



### **Bus Trips**

The Leadville bus trip was a booming success! There was such diversity in ski trails in, around, and above the town, the challenge was, “Where do I ski first?” Needless to say, the snow was totally amazing! We were sorry that some who’d signed up for the trip were unable to go due to injury and illness. We want you to know, you were greatly missed! The first bus trip of 2017 was dedicated to Ray and Thea Berg. They would have been right there with us if humanly possible.

Our next, and last, bus trip for 2017 is fast approaching! We’re heading for Pagosa Springs Friday, February 17 – 20. As of January 26, 2017, Wolf Creek reported 136” snow depth at the base and 139” at the summit, with 32” recent snowfall in the past 72 hours. Pagosa Springs has seen 94” of snowfall this winter. There are several groomed ski areas around Pagosa Springs: Wolf Creek Pass, West Fork Nordic Ski Trail, Coyote Hill, Turkey Springs Winter Loop, East Fork Winter Trail, Fourmile Winter Trail, and Plumtaw Winter Trail. Other favorite trips are Fall Creek Rd., Wolf Creek Rd., Treasure Mountain, and the Power Line.

Currently there are 45 members signed up for our adventure to the Pagosa Springs area. Our bus trip organizers promise to give you the “royal treatment! Expect satisfying salty snacks, thirst-quenching beers and drinks, and bits of humor inserted here and there. Quality Inn will serve a full breakfast each morning: made- to-order omelets/eggs, sausage, biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs, yogurt, breads, coffee, etc. The club will hold “Happy Hour” each afternoon. The steamy, alluring hot springs is right across the street from our hotel!

Touring around Pagosa Springs: Kim, Randy, Alan and Bet.

There is good news! The bus can accommodate 7 more warm bodies! If you haven’t yet signed up, there is still time to do so. The final room count must be given to the hotel by Friday, February 10. Therefore we will need your application and funds by close of business Tuesday, February 7. There’s no time like the present to give yourself the gift of physical challenge/endurance, relaxation, friends, food and fun! Send your completed application and check for \$273.00 (made to NMCCSC) to Debbie Pierson, 8339 Hawk Eye Rd. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120. Call Debbie at (505) 450-8646 for more information. (Registration form attached to newsletter.)

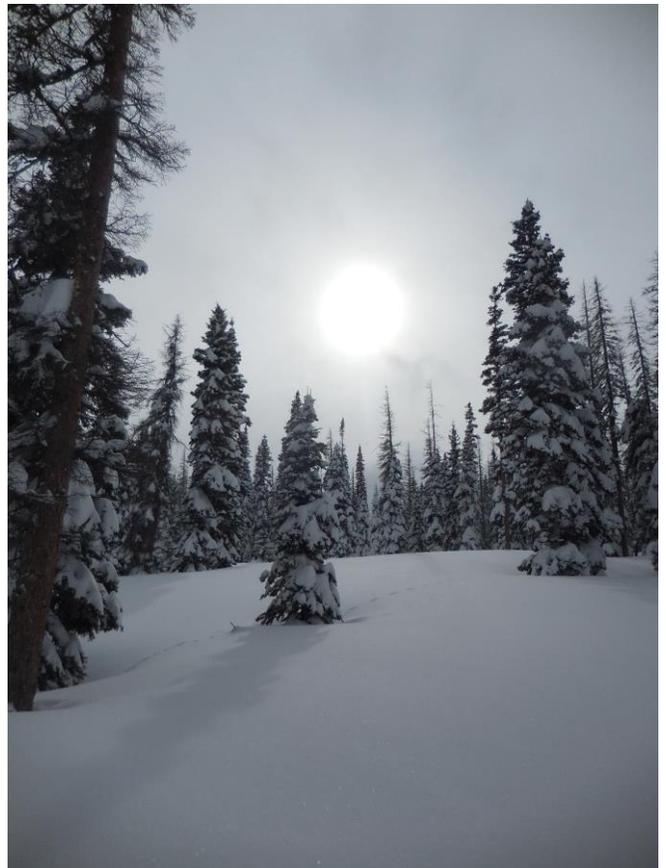


'Royal Treatment' includes outstanding views. In this picture at the overlook are Bill White, Randy Johnson, Debbie Pierson, Sybil Keyser, Geri Newton, Marcia Congdon.



