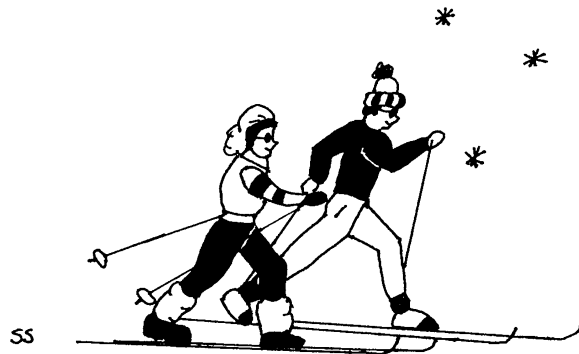


New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club

Newsletter



March 2005



Meeting Schedule for 2004-2005

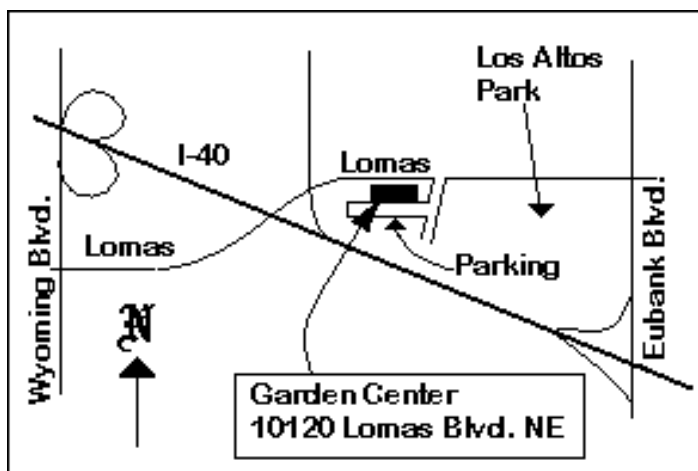
Next meeting: Thursday March 17, 7:30pm

- **Election of Officers** and Committee Chairs!
Throw out the current scoundrels and get new leadership for the Club! Nominations from the floor will be taken. See the present list of candidates on page 3.
- **Program:** Carol Haller will show her slides of the Ouray bus trip and of South Mountain in the Valles Caldera. The latter area is being explored by Sam Beard and other volunteers as a potential ski trail site. Don't miss it!!
- **Drawing** for various prizes (ski-related items)! Just put your name in the hat at the meeting.
- **Refreshments** including cheesecake, our traditional treat for the last meeting of the year.

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.



Heads-up for 2006 trips !!

See page 2, and the trip postings on page 7, for information on the 2006 hut trips and the 2006 Yellowstone trip.

Unlike most Club trips, these have reservation and payment requirements which require that the leader establish a participant list, and in some cases collect money, during our Summer hiatus.

If you don't pay attention, you could miss your chance to go on these major trips!

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

The Prez Sez ...

by Mike Martin

The ski season is winding down, but it's not over yet. We're still getting good snow in the Sandias and the Jemez; wax up your boards and head for the hills – watch the egroup for last minute trips. Thanks are in order to Lester and Sharon Byington who organized a great trip to Winter Park. There was lots of prepared

track and serious back country skiing and the communal meals were delicious! Guy Miller still has his trip to Lake City coming up; see the trip description section for details. The Continental Divide is easily accessible in the area and the views are truly incredible! Our last general meeting is just around the corner; we'll be having a drawing and giving away ski gifts, electing officers and serving cheesecake for refreshments. I'll see you there...



Early Announcements – 2006 Trips

Yellowstone Tour 2006

Monday 27 February – Sunday 5 March

by Michon Johnson

There will be a week-long trip to Yellowstone Park next year, featuring an educational emphasis on natural history and wildlife. Each day, ski trips will be led by graduate-degreed experts from the Yellowstone Association Institute (YAI). Generally, there will be trips in both the 5-mile and 10-mile range.

