

New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club

NEWS

Photo: Carl Smith

December 2014

Free Ski Instruction!

Susan Corban



See page 3 for how to organize a day or overnight ski trip-- you can DO IT!

Trip Report:

Silverton New Year's Eve Car Trip: FULL

Frisco Bus Trip: FULL

Continental Divide: Hut Trip: FULL

Aladdin Hut Trip: FULL

Pagosa Springs Bus Trip: OPEN

Sangree Froelicher Hut Trip: OPEN

As always, check our website for the latest information: www.nmccskiclub.org,
See calendar on pg. 5-6 for complete information about Club trips.

Here's a **great deal**: Learn to ski for free (or improve your technique). Want to learn to kick and glide, to do a kickturn, maybe snowplow turns or telemark turns? Join us for beginner, telemark or intermediate lessons. Check the calendar for dates. Bring a friend. It will be fun and there will be fantastic snow (I have a direct line to the weather gods), you will be an expert in no time and we give away sacks of cash to the most improved beginner. OK, some of this is not true, but if you're interested in the fun and skiing, please contact Susan Corban at tele4fun@gmail.com or sign up at a club meeting. ☺

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The Road to Gothic Crested Butte's Seasonal Ghost Town

Carolyn Johnson

Our January 2014 bus trip to Crested Butte provided a great ski out to the silver mine ghost town of Gothic, a 3.2 mile scoot through aspen groves and panoramic sweeps along the area's East River. Gothic houses both a ghost town *and* the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory. OK, it seems sort of contradictory to have a bustling scientific laboratory located in a ghost town. Additionally, this particular ghost town also contains two rentable huts – The Forest Queen and the Maroon Hut. As ghost towns go, Gothic seems kind of a rockin' place.

The bus leaves the hotel at 8 am, headed up to the trailhead, passing the Mount Crested Butte ski area resort and grille, a complicated jumble of high end hotels and condos, bars, shopping palaces, eateries. Our patient and cheery bus driver deposits us at the trailhead, county road 317, which, according to the trail description, drops down into the Gothic Valley.

Our group of eight led by Guy, "*I'm not a slave to goal-oriented skiing*" Miller pushes off by 9am, and we spread out along the trail immediately.

The elevation loss seems negligible because of the optical illusion provided by the huge wild views down valley which rise up to meet us. We hardly notice that the snow isn't quite ice cream because it is such a gorgeous sunny, calm day. We pass a group of tele skiers who are tearing up the slope above. They have left their daypacks unguarded and a group of crows swoops in to sample the snacks. The teleskiers do not notice the larceny in progress.

Then it's down into a wide spot in the valley where we cross a small bridge over Copper Creek and pass the WELCOME TO GOTHIC TOWNSITE sign. The town is a scattering of cabins and other buildings, most of which seem to be in good shape. As the rest of the group trickles in, we clear off the picnic table for lunch and have a look around at the town. Ramshackle and beat up it is NOT.

We've happened upon Crested Butte's "Roost the Butte" snowmobile extravaganza.

According to their own description, "The Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory's mission is to advance the deep scientific understanding of nature that promotes informed stewardship of the Earth." This description appears to mean that the lab trains field scientists in experiments in local ecology. The RMBL field camp is a summer program however so Gothic's winter personality seems pretty quiet. Somewhere among the buildings there are two huts: The Forest Queen and the Maroon Hut.* Our picnic table sits in front of the wood clapboard Gothic Town Hall. On the other side of the river we can make out a couple of cars that are clearly snowed in for awhile. No one has been clearing the windshields or putting on the chains, and ski tracks to the cabins there clearly mark the preferred method of transportation.

After lunch, some of the group takes off upwards towards Schofield Pass,



four miles past Gothic and others head for a leisurely trip back. When we arrive at the trailhead early, my friend Sally and I don't want to wait for the 2:00 bus and decide to ski down to the downhill area to catch the town shuttle back to CB. "It will be an adventure," we assure each other, as we steer towards what can only be described as a post apocalyptic scene at the side of the road —greasy black and gray snow along the shoulder, spewed out by half a mile of posh two-story semis filled with flashy machines.

