



### **December Program**

You won't want to miss this! The December program provides a vacation for our refreshment chair as we partake in the annual eats and treats holiday social event. Members bring forth irresistible high energy goodies to share and enjoy while visiting with your ski friends. If you are not talking you should be eating! Feel free to bring in your artwork, books, cards, and ski things for display (& sale) as well. Be sure to attend the feasting on Thursday December 13.

### **November Program**

Way back in the 1931 the students of small engineering school in western South Dakota set to the task of leveling out a plot of land. In time, with assistance from the WPA (great depression work program), a field was constructed which is still in place today. This facility, with some upgrades through the years is still used by local schools, for football games, track meets, and overflow parking. What does this have to do with skiing? Initial development of the local ski hill (Sandia) that Albuquerque residents have been using for several decades, followed this pattern of volunteers coming forth to start development of a facility to support and promote outdoor sporting activity.

It all started when the Albuquerque Ski Club cleared the first ski runs at Tree Springs then moved on to La Madera which in time was renamed Sandia. Through the first decades, prominent members of the community with enthusiasm for skiing, led to the installation of a rope tow powered by a Model A engine in 1937. The following year the CCC (another great depression work program), assisted with construction of a lodge sitting just north of the present lodge (Tres Ritos).

New construction, upgrades, and lift operations were suspended as our nation entered a declared state of war, and remained closed for the duration of World War 2. When the war effort concluded, fledging ski areas resumed operations, and development of new ski areas jump started the ski industry. With the reopening of LaMadera Ski area via the LaMadera Ski Club in 1946, a T-bar towing system was installed, more trails were cut, and a ski school was started. Ski schools were mandated by the USFS in these early years. Throughout the 1950's a poma lift was added, and more buildings constructed at the base of the mountain. The newer buildings displacing small cabins and an ice rink. Popularity and success led to the city of Albuquerque operating the ski hill for a short period of time, but after a couple of lean years – the city handed the area back to the ski club.

Facility improvements continued in the 1960s with several ideas being inspired with community leaders traveling overseas and observing the development of European ski areas. The sixties decade brought completion of the summit house in 1962, chair 1 followed in 1963, tram car service started in May 1966, chair 2 was constructed in 1969. Only the largest ski areas in Europe and North America, with panache and pricey lift tickets offer tram car service! The construction of the tram is a story in itself, and can be viewed at [www.sandiapeak.com](http://www.sandiapeak.com) history & technology tab. First generation grooming equipment was brought into service for the winter of 1964/1965, which was upgraded in 1970 with groomers that could break up hard pack snow.

Chair 3 was completed in 1980, the poma lift was replaced with the beginner chair in 1985, the base facility for dining, ticket sales etc completed in 1985 as well. Presently, the mountain top restaurant is being replaced, with a projected opening date of April 2019 for the new restaurant. Installation of a coaster ride is pending approval.

Enough dates & events, on to the fun side of history: Photos from the old days showed the historic lodges, fashionable skiers, nordic ski races, happy families, enjoying affordable skiing as the ski hill expanded over time to what is in place today. During summer months, ski run improvement comprised groups of volunteers getting a free ride on the chairlift, then walking back down while tossing rocks off to the side. The rock clearing activity concluded with tasty food and beverages provided by the organizers.

This hill in our back yard does not have crushing crowds, expansive slopes, long steep drops, or snowfall that would bury a standing giraffe. As such it did not attract large scale investment creating a destination ski area, instead we have hill that has been developed by local investors and enthusiasts which has remained friendly to all those who come along including; Nordic skiers on the crest, folks skinning upward to the summit all days of the week, full moon skiing (climbing skins) with optional hot treats at the top.

Editor's note. The relaxed pace I have enjoyed at small ski hills in northern New Mexico, central Colorado, and northern Idaho cannot be matched by the large mega mountains. Some of these quaint areas could not sustain operation as a ski area and have closed down ski operation and moved toward the upscale mountain retreat business model. Let's hope the small ski hill places continue operating and retain the character that large areas can't deliver.

