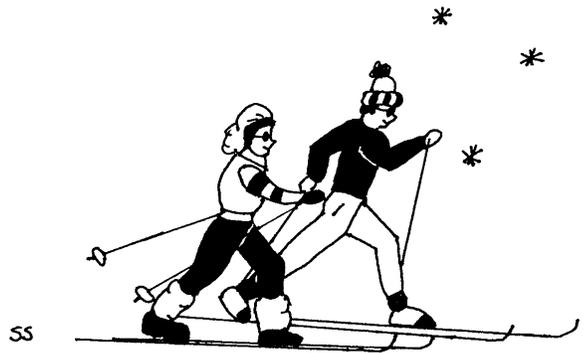


New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club *Newsletter*



December 2004



Meeting Schedule for 2004-2005

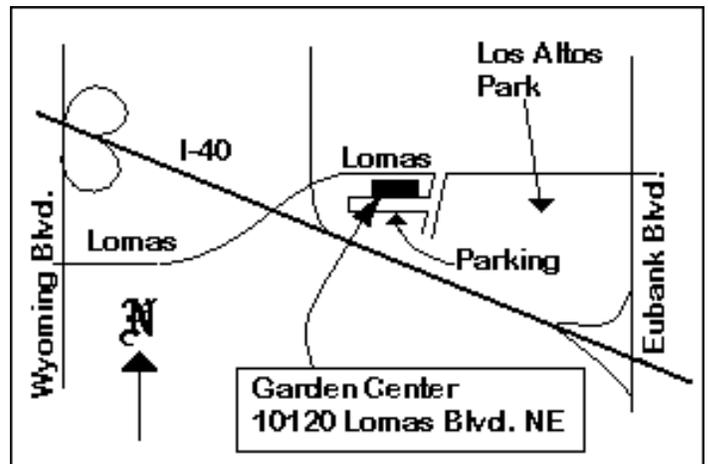
Next meeting: Thursday December 16, 7:30pm

- **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. We'll have lots of delicious goodies and a big variety. Better skip supper!

Monthly General Meetings

October 21	January 20
November 18	February 17
December 16	March 17

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.



Warning !!

New departure place for bus trips.

If you are on the **Leadville bus trip**, and would like to ride on the bus rather than **hitchhiking**, please note the following:

The bus departs from the Lowes parking lot at Paseo del Norte one block east of I-25. Please park in the northwest corner. **The departure time for Leadville is 2:00pm**, for Durango 6:00pm, and for Ouray 2:00pm. See the more detailed article on Page 3.

Do you download your newsletter from the Club Web site?

Points to remember:

- Get good use from your newsletter – print it out and keep it where you can refer to it. Don't just skim it on the computer screen and close it!
- Remember that the group email notice about the newsletter being posted is separate from the process of actually posting it. If the email notice is delayed, you can just check the Web site to see whether the new newsletter is there. It should be posted 9-10 days before the meeting.

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



The Prez Sez ...

by Mike Martin

Winter has definitely arrived in New Mexico and I'd like to thank all the members who have led or will be leading day trips in the near future. I encourage the membership to give these folks a warm fuzzy by showing up at the trailhead for their trips – and tell 'em thanks when they bring you back safe and sound. Remember that each time you lead a day trip your name is put in the hat for a drawing for a free seat on the bus trip of your choice next year. I'd also like to thank those who have been providing snow and trail conditions via the egroup and letting us know where the good skiing is.

Our overnight and hut trips are a great way to stretch out and explore some great terrain. My thanks to Jon McCorkell and Diane Cress for leading the Thanksgiving trip to Pagosa Springs, Bill Davey who will be leading his great annual trip to Rico, Sharon Byington who is leading a family trip to Just Desserts at Red River and her excellent Winter Park trip, and Guy Miller who offers you primo back country hut trips.

We have lots of new members this year. Please seek out one of the officers at the General Meeting to get acquainted and let us know what we can do for you. While there is lots of information in the newsletter, we can give you helpful hints on good places to ski, where to shop for equipment, and where the extra M & M's are hidden on the bus trips. See you on the trail!



2004-05 Membership List

The new 2004-05 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. If your record needs updating, give a call to the Lord of the Database (Gene Lisotto).

Beginner Cross-Country Ski Lessons

by Guy Miller

Time is marching on, and those who have thought about taking the beginner lesson need to get moving! This is a once-a-year deal, and the idea is to get your lesson at the beginning of the ski season so you can spend the rest of the season practicing what you've learned. Judging by the snow we've had so far, and by the long-range forecast, THIS is the year to do it.

The 2-hour classroom session will be held on Saturday December 18 at 2:00pm at the Public Library branch located near Lomas and Tramway. I will be getting there around 1:30 to set up, and I plan to start the class promptly at 2. We have reserved the group meeting room, which is located on the south side of the building. There is a separate entrance for this room. If you arrive late, please go in the MAIN entrance to the library and ask for directions to the meeting room. That way, you can enter at the back of the room and not interrupt the class. Please note that the class is held in a very informal manner, with questions and discussion encouraged. The format is intended to be fun and informative. If you have gear that you might have questions about, feel free to bring it to the class.

