

# New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club

December 2013



Photo by Dave Saylor

[www.nmccskiclub.org](http://www.nmccskiclub.org)

## Holiday Party Dessert Potluck & Artists

**When:** Thursday, December 12th at 7 p.m.  
**Where:** Garden Center, 10120 Lomas Blvd NE  
Albuquerque

The next Club meeting is our special holiday social! Following a short business meeting, we will have our annual POTLUCK and holiday party. Please bring your favorite holiday snack or dessert to share, and this is a good time to bring a friend to introduce them to our Club.

For a special treat, members who are artists or have a creative talent, i.e. author of a book, jewelry, cards, etc. are invited to display and/or sell their handmade products. We hope everyone can come! It's a lot of fun!

**Terri Elisberg,  
Program Chair**



Jackie Hertel, upper left, shares her cards, Diane Crowther shows off handmade jewelry and Susan Williams displays her photo cards.

## Bus Trip News! By Celeste Taylor-Ryman

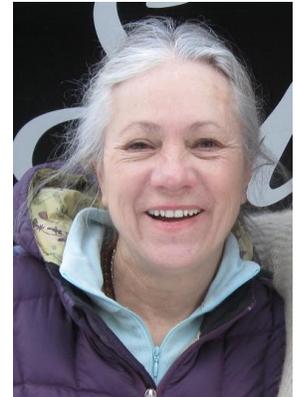
**Crested Butte, January 17-20**, the bus trip is full. However, you can still get on the wait list. There is a good chance you can go since we get cancellations.

**Steamboat Springs, February 21-24**, the bus trip has vacancies so sign up now. Steamboat Springs is one of Colorado's favorite ski destinations. It is famous for its hot springs, plenty of Nordic opportunities and a large downhill ski area. The town's quaint restaurants, shopping and brew pubs add to its old town character.

Last spring Bill White did an exploratory trip to Steamboat Springs and he says the USFS has expanded their developed trails on Rabbit Ears Pass to include over 23 miles, looping over meadows, glades and forested ridges. Plus tele-terrain. The bus will stay at one end of a 4-mile stretch along Highway 40, allowing skiers to come back to the bus for refreshments and rest before heading out to ski another one of the 6 loops or tele-terrain.

Steamboat has a shuttle to take skiers to the Nordic Center, hot springs or the downhill ski area. You can walk across the road in front of our motel and the Yampa River, to enjoy the groomed track at the historic Howelson Hill Nordic Center. The old alpine ski area is bounded by the Stone Quarry trail that takes you to sweeping views of the skyline above Yampa Valley. You will be able to get back to town early to enjoy the local Brew Pub.

Sign up for the trip by sending me your application and deposit (*forms available on our website*)! It'll be a great trip. Please email me if you have any questions at [celestet86@gamil.com](mailto:celestet86@gamil.com). ■



## From the President

So I'm sitting here this morning writing my column for the newsletter, and it's snowing! My gauge says that we have had about 3-4 inches at my house, although



much of that has melted. The trouble is that I'm not out skiing, I'm writing. I've been getting email reports all weekend about the snow conditions from members who have been out, giving the latest reports on snowfall, skritches and downed trees. The skritches are rapidly disappearing with the increased snowfall.

*This is one of those age old dilemmas:: should I stay*

*here and do the responsible thing and finish my work, or should I go outside and play? I have writing to do, home repairs to make, and a bunch of cleanup in my office. And if I take care of these, I will keep Thea, my wife, happy, which is important for several reasons.*

*But the snow isn't going to last for long. It never does. So I really need to go out and play while the snow is here. I have been receiving emailed comments from all around the area, saying things like "YEA!" or "6 to 8 inches so far" or "went up the tram and had a wonderful time" or "lookin' good" or . . . .*

*So what's a guy to do? As a responsible adult, I have had just about enough of responsible adulthood. There are times when it just gets in the way of what I want. So . . . .*

*I'm getting my skis and equipment out, checking out my clothing and other gear, and I'm out of here!*

*Ray Berg*



Anne Hickman, Sydney Coon, Sandra Garcia, Susan Williams and Eddie Seagers in Georgetown, 2/9/13.

