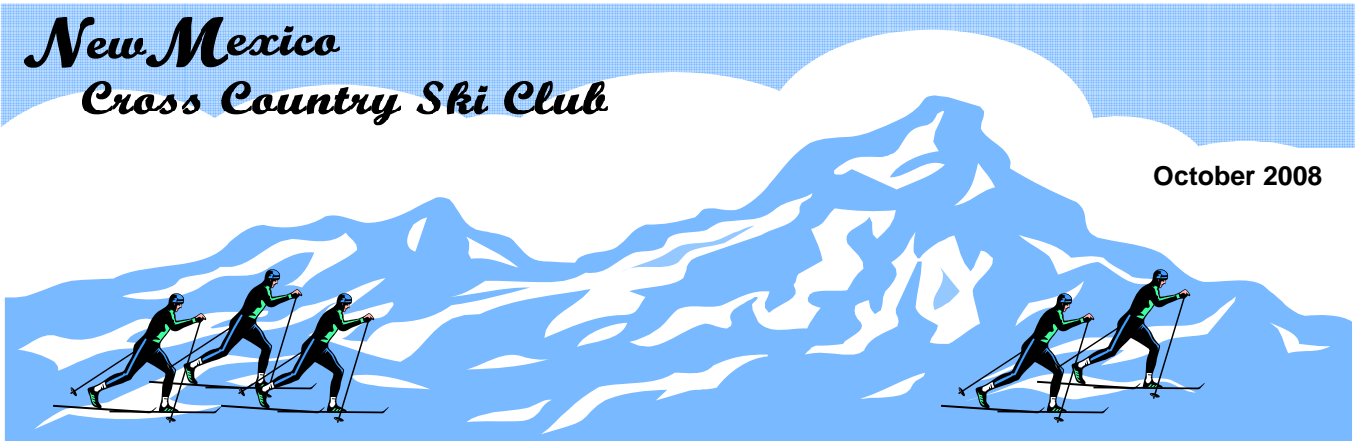


New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club

October 2008



www.naturediscovery.org/nmccskiclub

Solo Down the Pacific Coast Highway

Come to the **Tuesday, October 7th** meeting at **7:00 p.m.** to hear about long-time Ski Club member Guy Miller's trip of a lifetime . . . solo on a bicycle down the Pacific Coast Highway.

First of all, what does this have to do with cross-country skiing? Nothing much, unless you believe that there are other things to do for eight months of the year, and that staying fit and active is a good strategy for year-long ski conditioning.

Fifteen years ago, Guy promised himself that after retiring he would do a bicycle trip along the Pacific Coast Highway (PCH), ". . . from top to bottom," as he put it. Having previously done three separate segments of the PCH with his wife, he already had an idea what he was in for. "Just look at the map," he said; "it's all down hill, isn't it?"

After thinking about it casually over the years, he started researching in earnest a year before he retired. By early autumn of 2006, he had his basic itinerary, and by spring of 2007, he had acquired the custom built touring bike that was part of his promise, as well as all of the equipment he expected to need. He shoved off in mid-June and returned home 70 days later.

Although most bicycle guidebooks advise starting from the southern third of Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Guy claims that he started in remote Port Hardy, the northern-most outpost of civilization on the Island. He further asserts that he cycled the length of the island, crossed over to Washington, continued south through Oregon, and got as far as Big Sur in California. He says that he has photos and a journal to document this alleged journey, which is a good thing, because some of the things that he says

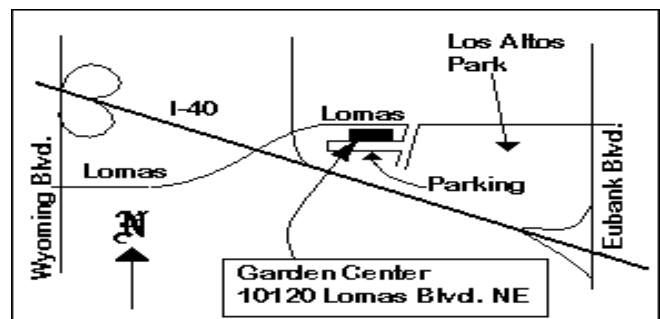


Guy Miller at Big Sur, CA

happened sound, well, frankly, just a tad odd. But, then again, what is really NORMAL about a 2,000 mile bicycle trip?

