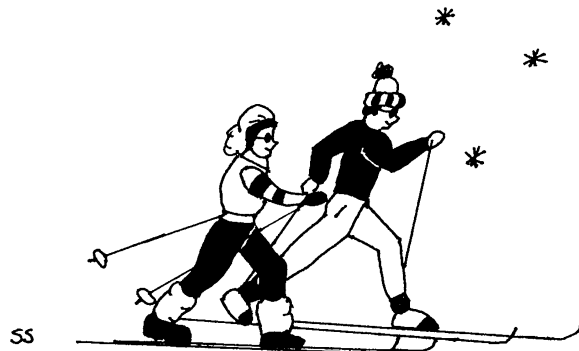


New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club

Newsletter



December 2003



Meeting Schedule for 2003-2004

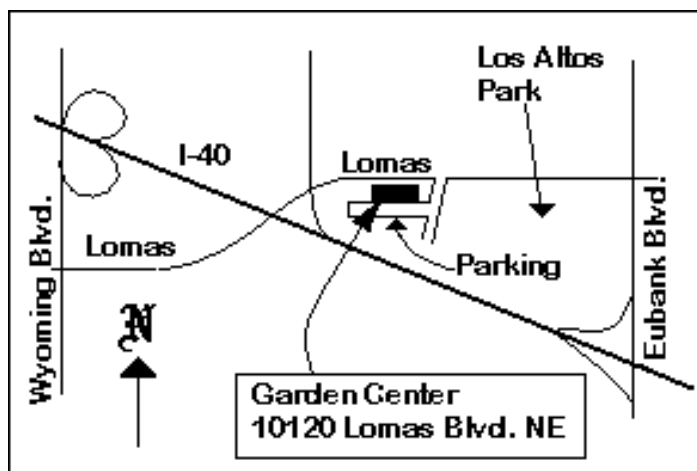
Next meeting: Thursday December 18, 7:30pm

- 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.

Monthly General Meetings

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| October 14 | January 15 |
| November 20 | February 19 |
| December 18 | March 18 |

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.



One Last Chance !!

If you haven't renewed, your membership expired last month. However, this issue is being sent to the non-renewed members as an encouragement and a reminder. There's a renewal form on Page 3!

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, just check the appropriate box on your renewal form. If you have already renewed but failed to check the box, **please contact Jean Hanson, Our Lady of the Database**. 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.

December Caprice

*December breathes a frosty mist
That FORMS A SILENT, POLAR VEIL,
THEN **SLAMS** ME WITH ITS ICY FIST;
I HEAR A SONG: THE YEAR'S FIRST GALE.
DAMN ! THERE GOES MY HAT !*

A VERSE BY GUY MILLER,
INSPIRED BY TALES OF FRANZ FRIGGENHUTZ

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



The Prez Sez ...

by Mike Martin

Greetings fellow skiers! We have some great bus trips, hut trips and overnight trips lined up and brave souls have scheduled some local day trips too! Many thanks for the hard work these folks have put in to make these outings happen. In the last month we have had representation at Winterfest, Sportz Outdoor Ski Club Night, NM Mountain Club and the REI Winter Carnival – thank you volunteers for representing your club! Upcoming efforts include short presentations at the UNM Continuing Education Cross-Country classes and telephone drives to contact past members who have not renewed and new members to see what our club can do for them.

Keep praying for snow and if you have any ideas to make our club better, please let us know! See you on the trail...



Under 35 Group

by Mike Martin

In our efforts to encourage younger members to join and ski with the club, I'd like to start an "Under 35 Group". That's under 35 years of age, not 35 inches tall for those needing clarification. Group members could schedule trips for only members under 35 and perhaps arrange their own social functions too. This would allow you a little relief from the rest of us, uh, *seasoned* members.

35 was chosen arbitrarily, please give me some feedback on this and let me know if you are interested. I will keep a list of names and distribute it.



Trees Across Ski Trails

by Sam Beard

Trees may have fallen across the cross-country ski trails in the Jemez and Sandia Mountains since the Club volunteers worked on these routes. If you find trees across the marked ski trails, call or email Sam Beard, our Trails chair. Please include the trail name, location, and tree diameter. Sam will try to find a Club or Forest Service volunteer to remove the tree.

2003-04 Membership List

The new 2003-04 membership list has been generated and placed on the Web site. A printed copy will be included with mailed newsletters. This is the only membership list that will be printed and mailed, but we'll try to put an updated list on the Web site each month.

