

New Mexico

Cross Country Ski Club

December 2012

Photo by Dave Saylors

www.nmccskicloud.org



December 13th Holiday Party & Artist Showcase

When: Thursday, December 13th, 7 p.m.
Where: Garden Center, 10120 Lomas Blvd NE
Albuquerque

The next Club meeting is our special holiday social so mark your calendar! Following a short business meeting (*no presentation*), we will have our annual POTLUCK and holiday party. Please bring your favorite holiday snack or dessert to share, and this is a good time to bring a friend to introduce them to our Club.

For a special treat, members who are artists or have a creative talent, i.e. author of a book, jewelry, cards, are invited to display and/or sell their handmade products.

We hope everyone can come! It's a lot of fun!

Terri Elisberg, Program Chair



Ginger Larkin and Yolanda Ploor admire Thea Berg's beautiful handcrafted jewelry at last year's social.

Get on the Bus!

By Angela Welford

You may have missed the boat (*bus trip registration deadline*) but you haven't missed the bus — yet! We did not fill all the seats, so we are not holding a lottery drawing for seating. This means you can still sign up for the available seats, but do it soon!



Members board the bus in Frisco, 1/25/12.

Photo by Carl Smith

The **Georgetown** bus trip, **February 7-10**, has ONE seat for the first male who signs up. The **Leadville** bus, **January 18-21**, has 4 seats available with preference given to the first male, the first female, and either a couple or two people of the same gender signing up together.

Silverton, December 29 - January 1, has 9 seats! If you have never been on a bus trip, here is your opportunity to try it out at an excellent location for great skiing. Plus you'll see the New Year in at a party at the classic Grand Imperial Hotel, complete with honkey-tonk piano. Come party with us and let someone else drive you home the next day.

For all the trips, if registrations exceed the number of available seats, you will be placed on a reserve list in the order registrations are received. You will be

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notified as seats become available through cancellations for purchase. Please check the website for more information about the Bus Trips.

Please let either me (awelford1017@gmail.com) or Randy (randy_simons@man.com) know if you have questions! We hope to see you on the bus!! ■

From the President

At the November Meeting we had 10-15 new faces: some were new members and some weren't, some were young and some weren't. We in the NMCCSC Youth Movement have been working on getting more



exposure for the Club among potential new young members, so this is a glimmer of hope. We have started several new activities to try to attract younger members.

First of all, we have been offering a kind of reverse old folks membership to combat the graying of the Club. Many organizations

give discounts to old folks. Starting a couple of years ago NMCCSC has been giving the first year's membership free to those under 40.

Some communication experts tell us that younger people communicate differently from older people, using various social media outlets. So we are giving them a try. Last year Sherry Fitzmaurice started a Cross Country Ski Group on Meetup. This year, Dave Gabel has continued it and added some communications and focus to the program. Among other things, Meetup provides a mechanism for people to go out on last minute arrangements. The group has over 60 members now, including a couple dozen NMCCSC members. Check it out at <http://www.meetup.com/New-Mexico-Cross-Country-Ski-Meetup-Group/> and let us know what you think. (Note that you need to join Meetup to see all the details of the page.)

Another social media that is important with younger people is Facebook. Recently Bill Savage and Bob Potter set up a Facebook Page for the Ski Club. They are populating it with a variety of information about

club activities and also are looking for additional information that will make it useful. Check out our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/nmccskiclub> and let us know what you think. (Note that you have to have a Facebook account to see the page.)

We still have our Club website managed by Bill Savage at <http://www.nmccskiclub.org/> If you haven't looked at this website, you should check it out, too. While there is a lot of information available on the site, some of it is for members only, so you will need the password. If you have difficulty getting in, let Bill or me know. The website lists a lot of information about Club trips: bus, hut, car, day, etc.

And of course, the newsletter that Karen Leach produces is one of our best communication tools.

Some of the information and access to many of the trips are not available to non-members. So we are hoping that those who find us through Meetup, Facebook, or some other source, and who find out about the trips and activities, will eventually find it in their best interest to join the Club.

