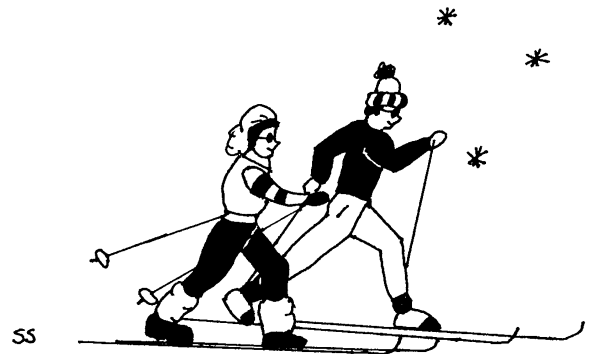


New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club Newsletter



December 2001



Meeting Schedule for 2001-2002

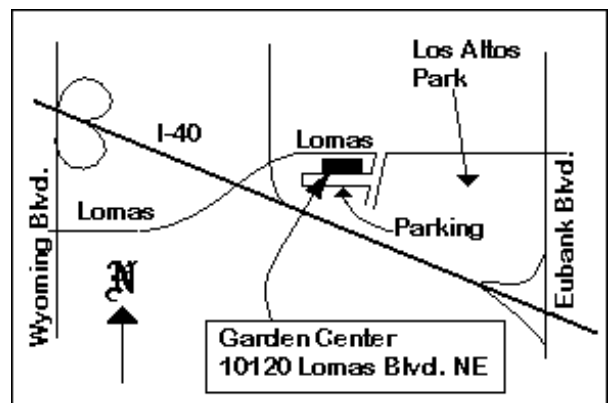
Next meeting: Thursday December 20, 7:30pm

- **No formal program; bring goodies to share** following a brief business meeting. But, don't avoid the meeting just because you didn't get anything ready to bring – there's always *lots* to eat. *Enjoy good fellowship! Seek out and converse with some members who are not part of your "regular" crowd!*

Monthly General Meetings

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| October 18 | January 17 |
| November 15 | February 21 |
| December 20 | March 21 |

Meetings are held at 7:30pm on the third Thursday of each month, October through March, at the Albuquerque Garden Club Center, 10120 Lomas NE. Look for the sign on Lomas at the entrance to the Center. Please park on the east side of the building and enter through the east entrance.



Get your newsletter from our Web site! Save money for your Club!

If you would be willing to skip the mailed copy and just download the newsletter from our Web site, **please contact Jean Hanson, our mailing labels person.** You'll feel good, you'll get your newsletter several days earlier, and your Club will thank you!

If you've signed up for the Yahoo Groups email system (check with Debbie O'Callaghan for this), you'll get a reminder email each time a new newsletter is posted.

This issue is being mailed to the entire membership since it's accompanied by the annual membership list, and we still need to have some discussions about posting the list on the Web site. The mailing is feasible since we still have our bulk mailing permit.

*Season's
Greetings*



Visit the NMCCSC Web site at its
new location!
www.naturediscovery.org/nmccskiclub



Backcountry Hut Trips

by Guy Miller

Hut Trips Update

The group going to Belvedere Hut for New Year's week held its trip planning meeting and pot luck dinner last week, and the group is geared up and ready to go !!

There have been some inquiries about the nature of the hut trips, and it occurred to me that in some of my descriptions, I left out a very important item: for those who have never seen one, please be advised that "hut" is a gross misnomer. The term "hut" can conjure images of a couple of plywood sheets thrown over a bunch of tree branches with maybe a tarp added for good measure. One might imagine emerging from such a pitiful excuse for a shelter in the morning shaking from cold and covered with the evening's accumulation of new snow. Nothing could be further from the truth. The huts are actually relatively luxurious chalets, well-built and superbly insulated with warmth provided by modern wood-burning stoves and light provided by photo-voltaic and propane lamps. They are comfortably furnished. Don't be scared off by the primitive-sounding term "hut."

