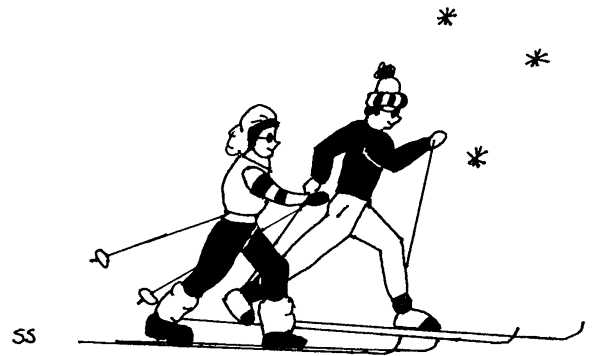


New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club Newsletter



February 2006



Meeting Schedule for 2005-2006

Next meeting: Thursday February 9, 7:30pm

- **Program:** Dr. Mick Bauman, an emergency medicine resident at UNM hospital, will present information and safety tips for backcountry winter travel, including nutrition, frost bite, hypothermia and altitude sickness. Don't miss it!

Monthly General Meetings

October 11	January 12
November 10	February 9
December 8	March 9

Meetings are held at 7:30pm on the second 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 south side of the building and enter through the south entrance.

2005-2006 Hut Trips Update

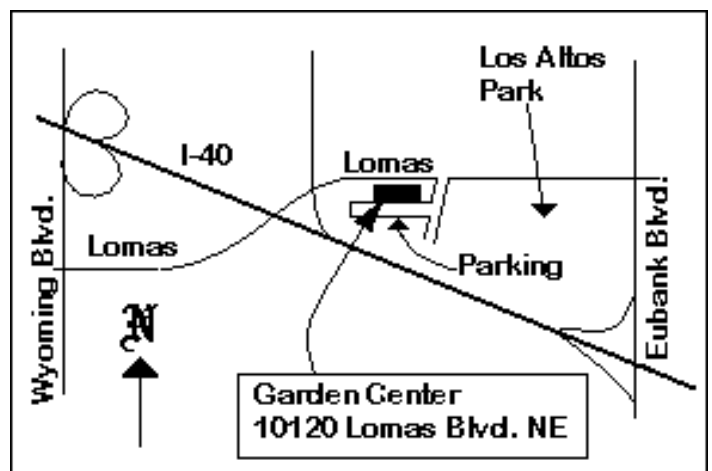
by Guy Miller

There are some vacancies for qualified hut skiers on the fabulous Fabi's Hut trip, set for Feb 26 – March 3 (including drive days).

The Skinner Hut Death March, set for March 18 – 23 (including drive days) still has some vacancies, and in all likelihood always will.

We will be entering the lottery for 2007 hut trips in early February. Harry Gates Hut will be our primary goal, with a target time of late February 2007. Stay posted for results. Other hut trips for 2007 will be bid for in April

For further info on these trips, or for any matters pertaining to hut trips, contact Guy Miller at 294-7940 (before 9:00pm), or at xskiboy@aol.com.



New Membership List

An updated 2005-06 membership list has been generated and placed on the Web site. *Note that we had a computer glitch in December and had to re-generate the entries for most of the current members.*

We took pains to cross-check the results with the November list, but there could still be some typos.

You should double-check your information in the list, and check that we're publishing just the items you told us to print. If your record needs updating, email or phone the Lord of the Database (Gene Lisotto).

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



Peter Estin Hut – Trip Report

by Guy Miller

An even baker’s dozen made up the Estin roster for the Club’s first 3-night hut trip. Guy Miller, and hut veterans Bill Heitz, Wayne Kirkby, Dave Saylor, John Stephens and Barbara Coon climbed the 2000 + feet to the hut along with Phyllis Pryor, John Thomas, Sandy Ballard, and Carl Smith. Our one and only hut cherry, Marlene Brown, novice Pam Reynolds, and Club newcomer Rich Besser completed our group.

We started at the trailhead near Eagle, Colorado a little before 9:00am. The route took us mostly along a road that had well-packed, yet fresh, snow. We were blessed by clear, calm weather, with temperatures just below freezing to keep the snow sparkling and crisp for us. The Bad Boys made it to the hut about mid-afternoon, and they fired up the stove and started snow melt as the rest of us trickled in until about 5:00pm, well before dark. Chef John T. fixed us a dandy first night dinner.

