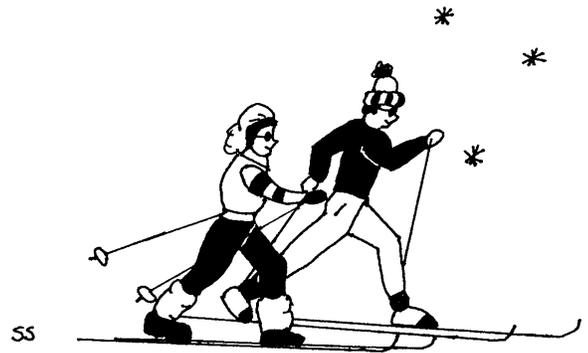


New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club Newsletter



December 2005



New Meeting Schedule !! *2nd Thursday each month*

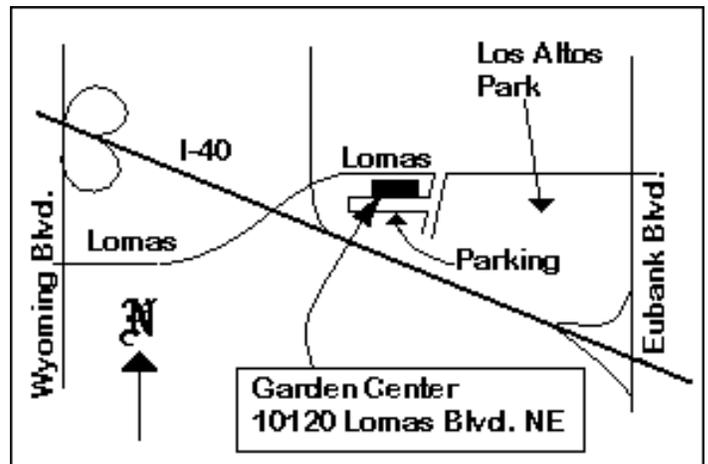
Next meeting: Thursday December 8, 7:30pm

- **Program:** Wayne Kirkby will present a short selection of slides taken by Carol Haller of skiing in the Valles Caldera National Preserve.
- **Snacks:** Bring goodies to share following a brief business meeting. But, don't avoid the meeting just because you didn't get anything ready to bring – there's always *lots* to eat. We'll have a big variety of delicious goodies. Better skip supper!

Monthly General Meetings

October 11	January 12
November 10	February 9
December 8	March 9

Meetings are held at 7:30pm on the second Thursday of each month, October through March, at the Albuquerque Garden Club Center, 10120 Lomas NE. Look for the sign on Lomas at the entrance to the Center. Please park on the south side of the building and enter through the south entrance.



4th bus trip

Pagosa Springs – 17-19 March !!

For the first time ever, the Club will run a fourth bus trip, in an attempt to accommodate the large number of people who were unable to get on the three regular trips. *Priority for this trip will go to those who signed up for an earlier trip but did not get drawn.*

Inserted into this newsletter is a registration form for the new Pagosa trip. The form also has a detailed description of the trip.

cost: \$160. per person
including Saturday dinner
depart: Friday 17 March 5:00pm
return: Sunday 19 March ~9:00pm

Do you download your newsletter from the Club Web site?

Points to remember:

- Get good use from your newsletter – print it out and keep it where you can refer to it. Don't just skim it on the computer screen and close it!
- Remember that the group email notice about the newsletter being posted is separate from the process of actually posting it. If the email notice is delayed, you can just check the Web site to see whether the new newsletter is there. It should be posted 9-10 days before the meeting.

Visit the NMCCSC Web site at
www.naturediscovery.org/nmccskiclub
newsletters, updated trip info, and more!



Avalanche Beacon Practice - cancelled
by Mike Martin

The avalanche beacon and search technique practice session planned Sunday, December 11 has been cancelled due to leader's schedule conflict. Sorry!



Selling Your Old Equipment

Members are welcome to bring ski-related equipment to the general meetings. It may be placed on the platforms at the front and at the far side of the room. You may also send for-sale announcements on our Yahoo Group email facility.



