

# New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club

January 2011



Photo by Dave Saylor

www.nmccskiclub.org

## January's Program:

Let's Talk Gear!

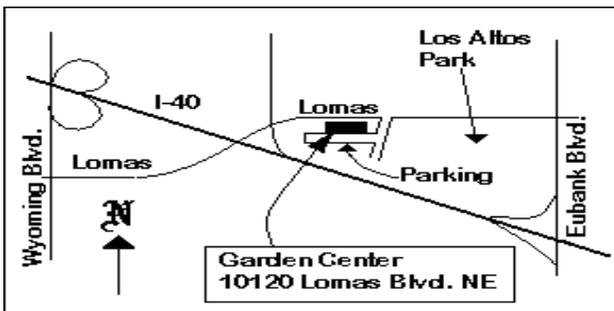
### Presenter:

**Kent Little & Steve Bing**  
Sangre de Cristo Mountain Works

**When:** Thursday, January 13, 7 p.m.

**Where:** Garden Center, 10120 Lomas Blvd. NE  
Albuquerque

The premier store for gear in this area is the Sangre de Cristo Mountain Works in Santa Fe. Kent Little, owner, and Steve Bing, manager, will be here to talk about any free heel cross country ski gear and equipment you may have and answer your questions. Join us for this interactive program. And as always, bring a friend who may like to become a member. ■



*Members Share their Talents – who knew we have so many talented members!!*

We all had fun at our December holiday social. As a special treat, some of our members displayed their creative talents: Sam Beard, author of *Ski Touring in Northern New Mexico*; Thea Berg, jewelry; Susan Clough Wyatt, author of *Arabian Nights and Daze*; Diane Crowther, jewelry; Ella Joan Fenoglio, author of *Retaggio*; Sandra Garcia, ceramics; Bill Heitz, watercolor paintings; Dave Saylor, photos; David Wegner's teenage daughter, Maya, painted greeting cards; and Susan Williams, photo greeting cards.

It was a great success and we hope to do it again next year! ■



Bill Heitz, Jean Hanson, Thea Berg, Sandra Garcia, Maya & Kerri Wormwood. Diane Owens and Diane Crowther.

## From the President

*I am relieved, and I am sure you are very pleased that we finally received a good snow. It's beginning to look a lot like winter!*



*Now that we can start skiing again, both on day tours and longer trips, I want to relate to you some observations I have made on how we can all make trips more enjoyable. We can do this by being good trip participants.*

*Please remember to:  
1. Check to be sure your ski boots still fit*

*comfortably. If you have new ski boots, check to be sure they fit properly in the bindings before going on a tour — not all boots will automatically fit in your old bindings. 2. Ask the leader for details of the tour before attempting a more difficult ski tour. Please be aware of your abilities and be courteous to other ski participants. 3. Bring what you need on a hut trip without including everything and the kitchen sink. The huts are well-equipped so you do not need to bring a lot. If you are unsure of what to include, ask the leader and use a scale to weigh your pack. A good guideline is to not carry more than 25% of your body weight. Please keep these ideas in mind when going on trips this year and we will all have a great time.*

*I also urge members to be safety-conscious this season. Ways to increase safety on trips include taking an avalanche class, a first aid class and/or classes to improve your ski technique. And remember, if you know someone who was a member last year but has not renewed, please contact them to remind them to join us again this year!*

*Chris Kramar*



Lester Byington discusses ski type and technique with Paul Chandler, who presented at the December's program.

## First Bus Trip Details

By Angela Welford

The first bus trip of the year is just a few weeks away! Pagosa Springs, here we come with a full bus-load (54 Club members). The snow is looking very good up near Wolf Creek and surrounding areas. This will allow us plenty of beautiful back country skiing for all levels of abilities, as well as downhill skiing at the Wolf Creek Ski Area.



Marcia Congdon, Eddie Segears and Terri Elisberg, Andrews Lake, 1/27/10.

Photo by Bill Savage

For those of you on the trip, be on the lookout for emails with details of the trip. If you are on the trip and have not received the preliminary itinerary and information, please get in touch with me right away at 281-1198 or [awelford1017@gmail.com](mailto:awelford1017@gmail.com).

We will be loading the bus (at Tramway/Paseo del Norte on the west side of the Target) at 1 p.m. for a 2 p.m. departure. Boarding will be in the order you show up, so get there early for the best seat!!

Details for the second bus trip (Crested Butte, February 10-13) will be sent out in a few weeks.

Don't forget to let me know ASAP if your plans change and you need to cancel your reservation! ■



**Congratulations to Ray Berg, who is our new Email Group Chair and Board member. To send an email to the membership, simply send the email to:**

**[NMCCSC@yahoo.com](mailto:NMCCSC@yahoo.com)**

## Learn to Cross Country Ski

By Guy Miller

The time to sign up for this once-per-year event is upon us now ! The two hour classroom session is set for **Saturday, January 22, 2011** at REI from **3 p.m. to 5 p.m.** This class is open to the general public, therefore, ski club members are urged to arrive 15 minutes early to be assured of a seat.