Photo by Lucy Miller

## Instruction Schedule or 2014

By John Thomas

### Beginner Skiers Classroom

**Saturday, 1/11, 2-4 p.m.** at Public Library at Lomas/Tramway, 908 Eastridge Drive NE, ABQ, Community Room.

No need to register- Just show up!

**Beginner On-the-Snow, Saturday, 1/25.** Meet at Smiths parking lot Tramway and Central, carpool to the Sandias.

Watch for details via email or hand-outs. Skiers must be members of the NMCCSC to attend snow training sessions.

Beginner practice is at Cumbres Pass, CO, **2/15-16.** We will drive to CO on Friday and ski for two days, returning on Sunday.

### Beginners Contact:

John Thomas at [jt87111@comcast.net](mailto:jt87111@comcast.net)

### Intermediate Skiers

Training will be **Saturday-Sunday, 2/15-16,** Cumbres Pass, CO. The instructor must approve of your equipment before the trip.

### Intermediate Skiers Contact:

Susan Corban  
[tele4fun@gmail.com](mailto:tele4fun@gmail.com)

### Telemark

Barry Ritchie will conduct a telly lesson and tour on February 1-2 at Wolf Creek downhill area. You must have proper equipment, including climbing skins.

### Telemark Skiers Contact:

Barry Ritchey  
[barrywind@msn.com](mailto:barrywind@msn.com)



Diana Filliman gets instruction from John Thomas during Beginners class.

Photo by Wayne Kirkby



Susan Corban



Barry Ritchie

## Avalanche Safety

By Rob Suminsby

How much do you know about avalanches? Most of us who poke around in the mountains during winter



have an idea what avalanches are, and at least a vague notion of how to avoid them. But are you confident that you can read an avalanche bulletin, assess the weather, observe the conditions around you, and then make proper decisions about how to travel safely through avalanche terrain? If you want to answer that question with a confident “yes”, then a **Level 1**

**avalanche course** is the place to start.

The American Institute of Avalanche Research and Education (AIARE) has developed a standard curriculum for teaching about avalanches, which has been widely adopted by guide services and ski patrols in the U.S.

The Level 1 course focuses on decision making in avalanche terrain, using a structured framework to guide individuals through the process of planning a trip, assessing the skills and limitations of a group, making observations about surrounding terrain, weather and snow conditions, and finally choosing a safe route and method of travel. All those skills are essential for a trip leader, but the more people in a group who possess strong avalanche skills, the more likely that group is to make good decisions.

A typical Level 1 course lasts 2 ½ to 3 days, beginning with about a half day of academic instruction, followed by fieldwork. The outdoor portion covers proper search and rescue techniques using avalanche beacons and probes, assessing the snowpack (*using techniques such as pole tests, digging snow pits, and conducting snow stability tests*), evaluating route options, and moving through terrain. Class size is typically about 6 people and 1 instructor.

I attended a Level 1 course in January 2013, offered by San Juan Mountain Guides (SJMG). There are a number of guide companies offering the course, but what attracted me to SJMG was that they offered both a 3 and 4-day version of the course, both based at a mountain hut near Molas Pass, CO. Staying in a

hut is a less expensive option than a hotel, and having evenings with your instructor and classmates offers lots of opportunity to reinforce the day’s lessons.

The SJMG course is taught by Mark Allen, a fully IFMGA-certified mountain guide, one of only 65 in the entire U.S. Mark spends part of each winter based out of Silverton, CO, and is intimately familiar with the notoriously tricky San Juan snowpack. On top of that, he was a pretty darn good chef as well! All in all, the course was very worthwhile.



Rob Suminsby and others ski towards the slopes to evaluate avalanche conditions during the class.



Mark Allen, avalanche safety instructor.