The next day, several skiers took on the steep and deep slopes a stone’s throw from the cabin. Sandy, Carl, John S., Wayne, Guy, Rich and Pam impressed each other over and over again with their Tele-Mojo in a day that ended too soon. Dave Saylor went exploring on his own, and the rest joined John T. on a sojourn to Crooked Creek Pass.

On our second full day of day skiing, skiers split up, some returning to the wonderful tele slopes of the day before. Carl, Pam, and Guy took the route that Dave S. had discovered the day before, and they found the ski “heaven” that Dave had described, an isolated high ridge that provided a backcountry ski experience too rare for words. Nevertheless, Pam and Guy learned some words that need to be shared with everyone: DO NOT leave the hut without your skins! ... never mind, that’s a private, Estin kind of story ... you had to have been there.

It started snowing on our last night, and there was fresh powder on the ground for our ski out. The temperature had turned to a brittle cold, but we got out and back to our vehicles in under three hours. All agreed it had been a spectacular hut experience. There is a tremendous amount of skiing to be done around the hut, for all levels of ability and preference. We touched only a small amount of what was available to us.

Update on Bus Trips

by Louise Broadbent

The Frisco trip over the MLK weekend was a great success (see the trip reports next page!). The snow was very good and we tried out a couple of trails that the club had not been on before. Two of the three trails turned out to be very good ski trips. Most people seemed to be very pleased with the Cross Creek Condominiums and we will keep them on the list of preferred locations.

The Silverton trip is full with only one person on the Reserve list. Silverton got 18” of new snow in the last two weeks so the skiing should be plentiful. The Crested Butte trip is also full but about 6 people from the Reserve Pool are now on to the trip due to cancellations. There is a possibility of more cancellations as the departure time nears. If you are still interested in going you might keep your calendar clear and your skis packed, and watch your e-group announcements. If you need to cancel, you should call or email me first. I want to be sure that the person you are selling your seat to is a member and fits the rooming criteria. I may also need to get menu information and the person must complete the registration information.

If you want to be assured of getting on a ski trip this year you should register for the Pagosa Springs trip in March – there’s a signup form in this newsletter. There are still about 8 spots left. I will hold the rooms as long as I can but we do not want to pay for unused rooms so you should register soon.

Trip Dates – Departure Times – Location

Silverton, CO	Feb 2 nd	5:00pm
Crested Butte, CO	Feb 17 th	2:00pm
Pagosa Springs, CO	Mar 17 th	5:00pm

We depart from the Lowes parking lot off Paseo del Norte and I-25. Please park in the NW corner of Lowes and not in the Target parking lot. I arrive in the parking lot one hour before the scheduled departure and the bus arrives shortly after that.

All trips should be paid in full at this time. There are a few people who need to pay their balance for Pagosa Springs. You may check the Web site to see if you have been credited for your payments. Go to the Members Area, log in, and click on the Trip Documents button.

Bus Trip Sign-up Form – Pagosa Springs, Colorado

leave: Friday March 17, 2006 departing Albuquerque at 5:00pm
return: Sunday March 19, 2006 arriving Albuquerque at 9:00pm

Cost: \$160 per person

Due to the popularity of the bus trips this year, the club is offering a fourth bus trip. This is the first time a fourth trip has been offered.

There will not be a dinner stop on Friday night so you should eat in advance of our departure or bring your dinner on the bus. We will be staying at the EconoLodge in Pagosa Springs. The trip will include a group dinner on Saturday evening at the Hogs Breath Saloon. We will make a fast food stop in Española on our way home. We will schedule at least two shuttles to The Springs Bath House for those of you who want to soak in the hot springs after you ski on Saturday. The rate for The Springs is \$15 but we will negotiate a group rate with 15 or more people.

