

New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club

January 2014



Photo by Dave Saylor

www.nmccskiclub.org

Expanding Your Skiing Destinations

Presenter: Tom Mayer

When: Thursday, January 9th at 7 p.m.

Where: Garden Center, 10120 Lomas Blvd NE
Albuquerque

We all have our favorite places to ski, but it's always a thrill to track out a new trail and experience an area we haven't been to before.

For more than 15 years, Tom has been mapping and documenting the forest roads and trails of the mountains within a couple of hours of Albuquerque.



His presentation will show numerous skiing options in various areas around the state. While all of these trails haven't been tested for skiing, Tom is an experienced skier and was active in leading trips for the Cross Country Ski Club in the past. He has a good grasp of what makes a great ski tour, so you can expect some great new adventures.

Terri Elisberg, Program Chair

Get on the Bus!

By Bill White

Hey, Ski Club Members, you asked for new destinations, and we've got one – **Steamboat Springs, CO, February 21-24!** And we still have seats on the bus! Let's check out a **new resort**: Steamboat Springs has a downhill area and groomed trails served by a local Shuttle, leisurely backcountry access across the Yampa River near our hotel, six marked loops over hill and dale on Rabbit Ears Pass, and Telemark opportunities. AND for the Class III skiers, you can ski from Rabbit Ears Pass to the top of the downhill ski resort for a Tele-ski return to town! Depending on weather, we might squeeze in an hour or two of skiing on the Pass on the return trip.

Come on, get on board the bus! We'll have refreshments and snacks on board, and access to the toilet. Eat, drink and be merry, as we ski trails at a **new resort destination** with brew pubs, steak houses and hot springs!

Crested Butte, CO, January 17-20, is a known location for the Club and we have a waiting list. We will have Class I, II and III ski options (*Gothic Road, Slate River and Washington Gulch*), depending on plowed conditions at the trailheads. There are also groomed Nordic track and downhill ski options, and backcountry skiing out of the back door of the hotel. All our dinner options are within walking distance from the hotel.

Get the registration form on the website and/or email Celeste with questions at celestet86@gamil.com. ■



Carl Smith, Marilyn Harper, Jean Hanson, Marcia Congdon, Phyllis Pryor and Cynthia Adams join others on the bus.

Photo by Bob Potter

From the President

Over the past couple of years the NMCCSC Board has been searching for ways to revitalize the Club and make it more responsive to the needs and



interests of our members' winter sports activities. One new thing we are trying is a "Business Membership." This is a membership for a business that is involved in some aspect of winter sports of interest to our members. The intent is to provide you with information about ski opportunities, equipment, or some other aspect of skiing and snowshoeing that could help make your activities

more fun or interesting. And on a higher level, we are interested in growing the sport so the area can support more businesses that serve our members. Several years ago Albuquerque had half a dozen stores that provided a variety of cross country skiing and snowshoe equipment. Today, availability of cross country stuff is much more limited.

In order to do this, a business will have access to the membership only for the purpose of communicating their information to you. This would be done by a limited number of emails through Yahoo E-groups and, possibly, snail-mail. The proposal requires that the business owner agree not to use the contact information for any other purpose or to distribute it in any form.

For our members, you will be offered 10% discounts on facilities and lessons. If the Club sponsors trips to a business location, we would also be given 2 free passes to distribute by lottery to attendees.

This is an experiment to see how it will work. It should be mutually beneficial both to members and to winter sports businesses. So when you see this material coming to your email or mailbox, take a look at it. You might find something of interest. If not, simply delete or trash it. And if you have concerns, we welcome your comments.

Ray Berg

Request a Training Scholarship

Avalanche Training, Wilderness First Aid, Outdoor Leadership, etc.

To find the form go to our website:

www.nmccskiclus.org

go to "Members" area, click on "Policies & Procedures" and then "Scholarship"

Instruction Schedule for 2014

By John Thomas

The **Beginner's** Ski Class will be at the Public Library at the southwest corner of Tramway and



Lomas on **Saturday, January 11**, from 2-4 p.m. You do NOT need to preregister. We will talk about clothing and gear, and how to find rental equipment if needed.

Two weeks later on **Saturday, January 25**, we will have an on-the-snow lesson from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Sandias, near the Ellis Trailhead. We have a good snow base and hope to pick up more over the next month. You must be a member to take this lesson.

Between now and then, I encourage all to be active and get some exercise. Cross country skiing is strenuous so do some hiking, running, or other sport to build up stamina. Email jt87111@comcast.net if you need more information.