Whether you are an AT or Tele skier who craves steep terrain, or a Nordic skier who wants to confidently travel deeper into the mountains near potential avalanche paths, immersing yourself in a Level 1 avalanche course will make you a safer traveler in the backcountry. Highly recommended! ■

## Training Resources

Scholarships are available for training. See application on our website: [www.nmccskiclub.org](http://www.nmccskiclub.org). Go to “Members” area, then “Policies and Procedures”.

### Avalanche Training:

Marc Beverly (*Albuquerque & Taos*)  
[www.beverlymountainguides.com](http://www.beverlymountainguides.com)

Silverton Avalanche School  
[www.avyschool.com](http://www.avyschool.com)

Wolf Creel Avalanche School  
[www.avalancheschool.us](http://www.avalancheschool.us)

Kling Mountain Guides (*Durango*)  
[www.klingmountainguides.com](http://www.klingmountainguides.com)

### Wilderness Medicine:

Marc Beverly (UNM)  
[www.strikerescue.com](http://www.strikerescue.com)

Kling Mountain Guides (*Durango*)  
[www.klingmountainguides.com](http://www.klingmountainguides.com)

## Overnight Car Trips Update

By Rob Suminsby

### Silverton, CO, Saturday-Wednesday, 12/28 – 1/1

This trip is filling up fast, but there are still a few rooms left. What better way to finish 2013 and ring in the New Year than in the San Juan Mountains, surrounded by good friends and great snow? Rooms run \$75-99 per night, double occupancy. Treat yourself to a great vacation!

### Molas Pass, CO, Friday-Sunday, 1/10-12

Here's a chance to experience the excitement of a hut trip without the commitment of a week-long outing. Space is very limited, as the Aladdin's Lamp Hut just off Hwy 550 only sleeps 7-8 people. But it's surrounded by wonderful ski terrain, and is only a very short walk/ski from the road!

Accommodations are rustic, and meals will be cooked as a group. Cost will be ~\$100/person for two nights, depending on food cost.



**Pagosa Springs/Wolf Creek:** 31 Jan-2 Feb. Back by popular demand is Barry Ritchey's Tele Clinic at Wolf Creek! But even if you don't plan to take the free lessons, you can still join in the fun, whether Nordic trails around Pagosa or Class III terrain at the Pass. Accommodations TBD.

Contact me on the above 3 trips:  
[robert.suminsby@gmail.com](mailto:robert.suminsby@gmail.com).

### Leadville, CO, Friday-Sunday, 2/28 – 3/2

Admit it, you've always wanted to be pulled by a horse down the street of a classic Old West mining town, taking ski jumps as you go. No? Well, you can still join in the fun and cheer the competitors. And in your spare time, you can fit in some skiing while taking in the views of the highest peaks in Colorado. Hostel accommodations are possible. Contact Guy at: [xcskiboy@aol.com](mailto:xcskiboy@aol.com) to join the fun.

## Hut Trips

By Guy Miller

### Betty Bear Hut

**Monday – Saturday, 1/27 – 2/1** (includes travel)

Cost: \$ 141.00

Betty Bear is found at just over 11,000 feet near Basalt, CO. We last visited this unusual hut in 2003. Sleeping quarters are located downstairs, which is heated by its own wood burning stove. The upstairs common area is spacious and sunny.

An additional draw for this trip is our arrangement for the night before we hit the trail. We'll stay at our old favorite, The Diamond J Ranch. Accommodations are plush but affordable, and we get a great dinner the night before and sumptuous pre-ski breakfast.

Day skiing options around the hut include moderate Nordic touring as well as turning opportunities. This trip is suitable for strong intermediate hut skiers. The first 5 miles are on a gentle road, but the last 2 miles go steeply uphill with many vexing switchbacks. Five vacancies remain.

Check out the hut:

[http://www.huts.org/The\\_Huts/bettybear.html](http://www.huts.org/The_Huts/bettybear.html)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bShBIBH7VcY>

### Broome Hut

**Saturday – Thursday, 2/8 – 13** (includes travel)

Cost: \$146

Broome is a new hut that replaces the decrepit Second Creek Cabin. It is located at Berthoud Pass, which is north of I-70 and south of Winter Park, CO. The hut is accessed by a very short, but very steep trail. I have not been to this hut, but some of our skiers stumbled across it last winter on the Georgetown bus trip.



