

New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club

December 2011



Photo by Dave Saylor

www.nmccskiclub.org

December 8th Holiday Party & Artist Showcase

When: Thursday, December 8th, 7 p.m.

Where: Garden Center, 10120 Lomas Blvd NE
Albuquerque

The next Ski Club meeting is this Thursday so mark your calendar! Following a short business meeting (no presentation), we will have our annual POTLUCK and holiday social. Please bring a friend and your favorite holiday snack or dessert to share.



Donna & Gene Lisotto show off ceramic wine glasses purchased from Sandra Garcia at last year's social.

For a special treat, members who are artists or have a creative talent, i.e. author of a book, are invited to display or sell their handmade products.

Hope everyone can come! It's a lot of fun!

Terri Elisberg, Program Chair



Betty Martin, Ginger Larkin and Chris Kramar (Chris recently moved to CA) admire water color paintings by Bill Heitz.

Did you miss the November Program?

It was another excellent program presented by a number of our expert members (thanks to Terri Elisberg, Program Chair)! Bet Gendron, one of the presenters, gave us lots of excellent resources you may want to check out:

Avalanche Training

Marc Beverly (Albuquerque & Taos)
beverlymountainguides.com
Level I, December 9-11

Silverton Avalanche School
www.avyschool.com

Wolf Creel Avalanche School
www.avalancheschool.us

Kling Mountain Guides (Durango)
www.klingmountainguides.com

Apex Mountain School (Vail)
www.apexmountainschool.com
Level 1 January 2 & February 1

Wilderness Medicine

King Mountain Guides (Durango)
www.klingmountainguides.com

Apex Mountain School (Vail/Camp Hale)
www.apexmountainschool.com

Wilderness Medicine Outfitters (Elizabeth, CO)
www.wildernessmedicine.com

Medical Officer Ltd (Crested Butte, CO)
www.medofficer.net

Wilderness Medical Associates
www.wildmed.com



From the President

There are some changes that are popping up in the cross-country ski landscape this year. While nobody is suggesting that the recession is over, there is certainly a significantly greater interest in cross-country skiing. This year we have more interest in ski trips, both participating and leading, than we have had in several years. What that means in practice is that first, the Bus Trips are well over-subscribed. But we also have a growing list of day trips, overnight trips, and other ski trips that, at this point in the season, is greater than any time I can recall.



The Club's chairs for the various trip activities (Bus Trips - Angela Welford and Randy Simons, Day Tours, Overnight Car Trips and Hut Trips - Guy Miller, and Instruction - John Thomas) have been in overdrive putting together a schedule of activities that, when I saw it, I thought was really eye popping. There are trips scheduled throughout January and February, the heart of our ski season, and some on either side of that.

There's something else that caught my eye about this: many of the activities are on the same weekends competing with each other. While this may not seem good to some of you, we have to remember that these times in January and February are our best ski opportunities. So if you can't get onto a bus trip or you can't go on one weekend, there are going to be some other opportunities to go skiing with a group of energetic, young (if not young at heart) skiers who like to enjoy themselves outdoors in the winter.

So if you find you weren't chosen for a bus trip, take a look at some of the alternatives. You might just find yourself surprised at the opportunities. Some of these trips are still getting organized, so if you are interested in skiing in the Chama, Jemez or San Pedro Parks areas, Enchanted Forest (near Red River), or some other area, send an email to those who are organizing these kinds of trips.

Better yet, if you have some organizing ability, offer yourself as an organizer for a trip to someplace fun. You can organize a trip to the Enchanted Forest and you don't need the depth of knowledge you would need for typical back country skiing.

Now, think SNOW.

Ray Berg

Bus Trip Update By Angela Welford

Since the number of trip registrations exceeded the available spots for the two bus trips offered by the Club this winter, a lottery was held to determine who would be on each trip. Both trips are FULL and each has a Reserve List. Notices have been sent via email to all those on the trip Roster and the Reserve List. If you registered for either trip and have not received a notice, please contact me immediately at 281-1198 or awelford1017@gmail.com.



Cancellations are already occurring, so if you are on the Reserve List and wish to go on the trip, your chances are very good for getting a seat. Keep those dates open and be ready to jump on the bus even at the last minute.

