

New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club Newsletter



January 2005



Meeting Schedule for 2004-2005

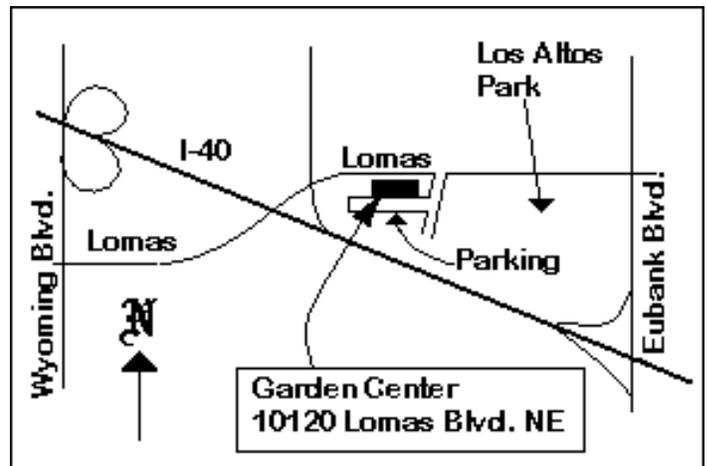
Next meeting: Thursday January 20, 7:30pm

- **Program:** We will have a style show of cross-country clothing with Mountains and Rivers and REI as participants, with ski club members acting as models. Both stores will also bring additional clothing for countertop display.

Monthly General Meetings

October 21	January 20
November 18	February 17
December 16	March 17

Meetings are held at 7:30pm on the third 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 east side of the building and enter through the east entrance.



Warning !!

New departure place and time for bus trips.

If you are on the **Leadville bus trip** (or **Durango**, or **Ouray**), and would like to ride on the bus rather than **hitchhiking**, please note the following:

The bus departs from the Lowes parking lot at Paseo del Norte one block east of I-25. Please park in the northwest corner. **The departure time for Leadville is 2:00pm**, for Durango 6:00pm, and for Ouray 2:00pm. Get there early – these are the departure times, not the loading times! See the more detailed article on Page 3.

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!



Pagosa Springs Deep-Powder Ski

by Karen Leach

After receiving a foot of fresh powder on top of a base of as much as 48", skiing conditions couldn't have been better on the January 6-9th Pagosa Springs cross country ski trip. Thanks to trip organizer Michon Johnson, 15 hardy skiers and one extremely brave 4-year-old trooper enjoyed incredible scenery, fluffy and sparkly snow, icicles everywhere and scrumptious food.

Most of the group drove up Thursday, and stopped for skiing in Chama. They broke trail toward the Neff Mountain yurt through 18"+ of new powder, thoroughly exhausted themselves, then finished the drive to Pagosa Springs.

Friday, the sun shone bright as we all headed up the East Fork canyon just a few miles from the Davidson B & B. Animal tracks criss-crossed our trail and a wall of icicles hung from the boulders all along the steep, narrow canyon. The next day we woke to a light snow fall and we all headed in different directions. One group of hardy souls broke trail up to our knees in white-out conditions on the radio towers trail near Wolf Creek summit. Four-year-old Quinn and his parents skied at the top of the mountain (the bravest of us all), Tom Broadbent rented telemark skis for \$5 and perfected his technique on the downhill ski runs, and the smarter crew skied out the door of our bed and breakfast into the surrounding beautiful mountains. We all shared our thrilling stories at happy hour, which extended to a group dinner in Pagosa.

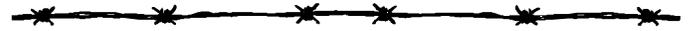
Gilbert and Nancy Davidson were wonderful hosts and we highly recommend their B & B. This trip is just an example of the many fun ski trips offered this season.



Intrepid group on East Fork trail below Wolf Creek Pass.



Sharon Byington took an unexpected fall while composing the above photo!



Yet Another Membership List

Another 2004-05 membership list has been generated and placed on the Web site. As usual, 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).



Bus Trips Update

by Louise Broadbent

Ed. note: Louise has done an amazing amount of work on the upcoming bus trips. She began with a well-established format and made exciting changes and additions. The earlier departure times, the larger bus, the group dinners, and the new boarding procedures are only a few of the innovative ideas she is implementing to give everyone the best possible experience. She used as a guideline the survey many of us filled out last spring. Hooray, Louise!!

All the bus trips are full at this time with waiting lists ranging from 1-6 people. If you are interested in getting on one of the trips, watch your group email announcements. We were able to contract for a larger bus and more rooms for both Leadville and Durango which allowed the club to add more skiers to both of those trips and the wait lists are very short at this time. We are now taking 54 to Leadville and 52 to Durango. That is a very large group to keep track of and it will take some extra patience on everyone's part to get boarded and off on time. Please arrive at the parking area in plenty of time to help get the bus loaded.

Note the change in departure place!!

We are departing from the Lowes parking lot at Paseo Del Norte one block east of 1-25. Please park in the North West corner.

DEPARTURE TIMES:

Leadville (Jan 14-17) – 2:00pm

Durango (Feb 4-6) – 6:00pm

Ouray (Feb 18-21) – 2:00pm

The new boarding procedure will be done in three groups based on your arrival time to the parking lot. 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 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.

All payments are due at this time. There are only a couple of outstanding payments that have not been paid for Ouray. You know who you are – I will be calling you shortly.

If you missed it in the last newsletter, please note my new email address: louise@valornet.com.

Leadville ski routes: (from Mike Martin)

Beginner trips: Beginners and experts alike can ski at the beautiful Piney Creek Nordic Center at Ski Cooper resort.