### **Trail Maintenance**

Sam Beard and several volunteers were out in woods for trail work on Saturday November 10 and Saturday November 17, in the Jemez Ranger district. Following the cycle of nature from forest fires of recent years, Aspen shoots are popping up, and the burned trees are falling over, creating meddlesome obstacles. They found skiffs of snow in partially shaded terrain, consistent snow (4 to 6) inches on shady north aspects. Trail clearing was finished for 2 trails on Los Griegos Mountain, and the most popular routes in the Peralta area. Approximately 80 fallen trees cleared on the two work days.

### **Instruction**

#### *Cross Country Skiing Basics*

Cross Country skiing on a sunny, crisp winter day with only the crunch of new snow under your feet. The silent, the beauty, the cool air as you ski along the pines and aspens. You are staying warm with exhilaration and excitement of being in the mountains. The enjoyment is even better with your good friends.

Tell your friends, family members or come yourself to take advantage of the knowledge shared at the Beginning Cross Country skiing indoor session. For the indoor session you do not have to be a member.

#### Session 1 Indoors:

When: Wednesday evening, Dec 12, 2018, 6pm-7:30pm

Where: Lomas Tramway Library, 908 Eastridge NE, Albuquerque, NM 87123, 291-6295

Who: Open to the public

Overview: Topics reviewed in 90 minutes include winter preparedness, clothing layers, ski equipment, ski rentals, basic fitness and logistics for a day on the snow. Anyone is welcome to attend the classroom session.

More Information found at: <http://nmccskiclub.org/instruction/beginner-instruction>

#### *REI Snowshoe Basics classes*

The REI store in Albuquerque and Santa Fe is holding classes for Snowshoe basics. At press time, the December classes at both locations are full. In January there was 16 slots available at Santa Fe, and 4 in Albuquerque. Check the REI web page for the latest.

#### *Telemark turn lessons:*

Planned for January or February 2019.

If you have any *questions*, you can contact Ruth Bargman Romero at [Instruction@NMCCSkiClub.org](mailto:Instruction@NMCCSkiClub.org)

## **Trip Report**

On Sunday December 2, six skier's skiers skinned up Santa Fe Ski Area from 1 to 3 times and practiced telemark turns. Snow conditions are great, the exercise for everyone was invigorating.

## **Newsletter Paper Copy**

If you receive a paper copy the newsletter, this is the final copy that will be delivered unless you have renewed your membership and paid the required fee to continue receiving the paper newsletter.

## **Membership 2018/2019**

Snow is here! Join the ski club. We have restructured our membership. The dues for all members are \$15 each, there is no longer a family membership option. If you are under 40 and it is your first year, dues are \$1. Please take advantage of web based membership (first time or renewal) at <https://www.nmccscmembership.org>

## **Bus Trips for 2019**

Sign up date for the Ouray bus trip scheduled for February 22-25 has been extended to December 13 (the date of our December general meeting), with a balance due date of December 28. Send applications and deposits to Max Shepard (1413 Adams St NE, ABQ 87110), or drop off applications and deposit at the December club meeting.

Membership voted for bus trip destinations, with Ouray garnering sufficient votes (second place) for inclusion in this year's bus trip locations. Unfortunately, registration for this trip has been slow and the trip is in danger of being cancelled. Due to financial obligations for lodging and transportation, the go – no go decision will be made December 15. There is no projection for the next bus trip to Ouray after this season, so now is the time to go if you have this area on your bucket list.

Some insight from previous newsletters

LEADVILLE, CO, 18-21 JANUARY (Martin Luther King weekend) for \$245/person. The majority of ski touring is centered near Tennessee Pass and Ski Cooper. Skiing in the area has already begun at Ski Cooper. If you plan on skinning up Ski Cooper their policy and procedure for this can be found at: <https://www.skicooper.com/uphill-access-information/>

OURAY, CO, 22-25 FEBRUARY for \$340/person. Most of the skiing opportunities are between Silverton and Ouray, with trails suitable for beginners to advanced skiers.

