

New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club

November 2013



Photo by Dave Saylor

www.nmccskiclub.org

November's Program:

Outdoor Leadership

Presenters:

Ray Berg, President
Wayne Kirkby, Vice President
Guy Miller, Hut Trip Chair
Rob Suminsby, Overnight Car Chair

When:

Thursday, 11/14 at 7 p.m.



Presenters Guy Miller, Ray Berg, Rob Suminsby



Wayne Kirkby

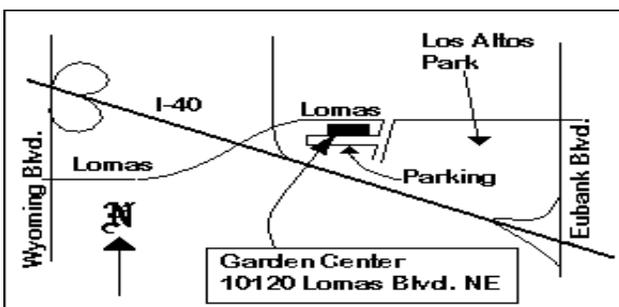
What do you expect from a trip leader when you depart the trailhead for a day's adventure?

What does he or she expect from you? Good leadership and followership in the outdoors are critical to maximizing everyone's fun, and getting the whole group back safely.

November's program will focus on these critical skills, and what each of us needs to do to make a group outing function smoothly. From the planning stages to pace setting to when to stop for lunch, the leader has a lot of decisions to make. But each of us plays an important role, and we all need to know when to speak up and when to just go with the flow.

This program will also review the Club's published guidelines for leaders and participants, and offer suggestions for veteran trip leaders, prospective trip leaders, experienced skiers and newcomers. Come prepared to offer YOUR thoughts . . . just like you would on the trail. ■

Meeting location:



Renew Your Membership

Dues must be received by **11/30** to continue to receive the newsletter and to sign up for bus and hut trips.



Sign up NOW for Bus Trips

Crested Butte leaves **Friday, 1/17, 9 a.m.**
Steamboat leaves **Friday, 2/21, 8 a.m.**



Request a Training Scholarship

Take a class that will help make you a safer skier and/or a better leader.

Request a scholarship by completing the form on our website at www.nmccskiclub.org.



Terri Elisberg, Dave Gabel, Bet Gendron, Scott Mitchell, Linda Riddle and Diane Simmons, Durango car trip, 2/2/13. To sign up for this year's car trips, contact Rob Suminsby at robert.suminsby@gmail.com

From the President

Last month, I discussed the programs of our Chairs. I didn't have space to discuss the work that the support teams have put together to publicize, facilitate and help the Club's activities succeed.



These start with the Membership Chair, Bet Gendron, who keeps the membership records, contacts members and supplies information to the Board. Bet is the only Board member who has direct contact with members, so she is the face of the Club. She maintains the database for e-groups, web-based membership roster and Newsletter labels.

The Newsletter editor, Karen Leach, provides one of our most informative media tools for getting the information out. One way you can help with cost-effectiveness is to request the newsletter electronically, which also gets you a better quality, color version.

The website is run by Bill Savage, who does an amazing job keeping the website up to date and stocked with all kinds of activities and information. We also have a Facebook page (Bill Savage and Bob Potter) that is another outlet for information. Dave Gabel operates our Meetup group, which brings in new members to keep our sport vital and current.

Our E-group and Mailing Chair, Bob Potter (also gourmet cook), makes sure the email and label lists are taken care of efficiently so you get your information.

When you come to meetings, you encounter the programs that Terri Elisberg puts together. Terri has assembled some of the best, most relevant programs possible. You find out about equipment and how to use it, safety practices, how to get around and return intact, information about the Club, and much more.

We always have great refreshments arranged by Marilynn Szydowski. Marilynn has assembled a support team of her own to help make sure everything gets done.

So when you encounter these folks, mention how much you appreciate their work!

Ray Berg

Editor: The Club would not be successful without the leadership of our President, Ray Berg, & Vice President, Wayne Kirkby.



Both pictures are Fowler-Hilliard hut, 3/5/12.

Photos by Dave Gabel

Hut Trips

Only a few places remain for hut trips. Contact Guy Miller at xcskiboy@aol.com or 505 306-2628.

BETTY BEAR HUT
1/27 – 2/1 (includes travel), Cost: \$ 141

Betty Bear is near Basalt, CO. The trip is suitable for strong intermediate hut skiers. Day skiing around the hut will be moderate Nordic touring as well as turning opportunities. For details about the hut, **check out:** http://www.huts.org/The_Huts/bettybear.html
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bShBIBH7VcY>

BROOME HUT
2/8 – 2/13
(includes travel dates)
Cost: \$146



This new hut is located at Berthoud Pass, north of I-70 and south of Winter Park, CO. The hut is

accessed by a short but steep trail. Snow conditions should be excellent and day skiing in the area is challenging. This is an exploratory trip requiring a good attitude and strong faith. ■

Winners of the Leaders free Bus Trip are:
Louise Broadbent & Guy Miller



The 2013-14 Board & Officers front row: Lucy Miller (replaced by Marilynn Szydowski, not pictured), Celeste Taylor-Ryman, Terri Elisberg, Bet Gendron, Marcia Congdon; back row: Ray Berg, Rob Suminsby, Sam Beard, Bill White, Karen Leach, Bill Savage and Wayne Kirkby. Not pictured: Bob Potter and Peggy Roberts.