The all day on-the-snow session is tentatively set for Saturday or Sunday, January 29 or 30. If current conditions persist, there will be enough snow in the Sandias. Plan B will be late February.

Members who plan to attend, please confirm with me at 294-7940 or [xcskiboy@aol.com](mailto:xcskiboy@aol.com). ■

## Weekend Ski to Chama

By John Thomas

I am leading a Class II weekend ski trip to Chama, NM, leaving Albuquerque on **Friday, February 4**. The group will carpool to Chama and stay at the Chama Trails Inn (800-289-1421) or other motels depending on the size of the group. We will day ski on Saturday and Sunday, leaving at about 3 p.m. on Sunday.



Chama, sometimes referred to as the Telluride of the South San Juans, is a rustic village with minimal services, motels and a few restaurants. Skiers will need to make their own motel reservations. I will provide a list of participants to help facilitate reservations and carpooling.

Driving time to Chama is about 2.5 hours. Snow is usually good around Cumbres Pass, just over the line in Southern Colorado.

To sign up and/or for more information, contact me at 298-5234 or [jt87111@comcast.net](mailto:jt87111@comcast.net). ■

## Last Year's Chama Adventure

By John Thomas

Sweetly sang the red-winged blackbird as we crossed the road to the High Country for Sunday breakfast. His song reminded me of "Morning Has Broken". Canada geese, killing time in Chama before

their northward migration, honked their impatience. But the old ganders knew weather was a coming in and they chose to wait it out in the Telluride of the South San Juan's.

After chowing down, we headed to Cumbres for a morning of cross country skiing. The lucky skiers were Chris and Linda Standish, Wayne "Kamikaze" Kirkby, Dana Price and her 12-year old son Liam, Terrie Murphy, Terri Elisberg, Byron Garner, Carol Haller, Candice Hewitt, Eric and I-Ching Boman, Sara Martin, Bronwyn Willis, Diane Owens, Don Schmaltz, Jean Hanson and myself.



John Thomas, Jean Hanson and Byron Garner ski in the mountains above Chama in 2010.

We skied down the CATS RR in a spring blizzard to Tanglefoot curve, then headed over to Dixie Creek and followed it south for a while. Such impatient skiers they were, looking to see what was around the bend! Leading them was like herding three dozen cats. Actually they led themselves. We had lunch in what shelter we could find along Dixie Creek and then headed back to the cars.

Unfortunately, Byron had a close encounter with Mohammed Ali while crossing County Road 17 and had to visit the emergency room in Albuquerque. Luckily no broken bones.

On Saturday we all had a good ski over to Neff Mountain Yurt (sort of a high end winter resort in the South San Juans) and took the road toward Trujillo Meadows Lake.

Dinner at the High Country was followed by hours of merriment, tasty desserts and fun cheer at the motel, brightened up by an outstanding lecture on Narrow-gauge railroads by Professor Garner. It was all we could do to pull ourselves out of bed the next morning so we could listen to the blackbirds. ■

## Hut Trip Update

By Guy Miller

**NOTE:** All trip dates include travel time, including an extra day to get home after skiing out of the hut, which may be necessary due to distance involved, as well as difficulty skiing out of the hut. All skiers should plan on this extra day, although some may find it unnecessary.

### Polar Star Inn: February 1-6, 2011

Due to cancellations, three vacancies remain on this trip. The hut is located near Eagle, Colorado. The ski in is very steep, but straightforward. Nothing technical; just steep. There is day touring available



Bill White at Section House Hut trip.  
Photo by Cynthia Adams

for a variety of tastes. Hut layout is charming, and melting snow is not necessary due to availability of outdoor water pump. Cost is \$145. Check out the hut:

[http://www.huts.org/hut\\_details/polar\\_hut\\_details.html](http://www.huts.org/hut_details/polar_hut_details.html). This is NOT a beginner trip. Strong intermediate hut skiers can muscle their way through.

### Janet's Cabin: March 7-12

Trip is full with one person on the waiting list. Located near Copper Mountain ski area, the route includes use of a free ski area chair lift for the first 800 or so vertical feet. Hut features indoor self-composting toilets, and a wonderful outdoor sauna. This is not a beginner trip, but it could be suitable for robust first timers with moderate skiing skill. Contact me if you think you qualify.