Potential Class I trips: Treeline Loop along the Continental Divide at Tennessee Pass – 2.3 quiet miles through beautiful forest.

Denver and Rio Grande Railroad Grade – 5.6 mile tour along the railroad passing old coke ovens with great views of the Sawatch Range.

Potential Class II trips: Cooper Loop – 6.1 miles one way circumnavigating Cooper Hill; very pretty with little traffic.

Jackal Hut – 8 mile round trip past Jackal hut and up to Chicago Ridge with great views of the Gore and Tenmile ranges.

Potential Class III trips: Tenth Mountain Division Hut – 9 mile round trip up to the gorgeous cabin, old mines along the way with varied terrain skiing.

Durango ski routes: (Mike Martin again)

Beginner trips: Purgatory Nordic center across from the alpine ski area has 16 km of trails.

Potential Class I trips: Molas Pass – lots of easy skiing around the pass with great views wherever you look.

Potential Class II trips: Andrews Lake to Lime Creek – 4 mile ski through varied terrain down to the Old Lime Creek Road.

Bear Creek – ski from Molas Pass to the head of Bear Creek, fantastic views for the whole 8 mile round trip.

Potential Class III trips: Coal Bank Pass to Engineer Mountain – 10 mile trip to the base of Engineer Mountain above tree line – great views!

Coal Bank Pass to Needle Mountains view. A challenging 10 mile round trip ski through widely varying terrain ending up with a great view of the Needle Mountains.

Ouray ski routes: See November newsletter.



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:

- BOA** Bank of America
Corner of San Mateo and Academy NE
- 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 first Thursday of the month to be included in that 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



Peralta Area – Jemez Mountains

Sun Jan 16 Jemez Mountains
Class I-II 2-4 miles
Leader: Sam Beard, 828-0673

Sam will lead a Class I (easy) tour of 2-4 miles; intermediate skiers may go on a Class II tour if a qualified leader attends. Sam will review beginning techniques for skiers who have previously attended a beginning ski class. Call Sam if you are interested in the Class II tour. Meet at BOA 8:00am.

rustic trip – Rico, Colorado

Fri-Sun Jan 21-23 Rico, CO
Class II-III
Leader: Bill Davey, 266-0167
 wrdavey@unm.edu

Stay dirt cheap at the fabled Rico Hotel. Day skiing in the area is spectacular yet little known except to area denizens. Alpine skiing in nearby Telluride is also available. Come join a congenial group for a fantastic weekend ski trip in an area that Bill has been exploring (and exploiting) for several years.

Aspen Vista – Santa Fe

Sat Jan 22 Santa Fe Ski Basin
Class II
Leader: Susan Corban, 877-3356,
 slcorban@unm.edu

Day trip to Aspen Vista, near the Santa Fe Ski Basin. Meet at BOA 7:30am.

Hut Trips 2004-2005

Sun Jan 23-Wed Jan 26 Shrine Mountain Hut, CO
first week April (tentative) Skinner Hut, CO
Leader: Guy Miller, 294-7940
 (Please call before 9:00pm.)

See the article in the December newsletter. Shrine Mountain is full, with a short waiting list.

Intro to Trails in Sandias

Sat Feb 5 (tentative) Sandia Mountains
Class II
Leader: Guy Miller, 294-7940 (please call
before 9:00pm), xcskiboy@aol.com

Easy Class II along trails near the service road. Call leader, or watch the email group for announcements.

Family & Children – Red River

Fri-Sun Feb 25-27 Red River, NM
Class: Novice - I - II
Leaders: Sharon & Lester Byington,
 286-9100, sharon@byington.org

See the detailed listing in the November newsletter.

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.

Just Desserts is Saturday Feb 26. Local restaurants and local gourmet cooks will have desserts at three tables – next to the rental hut, one mile out, and 2-3 miles out. We will do skiing/lessons Saturday morning and Sunday morning.

Winter Park 2005

Wed-Sun Mar 2-6 Winter Park, CO
Class I - II - III ski miles: mild to massive
Leaders: Lester & Sharon Byington,
 286-9100, lester@byington.org

See the article in the October newsletter.

Trip is essentially full. Call about waiting list or possible extra rooms.

We will be traveling by carpool (driving Wed Mar 2), and staying in an 8-bedroom deluxe cabin next to the groomed track at Snow Mountain Ranch. Food and lodging at SMR is \$239. per person

The backcountry skiing on this trip will be Class II and III, but the trip is suitable for Class I skiers and even novices since we're right at Snow Mountain Ranch (and just a few miles from Devil's Thumb).

Lake City exploratory

Fri-Mon Mar 18-21 Lake City, CO
Class II-III
Leader: Guy Miller, 294-7940 (please call
before 9:00pm), xcskiboy@aol.com

This is the place where we did a yurt trip two years ago, on the Continental Divide, where skiers traverse a knife edge on top of the world, with 360 degree views unparalleled anywhere in the area. We are exploring this as a possible future bus trip. We will ski the Continental Divide area as well as explore other nearby places. Skiing is relatively easy, despite the location. And it's a truly WILD experience. Contact leader for further information.

**NEW MEXICO CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB
2004-2005 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
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Treasurer	David Ploor	822-8650	dpl505@comcast.net
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Refreshments	Holly Noland Lucy Miller	292-3025 293-5673	hollyabq@aol.com millerabq@yahoo.com
Day Trips	Bill Heitz	898-3573	bill.heitz@ieee.org
Overnight & Hut Trips	Bill Heitz Guy Miller	898-3573 294-7940	bill.heitz@ieee.org 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 Debbie Brunt (was O'Callaghan)	286-9100 256-5381	lester@byington.org docalla@hotmail.com

New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club
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January 2005

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