Bet tele-turning a fun slope near Pagosa.

Please remember, in accordance with club policy, if you cancel a bus trip reservation, a refund cannot be made unless a replacement traveler is found. If the seat(s) can't be filled from a waiting list, it is the participant's responsibility to find a replacement traveler to obtain reimbursement.



Pagosa sunset January 22, 2016.

## Weekend Trips

*Take-it-Easy-Peasy Chama Ski Weekend with NMCC Ski Club*

If you would like to ski the Cumbres Pass area north of Chama, NM, put February 10-11-12 on your calendar . This area is especially nice for beginners and moderate touring. There's usually lots of great snow. The overnight car week-end trip will involve staying Friday and Saturday evening, February 10 & 11. Most people will be driving home Sunday, some in the morning, some in the afternoon. Please verify with the person you carpool with.

The club will be staying at the Cumbres Suites hotel in Chama, which is now full as of January 30. The Vista del Rio hotel is taking reservations 575-756-2138 <http://vistadelriolodge.com> . Skiers will need to make their own reservations. On Saturday evening we'll have a group potluck dinner.

Please tell me, Ruth Bargman-Romero, [crowscrows1@gmail.com](mailto:crowscrows1@gmail.com) if you plan to join this trip. I'll be referring those who want roommates and carpooling, and arranging other logistics.

Also, tour leaders wanted! I (Ruth) will be taking beginners out on class 1 tours while everyone else skis where they desire.

## Trip Reports

*Leadville Bus trip:* Occurring over the mid-January three day weekend (MLK holiday weekend). Participants made day trips to the Tenth Mountain Hut, Mineral Belt loop, Mitchell Loop, Cooper Nordic center, Taylor Hill, Cooper Ski Hill. Evening trips to local dining places with characteristics ranging from quiet, rustic, very busy.

*Sandia's Doc Longs:* January 21, a trip for folks stepping into snow skis for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> time. 24 people came out and 9 helpers.

*Week of January 22:* Skiers running about the Jemez, Sandia's found cold temperatures, which kept the new snow nice and fluffy. The upper part of the Sandia's is getting a good base now.

*Valle Vista trail and Missing Cabin Trail:* Good snow on January 22. Looks like a good ski place for the long skinny skis (meadows and rolling hills in the distance).

*Ladera/Elk Ridge:* Monday January 23 pictures indicate fresh snow greeted the skiers.

*Sandia's Class 1 touring.* Saturday January 28. A follow up to the Doc Longs outing on January 21, Ruth and Gordon do a class 1 tour. Veterans and new folks found good snow and smiles from the trails accessed via the Ellis trailhead. Below, a couple of photos.



## **Instruction**

*Telemark Clinics:* Saturday February 4<sup>th</sup> at Santa Fe ski hill. Providing beginner, intermediate, advanced instruction. Detailed information was distributed via email sent by Barry on the morning of Wednesday, January 25. Detailed information addresses gear, how to contact Barry, when and where to meet. This detailed information should be reviewed before contacting Barry. Please note, REI does not rent cross country or telemark skis year. If you have access to Kirtland AFB, the REC center (and Sandia Labs SERP) rents very nice gear.

*Intermediate Lesson:* Improve on Snowplow, Stem Christie and beginning Parallel turns. Ski lesson is going to be offered on Saturday, Feb 4th at Sandia Peak beginner hill, 9:30-11:30am. Half day lift ticket will have to be purchased. Meet on the outside deck where the picnic tables are at 9:15am. Contact Ruth at [crowscrows@gmail.com](mailto:crowscrows@gmail.com)

## **New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club Scholarship**

The New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club offers scholarships for persons wishing to attend avalanche school. We can also, on a select basis, approve other scholarship requests for other classes that could potentially benefit Club skiers, such as wilderness first aid.

Currently we have \$250 available to split between two applicants.

