

New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club

October 2009



www.nmccskiclub.org

New Logo & Website

Thanks to Dave Saylor and Lester Byington the New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club has a new look and its own web address. Check out our new website at www.nmccskiclub.org.

Dave took the above photo on last year's Lake City bus trip as members skied along Rambouillet ridge in a 30 mile-an-hour wind storm. Please let the newsletter editor know if you recognize yourself in the photo so we can give you credit! Terri Elisberg is in the blue jacket — who are the other brave souls? ■



Thanks Dave Saylor and Lester Byington — our new look is fabulous!!

Mail Your Membership Dues

Please check the top line of the label on this newsletter to see if you have paid for this season. If it reads 08-9 you need to fill out and mail the enclosed membership form to:

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

Gene Lisotto will **not** be at the first general meeting, so please mail your form/check today!

October's Program — Ski Swap, Gear Talk

Presenters: Rich Besser, Guy Miller & John Thomas

When: Thursday, October 8th, 7 p.m.

Soon it's gonna snow, and we will be ready!

Dust off the gear you no longer use and pack in a few bucks in your pocket for this meeting to get the well-priced treasure you may find there. The Ski Club will have their first ski gear swap on **October 8th**.

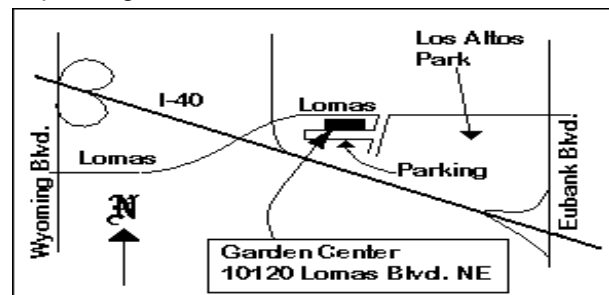
Rich Besser, Guy Miller and John Thomas will also have a discussion on what's best for what snow and terrain. Pepper them with questions. Get rid of stuff and go home with new gear.

Come early, and bring both gear and friends (*i.e. new prospective members!*). Mark your equipment with the price and your name. Share the shopping experience!



Rich Besser, gear expert, conditions for up-coming season.

See you at our first Ski Club meeting of the season. Expect a great time! ■



From the President

I am eager to have the opportunity to meet with many of you again at our first general members' meeting on



Thursday, October 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the Albuquerque Garden Center. The main business item will be adopting a budget for the coming year. All indications point to an excellent ski season. Since we had some vacant seats on three of four bus

trips last year, we reduced the number of bus trips to two. However, the Winter Park car trip being planned by Lester and Sharon Byington during February 24-28 offers at least comparable skiing opportunities for 30+ members. While there are currently fairly short waiting lists for this Winter Park trip and the Colorado hut trips being planned by Guy Miller, years of experience have shown that cancellations are inevitable. Therefore, do not be discouraged from placing your name on the waiting lists; it entails no financial obligation.

One change is that the Club's website has been shortened to www.nmccskiclub.org. I encourage all members' who have not visited this website recently to do so, since the members' area makes available on line many important documents such as membership forms, guidelines for ski tour leaders and participants, bus trip policy and procedures, hut trip policy and protocol, scholarship selection procedures and criteria, and Club by-laws recently adopted last fall. If you have forgotten the user name and password necessary to reach the members area, you may obtain them by contacting Lester Byington or David Wegner (see back page).

You may recall that in the March 2009 Newsletter, I challenged the Club to increase its membership by at least 10% on a sustained basis. A good starting point would be to call friends and acquaintances and invite them to our October 8th meeting, or better yet, offer them a ride to get there.

Wayne Kirkby

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 nominal administrative fee may be charged.

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 8th general meeting, or contact me now at xcskiboy@aol.com or 294-7940. ■



Ruth Bargman-Romero and Guy Miller, along with our cooks Mike Martin and Chet Leach were among the 70+ Club members attending the summer picnic at Wildlife West Nature Park. Roger Alink, executive director, gave us a special behind-the scenes tour of the wildlife park.

Photos by John Thomas



Newly elected board members from left to right standing: Sam Beard, Angela Welford, Bill Heitz, Ray Berg, Gene Lisotto, Sherry Fitzmaurice, Karen Leach, Jim Iden, Chris Kramar, Guy Miller. Seated: Lester Byington, Thea Berg, Terri Elisberg and Wayne Kirkby. Absent: Lucy Miller, Phyllis Pryor and David Wegner. See page 8 for a list of board positions.

Snow Mountain Ranch

By Lester Byington

Sharon and I will lead a Snow Mountain Ranch (SMR) trip leaving on **Wednesday, February 24**. We will spend one night on the road and three nights at SMR, and return on **Sunday, February 28**. This provides three full days of skiing. This has been an immensely popular trip, and we'll try to make it just as good this time!