But for those of you who are in the older set, don't despair. Always remember: while just about everybody eventually gets old, only the special among you can stay young at heart!

Ray Berg

2013 Ski Training

Beginner Ski Class: Saturday, January 12, 2-4 p.m. Lomas-Tramway Library, Community Room, 908 Eastridge NE, Albuquerque (SW Corner of Lomas & Tramway)

On-Snow Beginner Session: Sunday, January 27

Intermediate on-the-Snow: Saturday, February 2 Meet 9 a.m. at Smith's parking lot (Tramway & Central), Albuquerque

Telemark Clinic: Saturday, February 23, at Sandia Ski Area

Sign up now! Contact: John Thomas
298-5234 or jt87111@comcast.net

Hostel Trips

By Guy Miller

In the last two years, we have had two fabulously popular ski trips to Durango, where one of the best hostels is located. This year, we are in the planning stage for hostel trips to Durango and Crested Butte.



It generally costs around \$25/night to stay at a hostel. They have kitchens so we can cook breakfasts and group dinners, followed by socializing time. This is great fun after a day of skiing. Details depend on who is going. Life is short and dangerous. Be adventurous. Be spontaneous. Take a leap of faith. We'll work out the details; we always have.

Durango, February 1 – 3

We will return to our old favorite, the Durango Hometown Hostel: durangohometownhostel.com. Some people will ski at Purgatory resort; others will go to the Nordic center. There are oodles of options for those who wish to lead a tour toward Coal Bank Pass for true backcountry skiing opportunities.

Crested Butte, March 8 – 10

There is a highly recommended hostel in Crested Butte, but I have never stayed there. There is a free shuttle to the lift-served area and countless Nordic touring options available close by. Check out the hostel: www.visitcrestedbutte.com/businesspage.cfm?businessid=1828.

So mark these dates on your calendar and contact me. I'll be short on details because I'm making it up as I go along. This is what I do best! Talk to me and help me out! Most important, PARTICIPATE! ■

Day Trips

By Guy Miller

Because of the likelihood of significant snowfall coming relatively late season, our day trip people want to focus our efforts on the period beginning in January. If significant snow comes to us earlier than expected, skiers should utilize the e-group to arrange impromptu ski outings.

Between now and then, we have two ski conditioning hikes offered during December. Guy Miller will lead a Foothills conditioning hike on **Sunday, December 16**, and again on **Sunday, December 23**. These hikes will feature pre-planned routes, which will include steep terrain. The pace will be moderate to moderately strenuous. Participants should bring trekking or ski poles and anticipate a 2-4 hour outing intended to simulate some of the conditions that would be encountered on a Class II or III ski tour.

I encourage other Club members to lead similar outings, just as one might lead a ski tour. Contact me to arrange the tour. As with any ski outing, leaders will be credited with having led a trip for purposes of entering the drawing for a free bus trip next season.



Luis Suarez and Phyllis Pryor enjoy a day tour lead by Susan Corban in Tijeras Canyon at Oak Flats in December last year.

Photo by Susan Corban

We have two day tours in the Sandia Mountains scheduled: Class II ski on **Friday, January 11**, Survey Trail and return on Crest Trail, ~7 miles, led by Karen Leach; and Class II ski on **Sunday, January 27**, trails from the Ellis Trailhead, ~ 6 miles, led by Terri Elisberg. Watch your e-groups for further information or contact Karen at 281-9836 or Terri at 450-9961 for details.