The base of the Wolf Creek Ski Area is located at 10,300 feet in elevation. It gets an annual snowfall of 465” per year and stays open until April 3rd. The downhill ski area is open from 8:30am until 4:00pm. A lift ticket is \$45 for a full day, \$33 for a half day and \$25 for seniors. There is a free 10K Nordic Center at the base of the Wolf Creek Ski Area which is groomed on a regular basis. The bus will go to the downhill area both days. Depending on the snow conditions some of the Class II ski options may include Falls Creek Road and Wolf Creek Road. The Class III options may include Treasure Mountain and the Powerline.

|| Please complete the registration form and mail it to **Louise Broadbent, 367 Horseshoe Loop, Jemez Springs, NM 87025**. Make your check for \$160 per person to the New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club (or just NMCCSC) and mail it with your registration. Questions – send them to louise@valornet.com. ||

Club Cancellation Policy

In the event that a bus trip cannot be completed due to events beyond Club control, such as weather, road conditions, mechanical failure, etc. any money that is not already committed will be equally divided and distributed among trip participants.

Full payment due with registration: \$160



----- cut here -----

Name _____ Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____ Email address _____

Emergency contact _____ Phone _____

Ski Ability: Beginner _____ Class One _____ Class Two _____ Class Three _____

Dinner choice: Chicken Alfredo _____ Grilled Salmon _____ Prime Rib _____ BBQ Ribs _____

Roommate _____ Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____ Email address _____

Emergency contact _____ Phone _____

Roommate Ski Ability: Beginner _____ Class One _____ Class Two _____ Class Three _____

Dinner choice: Chicken Alfredo _____ Grilled Salmon _____ Prime Rib _____ BBQ Ribs _____

Would you be willing to lead a ski trip in Pagosa Springs? Yes _____ No _____ Maybe _____



Trip Reports – Frisco Bus Trip

First Bus Trip of the Season – Frisco Now a Great Memory

by Yolanda Ploor

The first bus trip of the season is now a great memory. We stayed at the Cross Creek Condominiums, very pleasant accommodations with full kitchens and fireplaces just off Main Street in Frisco. The Frisco area has excellent public transportation to Dillon, Keystone, Breckenridge, Copper Mountain so anyone wanting to do their own thing did not need to rely on foot power or our bus.

Day one of skiing had Class I thru III trips to Meadow Creek (Mike Martin), Peru Creek (Michon Johnson and Louise Broadbent), the Nordic Center, and Keystone for downhillers. The après ski party in the community room was a full house with beaucoup goodies like smoked salmon, taquitos, jalapeno poppers, spring rolls, guacamole, wine and beer. Trip leaders and Louise filled us in on what trails were on schedule for the next day. Louise had a crew of volunteers who set up and cleaned up – that’s teamwork!

Day two also had a variety of trails and skill levels to choose from: Wheeler Lake (Mike Martin), Peaks Trail (Guy Miller), North Ten Mile Creek (Louise Broadbent), and Gold Hill (Dave Ploor). The bus also dropped skiers at the Breckenridge Nordic Center. A redo (as in that was fun, let’s do it again) of the après ski party where we ate, drank, talked (a lot) of the days ski adventures and learned of the next day’s plan. Many of us on our first outing of the year were feeling our muscles after two good days of skiing.

Day three was Gold Hill (Bill Heitz and Mike Martin) and the Frisco Nordic Center. The bus ride home as usual was a mixture of animation followed by short periods of looking through our eyelids.

We had a number of new Ski Club members who were on their first bus trip – we hope you enjoyed your experience and judging by the favorable comments, you did.

If you’re not yet looking forward to your next trip, remember anticipation is half the fun so allow yourself a little daydreaming ...

Peru Creek Trail

by Ray Berg

Peru Creek Trail is an “in-and-out” trip that can be about as long as you want to make it. We went about 5 miles in, but parts of the group made shorter trips. The first part (less than a mile) was along a moderately uphill road through trees that protected the snow. That part was about a class 1+, mainly due to the hill. After that the trail was easy but it could be up to class 2, primarily on length. Although the inbound trip is mainly uphill after the opening section you don’t really feel it because it isn’t very steep. However, it does make the outbound a lot faster, with a three hour inbound trip taking less than 1 hour to return. You can do it much faster if you like a thrill.

