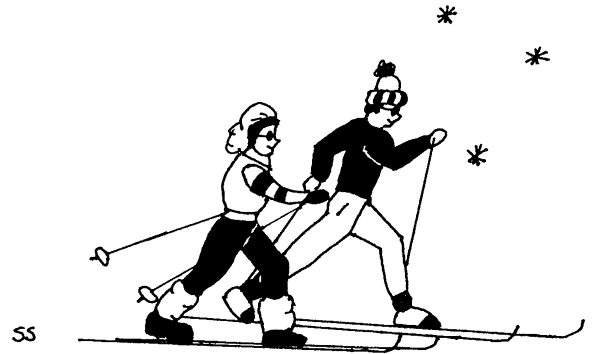


New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club Newsletter



January 2002



Meeting Schedule for 2001-2002

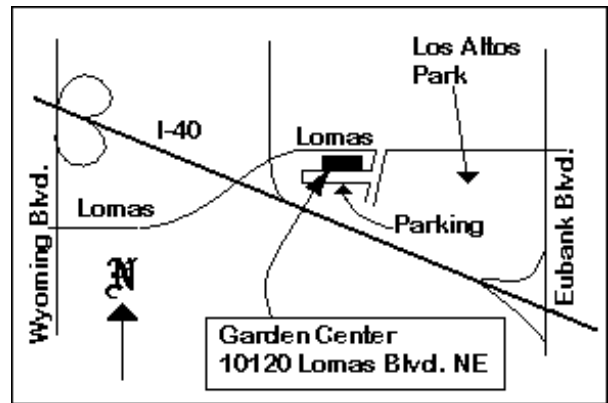
Next meeting: Thursday January 17, 7:30pm

- **Program:** Guy Dahms (accomplished ski mountaineer and expert Telemark skier) will speak on how not to Telemark ski!

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.



Seeking fame, power, and the respect of your peers?

The Club is seeking volunteers, or expressions of interest, for many officers and committee chairs for next year. Please contact Most Honored President Bob Swan to discuss!



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 Lady of the Mailing Labels**. 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.

Visit the NMCCSC Web site at
www.naturediscovery.org/nmccskiclub
newsletters, updated trip info, and more!



Backcountry Hut Trips



by Guy Miller

Report on Belvedere Trip – Dec 31-Jan 4

The Club’s first official hut trip is now history, and what a wonderful history at that. Our group rendezvoused at Leadville, Colorado for a New Year’s Eve party at a Bed and Breakfast we had reserved. We had dinner at a famous local Chinese joint, then we retired to our B & B accommodations where some of us actually stayed up to keep some lonely Champagne bottles company as we ushered in the New Year.

We got a leisurely start the next morning, hitting the trail a little before 11:00 AM. There was a small amount of reasonably fresh snow, and it snowed lightly on us most of the way up to Belvedere Hut. We kept a moderate pace and arrived at the hut before 3 PM. After settling in and conducting the usual hut chores such as fire building and snow melting, John Thomas, Mike Martin, and myself embarked on a late afternoon ski up to the top of the ridge behind the cabin, searching for the next day’s proposed ski route. We skied until we estimated we had just about enough light left for our return to the hut, and then enjoyed an exhilarating ski / tumble back to the hut where the rest of our group was resting comfortably. We returned just a darkness was descending on the hut.

John Thomas and Jean Hansen prepared a group meal for us and we dined that first evening in high altitude splendor. The group then shared after dinner chores, and some of us stayed up way late, to see in any New Year that might still remain in another time zone somewhere on the planet.

The next day we split into two groups and set out on day tours. We skied in absolutely pristine conditions, cold but clear and with no wind, until well into late afternoon before retiring once again to the hut. Al and Bonnie Putzig put on a splendid group dinner. This was followed by an evening of board games provided by hut novice and relatively new Club member Lynda Dale. Some retired early while some stayed up late to repeat the previous evening’s pattern of revelry, although possibly a bit more subdued and ending perhaps a bit earlier.