Don't miss his adventure! Plan to attend our first meeting of the new ski season, say hello to friends that you haven't seen since the snow last fell, and share your conditioning stories!

Ski Club meeting date change Tuesday, 10/7 at 7 p.m.



From the President

As I write this message in mid-August, I have heard reports of snow in southern Colorado above 10,000 feet, and forecasts of snow at higher elevations in northern New Mexico tonight. This suggests a distinct



possibility of an early winter, and reminds me of the fall of 2000, when I was skiing with Sam Beard and Holly Noland on several Jemez trails in mid-November. It isn't too early to start getting our bodies and equipment in shape for the coming ski season. One way of doing this is to participate in New

Mexico Mountain Club hikes (call John Laing at 298-4626 to join), as fall is probably the best hiking season in this area. Furthermore, it gives us a chance to recruit new ski club members.

We had our usual good turnout (and excellent weather) for our summer picnic in mid-June. I wish to thank Alan Burns for making his lovely East Mountain home available for the event. Long-time member Dave Saylor was the lucky winner of a free bus trip in the ski tour leader lottery.

Our early bird award goes to Sam Beard, who has already led and scheduled several days of ski trail maintenance in August. Note in the bus trip information that Ray and Thea Berg have scheduled four bus trips for this winter, including our first ever to Lake City, CO.

Our newly-elected Vice President, Bob Potter, announced at the summer picnic that he was offered an opportunity to return to Iraq in a logistical support role, and that he was therefore resigning as Vice President. Mike Martin immediately volunteered to succeed himself in that office, and I will propose that Mike's election be confirmed by vote of the club membership at the October general meeting.

Wayne Kirkby

Hut Beginners Love the Experience

By Vicki Moore

Last March, Guy Miller and Bill Heitz co-led a beginner's hut trip to Tennessee Pass to the 10th Mountain Division Continental Divide Hut. This was my very first to take with the club and I must say, because I had such a great time, to focus on what I see as the highlights is challenging. Most if not all of it was a highlight! There were many facets to the time spent together but a few jewels to mention were the great location, skiing and most importantly the great companionship shared among the group.

On Sunday, we drove through Buena Vista, Colorado to reach Leadville. North of Alamosa the snow and wind were pelting down making driving almost impossible. Close to the top of Poncha Pass we found ourselves in a complete white out. There were times we merely followed Guy's rear vehicle lights up the pass. The slow and treacherous climb over Poncha was well worth the view of the small town of Leadville and our motel, the Alps. Good food, beer and lots of laughs at Rosie's cafe that evening got us ready for our next morning's outing.



Marty Perez enjoys the new snow.
Photo by Vicki Moore

The trailhead to the hut was just a short distance from Leadville. Packing up and leaving the cars behind left myself and a couple others somewhat anxious, but we easily climbed and skied in one

mile to the cabin. Strong skiers helped those of us with fewer skills (*primarily myself*). Balance and finesse are important factors going up and down slippery slopes, both are difficult to maintain with a 30 pound pack on one's back.

We were all impressed with the size and beauty of the "hut." More experienced skiers in the group declared that this cabin was the Ritz compared to others . . . among a few of the amenities were pillows, sheets, solar lighting, a walkway to the outhouse and even a French press for coffee! At night we gathered as a team and prepared the home-cooked food (*thanks to Sherry and Bob*), melted snow for water and sat around the central wood stove as we drank wine and shared our lives stories.