Gordon Eatman, Rob Suminsby, Susan Corban, Tom Russo and Angela Welford ski by Saint Paul's Hut in Silverton, 12/31/13.

It is reported that snow conditions are excellent and that day skiing in the area is challenging. Also, I'm told that the hut itself is different than the traditional 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain style huts, and that the interior is ultra cool and quite livable. How's that for specifics?

This is an exploratory trip requiring a good attitude and strong faith. Two spots remain.

For further information about the hut trips, contact me at [xcskiboy@aol.com](mailto:xcskiboy@aol.com) or 505 306-2628. ■

## Over the Fields in Red River

By Marilyn Harper

O'er the fields we go — laughing all the . . . wait . . . it's not that season anymore; but the inspiration comes from remembering the icicle lights hanging outside our room at the Golden Eagle Lodge in Red River last February. Somehow John Thomas is always able to lure an incredible array of interesting and entertaining people to a snow covered area in New Mexico where everyone has a chance to practice their old ski skills and challenge themselves to new ones.



We all had skiing options for all levels and areas around Red River. The Enchanted Forest always ranks high as one of the best Nordic centers offering all levels of skiing on groomed and ungroomed trails; with a great center where you can lunch at tables inside, rent equipment or buy skiing goodies.



Linda Starr and Bob Cornish grab their skis at Enchanted Forest, 2/15/13.

Photo by Marilynn Szydowski

Our Club is also known for its diligent trip leaders which was again evident on this trip. The Class II trip that I ventured on was to East Fork (yes, there is a Middle Fork, Class 111, and a West Fork, Class I). All Fork trips were full on Saturday morning. The East Fork trip was led with great capability by Karen Leach. She took great care of her minions by making certain we stayed together and kept hydrated. At the same time, she tried to challenge us to go further up a steep grade as we traded off breaking trail all the way. Even though the consensus of the minions was to stop at the really challenging part and turn around; I think we made her proud of our efforts (*Editor's note: Yes, they certainly did!!*).

After a ginormous potluck (*or luck of the pot*) on Saturday night where we indulged in wine, food, women (*and men*) — but no song; we were ready to carry on to the next day where everyone was unleashed to seek out their own adventurous diversions of the day. ■



Susan Corban, right, lead the first day tour of the season to Oak Flat on 11/25/13. She helped scrape wet snow off the bottom of Roger Grimshaw's ski. Geri Newton also joined the group of skiers for a beautiful day of winter wonderland skiing.

Photo by Angela Welford



Geri Newton came to the rescue with her bright purple duct tape when a skier broke her binding on the Oak Flat trail.

Photo by Angela Welford

## Bus Trip Balance Due

**Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>** is the deadline for the **balance due on the bus trips** (\$130 for Crested Butte & \$150 for Steamboat Springs) unless you paid the full amount. Please send your check(s) NOW, made out to NMCCSC, to Celeste Taylor-Ryman, 701 Madison Street NE, Albuquerque NM 87110 or bring it to the December 12<sup>th</sup> Club meeting.

December 2013						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Trail project	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Trail project	12 Club Meets	13	14
15	16 Final Bus \$\$ Due	17	18 Trail project	19 Board Meets	20	21
22	23	24	25 Trail project	26	27	28
29	30	31				
Silverton Car Trip						
January 2014						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Trail project	9 Club Meets	10	11
12	13	14	15 Trail project	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Board Meets	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Betty Bear Hut						Pagosa Tele Clinic
February 2014						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Trail project	6	7	
9	10	11	12	13 Club Meets	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Board Meets	28	

March 2014						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Trail project	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Trail project	13 Club Meets	14	15
16	17	18	19 Trail project	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Trail project	27	28	29
30	31					



Above: Marilyn Szydłowski, Red River, 2/16/13.