We've happened upon Crested Butte's "Roost the Butte" (yes) mid-winter snowmobile extravaganza. Along with the festival's various pollutions of air, noise and snow, the air is also full of flying snowmobiles. Despite this festive atmosphere, we put our heads down and try not to make eye contact with the machines' owners as we ski by, avoiding the worst of the greasy snow. The local bus picks us up about halfway down and drops us off at the ski area where we transfer to the town shuttle, arriving (yay) promptly at beer thirty. 🍺

* The Forest Queen <http://cbnordic.org/forest-queen-hut/> —sleeps four
The Maroon Hut <http://cbnordic.org/maroon-hut/> -- sleeps eight

President's Message: Look for Up-to-Date Information on Our New Website

Ray Berg, Club President



At the November Club meeting the Ski Club membership approved a project to develop a new club website. Now that it is under way, I want to tell you about some of the developments we are putting together and what you should expect from the effort.

The system is being built with a lot of emphasis on maintainability. We will be able to keep our information current and consistent across the website. Schedules, lists of activities, calendars, and other components will reflect our best current information and be updated as needed.

We need to have reports that reflect up-to-the-minute information on snow and weather conditions. To facilitate this we will have blogs that will allow skiers in the field to report their ski conditions

With snow conditions in New Mexico the way they are, we also need to have reports that reflect very up-to-the-minute information on snow and weather conditions. To facilitate this we will have blogs that will allow skiers in the field to report their ski conditions with words, pictures and videos as soon as they can access the internet, whether it is in Albuquerque, Silverton, or any other ski area.

Many members like to get news and information via email, but not necessarily from things they aren't so interested in. We are working on ways to build sub-groups of member emails so those with specialized interests, such as back country skiing, instruction, hut trips, etc., can communicate about their activities without overloading everybody else's inbox. This will allow us to maintain more vibrant conversations about these specialized topics.

There will be several other features for users, but I will leave those for you to discover for yourselves.

We will also have several things behind the scenes to help with club and website operation efficiency. Most importantly, we will include a membership database, suitably secured, that will enable site access controls for different kinds of users (administrators, content providers, members, etc.) and the ability for users to specify their interests so they receive the kinds of email they are interested in. It will continue to allow members to specify which of their information they want to be available to other club members.

We will have a lot more information about the site as it develops. So look for it in the coming months.

Overnight Car Trips Mid-week, weekend, one night, multi-day

If you look at the club's many offerings for this season but find yourself thinking, "wow, there's still a few uncommitted weekends there that I could be skiing" don't despair. You can act now to fill in those gaps! If you are inclined to plan a getaway overnight ski trip somewhere, let us know and we'll help you to find ski companions to share in the drive and the fun. Mid-week, weekend, overnight or multi-day...you decide. Contact Rob at: Robert.suminsby@gmail.com and he will help you publicize and organize a trip.

—Rob Suminsby, Overnight Trip Coordinator

Day Trip Leaders: Heroes Wanted

Hello, skiers !!! The time is fast approaching when we will have enough of a snow pack to finally get out and start doing what we do ! As always, we need people to step forward to be day trip leaders. No special training or expertise is required to be a leader. We generally have skiable snow by about the middle of January, so potential leaders need only check the calendar to figure out when they'd have a day available for a ski trip. Listing a day trip ahead of time in the newsletter is a great way to get the word out and help ensure a good turnout for your event.

There are two ways to get started. One is to contact Guy to chat it up if you want to get a better feel for what trip leading would require. The other way is to go directly to the web site. At the top left hand corner, click on "day trips," then click on "list a day trip." This will produce for you an easy to use template for listing all relevant details of your proposed outing. Follow the prompts, and your completed day trip form will go to Guy for approval. There is also a handy cancellation feature that you can access. In the event that there is not enough snow, or if circumstances compel you to cancel, it's easy to get out of your commitment and notify all participants.

If you are unable to commit to a future date, but you think

Everytime you lead a day trip, your name goes in the hat for our end-of-season drawing for a free bus trip next season. There are two winners every year!

you might be able to be a leader via the meet-up group, please feel free to contact Guy if you need ideas for ski destinations, or for any other matter that you might wish to discuss.