2005-06 Membership List

The new 2005-06 membership list has been generated and placed on the Web site. A printed copy will be included with mailed newsletters. This is the only membership list that will be printed and mailed this year, but we've been updating the list on the Web site each month.

You should double-check your information in the list. If your record needs updating, give a call to the Lord of the Database (Gene Lisotto).



Beginner Cross-Country Ski Lesson
by Guy Miller

Time is marching on, and those who have thought about taking the beginner lesson need to get moving! This is a once a year deal, and the idea is to get your lesson at the beginning of the ski season so you can spend the rest of the season practicing what you've learned. Don't let the warm weather fool you. Too often, people don't think about skiing until the snow is upon us, but if you wait until then, it'll be too late!

We're doing things a bit earlier than normal this year, which is another reason to start making plans NOW!! The 2-hour classroom session will be held on Saturday December 10, 2005. The time is tentatively set for 2:30-4:30pm. Further details will be provided to those who sign up.

Please note that the class is held in a very informal manner, with questions and discussion encouraged. The format is intended to be fun and informative. If you have gear that you might have questions about, feel free to bring it to the class.

The all-day on-the-snow session is tentatively set for Saturday January 7, 2006. We will probably ski in the Sandia Mountains. Confirmation of the date, times, and meeting place will occur at a later date.

The class is for members only! An administrative fee of \$10 is required, and this money goes directly to the Club. If you have already signed up but have not yet sent in your payment, please do so now. Your check, payable to NMCCSC, should be sent to:

Guy Miller
1330 Canyon Hills NE
Albuquerque 87112

Please be sure to include your address, phone number, and e-mail address. Those wishing to sign up, if you will do as indicated above, I'll put you on the roster. Be sure to contact Membership if you have not joined the Club yet.

Please note that the December general meeting will be held on Thursday December 8. That will be the last chance to sign up; the class is two days after the meeting.

For further information, contact Guy Miller at 294-7940, or e-mail at xcskiboy@aol.com. E-mail me anytime, but PLEASE do not call after 9:00pm.

Bus Trip Sign-up Form – Pagosa Springs, Colorado

leave: Friday March 17, 2006 departing Albuquerque at 5:00pm
return: Sunday March 19, 2006 arriving Albuquerque at 9:00pm

Cost: \$160 per person

Due to the popularity of the bus trips this year, the club is offering a fourth bus trip. This is the first time a fourth trip has been offered, and was only arranged in the last two weeks. Due to the late start on arranging the trip, you must register and send in your deposit of \$60 by December 10th, 2005. As a result of the group email announcement we had 38 people indicate an interest in this trip. The club needs 40 people to make it a break-even proposition. The Board made a decision that anyone who signed up for a bus trip earlier this year and did not get drawn would automatically get a spot for this trip if they choose to participate. Those registrations will not be subject to the drawing. If we have more than 44 registrations by the December 10th deadline, there will be a drawing for the remaining seats.

There will not be a dinner stop on Friday night so you should eat in advance of our departure or bring your dinner on the bus. We will be staying at the EconoLodge in Pagosa Springs. The trip will include a group dinner on Saturday evening. We will make a fast food stop in Española on our way home. We will schedule at least two shuttles to The Springs Bath House for those of you who want to soak in the hot springs after you ski on Saturday. The rate for The Springs is \$15 but we will negotiate a group rate with 15 or more people.

The base of the Wolf Creek Ski Area is located at 10,300 feet in elevation. It gets an annual snowfall of 465" per year and stays open until April 3rd. The downhill ski area is open from 8:30am until 4:00pm. A lift ticket is \$45 for a full day, \$33 for a half day and \$25 for seniors. There is a free 10K Nordic Center at the base of the Wolf Creek Ski Area which is groomed on a regular basis. The bus will go to the downhill area both days. Depending on the snow conditions some of the Class II ski options may include Falls Creek Road and Wolf Creek Road. The Class III options may include Treasure Mountain and the Powerline.

Please complete the registration form and mail it to **Louise Broadbent, 367 Horseshoe Loop, Jemez Springs, NM 87025**, or bring it to the December 8 Club meeting. Your registration form must be received no later than **December 10th**. The drawing for slots for this trip will take place the next day. Questions – send them to louise@valornet.com.