To apply, contact Guy Miller with your proposal. Let us know what class you would like to attend, and give us a brief description of why you want to take the class, how you think it would benefit the membership, and also, what rescue equipment (ie: beacon, probe, shovel) you own or plan to acquire.

We have members who have attended the Silverton Avalanche School, as well as those who have found instruction elsewhere. A simple Google search can put you in touch with an appropriate instruction opportunity.

Scholarship recipients must first pay for their class and then provide verification of successful completion. Currently there are over a dozen previous recipients who have received specialized instruction with the help of our scholarships.

We're looking for someone to give this money to; we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity. In direct terms from a strong proponent of the scholarship "jump on it"!

## **Hut Trips Update**

Tenth Mountain Hut. The trip is underway (January 28-February2) , a report will come in the March newsletter.

February 27, 2017 – March 4, 2017: This trip is to Polar Star Inn, due to cancellations, seven vacancies remain on this trip!

Perched near the base of New York Mountain, at the edge of the Holy Cross Wilderness, Polar Star is one of our favorite hut destinations. This spacious hut has plenty of elbow room for 19 skiers. The six mile ski in to the hut climbs a little under 2200 feet, all of which is gentle, except the uphill part, of course. We will ski in from the Yeoman Park trailhead and take the Newcomer Spring spur. Coming out, we will opt for the easier descent along Fulford Road.

Day touring opportunities for everyone abound. There are numerous interesting Nordic cruising destinations as well as plenty of places for turning, including a nice slope just a short distance behind the hut. There is, running water at a spring just downhill from the kitchen, so snow melting is normally not necessary.

Avalanche danger is easily avoided, but it is, nevertheless, present. Full avy gear is required for this trip, and climbing skins are an absolute necessity.

The cost for the hut is \$159 per person, which includes dinners at the hut. We will motel it in Eagle, Colorado the night before we ski in. Reservations have not yet been firmed up. We will have a trip planning meeting prior to the trip during which all logistical details will be nailed down.

Interested qualified skiers, contact Guy Miller without delay to sign up. This trip will likely fill in the coming weeks.

CHECK OUT THE HUT: [http://www.huts.org/The\\_Huts/polar\\_star.php](http://www.huts.org/The_Huts/polar_star.php)

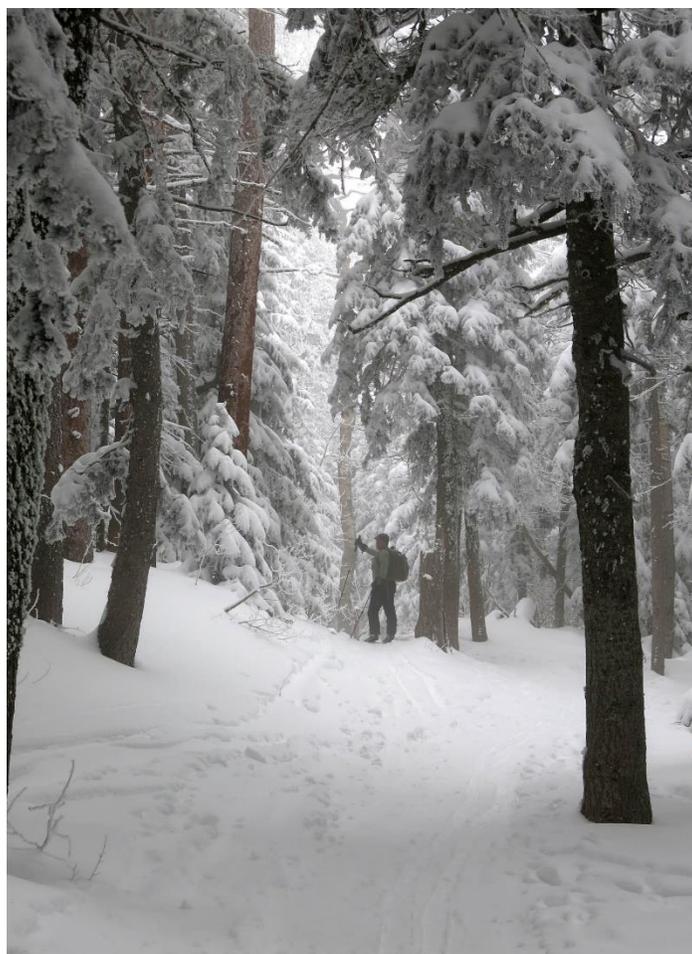
## Day Trips

Winter is being nice to us at this moment. Keep your eyes on the email for local day trips.

