

SKI TRACKS

Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club

February 2018 — Volume 16 — Number 2

February Program:
Scotland thru Mel's Camera Lens
New Trail Maps are Out
Club Volunteers needed

photo by Michael Moser

President's Message, Feb 2018

Greetings!

I hope everyone has made multiple trips up to the trails at Chief Joseph so far this winter. As always the snow is piling up, and the groomers work hard to make the skiing excellent for all visitors. We're in the thick of the season right now, so I really do hope everyone has time to go enjoy the snow.

The theme of this newsletter is **volunteering**. As you all know, the primary purpose of the Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club is to maintain cross country ski trails for free public use – for all to enjoy at no cost. And, if you're reading this newsletter, you probably also know that our Club is run completely by volunteers. It takes quite a few folks doing their part to keep all club duties functioning, and we can't do it without volunteers. Whether working together on a trail maintenance day, putting together the newsletter, distributing maps, coordinating grooming, writing the grants that are the lifeblood of our work, and all the other small items that make the club effective – it's all done by the generosity of our volunteers. We thank all of you for everything you do.

However, we do need a few more members to step up. The club has been around for over 25 years now, and many volunteers have been here from the beginning. We need some new volunteers, some new, fresh faces, with enthusiasm, energy and fresh ideas to help move the club forward. Specifically, we need one or two people to step up and help with the **grant writing** and reimbursement process. This is not particularly time-consuming, but does require a concentrated effort about once a year, and then again some time to submit reimbursement requests. Mike Hoyt has been doing this for over 6 years and it's time for one or two folks to take over from him. Nan Christianson has offered to possibly help with the grants – if someone takes over the **newsletter** responsibilities. So, that is an option too. We are also still in need of a **program coordinator**. This doesn't take too much time or effort, as we have many wonderful folks who like to give presentations – we just need someone to contact them and coordinate dates.

If you can help out with any of these, or if you have any interest at all in becoming more active in the club, please reach out. It's also helpful to introduce a few new people to our Club, in hopes that we can continue to expand the pool of potential volunteers for future years. We want to make sure the club stays healthy and strong year after year, so we can provide the best XC ski experience in Montana – and always free to the public. If you can volunteer just a little bit of time to help us do this, we want you to be involved.

We look forward to hearing from you!

In the meantime, enjoy the trails, and don't forget to sign in every time you visit. Thanks to all of our volunteers – we can't do it without you.

Norman Singley

President

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406 370 3739

February Program:

Mel Holloway will show slides from two separate trips he and Mary Alice made to Scotland in 2017. They visited Orkney to see Skara Brae and other Neolithic sites, the Culloden Battlefield, Urquhart Castle overlooking Loch Ness, the northern coast, Glen Core, the Glenfinnan Memorial, and Aarvrech Castle to mention a few points.



Trail Condition Updates:

No need to wait for the once-a-month newsletter for trail updates. As you've surely discovered by now, there are various sites where conditions and grooming status are updated at a far more helpful frequency. Check Out:

Our Facebook Page: Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club

Our Very Own Website: <http://bitterrootxcsclub.net/category/trailreport/>

Missoula Nordic Ski Club webpage: <https://www.missoulanordic.org/trail-reports/>

Membership

Members with home, email or address changes should forward their new information to the Membership Chair, skihut@montana.com

Membership Data:

| | Membership 2017 | Membership 2018 |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Individual | 97 | 92 |
| Family | 107 | 96 |
| Business | 29 | 36 |
| Total | 233 | 224 |

Members can renew their membership by completing the membership form located in the newsletter and mailing it to:

Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club

PO Box 431

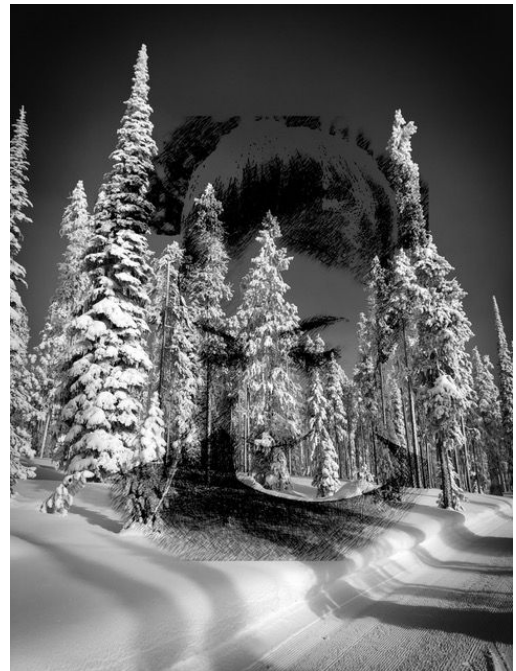
Corvallis, MT 59828-0431

Or

You can use Paypal, Visa or Mastercard to renew your membership by selecting Membership under Club Information on our website www.bitterrootxcskiclub.net

Thanks and have a great ski season.

Earl Philips
Membership chair



Recognition of Chief Joe Cross-Country Ski Trails:

Yet another publication has highlighted the Chief Joe Cross-Country Ski Trails. Check out this article in American Trails.

<http://www.americantrails.org/resources/volunteer/Chief-Joseph-Bitterroot-Ski-MT-RTP.html>