Anyone having an interest in leading day tours should contact me for information and support at xcskiboy@aol.com or 306-2628. If you've been on a day trip that you enjoyed, please consider contributing to our outings program by leading the tour. It's an easy way to be a hero! ■

Silverton Bus Trip 12/29-1

Marion Ball
Catherine Bradley
Tom & Louise Broadbent
Bob Cornish
Pat Cargill
Jack Cavangelo
Susan Corban
Dianne Cress
Gordon Eatman
Kim Feldman
Jean Hanson
Jackie Hertel
Janet Heindel
Gene & Donna Lisotto
John McCorkell
Guy Miller
Pamela Morgan
Marty Perez
Bob Potter
Tom Russo
John Samuli
Bill Savage
Cynthia Savage
Ann & Jim Seargeant
Eddie Segears
Alan Shapiro
Randy Simons
Chris & Linda Standish
Linda Starr
Sarah Stout
Rob & Celeste Suminsby
Marilynn Szydowski
Celeste Taylor-Ryman
John Thomas
Chris Wallwork
Margaret Weinrod
Angela Welford
Bill & Anne White

Sandra Garcia
Monika & Mona Ghattas
Janie Gilmore-Daniels
Karen Griffith
Terry Gugliotta
Susan Harris
Tom & Lynda Katonak
Walt & Donna Klinge
Ginger Larkin
John McCorkell
Regina Michaelis
Lucy Miller
Don Mullen
Geri Newton
Holly Noland
Pam Reynolds
Robert Richards
Carol Richmond
Bernard & Ann Rubenstein
Cynthia Savage
Dave & Ann Schultz
Eddie Segears
Kevin & Teri Sheldahl
Randy Simons
Linda Starr
Chris Wallwork
Angela Welford
Bill White
Susan Williams
Bronwyn Willis

Bet & Steve Gendron
Terry Gugliotta
Rebecca Helianthus
Jean Hanson
Marilyn Harper
Susan Harris
Janet Heindel
Anne Hickman
Lowell Hioki
Tom & Lynda Katonak
Wayne Kirkby
Karen Kvam
Chet & Karen Leach
Fran Lorin
Guy Miller
Lucy Miller
Scott & Carissa Mitchell
Bob Potter
Phyllis Pryor
Frances Robertson
Eddie Segears
Randy Simons
Cynthia Savage
Jean Shaw-Hioki
Carl Smith
Chris Wallwork
Mike & Stephanie Walti
Margaret Weinrod
Angela Welford
Bill White

Leadville Bus, 1/18-21

Ruth Bargman-Romero
Noel Barstow
Tom & Louise Broadbent
Mickey & Carla Chirgos
Bob Cornish
Dianne Cress
Bob Edgar
Paul & Cathy Eichel
John Esterl
Kim Feldman
Ella Joan Fenoglio

Georgetown Bus, 2/7-10

Cynthia Adams
Marion Ball
Ruth Bargman-Romero
Ray & Thea Berg
Rich Besser
Marcia Congdon
Sidney & Barbara Coon
Dennis Crowther
Bill Davey
Paul & Cathy Eichel
Terri Elisberg
John Esterl
Dave Gabel
Sandra Garcia

Bus Trip Balance Due

Saturday, December 15th
is the deadline for the \$100
balance due/bus trip unless you
paid the full amount. Please
send your check(s) NOW (made
out to NMCCSC) to Angela
Welford, P.O. Box 682, Sandia
Park, NM 87047 or bring them
to the December 13th Club
meeting.

Hut Trips Update

By Guy Miller

Peter Estin Hut, January 22 – 27

The trip is full, but cancellations can occur. Cost is \$140, including 3 nights at the hut and group dinners. Mileage, lodging and food on the way to and from the trailhead are additional.

Peter Estin Hut is located near Eagle, CO, and is renowned for telemark skiing, but Nordic touring enthusiasts will find plenty of options.



Ray Berg and Dave Gabel check the map for a ski tour out the doorstep at the Fowler-Hilliard hut, 3/5/12.

Photo by Scott Mitchell

Harry Gates Hut, February 24 – March 1

Harry Gates Hut, located near Basalt, CO, is the lowest in elevation of the huts, but is not a beginner trip. The route in to the hut is challenging. Once at the hut, skiers will find an abundance of Nordic touring options. We will stay at the Diamond J Ranch the night before hitting the trail.

Cost is \$140, including 3 nights at the hut and group dinners. Mileage, lodging and food on the way to and from the trailhead are additional. Only 1 spot remains. Contact me at 306-2628 or xcskiboy@aol.com. ■



Liam Hurburt, Thea Berg, Lester Byington and Carl Smith, Ouray, 1/14/12.

