobile-packed but does not have tracks and is still very soft. Use extreme caution on this one. Middle Fork and Banshee have not yet been groomed. All should be set for some great classic skiing conditions for the weekend.

Many of the ski trails do not yet have enough snow to be groomed with the snowcat but with **One More Storm** we should be able to switch to snowcat grooming on all the trails.



A Handy website to bookmark:

[Live Webcam of Lost Trail Pass](#)

Maintained by ID Dept of Transportation, the website shows current conditions at the Pass.

This picture shows conditions as of noon on Dec 2nd.

Tony Neaves, Trails & Grooming Coordinator

Memberships

Have you renewed your membership? Do you have a friend who would like to join? The Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club's annual memberships expire on November 1st of each year so if you haven't yet – 'tis the season! An individual membership is \$15 and a family membership is \$25. Your membership dollars provide support for maintaining the skiing trails at Chief Joe, the monthly newsletter, and our [website](#) which provides the latest information on the ski trails along with a variety of cross country ski information. An added bonus of your membership? Our strong membership base is an important factor as we compete for grants to help maintain the Chief Joe Trails for free public use.

We try to make it easy for you. You can choose from any one of these options:

1. Renew your membership at a Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club meeting. Our next meeting is December 14th.
2. Complete the membership form located in the newsletter and mail it to:
Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club, PO Box 431, Corvallis, MT 59828-0431
3. Renew online using Paypal, Visa or Mastercard. Just go to our website, <http://bitterrootxskiclub.net/> and select 'Club Information' then 'Membership'.

Thanks for supporting the Club. Have a great ski season!

Earl Philips
Membership Chair

Youth Skiing Coordination

Don't forget to clean out your closets, attics, storage areas and bring all you unwanted yet clean and usable skis, poles, hats and gloves so that we can get them to Salmon before their ski day. Bring them to the meeting and I will collect.

Here are the tentative ski dates so far, please mark your calendars and help out when you can:
If you need to get on the volunteer list, call me at 642-9648.

Jan 10 Corvallis
Jan 24 Victor
Jan 30 Darby
Feb 6 Salmon.

Thanks to all the volunteers who make this program possible!
Richard Stone, Youth Ski Coordinator

Trail Use & Sign-In Sheets Coordination

New this year: → Sign in sheets at the Gibbons Pass TH - Please use them!

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.

These numbers are critical to the success of our grant applications, so thanks – in advance – for taking the time to share your use info!

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

Great Resources for our Members:

In addition to our very own [Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club website](#), you might be interested in bookmarking and using the [Missoula Nordic Ski Club's website](#) . They pull together x-c ski reports from many different x-c trail systems throughout western Montana.

Plus – our own Facebook page: 393 people viewed the 12/8 grooming report! Our posts had 844 'Likes' and were viewed 5410 times during the first week of December! We only have 99 members and we already know that many more people than just our membership enjoy the trails at Chief Joseph! This is proof positive that our efforts are adding significantly to the winter recreation opportunities in the Valley. If you don't follow the X-C Ski Club on facebook already, you should – many skiers post pictures and updates of the conditions they find.

Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club Board Meeting Minutes

Notes from our November 2017 Board Meeting will be available on our website at
<http://bitterrootxcskiclub.net/category/meetings/>

Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club Officers & Key Volunteers

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|---|--|--|---|
| President Norm Singley normsingley@gmail.com | Vice President & WebMaster Jesse Crocker jesse@datamongers.net | Treasurer Reine Hilton hilton@mcn.net | Secretary Marrea Mathews live2ridetoo@gmail.com |
| Trails & Grooming Annie Creighton Montannie3@gmail.com | Map Production Jim Greenfield jkgreenfield@q.com | Grant Writer Michael Hoyt Michael.hoyt@gmail.com | Membership Earl Philips skihut@montana.com |
| Equipment Maintenance Mel Holloway tromper@bitterroot.com | Youth Activities Coordinator Richard Stone rcstone1@msn.com | Ski Instruction George Corn gcorn@dmllaw.com | Trail Use Data Coordinator: Karla Schiever kischiever@q.com and Patrice Loucks Patrice.loucks@gmail.com |
| Meeting Presentation Coordinator Diane Lee fit4fun@montana.com | Meeting Refreshments Edna Blanchfield ednablanchfield@gmail.com | Newsletter Nan Christianson nkcmontana@gmail.com | |

Membership Renewals & Dues

Annual 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 |
| _____ | _____ |
| 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 | |