I encourage everyone to consider being a trip leader. Think of a time when you went on a day trip. Did you have a good time? Were you glad you had someone to organize and lead the outing? If so, why not give it a shot? It's easy, fun, and you'll be a hero ! Also, everytime you lead a day trip, your name goes in the hat for our end-of-season drawing for a free bus trip next season. There are two winners every year!

—Guy Miller, Hut Trip Coordinator

Trails Report

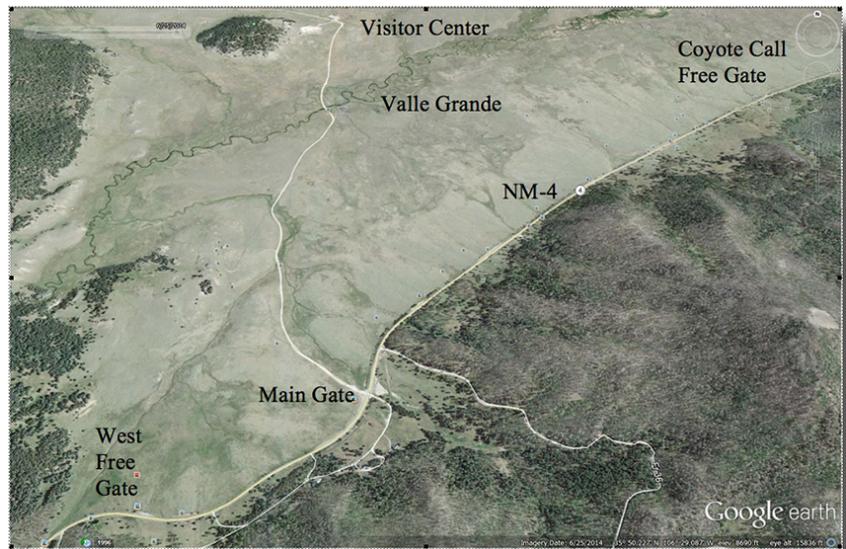
Valles Caldera National Preserve: Winter Recreation Program Update

Lance Weinbrenner, VCNP, Sam Beard, NMCCSC

Free Access to Valle Grande – Beginning on December 5, skiers and snowshoers will have free access to Valle Grande every day during daylight hours at two gates on NM-4. The west gate is located at a highway pull-out at the southwest corner of Valle Grande about one-quarter mile west of the Main Gate. The other gate is located across the highway from the Coyote Call Trailhead about 1 mile east of the Main Gate. **These gates are not mentioned in the VCNP Web site.**

Winter Recreation Hours and Fees – The Valle Grande Staging Area is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 9 am to 4:30 pm for hiking, skiing, and snowshoeing. This main staging area, that includes a Visitor Center and Gift Shop, will be open daily during the holidays from December 19 through December 23 and from December 26 through January 4. Day-Use Permits are required to access the groomed trails and cabin amenities.

Please check the Web site at vallescaldera.gov for current permit fees and details on all winter events.



Locations of West and Coyote Call Free Access Gates To Valle Grande along NM-4 in the Jemez Mountains.

Volunteers Needed to Open Capulin Snow Play Area

Susan Smith, Talking Talons

If enough people volunteer, Capulin will open for MLK and Presidents' weekends this winter. Talking Talons Youth Leadership is recruiting volunteers under a Forest Service program called More Kids in the Winter Woods. If you want to volunteer, please contact Susan Smith at 281-1133 ext 3# or susan.smith@talkingtalons.com. You will receive Forest Service training and can sign up for shifts at Capulin that fit your schedule. You will be an official Forest Service volunteer!

