

New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club

NEWS

Photo: Carl Smith

January 2015

Solstice Ski in the Brazos

Barry Ritchey



Kathi and I conveniently ran into Alan and Sarah right as we glided out on our last run of the day.

Seven of us skied Brazos Cones/Overlook on December 20, 2014. Five of us, Kathi, Doug, Steve, Vit and I, attempted to totally track-out Cone1; while Alan Shapiro and Sarah Stout ventured out to the overlook. Pow-pow was so good and plentiful on Cone1 that we didn't venture over to Cone2. So lucky to score an early season snowpack deep enough to avoid rock dodging. Probably my best first day out in many years. Full sun and barely a whisper of wind. The last two runs of the day were sublime. By then we had worked our way around the east flank of Cone1 and were onto the almost totally shaded northeast exposure with thick hoarfrost feather topping the powder. Three of our group headed home early, leaving Sarah, Alan Kathi and I finishing off the Blue Heron Brewpub in Espanola. (Barry Ritchie Photos)



Kathi high atop Cone1 and ready to descend. We got into a nice routine. Descend, don skins, climb, remove skins, move over a few feet to the north, repeat until quads screamed.

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Writing Opportunities, Inc.

Two ways to indulge your writing habit

Our upcoming 2015 group adventure season will be filled with adventury tales, crying to be published. Luckily, we publish just such stories in this very newsletter. If you are interested in writing for the newsletter, let me know.* Or if you would like to write for the blogs on the website, let Ray Berg (Web Jock Deluxe) know you are interested.

Content ideas: *Write a punchy lead* for your first person account; include interesting details and fun facts. If possible add photos with credits, colorful embellishments, asides. (Bonus for jokes that include interesting interactions between skiers, snowshoers and snowmobiles--extra credit for using all three)

Brief-ish stories are probably more practical than Longwinded-ish stories. Edit, edit edit.

Next Stop: OUTSIDE MAGAZINE

*---Carolyn Johnson, Newsletter Editor
 carolynejohnson@gmail.com



Snow Photography Tune-Up

Don't miss Carl Smith's Class on *Improving your Snow Photos* at the February 12th Meeting.

Soon your photos will be as crisp and clear as this one taken by Carl at Sangree Hut.

Bring your camera.



Seriously Funny Video: Cross County Snow Boarding:

The ultimate outsiders' sport, done outside.

NOTE: Scooching not for wussies.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4w7sVSMbjyM>

(Thanks to Gordon Eatman for finding this video)



President's Message

Website Update

Ray Berg, Club President



So I have been sitting around home trying to fight off this year's version of revenge on humanity, but mainly feeling sorry for myself because with the great snow that occurred a little before Christmas, I was having to sit at home.

What this also did was to give me a chance to work on, and play with, the budding new Ski Club website. I am pleased to report that it is coming along quite well and with any real luck, we should be able to release it for general access in the mid-January time frame.

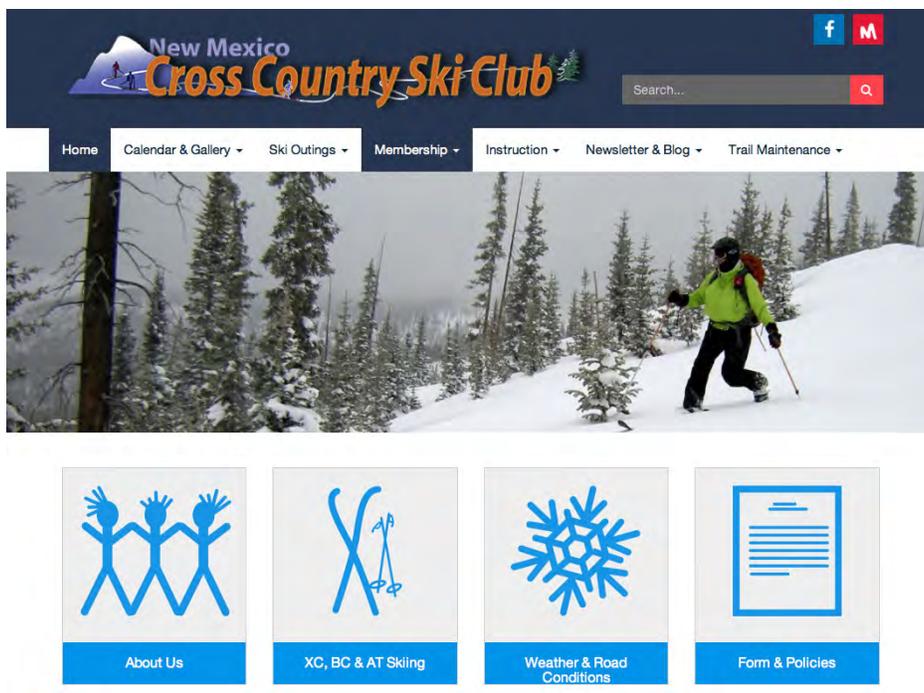
Some of the more visionary features may not be in incorporated in the site when we release it. That is still ok, since they weren't all on the list for implementation in the first release of the site. What we were striving for was 1) to have all of the features in the current website, 2) to have some interactive capabilities for users, and 3) to have a way to tie email into the site, including topical sub-groups so all club members don't get bombarded by a lot of email they really aren't interested in. It looks like those will all be there.