The tentative plan is to fly into Bozeman, Montana on 27 February, and take organized transportation into Mammoth Hot Springs that evening. The program organized by the YAI includes ground transportation, 3 nights lodging at Mammoth Hot Springs, 2 nights lodging at Old Faithful Snow Lodge, and breakfasts and lunches. The lodging plan for Saturday 4 March is not yet finalized. We would fly home Sunday 5 March. Some people have indicated they will drive rather than fly.

As a rough estimate, \$1500. would cover plane flights, ground transportation, and the 5-day program discussed above. Additional cost would be for dinners, ski rentals (if any), and lodging Saturday night.

The details of reservations and payment are still being worked, but the current plan is to reserve 20 slots. *An initial payment of about \$500. will be required within the next few weeks, so think about this quickly and call the leader with any questions!* You may reach Michon at 332-8929.

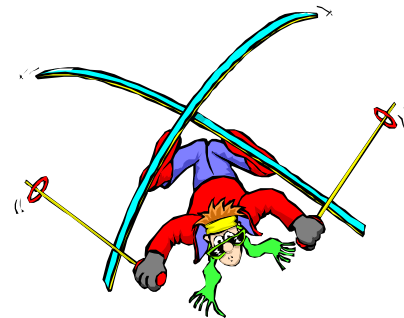
Hut Trips 2006

by Guy Miller

One major hut trip has been reserved at this time. We have the Peter Estin Hut for the nights of January 23-24-25. We'll drive up on Sunday January 22, and probably not get back until Thursday January 26. This hut is known for the excellent skiing in the area around the hut. Note that this is the very first three-day hut trip the Club has done!

After April 1, we may be able to get the Harry Gates hut for later in the season, perhaps late February. This is a lower-elevation hut featuring gentle glade skiing in the vicinity. We would stay at the fabled Diamond J Ranch on the way up.

If you're interested in either of these trips, contact Guy Miller at 294-7940 (please call before 9:00pm), and maintain contact during the summer!



Winter Park – no trip in 2006

by Lester Byington

Sharon and I will not do a Winter Park/Snow Mountain Ranch trip in 2006, since we'll be involved with the Yellowstone trip. We think the Yellowstone trip will attract many of the same people who come to Snow Mountain Ranch with us.



Elections

- Elections of officers and committee chairs are held at the March general meeting each year. These volunteers take office immediately and serve through the following season. The officers and committee chairs together comprise our Board of Directors.
- The Board, through a combination of cajoling, wheedling, and outright begging, prepares a list of candidates. Board members hoping to relinquish their position work hardest at this. This year’s list appears below. In the event additional victims are discovered at the last minute, nominations may be made from the floor.
- Officers, once elected, receive absolute obeisance and unwavering adulation from the membership. Committee chairs receive conditional obeisance and intermittent adulation.
- Committee chair positions listed below are those given in the bylaws. The bylaws group some related jobs into logical categories, while recognizing that some positions may require more than one person. Thus, the listing has several positions where the “candidate” is actually a team of people running as potential co-chairs.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Current Officeholder</u>	<u>2005-2006 Candidate</u>
President	Mike Martin	Mike Martin
Vice President	Janie Gilmore-Daniels	Janie Gilmore-Daniels
Secretary	Walt Klinge	Tammy Catalfamo
Treasurer	David Ploor	David Ploor
Day Trips	Bill Heitz	Bill Heitz
Long Bus Trips	Louise Broadbent	Louise Broadbent
Overnight Car Trips/Hut Trips	{ Bill Heitz Guy Miller	Guy Miller
Publications Committee	{ Lester & Sharon Byington Dianne Cress	{ Lester & Sharon Byington Dianne Cress
Instruction Committee	Guy Miller	Guy Miller
Membership Committee	Gene and Donna Lisotto	Gene and Donna Lisotto
Programs Committee	Wayne Kirkby	Wayne Kirkby
Refreshments Committee	{ Holly Noland Lucy Miller	{ Holly Noland Lucy Miller
Trails Committee	Sam Beard	Sam Beard
Web Site and Email Group	{ Lester Byington Debbie Brunt	{ Lester Byington Debbie Brunt