Please be sure to read the Bus Trip Guidelines at <http://nmccskiclub.org/ski-outings/bus-trips/> Direct any questions to Angela (awelford1017@gmail.com) or Bob (hvac87108356@yahoo.com).

## **E-mail Replies**

When you reply to an email from NMCCSCGroup, the response goes out to ALL (300+) members.

So, if you want to respond to just the sender, please make sure it is just their email that is in the [TO:] field. This would be appreciated by all Ski Club Members. Thank you from the Email Chair, Marilyn Szydlowski

## **New Year in Silverton**

If you are looking for good way to start the ski season, spend New Year's with friends in Silverton at the Grand Imperial Hotel (970-387-5527) and ski the terrain around Molas Pass, Mineral Creek, Andrews Lake et al. and enjoy a pot luck dinner on New Year's Eve. The club has reserved 21 double occupancy rooms at the newly remodeled Grand Imperial Hotel for December 29th, 30th, and 31st with check out the 1st. The rate for all double occupancy rooms is \$75.00 per person per night or \$225.00 per person for the three nights. The rate does not include the breakfast buffet at the hotel.

If you are planning on going to Silverton for New Years and you already have a roommate you can call the Grand Imperial Hotel and reserve your room. However, if you plan to go but do not have a roommate contact Max who is compiling a list that can be used to pair up roommates.

Max Shepherd: Max.shepherd@comcast.net 505-270-5258

Editors note: I don't know the cutoff date for room reservations, reserve rooms soon.

## Hut Trip to Peter Estin

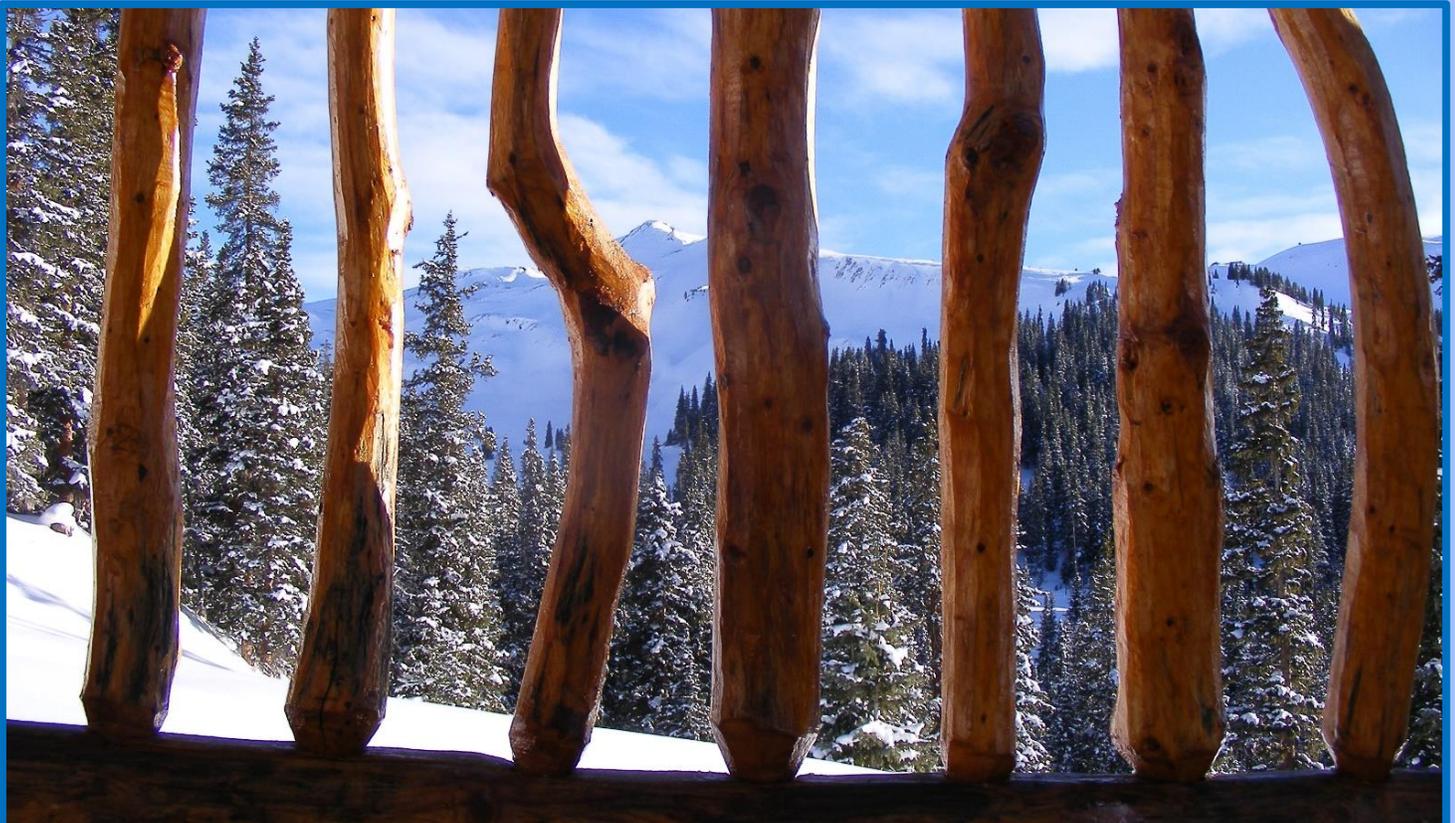
This trip is scheduled from January 7, 2019 – January 12, 2019 (including all travel dates). At press time, the trip is full, and the snow is getting deeper with each storm.