The most significant addition here is the blogs, articles, and reports we will have access to. In addition to the usual story information, we will have a richer collection of photographs and even videos that can be incorporated into material, all presented in an easily

Readers will be able to add comments after each article, giving us immediate feedback on future directions.

accessed form from the website. Readers will also be able to add comments after each article, giving us immediate feedback on future directions.

Some of the more visionary ideas that may not make the cut include on-line membership submissions and payments; a forum for conversations among members on topics like buying and selling equipment, kinds of equipment to get or use, where the best skiing is, and other skiing related topics; ties to more social media, like Twitter and Instagram; and a few others.



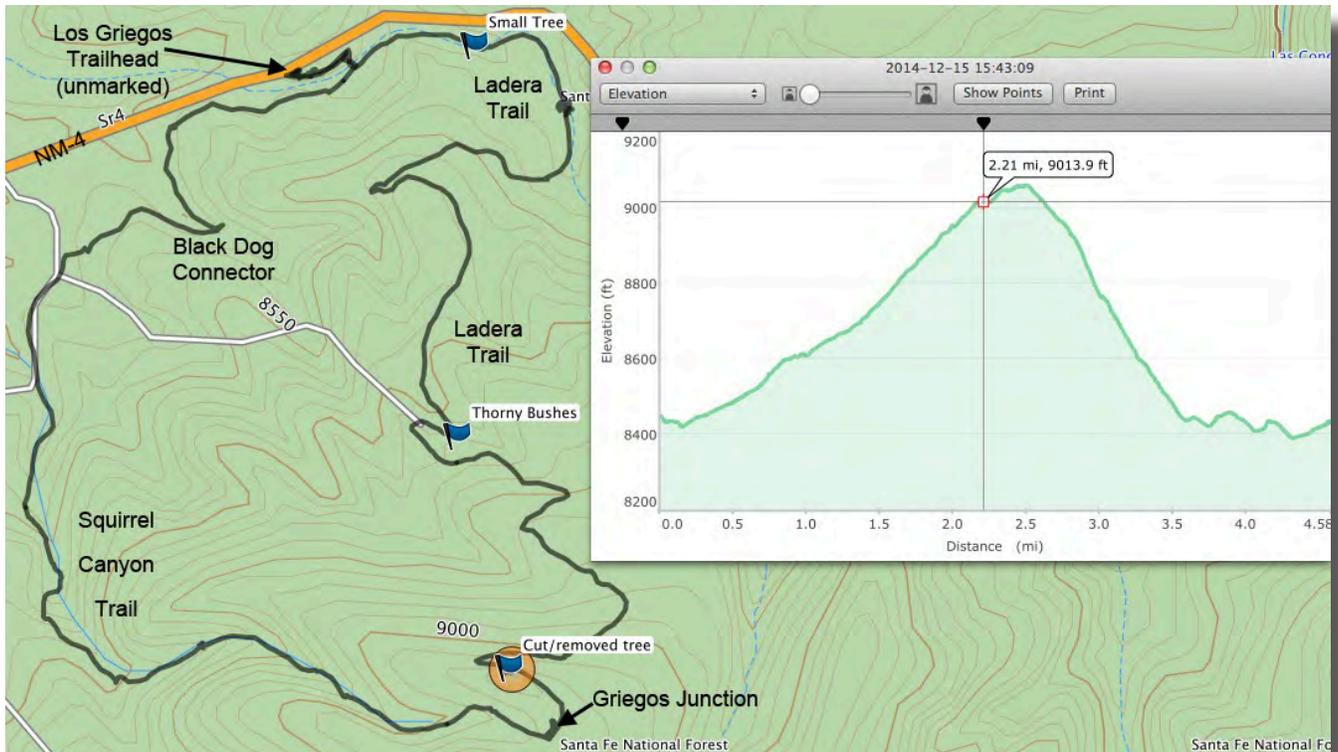
But overall, things are looking up! Even el niño is starting to cooperate.

