



### **Bus Trips**

General information regarding bus trips can be found at <http://nmccskiclub.org/ski-outings/bus-trips/>

Crested Butte is scheduled from January 12 through January 15, 2018. Due to last minute cancellations, there is room for some folks who could not commit until this week.

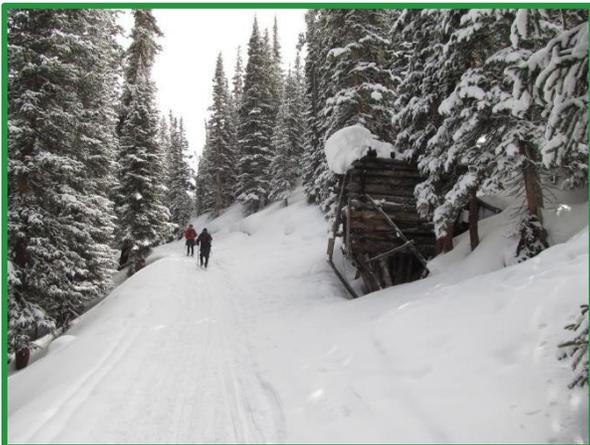
Frisco is scheduled for March 2 – 5, with lodging at the Baymont Inn and Suites. Frisco and Breckenridge Nordic centers are in close proximity and served by a shuttle bus system. The Nordic centers offer comfortable lodging centers along with just about anything else you need. Breckenridge nordic center typically has the longest season of the Nordic centers in Colorado. Breckenridge downhill resort has a 33 inch base as of January 8.

<https://www.breckenridge.com/the-mountain/mountain-conditions/snow-and-weather-report.aspx>

<http://breckenridgenordic.com>

<https://www.townoffrisco.com/play/trail-conditions/>

Nice trails, historic structures, on Frisco area ski trails. Photo credit to Dave Gable.



### **Avalanche Beacon Practice**

Susan coordinated beacon refresher session with a dozen folks coming out. Now is the time, to replace beacon batteries, add extra batteries to you pack, and definitely browse your beacon's operation manual. See <https://avalanche.org/> as a starting point for avalanche awareness.

### **Ski Rental**

Cross Country skis (Rossignol BC-65) for the general public can be rented at Sports Systems on Montgomery Boulevard.

## Hut Trips to Betty Bear and Jackal

NOTE: *Granted, snow levels in Colorado are well below normal, but they're WAY better than what we have in New Mexico. My friends at 10th Mountain tell me that people have been going to the huts since before Christmas. With nearly three weeks to go, we expect more snow. As of press time, this trip is a GO ! Don't sit this one out and then read about in the next newsletter; sign up now! LET'S GO !!! Hurry ! Only a few spots remain !*

### *Betty Bear Hut trip begins January 28<sup>th</sup> – 6 openings remain*

This will be our third visit to Betty Bear, one of our favorites. This unique hut, located about 30 miles east of Basalt, Colorado, sits at an elevation of 11,100 feet. The interesting design features downstairs sleeping quarters and a spacious sunlit common area and kitchen in the upstairs portion. Wood stoves heat both upstairs and downstairs.



The seven mile ski into the hut is done in two sections: a 5 mile haul up a drainage along Forest Service road 505, followed by a steep, switch-backed 2 mile stretch to the hut.

There are a variety of day skiing options around the hut, including a tour up to Hagerman Pass. If there is enough interest, there is also the possibility that those who wish could extend the trip by heading directly on to Skinner Hut, which is often vacant due largely to difficulty in accessing it.

This is an advanced trip, and avalanche gear is required.

We will leave Albuquerque on Sunday, January 28, 2018, and carpool to Basalt where we will motel it for the night. We will ski to the hut on Monday, January 29 and stay for 3 nights, exiting on Thursday, February 1. Because of the long distance, we will likely drive only as far as Leadville or Salida before heading home on February 2. Those splitting off to go to Skinner would do so on exit day and stay two nights there, exiting on February 3 and returning home February 4-5.

Costs of this trip is \$148, exclusive of travel expenses to and from the trailhead.

Check out the hut at: [http://www.huts.org/The\\_Huts/bettybear.php](http://www.huts.org/The_Huts/bettybear.php)

Hurry and sign up soon for the Betty Bear Hut trip as only 6 spots are left for this trip. Contact Guy Miller for details. Guy's contact info is found by going to the home page and clicking on membership, then on membership list.