8-bedroom 8½-bath Reunion Cabin

Note: We only have a very *short waiting list*. However, there is an opening for a single woman in a 3-person room.

Lodging, Meals & Logistics

SMR is a part of the YMCA of the Rockies located between Winter Park and Granby. Our lodging will be a beautiful 8-bedroom 8½-bath cabin located right on one trail of their 100-km groomed track network. The cabin is designed to accommodate 32 people — one couple or 2 singles per bedroom. The common areas are truly spacious and elegant, with great views. We are now placing people in Indian Peaks lodge, which is less than a half-mile from the cabin.

Breakfast and dinner for all three days will be prepared by volunteer gourmet cooks selected from the trip participants, with serving and clean-up assistance from the SMR staff.

Skiing

Lots of options — moderate backcountry skiing, excellent groomed tracks at SMR and Devil's Thumb, and backcountry routes in the Fraser Experimental Forest and Rocky Mountain National Park. This trip emphasizes non-technical backcountry skiing, at levels from mild to severe.

Cost

Estimated costs are \$350/person (includes food and lodging at SMR), \$70/person mileage (*unless you're the driver*), and \$70/room at a motel Wednesday night. Trail passes at SMR or Devil's Thumb and any national park admission will be additional.

The deposit requirements are more than usual for Club trips since the cabin comes as a single unit — we can't cancel just one room if someone backs out! The deposit to secure your space is \$300/person, with final payment due in December. ■

Hut Trips 2010

By Guy Miller

In response to our growing cadre of hut skiers, we will have three hut trips: a beginner trip, an intermediate trip, and a five-night advanced trip. The huts are reserved and advertised a year in advance. For this reason, the trips are full or near full; however, even a long wait list can evaporate. Please contact me for details and requirements.

Note: All trips include an extra day on the return due to possible weather or other difficulties preventing us from returning to Albuquerque on the exit date. Trip costs are for the hut and related fees. Transportation, meals, and lodging on the way to and from the huts are separate.

January 9 – 13 or 14, Sangree M. Froelicher Hut (formerly known as *Belvedere*), **cost is \$124**. Trip is full, with a short waiting list. Beginner hut skiers are welcome on this trip.

Please be advised that there is a BIG difference between a beginner skier and a beginner HUT skier. Participants must be solid Class II skiers who are able to ski with a full pack. They must be reasonably able to stay up on their skis, in addition to being able to climb (***climbing skins required***), descend, turn and stop. It doesn't have to be pretty!

This hut is near Leadville, and is a moderate 3.5 mile ski into the hut, with an elevation gain of 1,500 feet. There are multiple interesting day tours available for all levels. Cancellations almost always occur, so don't hesitate to inquire about signing up.

February 2 – 6 or 7, Jackal Hut, cost is \$138. At 11,610 feet, Jackal is the second highest hut in the 10th Mountain system. This trip will be a large loop, skiing in via Cataract Creek (*6 miles and 2,450 feet elevation gain*) and out via Pearl Creek (*7 miles and 2,400 feet elevation loss*). The hut is perched at a high, open location, affording marvelous views. Day skiing opportunities abound — Nordic touring to tele slopes. Trip is full, but get on the wait list.

February 27 – March 6, Margy's to McNamara, cost is \$200. Following on the heels of last year's fantastic 5-nighter is our second attempt at an extended hut-to-hut adventure. These twin huts are among the oldest in the 10th Mountain system.

The slog into Margy's is 7.5 miles, with an elevation gain of 3,000 feet. We will spend three nights there before pushing on to McNamara, which is 8 miles away. After 2 nights, we will ski out to a trailhead in Aspen, where we will have shuttled pickup vehicles. Due to the travel distance involved, all skiers must plan on taking the extra day to return to Albuquerque. Four slots remain — experienced hut skiers only. ■

Announcing the 2010 Bus Trips

By Thea & Ray Berg

This year's bus trips are:

Silverton, CO: Fri-Mon, Jan 15-18, 2010

Leaves at 3:30 p.m.

Leadville, CO: Fri-Mon, Feb 12-15, 2010

Leaves at 1:00 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 (www.nmccskiclub.org) as well as the following summary.



Eddie Segears and Lucy Miller in Crested Butte.

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.

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, 2009** (the Sunday 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 a "Reserve Pool" and the 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 qualified (same sex and a member of the Club.) The bus trip chairs (Ray and Thea Berg) **must** also 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 for places. Complete details of each trip will be emailed to participants four weeks prior to the trip. If we don't have email addresses the information 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 Club members, at least 18 years old. For our Leadville trip we will allow Club members ages 12 years and above as long as they are accompanied by a parent or guardian.

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. 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. We will stop frequently for breaks and restroom facilities. **There is a restroom on the bus; however, it should be used judiciously since it has limited capacity.** The bus will make a dinner stop on the way to Leadville at Taqueria Calvillo. On the Silverton trip you will need to bring your own food for dinner or eat in advance of departure.