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.

Deposit due with registration **\$60**

Balance **\$100** due January 15, 2006



----- cut here -----

Name _____ Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____ Email address _____

Emergency contact _____ Phone _____

Ski Ability: Beginner ____ Class One ____ Class Two ____ Class Three ____

Dinner choice: Chicken Alfredo ____ Grilled Salmon ____ Prime Rib ____ BBQ Ribs ____

Roommate _____ Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____ Email address _____

Emergency contact _____ Phone _____

Roommate Ski Ability: Beginner ____ Class One ____ Class Two ____ Class Three ____

Dinner choice: Chicken Alfredo ____ Grilled Salmon ____ Prime Rib ____ BBQ Ribs ____

Would you be willing to lead a ski trip in Pagosa Springs? Yes ____ No ____ Maybe ____

As a reminder, have you paid your membership dues?



Update on Bus Trips

by Louise Broadbent

Frisco, Silverton, and Crested Butte trips are taking the 57 passenger bus and are full at this time with 2-18 people in their respective Reserve Pools. A registration form for the Pagosa Springs trip, with additional information on the trip, is inserted into this newsletter. The Webmaster will periodically publish updates to the trip rosters along with the payments so you can check to make sure you have been credited for the payments you have sent in. These are on the Trip Documents page in the Members Area of the Web site. If you are interested in getting on one of the trips, watch your Yahoo Group email announcements. Last year we had at least 6 people per trip who had to cancel due to unforeseen emergencies. If you are in the Reserve Pool you still have a chance to get on the trip. We have extra rooms at Silverton and can accommodate people who wish to drive up. Silverton reservations must go through me. The Club is charging \$155 per person to drive-up members to cover your room, three breakfasts and one dinner.

Change in departure place for the bus trips:

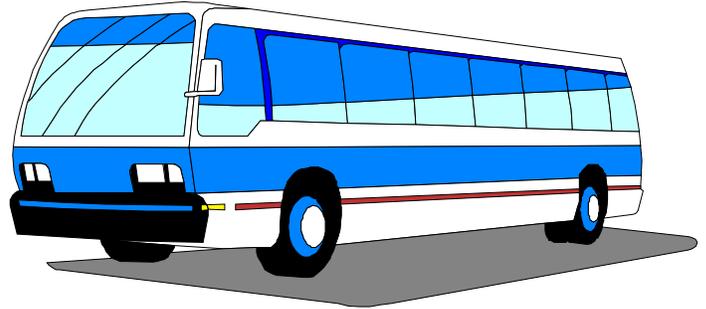
We are departing from the Lowes parking lot at Paseo del Norte one block east of 1-25 (same as last year, but different from previous years). Please park in the northwest corner of the Lowes lot, not in the new Target parking lot.

Bus departure times:

- Frisco 2:00pm
- Silverton 5:00pm
- Crested Butte 2:00pm
- Pagosa Springs 5:00pm

Boarding procedure:

The boarding procedure instituted last year worked fairly well to alleviate a mass rush for the bus and to allow everyone a chance to get the seat of their choice. I will be at Lowes parking lot one hour before the departure to hand out boarding passes to people as they arrive. You will be allowed to board the bus in groups based on your boarding pass number. Place your boarding pass on the seat you have selected. You will not be allowed to save any seats other than for the person with whom you are rooming. If you want to sit with your spouse, I suggest you arrive early to get your preferred seats.



Final payments due:

The final payment for trips is as follows:

- Frisco \$100 due December 10th
- Silverton \$100 due December 10th
- Crested Butte \$100 due January 1st
- Pagosa Springs \$100 due January 15th

Please make your checks payable to NMCCSC and mail them to:

- Louise Broadbent
- 367 Horseshoe Loop
- Jemez Springs, NM 87025.

other information:

I really appreciate having an email address for those of you who sign up for a trip. I do a lot of my communication via email. This gives the trip participants more advance information. I will not publish your email addresses. I will use them to make group emails with announcements pertinent to the trip. My email address is louise@valornet.com. If you have a question about a particular trip, please check the information that is available on the website first. It is time consuming to answer all the questions that come through the email. The trip descriptions for Frisco, Silverton, and Crested Butte were all published in the October newsletter and are available at www.naturediscovery.org/nmccskiclub. Go to the Members Area, log in, and go to the October 2005 newsletter.