Volunteers will help Forest Service staff operate Capulin. Capulin has been closed because the Forest Service doesn't have enough staff to keep it open by themselves. This is a pilot project with a limited opening to see if using

volunteers will be a viable option for opening Capulin more in the future

The actual work may involve some "day of" prep — such as a final shoveling/snow blowing of walkways and breaking up ice and moguls on the runs — but will mostly be staffing various spots needed for visitor safety and efficient operation. That includes people at the entrance, the parking

lot, and on the slopes. Slope attendants will control the flow of sledders to prevent accidents. The plan is for folks to rotate so that they don't get too cold! The training will be help volunteers familiarize themselves with the area and learn the responsibilities of each position.

Capulin Snow Play Area – tubing, sledding, terrific family fun in the nearby Sandias Mountains—and CLOSED?! You can change the story!

NM Ski Event Calendar At a Glance

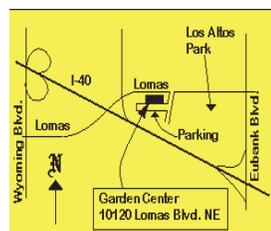
December

<p>Thurs 11</p>	<p>Club Meeting 7-9pm Desserts, Crafts and Ski Fashions.</p> <p>Our annual potluck dessertfest! We are adding appetizers to the menu for those who don't want to overload on sweets. Feel free to bring savory appetizers OR desserts if you prefer, enough for 10-12 people. (There is no oven available). The club is supplying veggies, humus and crackers. December's meeting will feature a casual <i>Fashion Show</i> with member models circulating and chatting about why they like the mixture of clothing that they are wearing. There will be handouts with information provided by members about favorite X-C clothing websites. Members who have crafts will have the opportunity to display and sell them. <u>If you need a table set up for your crafts or if you have a good X-C clothing website to recommend, please email Sara Friedrich at saradell@comcast.net.</u></p>
<p>20</p>	<p>Valles Caldera Public Appreciation Day</p> <p>Free access to the Valles Caldera for Public Appreciation Day (snowpack dependent). The Valles Caldera is a great place for some fairly flat kick-and-glide skiing given the right snow conditions. 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Check it out: bottom of page at http://www.vallescaldera.gov/comevisit/</p>
<p>31- Jan 4</p>	<p>Silverton New Year's Eve Event</p> <p>The mountains are filling up with snow, and the Grand Imperial Hotel will be filling up with NM Skiers! The last few slots for Silverton have been spoken for, but If anyone wants to add their name to the waiting list, please let Rob know at robert.suminsby@gmail.com. We will be driving up on Dec 31st and returning (for the most part) on 4 Jan.</p>

January 2015

<p>Wed. 7</p>	<p>Beginner Ski Class, 6-8pm (Classroom) Lomas Tramway Library 908 Eastridge Dr Ne, Albuquerque, NM</p> <p>The basics for Cross-Country skiing. They cover the ever-changing world of gear and where equipment can be rented as well as the basics of proper clothing, energy foods, etc.; things that help ensure a happy day of snowplay and growing self-confidence. Handouts provided. This class is also appropriate for the rusty skier who hasn't been out for years and would like some tips/reminders of what does and doesn't work well. This classroom session is free and open to the public.</p>
<p>Thurs. 8</p>	<p>Club Meeting 7-9pm</p>
<p>Sat. 10</p>	<p>Club Beginner Snow Class</p>
<p>14-18</p>	<p>Continental Divide Hut Trip: FULL</p> <p>Our beginner trip, the first of the season, is now full, with one beginner and two non-beginners on the wait list. Beginners who wish to get on the wait list will be given preference over non-beginners through December 11, the night of our December general meeting. After that, wait list candidates will be in line with everyone else.</p> <p>There are usually cancellations for hut trips, sometimes with very short notice, so if you're interested in having a shot at it, contact Guy without delay !</p> <p>For those who haven't yet done so, check out this cool mini hut at: http://www.huts.org/The_Huts/continental_divide.php This 10th Mountain Division hut is located less than a mile from the highway on Tennessee Pass, just a few miles from Leadville, Colorado. Skiers need bring only a sleeping bag, food, and clothing. Participants must be members of the Club, and must be Class II skiers (able to ski up to 10 miles with elevation gain of up to 2000 feet) and must be able to carry a pack. This is the last newsletter announcement that will be made for this trip</p>