Randy Simons, Co-Bus Trip Chair, is going to be contacting those of you who indicated a willingness to lead outings on the trips soon (*thanks to all who did!*). He is finding some fun trails and ski options for us to enjoy while in those winter wonderlands.

Remember that if you are on the trip, your **final payment of \$100 is due December 9th**, unless you paid in full or paid a different amount. You may bring your payment to the December Club meeting on December 8th or mail the check, made out to NMCCSC, to me at PO Box 682, Sandia Park, NM, 87047. ■



Linda & Chris Standish and Angela Welford in Crested Butte, 2/13/11.



Skiers prepare to depart the bus for a day of skiing in Crested Butte, 2/12/11.

Photo by Carla Chirigos

East Fork of the San Juan Ski

By Carla Chirigos

It was our first full ski day at Pagosa, and Don Mullen offered to lead a tour on the East Fork. It was rated as a Class II, not because of the degree of difficulty, but due to the endurance factor. Don and company (*there were 10 of us*) skied 10 miles over rolling hills and along the beautiful East Fork of the San Juan River.



It began quite chilly at approximately 8:30 a.m., but near the end of our ski, the road where our bus driver dropped us off was a bit muddy. As a matter of fact, Tony our bus driver, backed up over a mile to the drop-off/pick-up point because there was concern that the bus could get stuck in the mud.

Though we did not make it all the way to Silver Falls, having turned around after lunch, we were treated to spectacular scenery

including walls of frozen waterfalls.

Another group skied the same trail the following day, based on our report. A few snowmobilers were

encountered the first day and a grooming

machine was encountered the second day. This trail and other trails we skied on are maintained by the Pagosa Nordic Club. ■



Lunch stop on the East Fork, 1/15/11.
Photo by Carla Chirigos



Yellowstone skiers were stopped on the road by a group of buffalo, 3/2007.

Photo by Sherry Fitzmaurice

Hut Trip Update

By Guy Miller

Continental Divide Hut (*beginner trip*) January 23 – 27 (*includes travel dates*)

There is a brand new hut just 100 yards from Continental Divide Hut. If we get 8 more people, we could fill up this hut and combine the two into one mega group. A co-leader can definitely be found for another group of beginners. Contact me immediately if interested.

Although this trip is full, people usually drop, so contact me. Cost is \$108, which includes dinners at the hut.



This relatively new hut is located off of Tennessee Pass, near Leadville, CO. Skiers of unproven capability will not be turned away as long as they are capable of skiing at a Class II level, and are able to carry a full pack. They must possess appropriate backcountry skis,

boots, and bindings.

The ski in from Tennessee Pass is less than half a mile, with very little elevation gain. This is intended as a FUN learning experience. No pressure; no worries; just do it!

Contact me to discuss the appropriateness of your participation and to discuss your gear for this trip.

Fowler-Hilliard Hut

March 3 – 7 or 8 (*includes travel dates*)

We have one vacancy for this trip, which is for experienced hut skiers. Cost is \$147, which includes dinners at the hut as well as all fees.

We will depart Albuquerque on Saturday, March 3, and occupy the hut March 4, 5, and 6. We will ski out and return on Wednesday, March 7. All skiers should allow an extra day, March 8, in the event we are unable or unwilling to get all the way home on the 7th. So, mark off March 3 - 8, 2012.

New for our hut trips is staying at the hostel in Leadville, which we did this past season. We will stay there again on this and other trips that take place in the Leadville area.

Interested skiers should contact me without delay at xcskiboy@aol.com or 294-7940. ■

Beginner Ski Training

Saturday, January 7, 2012 from 3-5 p.m.
Lomas-Tramway Library
Community Room
908 Eastridge NE, Albuquerque
SW intersection of Lomas & Tramway
Parking to the south of the Library

Instructors: John Thomas, Guy Miller &
Ruth Bargman-Romero

On snow session: Sunday, January 22, 2012

Sign up now! Contact: John Thomas
298-5234 or jt87111@comcast.net



Wayne Kirkby pauses by a creek in Crested Butte, 1/16/11.

Photo by Marcia Congdon

Chama for Beginners and Intermediates By John Thomas

I will lead the beginner, Class I skiers on the Chama overnight trip on **February 10-12, 2012** and Bill White will be the co-leader for the Class II ski tours. This is a great weekend trip, which normally has excellent snow conditions.