### *Jackal Hut trip begins February 19<sup>th</sup> 5 spots remain*

The book 'Colorado Hut to Hut', by Brian Litz provides the following description.

"Located near timberline in an area used by 10th Mountain troops during their war training in the 1940s, Jackal Hut has good nearby skiing and terrific views of several stunning 14,000-foot peaks. The hut was built with money donated by Jack Schuss and Al Zesiger, two strong supporters of 10th Mountain (the name is an eponymous combo of Jack-Al)".

Layout and capacity: Upstairs: 1 room with 3 single beds, 1 room with 4 single beds, and 9 single beds in a communal sleeping area. Capacity 16.

Hut Location: Jackal Hut is the eastern most hut owned by 10th Mountain Division Hut Association. It is located in central Colorado, on the western slope of the Continental Divide about 15 miles north of the city of Leadville at 11,660'. It is the closest hut to the Camp Hale site, where the 10th Mountain Division soldiers did most of their training during the Second World War."

We will leave Albuquerque on Monday, February 19, 2018 and drive to Leadville where we will have local accommodations for the evening. We'll ski into the hut the next morning and spend three nights there, exiting on Friday, February 23. Some may wish to return the same day, but we always allow an extra day in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

Cost of this trip is \$165, exclusive of travel and dining expenses to and from the trailhead.



There are only 5 spots are left for this trip, so sign up soon to reserve room for yourself at this hut. Contact Guy Miller for further information. Contact information is found in the directory listed on the website, accessible by members.

### **Trip to Grouse Creek Yurt January 19-21**

Join in for a fun 2-night trip to Grouse Creek Yurt, near Cumbres Pass, up the hill from Chama. This area is in the same general mountain range as Wolf Creek, and traditionally gets lots of snow. In good years, you can barely see the apex of the roof, which is 18 feet above bare ground. Even with the exceptionally dry conditions this year, there was an 18 inch base at Cumbres pass on Christmas day. The yurt itself is well protected by the surrounding forest. We will stay at the yurt the nights of 19-20 January 2018, Friday-Saturday. We will leave Albuquerque Friday morning and return Sunday afternoon.

The typical yurt is much more rustic than the typical hut. Grouse Creek yurt is moderately insulated, and is heated by a wood stove, and lit by propane lanterns. There are 4 beds (bunks) with (thin) mattresses and pillows, and two additional mattresses can go on the floor. There is a three-burner propane stove, cooking utensils, paper towels, and dish soap. Basically you will need to bring clothes, food, and a sleeping bag.

The yurt can accommodate 6 people. Several have already signed up, but several spots remain. The \$280 cost of renting the yurt for two nights (\$140/night) will be split among the participants. E.g. if we have 4 people, the yurt cost will be \$70 for each person. Above that we will have food and transportation costs. We will coordinate shared dinners, but each person should bring their own preferred breakfast and lunch foods. The yurt often has some foodstuffs like soup left behind by prior visitors.

The trail, suitable for a pulk, is a wide Class 2 trail climbing 1000 feet over 4 miles, passing through open meadows and logging roads. There will not be avalanche conditions on the trail in. Whiteout conditions are possible through the open meadows, but the trail is well marked with blazes and flags. On the layover day, there is a variety of terrain to explore, including meadows and some steeper areas going down to a drainage.

Online information:

Maps, trail description, yurt description, a detailed list of what to bring, and a waiver form to sign, is here:

<http://southwestnordiccenter.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/GrouseCreekYurtConfirm.pdf>

Info on the yurt is available here: <http://southwestnordiccenter.com/yurts/grouse-creek-yurt/>

Conditions available here: <http://southwestnordiccenter.com/current-conditions/>

If you are interested in going, or would like more information, please contact Scott Mitchell. Scott has stayed in Southwest Nordic Center's yurts about 7 times, and one likely participant has been to Grouse Creek yurt specifically.

