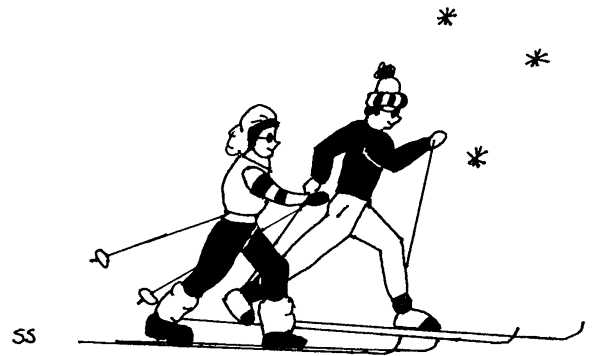


New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club Newsletter



November 2005



New Meeting Schedule !!

2nd Thursday each month

Except for October, which was 2nd Tuesday...

Next meeting: Thursday November 10, 7:30pm

- **Program:** Fashion show! Come see the latest ski clothing from Mountains & Rivers, REI, and Sportz Outdoor – some items modeled by charming and attractive Club members!

Monthly General Meetings

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

- Looking ahead: The December meeting is the one where members bring their holiday dessert/snack favorites to share.

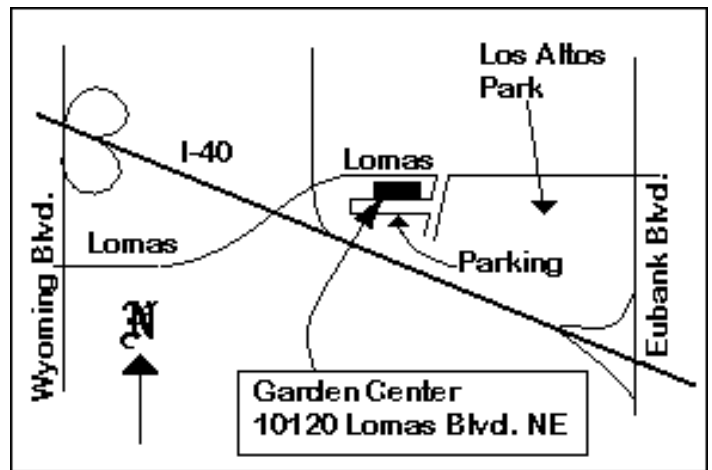
Meetings are held at 7:30pm on the second Thursday of each month, October through March, at the Albuquerque Garden Club Center, 10120 Lomas NE. Look for the sign on Lomas at the entrance to the Center. Please park on the east side of the building and enter through the east entrance.

Get your newsletter from our Web site! Save money for your Club!

If you would be willing to skip the mailed copy and just download the newsletter from our Web site, just check the appropriate box on your renewal form. If you have already renewed but failed to check the box, **please contact Gene Lisotto, Lord of the Database.**

- **However:** We really want you to have a newsletter each month. If you don't think you'll actually go to the Web site and download it each month, don't check the box!

If you've signed up for the Yahoo Groups email system (check with Debbie Brunt for this), you'll get a reminder email each time a new newsletter is posted.



Have you renewed ???

All memberships expire at the end of November.

This issue is the last mailing using last year's list! Starting with the December newsletter you will only receive it if you have renewed (and have requested not to receive it electronically).

If you have renewed, the top line of your November mailing label will read 05-06.

If you fail to renew you will be shunned by your friends, denied future newsletter issues, and banned from Club trips. Heavy snow will stick to your skis!

A membership form was included in the previous two newsletters. It's also on the Web site. Or, you may call or email Gene Lisotto for one.

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



A WORD ABOUT SCHEDULING TRIPS

by *Guy Miller*

We encourage Club members to step forward to lead trips – after all, SOMEONE’s gotta do it, and if we don’t get people to lead trips, then we end up with a pretty boring ski season. **However:** while we don’t want to unnecessarily impede anyone’s efforts to plan ski trips, we do need to have at least a minimal amount of structure.

If you want to lead a day trip or an overnight trip, please contact Bill Heitz or Guy Miller. Their phone numbers and email addresses are on the back of the newsletter. We will help you to schedule trips so as not to conflict with other events.

Remember, every time you lead a trip, your name is entered in a drawing held at the end of the ski season. The winner gets a free bus trip the following year.

Thanks for making our Club activities happen !!



Avalanche Beacon Practice

by *Mike Martin*

We will have an avalanche beacon and search technique practice session in the Sandias on Sunday, December 11. Actual skiing will be minimal.