The **Intermediate** Ski instruction will be conducted by Susan Corban and held at Cumbres Pass, **Friday – Sunday, February 14-16**.



This session will focus on how to execute turns:

stem Christie, parallel and beginning Telemark, as well as practice applying, removing and using skins to ski uphill. We will also have an indoor discussion of backcountry skills. Members contemplating a hut trip in their future could benefit from these intermediate skills. Participants should be able to confidently snowplow turn on a hill, and fit enough to spend the day turning, touring and doing a bit of uphill climbing. If interested, please email Susan at tele4fun@gmail.com for more information.

Barry Ritchie will conduct a **Telemark** lesson and tour on **February 1-2** at Santa Fe Ski downhill area. You must have proper equipment, including climbing skins.

Contact Barry at barrywind@msn.com to participate. ■



A Beginner's View of Harry Gates

By Kerri Wormwood

At the end of February last year for 4 days, 9 members of the Club skied to the Harry Gates Hut of the 10th Mountain Division Hut System. The hut sits at 9,700' in the White River National Forest north of Aspen.



The evening we arrived we stayed at the Diamond J Ranch, a cozy and pleasant place to stay year round. Our hosts were so gracious, plus we had a great dinner and breakfast before heading for the trailhead. Another fabulous perk was being allowed to shower our cold and grubby bodies at the end of the trip before starting our drive back to Albuquerque.

My husband, David Wegner, warned me – but did I listen? He said travel as light as possible. My pack was heavier than it needed to be for a variety of reasons. Therefore the 1,800' ascent to the hut was a bit of a bruiser, but I made it. All the others had done hut trips before and I think I learned something from each person about hut life. Years before, I'd done a couple of yurt trips so I wasn't completely out of my league.

Our first day skiing from the hut, 5 of us skied up to the summit of Burnt Mountain at 11,200'. It was a demanding ascent of 1,500' and wicked cold wind at the top. We chose to ski down the same route



Harry Gates Hut

Photo by David Wegner

because there was no evidence that a trail down the other side of the mountain had been broken. The trickiest part for me involved a steep descent, at times maneuvering through tightly packed trees, especially at the base.

The next day we all started out together, headed towards Tellurium Lake in deep powder. Most of the time we had to break trail through deep snow. We then decided to break into groups. Four of us headed up a steep trail in powder at times up to our hips. With my kicker skins (*not as efficient as full length skins in this terrain*) and the realization that I was over my head at that point, David and I turned back and had lunch in a meadow where there was a brief bit of sunshine.

All in all, the trip was really fun and challenging! The setting was magnificent with high peaks in many directions, tall pines and aspens, and a full moon. Our coldest night was about 0 degrees. Our group seemed quite compatible and we had no slouchers or whiners.

Thank you to Guy Miller for all the planning and organizing. As we were preparing to leave to head back down the mountain, a skier came to the hut. He was Ben Dodge, Executive Director of the

10th Mountain Hut Assoc. He was friendly, very fit and pleased to hear how much fun we had and how much we appreciate the opportunity to visit this awesome place. Predictably to me, he passed me and most of us up on his way back to town for a 1 p.m. meeting on skinny, fast skis. Not such a bad job, eh? ■

12th Annual Sandia Peak Snowshoe Race

This year's 5-km snowshoe race is **Saturday, January 18th, 10 a.m.** at the lower level parking lot at Sandia Crest.

Register at REI or www.sandiasnowshoe.com. Fee is \$30 (\$45 after January 4), including a long-sleeved T-shirt, refreshments and prizes in several categories.

Race is limited to 150 participants of all levels, which is usually met early, so don't delay and miss out on the fun! NO on-site registration. The race is sponsored by the Friends of the Sandia Mountains. ■



John Stephens, Kerri Wormwood, Phyllis Pryor, Ramon Parcels, Thea Berg, Guy Miller (*leader*), Ray Berg, Karen Leach and David Wegner, Harry Gates Hut, 2/28/13.

Photo by Ben Dodge, Executive Director
10th Mountain Division Hut Association

For What Goes Up—Climbing Skins

By Barry Ritchey

Once upon a time, climbing skins were indeed real 'skins.' These days, no seals [adult, baby or even angry juveniles] are harmed in making climbing skins. Instead, the vast majority of skins are made out of woven nylon, mohair [wool], or a mixture of the two, to mimic the angled fur of the original. However, the 'skin' moniker remains with us. Although some skins are buckled on, the only choice for those who own no-glide skis, the vast majority of skins use an adhesive on the back to temporarily affix to the ski. Here are some things to consider when purchasing and using adhesive-backed skins.