You should double-check your information in the list. Let us know if your record needs updating.



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with this ad/Steve Scheer

New Mexico Firestone Stores



Further Word on the Long Bus Trips

by Susan Swan

294-1720; SSSwan515@aol.com

821 Rio Arriba SE, Albuquerque NM 87123

skiing descriptions by Mike Martin

The Crested Butte trip is full, and has a short waiting list. ***The Red River and Frisco trips still have space!*** Decide which trip(s) you want, and sent me your deposit. (The October newsletter had reservation slips for each trip. Basically, I just need your name, address, home and work phones, and a check.)

Frisco/Breckenridge (January 16-19)

I have 8 openings left on this trip. So fill out your slip from the October newsletter (or just call me) and you too can spend the Martin Luther King weekend with us in the Frisco/Breckenridge area! Full payment of \$220. is needed at the time of your reservation.

Possible Skiing Routes

Class I

Keystone Nordic Center

Frisco Nordic Center – accessible by shuttle

Breckenridge Nordic Center – accessible by shuttle

Shrine Mountain – Vail pass to Shrine Mountain cabin, 5 miles round trip with great views.

Class II

Peru Creek – a gentle 7 mile round trip to the old Pennsylvania mine.

Peaks Trail – starts in Breckenridge and descends 800 vertical feet to Frisco, 9 miles, fun!

McCullough Gulch – 6 miles, a neat ski past lots of old mines and then up into a narrow canyon.

Class III

Meadow Creek – 9 miles, 2700' elevation gain to wind-swept Eccles pass.

Red River (January 30-February 1)

I still have lots of openings on this trip, so you're all welcome to come! If you're already on the trip, call around to your friends and spread the word! Cost of this trip is only \$140.

– Red River balance (\$90. if you paid the \$50. deposit) is due by the December 18 meeting.

It's been many years since we've had a Club trip to Red River. This is a quaint little town, with several good restaurants (and the incomparable Brett's!) and lots of little shops. We have reserved the entire Sportsmans Lodge facility. The Enchanted Forest prepared cross-country area is here, along with a downhill area and several backcountry opportunities.

The Red River bus trip is an unusual opportunity. You get a relatively short bus ride and a chance to get familiar with an area to which you can easily return on your own. It's a great trip for novice or beginning skiers, as the Enchanted Forest cross-country ski area offers both equipment rental and lessons. This is a low-cost trip on a non-holiday weekend.

Possible Skiing Routes

Class I

Enchanted Forest Nordic Center

Ditch Cabin – an easy 4 mile roundtrip past ponds and old cabins.

Class II

Sawmill Park – a nice ski through some big parks, 8 miles roundtrip; can be extended an additional 3 miles to an 11,000 foot ridge.

Class III

Middle Fork Lake – short but steep, 6 mile roundtrip with 1500' elevation gain ending at Middle Fork Lake. Beautiful views!

Crested Butte trip description next page →





Crested Butte (February 13-16)

The Crested Butte trip is currently full, but the waiting list is fairly short. Things happen, and there are always a few people who need to sell their spots on each bus trip. If you are on the waiting list, you have a good chance of getting on this trip. It costs nothing to be on the waiting list. You can just call me for that or email me.

– Crested Butte balance (\$120. if you paid the \$100. deposit) is due by January 3 (not at the January meeting!).

Possible Skiing Routes

Class I

Gothic – an easy ski to the ghost town of Gothic, 10 miles roundtrip but only 300’ of elevation gain. Beautiful views of the mountains in the Gothic area.

Brush Creek – great views of the Elk Mountains, 6 miles round trip and 800’ of gain.

Class II

Washington Gulch – 10 miles with 1100’ feet of gain with spectacular views of the Gothic Peak and Crested Butte.

Pittsburgh – ski along rolling slate creek to the ghost town of Pittsburgh, 11 miles roundtrip with 600’ of elevation gain.

Class III

Pearl Pass – one of the premier backcountry skis in Colorado. The pass is 12 miles and 4000’ feet of gain, we’ll go as far as we can get.

Baxter Basin – 16 miles round trip to a high lake at almost 12’000’. 3000’ feet of gain, not for the faint of heart.



Articles

Beginner Cross-Country Ski Class

by Guy Miller

As of this writing, there are only three people signed up for the beginner lesson. This is quite a drop from the usual 20 to 30 people in previous years. We will still have the lesson, even with three people, if it comes to that, although it will be in a somewhat different setting than has been the custom.