2005-2006 Hut Trips Update

by *Guy Miller*

Some explanation for new members: each year, I try to run 2 or 3 trips to the huts in Colorado. There are several hut systems (including yurts), the most well known of which is the 10th Mountain Hut Association. With a few notable exceptions, these "huts" are well-built, comfortable, well-appointed mountain cabins that sleep up to 20 people. Most are situated between 10,000 feet and 11,500 feet in elevation. The skiing around the huts is usually excellent. They have wood-burning stoves for heat and for melting snow for drinking water. Firewood is well-stocked. There are propane stoves for cooking, and all the kitchen items that one would need.

If you can ski reasonably well and can backpack, you can ski to a hut. I do need to be selective about who can go on a hut trip, as these are serious backcountry ventures that require all participants to have the ability

and mindset to adapt to unexpected changes which can occur in this type of outdoor setting.

I normally try to reserve the entire hut for our group. The Club advances me money in March, which is when reservations for the following year are made. As people sign up, I pay back the Club's money.

We have one trip in January and one in February this year. Both are full, with two people on each waiting list. However, if you want general information about our hut trips and what to do to start getting prepared for next year, contact me at 294-7940 or e-mail at xcskiboy@aol.com. E-mail me anytime, but please do not call after 9:00pm. I particularly want to talk to the few people who approached me at the November general meeting. I'd like to plan a training outing for early this season for those who may want to try to sign on for next season (or take a shot at this year's waiting list). Let's talk!



Information for Skiers

FOOD, WATER and EQUIPMENT: Each skier brings all of his/her own equipment; skis, boots, poles, wax, warm clothes, food, water, etc. At least one quart of water per person and extra food for delays or emergencies should be carried.

TRANSPORTATION: Skiers should try to car pool from the meeting point to the ski trailhead. Drivers should be reimbursed 7.5 cents per mile by each passenger in a car pool. Approximate car mileage will be listed in the trip description.

TOUR LEADERS: Tour leaders are volunteers who plan and lead ski tours for NMCCSC members. A tour leader has the prerogative of rejecting any person as a tour member because of equipment, ability, or any other reason. Call the leader if you have questions about the tour.

LIABILITY: The NMCCSC is a non-profit organization in which all activities are carried out by volunteers. The Club, Club officers, trip leaders and drivers assume no liability in connection with any Club activity. If you are concerned about accidents, either while skiing or traveling, you should obtain your own insurance policy.

TOUR CLASSIFICATIONS: The tour classification is an indication of the degree of difficulty of the trail and the corresponding skiing ability required to safely and enjoyably ski. Note that the length of the skiing portion of the trip is given in the trip description. The types of trails

that each class of skier may be expected to navigate are given below:

CLASS I: A tour with less than 1000 feet of elevation gain and less than 5 miles in length, and can be skied by novice skiers with minimal cross country experience.

Persons with no cross country skiing experience MUST take beginning lessons or must obtain the leader's permission PRIOR to joining a Class I tour.

CLASS II: A tour with 1000 to 2000 feet of elevation gain and less than 10 miles in length. The trail will have gentle to moderate slopes which require the ability to stop and turn on the slopes. A Class II+ tour will have 2000 to 3000 feet of elevation gain.

CLASS III: A tour with greater than 3000 feet of elevation gain and greater than 10 miles in length. The trail may be steep or narrow and requires at least intermediate to advanced skiing ability.

Carpooling/Meeting Places

These abbreviations are used in some trip descriptions:

Lowes Lowes, on Paseo del Norte east of I25
Park in northwest corner of lot, but not in the new Target parking lot.

WF Wells Fargo Bank
Franklin Plaza
Central & Juan Tabo NE
Use the parking area away from the money machine.