### **Ski Racing and Chama Chile Ski Classic**

Four events are in the Southwest Nordic Race Series, sponsored by the Durango Nordic Club. For detail visit the web site at <http://www.durangonordic.org/southwest-nordic-race-series/> Please note the Chama Chile Ski Classic has been rescheduled for February 24-25

### **Red River Weekend Trip – February 24 & 25**

Come join us for a week-end of Cross Country Skiing in Red River. We will be staying at the Golden Eagle Creek Lodge properties, Friday & Saturday evenings. <http://www.redriverlodges.com>

Saturday evening everyone is invited to a potluck dinner at the hotel. Sunday we will find another ski tour in the surrounding National Forest before heading home. Ruth Bargman-Romero will be leading Class I tour for beginners both days. Other more experienced skiing tours may be offered depending on who signs up and who volunteers to lead a day trip. Stay tuned for more information.

Please contact Scott Mitchell at [CarTrips@nmccskiclub.org](mailto:CarTrips@nmccskiclub.org) or Ruth Bargman-Romero at [Instruction@nmccskiclub.org](mailto:Instruction@nmccskiclub.org) for more information.

### **Yellowstone**

A magical place year around is Yellowstone National Park. Wondering how it looks like in winter? Here are 2 pictures from Adrienne showing its unique qualities, from what we see in our neck of the woods.



### **Instruction**

*Cross Country Skiing for Beginners sponsored by NMCCS*

Are you ready to learn about Cross Country skiing basics? It does not matter if you are brand new to the sport, haven't been on skis in years, or just have a friend you would like to introduce cross country skiing to. Come join us for the Beginning Cross Country Skiing. The indoor session was conducted in December, the outdoor session is scheduled for February.

Session 2 Outdoors:

When: February TBD, 2018

Where: Sandia Mountain

Who: Must be a member of the NM Cross Country Ski Club

Overview: Outdoor lessons are free, but one must be a ski club member to attend. Outdoor lessons focus on learning balance and control, kick and glide technique, side step and kick turns. Participants also practice herringbone steps up hill, and the snowplow.

More Information found at: <http://nmccskiclub.org/instruction/beginner-instruction>

Questions: contact out Instruction chairman - [Instruction@NMCCSkiClub.org](mailto:Instruction@NMCCSkiClub.org)

*UNM Continuing Education - Cross Country Skiing for Beginners sponsored by NMCCS*

UNM Continuing Education Classes: Cross Country Skiing: Basic Touring

Course Number: 10660

Tuition: \$120

Dates: 1/16/18 - 2/3/18

Class Times: Tue 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM and Sat 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Instructor: Paul Chandler

Location: CE North Building, CE South Building

*Additional ski clinics/lessons resources:*

Sandia Nordic Ski club, Instructional clinics, [www.sandianordic.org/](http://www.sandianordic.org/)

Sophrosyne, NM Health & Wellness, [www.sophrosynenm.com/](http://www.sophrosynenm.com/)

Ski clinics available at the Chama Chile Ski Classic. The Chama Chile Ski Classic has been rescheduled, advisable to check what is available beforehand.

Instruction available at Crested Butte or Frisco Nordic Centers, 2018 Bus trips

**Programs**

The program for January address the Basics of Outdoor Emergency Care, "Staying Safe in the Outdoors". Topics covered include:

- I. Nature is Always in Flux: Prepare for the Unexpected
- II. Heat Loss: Layering
- III. Preventing Hypothermia and Basic First Aid--Dos and Do Not's
- IV. Mental and Physical Preparedness When Entering the Outdoor Environment
- V. Conclusion

***Calendar of Events 2017-2018***

<b><i>Calendar of Events 2017-2018</i></b>		
Thursday	January 11 7:00 – 9:00 PM	General Meeting at Garden club
Friday-Monday	January 12 – January 15	Bus Trip Crested Butte, Colorado
Friday-Saturday	January 19-20, 2018	Grouse Creek Yurt trip
Sunday-Friday	January 28 – February 2	Hut Trip - Betty Bear Hut
Weekend (1 day)	February TBD	Field Instruction - Beginning Cross Country Skiing Sandia Mountains
Thursday	February 8 7:00 – 9:00 PM	General Meeting at Garden club
Monday-Saturday	February 19 – February 24	Hut Trip - Jackal Hut
Saturday-Sunday	February 24 – February 25	Red River weekend car trip
Friday-Monday	March 2 – March 5	Bus Trip Frisco, Colorado
Thursday	March 8 7:00 – 9:00 PM	General Meeting at Garden club