16-19	<p>Pagosa Springs Bus Trip, MLK wknd.: PLACES STILL AVAILABLE.</p> <p>The snow is falling! Let's go skiing! Our first bus trip is to Pagosa Springs, town site elevation is 7000 feet and Wolf Creek Pass is at an elevation of 10,800 feet. The primary destination for the bus will be the Pass (Class II and III skiing north and south of the Pass), and the ski basin (lift skiing and groomed track (Class I, but Class II getting down to the groom!). Depending on the January snow conditions, we may even do some kick and glide outside the motel.</p> <p>The motel is in uptown, called Pagosa Lakes (it has a hot tub and pool indoors, and a free hot breakfast). There are restaurants within walking distance (mexican, pizza, fine Italian, and a brew pub (at ½ mile)). On Sunday night the bus will take us downtown for a different selection of restaurants (Kip's and another brew pub, among others), and you could soak in The Springs (before or after dinner, admittance fee not included in the bus trip fee). There are places on this trip still available. Contact Celeste Taylor-Ryman to sign up.</p>
17-18	<p>42nd Annual Chama Chile Ski Classic & Winter Fiesta</p> <p>JANUARY 17, 2015, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM</p> <p>Northern New Mexico's Premium Winter Event! Saturday, January 17th - 7.5K & 15K Freestyle XC Ski Races, NEW! Fat Tire Sno-Bike Race Sunday, January 18th - 5K & 10K Classic XC Ski Races, 5K Snowshoe Race & Combined Ski/Snowshoe Races, Rookie Race Weekend Events also include: Chile/Chili Contest, Ski/Snowshoe Clinics for beginners to advanced, Ski & Yurt Tours, Kids Events, Costume Contest, 2 Awards Ceremonies, Live Music & Beer Tasting: http://www.skichama.com</p>
30-31	<p>Aladdin Hut Molas Pass (8 person Car Trip): FULL</p>
30-Feb 1	<p>Red River Beginner Practice Weekend</p>
<p>February</p>	
Thurs. 12	<p>Club Meeting 7-9pm</p>
20-23	<p>Frisco Bus Trip Weekend: FULL</p> <p>Ready for another bus trip!? Let's go, Frisco! THE town site elevation is 9000 feet. The bus will be taking us to select locations scattered around the Frisco, Keystone and Breckenridge town sites (elevation at the top of Breckenridge is 12,998 feet). The area operates a free shuttle which allows anyone wanting to do lift skiing or groomed Nordic to come and go on their own. For those of us wanting to backcountry ski, our bus will take us there! Keep an eye on the SNOTEL sites (October newsletter) which will tell us which direction we point the bus out of the parking lot! The lodging in Frisco will be the Wildermost Condos (we have stayed there before). Amenities include a pizza party when we arrive. The condos have kitchen's and a meeting room.</p> <p>The Frisco trip is full and there is a waiting list.</p>
28	<p>Enchanted Forest Just Desserts Eat & Ski</p> <p>FEBRUARY 28, 2015 - Just Desserts" Eat & Ski Enchanted Forest Cross Country Ski Area's most popular event: Enchanted Forest puts homemade desserts out on a five kilometer course and skiers ski out to the different sites and indulge in desserts. Contact the Enchanted Forest Cross Country Ski Area for information Telephone: 575-754-6112 Email: info@enchantedforestxc.com</p>
<p>March</p>	
Thurs. 12	<p>Club Meeting 7-9pm</p>
17-22	<p>Sangree Froelicher Hut Trip: PLACES STILL AVAILABLE</p> <p>Intermediate trip to Sangree M. Froelicher (formerly known as Belvedere):</p> <p>This gorgeous hut, located at 11,630 feet, features terrain for Nordic touring as well as tele skiing. Check out the hut at: http://www.huts.org/The_Huts/sangrees.php . We have been to this hut twice before, and it remains one of our favorites. As of press time, there are only two spots remaining. Contact Guy for details.</p>



Getting to the Albuquerque Garden Center

Club Meetings are usually the 2nd Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm at the Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas Blvd NE.