The date for the classroom session is set for Saturday, December 20. Contact Guy Miller to sign up. Please note that Guy will be out of town from Dec 14 to Dec 18, the night of the general meeting. A trusted deputy will be on hand to handle last minute sign ups. If that does not occur, the three signed up students will be contacted if the date or location of the classroom session is to be changed.

There has been a proposal for an intermediate class. Contact Guy if this is of interest to you.

Contact Guy Miller at 294-7940. Please do not call after 9:00pm.



Hut Trip Update

by Guy Miller

In the last newsletter it was announced that there were three vacancies for the New Year’s trip to Betty Bear and three for the late February trip to Janet’s Cabin. Some of those slots have been filled, but there have been some cancellations, so the vacancy rate remains about the same.

For further information, contact Guy Miller at 294-7940 (please do not call after 9:00pm) or email at Xcskiboy@aol.com. The October and November newsletters have longer articles about these trips.



Pre-Planning for a Beginner Ski Trip

by Dianne Cress

If you consider yourself a beginner skier, Dianne Cress would like you to call or email her with your name and phone number. When we do have snow, she will try to put together a beginner trip. This trip will include brush-up instruction as needed along the way. (You should also consider the regular beginner cross-country class by Guy Miller.)

To get your name on this list, please call 294-2928 or email dianne.cress@state.nm.us.



Information for Skiers

FOOD, WATER and EQUIPMENT: Each skier brings all of his/her own equipment; skis, boots, poles, wax, warm clothes, food, water, etc. At least one quart of water per person and extra food for delays or emergencies should be carried.

TRANSPORTATION: Skiers should try to car pool from the meeting point to the ski trailhead. Drivers should be reimbursed 7.5 cents per mile by each passenger in a car pool. Approximate car mileage will be listed in the trip description.

TOUR LEADERS: Tour leaders are volunteers who plan and lead ski tours for NMCCSC members. A tour leader has the prerogative of rejecting any person as a tour member because of equipment, ability, or any other reason. Call the leader if you have questions about the tour.

LIABILITY: The NMCCSC is a non-profit organization in which all activities are carried out by volunteers. The Club, Club officers, trip leaders and drivers assume no liability in connection with any Club activity. If you are concerned about accidents, either while skiing or traveling, you should obtain your own insurance policy.

TOUR CLASSIFICATIONS: The tour classification is an indication of the degree of difficulty of the trail and the corresponding skiing ability required to safely and enjoyably ski. Note that the length of the skiing portion of the trip is given in the trip description. The types of trails

that each class of skier may be expected to navigate are given below:

CLASS I: A tour with less than 1000 feet of elevation gain and less than 5 miles in length, and can be skied by novice skiers with minimal cross country experience. **Persons with no cross country skiing experience MUST take beginning lessons or must obtain the leader's permission PRIOR to joining a Class I tour.**

CLASS II: A tour with 1000 to 2000 feet of elevation gain and less than 10 miles in length. The trail will have gentle to moderate slopes which require the ability to stop and turn on the slopes. A Class II+ tour will have 2000 to 3000 feet of elevation gain.

CLASS III: A tour with greater than 3000 feet of elevation gain and greater than 10 miles in length. The trail may be steep or narrow and requires at least intermediate to advanced skiing ability.

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

David Ploor – Day Trips

Jon McCorkell – Overnight Car Trips

Please contact either David (day trips) or Jon (overnight trips) 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 the drawing for a free bus trip. Trips must be submitted by the first Thursday of the month to be included in that month's newsletter.

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.

Trips can be sent as follows:

David Ploor
2888 Tramway Place NE
Albuquerque, NM 87122
dp1505@att.net
822-8650

Jon McCorkell
9709 Euclid NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112
peakbag@nmia.com
294-2928





Practice Sessions

Tues-Thurs-Sat-Sun Sandia and Santa Fe ski areas
(as soon as there's snow! End by Christmas.)

Class: any

Leader: Roe Maier, 869-2928

Practice sessions at the Santa Fe and Sandia downhill ski areas. Those who would like to volunteer to instruct should contact me so that their group can be formed. Two years ago I tried to develop a method for teaching the Telemark turn with Dave Wagner. I will be volunteering to teach that method.

Please call or email and make definite commitment.