The all-day on-the-snow session is tentatively set for Saturday January 15, 2005. We will probably ski in the Sandias. Confirmation of the date, as well as times and meeting place will occur at a later date.

The class is for members only! The cost is \$10, the same as it was 20 years ago. Your check, made out to New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club, should be sent to **Guy Miller** at 1330 Canyon Hills NE, Albuq 87112. Please be sure to include your address, phone number, and e-mail address. Those wishing to sign up, if you will do as indicated above, I'll put you on the roster. Be sure to contact Membership if you have not joined the Club yet.

Note that the December general meeting will be held on Thursday December 16. That's the last chance to sign up; the class is two days after the meeting.

For further information, contact Guy Miller at **294-7940**, or e-mail at xcskiboy@aol.com. E-mail me anytime, but PLEASE do not call after 9:00pm.





Bus Trip Update

by Louise Broadbent

Please note the change in departure place for the bus trips. We are departing from the Lowes parking lot at Paseo del Norte one block east of I-25. Please park in the northwest corner. The departure time for Leadville is 2:00pm, for Durango 6:00pm, and for Ouray 2:00pm. You will board the bus in three groups based on your arrival time at the parking lot. I will be at Lowes parking lot one hour before the departure and hand out boarding passes to people as they arrive. You will be allowed to board the bus based on your boarding pass number. Place your boarding pass on the seat you have selected. You will not be allowed to save any seats other than for the person with whom you are rooming.

The **final payment schedule** for trips is as follows: Leadville - \$100 due by December 10th, Durango \$50 due by December 20th, Ouray \$100 due by January 1st. Make checks payable to NMCCSC (not to me!), and mail to me at: 367 Horseshoe Loop, Jemez Springs 87025.

If you have not given me your email address – please do so. It will greatly improve my ability to communicate with the group. Please note *my* change in email address – it is louise@valornet.com.

All the bus trips are full at this time with waiting lists ranging from 1-15 people. If you are interested in getting on one of the trips, *get on the waiting list!* There was an opening this week for a single woman on the Leadville trip. I announced it on egroups and filled the spot within the hour, with two more women added to the wait list. (The Leadville trip had a waiting list but they were all couples or single guys.)

ed. note: Please do not use Louise as your resource for general Club information! She has enough work doing the bus trips! Contact the officer responsible for the topic of your question (see the listing on the back page of each newsletter), or call Mike Martin, who knows all. For general information on the Club, try the Web page at www.naturediscovery.org/nmccskiclub. The members-only section can be accessed with username “skier” and password “kickturn”.

Hut Trip Update

by Guy Miller

The New Year’s trip to Eiseman had two cancellations, so there is room on this trip for qualified hut skiers. Departure day is Wednesday, December 29. We will ski in on Dec 30 and spend the next two nights there, skiing out on New Year’s Day. We will arrive back in Albuquerque probably on Jan 2. This is a difficult trip, featuring a 2500-3000 foot elevation gain, depending on which route we take (to be determined at the last possible second). One route, the steeper one, is 6.8 miles. The other one is nearly 9 miles. The tele skiing around the hut is supposed to be among the best in the 10th Mountain system.

The beginner’s trip to Shrine Mountain Hut, set for January 23 to January 26 (including drive days), is full, with two people on the waiting list. The ski in to the hut (which features unheard-of luxuries including running water, electricity, bathtub and sauna) is less than 3 miles, with a 700-foot elevation gain. Participants must be reasonably competent skiers who are ready to take on a new challenge, albeit a relatively easy one!

The trip to Skinner Hut, tentatively envisioned the first week in April, is moving from the big talk stage to the planning stage. So far there are 3 takers. The ski in to Skinner is supposedly the most difficult one in the 10th Mountain system, at least in terms of distance. Overnight bivouac is a possibility, although the late season schedule allows for plenty of daylight hours. Skinner is unique in its construction, being a single story, made entirely of stone. Day trips to Betty Bear are planned.

For further information on these and other hut trips, including next year and beyond, contact Guy Miller at 294-7940 (please do not call after 9:00pm !) or e-mail xcskiboy@aol.com.





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

Bill Heitz – Day Trips and Overnight Trips

Please contact Bill 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, Bill 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.

Send trip information to:

Bill Heitz
53 Valle Vista
Corrales, NM 87048-6400
898-3573
bill.heitz@ieec.org



Hut Trips 2004-2005

Wed Dec 29-Sat Jan 1 Eiseman Hut, CO
Sun Jan 23-Wed Jan 26 Shrine Mountain Hut, CO
first week April (tentative) Skinner Hut, CO
Leader: Guy Miller, 294-7940
 (Please call before 9:00pm.)