Board Members 2017-2018			
President	Mike Martin	273-1876	<a href="mailto:President@nmccskiclub.org">President@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Vice President	Bet Gendron	228-8025	<a href="mailto:VicePresident@nmccskiclub.org">VicePresident@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Secretary	Nancy Jenkins	269-0855	<a href="mailto:Secretary@nmccskiclub.org">Secretary@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Treasurer	Max Shepherd	270-5258	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@nmccskiclub.org">Treasurer@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Day Trips	Guy Miller	306-2628	<a href="mailto:DayTrips@nmccskiclub.org">DayTrips@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Long Bus Trips	Bob Potter Adrienne McConnell		<a href="mailto:BusTrips@nmccskiclub.org">BusTrips@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Hut Trips	Guy Miller	306-2628	<a href="mailto:HutTrips@nmccskiclub.org">HutTrips@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Car Trips	Scott Mitchell	977-8893	<a href="mailto:CarTrips@nmccskiclub.org">CarTrips@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Newsletter	Dean Athow	275-1097	<a href="mailto:Newsletter@nmccskiclub.org">Newsletter@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Instruction	Ruth Bargman-Romero	842-9735	<a href="mailto:Instruction@nmccskiclub.org">Instruction@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Membership	Stacey Kittner	712-5638	<a href="mailto:Membership@nmccskiclub.org">Membership@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Meetup & Social Media	Dave Gabel	401-5723	<a href="mailto:SocialMedia@nmccskiclub.org">SocialMedia@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Programs	Peter Marks	856-8237	<a href="mailto:Programs@nmccskiclub.org">Programs@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Mailing/Egroup	Marilynn Szydowski	332-8018	<a href="mailto:egroup@nmccskiclub.org">egroup@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Refreshments	Kathy Trujillo	299-9663	<a href="mailto:Refreshments@nmccskiclub.org">Refreshments@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Trails	Sam Beard	828-0673	<a href="mailto:Trails@nmccskiclub.org">Trails@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Web Site	Eric Russell	281-1289	<a href="mailto:Website@nmccskiclub.org">Website@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Finding Us			
Web Page	<a href="http://nmccskiclub.org">http://nmccskiclub.org</a>		
FaceBook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/1663936723893594">https://www.facebook.com/groups/1663936723893594</a>		
Mail	New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club PO Box 51563 Albuquerque, NM 87181		

Ratings		
Class	Vertical Climb (ft)	Distance (miles)
One	Less than 1000	Less than 5
Two	Less than 2000	Less than 5
Three	Greater than 2000	Greater than 10
Four	Unpatrolled, mountainous terrain, with the purpose of downhill skiing. Slopes can be greater than 25 degrees. Knowledge of use of climbing skins, avalanche gear needed.	
Steepness of slopes, skill level, and stamina can also dictate the ski tour rating. Please see the webpage for more information. <a href="http://nmccskiclub.org/ski-outings/">http://nmccskiclub.org/ski-outings/</a>		

Avalanche Outlook	
US	<a href="https://avalanche.org/">https://avalanche.org/</a>
Canada	<a href="https://www.avalanche.ca/map">https://www.avalanche.ca/map</a>
Taos	<a href="http://taosavalanchecenter.org">http://taosavalanchecenter.org</a>
Crested Butte	<a href="http://cbavalanchecenter.org/">http://cbavalanchecenter.org/</a>
Some of the sites from <a href="https://avalanche.org">https://avalanche.org</a>	
Colorado	<a href="http://avalanche.state.co.us/">http://avalanche.state.co.us/</a>
Utah	<a href="https://utahavalanchecenter.org">https://utahavalanchecenter.org</a>
Tetons	<a href="http://jhavalanche.org">http://jhavalanche.org</a>
Yellowstone	<a href="https://www.mtavalanche.com">https://www.mtavalanche.com</a>
Sawtooths	<a href="https://www.sawtoothavalanche.com">https://www.sawtoothavalanche.com</a>
Central Sierra	<a href="https://www.sierraavalanchecenter.org">https://www.sierraavalanchecenter.org</a>
Eastern Sierra	<a href="http://www.esavalanche.org">http://www.esavalanche.org</a>

New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club  
PO Box 51563  
Albuquerque, NM 87181