Width — The skin should be slightly narrower than the waist of the ski. The metal edge on the base side should barely be visible. If the skin is as wide as the waist and the edge is covered, then the edge of the ski will not be able to engage the snow when needed. If the skin is more than a few mm narrower than the waist, then the skin will lift off the snow when you edge on a traverse [a.k.a. you will slide backwards and experience deep dissatisfaction]. Back when skis were shaped like chopsticks and had essentially zero sidecut [you sold those off, didn't you?], one could just buy a set of skins that were about the width of the waist and be good to go. For modern skis, with quite a bit of sidecut, the skin needs to approximate the shape of the ski. In other words, the skin at the tip and tail needs to be at least 10-20 mm wider than the waist. The skin does not need to fully cover those wide tips, but does need to almost be as wide as the tail, since climbing will shift your weight distribution towards the rear half of the ski. Unless you purchase pre-cut skins specific to your ski, you will have to purchase skins too wide and long, then trim to your specific width and length. Most of the wider skins now have a strip down the middle sans adhesive, which makes them much easier to unfold, while still having enough surface area to stick to the ski base.

Adhesive — The adhesive needs to be sticky enough to keep the skin stuck to the ski base, especially in cold conditions, but not so sticky that the glue transfers to the ski base when the skin is removed. These two requirements are quite the chemical



A group of skiers skin up and climb the slope on the Durango car trip, 2/2/13.

Photo by Dave Gabel

property compromise. Which brand has the best adhesive? I'm not getting into that debate. Like chile, beer, wine, etc., every skin brand has a good and occasionally bad vintage. There is a promising new silicone-backed skin type, which doesn't use adhesive, but it's still a work in progress. Eventually, more sooner than later for pet lovers and those who tend to drop things, you will have to either touch-up the skin adhesive [tubes and cans of adhesive are available and work great to get those stubborn tails to stay stuck] or resort to heating, scraping and ironing on new sheets of adhesive. Once a season, I punish myself by sitting down with tweezers to remove as much debris stuck to the adhesive as possible, especially paying attention to the tail end. This usually restores quite a bit of the adhesive stick.

Material Types — Other than the old Voile Snakeskins, indestructible and heavy urethane with angled slits [I still have a pair of loaners], skins are a woven fabric with adhesive backing. There are three types of fabric materials with corresponding tradeoffs. Nylon—most durable, absorbs least amount of water, least glide, most grip, folds about like cardboard, heaviest and cheapest. Mohair [wool] - best glide, less grip, not as durable, lightest weight, absorbs the most moisture, supplest to fold and most expensive. Mix [~70-30 nylon-mohair blend] - good compromise of glide, durability and all-around use.

Tip/Tail Hardware — Yes, you can save a wee bit of money by getting skins that only rely on adhesive at the tail and/or tip, but one cold day you will be regretting that decision. Buy skins that have some type of tip and tail hardware attachment. If your skins have a proprietary clip/hook/adjustment strap/etc., carry spares. Things always seem to break or get lost as far from civilization as possible. Wrap some duct tape below your pole handles to be unrolled and used as an attachment aid if all else fails.

Trimming Tips — Don't buy skins and attempt to trim/fit/mount the night before a trip. Clear off a nice flat table as a work surface. Shoo away the cat, dog, or any other shedding creature(s) you reside with. Next to dropping your skins in the dirt/pine needles, there's nothing worse than getting pet hair all over the adhesive. Measure twice [thrice?], cut/trim once. Partake in any optional adult beverage consumption after the trim and installation. ■

Part II of this article will be in February's newsletter.

Durango Ski By Bet Gendron

The Durango Hostel car trip last February was led by Scott Mitchell. We stayed in the immaculate, well-run Durango Hostel. At the time, temperature, and snow quantity/quality were poor so plans were to ski mostly on Molas Pass, always a good bet. On Friday, Linda Riddle, Terri Elisberg, and I skied Junction Creek just northwest of town at a lower elevation. The snow was wonderful; we had a great time playing around until we came back down the road, which had turned to pure choppy ice. After that we looked forward to skiing on Molas Pass!