See the article in this newsletter. The Eiseman trip has two openings for qualified hut skiers. Shrine Mountain is full, with a short waiting list. Hut trips require leader approval – the experience and ability requirements for the hut trips are somewhat more stringent than for other Club trips, but Shrine Mountain is at the easy end of the scale.

Raven's Ridge – Santa Fe

Sat Jan 8 Santa Fe Ski Basin
Class III
Leader: Susan Corban, 877-3356,
 slcorban@unm.edu

Day trip to Raven's Ridge, by the Santa Fe Ski Basin. Skins required. Great trip for backcountry and telemark skiers. Meet at BOA 7:30am.

rustic trip – Rico, Colorado

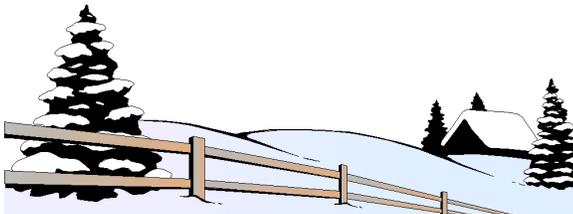
Fri-Sun Jan 21-23 Rico, CO
Class II-III
Leader: Bill Davey, 266-0167
 wrdavey@unm.edu

Stay dirt cheap at the fabled Rico Hotel. Day skiing in the area is spectacular yet little known except to area denizens. Alpine skiing in nearby Telluride is also available. Come join a congenial group for a fantastic weekend ski trip in an area that Bill has been exploring (and exploiting) for several years.

Aspen Vista – Santa Fe

Sat Jan 22 Santa Fe Ski Basin
Class II
Leader: Susan Corban, 877-3356,
 slcorban@unm.edu

Day trip to Aspen Vista, near the Santa Fe Ski Basin. Meet at BOA 7:30am.



Family & Children – Red River

Fri-Sun Feb 25-27 Red River, NM
Class: Novice – II
Leaders: Sharon & Lester Byington,
 286-9100, sharon@byington.org

See the detailed listing in the November newsletter.

This is the weekend of the Just Desserts festival at Enchanted Forest, a beautiful prepared-track area at almost 10000'. They offer instruction for ages 3 and up, and equipment rental.

Just Desserts is Saturday Feb 26. Local restaurants and local gourmet cooks will have desserts at three tables – next to the rental hut, one mile out, and 2-3 miles out. We will do skiing/lessons Friday afternoon (for those arriving that early) and Sunday morning.

Winter Park 2005

Wed-Sun Mar 2-6 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.

There are only 4-6 spaces still available.

We will be traveling by carpool (driving Wed Mar 2), and staying in an 8-bedroom deluxe cabin next to the groomed track at Snow Mountain Ranch. Food and lodging at SMR will be about \$275. per person

The backcountry skiing on this trip will be Class II and III, but the trip is suitable for Class I skiers and even novices since we're right at Snow Mountain Ranch (and just a few miles from Devil's Thumb).

Lake City exploratory

Fri-Mon Mar 18-21 Lake City, CO
Class II-III
Leader: Guy Miller, 294-7940 (please call
before 9:00pm), xcskiboy@aol.com

This is the place where we did a yurt trip two years ago, on the Continental Divide, where skiers traverse a knife edge on top of the world, with 360 degree views unparalleled anywhere in the area. We are exploring this as a possible future bus trip. We will ski the Continental Divide area as well as explore other nearby places. Skiing is relatively easy, despite the location. And it's a truly WILD experience. Contact leader for further information.

**NEW MEXICO CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB
2004-2005 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Officers	Name	Phone	Email Address <small>new ↘</small>
President	Mike Martin	836-6520	Pahasapapapa@aol.com
Vice-President	Janie Gilmore-Daniels	259-0502	janiegil@aol.com
Secretary	Walt Klinge	299-4535	wwklinge@att.net
Treasurer	David Ploor	822-8650	dpl505@comcast.net
Committee Chairs			
Membership	Gene & Donna Lisotto	884-7331	Gene_Lisotto@msn.com DonnaLisotto@msn.com
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	hollyabq@aol.com millerabq@yahoo.com
Day Trips	Bill Heitz	898-3573	bill.heitz@ieee.org
Overnight & Hut Trips	Bill Heitz Guy Miller	898-3573 294-7940	bill.heitz@ieee.org Xcskiboy@aol.com
Long Bus Trips	Louise Broadbent	505-829-3840	louise@valornet.com ←
Instruction	Guy Miller	294-7940	Xcskiboy@aol.com
Trails	Sam Beard	828-0673	samgbeard@msn.com ←
Web site; email group	Lester Byington Debbie O'Callaghan	286-9100 256-5381	lester@byington.org docalla@hotmail.com

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

December 2004

Meeting Schedule	1
President's Message	2
Beginner Lessons	2
Membership List	(unnumbered insert)
Bus Trip Update	3
Hut Trip Update	3
Information for Skiers	4
Day Trips/Overnight Trips	4-5