By group consensus, we did not do a ski tour on the third day; instead, we all enjoyed a leisurely morning in the hut, did our clean up chores, and left a little before 11 AM. The trip out took an hour and 15 minutes for the fastest of our skiers, and about twice that for the bulk of the group.

The return trip was marred by vehicle problems for some of our group, but all pitched in to provide support and to ensure that provisions were made for lodging and auto repairs for those who were unexpectedly affected. All returned safe and sound, if a bit later than expected.

First time hut skiers Katie Crawford, Lynda Dale, Marilyn Harper, Bill Heitz, Al and Bonnie Putzig, Betty Spafford and Dick Traeger overcame initial anxieties and uncertainties and were rewarded with a memorable experience. They were joined by hut veterans Bill Davey, Jean Hansen, John Thomas, Ginger Larkin, Mike Martin, Chuck Slade, and myself. One of hut skiing’s biggest supporters, Dave Saylor, unfortunately had to bail at the last minute due to illness; hopefully he’ll join us on the next hut trip. (NOTE: Betty and Marilyn, both nurses in their day jobs, are good people to have on ski trips. Betty patched up a few minor wounds that occurred on the first day and Marilyn dispensed advice and information on a variety of health matters).

If you want to hear more about the joy and adventure to be had on a hut trip, talk to any of the participants, particularly the first-timers. You’ll like what you hear.

I want to sincerely thank the Club membership for its support of hut skiing, and I anticipate continuing support and enthusiasm.



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

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. 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.

Day skiing around the hut is described as being more Nordic than Alpine, meaning that the terrain in the area of the hut is characterized by some gentle, rolling, tree-lined trails as opposed to steep ups and even steeper downs such as are encountered on many hut trips. This is particularly appealing to the leader,

as well as to some who may welcome the chance for some relaxed, low-key skiing in combination with the hut experience.

There are 4 openings remaining for this trip which are reserved for the Club. Leader approval is not only required but is essential for the safety of the entire group, so contact trip leader to discuss participation. Participants must either be known by the leader or recommended by a group member. Competent skiers who do not yet meet either of these criteria should contact the leader to discuss participation.

The cost of this trip is \$60 per person, which includes a \$10 surcharge which goes in the Club kitty. Belvedere Hut veterans are strongly encouraged to try this one. For more information, contact either leader.



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 (see the October or December newsletters). 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



Things to know ...

For first time bus trippers

- I *strongly* recommend buying ski bags. Most of us have medal edges. Shoving skis in and out under the bus will really rip them up.
- Please remember to bring your dinner or eat first. We don't make a dinner stop. We usually make a rest stop at Circle K about 10 or 11 pm.

About our trip to Telluride

We will be staying in condos, so it would be a very good idea to bring a robe. All common areas will be shared including some bathrooms. This is an unusual situation, but our normal place was not available this year. Choices were these condos, the Oak St. House (8 to a room, bunk beds, bathroom down the hall) or rooms that run \$200.00 a night. You will have a full kitchen, but remember a 6 pack size cooler is all that is allowed on the bus, per person. The bus is only so big. What won't fit under the bus must sit on your lap! There is an outdoor hot tub and heated pool. Telluride is a fun town with lots of restaurants, shops and night life. Any morning that you do not go out on the bus (e.g., to Lizard Head Pass), you are on your own. So you can sleep in or hit the slopes whenever you like. There is a prepared track area at the top of the mountain. You take the lift up and come down on the downhill green runs. Or you can take the lift down. Last time we were there you were allowed 2 trips for your \$12.00. I will be able to give you the cost on the bus for this year. The bus will go out each morning at 9:00 and come back at 4:00. There is also an easy track along the river in town and a track around the golf course. I will try to have maps for you on the bus.