Left: Margaret Weinrod, Georgetown bus trip, 2/8/13. Photo: by Carl Smith

## Georgetown Mine Tour

By Carl Smith

Besides skiing on bus tours there are other activities - antique shopping, millinery modeling, chocolate tasting. On the Georgetown bus trip there was a new activity - a mine tour. After the group supper Friday Bet and Steve Gendron heard a voice saying "Aunt Betty!" It was Bet's nephew Bill Miller. He lives near Georgetown and operates tours into a historic gold and silver mine. Bet and Bill proposed a tour for Saturday evening and a bunch of us said yes.



Under the guidance and inspection of Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety, Bill and partners spent about a year digging out the portal of the Capitol Prize Mine, draining the water from the mine, removing the mud, and placing gravel between the rails to about 1600 feet from the portal. (Bill's father says that there is a cave-in at that location but the main tunnel goes much farther and that there are four levels of tunnels above the one we entered.)



Lucy Miller and Anne Hickman pan for gold, Georgetown, 2/9/13.

Photo by Carl Smith

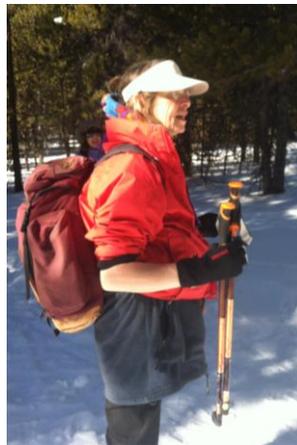
The Capitol Prize Mine was started in 1860 by the Georgetown founders. The thrust was to tap into a known seam of gold and silver ore. This required driving a tunnel to the ore seam - the latter proved to be 30 to 40 feet thick at this location. The mining technique was drill and blast; that is, drill holes in the hard rock - originally with a star drill and sledge hammer, load the holes with blasting powder, fire them, muck the broken rock into ore cars and move it to the portal. The ore was crushed in a nearby stamp mill and then separated. Mining continued until 1969.

On our tour Bill talked in the shop about the mine, gave a safety briefing, and distributed hard hats and flashlights. Then we walked into the tunnel to an area with benches and tools. Here Bill gave us each a piece of ore and demonstrated crushing and sluicing the ground-up rock with water - much like gold panning - to find a bit of "color." While one half of the

group pulverized and panned their samples Bill took the others on a little train ride another thousand feet or so into the tunnel. The modern "man train" consisted of wooden carriages powered by an electric golf cart motor. It had been built by current partners.



Then the second group went farther into the drift while the first ground and sluiced. Back in the shop Bill showed us original tools, explained mine operations and answered questions. A fine tour; we thank Bill and Bet. And . . . it didn't cut into skiing time! (For more history on the Capitol Prize check the mine tour's WEB site - [www.goldminetour.com](http://www.goldminetour.com)). ■



**Noel Barstow, Janet Heindel and Eddie Segars say get on the ski bus for this year's fabulous trips!**

## 2013-14 Officers and Board

President	Ray Berg	366-8104	rsberg01@comcast.net
Vice President	Wayne Kirkby	898-1654	ski1071607@aol.com
Secretary	Marcia Congdon	265-4199	mecongdon@juno.com
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Hut Trips & Day Tours	Guy Miller	306-2628	xcskiboy@aol.com
Long Bus Trips	Celeste Taylor-Ryman Bill White	366-4959 306-3120	celestet86@gmail.com whitebillygoat@gmail.com
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Programs	Terri Elisberg	450-9961	tpelisberg@gmail.com
Refreshments	Marilynn Szydlowski	332-8018	mjmazgaj52@aol.com
Trails	Sam Beard	828-0673	samgbeard@msn.com
Web Site	Bill Savage	353-1089	bsavage@aol.com
Email Group/Mailing	Bob Potter	831-9779	hvac87108356@yahoo.com

### New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club

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Jon McCorkell in Pagosa Springs

*Photo by I-Ching Boman*

**LAST NEWSLETTER IF YOU  
HAVE NOT RENEWED YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP!**