Trip Reports

Just Desserts event Red River/Enchanted Forest Family Trip 25-27 February 2005

by Jean Hanson

What can I say? Wow! We couldn't have had better snow conditions or weather. Perfect! Five grandparents brought four six year olds, Logan, Zachary, Scingon, and Rhiana and one four year old, Quinn. Three of them took lessons Saturday morning and most were skiing down moderate slopes with no problems – really took to cross country skiing. Two mothers brought three 10-11 year olds: Emily, Katie, and Cheta. They came early and took lessons on Friday afternoon. Almost as fun were the snowball fights and chasing each other around. The motel had a playground covered in snow that provided a lot of entertainment for the kids. The grandparents also had fun, though we were tired and ready for bed way before the kids were.

The Just Desserts was delicious – the chocolate mousse from Altitudes was my personal favorite. Three of the children skied to the first dessert station which was about a mile in. Key lime pie and fudge were the favorites with the kids. All in all a great time!



Barbara Forshay with Logan Cameron and Katie Forshay at the first dessert table. To the right, facing away, are Jean Hanson and Michon Johnson.



The five younger children, posing on Sunday morning: Quinn Johnson, Zachary Mason, Logan Cameron, Rhiana Thomas, and Scingon Collins



From the Back of the Pack – A First-Timers View of the Ouray Bus Trip

by Mike Meier

After joining the club last year and enjoying a few of Sam Beard's tours on the Jemez trails, my wife Frances and I decided to expand our horizons with the bus trip to Ouray. We had not been on any such trips in the past, and we were impressed with how well thought out the bus loading went, along with the fact that we departed a little earlier than the appointed hour. A continuing theme of this report is one

of thanking Louise for her organizational efforts and for making us feel so welcome. Thank you, Louise! (TYL!) Since we had previously kept up with some of Sam's Class II tours, we joined Louise's Saturday tour at that level. (TYL!, this time for volunteering to lead that day.) The conditions were great, and, after a couple of exploratory sorties through deep, powdery snow, we found the broad bowl that she had in mind as our destination. The final ascent of the day was up to St. Paul's Lodge, which required climbing skins for some of us, and the cruising back down through the powder was exquisite. We had never before cross-country skied at altitudes above



10,000', so the wide-open expanses were a real treat and a contrast to the more densely forested Jemez trails that can be more intimidating, especially for fast descents.

Dinner at the Outlaw was a convivial and well-organized event. (TYL!) During the course of the meal it occurred to Frances and me decided that Sunday's tours would be our last chance for the year to try a Class III tour. The Fat Tires and chardonnay were only slightly influential in our decision to join Mike Martin's ascent of McMillan Peak.

The Sunday bus trip to the pass was sobering, but we stuck to our resolution, and we joined the two class III groups making their way from the pass up to St. Paul's Lodge. There we split into two groups: Mike's, with Tom Broadbent, Phyllis Pryor, Noel Barstow, Frances and me, and one led by Guy Miller. Beyond St. Paul's, I huffed and puffed up another few hundred vertical feet, and then heard Mike announce, "Now we start climbing!" And indeed we did. The Fat Tire induced euphoria of Saturday night was becoming a dim memory as I brought up the rear and struggled to keep up. The snow was deep and untracked, and, as we climbed, the visibility worsened and the wind picked up, frequently resulting in horizontally blowing snow.