Angela, Bill and Celeste's Excellent BUS TRIP Packing List

Use this as a basic guide and augment as needed. A good rule:
plan for the best, prepare for the worst!



Clothes	<input type="checkbox"/> Slippers <input type="checkbox"/> Night wear <input type="checkbox"/> Swim suit (for hot tub) <input type="checkbox"/> Undergarments (change of dry for each day) <input type="checkbox"/> Socks (2 pr/day + 1 for pack) <input type="checkbox"/> Long underwear (2 sets)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fleece tops (2) <input type="checkbox"/> Ski pants <input type="checkbox"/> Wind/rain pants <input type="checkbox"/> Vest (fleece or down) <input type="checkbox"/> Light wind jacket <input type="checkbox"/> Parka or anorak (waterproof) <input type="checkbox"/> Hat	<input type="checkbox"/> Ear band <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves (2 pr) <input type="checkbox"/> Liner gloves <input type="checkbox"/> Overmitts <input type="checkbox"/> Turtle neckband or scarf <input type="checkbox"/> Face mask/balaclava <input type="checkbox"/> _____
Personal	<input type="checkbox"/> Ear plugs <input type="checkbox"/> Clock <input type="checkbox"/> Tote kit <input type="checkbox"/> Book <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses/goggles	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone charger <input type="checkbox"/> Extra batteries for whatever you have <input type="checkbox"/> Snacks (nutrition bars, etc) <input type="checkbox"/> Lunch supplies of choice	<input type="checkbox"/> Drink supplement powders <input type="checkbox"/> Money: Bring enough cash (or checks) to cover your meals and incidentals. <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____
Equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> Skis + poles in bag <input type="checkbox"/> Ski boots <input type="checkbox"/> Gaiters <input type="checkbox"/> Daypack <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottles (2x1 liter + sipper, or water bladder system) <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen <input type="checkbox"/> Lip balm <input type="checkbox"/> TP (+baggie for waste) <input type="checkbox"/> Duct tape <input type="checkbox"/> MaxxWaxx/Glide	<input type="checkbox"/> Yak Trax or similar (for in-town walking on ice) <input type="checkbox"/> Scraper <input type="checkbox"/> Skins <input type="checkbox"/> Space blanket <input type="checkbox"/> Hand/foot warmer packs <input type="checkbox"/> Swiss army knife <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid kit <input type="checkbox"/> Head lamp/extra batteries <input type="checkbox"/> Foam Butt pad (for sitting on) <input type="checkbox"/> Handkerchief/Kleenex	<input type="checkbox"/> Bandana <input type="checkbox"/> Camera <input type="checkbox"/> Down sweater (or other extra warm layer) <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Optional: <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> GPS <input type="checkbox"/> Shovel <input type="checkbox"/> Beacon <input type="checkbox"/> Avalanche probe

2014-15 Officers and Board

President	Ray Berg	366-8104	rsberg01@comcast.net
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Hut Trips	Guy Miller	306-2628	xcskiboy@aol.com
Overnight Trips	Rob Suminsby	366-7513	robert.suminsby@gmail.com
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Refreshments	Marilynn Szydlowski	332-8018	mjmazgaj52@aol.com
Trails	Sam Beard	828-0673	samgbeard@msn.com
Web Site	Bill Savage	353-1089	BSavagen5fld@me.com

American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education Avalanche Training Course

Course Type and Name

CT1 New Mexico, Taos 12/19/2014
http://avtraining.org/aiare-level-1/

Provider

Beverly Mountain Guides/Strike Rescue
www.beverlymountainguides.com
(505) 264-8364 (Wk)
marc@beverlymountainguides.com

Course location

Taos, NM

Dates

Begin: 12/19/2014; End: 12/21/2014

Price:

\$350

Membership News: Time to Renew! The Club will be suspending Egroup memberships of anyone who hasn't renewed their membership by November 30. This will result in an interruption of the newsletter, announcements, and updates. But, what luck!-- the membership renewal form is available on our website. —Bet Gendron, Membership coordinator

Look for
crafts
like Thea
Berg's
gorgeous
jewelry at
the Dec
meeting



New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club
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