Day skiing included class 1+ ski tours ranging from four to ten miles. Snow was deep and on the first day was somewhat icy in spots. Day two brought a sprinkling of fresh powder. Several skiers made it five miles up to another cabin where they weathered forty miles per hour winds and snow. Those of us remaining were glad to see them make it back safely early evening. They were tired but satisfied that they'd made it out and back in such weather. I believe Guy is leading another trip into this cabin. I would advise you take the opportunity to go. He's a great leader and the trip will be magnificent.

The largest diamond in this adventure was the people. We laughed, shared duties without

Hut Beginners/continued

complaining, told stories, were respectful and helped each other out when the going got too tough. Bob Potter cooked fantastic meals, Bill White led trips out of the hut, Marty Perez and Sherry Fitzmaurice told stories, and Noel Barstow was very animated in some of her discussions! And Bill Heitz's presence provided his calm, steady hand at everything from hut chores to leading day trips.

The skiing and hut were fantastic but the diversity and warmth displayed by this group made the trip. You can build a house, but it's the people that make it a home. For that reason, I would do this again. Thanks, guys, I loved every minute of it.



Yum, we had great food at the summer picnic! Thanks to Alan Burns for hosting this year's picnic at his beautiful home in the East Mountains.

Photo by Louise Broadbent

Sign-up for Beginner Ski Class

By Guy Miller

Each year, our Club offers a class for beginning cross-country skiers. This once-a-year event is geared toward the absolute beginner, although those skiers with minimal experience could also benefit. The class consists of a two hour classroom session, which is normally held in mid to late December, and an all day on-the-snow session which is generally held early in January. The class is for members and a \$10 administrative fee is assessed.

The idea is for beginners to learn the fundamentals of skiing at the *beginning* of the season, so they can have the rest of the winter to practice their new skills. So, don't wait until mid-winter to start thinking about signing up . . . it'll be too late by then!

Sign up begins at the October 7th general meeting, or you can contact Guy Miller at xcskiboy@aol.com or 294-7940.

Thanks Diane!

We thank Diane Simmons, who was the newsletter editor for the last two years, for her many hours, incredible dedication and fabulous creativity. The newsletters were excellent!



As Diane always reminded us "it's your newsletter," so please send me your ideas, stories and pictures by the 20th of each month. Send them to the *new* editor at karenleach7@msn.com.

New Leaders Step Up

By Susan Rogowski

Lucy Miller, assisted by her son Brian, led her first cross country ski trip on Ditch Creek Road southeast of Crested Butte last February. About 10 class 1 skiers joined her. The group followed fresh ski tracks until they ended, and continued breaking trail. Visibility was a bit difficult with sunglasses or goggles, which made trail finding a challenging when the tracks ended. Several who had a GPS chose to continue on the untracked road, while the others returned on the trail.

The snow conditions were perfect. There were several inches of fresh snow, beautiful terrain, a small stream crossing on a snow bridge, and winter vegetation adding beautiful foliage and texture. We were on a slope with views of a ranch and meandering stream in the valley below us.

Thanks Sam!

Thanks to Sam Beard and his team of dedicated volunteers our trails in the Sandia Mountains and Valles Caldera

National Preserve are in great shape for the ski season. Thanks Sam for your tremendous work and coordination of the many volunteers who assist. To volunteer contact Sam at samgbeard@msn.com or 828-0673.



Announcing the 2009 Bus Trips

By Thea & Ray Berg

This year's bus trips are:

Telluride – Fri-Mon, Jan 16-19, leaves 1 p.m.
Lake City – Fri-Mon, Feb 13-16, leaves 1 p.m.
Salida – Thurs-Sun, Feb 26-Mar 1, leaves 2 p.m.
Pagosa Springs – Fri-Sun, Mar 6-8, leaves 4 p.m.

How to Sign Up for the Bus Trips

Before registering, please read the complete club policy on long trips that is posted on the website at www.naturediscovery.org/nmccskiclub as well as the following summary.