Photo by Dana Price

Red River Car Trip

By John Thomas

I will lead an overnight car trip to Red River, NM on **Friday-Sunday, February 15-17, 2013**. We will drive up on Friday, ski on Saturday and Sunday, and return to Albuquerque Sunday evening.



We will have organized ski tours on both days that will be appropriate for beginner skiers, and Class I and Class II skiers. I will also try to find a leader for telemark skiing. The Red River downhill area is available for those who enjoy groomed trails.

We will stay at the Golden Eagle Lodge. Many of the rooms have kitchens, which will be handy since the downtown area is about a half mile from the hotel. The "Party Room" at the hotel is well equipped with stoves and microwaves, tables and chairs, and a large fire pit.

The Plan

Let me know if you plan to come at jt87111@comcast.net. You will need to make your own reservations at the Golden Eagle in Red River at (575)754-2227, arrange for your roommate/s and carpools (I will e-mail a list of those who are going). The Golden Eagle hotel books up quickly on winter weekends. I will make my reservations shortly. Tell the owner that you are with the New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club. If you want a kitchen, please state that preference.

This will be a fun ski trip — join us! ■

Memorial

Steve (Estevan) Romero was a US Forest Service forester who retired several years ago. He was an active member of the NM Cross Country Ski Club. He led ski tours and worked on trail maintenance, especially in the Jemez Mountains. He also donated his family's 6' 2-person crosscut saw and many of his father's tools to the Club.

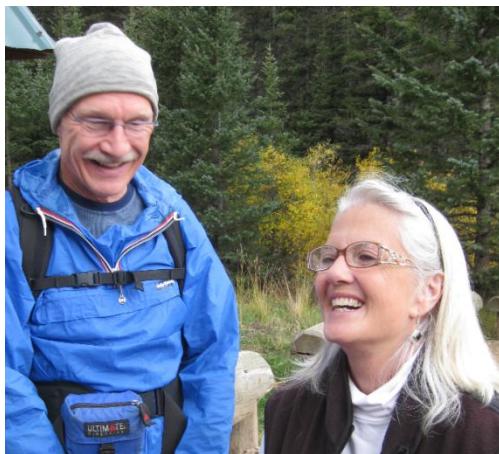
Red River Exploratory

By Frances Robertson

Get ready to enjoy some great skiing in the Red River area this winter thanks to an exploratory trip organized by John Thomas last fall. We hit Red River on the final weekend in September, which lucky for us was also the height of the aspen color, which in Red River is both dazzling gold and brilliant red. Red River is blessed with colonies of red aspen as well as the golden ones. We also lucked out and hit the big Red River Arts and Crafts Fair, which was top notch with lots of professional exhibitors. It was a great weekend, as well as a productive one for the Ski Club.



Thanks to John's efforts, about 15 ski club members motored up north to Red River. That number of hikers allowed us to divide into teams and set about exploring ski routes for Class I, II, and III skiers. We got lucky and found some super routes.



Lester and Sharon Byington hiked the trails during the 3-day exploratory trip to Red River, 9/29/12.

Photo by Marcia Congdon

John Thomas led team A which explored the East Fork up towards Horseshoe Lake and later searched out trails in and around The Enchanted Forest Ski Area. We were fortuitous enough to have the folks who run The Enchanted Forest Ski Area join us at our potluck dinner. Since one of them grew up in Red River, she knew where all of the ski areas were and suggested a number of routes that only natives of the area might know. We also heard the history of the Enchanted Forest and received a warm invitation to our organization to come up anytime. If you haven't yet skied there, it's a must for cross-country skiers with its groomed trails and varied terrain,

although the area will appeal to Class I and II skiers rather than those with gymnastic ski skills.

Bob Edgar led team B and they headed for Lost Lake and points beyond. They too found several good ski areas and enjoyed the color on the Bobcat Pass route.