If time and snow conditions permit we may dig snow pits to study the snow pack and practice probing techniques. Please bring your beacon (fresh batteries), back country shovel, and probes if you have them. Bring your skis or snowshoes but we’ll try to remain close to the road to minimize travel time. Wear lots of warm clothes as we will not be moving much.

This session is open to anyone who wants to learn more about skiing in avalanche terrain. You are welcome to attend even if you don’t have a beacon, shovel or probe. If there’s no snow, we’ll practice in the dirt. Please call leader at 836-6520 if you have any questions. Meet at Smith's at Tramway & Central, in the SW corner of their parking lot, 9:00am.

Yellowstone Planning Meeting

by *Michon Johnson*

There will be a planning meeting of the Yellowstone group at Michon's house on Thursday November 17th at 7:00pm. We will discuss the final arrangements for the trip including hotels, dinners, flights, and transportation between Bozeman and Mammoth Hot Springs. I have reserved a mini-bus for us; the cost will be about \$70. Bring your check book to pay for ground travel, and credit card for final payment on Yellowstone tour. (Payment is due December 27; I won't submit the payment until then.) Also be sure to locate your RED entry pass to the park or make sure you bring any type National Park Pass you may have. You will need that to avoid entry fees to the Park. Call Michon (332-8929) if you need directions to her house.



Beginner Cross-Country Ski Lesson

by *Guy Miller*

This year the Club is again offering a beginner class for Club members. The class is geared toward absolute beginners, but can also be helpful for those who have some skiing experience, but who feel they’re just not quite “getting it.”

The beginner event is held in two segments. There will be a classroom session on Saturday, December 10, 2005 at a location to be announced. This will be about a two hour event, in which beginners are introduced to equipment, clothing and other gear for skiing, especially what will be required for the on-the-snow session. The classroom session is a prerequisite to the on-the-snow session.

The on-the-snow session will be held on Saturday, January 7, 2006. If there is good snow in the Sandias, we will go there for our class. If there is bad snow in the Sandias, we’ll probably go there anyway.

Please note that this is a one-time-only proposition. We do the class early in the season so that participants will have the rest of the winter to practice their skills. There is also the possibility of a Class I alumni trip later in the year for people who had the class.

To sign up, or for more information, contact Guy Miller at 294-7940. No calls after 9:00pm, please. The class fills up quickly, so you’d better get on it if you’re interested.



Further Word on the Long Bus Trips

by Louise Broadbent

How to Sign Up for the Bus Trips:

You will find registration forms on-line in the October 2005 Newsletter. The deadline for me to receive your registrations for the drawings is November 9th, or you may bring it to the November 10th club meeting. Please send a separate check for each trip for which you register. ***If you want to room with a certain person you must register together on one slip and send checks together.*** The mailing address is on the registration form. **DO NOT SEND TRIP CHECKS TO THE CLUB PO BOX.**

At the time of publication we have more registrations for Crested Butte and Frisco than we have available seats. Silverton is $\frac{3}{4}$ full. There will be a drawing to determine who gets on the trips on Friday December 11th. The bus trip lists will be published under "Trip Documents" in the "Members Area" of the web site within a week or so of the drawing. **(Editor's note: This means don't all 150 of you phone Louise to ask if you're on! Check the Web site first, if you or your ski buddy know how.)** We will place the remaining registrations in a "Reserve Pool". We will keep your registration but destroy your deposit check if you are not drawn. Payments are not refundable. If a member needs to cancel, they will be given the names from the "Reserve Pool" to contact to sell their seat and settle the payment personally. However, it is their seat and they may sell it to anyone who is over 18, same sex, and a member of the club.

Bus Trip Summaries

Frisco, CO

January 13-16, 2006 (Martin Luther King holiday)

- \$235. per person – 2:00pm departure
- includes Friday night group dinner and two cocktail parties

Silverton, CO

February 2-5, 2006

- Note: 3-day trip, not two days! Departs Thursday.
- \$205. per person – 5:00pm departure
- includes three full breakfasts and one dinner

Crested Butte, CO

February 17-20, 2006 (Presidents' Day weekend)

- \$235. per person – 2:00pm departure
- includes Friday night group dinner, three breakfasts, and two cocktail parties

dinner Friday night and two après ski parties. The condos have full kitchens, two hot tubs and an indoor pool. They are only a few blocks from downtown and a couple of blocks from the Summit County Shuttle stop.