About our trip to Taos

This is a quick trip which is nice. Our hotel has bigger rooms than normal, with refrigerators, cable TV, clock radios, and phones. Some have fireplaces. There is a wall-enclosed year 'round heated pool and hot tub. There is a continental breakfast. She said there were fruit, breads and cereal. But I have heard

that before! So... There is a complimentary laundry and inexpensive shuttle to town and to the downhill area. Each room has two queen beds and a full bath.

As always if you have questions, please e-mail me at SSSwan515@aol.com or call me at 294-1720. I will respond as soon as possible.



Beginning Cross-Country Ski Lessons

by *Guy Miller*

If you haven't already signed up for the Club's beginner lessons, check with us next year. This year's class has already begun, with 16 new members signed up. We had our classroom session at Mountains and Rivers, and the on-the-snow session is scheduled for Saturday, January 12, 2002. Please note that this is only for members who are already enrolled. With the recent snowfall, only a tropical heat wave will deter us. The meeting time and place

will be as discussed at the classroom session; call instructor if you need clarification. This is shaping up to be one of our best beginner classes in the last few years.

Once again, the New Mexico Cross-Country Ski Club wishes to thank Mountains and Rivers for allowing us the use of their store to hold our classroom session.



Day Trips & Overnight Trips

Mike Martin – Day Trips

Jon McCorkell – Overnight Car Trips

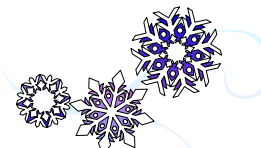
Please contact Mike or Jon if you are interested in leading a trip, even if it will be farther into the season. If you have never led a trip but would like to, these gentlemen can assist in selecting an area or providing how-to's on trip leadership. Remember, each time you lead a trip your name is added 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.



Wednesday ski trips: ongoing ...

Class ??

Leader: John Thomas, 298-5234

John Thomas is leading ski trips each Wednesday. If snow conditions are bad, we may snowshoe or hike. Additional information will come through the Yahoo Groups email, or call leader.

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.

Fri-Sun Jan 11-13 Red River/Angel Fire

Classes I, II, and III

Leader: Jon McCorkell, 260-0706

Friday a.m. drive to Red River. Contact Jon McCorkell or Dianne Cress about lodging. Friday p.m. ski the road and trail from Red River to the lake. Saturday: Angel Fire cross-country area. Sunday: ski Enchanted Forest and drive home.

The Friday skiing is intermediate level. Sat & Sun should offer something for all levels. For more info call Jon, 260-0706 (work) 294-2928 (home) or Dianne Cress 841-2586 (work) and 294-2928 (home).

Saturday Jan 12 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.

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.

Fri-Sun Apr 5-7 Chama/Cumbres Pass

Class ??

Leader: John Thomas, 298-5234

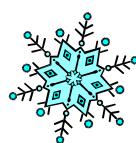
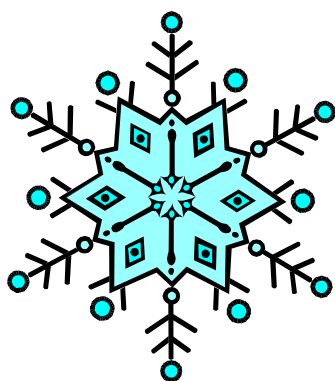
Is anybody interested in springtime skiing in the mountains north of Chama ?? I propose a several day trip to the Cumbres Pass area in the April 5-7 timeframe. If there is enough interest, I could probably get us reasonable rates at the Cumbres Suites B& B in Chama. This is an attractive, non-smoking B&B. Springtime skiing offers longer, warmer days but with the possibility of fresh snow. If interested, contact John Thomas.



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

Return Service Requested

<u>January 2002</u>	
Meeting Schedule	1
Backcountry Hut Trips	2
Long Bus Trips	3
Day Trips/Overnight Trips	4-5



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

Officer Position	Name	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</i> Webmaster	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