Team C had two leaders, Karen Leach and Frances Robertson, and they hit the East Fork Trail to Sawmill Park where they found 1000-year-old Bristlecone pine trees, true giants, which had luckily sprouted some hearty younger trees. This hike handrailed a grassy meadow, the source of good skiing, and had a 1500' elevation gain. This team also headed out from Bobcat Pass towards Old Pass and found good skiing on the Bobcat Pass section, but a south-facing slope (probably snowless in winter) as a closer. One of the most beautiful explorations was the hike up the Middle Fork to the lake and then on to Frazer Mountain, which gave them a breathtaking view of the ski runs on the Taos ski slopes across the valley.

We garnered lots of information about where to ski and why these routes. But the big lesson of



Bob Edgar and Bronwyn Willis enjoy the peak colors.
Photo by Marcia Congdon

the trip was that fall in Red River is absolutely gorgeous. We hit the area at peak color and gazed all weekend at dazzling golden and red aspens, intermingled with oak stands amid the green. Skies were blue and cloudless, weather perfect. Good people cooked tasty potluck dishes and enjoyed the party room of our motel, the Golden Eagle Lodge, which served pretty good coffee each morning.

If you get a chance to ski Red River this winter, by all means do it. At least, that's the word from here! ■



= Monthly deadline for newsletter inclusion

December 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5 Trail project	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Trail project	13 Holiday Party	14	15 Final Bus \$\$ Due
16	17	18	19 Trail project	20 	21	22
23	24	25	26 Trail project	27 Board Meets	28	29 Silverton
30	31					
Silverton						

January 2013						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1 Silverton	2 Trail project	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Trail project	10 Club Meets	11 Day Tour	12 Beginner Class
13	14	15	16 Trail project	17	18	19 Leadville
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			Peter Estin Hut			Beginner
Leadville						
27	Tour		29	30 Trail project	31 Board Meets	
Hut						

February 2013						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Ski Class
3	4	5	6 Trail project	7	8	9
			Georgetown Bus			
10	11	12	13 Trail project	14 Club Meets	15	16 Red River
Bus						
17	18	19	20 	21 Board Meets	22	23 Tele Clinic
Red River						
24	25	26	28			
Harry Gates Hut						

March 2013						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1 Hut	2
3	4	5	6 Trail project	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Trail project	14 Club Meets	15	16
17	18	19	20 Trail project	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Trail project	28	29	30



Kathi Ritchey telemarks down the slope at the Fowler-Hilliard hut, 3/8/12.

Photo by Barry Ritchey

1. Request a training scholarship – Take advantage of this great training opportunity – contact Guy Miller at xcskiboy@aol.com or 306-2628.		
2. Post info via E-groups – To share information with all members, send your message to nmccsc@yahoogroups.com .		

2012-13 Officers and Board

President	Ray Berg	366-8104	rsberg01@comcast.net
Vice President	Wayne Kirkby	898-1654	ski1071607@aol.com
Secretary	Marcia Congdon	265-4199	mecongdon@juno.com
Treasurer	Peggy Roberts	238-0726	peggyoroberts@msn.com
Day Tours	Guy Miller	294-7940	xcskiboy@aol.com
Long Bus Trips	Angela Welford Randy Simons	281-1198 294-0192	jndaughter2@earthlink.net randy_simons@msn.com
Overnight Car/Hut Trips	Guy Miller	306-2628	xcskiboy@aol.com
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Programs	Terri Elisberg	450-9961	tpelisberg@gmail.com
Mailing	Ruth Bargman-Romero	842-9735	rebrome@sandia.gov
Refreshments	Lucy Miller	401-2440	lucycecelia@gmail.com
Trails	Sam Beard	828-0673	samgbeard@msn.com
Web Site	Bill Savage	353-1089	bsavage@aol.com
Email Group	Bob Potter	831-9779	hvac87108356@yahoo.com

New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club

P.O. Box 51563

Albuquerque, NM 87181-1563



John Stephens, Chama, 2/11/12

**LAST NEWSLETTER IF YOU
HAVE NOT RENEWED YOUR
MEMBERSHIP!**