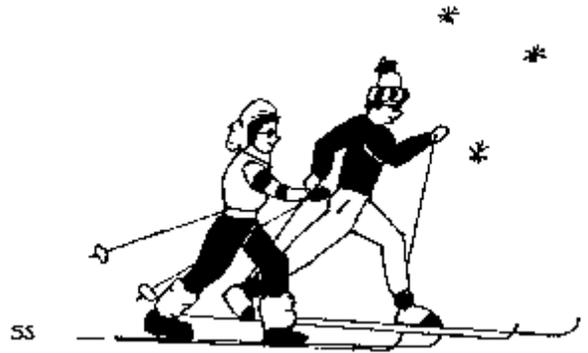


New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club Newsletter



February 2005



Meeting Schedule for 2004-2005

Next meeting: Thursday February 17, 7:30pm

Monthly General Meetings

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

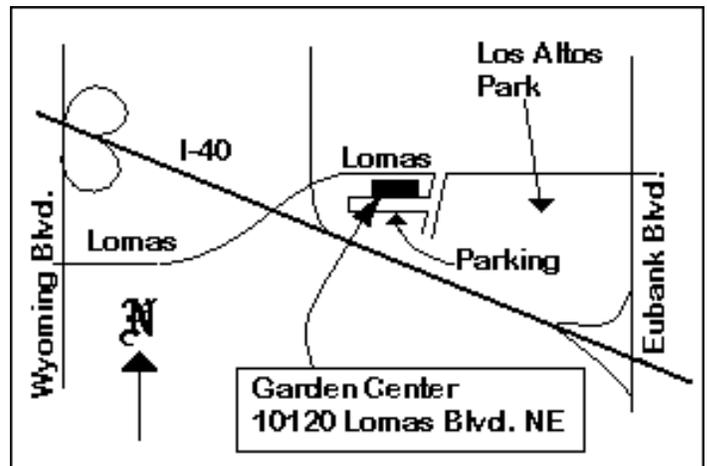
Meetings are held at 7:30pm on the third Thursday of each month, October through March, at the Albuquerque Garden Club Center, 10120 Lomas NE. Look for the sign on Lomas at the entrance to the Center. Please park on the east side of the building and enter through the east entrance.



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.



Last-Minute Notes Ouray Bus Trip (Feb 18-21)

- **Bus departs at 2:00pm Friday.** Get there early – this is the departure time, not the loading time!
- **Bus departs from the Lowes parking lot at Paseo del Norte, one block east of I-25.** Please park in the northwest corner.
- **If you're not on the trip but would like to be:** Keep watching the group emails for notice of cancellations, right up to the last minute. Also, be sure Louise (505-829-3840, louise@valornet.com) knows you're looking for a spot.

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

The Prez Sez ...

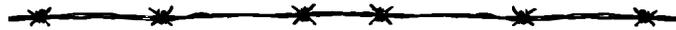
by Mike Martin

Many thanks to all who are spreading the word about the NMCCSC. People have been handing out business cards on the trail and at the UNM Continuing Education Cross Country Ski Classes, Janie Gilmore arranged for an article in the Go! section of the ABQ Journal, and we have given presentations at the UNM CC ski classes. Your efforts help our club to grow!

It's been a great snow year and I hope you are taking advantage of it. Almost every trip I've been on, the snow has been fantastic! We've had lots of trips and several of our leaders have graciously included beginners on many of those trips. Sam Beard and John Thomas have gone above and beyond for those of you who are new to the sport – they'll give you good pointers on technique and show you some fine areas at which you can continue to sharpen your skills. Guy Miller led a beginner hut trip that was outstanding and also a more advanced trip that got rave reviews.

As I write this, I'm also packing for our Durango bus trip. Louise Broadbent, our Bus Trip Chair, has done an excellent job in her first year in this position, adding considerable spice to our trips and planning the details to perfection. She has also gotten larger buses for the trips allowing more members to go. Please take advantage of this again next year when it's sign-up time. There are plenty of beginner-level trips when we take the buses to Colorado; we want to see our new skiers on the bus too!

See you on the trail...



Yet Another Membership List

Another 2004-05 membership list has been generated and placed on the Web site. As usual, 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).

Using the Yahoo Groups Email System *by Debbie Brunt*

The Club uses the free Yahoo Groups facility as a method for members to send email messages to the entire Club (or at least those who are signed up with the NMCCSC Group). We use the facility to send announcements of short-notice trips, local snow and trail reports, and other items of broad interest to the members. This is a "moderated" group, in that someone (myself or another officer) needs to approve each posting. This keeps spam and other irrelevant material from filling up your In box.

Generally, I will automatically enroll you in the group if you gave an email address on your membership application or renewal. (If you wish to be removed, just call or email me – 256-5381, docalla@hotmail.com.) If you are a Club member but not on the group, please let me know and I will add your email address. You will then get an email welcoming you to the group and will receive approved messages sent by anyone else in the group.

To send a message: Compose and send an email as usual, using this email address:

NEW-MEXICO-CROSS-COUNTRY-SKI-CLUB
@yahogroups.com
(no line break, of course!)