Because of the potential difficulties inherent with hut trips, leader approval is required for all hut trips. Please note that the normal trip rating system will not be used. For further details, contact Guy Miller at 294-7940 (before 9:00pm) or e-mail at frighenhutz@aol.com.



Belvedere Hut Trip

December 31, 2001 to January 4, 2002
Leader: Guy Miller 294-7940; frighenhutz@aol.com
(Please call before 9:00pm.)
limit: 16

We will travel to Leadville, Colorado on New Year's Eve and stay at the Plum Tree Inn (other accommodations are possible for those who choose not to join the group for lodging) where we will have a New Year's party. We will ski in to the hut and spend



two nights, skiing out on January 3. Some will return home on the same day while others will spend an extra night in Leadville, returning home on the 4th.

This can be considered a beginner's hut trip, not to be confused with your average trip for beginning skiers. The route is straight forward jeep road which should present no technical difficulties. The 3 1/2 mile trip in climbs 1470 feet and reaches an elevation of 11630 feet. There are ample opportunities for day skiing in the vicinity of the hut, with little significant avalanche danger.

The trip is full at this time, but it should be noted that three people have been placed on the trip from the waiting list! Currently there is no one remaining on the waiting list.



Fritz's Hut Trip

March 2-5, 2002 (or, March 2-6 if the group wishes)
Leaders: Guy Miller 294-7940 and Mike Martin 872-9268; frighenhutz@aol.com
(Please call before 9:00pm.)
limit: 8 to 10

We will spend all day March 2 getting to Aspen, Colorado, and ski in to the Benedict huts the next day. We have reserved 8 spots at Fritz's, but there remains the possibility of snagging the remaining 2 spots in this 10-person hut. An independent group could also reserve the adjacent Fabi's hut, which holds 6 people.

The route covers just under 6 miles and climbs 2700 feet, culminating at an elevation of 10,970. Route finding and terrain challenges present more difficulties than do the Belvedere trip, although avalanche danger is rated as minimal. This should not be considered a beginner's hut trip.

Although there are 6 openings for this trip at this time, it is known that there are at least 4 people contemplating signing up but who cannot do so until their schedules are clarified. The trip is likely to fill at any time, so call leader ASAP if you are interested.



Update on the Long Bus Trips

by Susan Swan

Waiting Lists are Open !!

All three trips are full, but I need people on the waiting lists to replace people who have to cancel out, due to emergencies. It costs nothing to be on the waiting list. You just need to notify me which trip you would like to go on. If you have never been on a bus trip; please read the guidelines and trip descriptions first. The trips are great, if I do say so myself!!! If you have any questions please contact me:

Susan Swan
821 Rio Arriba SE 87123
294-1720 SSSwan515@aol.com

WANTED: Balance of \$85.00 for the Taos trip by Dec 20th. Balance of \$85.00 for the Ouray Trip is due Jan 1st 2002. Thanks for not making me call you.



Bus Trip Guidelines

Who may go: Paid up Club members, at least 18 years of age.

Departure: Eastdale Shopping Center – Southwest corner of Eubank and Candelaria. Park west of Bank of America. Loading begins at 5:30 PM and the bus leaves PROMPTLY at 6:00 PM.

Bus Ride: You should eat your evening meal beforehand or bring it with you to eat on the bus on Friday evening. We do not stop for dinner on Friday evening. We do make a short dinner stop on the return trip. We supply cold sodas, juices, waters, wine and beer on the bus. There is a restroom on the bus.

Luggage: Pack your skis in a ski bag. Bring one large or two small suitcases per person. Remember that there are 42 people on the bus, so space is at a premium. You may also bring a small six-pack type cooler to store food for your lunches (meat, cheese, hard-boiled eggs, etc.) This does not mean 2 people qualify to bring a large cooler.