Cost is \$140. See leader's list-serve post about lynx study that skiers can participate. Check out the hut: [http://www.huts.org/hut\\_details/janet\\_hut\\_details.html](http://www.huts.org/hut_details/janet_hut_details.html)

### Eiseman Hut: March 28 - April 2

This trip is full with no waiting list. The only 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain hut located north of I-70, this is considered to be a world class tele destination, although Nordic touring options also are available. Cost is \$129. For experienced hut skiers only. Check out the hut: [http://www.huts.org/hut\\_details/eiseman\\_hut\\_details.html](http://www.huts.org/hut_details/eiseman_hut_details.html). ■

## Leading a Tour

The following tips will assist leaders as they prepare for upcoming tours:

- Leaders should publicize tours to Club members via the newsletter or e-groups.
- Overnight tours must be approved by the Overnight/Hut Chair.
- Day tours may be posted without pre-approval via e-groups.
- All tour postings must include:
  - Trip level of difficulty as defined under "Ski Tour Ratings" on this page.
  - Any expected variation to the rating;
  - Any special equipment or other requirements.
- All tours posted via e-group or the newsletter require the leader to obtain properly completed and signed *Release of Liability* forms from all participants. Then forward the form to the Day Tour Chair.
- All leaders and participants are required to adhere to the *Leadership and Participant Guidelines* posted on the website. ■



Ruth Bargman-Romero skis in US Basin in Silverton, 1/27/10.

Photo by Bill Savage



Frances Robertson and Phyllis Pryor on the ridge above US Basin, 1/27/10

Photo by Ray Berg



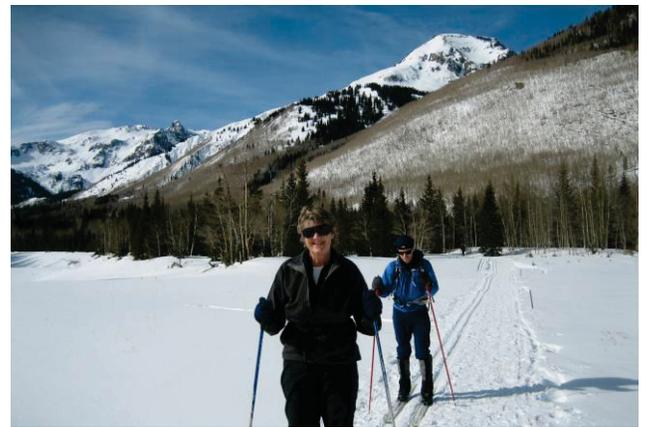
= Monthly deadline for newsletter inclusion

January 2011						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Club Meets	14 Class/REI	15 Pagosa Bus
16 Pagosa	17	18	19	20 	21	22 Class snow
23	24	25	26	27 Board Meets	28	29
30 Class snow	31					
February 2011						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 Chama
6	7	8	9	10 Club Meet	11	12 Crested B
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 	21 Board Meets	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					
March 2011						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Club Meet	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	Apr 1	2
	Ben Eiseman Hut					



Chris Kramar telemarks down the Ellis trail in the Sandias, 12/24/10.

Photo by Celeste Taylor-Ryman



Kerri Wormwood and Jim Iden ski Ironton trail, 1/27/10.

Photo by Lucy Miller

## Welcome New Members

Larry & Brenda Furber  
Rachel McLeod  
Christine & Scott Roberts  
Roger Weinstein



Chris Standish, middle, welcomes new members Larry and Brenda Furber at the December meeting.

## 2010-11 Officers and Board

President	Chris Kramar	903-4071	ckkramar@yahoo.com
Vice President	Wayne Kirkby	898-1654	ski1071607@aol.com
Secretary	Lucy Miller	401-2440	lucycecelia@gmail.com
Treasurer	Chris Standish	400-7089	standish.chris@gmail.com
Day Tours	Bill Heitz	259-8745	bill_heitz@hotmail.com
Long Bus Trips	Angela Welford Randy Simons	281-1198 294-0192	awelford1017@gmail.com randy_simons@msn.com
Overnight Car/Hut Trips	Guy Miller	294-7940	xcskiboy@aol.com
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Instruction	Guy Miller	294-7940	xcskiboy@aol.com
Membership	Gene Lisotto	884-7331	gene_lisotto@msn.com
Programs	Sherry Fitzmaurice	798-4818	sherry.fitzmaurice@xilinx.com
Mailing	Ruth Bargman-Romero	842-9735	rebrome@sandia.gov
Refreshments	Terri Elisberg Bet Gendron	281-9192 299-6542	terri.elisberg@gmail.com bettygendron@gmail.com
Trails	Sam Beard	828-0673	samgbeard@msn.com
Web Site	David Wegner	344-8554	dave@naturesgrandeur.com
Email Group	Ray Berg	366-8104	rsberg01@comcast.net

### New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club

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Pam Reynolds at Uncle Buds Hut, 2/09.

*Photo by Bill Heitz*