If you are interested in joining us, Class I skiers contact me at 298-5234 or jt87111@comcast.net and Class II skiers contact Bill at 256-5117 or bawhite5117@msn.com. ■



DAY TRIPS

Date: Wednesday, January 11, 2012

Location: Sandia Mountains, Survey Trail

Leader: Guy Miller, xcskiboy@aol.com

Rating: Class II

Distance: 5 miles

Elevation Gain: 500 feet

Description: Starting at the Ellis Trailhead we will hop onto the Survey Trail, cross the highway and ski to the Del Agua Overlook, and return on the Crest Trail. Pace will be semi-pokey (except for a few steep downhill sections), with time to take in the views at the overlook. We'll take a lunch/snack break on the trail. If snow conditions are icy, leader has a plan B. Due to the uncertainty of snow conditions this year, all skiers should check for e-group announcements to see if trip is cancelled. If in doubt, contact me a few days before the trip.

Meet: Smith's Grocery store, 4-Hills (Tramway and Central). Far south end of parking lot at 9 a.m.

Who can go: Members and their guests

Date: Sunday, January 22, 2012

Location: Aspen Vista Trail, below Santa Fe Ski Basin

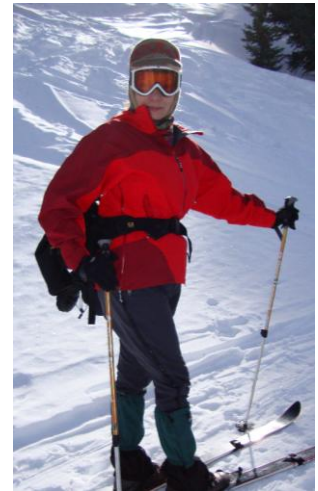
Leader: Jackie Hertel, jhquickbeam@msn.com

Rating: Class II

Distance: 8 miles

Elevation Gain: 1500'

Description: An intermediate ski to the open rocky overlook point past the last stretch of forest. We will take a moderate pace ascending, a steady climb uphill one way. Then enjoy a wildly fun ride back down. Skins might be handy for the climb up. Lunch will be a weenie roast on the side of the trail. Everyone



needs to bring a few small dry pieces of wood, scraps of paper and garnish for wieners. I'll bring turkey wieners, buns and skewers. We'll ski until 3:30 p.m. and probably stop for chocolate elixirs at Kakawa in Santa Fe, return to ABQ by 5:30 p.m.

Meet: Email me no later than 1/15. Trip is contingent upon weather and snow conditions. I will email a confirmation to you by 1/19 with time and location of carpool.

Who can go: Members only

Date: Saturday, February 4, 2012

Location: Sandia Mountains, Ellis Trailhead

Leader: Terri Elisberg, terri.elisberg@gmail.com or 450-9661

Rating: Class II

Distance: 6 miles

Elevation Gain: 400 feet

Description: From the parking lot at Ellis Trailhead we will ski Rocky Point, Switchback and other trails in that network.

Meet: Due to snow conditions, contact me. I will confirm where to meet several days prior to tour.

Who can go: Open to non-members and members

Date: Monday - Thursday, February 6-9, 2012

Location: Durango car trip

Leader: Guy Miller, xcskiboy@aol.com, 294-7940

Rating: Class I, II & III

Distance: Varies each day

Description: Skiing options include Purgatory ski area, Nordic center across the highway from the ski area, and numerous backcountry possibilities, mostly Class II and Class III. The Nordic center is ideal for Class I skiers, although skiers of all levels can have a good day there. Skiers going on John Thomas' Chama trip could leave from Durango on Friday, Jan 10, and meet John in Chama. We will probably stay Durango Hostel, www.durangohometownhostel.com. It is a great place to stay and socialize. This trip is an excellent opportunity for those who have been unable to get on a bus or hut trip to ski with a group. Come join us!