Hotel: Rooms are doubles with a bath. If you need a roommate, we will find one for you, of the same gender. If the hotel has room, we will have a get together before dinner, for people to meet and make announcements.

Meals: All meals are your responsibility unless stated otherwise. There is normally no cooking in the rooms; some may have refrigerators. You may bring breakfast &

lunch foods in your cooler (yogurt, fruit, lunchmeats, cheese, hard-boiled eggs, etc). Be prepared to provide your own lunch in particular. The bus normally leaves about 9:00 AM to take skiers out and does not normally return until late afternoon. We may try to coordinate a bus trip to the evening meal depending on the circumstances and the proximity of the restaurants.

Skiing: We attempt to go to a variety of areas to accommodate beginning to advanced skiers. There may be set-track areas or downhill skiing available also but our main pursuit is cross-country skiing. Please be sure, when skiing, to ALWAYS SKI WITH A PARTNER.

Clothes: Casual, warm and layered are the key words. We often walk to dinner also, so bring warm clothes for evenings.

Cost: The cost of the trip is derived from the estimated cost of the bus, hotel, drinks, snacks and bus driver's tip divided by the number of people on the trip. Once you have paid your deposit, you are on the trip. Payments are not refundable: if you cannot go on the trip, you must find a substitute and settle the payment with that person. I will give you names off the waiting list. (But, it is your trip and you can sell it to anyone you want as long as they are 18+ and a paid member of the club.)

Waiting List: Once a trip is full, a waiting list will be started. It costs nothing to be on the waiting list and you have a good chance of going. Invariably, a number of people need to cancel before the trip, some at the last minute, and need someone to buy their seat on the bus. Keep that weekend open on your calendar!



BUS TRIP DESCRIPTIONS

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Telluride CO | Jan. 18-21, 2002 | \$195.00 |
| | Full amount due now. | |
| Taos NM | Feb. 1-3, 2002 | \$135.00 |
| | \$ 50.00 deposit; balance due Dec 20. | |
| Ouray CO | Feb. 15-18, 2002 | \$185.00 |
| | \$100.00 deposit; balance due Jan 1. | |

Telluride is always a very popular trip. It offers a lot of independence. There is a prepared track at the top of the ski mountain. There is also a lovely, easy ski loop around the town along the river. The bus will also go out to ski the Lizard Head Pass area everyday. For those of you who have been on the trips before, the rooming will be different this year. We will be staying in the Viking Lodge Condos rather than the Tom Boy. The condos are multi-bedroom and baths. It won't be the same as having your own room



and bath. But we will have full kitchens and fireplaces and be closer to town. Telluride has wonderful restaurants and great shopping, but is expensive. So having a full kitchen will save some money by being able to have breakfast and make lunch and splurge on dinner!!!

Taos is New Mexico's premium ski area. There is also excellent cross-country skiing. It was exceptional last time we were here with tons of snow. We are staying about 4 blocks north of the plaza. These are nice large rooms with 2 queen beds each. They also supply a continental breakfast. It was very nice last visit. Hopefully it will be

as good this time. I don't have to tell you about the restaurants and shopping!!!!

Ouray has always been a favorite. It is a very picturesque little town that is practically empty in the winter. Which means there aren't a lot of restaurants open but a lot of sight seeing. Many historic buildings, ice climbing one block behind our hotel, natural hot tubs on the hillside (we have seen deer there). Skiing at Red Mountain Pass is beautiful and challenging, along with several other favorite ski areas. We will have regular hotel rooms, with no extras.



Beginning Cross-Country Ski Lessons

by *Guy Miller*

The New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club will offer a class for beginning skiers. Although the class is primarily geared toward the absolute beginner, it can also be beneficial for those who have given skiing a try but feel that some amount of elementary instruction might be helpful.

The class will consist of a single two-hour classroom session and one all-day on-the-snow session. Participants must be at least 18 years of age unless approved in advance by instructor, and must be members of the club. The cost of the class is \$10.00.