## Yurt Trip -- Flat Mountain

Join a group heading out for a 3-day, 2-night adventure to Flat Mountain Yurt, Cumbres Pass, near Chama, February 1-3 2019, leaving Albuquerque Friday morning returning Sunday afternoon. Enjoy spectacular mountain views, and local skiing options on the layover day. This is the same general mountain range as Wolf Creek, and traditionally has an abundance of fresh snow. Breaking trail in several feet of snow is possible. The trail is well marked, rated class 2-3, not very technical but strenuous with four miles and a gain of 1000'. This is a back-pack like trip, more rustic than a hotel or hut. The yurt has a wood stove and cooking supplies. Lots of tour and turn options on our layover day. No avalanche danger on the trail in-out, but it exists off-trail near the yurt. You will need to bring clothes, food, and a sleeping bag. Accommodation cost is \$70; food and transportation extra. Space is limited to 6 people. Contact [Scott Mitchell](#) for more information and to sign up. For trail maps and yurt information, see [Flat-Mountain-Yurt-Info](#)

<i>Calendar of Events 2018-2019</i>		
Wednesday	December 12 6:00 – 7:30PM	Classroom session- Beginning Cross Country Skiing Library at Tramway & Lomas
Thursday	December 13 7:00 – 9:00PM	General Meeting at Garden Club
Saturday-Tuesday	December 29 – January 1	Silverton car trip
Monday - Saturday	January 7 – January 12	Hut Trip – Peter Estin
Thursday	January 10 7:00 – 9:00PM	General Meeting at Garden Club
Weekend (1 day)	January TBD	Field Instruction - Beginning Cross Country Skiing Sandia Mountains
Friday-Monday	January 18-21	Bus Trip Leadville, Colorado
Weekend	January or February	Beginner friendly overnight trip (compliments beginning ski lessons)
Friday-Monday	February 1—February 3	Flat Mountain Yurt trip
Thursday	February 14 7:00 – 9:00 PM	General Meeting at Garden club
Friday-Monday	February 22 – February 25	Bus Trip Ouray, Colorado
Thursday	March 14 7:00 – 9:00 PM	General Meeting at Garden club

Don't get stuck In the Jail House!