Day Trips & Overnight Trips

Bill Heitz – Day Trips and Overnight Trips

Please contact Bill if you are interested in leading a trip, even if it will be farther into the season. If you have never led a trip but would like to, Bill can assist in selecting an area or providing how-to's on trip leadership. Remember, each time you lead a trip your name is added to the hat for the drawing for a free bus trip. Trips must be submitted by the last Thursday of the month to be included in next month's newsletter.

Keep reading the newsletter for upcoming trips and think snow! All trips are dependent on snow conditions, so please contact the trip leader to check for changes/cancellations.

Send trip information to:

Bill Heitz
53 Valle Vista
Corrales, NM 87048-6400
898-3573
bill.heitz@ieee.org



Practice Sessions

Nov 13, 14, 19, 20 Santa Fe
Nov 26, 27; Dec 3, 4, 10, 11 Sandias
Leader: Roe Maier, 869-2928

Schedule is tentative and depends upon snow. Call leader first!

See detailed writeup in the October newsletter.

Hut Trips 2006

Sun-Fri 22-27 Jan Peter Estin Hut, CO
Sun-Thurs 26 Feb-2 Mar Fabi's Hut, CO
Leader: Guy Miller, 294-7940
(Please call before 9:00pm.), xcskiboy@aol.com

See article previous page.

Both trips are full, but a waiting list is being taken. There are only two people on each waiting list.



Family & Children – Red River

Fri-Sun Feb 24-26 Red River, NM
Class: Novice – I
Leaders: Eddie and Barbara Dry, 792-2532, edry@unm.edu

This is the weekend of the Just Desserts festival at Enchanted Forest, a beautiful prepared-track area at almost 10000'. They offer instruction for ages 3 and up, and equipment rental. We may arrange group lessons, depending upon demand. We will attempt to arrange lodging as people sign up. This is still in the planning stage, so please contact the leader soon to say you might be interested.

Just Desserts is Saturday Feb 25. Local restaurants and local gourmet cooks will have desserts at three tables – at the base, one mile out, and 2-3 miles out.

Generally, each family will drive independently. Costs will be about \$12./person/day for trail passes (\$5. for kids), \$10./person for Just Desserts (\$5. for kids), \$25. for lessons, and \$70-140./night for rooms.

Adults without children must borrow some before participating. (Or, you may help with other's children!) It will enhance your life and theirs.

Yellowstone 2006

Mon-Sun 27 Feb-5 March Yellowstone Park
Leader: Michon Johnson, 332-8929

Trip is full, but ask about the waiting list. See writeup in last March newsletter. Emphasis on natural history and wildlife; ski trips led by graduate-degreed experts from the Yellowstone Association Institute.

**NEW MEXICO CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB
2005-2006 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Officers	Name	Phone	Email Address
President	Mike Martin	836-6520	Pahasapapapa@aol.com
Vice-President	Janie Gilmore-Daniels	259-0502	janiegil@aol.com
Secretary	Tammy Catalfamo	286-9861	firstcraig@aol.com
Treasurer	David Ploor	822-8650	dpl505@comcast.net
Committee Chairs			
Membership	Gene & Donna Lisotto	884-7331	Gene_Lisotto@msn.com DonnaLisotto@msn.com
Publications	Lester & Sharon Byington	286-9100	lester@byington.org sharon@byington.org
	Dianne Cress	294-2928	dianne.cress@state.nm.us
Programs	Wayne Kirkby	898-1654	ski1071607@aol.com
Refreshments	Lucy Miller	293-5673	millerabq@yahoo.com
	Carolyn Tisone	856-7126	---
Day Trips	Bill Heitz	898-3573	bill.heiz@ieee.org
Overnight & Hut Trips	Bill Heitz	898-3573	bill.heiz@ieee.org
	Guy Miller	294-7940	Xcskiboy@aol.com
Long Bus Trips	Louise Broadbent	505-829-3840	louise@valornet.com
Instruction	Guy Miller	294-7940	Xcskiboy@aol.com
Trails	Sam Beard	828-0673	samgbeard@msn.com
Web site; email group	Lester Byington	286-9100	lester@byington.org
	Debbie Brunt	256-5381	debbrunt@comcast.net

New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club
PO Box 8425
Albuquerque, NM 87198-8425

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