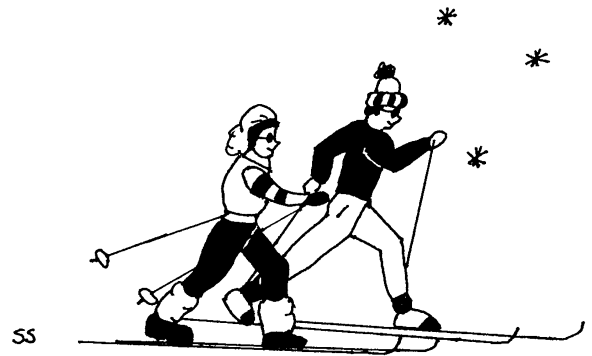


# New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club Newsletter



February 2003



## Meeting Schedule for 2002-2003

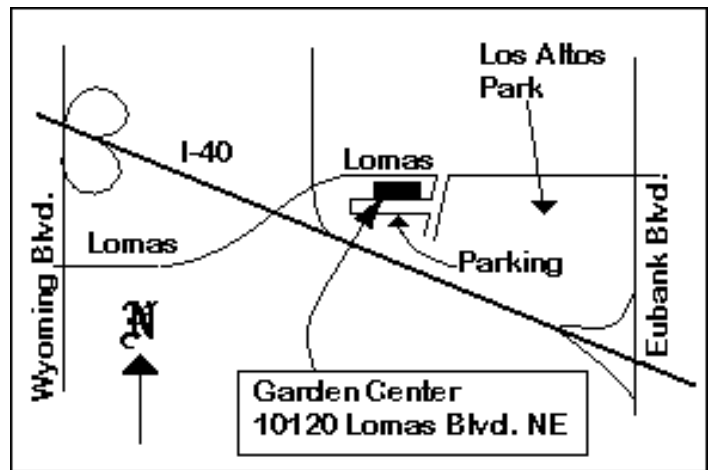
**Next meeting:** Thursday February 20, 7:30pm

- **Program:** Uncertain at press time, but we are attempting to arrange a program on outdoor winter photography.

### Monthly General Meetings

October 17	January 16
November 21	<b>February 20</b>
December 19	March 20

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.



### *A note about the email listserver ...*

- If you gave an email address on your application, you should be on the Club's Yahoo Groups email list, unless you asked Debbie O'Callaghan to keep you off it.
- If you are not getting occasional emails with Subject lines starting with "[NEW-MEXICO-CROSS-COUNTRY-SKI-CLUB] ..." then you're probably not on the list and should email Debbie about it. (There are various obscure ways you may have fallen off the list.)

### *Get your newsletter from our Web site!*

If you are receiving mailed copies of the newsletter but 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.**

*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.*

### *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. If you have interest in any of the Club offices, or questions about the duties of any position, please contact Most Honored Vice-President Janie Gilmore-Daniels at 259-0502 (janiegil@aol.com). This is your chance to influence and improve the operation of your Club!

Candidates will be listed in the March newsletter. Elections will be held at the March 20 meeting.

Visit the NMCCSC Web site at  
[www.naturediscovery.org/nmccskiclub](http://www.naturediscovery.org/nmccskiclub)  
newsletters, updated trip info, and more!



**Equipment for Sale**

- Fischer Europa Glass cross country skis, 215 cm long, 50 mm wide, Rottefella 3 pin bindings. \$5.00
- Pre Stealth alpine skis, 200 cm, Salomon 957 Composite bindings. \$20.00
- Salomon Force 9SE alpine skis, 185 cm, Salomon DR9 Equipe bindings. \$20.00
- Vintage Head Standard alpine skis, 200 cm, with Kneissel leather alpine ski boots, Men's size 10. \$40.00
- Salomon SX91 Equipe alpine rear entry ski boots, Men's size 10. \$10.00
- Eagle Explorer GPS, holster and instructions. \$25.00
- 4 Nalgene widemouth 1-liter water bottles. \$.50 each

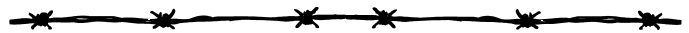
Mike Martin  
872-9268 (H)  
846-2273 (W)

- Plastic telemark ski boots (Scarpa T3's); men's size 10.5 US (8.5 UK); for 3-pin (75 mm) bindings; two years old and in excellent condition. Retail new for \$330; offered at \$200 firm.

Sandy Ballard  
797-3871

- Nordic Track skier, 75th Anniversary Edition; excellent condition; \$300.

Dennis Crowther  
281-0329 after 6:30 pm



**Ski Swap**

*by Mike Martin*

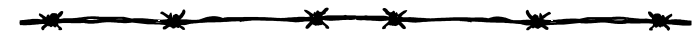
We will have an informal ski swap at each of our general club meetings. Bring your winter sports equipment that you would like to sell and place it on the counter at the east end of our meeting room for the membership to peruse. Your name and the price on the equipment will help your sale.

You can also advertise your equipment in the newsletter. Phone or email Lester Byington (see back page).