Solstice Snowshoe Shindig

Sun Dec 21 Mt Taylor

Class II 1000' elevation gain

Leader: John Thomas, 298-5234

Climb to the top of Mt Taylor (11,000+ ft) on snowshoes. Bring adequate food, clothing and water. Meet at Smith's at NE corner of Menaul & Carlisle, west end of lot, at 0800.



Hut Trips 2003-04

Mon Dec 29 and following

Leader: Guy Miller, 294-7940

(Please call before 9:00pm.)

See the article earlier in this newsletter. Talk with the leader directly about these trips. The experience and ability requirements for the hut trips are somewhat more stringent than for other Club trips.



Monarch Pass

Jan 4-9+ Monarch Pass area

Class I-II varied

Leader: Roe Maier, 869-2928,
roemaier@comcast.net

There is a lodge at Monarch Pass called Monarch Lodge where Syl and I have stayed. I would like to organize a car trip there. I like to leave Sunday staying Sunday thru Thursday night, and driving home Friday. However I could be there on the weekends before or after the weekdays. There is a nice restaurant in the lodge; pool and hot tub and lots of rooms. There are many trails nearby and a railroad

grade across the street. There will be a chance for Class I people to ski.

Note: This trip may be changed to the Wolf Creek area. Contact Roe Maier.



Sandia Beginners' Ski

Sat Jan 17 Sandias

Class I mild

Leader: John Thomas, 298-5234

This is for those skiers who have taken Guy Miller's class. This will be a Class I trip. We will spend some time reviewing basics and skiing around the gentle trails of the Sandias. This trip will be postponed if the snow is not adequate so be sure to call leader. Meet at Smith's at Tramway & Central, SW corner of their parking lot, 9:00am.



Winter Park

Wed-Sun Feb 25-29, 2004 Winter Park, CO

Class I, II, & III ski miles: mild to massive

Leaders: Lester & Sharon Byington,
286-9100, lester@byington.org

See the article in the October newsletter.

This trip will give priority to long ski-intensive days, with provisions for those (the majority!) who prefer shorter days.

We will be traveling by carpool (driving Wed Feb 25), and staying in an 8-bedroom deluxe cabin next to the groomed track at Snow Mountain Ranch. Cost for food and lodging at SMR will be about \$270. per person. Driving expense and lodging on the way there will be additional.

Winter Park is at 9000' in northern Colorado, west of the Continental Divide. It usually has better (last year *much* better) snow conditions than southern Colorado. The Fraser Experimental Forest (no snowmobiles!) and two Wilderness areas are just outside town. Somewhat to the north are the Arapaho National Forest, Rocky Mountain National Park, and the Indian Peaks Wilderness. There are two large groomed areas, Snow Mountain Ranch and Devil's Thumb, each with 100 km of trails, plus some smaller groomed facilities.

**NEW MEXICO CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB
2003-2004 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

| Officers | Name | Phone | Email Address |
|-------------------------|--|----------------------|---|
| President | Mike Martin | 836-6520 | Pahasapapapa@aol.com |
| Vice-President | Janie Gilmore-Daniels | 259-0502 | janiegil@aol.com |
| Secretary | Patricia Kerr-Sanders | 256-0361 | pkerrsande@aol.com |
| Treasurer | Bob Swan | 294-1720 | bobswanabq@aol.com |
| Committee Chairs | | | |
| Membership | Gene & Donna Lisotto Jean Hanson | 884-7331 298-5234 | Gene_Lisotto@msn.com jh87111@comcast.net |
| Publications | Lester & Sharon Byington Dianne Cress | 286-9100 294-2928 | lester@byington.org dianne.cress@state.nm.us |
| Programs | Wayne Kirkby | 898-1654 | ski1071607@aol.com |
| Refreshments | Holly Noland Lucy Miller | 292-3025 293-5673 | dave5th@aol.com millerabq@yahoo.com |
| Day Trips | David Ploor | 822-8650 | dpl505@att.net |
| Overnight & Hut Trips | Jon McCorkell Guy Miller | 294-2928 294-7940 | peakbag@nmia.com Xcskiboy@aol.com |
| Long Bus Trips | Susan Swan | 294-1720 | SSSwan515@aol.com |
| Instruction | Guy Miller | 294-7940 | Xcskiboy@aol.com |
| Trails | Sam Beard | 828-0673 | Edwina42@aol.com |
| Web site; email group | Lester Byington Debbie O'Callaghan | 286-9100 266-0713 | lester@byington.org docalla@hotmail.com |

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

December 2003

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