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find registration forms. Please send a separate check for each trip for which you register. **If you want to room with a certain person you must register together on one slip and send checks together.** The mailing address is on the registration form. **Please do not send checks to the Club's PO Box.**

Please be sure to include all contact information requested on your sign-up form, e.g., cell phone, email address and emergency contact.



We love the bus trips because we have an opportunity to hang out with wonderful people.

Photo by Thea Berg

Typically, single members who are drawn will be paired with other same gender singles. Since many names are used for both genders, always indicate Ms. or Mr. on the form.

As long as the demand for bus trip seats exceeds our supply, we will hold a lottery drawing on **November 15th, 2008**, (Saturday following the November Club meeting) to determine who is on the trips. Board members have first priority to sign up for trips as an incentive to serve this organization. There will be at least 3 board members present at the drawing. After all seats for a trip are filled, we will place the remaining registrations in "reserve pool" and their original checks will be destroyed. It costs nothing to

remain in "reserve" status. We will keep your registration unless you notify us that you are no longer interested in that trip. For those drawn to be on the trip, your cancelled check will be your receipt. Most often when members cancel, they sell their seat to someone in the "reserve pool". However, it is their seat and they may sell it to anyone who is over 18, same sex, and a member of the Club. **The bus trip chairs must be informed of any changes.**

The roster of attendees for all trips will be posted on the website and mailed in the November newsletter immediately after the drawing. Complete details of each trip will be emailed to participants if we have email addresses four weeks prior to the trip, otherwise it will be snail-mailed. **If you do not receive notifications in a timely manner, it is your responsibility to contact us for the information at (505) 294-4112 or rsberg01@comcast.net.**

Bus Trip Guidelines

Who may go: Paid-up Club members, at least 18 years old.

Departure: Times will depend on the trip. Check the individual trip descriptions. Buses depart from the west side of the Target parking lot at I-25 on Paseo Del Norte. We will be in the parking lot one hour before departure to load the bus and pass out boarding passes in the order of your arrival. You will only be able to reserve one seat per pass. The bus will board ½ hour before the scheduled departure time.

Bus Ride: The Club supplies cold sodas, water, wine and beer on the bus. **There is a restroom on the bus except for the Lake City trip.** We will pick up a "to go" dinner in Durango on the way to Telluride. The bus will make a dinner stop on the way to Lake City and Salida at Taqueria Calvillo in Alamosa, CO. You should bring your own food or eat in advance of departure on the Pagosa Springs trip.

Luggage: Pack your skis in a ski bag. You are allowed one large or two small suitcases per person. Cargo area is at a premium so please be considerate of others. You may bring a six-pack type cooler if it fits under your seat. **A cooler size of 8-1/2"W x 12"L x 9-1/2"H** will normally fit under any seat.

Hotel: If you need a roommate, we will find one of the same gender for you.

Meals: Meals are provided as outlined in each trip description. All other meals are your responsibility. Cooking generally is not allowed in hotel rooms. You may bring breakfast and lunch foods in your cooler. You must bring your own food and water when going out to ski. On ski days, the bus normally leaves the hotel at about 8:00 or 9:00 a.m. and returns to the hotel in the late afternoon.

Skiing: We attempt to go to a variety of areas to accommodate skiers of all abilities. There may be set-track areas or downhill skiing available, but our main pursuit is cross-country skiing.

NEVER SKI ALONE. You may ski by yourself if you are at a Nordic Center as long as you let somebody else know.

Clothes: “Casual, warm and layered” are the key words. We often walk to dinner so bring warm clothing for evenings. Slip-on crampons (*Yak Traks*) are very useful.

Cost: The cost of the trip is derived from the estimated cost of the bus, hotel, drinks, snacks, included meals, club surcharge, and bus driver’s tip divided by the number of people on the trip. Once you have paid your deposit you are on the trip. The balance is due by the dates given on the trip registration form. **Payments are not refundable.** If you cancel you must find a substitute and settle the payment with that person. You will be given names in the “reserve pool”.