That evening we met the rest of the group in the hostel – Ray and Thea Berg, Dave Gabel, Scott Mitchell, and

Diane Simmons who had Tele'd at the ski area for the day. Durango was having its Snowdown Winter Festival, which turned out to be a massive celebration in town, dubbed as "Get Your Geek On", complete with a huge parade! Most everyone we met looked really, really geeky!



Diane Simmons, Scott Mitchell and others ski Durango, 2/2/13.

Photo by Dave Gabel

The hostel was charming; we really enjoyed being around the many young adults that were there. There were 3 rooms of bunks. The bathroom was appropriately designed as a coed facility! The next morning I wondered out loud – "why does it seem that the young men seem so shy at the sinks?" The answer was – "probably because we look like their grandmothers!"

On Saturday, we went to Molas Pass and thoroughly enjoyed the fantastic snow on a trip around Andrews Lake and then we explored the terrain around Little Molas Lake. There were some hills on which we did laps and turns – can't everyone look like a real Telemarker in untouched deep powder? I learned much by watching and following Diane Simmons – she's a champ. Thank you to Scott, who was a really good leader, Dave with his GPS skills, and others

adept with topo map reading, because we arrived safely back at our cars.

By Sunday, we had 3 people who had to return home so 5 of us skied up Cascade Creek. It was a fascinating, but much-used trail that went past old cabins and a large water-flume system. We promised to go back in the fall to enjoy the leaves and to check out the water system more. In spite of the heavily used condition of the trail, we were able to get some nice runs in; yes, some "screamers!"

It appeared that our party would divide on the trail so we said goodbye. But what? We all met up again at Jean Pierre's Bakery for a lunch-to-die-for with its very beautiful interior setting. We enjoyed replenishing all those calories we had used up all weekend! Isn't it great to work so hard? Then you just want to enjoy food and drink! I'd better keep skiing! ■

Watch for Day Trips By Guy Miller, Day Trip Chair

Our day trip elves are working overtime to produce an exciting day trip program. We have a number of trip leaders lined up, and discussions are underway about tours. Unfortunately, as of press time, we do not have exact dates nailed down.



Tom Broadbent, Jean Hanson and Bill White, Silverton, 12/30/12.

Photo by Bob Potter

No worries. Please watch the website and your e-groups for messages about day tours. We have tentative plans for a number of Class I and II trips as well as a sprinkling of Class III trips.

Keep your eyes on the weather forecast. We are hoping for more snow in the Jemez, as we have a number of potential day trips in that area. Otherwise, the Sandias are looking good, as does Mt. Taylor.

As always, if you think you would like to lead a day trip, PLEASE contact me – I can help with logistics and planning to make the day tour happen. It's easy and fun, and you'll be a hero. Stay tuned . . . ■

Crested Butte Bus Trip 1/17-20/2014

Ball, Marion
Bargman, Misty
Bargman-Romero, Ruth
Barstow, Noel
Berg, Ray & Thea
Botts, Hank
Congdon, Marcia
Coon, Sidney & Barbara
Corban, Susan
Cornish, Bob
Crowther, Dennis
Eichel, Paul & Cathy
Elisberg, Terri
Gallagher, Mary Kaye
Garcia, Sandra
Ghattas, Mona & Monica
Gendron, Bet
Hickman, Anne
Holland, Tim
Intemann, Cathy
Johnson, Carolyn
Katonak, Tom & Lynda
Kemeys, Karen
Kramar, Chris
Kvam, Karen
Leach, Chet & Karen
McVicar, Jim
Miller, Guy
Pierson, Debbie
Riddle, Linda
Rubenstein, Ann & Bernard
Russo, Tom
Sanchez, Margaret
Seagers, Eddie
Shapiro, Alan
Starr, Linda
Stout, Sarah
Szydowski, Marilynn
Taylor-Ryman, Celeste
Waters, Catherine
Weinrod, Margaret
Welford, Angela
White, Bill
Wiederhott, David
Willis, Bronwyn
Wisely, Sally
Zook, Kent



Angela Welford & Louise
Broadbent, Frisco, 2/24/2012.
Photo by Bob Moore



Janet Heindel in Georgetown,
2/8/2013
Photo by Cynthia Adams

Steamboat Springs Bus Trip 2/21-24/2014

Bargman, Misty
Bargman-Romero, Ruth
Barstow, Noel
Besser, Rich
Burns, Alan
Congdon, Marcia
Cornish, Bob
Elisberg, Terri
Feldman, Kim
Friedrich, Sara