There will be a delay waiting for approval. It can take from a few hours to a day before a moderator sees and approves your message.

You may include small text attachments if they're really integral to your message, but don't send image files – some of our members have slow Internet connections! Instead, describe the photos and invite people to request them from you, or submit them to Lester Byington for consideration for the newsletter or Web site.

To reply to a message: Usually you want to reply just to the individual who sent the message. With most email systems, you can do that just by clicking "reply". [An email sent to the Group will always appear to come from the person who originally sent it, even though the actual process is a little complicated (to Yahoo, hold for approval, then distribute to the Group members).]

If you really want your reply to go to everyone in the Club, clicking "reply all" should work. Carefully check the "To:" field in your reply email to be sure you're sending to the addresses you intend!



Trip Report – Leadville Bus Trip 14-17 January 2005

by *Karen Griffith*

Everyone gathered at the new parking location, Lowes on Paseo del Norte, shortly before 2:00pm Friday. The new process for loading the bus worked very well. It seemed to eliminate the mass confusion of everyone trying to get on the bus at the same time. The bus driver, Ron, had taken the extra effort to ice some of the refreshments, especially the beer, much to the satisfaction of our thirsty members. The bus left right on time at 2:00pm and we were on the freeway in less than 5 minutes!! On a side note, there are not any convenient fast food places near the new parking area, so everyone needs to bring any food they need with them.

We stopped for dinner in Alamosa around 5:00pm. The dinner was a buffet Mexican affair. The food was good and there was plenty for everyone. We had the entire second floor to ourselves, so although we were a decidedly convivial group I don't think we drove off any of their regular customers! We arrived at the Columbine Inn around 9:00pm. It was certainly nice to arrive at a decent hour and get a good night's sleep. The Columbine Inn was a very nice, new place with very effective sound proofing between the rooms.

The Inn provides a good Continental breakfast, which Louise augmented with additional "protein" food e.g., ham, quiche, etc. Every evening we had a happy hour in the breakfast area from 5:00pm-6:15pm where everyone gathered to share their ski day and plan for the next. Louise had already made dinner reservation for us in town at two different restaurants, so at the conclusion of happy hour all we had to do was get on the bus for a short ride into town, where Ron dropped us off at the doors to the restaurants! The end result of all this great planning was a relaxed happy hour each evening where everyone enjoyed talking with old friends and meeting new ones, and a leisurely, no-hassle dinner.

The bus left the Columbine Inn at two times each morning, 8:15am and 9:30am, to accommodate both the hard core and more civilized skiers. On Saturday, Mike Martin led a class 2+ trip past Francie's Cabin. Dave Ploor led a class 1 trip down the railroad grade, and Katie Crawford led a class 2 trip to ski Cooper's Loop. In addition, several people went to the Nordic

Center and several people skied the downhill area, Cooper. All the trips went well, but the Cooper's Loop trip turned out to be a day of exploration – never did find the trail head!

On Sunday, Guy Miller led a Class 2+ trip to Uncle Bud's cabin, Louise Broadbent led a group of determined class 2 skiers in search of the elusive Cooper's Loop, and John Thomas led a class 1 trip down the railroad grade. Again all the trips went well. Unfortunately, the class 2 group again failed to find the loop, although they did ski close to the top of Chicago Ridge.

On Monday, Mike and Guy led a class 2 trip, Ray Berg led a small group in yet another effort to find the start of the Cooper's Loop trail and several people skied a portion of a new 12-mile ski/hike/bike trail loop around Leadville. All trips again went very well, and we are pleased to report that Ray actually found the loop trail this time! The new ski/hike/bike trail was very nice – lots of interesting historical markers along the way. A highlight of this trail was skiing out to the Matchless Mine of Baby Doe Tabor fame.

The bus left Leadville at 1:00pm. We stopped in Espanola at 5:00pm for dinner and arrived back at Lowes at 7:00pm. Ron made outstanding time.

It was a great trip – great snow and lots of quality interaction between club members. This trip was a great way to kick off our long bus trip season. Congrats to Louise!



Thea Berg, Susan Williams, and Karen Griffith enjoy the Ski Cooper Nordic area at Tennessee Pass.



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@ieee.org





Hut Trips 2004-2005

first week April (tentative) Skinner Hut, CO

Leader: Guy Miller, 294-7940

(Please call before 9:00pm.)

See the article in the December newsletter.

Family & Children – Red River

Fri-Sun Feb 25-27 Red River, NM

Class: Novice - I - 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 Saturday morning 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.

We now have space for more people, due to some likely cancellations. *Call the leader promptly, before I cancel those rooms!*

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 is \$239. per person. Driving expense and lodging on the way there will be additional.

Snow Mountain Ranch is at 9000' in northern Colorado. It usually has better (often *much* better) snow conditions than southern Colorado.

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). Both facilities offer lessons, equipment rentals, and over 100km of trails for all abilities.



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
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 Brunt (was 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

February 2005

Meeting Schedule	1
Ouray Bus Trip Notes	1
President's Message	2
Yahoo Groups email system	2
Trip Report – Leadville Bus Trip	3
Information for Skiers	4
Day Trips/Overnight Trips	4-5