Reserve: The “reserve pool” will be started once a trip is full. It costs nothing to be on “reserve” status and you have an excellent chance of getting on a trip if you are interested. There are **often last minute cancellations for a variety of reasons, so keep the trip weekends open on your calendar!**

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.

Instructions for Signing Up

We need to have the form in hand for the November 15, 2008 drawing date.

- Please send the completed form with the deposit to:
 - Thea Berg, 13501 Osage Orange Rd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111-8218.
 - You may bring the form and deposit to the October or November Cross Country Ski Club meetings.
- If you would like to room with a particular person, you must submit applications for both roommates together.
- You must submit separate forms for each trip.
- Deposit for each trip must be on separate checks.
- You must be a Club member and have paid your dues by the November Club meeting in order to be eligible for any bus trip drawing, if a drawing is required.
- Once your application has been accepted, you own the seat and owe the balance for the trip. If you change your mind, you may only sell or give your seat to an eligible NMCCSC member.

- Please be sure to note the meal arrangements for each trip, as they are each different.
- Contact us if you do not receive information in a timely manner. Our information on how to contact you may be incorrect.



Thea Berg knows how to “hang out” and enjoy the experience!

Photo by Ray Berg



1. **Attend monthly meetings:**
Tuesday, October 7, 7 p.m.
Program: Guy Miller, Solo Down the Pacific Coast Highway

Thursday, November 13, 7 p.m.
Program: Chuck Newman, Glaciers of Alaska
2. **Mark your calendar**
Ski Club meetings are held the 2nd **Thursday** of each month at **7 p.m.** (except Oct.) at the Garden Center, 10120 Lomas Blvd. NE, Albuquerque.
3. **Renew your membership NOW!**
See enclosed membership form. Dues must be received by 11/14 to continue to receive newsletters and to register for bus trips.
4. **Sign-up for bus trips via lottery**
*See enclosed sign-up forms. Ray and Thea Berg must receive your form, along with payment, by 11/14 or bring it to the November meeting. The **lottery** for bus trips will be held **Saturday, 11/15.***



Newly elected board members from left to right: Long Bus Tour co-chairs Ray & Thea Berg, webmaster Lester Byington, Instruction & Overnight Car/Hut Tours chair Guy Miller, Day Tour chair Bill Heitz, newsletter editor Karen Leach, President Wayne Kirkby, Programs chair Louise Broadbent, Treasurer Jim Iden, Refreshments Terri Elisberg, Vice President Mike Martin and E-groups chair David Wegner. Not pictured: Secretary Angela Welford, Membership chair Gene Lisotto, Mailings chair Dawn Brummel, Refreshments co-chair Phyllis Pryor and Trails chair Sam Beard.

Section House 3-Nighter Hut Trip By Guy Miller

Departure date: February 28, 2009

Return date: March 4 or March 5 (depending on travel conditions)

Due to the number of bus trips this year, I may be leading only two hut trips in 2009. Section House is our second scheduled trip, set for early March.

Section House is part of the Summit Huts system, but is administered by the 10th Mountain Hut Association. This Colorado Historic Site was, in the late 1800's, home to a railroad section supervisor and his family. We are told it is currently inhabited by ghosts. Seriously. Right next to it is Ken's Cabin, which also carries historic site credentials. This three-person hut was a miner's shelter that was moved in the 1990's to its current location. These huts are unlike any to be found in the 10th Mountain or Summit Huts systems.

We will visit Section House for three nights, March 1-3. **Please note that this time frame conflicts with the Salida bus trip.** We are taking only 10 skiers to the one hut, but we could squeeze in two more, and we may try to reserve Ken's Hut for a few more people if there is demand. These huts sit astride scenic Boreas Pass, right outside of Breckenridge. There are three routes in to the hut, none of them particularly daunting. One of the routes is especially suitable for strong beginners, and will be the one we take if there is sufficient interest from that particular demographic.