## Programs

February program is ski equipment, from enthusiastic skiers within the club. Gear ranges from feather weight skinny skis for preset tracks, to larger heavier skis (Tele and AT) for the express purpose of going downhill, and skis that fit in between these two realms. The skis in turn need to be matched with appropriate boots and binding.

<i>Calendar of Events 2016-2017</i>		
Saturday	February 4	Telemark Instruction (on snow)
Saturday	February 4	Intermediate Instruction (on snow)
Thursday	February 9 7:00 – 9:00 PM	General Meeting at Garden club
Saturday-Sunday	February 11 – February 12	Overnight Car trip – Terrain for all ski level ability & skills Chama, New Mexico
Friday-Monday	February 17 – February 20	Bus Trip Pagosa Springs, Colorado
Monday-Saturday	February 27 – March 4	Hut Trip Polar Star Hut
Thursday	March 9 7:00 – 9:00 PM	General Meeting at Garden club



Above: Upper Meadows in the Sandia's.

← Bill on the switchback trail, upper Sandia's.



Ski Cooper Nordic lodge, a good place to warm up anything that is cold.

Karen, Lester, Marlene on the way to Taylor Hill (Leadville bus trip)

Ski Cooper from the north (Leadville bus trip).



← Abundance of new snow on Mitchell Loop (Leadville bus trip).

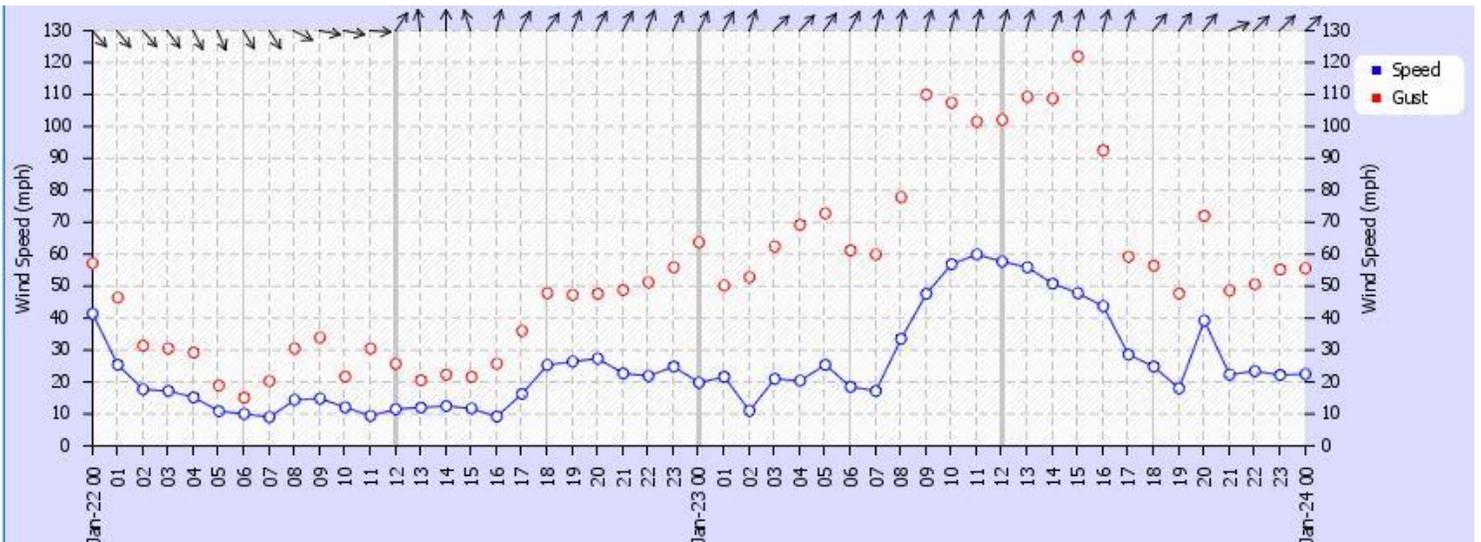
*Photo Credits for February to Carl, Susan, Ruth, Debbie.*



Randy and Debbie at the Tennessee Pass Cookhouse at the Nordic ski area.