Participants will learn not only the basics of skiing, but also how to be confident and comfortable, and how to enjoy skiing.

Students must be reasonably fit, and a positive attitude is essential.

The classroom session will be held on the evening of Friday December 28, 2001 at Mountains and Rivers, 2320 Central Ave SE. The exact time has still to be set; enrolled participants will be informed once that is determined (most likely between 6pm and 7pm).

We'd like to offer a special thanks to our friends, the outdoor recreation specialists at Mountains and Rivers, for the use of their store to hold our class.

With an optimistic eye on the weather, we are hoping to hold the on-the-snow session on Saturday January 12, 2002. For obvious reasons, we cannot guarantee that!

For more information, contact Guy Miller at 294-7940. PLEASE DO NOT CALL AFTER 9:00 PM !

A Message from the Trips Chairmen

Mike Martin – Day Trips

Jon McCorkell – Overnight Car Trips

Please contact Mike or Jon if you are interested in leading a trip, even if it will be farther into the season. If you have never led a trip but would like to, these gentlemen can assist in selecting an area or providing how-to's on trip leadership. Remember, each time you lead a trip your name is added to the hat for a free bus trip drawing. Trips must be submitted by the first Thursday of the month for that month's newsletter.

Trips can be sent as follows:

Mike Martin
3920 Lafayette Dr NE
Albuquerque, NM 87107
michael.martin@kirtland.af.mil
872-9268 (H)
846-2273 (W)

Jon McCorkell
9709 Euclid NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112
peakbag@nmia.com
260-0706

Everyone: keep reading the newsletter for upcoming trips and think snow! All trips are dependent on snow conditions, so please contact the trip leader to check for changes/cancellations.

Carpooling/Meeting Places

These abbreviations are used in some trip descriptions:

BOA Bank of America
Corner of San Mateo and Academy NE

WF Wells Fargo Bank
Franklin Plaza
Central & Juan Tabo NE

Use the parking area away from the money machine.



Day Trips & Overnight Trips

Saturday Dec 15 location depends on snow conditions

Classes I and II

Leader: Sam Beard, 828-0673

Sam is hoping to find a co-leader for this outing. Please call him if you are willing to lead either the Class I or Class II group. If we do not have enough snow to ski, we will hike. Call the leader for information. Meet somewhere at 8:00am.



Wednesday ski trips: Dec 26 and continuing ...

Class ??

Leader: John Thomas, 298-5234

John Thomas will lead ski trips on Wednesdays starting on Dec 26. If snow conditions are bad, we may snowshoe or hike. Additional information will come through the Yahoo Groups email, or call leader.



Saturday Jan 5 Sandia Mountains

Class II-III

Leader: Wayne Kirkby, 898-1654

Ski out on the Survey Trail and back on the Crest Trail. A very pretty ski and less traffic than many trails in the Sandias, great practice for your up and downhill skills. 5 miles total skiing, meet at WF at 8:30 am.



Wednesday Jan 9 Jemez Mountains

Class I

Leader: David and Yolanda Ploor, 822-8650

Trip will probably be in the Jemez; please call leaders for information. Exact location depends on snow availability and condition.



Saturday Jan 12 location depends on snow conditions

Classes I and II

Leader: Sam Beard, 828-0673

See description of Dec 15 trip. Meet somewhere at 8:00am. Call leader for information.



Sunday Jan 13 Sandia Mountains

Class I

Leader: Michon Johnson, 286-8587

Ski the easy trails near Ellis Parking Lot. This trip is for beginners and those who have taken the ski club lessons. Will give you a chance to practice the skills learned in class. Call leader for details.



Fri-Sun Feb 8-10 Lizard Head Pass area

Class II+/III

Leader: Bill Davey, 266-0167 wrdavey@unm.edu

Call leader for meeting place. Car: 600 miles plus local driving.