Board Members 2017-2018			
President	Guy Miller	306-2628	<a href="mailto:President@nmccskiclub.org">President@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Vice President	Peter Marks	856-8237	<a href="mailto:VicePresident@nmccskiclub.org">VicePresident@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Secretary	Nancy Jenkins	269-0855	<a href="mailto:Secretary@nmccskiclub.org">Secretary@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Treasurer	Max Shepherd	270-5258	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@nmccskiclub.org">Treasurer@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Day Trips	Guy Miller	306-2628	<a href="mailto:DayTrips@nmccskiclub.org">DayTrips@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Long Bus Trips	Bob Potter Angela Welford	232-2486 450-6010	<a href="mailto:BusTrips@nmccskiclub.org">BusTrips@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Hut Trips	Guy Miller	306-2628	<a href="mailto:HutTrips@nmccskiclub.org">HutTrips@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Car Trips	Scott Mitchell	977-8893	<a href="mailto:CarTrips@nmccskiclub.org">CarTrips@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Newsletter	Dean Athow	275-1097	<a href="mailto:Newsletter@nmccskiclub.org">Newsletter@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Instruction	Ruth Bargman-Romero	842-9735	<a href="mailto:Instruction@nmccskiclub.org">Instruction@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Membership	Stacey Kittner	712-5638	<a href="mailto:Membership@nmccskiclub.org">Membership@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Meetup & Social Media	Dave Gabel	401-5723	<a href="mailto:SocialMedia@nmccskiclub.org">SocialMedia@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Programs	Bob Guarnieri		<a href="mailto:Programs@nmccskiclub.org">Programs@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Mailing/Egroup	Marilynn Szydowski	332-8018	<a href="mailto:egroup@nmccskiclub.org">egroup@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Refreshments	Teri Sheldahl	980-3241	<a href="mailto:Refreshments@nmccskiclub.org">Refreshments@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Trails	Sam Beard	828-0673	<a href="mailto:Trails@nmccskiclub.org">Trails@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Web Site	Eric Russell	281-1289	<a href="mailto:Website@nmccskiclub.org">Website@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Finding Us			
Web Page	<a href="http://nmccskiclub.org">http://nmccskiclub.org</a>		
FaceBook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/1663936723893594">https://www.facebook.com/groups/1663936723893594</a>		
Mail	New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club PO Box 51563 Albuquerque, NM 87181		

Ratings		
Class	Vertical Climb (ft)	Distance (miles)
One	Less than 1000	Less than 5
Two	Less than 2000	Less than 5
Three	Greater than 2000	Greater than 10
Four	Unpatrolled, mountainous terrain, with the purpose of downhill skiing. Slopes can be greater than 25 degrees. Knowledge of use of climbing skins, avalanche gear needed.	
Steepness of slopes, skill level, and stamina can also dictate the ski tour rating. Please see the webpage for more information. <a href="http://nmccskiclub.org/ski-outings/">http://nmccskiclub.org/ski-outings/</a>		

Avalanche Outlook	
US	<a href="https://avalanche.org/">https://avalanche.org/</a>
Canada	<a href="https://www.avalanche.ca/map">https://www.avalanche.ca/map</a>
Taos	<a href="http://taosavalanchecenter.org">http://taosavalanchecenter.org</a>
Crested Butte	<a href="http://cbavalanchecenter.org/">http://cbavalanchecenter.org/</a>
Some of the sites from <a href="https://avalanche.org">https://avalanche.org</a>	
Colorado	<a href="http://avalanche.state.co.us/">http://avalanche.state.co.us/</a>
Utah	<a href="https://utahavalanchecenter.org">https://utahavalanchecenter.org</a>
Tetons	<a href="http://jhalavalanche.org">http://jhalavalanche.org</a>
Yellowstone	<a href="https://www.mtavalanche.com">https://www.mtavalanche.com</a>
Sawtooths	<a href="https://www.sawtoothavalanche.com">https://www.sawtoothavalanche.com</a>
Central Sierra	<a href="https://www.sierraavalanchecenter.org">https://www.sierraavalanchecenter.org</a>
Eastern Sierra	<a href="http://www.esavalanche.org">http://www.esavalanche.org</a>

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