One memorable rest break occurred at a point where Mike estimated that we were about 500' below the peak. The sun broke through for a few moments and illuminated a stunningly beautiful, yet ominous, cornice sculpted into the slope between our location and our destination peak above us. With substantial effort, we detoured around it, and finally found ourselves at the top. The wind, cold, and low

visibility made lunch at the peak a little less gala than it might have been, but the peanut butter crackers and peanut M&M's were very satisfying. We descended by an alternate route, which became a very pleasurable cruise through deep powder. I was pretty chilly and tired when we arrived at the pass, but, wouldn't you know it – Louise had managed to have the bus appear just as I was taking off my skis. TYL! Back at the Box Canyon Lodge, Frances and I defrosted in the hot tubs, and replenished our potassium supplies with products from the New Belgium Brewing Co.

We again joined Mike on his Monday morning trip up Dexter Creek/Horsethief Trail. What a difference from Sunday – skies were blue, the sun shone, but the snow was again light and powdery. After a long climb up a wide trail with a steady grade, we lunched overlooking a moderately steep, broad meadow in the foreground, with the valley north of Ouray on the horizon. The meadow provided us a near knee-deep powder run for our dessert, and we cruised the powdery trail back to the bus.

The trip back to Albuquerque was relaxing, but south of Durango, we had the feeling that we had left a really special time and place. Out the bus window, it was beginning to look and feel a little like spring in New Mexico. The reality of Red Mountain Pass, McMillan Peak, Dexter Creek and hot-tubbing in the snow was gone. If my neurons were a little younger, I'd say it was an unforgettable trip. It will remain in our memories for a long, long time, and in our photo collection even longer. TYL!



Class III tour on the trail from Red Mountain Pass to St. Paul's Lodge – Guy Miller, Phyllis Pryor, Alan Burns, Karen and Chet Leach



Winter Park/Snow Mountain Ranch 2-6 March 2005

by Sharon Byington

The trip to Winter Park this year started out anything but perfect. The leaders were ill and not too quick to solve all the problems that exploded in the first few hours. A great dinner at Tommyknockers in Idaho Springs didn't help much to get the first day's skiing organized – with the cars loaded with food and equipment, switching riders around was difficult. When we reached our Thursday trailhead, the four people who came up early with greeted us with "The snow is terrible!" We did the Elk Meadow – Sunken Bridges route on mediocre snow, but did have a decent ski.

We went to register but found that the cabin we had rented was not available – the boiler was broken! We were offered two seven-bedroom cabins. Yuck! We

couldn't all eat together, the bathrooms were down the hall and if we took them we couldn't get into the cabin that we love so much. So, we all stayed in Indian Peaks (regular lodge rooms) that evening with our cars still loaded with food. We ate in their cafeteria. It wasn't too bad.

The next afternoon we got our wonderful 8-bedroom cabin. What a change!! It didn't improve the snow, but 26 people enjoyed great meals (4 instead of 6!), great socializing, and super views from the huge living room windows.

The snow remained a problem the entire trip and forced us to change most of our skiing plans. However, Mike Martin led some excellent Class III trips at higher elevations, we found quite good track skiing in parts of Devil's Thumb and Snow Mountain Ranch, and finished with a great backcountry ski on fairly good snow in Rocky Mountain National Park.



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.

<u>Carpooling/Meeting Places</u>	
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
<i>Use the parking area away from the money machine.</i>	



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



Lake City semi-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.

Hut Trips 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.

Hut Trips 2006

Sun-Thurs 22-26 Jan 2006 Peter Estin Hut, CO

other dates and locations: TBD

Leader: Guy Miller, 294-7940
(Please call before 9:00pm.), xcskiboy@aol.com

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.

If you are even somewhat interested in a hut trip in 2006, maintain contact with Guy Miller during the Spring and Summer! Arrangements for these trips will be finalized during that time, and sign-ups will be taken. Some trips may fill before the regular newsletters and meetings begin in October.

Yellowstone 2006

Mon-Sun 27 Feb-5 March 2006 Yellowstone Park

Leader: Michon Johnson, 332-8929

See the article earlier in this newsletter.

Contact Michon soon about this trip. Trip arrangements will probably be finalized soon, and sign-ups and deposits will be taken. The trip may fill before the regular newsletters and meetings begin in October.



**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

March 2005

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