This area usually has great snow. The leader has skied here 5 or 6 times and has always found interesting areas to explore. We will stay again at the rustic and VERY spartan Hotel Rico (bath private or shared).

If you want to spend a bit more money, there is also a motel in Rico. If you can drive up during the day on Friday, we'll have a short ski nearby. Saturday will be a full, long day of skiing. We might drive into Telluride for dinner. Sunday we can ski until about 2 or 3 and then drive (about 6 hours) back home with a probable dinner stop. Only very experienced skiers need apply. Limited to 8 members of the NMMC or the NMCCSC. Reserve space with a \$25 non-refundable deposit by February 1.



Mon-Wed Feb 25-27 Pagosa Springs, Colorado

Class II

Leader: Michon Johnson, 286-8587 Nvmichon@aol.com

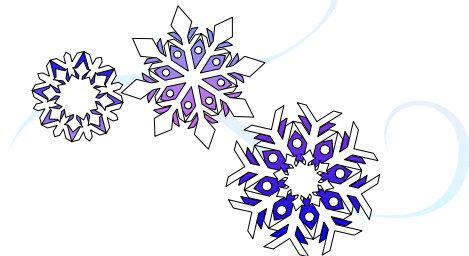
Spend 3 wonderful days of skiing in the Wolf Creek area. We will stay at Davidson's Country Inn. It is a very comfortable B&B, just outside of Pagosa. Breakfast is included and the kitchen will be available for other meals. There is space for 20 people and the price depends on the number of people going. Approximate cost will be between \$75 and \$100 per person for the entire 3 days. We will rent the whole house. Call or e-mail the leader for reservations. Deposit of \$50 required.

New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club
 PO Box 8425
 Albuquerque, NM 87198-8425

PRSRT STD
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Albuquerque, NM
 Permit No. 1018

Return Service Requested

| <u><i>December 2001</i></u> | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Meeting Schedule | 1 |
| Backcountry Hut Trips | 2 |
| Long Bus Trips | 3 |
| Beginning Lessons | 4 |
| Message from Trips Chairmen | 4 |
| Day Trips/Overnight Trips | 5 |
| Membership Roster | insert |



**NEW MEXICO CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB
 2001-2002 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

| Officer Position | Name <small>new ↘</small> | Phone | Email Address |
|--|--|----------------------|--|
| President | Bob Swan | 294-1720 | BobSwanABQ@aol.com |
| Vice-President | Katie Crawford | 254-2255 | katiecrawf@aol.com |
| Secretary | Yolanda Ploor | 822-8650 | yploor5@aol.com |
| Treasurer | Don Mullen | 294-1202 | mullendl@aol.com |
| Committee Chairs | | | |
| Membership | Carol Mochel & Jim Deal | 255-4890 | cmochell@aol.com |
| Mailing Labels | Jean Hanson | 298-5234 | jh87111@worldnet.att.net |
| Newsletter – Editor <i>also Webmaster</i> | Lester & Sharon Byington | 286-9100 | lester@byington.org |
| Newsletter – Mailing | Dianne Cress | 298-0085 | dcress@sld.state.nm.us |
| Programs | John Thomas | 298-5234 | jt87111@worldnet.att.net |
| Refreshments | Louise Broadbent Phyllis Pryor → | 829-3840 255-7972 | louise@sulphurcanyon.com ppryor8@home.com |
| Day Trips | Mike Martin | 872-9268 | michael.martin@kirtland.af.mil |
| Overnight Car Trips | Jon McCorkell | 260-0706 | peakbag@nmia.com |
| Long Bus Trips | Susan Swan | 294-1720 | SSSwan515@aol.com |
| Instruction | Guy Miller | 294-7940 | Xcskiboy@aol.com |
| Trails | Sam Beard Roger Breeding | 828-0673 844-1532 | Edwina42@aol.com Noreen@spock.unm.edu |
| Yahoo Groups email | Debbie O’Callaghan | 266-0713 | docalla@hotmail.com |