Trails Report

Los Griegos December Tour

Mike Meier

On the day of our December Tour, Los Griegos (LG) had the best coverage that I observed on the drive from Los Alamos. Coverage at trailheads to the east (Corral Canyon, Coyote Call, Upper Frijoles) looked to be too thin for skiing. Parking lots at these areas, and Los Griegos were unplowed, but access was easy. The otherwise abundant parking at



LG and Corral Canyon has been greatly reduced by the large piles of gravel there, that I suppose are being held there for road construction projects.

The snow was unbroken, and a pleasure to ski, but it took me a lot longer to get up to Griegos Junction than in years past, due to advancing age, deteriorating physical condition, removal of a tree, and Maxiglide malfunction. (To my unjustified surprise, liquid wax dries out to a solid, hard-to-apply substance after a few years of neglect.)

The snow conditions were pretty much the same at Griegos Junction as at the trailhead, and I chose to descend very slowly and tentatively down Squirrel Canyon. There were a lot of scratches and irregular features under the thin cover, justifying my fear of falling and cautious approach. For some of the steeper and rockier sections, I just removed skis and hiked. There were a few nice sections where it was possible to cruise along with reckless abandon, sort of. South-facing Black Dog Canyon had coverage as good as the rest of the trail.

Trail Maintenance Notes: At the bottom of the meadow near the trailhead (intersection of Ladera and Black Dog Canyon trails), a big tree has fallen, but it's an open area, and the tree is not an obstacle. Another, smaller tree is a few hundred yards up Ladera, is easy to get around, and is indicated on the map. I had hoped to get back to it with a hand-saw, but Starbucks was calling, and I was pretty pooped by the end of the trip, so maybe next time. Some thorny bushes are indicated further up Ladera, and we may want to take a lopping shears up there in the future. A 6-8" tree was blocking Ladera just below Griegos Junction, and was not easy to bypass. I was able to make a single cut and remove it from the trail.

All in all, it was a good start to the season.

(Thanks to Sam Beard for adding information to Mike's GPS track map of the tour)

NM Ski Event Calendar At a Glance

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: The trip is full, but check the website for cancellations if you are interested. 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>
<p>16-19</p>	<p>Pagosa Springs Bus Trip, MLK wknd.: The trip is full, but check the website for cancellations if you are interested. 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>
<p>17-18</p>	<p>42nd Annual Chama Chile Ski Classic & Winter Fiesta 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>
<p>30-31</p>	<p>Aladdin Hut Molas Pass (8 person Car Trip): <u>FULL</u></p>
<p>30-Feb 1</p>	<p>Red River Beginner Practice Weekend</p>

February	
Thurs. 12	Club Meeting 7-9pm: Instructional Program: Carl Smith's Tips and Tricks for Snow Photography. BRING YOUR CAMERA.
20-23	Frisco Bus Trip Weekend: The trip is full, but check the website for cancellations if you are interested. 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 Wilderrest Condos (we have stayed there before). Amenities include a pizza party when we arrive. The condos have kitchen's and a meeting room.
28	Enchanted Forest Just Desserts Eat & Ski 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
March	
Thurs. 12	Club Meeting 7-9pm
17-22	Sangree Froelicher Hut Trip: The trip is full, but check the website for cancellations if you are interested. Intermediate trip to Sangree M. Froelicher (formerly known as Belvedere): 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.