Hanson, Jean
Harper, Marilyn
Jenkins, Nancy
Katonak, Tom & Lynda
Keyser, Sybil
Kirkby, Wayne
Meineke, Carol
Miller, Guy
Miller, Lucy
Newton, Geri
Ng, Dorris
Noland, Holly
Richmond, Carol
Russell, Eric
Taylor-Ryman, Celeste
Thomas, John
Schultz, Dave & Ann
Segears, Eddie
Sheldahl, Kevin & Teri
Smith, Carl
Starr, Linda
Welford, Angela
White, Bill
Willis, Bronwyn



Catherine Waters in
Leadville, 1/19/2013.
Photo by Karen Leach

*Below – Lunch in Leadville: Tom
Broadbent, Alan Burns, Dave
Schultz, Angela Welford, John
Stephens, and Ray and Thea
Berg
*Photo by Ruth Bargman-Romero**



41st Annual Chama Chile Ski Classic

When: Saturday - Sunday, January 18-19

Where: Chama, NM



XC ski & snowshoe races, dog sled races,
costume contest, clinics, live music, chili/chile
contest, Yurt tours, family fun and more!

Hotels fill fast so make reservations now!

www.chamaski.com



Hut Trips By Guy Miller

Betty Bear Hut
Monday – Saturday, 1/27 – 2/1
Cost: \$ 141

Betty Bear is found at just over 11,000' near Basalt, CO. Sleeping quarters are located downstairs, which is heated by its own wood burning stove. The upstairs common area is spacious and sunny.

An additional draw for this trip is our arrangement for the night before we hit the trail. We'll stay at our old favorite, The Diamond J Ranch.

Day skiing options around the hut include moderate Nordic touring as well as turning opportunities. This trip is suitable for strong intermediate hut skiers. The first 5 miles are on a gentle road, but the last 2 miles go steeply uphill with many vexing switchbacks. A few vacancies remain.



Sarah Stout skis to the Peter Estlin Hut, 1/22/13.

Photo by Carl Smith

Broome Hut
Saturday – Thursday, 2/8 – 13
Cost: \$146

Broome is a new hut that replaces the decrepit Second Creek Cabin. It is located at Berthoud Pass, which is north of I-70 and south of Winter Park, CO. The hut is accessed by a very short, but very steep trail. I have not been to this hut, but some of our skiers stumbled across it last winter on the Georgetown bus trip.

It is reported that snow conditions are excellent and that day skiing in the area is challenging. Also, I'm told that the hut itself is different than the traditional 10th Mountain style huts, and that the interior is ultra cool and quite livable.

For further information about the hut trips, contact me at xcskiboy@aol.com or 505 306-2628. ■



January 2014						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			Silverton			
5	6	7	8 Trail project	9 Club Meets	10 Molas Pass Hut	11 Beginner Class
12	13	14	15 Trail project	16	17 Crested Butte	18
19	20 Crested	21	22	23 Board Meets	24	25 Beginner Class
26	27	28	29	30	31	Pagosa Tele Clinic
Betty Bear Hut						
February 2014						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1 Pagosa Tele & Hut
2	3	4	5 Trail project	6	7	Hut
9	10	11	12	13 Club Meets	14	15 Training/Cumbres
16 Train	17	18	19	20	21 Steamboat	22
23 Steamboat	24	25	26	27 Board Meets	28	29
March 2014						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1 Leadville car trip
2	3	4	5 Trail project	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Trail project	13 Club Meets	14	15
16	17	18	19 Trail project	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Trail project	27	28	29
30	31					

2013-14 Officers and Board

President	Ray Berg	366-8104	rsberg01@comcast.net
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Hut Trips & Day Tours	Guy Miller	306-2628	xcskiboy@aol.com
Long Bus Trips	Celeste Taylor-Ryman Bill White	366-4959 306-3120	celestet86@gmail.com whitebillygoat@gmail.com
Overnight Car	Rob Suminsby	369-5943	robert.suminsby@gmail.com
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Membership	Bet Gendron	228-8025	bettygendron@gmail.com
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Refreshments	Marilynn Szydlowski	332-8018	mjmazgaj52@aol.com
Trails	Sam Beard	828-0673	samgbeard@msn.com
Web Site	Bill Savage	353-1089	bsavage@aol.com
Email Group/Mailing	Bob Potter	831-9779	hvac87108356@yahoo.com

New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club

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Bernard Rubenstein, Red River, 2/16/13.

Photo by Karen Leach