**Durango Bus Trip Update**

*by Susan Swan*

GREETINGS TO THE FOLKS GOING TO DURANGO (14-17 February): We get breakfast buffet the 3 mornings (toast, muffins, eggs, bacon, French toast, etc.--GOOD STUFF--in their dining room) 7:00-8:30am. We have a wine & cheese party FREE on Saturday night 6:00-7:00pm, and we have the indoor hot tub reserved Saturday and Sunday nights 5:00-7:00pm. They have extra towels at the front desk for this purpose. The phone number for emergencies is 970-375-7163.



**Avalanche Beacons**

*by Mike Martin*

home: 872-9268; office: 846-2273  
3920 Lafayette Dr NE, Albuquerque NM 87107

Greetings back country skiers! Last year Guy Miller and I purchased Tracker DTS beacons by Backcountry Access. The beacons were used (1 season) by a ski shop/outfitter in British Columbia and cost \$211 including shipping (no tax). They are \$300 new plus tax. The Tracker uses digital technology which actually indicates the direction of the buried beacon, speeding up the search process over all of the other beacon manufacturer's units. Beacons are used to locate skiers buried in an avalanche; your beacon sends out a signal that other skiers with beacons can receive and track to the spot you were buried, then dig you out. The more skiers wearing beacons, the better everyone's odds for rescue in an avalanche.

I called the outfitter on 23 January. They have not decided if they will sell any units this year but will decide on 1 March. Last year their units went very fast. I must be able to place the order immediately when I call them back. I cannot guarantee the price this year other than it will be cheaper than the \$318 that retailers are asking in NM and CO. I cannot guarantee that there will enough beacons for everyone who orders. What I will do is take a \$100 check as deposit if you want one. I will not cash your check until I have actually placed the order and I will take checks on a first come first served basis. When the units arrive I will ask for the balance. Call me if you have questions; send checks to the address above.



### FRANCIE'S HUT AND BEYOND

*Guy Miller, presenting a Club-record excessive-length trip report*

Our trip to Francie's Hut is now history, and what a history it was. The account that follows is, to a large extent, true. Accuracy may be substituted for a minor variation thereof where the latter makes for better story telling or where actual events cannot be recalled with certainty. Truth, after all, is nothing more than a collective agreement that a particular rendition of events represents the group's concept of reality. As Franz Friggenhutz would say, to be sure, you had to have been there, and now it's too late. Maybe next year, ya?

Some last-minute cancellations reduced our group of 20 to 17, which, while we lamented the absence of a few of our comrades, did make for a tad more elbow room in the hut. Mike Martin and Nurse Betty Spafford joined myself and Ginger "Flash" Larkin, along with John Thomas and Dr. Jean Hanson, not to mention the venerable Bonnie Putzig and globetrotter Bill Davey. Hut cherries Phyllis Pryor, Regina Michaelis, Janine Bulot, Dave Wegner and Bob Long made their debuts with this distinguished group. Dave Saylor, whose last hut trip occurred before some of our group members were born, qualified as an honorary hut cherry. Marilyn Harper, Lynda Dale and Bill Heitz, on their second hut outing, graduated to the status of hut veterans. Our representative in Breckenridge, Jim Mikkelson, was able to join us also. Franz Friggenhutz showed up unexpectedly and joined us briefly for afternoon tea before resuming his sojourn over the next valley to some undisclosed destination.

We found Francie's Hut to be truly luxurious, and the first timers may have been a bit spoiled. Those going on to McNamara and the Lake City yurts later in the season may feel a bit of a let down. Hut vets who have on previous trips staggered outside in the blinding fury of a late night storm to find relief were delighted with the indoor composting powder rooms that, contrary to popular belief, did not produce objectionable olfactory responses. That alone might make this spot worth a return visit, but the fabulous sauna was the real killer.

Not everyone chose to partake, but those who did are now truly enamored of this amenity. Prior to the trip there had been discussion about whether or not clothing would be required, and there was a limited

amount of anxiety about how that would play out. Put it this way: some got naked, some didn't, and some, well, we just couldn't be sure. Hut protocol precludes disclosing further details other than to allow the narrator to proudly proclaim that EVERYONE who got in the sauna actually got out and rolled in the snow. Some more than others. For those who have never utilized a backcountry sauna, be assured that the overall effect is the same as having a bath; all of the grunge is expelled from the surface of the skin, not to mention a variety of other bodily and mental toxins, and the saunee is clean and refreshed after the experience.

This trip write-up, which was supposed to have been limited to a few brief paragraphs, would not be complete without at least a brief mention of our dinner arrangements. Mike and Betty prepared a group dinner our first night, and Lynda Dale and Sailor Dave concocted a feast the second night. Both dinners were to die for, although no fatalities actually occurred. Our thanks go out to our selfless chefs who created an extra dimension to our experience.

