

Cross Country Ski Club



Photo by Dave Saylor

www.nmccskiclub.org

Adaptive Ski Program

Presenter: Barry Richey

When: Thursday, March 14th, 7 p.m.

Where: Garden Center, 10120 Lomas Blvd NE
Albuquerque

Since 1985, the Adaptive Ski Program (ASP) has offered safe and supportive alpine ski lessons for adults and children (five years and older) with a wide array of disabilities, such as developmental delays, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, Cerebral Palsy, critical illness and many more. Ski lessons take place at Sandia Peak and Ski Santa Fe. With the



early closing of Sandia Peak this season, a continuance of lessons were given at Ski Los Alamos. Instruction is available in 2 track, 3 track, 4 track, blind, deaf, mono-ski, bi-ski and snowboarding.

Katya Franzgen, Executive Director of ASP, will travel from Santa Fe to present a special short film on the ASP program. Barry Richey, NMCCSC member and ASP instructor who specializes in bi and mono-ski instruction, will introduce Katya and share some of his experiences. Aids used in the program will be explained at the meeting.

ASP will sponsor their 19th Annual Snow Ball on Saturday, March 9th, which is a special celebration and fundraiser that includes an auction, 3-course meal and wine, and live music and dancing. To learn more: www.adaptiveski.org.

Join us for this special last program of the season!

Terri Elisberg, Program Chair

Thanks Angela & Randy



Thanks to Angela Welford and Randy Simons for their incredible energy, easy going style and organizational skills in planning fabulous bus trips over the last 3 years! They are now training our new Bus Trip Chairs, Celeste Taylor-Ryman and Bill White, who are already making arrangements for next year's bus trips. The locations will be announced in the May newsletter so watch for the details.

Introducing our new chairs



Celeste Taylor-Ryman and Bill White

From the President

As we see the ski season start to wind down it is useful to take stock of some of our triumphs and weaknesses. Maybe we can even come up with a way to improve a bit for next years' season, like planning for snow in the Sandia Mountains!



We have had real successes this season: Angela Welford and Randy Simons did an outstanding job with the Bus Trips and Guy Miller with the Hut Trips. John Thomas had an outstanding Ski Instruction Program. We also had great car trips to Red River and Durango, which were organized by John

Thomas, Dave Gabel and Scott Mitchell.

Unfortunately, the Day Trip activities were severely cramped by the lack of good snow conditions. If we believe the long term weather prognosticators, this will continue to be a problem for us into the future (at least until the next ice age starts!)

We can work on more trips by car, in order to take advantage of some of the versatility this format gives us. It allows for a bit more spontaneous planning, a lot more versatility in the size of the group, and where we go. This isn't intended to take the place of the bus or hut trips, which are truly unique Club trips. But it will allow us some freedom we otherwise wouldn't have. In the past we have taken car trips to Red River, Chama, Angel Fire, Durango, Pagosa Springs, Snow Mountain Ranch (near Rocky Mountain National Park), Leadville, Crested Butte and other interesting locations.

We can also look into trips further afield. We have gone to Yellowstone National Park several times and in the distant past we went to Lake Louise in Alberta and British Columbia. We have also talked about trips to the Alps and Norway. There is no reason we can't dream big.

We have also made some progress on simplifying our Club operations. We have reinstated the use of the Microsoft Access database so Bet Gendron can keep Club membership information more easily. This database has now been enhanced with programs that generate the things we need for our

communications. This includes labels for distributing Karen Leach's newsletter every month, email lists for Bob Potter to use to maintain the Yahoo Egroup, and membership lists for Bill Savage to post on the website. So if you have changes to any membership information, please send them to Bet Gendron, our Membership Chair.

Now let's look forward to next year's promise!

Ray Berg

Proposed 2013-14 Slate of Officers & Board

Executive Board

President	Ray Berg
Vice President	Wayne Kirkby
Secretary	Marcia Congdon
Treasurer	Peggy Roberts

Board Chairs

Long Bus Trips	Celeste Taylor-Ryman & Bill White
Day Tours	Guy Miller
Overnight Car Trips	Rob Suminsby
Hut Trips	Guy Miller
Newsletter	Karen Leach
Instruction	John Thomas
Membership	Bet Gendron
Programs	Terri Elisberg
Refreshments	Lucy Miller
Trails	Sam Beard
Website	Bill Savage
E-groups/Mailings	Bob Potter

Members will vote on the above slate of officers and board chairs at the **March 14th** meeting — please plan to attend.

Ski Club Summer Potluck

Sunday, June 9, 2012, 4-6 p.m.

This year's party will be at **Wildlife West Nature Park** in Edgewood. Mark your calendar and watch for details!

Downhill at Loveland By Tom Katonak

One of the wonderful things about the bus trips is the great variety of ski opportunities: easy to hard cross-country excursions, backcountry adventures and even downhill events.

Almost all the trips are to areas where there is at least one downhill area within easy reach.