Meet: Contact Guy at 294-7940, xcskiboy@aol.com

Who can go: Members only

Date: Saturday, February 11, 2012

Location: Winsor Trail from the Santa Fe Ski Basin Parking Lot

Leader: Jackie Hertel, jhquickbeam@msn.com

Rating: Class II

Distance: 6 miles

Elevation Gain: 1000 feet

Description: An intermediate tour due to narrow, winding trail and some tricky turns. Ski to a point 1 mile past Nambe Creek with 1000' of uphill. We will have lunch at the meadow by Nambe Creek on the way in. The beginning steep, often icy, half-mile climb up to the cattle gate is usually hiked, carrying skis or bring skins to do this part. Some skiers also find skins useful for the last 2 miles of the return trip. After enjoying the snow until 3:30 p.m. or so, we'll hit Santa Fe and Kakawa Chocolatier for heavenly rewards for our winter exercise.

Meet: To join this ski outing, contact Jackie Hertel, jhquickbeam@msn.com as soon as possible, no later than 2/4. Trip is contingent upon weather and snow conditions. I will email you a confirmation of this trip on 2/8 with time and location of carpool.

Who can go: Members Only

Sandia Peak Snowshoe Race

Join Albuquerque's only snowshoe race on **Saturday, January 21, 2012 at 10 a.m.** The 3.2-mile race is held atop the Sandia Mountains. See: www.sandiasnowshoe.com

Chama Chile Ski Classic

When: Saturday - Monday, January 14-16

Where: Chama, NM



XC ski & snowshoe races, 5 & 10 K events, live music, chili/chile contest, costume contest, Yurt tours, family fun and more!

Hotels fill fast so make reservations now!

www.chamaski.com



Sherry Fitzmaurice, Brush Creek, Crested Butte.

Photo by Dave Gabel

LEAD A TOUR

The following tips will assist leaders as they prepare for upcoming tours:

- ▶ Publicize your tour in the newsletter, on the website and/or via e-groups at nmccsc@yahoo.com.
- ▶ Tour posting must include:
 - Name of trail and level of difficulty: Class I, II or III. See "Ski Tour Ratings" on the website under "Day Tour" page.
 - Date, leader, trail length, elevation gain, time to meet and brief description.
- ▶ Print the "Trip Sign-in & Liability Wavier Form" from the website and have all participants sign. Mail the completed form to Guy Miller, Day Trips Chair.
- ▶ Review "Guidelines for Tour Leaders" on the website.

Who's on the Bus Trips!

Ouray Bus Trip, January 13-16, 2012

Bargman-Romero, Ruth
 Barstow, Noel
 Benedict, Darlene
 Berg, Ray & Thea
 Besser, Rich
 Byington, Lester & Sharon
 Cahill, Debra
 Costea, Nancy
 Cress, Dianne
 Crowther, Dennis
 Davey, Bill
 Eatman, Gordon
 Eichel, Paul & Cathy
 Eisberg, Terri
 Feldman, Kim
 Fenoglio, Ella Joan
 Fitzmaurice, Sherry
 Gabel, Dave
 Gendron, Steve & Bet
 Ghattas, Mona & Monika
 Grotheer, Erich
 Gugliotta, Terry
 Harris, Susan
 Hurburt, Liam
 Leach, Karen
 Long, Bob
 Lorin, Fran
 McCorkell, Jon
 Meier, Mike & Frances
 Miller, Guy
 Miller, Lucy
 Nolan, Holly
 Owens, Diane
 Perez, Norma
 Potter, Bob
 Price, Dana
 Richmond, Carol
 Robertson, Frances
 Saylor, Dave
 Schmaltz, Don

Schultz, Dave & Ann
 Simons, Randy
 Smith, Carl
 Wallace, Karen
 Welford, Angela
 White, Bill
 Williams, Susan