The snow conditions we encountered were just this side of perfect. There was a snow storm the night before we skied in; just enough to freshen up the trail, but not enough to make the going difficult. The ski in to the hut took a few leisurely hours, and was generally enjoyable. The following day we divided up into three groups that later fragmented into several units. The skiing around the hut, contrary to what it says in Litz's book, was varied and interesting. Areas of avalanche danger were readily discernible to most half-wits and easily avoided, although it was noted that a snowshoer the day before had set off an avalanche that buried him up to his knees, chest, or neck, depending on which version one heard. My group visited the site and did some practice avalanche work, digging in the debris with our shovels and using our probes to find out just how truly difficult a real-life avalanche rescue would be. Another group explored a network of roads in the vicinity of the hut and also practiced some downhill technique under the watchful tutelage of Capt. Thunderbolt. Mike Martin did a solo venture upon the upper ridges surrounding the hut, always in radio contact with the trip leader, who at one point thought he had visual contact with the lone skier, only to realize later that he had actually



been looking at a small tree that he had thought was moving very slowly.

Our departure from the hut came at just the right time, as we could tell that the snow was starting to get a bit mushy. One more day and we would have had less than desirable conditions. It seems we hit it just right.

We had a brief period of anxiety during our exit, as three of our group became separated from the rest. They were never in any danger, but the rest of us didn't know where they were, which is never a good thing. A little common sense, good instincts, and some extra effort on the part of Mike, who went back to look for the lost lambs, was all it took to remedy the situation. The radios helped us facilitate a search effort, as those in front were able to determine what those at the back of the group were doing, which

helped formulate the decision making that governed the group as a whole. Yes, this is another pitch to get more people to get two way radios. The 5 mile range, rather than the 2 milers that we had, would have been just the ticket. They're getting rather affordable now, with a pair costing well under \$100.

It seemed that the overall consensus was that Francie's was a remarkable trip, and that a return there would be of interest to most, if not all, of the participants. The communal experience also reinforced the importance of selecting group members who are predicted to work, interact, and function well with one another, as proper group dynamics can make the difference between serendipity and catastrophe.

Next year I will try to snag reservations at Janet's Hut, which is the twin of Francie's. More on that later.



## *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*

**Mike Martin – Day Trips**

**Jon McCorkell – Overnight Car Trips**

Please contact either Mike (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:

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
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***Hut Trips***

Mon-Tues Jan 6-7 Francie's Hut  
Mon-Tues Feb 24-25 MacNamara Hut  
Sat-Sun March 15-16 Lake City yurts  
**Leader:** Guy Miller, 294-7940  
 (Please call before 9:00pm.)

The dates given are the actual ski days; travel days will bracket those.

See article in October newsletter. These trips are full, but a waiting list is being established. 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. Also, talk with Guy about next year's trips!



Thurs Feb 20 Sandia Mountains  
**Class I** 4 miles roundtrip  
**Leader:** Donna Scheer, 294-3757

Leader's choice in the Sandias depending on snow conditions. Ongoing snow dances by the Club to attract the fluffy stuff should result in good conditions. Call leader for meeting place and time.

***Winter Park – 4-5 day trip***

Thurs-Mon Feb 27-Mar 3, 2003 Winter Park, CO  
**Class II and III** ski miles: mild to massive  
**Leader:** Lester Byington, 286-9100,  
 lester@byington.org

This trip is (almost) closed to new participants now, but check this space for a trip report and the announcement of next year's trip!

This trip will give priority to long ski-intensive days, with provisions for those who prefer shorter days. The main ski group will be on the road by 8:00am each day, returning late afternoon. Other groups (actually the majority!) will do shorter days.

We will be traveling by carpool, and staying in condos. Cost will be about \$300.-\$325., including all lodging and a contribution for the drivers.

Winter Park is at 9000' in northern Colorado, west of the Continental Divide. It usually has better (this 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. In addition, there are two large prepared-track areas, Devil's Thumb and Snow Mountain, each with 100 km of trails.

**Updated race information:** The Snow Mountain Stampede will not be held the weekend we're there. It's been changed to March 15.

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

Return Service Requested

**February 2003**

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**NEW MEXICO CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB  
 2002-2003 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

<b>Officer Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
President	David Ploor	822-8650	DPloor620@aol.com
Vice-President	Janie Gilmore-Daniels	259-0502	janiegil@aol.com
Secretary	Patricia Kerr-Sanders	256-0361	pkerrsande@aol.com
Treasurer	Don Mullen	294-1202	mullendl@aol.com
<b>Committee Chairs</b>			
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 298-0085	lester@byington.org dcress@sld.state.nm.us
Programs	Wayne Kirkby	898-1654	ski1071607@aol.com
Refreshments	Holly Noland Phyllis Pryor	292-3025 255-7972	dave5th@aol.com on_the_go@earthlink.net
Day Trips	Mike Martin	872-9268	michael.martin@kirtland.af.mil
Overnight 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	828-0673	Edwina42@aol.com
Web site; email group	Lester Byington Debbie O'Callaghan	286-9100 266-0713	lester@byington.org docalla@hotmail.com