And so it was on the February 7-10th Georgetown trip. The Loveland Ski Area, the second highest in North America, is located just a few miles from the town of Georgetown and physically lies over the top of the Eisenhower Tunnel on Interstate 70. Loveland is on the Continental Divide and is known for its outstanding snow conditions late into the spring – often the area is open till the 4th of July! *(probably not this year as the snowfall has been sparse to date.)*



with him as he executed flawless turns down the steepest of slopes.

Celeste added the “grace and beauty” aspect to the quartet – a great addition to be sure!

Late in the day, Randy couldn’t resist the lure of high adventure and took the high lift to the top of the divide – notwithstanding the high winds and blowing snow. His report from 13,000 feet was “I could see the entire state of Colorado!”

Pretty well spent by lift-closing time, we were all able to meet the bus as it was pulling into the parking lot to pick us up. In short, it was a delightful day for the four of us! ■



Randy Simons, Celeste Taylor-Ryman and Tom Katonak ski Loveland.



Rich Besser pauses on the downhill run.

Rich Besser, Celeste Taylor-Ryman, Randy Simons and I took advantage of the surprisingly good snow and weather conditions and spent a marvelous day on the slopes. My three ski-mates are all accomplished downhill skiers and it was fun to be able to ski most of the day together.

The day started with an overcast sky, but by 11 a.m. the clouds

cleared and the spectacular mountain scenery was awesome. Late in the afternoon the clouds returned, forewarning the approaching storm that would impact the rest of the trip.

Rich amazed the rest of us by his prowess in the telemark technique. It was pretty hard to keep up



On the Leadville bus trip Alan Shapiro (*above*) led a tour to the top of Mt. Sinktau where he set up his short wave radio. Bob Potter also joined him (*yellow jacket*).

Photos by Alan Shapiro & Bob Potter

Leadville Secret Culinary Adventure

By Carol Richmond

Adventure abound on the Leadville trip! New members, Ramon Parcels and Ann and Bernie Rubenstein, along with myself discovered there was more to the Tennessee Pass Ski area in Leadville than skiing.



The Nordic Center offers gourmet dining with a view of three of the 14,000 foot peaks in a charming Yurt located mid-way up Cooper Mountain.

We soon discovered that there were a few challenges to getting there. First, one must make reservations



Ann and Bernie Rubenstein join Carol at the Cookhouse Yurt.

Photo by Carol Richmond

days in advance as the restaurant is frequently full, even with two lunch time seatings. The next challenge was a one-mile ski uphill on a blue diamond trail to get to the Yurt, no cars allowed! Then a ski back after lunch.

Three in the group were Level II and III skiers so it was no problem for them, but for me I made

myself anxious about my skill and energy level even though I'm a Level II skier. So I asked for an alternative and discovered that I could be transported by a snowmobile either way or both ways. With that knowledge I decided to explore the Willa Way Trail that lead up to the Yurt. Lucy Miller agreed to join me and once on top of the mountain we skied the Level I loops. So after skiing all morning we decided to check out the trail to the Cookhouse Yurt. It had a lot of camber and was pretty much uphill all the way. After a bit of effort we made it to the top where Lucy went right to the green trail, Fritz's Freeway, She had a great time on the less traveled route and skiing down. I skied on to the Yurt. The other three diners from our Club skied up the Cooper's Loop Trail.

As I walked into the Yurt I found a warm welcome of people and hot tea for a cold traveler. The Yurt has a

pot belly stove and about 10 tables for four and a chandelier hanging from the central skylight. The rest of my party joined me soon afterwards and we discovered the menu included Salmon, Fish Tacos, Buffalo Burgers, and Linguini, plus soup and salad. After ordering we went outside to take pictures of the beautiful view of the wonderful mountain range. We enjoyed our delicious lunch and drinks. More guests started pouring in with children in sleds and hiking boots. After finishing our lunch it was time to leave. I decided to try the snowmobile ride down, while the others skied. It was great fun swiftly moving over the icy trail at a fast clip. I arrived safe and sound with my skis at the Nordic Center ready for the bus to return us to our hotel. Soon after the rest of the party joined me.

The Cookhouse was a secret adventure — well worth trying for a bit of something different. ■



Members enjoy the excellent snow conditions and weather in Leadville. Top: John Stephens, Thea and Ray Berg, Angela Welford and Ruth Bargman-Romero. Bottom: Alan Burns (*who came from Maine to join us!*), John Stephens and Gordon Eatman enjoy lunch on the deck at the Nordic Center.

Photos by Bill White

Thanks Angela & Randy . . .
we all had a GREAT ski season!!!



Marcia Congdon



Barbara Coon



Cynthia Adams



Scott Mitchell, Janet Heindel (Red River) & Thea Berg enjoy ski trails in Georgetown



Bet Gendron & Bill White investigate an old Gold mine in Georgetown



Marcia Congdon & Frances Robertson have a cup of tea at the Dusty Rose in Georgetown.