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"Wx12"Lx9-1/2"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 about at 8:00 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 only ski by yourself if you are at a Nordic Center as long as you let somebody else know.



Ray Berg and Lizard Head Peak in Telluride.

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.

General Instructions for signing up for Long Bus Trips

Please send the completed form with the deposit by Saturday, November 14, 2009 to:

Ray & Thea Berg, 13501 Osage Orange Rd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111.

Or you may bring the form/deposit to the October 8 or November 12 Club meeting.

- If you would like to room with a particular person, you must submit applications for both roommates together.

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

- 1. Attend monthly meetings:**
Thursday, October 8, 7 p.m.
Program: Rich Besser, Guy Miller & John Thomas, Ski Swap, Gear Talk
- 2. Mark your calendar**
Ski Club meetings are held the 2nd **Thursday** of each month at **7 p.m.** 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/hut trips.
- 4. Sign-up for bus trips**
*See enclosed sign-up forms. Ray and Thea Berg must receive your form and payment by 11/14 or bring it to the November meeting. The **lottery** for bus trips will be held **Sunday, 11/15.***

Vote on Proposed Budget

At the Club meeting on **Thursday, October 8th** members will be asked to vote on the 2009-10 Budget.

2009-10 Proposed Budget

Income:	
Instruction	
Membership	2,600
Trip Surcharges	1,670
Hut Trips	5,548
Snow Mountain Ranch	8,500
Leadville Bus Trip	11,740
Silverton Trip	12,740
Interest	120
Total	\$42,918
Expenses:	
President	175
Vice President	50
Treasurer	75
Secretary	25
Programs	50
Membership/Labels	40
Newsletter	1,442
Refreshments	550
Trails	125
Instruction	0
Day Trips	25
Snow Mountain Ranch	8,900
Leadville Bus Trip	11,740
Silverton Bus Trip	12,740
Hut Trips	5,573
Scholarships	800
Meeting Facility	975
Insurance	1,000
Corporate Report	10
Summer Party	500
Club P.O. Box	170
Website	70
Contributions	-
Total	\$45,035
Surplus/Deficit	(\$2,117)

From the Editor

I need your story ideas and pictures — please call me at 281-9836 with your thoughts or e-mail them to karenleach7@msn.com.

Thanks, Karen Leach

WILDERNESS FIRST AID

Accidents can and do happen in the backcountry, in remote places, and right in the foothills . . . are you prepared for an emergency?

When: November 14-15, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Where: UNM Johnson Center, Room 1101, (park in "A" lots)

Cost: \$135/UNM or REI member, \$145 for all others

Food: Bring your own sack lunch, water & snacks

Prior registration is required. Contact Laura Montoya for details/questions at 277-3733 or lmont@unm.edu.

Leadership Guidelines

As a reminder, be sure to review our "Guidelines for Tour Participants" and "Guidelines for Leaders" on our website at www.nmccskiclub.org prior to the start of our ski season. The Club need new leaders — please consider stepping into this leadership position this season. Contact Ray Berg, Bus Trip Chair, at 294-4112 or rsberg01@comcast.net to volunteer. ■



Karen Leach, Jackie Hertel, Phyllis Pryor, I-Ching Bowman and Dave Schultz in Silverton in 2008. We are returning to this beautiful snow wonderland this season. See the sign-up form enclosed in this newsletter and return it by the 11/14 deadline .

Photo by John Samuli


October 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
18	19	20 	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 Board Meets	30	31


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

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



= Monthly deadline for newsletter inclusion

January 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Hut
10	11	12	13	14 Club Meets	15	16 Silverton
Sangree M. Forelicher Hut						
17	18	19	20 	21	22	23
Silverton						
24	25	26	27	28 Board Meets	29	30
31						

February 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Jackal Hut				
7	8	9	10	11 Club Meets	12	13 Leadville
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 
Leadville						
21	22 Board Meets	23	24	25	26	27 Hut
Snow Mt Ranch						
28						

March 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Margy's to McNamara Hut						
7	8	9	10	11 Club Meets	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

2009/10 Officers and Board

President	Wayne Kirkby	898-1654	ski1071607@aol.com
Vice President	Chris Kramar	903-4071	ckkramar@yahoo.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	xcski-boy@aol.com
Newsletter	Karen Leach	281-9836	karenleach7@msn.com
Instruction	Guy Miller	294-7940	xcski-boy@aol.com
Membership	Gene Lisotto	884-7331	gene_lisotto@msn.com
Programs	Sherry Fitzmaurice	798-4818	sherry.fitzmaurice@xilinx.com
Mailing	Lucy Miller	293-5673	millerabq@yahoo.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	David Wegner	344-8554	dave@naturesgrandeur.com

New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club

P.O. Box 8425
Albuquerque, NM 87198-8425



Cynthia Adams and Phyllis Pryor enjoy in a moment in the sun on the Lake City Bus trip.