



www.naturediscovery.org/nmccskiclub

We have several people who need to sell bus seats. Please contact Louise.

February 2007						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
	Yellowstone			Harry Gates Hut		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
				Club Meeting 7:30 pm	Leadville	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			Heartbreak Hill			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Mt. Taylor Day Trip	Valles Caldera Day Trip & Free Ski			Board Meeting	Cutoff	Avalanche Practice
25	26	27	28			

March 2007						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			28	1	2	3
			Winter Park			
				Hut Trip - Wolf Creek		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
				Club Meeting 7:30 pm		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Day Trips

Mt Taylor on Feb 18

Mt Taylor from Spruce Tank (La Mosca Canyon) area - Class II, approx 1500' elevation gain. We will follow part of the Ski/Snowshoe route for the Mt Taylor Quadrathlon, which will take place on Feb 17, 2007. The skiing distance will be about 6 miles. The snow may be packed down from the Quadrathlon.

You MUST have climbing skins for climbing **Heartbreak Hill**. Be prepared for all weather possibilities.

This is not a trip for wussies, but it ain't a race either. Car Mileage: About 160 miles.

Meet at 8 a.m. at Smith's at Menaul and Carlisle, west end of parking lot.

If you plan to come, please call John Thomas.

Valles Caldera Free Day on February 19

This is the last of three Free Ski Days offered by the Valles Caldera National Preserve this year. Let's get out and support the Preserve so they continue to support skiers!!

Tour routes have not been selected, but Sam would like to have both Class I and Class II outings. He will lead one group, and we need a volunteer to lead the other.

Meet in the NW corner of the Lowe's parking lot at the intersection of I-25 North and Paseo del Norte at 8 a.m. We meet the Long Trips bus at this location.

More information will be given later. If you plan to come, please call or email Sam Beard.

Avalanche Beacon Practice

When: Saturday, 24 February Leader: Mike Martin, 286-8762

Where: Sandias Meet at the Post Office, Tijeras, NM, 9:00 am.

Skiing: Class I 1 mile (round trip)

Please bring your beacon (fresh batteries), back country shovel and probes if you have them. Bring your skis or snowshoes. Wear lots of warm clothes as we will not be moving much.

Open to anyone who wants to learn more about skiing in avalanche terrain and you are welcome to attend even if you don't have a beacon, shovel or probe.

San Antonio Hot Springs Success!!!

By Louise & Tom Broadbent

On Sunday, January 21, Tom and I led a ski trip to San Antonio Hot Springs and we had 12 in the group. It was a great day. The snow conditions were near perfect. There are a few trees in the trail, but we managed to get around them. Took one wrong turn, but we were able to get back on the trail. Four of the twelve got into the hot springs and reported it was great. We were the only ones who had skied up there in the last couple of snow storms so we did some trail breaking. It took us 2 ½ hours to get there and 1 ¾ to ski back. It was not so much that it was downhill on the return as that we had made a really nice track. I think a good time was had by all. I will be scouting trailheads, and we will try to lead another trip in the Jemez if the weather and snow conditions cooperate. We will keep you posted via eGroups.



Snow Angel by Bill Heitz at Telluride
Photo by Ruth Bargman-Romero

Telluride Topaten Nordic Center

By Trevor Carter



Telluride Ski Runs

Photo by Lynn Kito

What do you get for a one time \$20 lift ticket???

We took the gondola from our hotel in Telluride up the mountain to Telluride Ski Village, and purchased a one time lift ticket to get to the Nordic center at the top of lift 10. A fun downhill ski to the lift, a COLD ride up and you are at the "Nordic Center". Two wooden bathrooms and a tee-pee warming hut. The sign said groomed trails...but the snow was falling...so we followed the signsto be the only morning skiers on the powdery trails. All together there are about 12 K of trails designated as Nordic. The lift ticket is good for the ride down the lift, but the snow was SO good that we decided to take the downhill ski trail, Galloping Goose, back down to the village. It was great fun!!!! We did get interesting comments from the downhill skiers about the long skinny skis we were riding. The experience was so fun we decided to try it again the next day. This time the trails were groomed, so we had a nice ski in the forest at the top of the mountain. We took the trail that would eventually lead to a ghost town. At this part of the trail there were some snow mobiles...but a first for me,...the snow mobile riders apologized to us for the noise!! We had another fun, fast ride on the downhill trail to make the \$20 ticket well worth it.



Telluride – Waiting for the Bus
By Tom Daley

Telluride Lizard Head Peak

By Bill Davey



RR Grade Near Lizard Head Pass
Photo by Susan Rogowski

After 11” of fresh powder fell in the Telluride area on Friday, we finally got to venture forth into real backcountry in brilliant sunshine on Sunday. Too bad it was such a short day since we needed to board the bus early for our return home. But 9 of us led by Alan Burns thoroughly enjoyed our morning ski up the Cross Mountain Trail which begins about 2 miles southwest of Lizard Head Pass. The wind sweeping across the 10,000 ft. meadow was daunting and cold, but the protection of the trees soon afforded more skier comfort with

the shedding of a layer or two of clothing for the stiff 2 mile climb in search of a spectacular closeup view of Lizard Head Peak (13,113’) itself. We took about 2 hours to climb up the steep but wide path to reach a gorgeous open meadow at 11,300’. Climbing skins made the ascent much easier for all but two of us. The views were mind-boggling ! But to climb much higher involves traversing avalanche-prone slopes. But also we were running out of time !