Hut Trip Update

Guy Miller

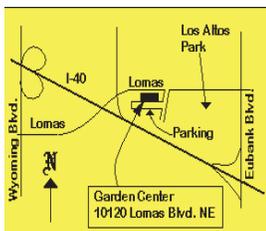
CONTINENTAL DIVIDE CABIN Jan 14-18, 2015

Shortly after this newsletter is published, we'll be on our way for our beginner hut trip to the Continental Divide Cabin. Myself and 8 beginners will get a chance to see what it is like to go on a "real" hut trip, without having to ski more than a mile to get there. It is our hope that out of this group will emerge a new cadre of hut skiers. Check out the February newsletter to find out how it all went. Some of it might be true.

SANGREE M. FROELICHER HUT March 17-22, 2015

This hut is located near Leadville at a bit over 11,000 feet. Check out the hut: http://www.huts.org/The_Huts/sangrees.php

This trip is full, with only one person on the waiting list. It's nearly three months until D-Day, and, based on previous experience, it is a virtual certainty that there will be cancellations. If you'd like to get on the waiting list for this intermediate hut experience, contact Guy Miller. Replacements are selected in the order in which they get on the list.



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.

Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue Card (COR SAR)



Why Buy a COR SAR Card?

Colorado residents and visitors are well served by dedicated volunteer search and rescue teams, but mission costs are often in the thousands

of dollars. By purchasing a COR SAR card you are contributing to the Search and Rescue Fund, which will reimburse these teams for costs incurred in your search and rescue. Funds remaining at the end of the year are used to help pay for training and equipment for these teams. Anyone with a current hunting/fishing license, or boat, snowmobile, ATV registration is already covered by the fund.

The COR SAR Card Is Not Insurance

The card is not insurance and does not reimburse individuals nor does it pay for medical transport. Medical transport includes helicopter flights or ground ambulance. If aircraft are used as a search vehicle, those costs are reimbursed by the fund. If the aircraft becomes a medical transport due to a medical emergency, the medical portion of the transport is not covered.

Purchase a Card

The COR SAR cards are available for \$3 for one year and \$12 for five years, and can be purchased at over 300 retailers in the state. You may also purchase cards online. Please visit one of these links:

Purchase Card Online With Credit Card: <https://dola.colorado.gov/sar/orderInstructions.jsf>

Purchase Card From a Vendor - List of Vendors: <https://dola.colorado.gov/sar/vendors.jsf>

For the cost of the card, you have helped ensure that trained and well equipped search and rescue teams will respond should you become lost or in need of rescue. Furthermore, volunteers will not have to incur undue expense due to your emergency.

*Those of us who travel to Colorado every year for our hut trips always stop at **The Trailhead** in Buena Vista to purchase our COR SAR cards, as well as to shop for any last minute gear items that we may realize we forgot or just can't live without. It's a good excuse to visit a local shop and help support THEM !*

*Going through Buena Vista? **Stop at the Trailhead and say hello. And spend some money !***
--Guy Miller

DAY TRIPS

So, the time to stop thinking about what to do IF there is snow has definitely passed. We have very skiable conditions in the Sandias and elsewhere, and we have already had a few people step up to lead day trips. Remember, each time you lead a day trip, your name goes in the hat to win a free bus trip. *Talk to Mike Martin to find out how cool it is to be going on the Frisco bus trip for FREE this year !*

If you'd like to be a day trip leader, contact Guy Miller for details, or go to the website and click on the day trip tab. Don't wait for someone else to lead a trip---YOU can make it happen by being a trip leader. So, how about it?

-Guy Miller



photo: Dave Gabel

Why not lead a trip like this one led by Dave Gabel: a moderate ski on Sandia Mountain over the holidays with gorgeous new snow!

2014-15 Officers and Board

President	Ray Berg	366-8104	rsberg01@comcast.net
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Web Site	Bill Savage	353-1089	BSavagen5fld@me.com

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

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