After the opening hill we followed a well used trail/road for another 3 miles or more, with some wide open areas that could get quite warm if there are no clouds to protect the snow. There are some places where excellent alternate routes take you through tree protected paths, returning after a while to the road. Higher up we had to break our own trail through a broad, open valley that takes you past several abandoned mine buildings. Altogether it was a very nice trip.



Skiers Along Peru Creek Valley

trip reports continue next page →



Gold Hill – Frisco Bus Trip

by *Karen Leach*

Our leader, Bill Heitz, broke through several inches of new snow as twelve skiers headed up the trail to Gold Hill. The day was perfect with broken clouds and sunshine that created beautiful sparkling crystals across the slope. We spotted various animal tracks crossing the trail as we climbed.

At the first summit Mike Martin, Tom Broadbent, and I broke off from the group and continued beyond Gold Hill. At a trail junction we decided to navigate a different return route. Skiing down hill in beautiful powder we followed the tracks of a lone skier. The trail took us down a canyon, across several small streams and by an active beaver pond. Checking the map, we realized we had had too much downhill fun and needed to climb back toward Gold Hill. Crossing the canyon we found a narrow trail along a stream and headed up

hill. Connecting with our original trail we climbed back up Gold Hill and then it was all down hill as we arrived just as the bus pulled up to take us all back to Albuquerque. Thanks Bill and Mike for another great adventure!



Tom Broadbent on North Ten Mile Trail



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:

Lowes Lowes, on Paseo del Norte east of I25
Park in northwest corner of lot, but not in the new Target parking lot.

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 last Thursday of the month to be included in next 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



Sat or Sun, Feb 4 or 5 Sandias, maybe

Class I-II

Leader: TBD

Tentative trip; check your email for announcements.

Sun-Fri 26 Feb-3 Mar Fabi's Hut, CO

Leader: Guy Miller, 294-7940

(Please call before 9:00pm.), xcskiboy@aol.com

See article in December newsletter. **This trip now has openings!**

Sun Feb 12

Mount Taylor

Class II+

8 miles, 1300' gain

Leader:

John Thomas, 298-5234

Call leader for details; need some 4WD vehicles. Trip roughly approximates the annual quadrathlon route. Bring lunch, water, good attitude, and camera..

Mon-Sun 27 Feb-5 March Yellowstone Park

Leader:

Michon Johnson, 332-8929

Trip is full, but ask about the waiting list. See writeup in last March newsletter. Emphasis on natural history and wildlife; ski trips led by graduate-degreed experts from the Yellowstone Association Institute.

Fri-Sun Feb 24-26 Red River, NM

Class: Novice – III

Leaders:

Eddie and Barbara Dry, 792-2532,
edry@unm.edu or bdry@att.net

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 25. Local restaurants and local gourmet cooks will have desserts at three tables – at the base, one mile out, and ~2 miles out. *This is also the Mardi Gras weekend*, with lots of day and evening festivities!

Each family will make their own reservations and carpool arrangements. Trail pass plus Just Desserts costs \$22. for adults (\$27 after February 19). Leader has arranged a Club discount at the Golden Eagle Lodge.



Rime Display – Crested Butte 2004
to be visited again on the 17 Feb 2006 bus trip!

**NEW MEXICO CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB
2005-2006 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Officers	Name	Phone	Email Address
President	Mike Martin	286-8762	Pahasapapapa@aol.com
Vice-President	Janie Gilmore-Daniels	259-0502	janiegil@aol.com
Secretary	Tammy Catalfamo	286-9861	firstcraig@aol.com
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	286-9100	lester@byington.org sharon@byington.org
	Dianne Cress	294-2928	dianne.cress@state.nm.us
Programs	Wayne Kirkby	898-1654	ski1071607@aol.com
Refreshments	Lucy Miller	293-5673	millerabq@yahoo.com
	Carolyn Tisone	856-7126	---
Day Trips	Bill Heitz	898-3573	bill.heiz@att.net
Overnight & Hut Trips	Bill Heitz	898-3573	bill.heiz@att.net
	Guy Miller	294-7940	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	286-9100	lester@byington.org
	Debbie Brunt	256-5381	debbrunt@comcast.net

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

February 2006

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Peru
Creek
valley –
Frisco
Bus Trip