The **Silverton** trip is great bargain, including three nights' accommodations, 3 full breakfasts, one dinner and three full days of skiing. Question: Who should consider Silverton? Answer: Those of you who have a sense of adventure and don't mind roughing it a bit. Question: Who should stay away from Silverton? Answer: Those of you who think roughing it is not having room service. If the snow level is below 9000 feet, there will be lots of ski options for all levels of skiers. There is usually ample snow in town to ski right from the hotel to several Nordic trails that circle the town. There is another beginner level cross country ski trail that can be accessed from the Visitor Center about 8 blocks from the hotel. We plan to ski the well known areas of Molas Pass and Red Mountain Pass and explore some new back country areas near Silverton.

The **Crested Butte** trip includes a pre-arranged buffet style dinner on Friday night, a continental breakfast every morning, and a social hour with lots of great food and drink Saturday and Sunday evenings. The Nordic center is very close and there are many back country skiing options as well. For Class I skiers, the Gothic Trail is an easy ski to the ghost town of Gothic, 10 miles roundtrip and beautiful views but only 300' of elevation gain. Brush Creek has great views of the Elk Mountains, 6 miles round trip and 800' of gain. For Class II skiers the options include Washington Gulch – 10 miles with 1100' feet of gain with spectacular views of the Gothic Peak and Crested Butte. Pittsburgh – ski along rolling slate creek to the ghost town of Pittsburgh, 11 miles roundtrip with 600' of elevation gain. The Class III options include Pearl Pass – one of the premier backcountry skis in Colorado. The pass is 12 miles and 4000' feet of gain, we'll go as far as we can get and Baxter Basin – 16 miles round trip to a high lake at almost 12'000'.

Trip Descriptions

The **Frisco** trip will be good for Beginner and Class I skiers because there are three Nordic Centers accessible by shuttle bus. For Class II skiers – the Peru Creek trail is a gentle 7 mile round trip to the old Pennsylvania mine. Peaks Trail starts in Breckenridge and descends 800 vertical feet to Frisco, 9 miles, fun! McCullough Gulch, a 6 mile round trip past lots of old mines and then up into a narrow canyon. Ten Mile Creek is a challenging trail that begins as a narrow uphill climb and then opens into a much wider canyon. For Class III skiers – Meadow Creek is 9 miles, 2700' elevation gain to wind-swept Eccles pass. The trip includes a pre-arranged buffet style banquet



2005-2006 Hut Trips Update

by *Guy Miller*

We have two hut trips scheduled so far, and both are full, with one person on the waiting list for the first trip. The first trip is to Peter Estin Hut, located near Eagle, Colorado. It's a week after our first bus trip. We will leave Albuquerque on Sunday, January 22, ski into the hut the following day, and spend THREE nights there. This will be our first 3-nighter. We will ski out on Thursday, January 26 and drive part way home. Due to the distance involved, we will almost certainly break up the return trip over two days, returning to Albuquerque on Friday, January 27.

In late February, we will ski to Fabi's Hut, one of two adjacent huts known collectively as the Benedict Huts. We will leave Sunday February 26. This is a two-nighter, and will also require a two day drive back. We will ski out on March 1 and finish our

return home the next day. Interestingly, Fritz's Hut next door was still vacant just recently, so we conceivably could take some of those spots.

For details on these or any other hut trips, call Guy Miller at 294-7940, before 9:00pm, please. Let's talk.

I am tentatively planning a bit of a death march trip to Skinner Hut, reputed to be the most difficult to reach of the 10th Mountain Hut system. I'm looking at the 3rd weekend in March, which is nearly 2 weeks after the Yellowstone trip returns. We will need to be on the trail at dawn. If all goes well, we will be in well before dark. However, we will be prepared to continue on after dark, and to bivouac as a last resort. So far, I have two takers. Since hardly anyone goes to this hut, it is possible to get reservations at this late date, but it'll need to be done soon.



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 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.

Pagosa Springs – Wolf Creek Pass

Thurs-Sun Nov 24-27 Wolf Creek Pass
Class II TBD
Leaders: Jon McCorkell, 294-2928
 Spend Thanksgiving weekend cross-country skiing at/near Wolf Creek Pass. Arrange your own meals and lodging, but leader will take names and phone numbers and *try* to match people up for roommates and car rides. Car: 214 miles each way plus driving to/from Wolf Creek Pass 4 times, so approximately 600 miles, more or less. Elevation gain: probably less than 2000 ft per day, but all at high elevations.

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. Peter Estin has only one person on the waiting list. Fabi's has no one on the waiting list yet!

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
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	Carolyn Tisone	856-7126	---
Day Trips	Bill Heitz	898-3573	bill.heizt@ieee.org
Overnight & Hut Trips	Bill Heitz	898-3573	bill.heizt@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

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 **Happy
Thanksgiving**