Stepping Up and Stepping Out By Frances Robertson

Leaders aren't always found at the front of the pack, although that's where most people look for them. Leaders are simply folks who "step up to the plate," and I don't mean the dinner plate! On a hut trip, they keep the stove fired up, or split wood and carry snow to the stove to melt for water (*a heavy, unfun job*). Leaders do the job that the group needs; they don't expect gratitude (*but usually get more respect than they dreamed of*) and go on with life.

Leaders make things happen, make things work and solve problems. They prepare themselves for the unexpected. These are the folks that can read a map and the acclivity of a slope. They have the right gear, a little more than they might need, just in case.

Look around. Who's doing what? Even at a dinner party or Ski Club meeting, some folks are just plain leaders. They see what needs doing because they are "aware", and without being asked, do what needs to be done; they stack the chairs, clean up the refreshments, and carry the program gear. You know when you are with a leader because there's synergy; what seemed impossible is suddenly possible with a leader, whether it's getting to that distant hut or snow camping, or making sure you're in the right canyon. Several leaders working together are unstoppable. Leaders come with fully charged batteries that spark others into action. The best definition of a leader I've ever heard is:

"A leader takes us places (not necessarily geographical) that we would not go alone."

That simple statement pretty much sums it up. Leaders make it possible for us to exceed our personal limitations. When it comes to leading a trip, a trip leader (*one who has obviously stepped up the plate*) naturally depends on other leaders who are stepping behind him/her on this trip to help him/her spark and energize and set a positive tone for the trip and the participants. Leaders do that by modeling competence, authenticity, awareness of the environmental hazards and human hazards and by being "there," in the moment, fully conscious, ready



to respond. These people "track." They know what is going on, where the trail goes, where the landmarks are, how many ridges they've crossed, what direction they're traveling, how far they've come, who's behind/ahead, how much daylight is left, when they should turn around. Leaders "are" and we all rely on them.

Followers should have some of these "tracking skill," but for the most part, they can zone out on important details that could save their lives. We can all be more like leaders by practicing being "aware".



Tom Russo and Rob Suminsby and others ski to Saint Paul hut, Silverton, 1/4/13.

Photo by Susan Corban



Skiers gather for instructions from the leader: Marlene Brown, Eric Russell, Dave Saylor, Phyllis Pryor, Angela Welford and unknown skier in red.

Photo by Bill Heitz

Sometimes it's difficult to tell the difference between a hotshot and a leader. But the two are NOT synonymous. Granted, hotshots are always fit and physically competent, but they are not always leaders.

Leaders sometimes don't even look like hotshots – that's because what

motivates them is something other than ego. Leaders are real; on a ski trip they might fall, or reveal imperfection, make an error in judgment, but they are secure enough and humble enough to recognize their error or listen to someone in the group who has noticed the error. And – and this is a big AND – they are not afraid to admit a mistake. Hotshots never do that; it's always someone else's fault when bad things happen.

In my experience, the Ski Club has many leaders. People take chances, serve in new capacities, offer classes, lead trips, teach rescue practices, teach skills, introduce others to safe practices and proper gear, organize bus trips, and organize and lead hut trips. Groups that attract leaders are blessed, since a goodly number of leaders can support a goodly number of followers. So with that in mind, is it any wonder the Ski Club is on the move and going places? ■



= Monthly deadline for newsletter inclusion

| November 2013 | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|------|---------------------|-------------------|-----|-----|
| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| | | | | | | |
| 3 Time change | 4 | 5 | 6 Trail project | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 Trail project | 14 Club Meets | 15 | 16 |
| 17 Bus Lottery | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 Board Meets | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Trail | 28 | 29 | 30 |

| 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 | | | | |

| January 2014 | | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------|------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat |
| | | | 1 Silverton | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Trail project | 9 Club Meets | 10 Molas Pass Hut | 11 Beginner Class |
| 12 Molas Pass Hut | 13 | 14 | 15 Trail project | 16 | 17 Crested Butte | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 Board Meets | 24 | 25 Beginner Class |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |
| | | | | | | Pagosa Tele Clinic |
| | | | | | | |

| February 2014 | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|------|--------------------|-------------------|-----|-------------------|
| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat |
| | | | | | | 1 |
| | | | | | | Pagosa Tele & Hut |
| 2 Pagosa Tele | 3 | 4 | 5 Trail project | 6 | 7 | Hut |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 Club Meets | 14 | 15 |
| | | | | | | Broome Hut |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 Steamboat |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Board Meets | 28 | |
| | | | | | | Steamboat Spr |

| 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 |



Susan Corban, leader of a day tour to Oak Flats in Tijeras, organizes the group of skiers.

Leaders – Post your day trips on the website.

Beginners – Sign up now for Beginner's Class with John Thomas, jt87111@comcast.net

Skiers – Watch for details about intermediate and Telemark training.

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 |
| Treasurer | Peggy Roberts | 238-0726 | peggyroberts@msn.com |
| 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 |
| Overnight Car | Rob Suminsby | 369-5943 | robert.suminsby@gmail.com |
| Newsletter | Karen Leach | 281-9836 | karenleach7@msn.com |
| Instruction | John Thomas | 298-5234 | jt87111@comcast.net |
| Membership | Bet Gendron | 299-6542 | bettygendron@gmail.com |
| 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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Carissa and Scott Mitchell, Georgetown bus trip, 2/8/13.