As of press time, we have two vacancies for this trip. Total cost for the trip (exclusive of transportation, lodging and food to and from the trailhead) is \$139.

For further information, or to discuss hut trips in general, contact Guy Miller at 294-7940 or xcskiboy@aol.com. He loves to talk about this topic.

Vote on Proposed Budget

At the October Club meeting on **Tuesday, October 7th** members will be asked to vote on the:

2008-09 Proposed Budget

Income:	
Instruction	100
Membership	2,500
Trip Surcharges	2,358
Hut Trips	3,916
Lake City Bus Trip	10,550
Pagosa Springs Bus Trip	9,270
Salida Bus Trip	10,860
Telluride Bus Trip	17,485
Interest	110
Total	\$57,149
Expenses:	
President	250
Vice President	100
Treasurer	100
Secretary	25
Programs	100
Membership/Labels	30
Newsletter	1,465
Refreshments	550
Trails	150
Instruction	0
Day Trips	25
Overnight Trips	0
Lake City Bus Trip	10,550
Pagosa Springs Bus Trip	9,270
Salida Bus Trip	10,860
Telluride Bus Trip	17,485
Hut Trips	3,528
Scholarships	1,000
Meeting Facility	975
Insurance	1,000
Corporate Report	10
Summer Party	350
Club P.O. Box	168
Website	100
Projector/Laptop	1,500
Total	\$59,591
Surplus/Deficit	(\$2,442)

October 2008						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Club Meets	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 Board Meets	31	


November 2008						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Club Meets	14 Bus Forms Due	15 Bus Lottery
16	17	18	19	20 	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2008						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Holiday Party	12	13
14	15 Final \$	16	17	18	19	20 
21	22	23	24	25	25	27
28	29	30	31			



= Monthly deadline for newsletter inclusion

January 2009						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Club Meets	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Telluride
18	19	20 	21	22	23	24 Telluride
25	26	27	28	29 Board Meets	30	31

February 2009						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Uncle Bud's Hut						
8	9	10	11	12 Club Meets	13	14 Lake City
15 Lake City	16	17	18	19	20 	21
22	23	24	25 Board Meets	26	27	28 Salida

March 2009						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Pagosa
8	9	10	11	12 Club Meets	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

2008/09 Officers and Board

President	Wayne Kirkby	898-1654	ski1071607@aol.com
Vice President	Mike Martin	286-8762	Mike_martin_csp@q.com
Secretary	Angela Welford	281-1198	jndaughter2@earthlink.net
Treasurer	Jim Iden	265-5021	jiden@unm.edu
Day Tours	Bill Heitz	828-5860	bill_heitz@hotmail.com
Long Bus Tours	Ray & Thea Berg	294-4112	rsberg01@comcast.net
Overnight Car/Hut Tours	Guy Miller	294-7940	xcskiboy@aol.com
Newsletter	Karen Leach	281-9836	karenleach7@msn.com
Instruction	Guy Miller	294-7940	xcskiboy@aol.com
Membership	Gene Lisotto	884-7331	gene_lisotto@msn.com
Programs	Louise Broadbent	505-829-3840	louise@valornet.com
Mailing	Dawn Brummel	821-9187	dawnsbulldog@msn.com
Refreshments	Terri Elisberg Phyllis Pryor	281-9192 255-7972	telisberg@islclinic.net on_the_go@earthlink.net
Trails	Sam Beard	828-0673	samgbeard@msn.com
Web Site	Lester Byington	275-5777	lester@byington.org
Email Group	John Thomas David Wegner	298-5234 344-8554	jt87111@comcast.net dave@naturesgrandeur.com

New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club
P.O. Box 8425
Albuquerque, NM 87198-8425



Marlene Brown, Phyllis Pryor, Eric Smith
and Dave Saylor's at Francie's Hut on
1/25-27/07.

Photo by Angela Welford