Wayne Kirkby & Rebecca Helianthus hike along the creek in Georgetown. Jon McCorkell skied the Nordic trails at Winter Park on the Georgetown bus trip, 2/9/13.



Photos by Terri Elisberg, Angela Welford, Rich Besser and Ruth Bargman-Romero

Moose at Tennessee Pass By Louise Broadbent

Day 1 – Would you believe we saw a moose at Tennessee Pass? And you say, “What have you been smoking?” Except I have witnesses. My trip to Leadville began by leading a ski tour on Saturday leaving Tennessee Pass on the railroad grade to ski the Mitchell Creek Loop with 26 of my best friends. Thankfully Karen Leach and Bob Potter stepped up to help as middle leader and sweep. Based on the most recent snow reports I did not expect such great snow conditions. We were skiing on the north facing slopes for the first 5 miles. Very close to the end of the railroad grade we discovered a moose antler. Our group skied past the shed as a couple of Ski Club members took pictures. The trail headed uphill and we continued to complete a loop totaling 7.2 miles. Some of the snow conditions were a bit sketchy on the other side of the mountain, but all 26 members returned to the bus safe and sound.



Day 2 – The snow conditions were so good on the north side of Mitchell Creek Loop that I decided to return the next day to ski up to Wurtz Ditch Road and instead of finishing the loop, return the same way we came in. On Saturday my group was Janie Gilmore-Daniels, Ginger Larkin and Holly Noland. We set out at a good pace on the railroad grade. When we came to the Mitchell Creek drainage, we began scanning the wetlands below for the moose with one antler. Then without warning, the moose crossed the railroad grade only a couple of feet from where we discovered the antler shed the previous day!

As the trail began to climb, Janie, Holly and I stopped to put on our skins. I was not in the mood to do all that herringbone a second day. Ginger chose to do it without skins. Shortly after we started up the mountain we saw a snowshoe hare. The snowshoe hare is nocturnal, so it is no wonder I had never seen one before this year. But I had just seen my first one on the Silverton bus trip at Molas Pass on New Year's Day. Someone said it is good luck to see a snowshoe hare. With two sightings in the same month, I am considering buying my first ever lottery ticket!

After missing the bus pick up at Tennessee Pass by mere minutes, we had time to consult the signage only to learn we had skied around 9.5 miles. It is always a good idea to read the signage after the trip,

so as not to discourage participation! Once we determined we had missed the bus, we skied to the Piney Creek Nordic Center and enjoyed our wait for the second bus pick up. We all agreed we were pretty whipped. That cold beer was well deserved. Too bad they did not serve “Moosehead”, but that Pilsner Urquell went down easy.



Holly Noland carries out the moose antler, which was given to the NM Natural History Museum.

Photo by Linda Starr

Day 3 – Use your imagination, anything was possible.

I can't say it enough, “I love Leadville and I love Silverton, end of story!” ■



On February 23 skiers toured the Upper Road to Los Griegos: Louis Broadbent (*leader*), Tom Broadbent, Bronwyn Willis, Sarah Stout, Kim Feldman, Catherine Waters, Terri Elisberg, Holly Noland and Bob Moore.

Photo by Rita Wormwood





Jackie Hertel crossed the finish line in 2nd place in her age category during the Chama Chile Ski Classic race on 1/29.



Frances Robertson gets up close and personal with the snow woman on the Georgetown bus trip.

Photo by Terri Elisberg

Thank YOU Volunteers!!

Thank you to our Board members who contribute many, many hours of service each month. Thank you to the Board members who are leaving: Angela Welford and Randy Simons (see page 1), and Ruth Bargman-Romero for her dedicated service as Mailings Chair.



Lucy Miller

Thank you to ALL of our newsletter story tellers and photographers – you are all so creative!

A special thanks to Lucy Miller for her excellent eye in proofing and giving ideas for the newsletter.



= Monthly deadline for newsletter inclusion

March 2013						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1 Hut	2
3	4	5	6 Trail project	7	8 Crested Butte Hostel	9
10 Hostel	11	12	13 Trail project	14 Club Meets	15	16
17	18	19	20 Trail project	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Trail project	28	29	30
31						



Next year's hut trips will be announced at the March 14th Club meeting and you can sign up then. Above, the group prepared to depart the Harry Gates Hut on 2/28 where we experienced the best snow of the season: John Stephens, Kerri Wormwood, Phyllis Pryor, Ramon Parcels, Thea Berg, Guy Miller (*leader*), Ray Berg, Karen Leach and David Wegner.

Photo by Ben Dodge, Executive Director
10th Mountain Division Hut Association

2012-13 Officers and Board

President	Ray Berg	366-8104	rsberg01@comcast.net
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Guy Miller and Phyllis Pryor at the Harry Gates Hut, 2/28/13.

Photo by Karen Leach