### Avalanches and Weather

There is a new web page for avalanche information at Taos. The last video from this sight highlighted a snow pit, showing low probability (hard to trigger), and high consequences (large amount of snow will be moving). From the CAIC web page, poke observation, weather stations. There is an abundance of information here regarding weather (historical and near real time) in various formats. Below is an example of the wind at the Eagle station in the San Juan's (near Red Mountain Pass). Hang on to your hat.



President	Mike Martin	273-1876	<a href="mailto:President@nmccskiclub.org">President@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Vice President	Bet Gendron	228-8025	<a href="mailto:VicePresident@nmccskiclub.org">VicePresident@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Secretary	Nancy Jenkins	269-0855	<a href="mailto:Secretary@nmccskiclub.org">Secretary@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Treasurer	Max Shepherd	270-5258	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@nmccskiclub.org">Treasurer@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Day Trips	Guy Miller	306-2628	<a href="mailto:DayTrips@nmccskiclub.org">DayTrips@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Long Bus Trips	Debbie Pierson Randy Johnson	450-8646 270-2832	<a href="mailto:BusTrips@nmccskiclub.org">BusTrips@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Hut Trips	Guy Miller	306-2628	<a href="mailto:HutTrips@nmccskiclub.org">HutTrips@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Car Trips	Rob Suminsby	366-7513	<a href="mailto:CarTrips@nmccskiclub.org">CarTrips@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Newsletter	Dean Athow	275-1097	<a href="mailto:Newsletter@nmccskiclub.org">Newsletter@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Instruction	Ruth Bargman-Romero	842-9735	<a href="mailto:Instruction@nmccskiclub.org">Instruction@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Membership	Stacey Kittner	712-5638	<a href="mailto:Membership@nmccskiclub.org">Membership@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Meetup & Social Media	Dave Gabel	401-5723	<a href="mailto:SocialMedia@nmccskiclub.org">SocialMedia@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Programs	Peter Marks	856-8237	<a href="mailto:Programs@nmccskiclub.org">Programs@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Mailing/Egroup	Marilynn Szydowski	332-8018	<a href="mailto:egroup@nmccskiclub.org">egroup@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Refreshments	Kathy Trujillo	299-9663	<a href="mailto:Refreshments@nmccskiclub.org">Refreshments@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Trails	Sam Beard	828-0673	<a href="mailto:sambeard@msn.com">sambeard@msn.com</a>
Web Site	Eric Russell	281-1289	<a href="mailto:webmaster@nmccskiclub.org">webmaster@nmccskiclub.org</a>

Ratings		
Class	Vertical Climb (ft)	Distance (miles)
One	Less than 1000	Less than 5
Two	Less than 2000	Less than 5
Three	Greater than 2000	Greater than 10
Four	Unpatrolled, mountainous terrain, with the purpose of downhill skiing. Slopes can be greater than 25 degrees. Knowledge of use of climbing skins, avalanche gear needed.	
Steepness of slopes, skill level, and stamina can also dictate the ski tour rating. Please see the webpage for more information. <a href="http://nmccskiclub.org/ski-outings/">http://nmccskiclub.org/ski-outings/</a>		
Finding Us		
Web Page	<a href="http://nmccskiclub.org">http://nmccskiclub.org</a>	
FaceBook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/nmccskiclub">https://www.facebook.com/nmccskiclub</a>	
Mail	New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club PO Box 51563 Albuquerque, NM 87181	

New Mexico Cross Country Ski club  
 PO Box 51563  
 Albuquerque, NM 87181