The quick descent took less than an hour. I chose to ski “in control” by keeping my skins attached. They actually give you quite good glide (an indispensable item of equipment for 10th Mountain Hut trips) while avoiding the screaming crash and burn approach adopted by most skiers (with the exception of John Stephens who schussed downhill like a pro !). Back in the warm bus we devoured any munchies with salt washed down by cold beer. This is a great half-day ski tour with some exciting downhill.



Telluride
Photo by Bill Heitz

Keep the Pictures and Articles Coming for All the Day and Bus Trips!!!!

Great Job to Everybody & If not Used This Time, They Will Be!!! The Editor

Silverton Trip—5 Star Review

By Frances Robertson

Couldn't put my finger on it exactly, but something was different about the Ski Club trip to Silverton from the way I remembered my last trip with the group some 15 years ago. Granted, my memory, which now has strange glitches, might have recorded it skewed, but I hadn't remembered how much fun these trips really are when you're with folks who are, well, downright "Texas" friendly. (Sorry, gang, but I'm from Texas.)

Before we even parked in Silverton that Friday night, Guy Miller had agreed to check my cable binding that was loose. True to his word, he was there to see that binding before we even set our ski bags down. Then, Phyllis Pryor introduced me to just about everyone she knew, and she knew everyone; the Leaches, Chet and Karen, made sure I was still in the line trudging up Aspen Vista Road for the downhill thrill, even though I never saw them after the high point.. Louise Broadbent was so natural and friendly that I felt I had known her for decades instead of two days. Everyone was upbeat and flexible—good thing because the weather kept changing, the bus' diesel congealed, and the temperature dropped to a sharp -24.

I wore vintage Sporthill ski clothes and found another vintage skier with the same sharp outfit, a guy. Unisex stuff is really in, you know.. I followed Bob Moore up Aspen Vista Road while talking to Thea Berg who told me Bob always does "Moore" for the club—hence his name. Thea and Ray and the Chirigos climbed the hill without skins. I would have taken my hat off to them, but it was too cold. Then there was Ruth and Holly, strong skiers, and trailbreaker Dianne and Jon with his King Tut hat, and Dianne, Newsletter specialist, who made me feel at home. And who could forget Sherry who made it clear that putting full ski bags on top of empty ones is classless, clutzy, and Not OK.



Silverton Hotel Lobby
By Carl Smith

Silverton's a great place to ski and the Grand Imperial Hotel is hospitality revived-- especially since the club commandeered the entire hotel. Breakfasts were hearty and tasty, though maybe not always hot enough; and dinner excellent: salmon with a mustard pecan sauce, chicken or ribs. My big mistake was not following Jean Hanson's lead in ordering the ribs—she smacked a whole plate down and made her tablemates drool. So, in spite of a -18 degree morning that eventually warmed to -8, the overall atmosphere of this trip was a whopping 90 degrees friendly.



Silverton Ruth Making Some Great Turns!!
Photo by Carl Smith

The Great Silverton Adventure

By Ruth Bargman-Romero

We knew we were in good hands when Ron returned from retirement to be our bus driver. His skills provided a measure of comfort as it snowed continuously from Durango to the snow covered streets of Silverton.

Next morning, during an excellent breakfast buffet at the hotel, we found out that Red Mountain Pass and Molas Pass were both closed due to avalanche danger. Everyone would be skiing from the Hotel. One group headed up the mountain on Aspen town loop while the other followed the Arrastra Creek towards Howardsville.



Silverton
By Carl Smith

The Aspen town loop starts about six blocks from the hotel near the small ski hill at the base of Kendall Mountain. The wind was picking up and the group was ready to warm up with an uphill climb. Once the group reached the trees the wind subsided. The snow was light as powder and everyone was warm from the exercise. The more ambitious skiers were up front breaking trail while the others stretched out behind, everyone skiing at their own comfortable pace. After a light lunch and a few pictures, it was time to enjoy the rewards of our uphill climb with an exhilarating ski back down

to the Animas River. The snow was new, but the path down was not very wide. The combination of excitement, hard work, and the fulfilled desire to just keep on going made for a happy re-grouping at the river. When it came time to cross the Arrastra Creek to ski back to town everyone was looking for the snow bridge that was part of the trail last year. With no bridge to be found, Bob Moore, our fearless leader, found a thin patch of snow frozen over the creek. It was obvious that Silverton had more snow last year. We crossed Bob's Bridge one at a time, thinking light thoughts. We carried our ski poles horizontally and shuffled easy on our skis. Luckily, no one had to test the waters. Once across, the ski back to town along the Animas was cold, windy, yet breathtakingly beautiful. With the wind chill, the afternoon temperature was hovering around zero degrees. This part of the ski was enhanced by thoughts of the hot tub and the prospect of joining friends for a warm drink back at the hotel bar. A few brave souls extended their day in the snow and continued to ski up the creek to Howardsville before heading back to town.



Silverton Grand Imperial Hotel
By Katie Crawford

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Come Ski With Us!

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