Ruth Bargman-Romero in Silverton.
Photo by Bill Savage



Randy Simon in Crested Butte, 2/12/11.
Photo by Marcia Congdon

Frisco Bus Trip, February 23-26, 2012

Ball, Marion
 Bargman-Romero, Ruth
 Berg, Ray & Thea
 Broadbent, Louise & Tom
 Congdon, Marcia
 Coon, Sidney & Barbara
 Edgar, Robert
 Elisberg, Terri
 Esterl, John
 Fitzmaurice, Sherry
 Garcia, Sandra
 Gendron, Steve & Bet
 Grigsby-Suarez, Mona
 Hanson, Jean
 Harper, Marilyn
 Hickman, Anne
 Hioki, Lowell
 Katonak, Tom & Linda
 Kirkby, Wayne
 Klinge, Walter & Donna
 Kvam, Karen
 Leach, Chet & Karen
 Miller, Guy
 Miller, Lucy
 Moore, Bob & Phyllis
 Perez, Marty
 Ploor, David & Yolanda
 Potter, Bob
 Pryor, Phyllis
 Reynolds, Pam
 Richards, Robert
 Segears, Eddie
 Shapiro, Alan
 Shaw-Hioki, Jean
 Sheldahl, Kevin & Teri
 Simons, Randy
 Suarez, Luis
 Thomas, John
 Watt, Ellen
 Wegner, David
 Weinrod, Margaret
 Welford, Angela
 Wills, Bronwyn
 Wormwood, Kerri



Carl Smith enjoys lunch in the sun during a ski tour in Crested Butte.
Photo by Marcia Congdon

Bus Trip Balance Due

Friday, December 9th is the deadline for the **\$100 balance due**/bus trip unless you paid the full amount. Please send your check/s NOW (made out to NMCCSC) to Angela Welford, P.O. Box 682, Sandia Park, NM 87047 or bring it to the December 8 Club meeting.



= Monthly deadline for newsletter inclusion

December 2011						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Trail project	8 Holiday Party	9 Bus \$ Due	10
11	12	13	14 Trail project	15	16	17
18	19	20 	21 Trail project	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Trail project	29 Board Meets	30	31

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	
1	2	3	4 Trail project	5	6	7 Day T	
8	9	10	11 Day Tour Guy Miller	12 Club Meets	13	14 Chama Chile	
15 Chama	16	17	18 Trail project	19	20 	21 Snow Shoe Race	
22 Day Tour Hertel	23 Day T	24	25 Trail project	26 Board Meet	27	28	
29	30	31	Continental Divide Hut				
Yellowstone Air Trip							

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Day T
5	6	7	8	9 Meet	10	11
Day T	Durango Car - Guy Miller					Chama Car
12	13	14	15 Trail project	16 Board Meets	17	18 Day Tour
19	20 	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Trail project	Frisco Bus Trip		
Bus						

March						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Hut
4	5	6	7 Trail project	8 Club Meets	9	10
Fowler-Hilliard Hut						
11	12	13	14 Trail project	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Trail project	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Trail project	29	30	31



Ray Berg points the way for the day tour, along with Luis Suarez and Thea Berg in Crested Butte.

Photo by Mona Grigsby-Suarez



1. **Request a training scholarship** – Take advantage of this great training opportunity – contact Guy Miller at xcski-boy@aol.com or 294-7940.
2. **Lead a Ski/Snowshoe Day tour** – We need YOU to consider leading or co-leading a day tour. See page 5 for details.
3. **Post info via E-groups** – To share information with all members, send your message to nmccsc@yahoo.com

2010-11 Officers and Board

President	Ray Berg	366-8104	rsberg01@comcast.net
Vice President	Wayne Kirkby	898-1654	ski1071607@aol.com
Secretary	Lucy Miller	401-2440	lucycecelia@gmail.com
Treasurer	Chris Standish	400-7089	standish.chris@gmail.com
Day Tours	Guy Miller	294-7940	xcskiboy@aol.com
Long Bus Trips	Angela Welford Randy Simons	281-1198 294-0192	awelford1017@gmail.com randy_simons@msn.com
Overnight Car/Hut Trips	Guy Miller	294-7940	xcskiboy@aol.com
Newsletter	Karen Leach	281-9836	karenleach7@msn.com
Instruction	John Thomas	298-5234	jt87111@comcast.net
Membership	Sherry Fitzmaurice	205-7155	skimembership@nmccskiclub.org
Programs	Terri Elisberg	281-9192	terri.elisberg@gmail.com
Mailing	Ruth Bargman-Romero	842-9735	rebrome@sandia.gov
Refreshments	Bet Gendron Marcia Congdon	299-6542 265-4199	gendrons@msn.com mecongdon@juno.com
Trails	Sam Beard	828-0673	samgbeard@msn.com
Web Site	David Wegner	344-8554	dave@naturesgrandeur.com
Email Group	Bob Potter	831-9779	hvac87108356@yahoo.com

New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club

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Albuquerque, NM 87198-8425



Donna Klinge at the Holiday Social, 12/9/10.