



SKI TRACKS

Newsletter of the Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club
Box 431 • Corvallis, Montana 59828



APRIL 2008

President's Message

The major item to report is the successful purchase of another Yamaha Viking to help in our grooming efforts. As you may know, during this past ski season, our grooming crew used two Skandic Snowmobiles and a 4-cycle Yamaha Viking snowmobile to groom trails at the Chief Joseph Ski Area. The Viking snowmobile proved to be a great buy since it is quieter and more powerful than our Skandic. In addition, as I have mentioned at several Club meetings, the hidden NASCAR it unleashed in our groomers has made them particularly eager to track in even the deepest snows and bad weather.

Recently Mel Mooers was presented with a great opportunity to purchase another 4-cycle Yamaha Viking snowmobile at a huge discount by trading for cash and one of our Skandics. This purchase was supported by the Club at our last meeting. Earl Philips worked feverishly in order to meet a deadline for submitting grants to the RAPP Foundation to help us take advantage of Mel's deal making. The RAPP Foundation just announced we were awarded \$1,000 to help with the purchase. The end result is that we now have a second new Viking with a net cost to the Club of only \$1,700 of Club funds and we will continue to look for other resources to cover this amount.

The volunteer work of the Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club groomers easily exceeds a value of \$9,000 each year and provides a valuable service to our Club members and the public who use the tracks at Chief Joseph. Keeping our grooming equipment updated says thanks to our groomers for their valuable contribution of time and energy and allows them to serve us and the public better.

I also want to thank Mel for his wheeling and dealing and Earl for his fast work and late night hours in doing the entire work of drafting and submitting the grant request. Finally, I would like to thank the RAPP Foundation for its generous support of the Club's volunteer efforts. As many of you know, the RAPP Foundation has been a constant and generous supporter of the Club's endeavors and this latest contribution is much appreciated.

Finally, the snow has been great all month and the forecast looks good through the last weekend of March and perhaps beyond. Touring through all of March allows you to feel the turn of the seasons as winter passes into spring. Don't miss it, the yard can wait, the snow won't.

See you on the trails.

/s/ George Corn

The Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club meeting on Thursday, April 10

will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, 1220 West Main Street in Hamilton at **7:00 P. M.** The program will feature Mike McEachern presenting "Romanian Caving Adventure in 3-D." Funny colored glasses will be provided.

/s/ Bob Schumaker

END OF A GREAT SEASON

By the time this rolls off the press, grooming will be over for this season but spring skiing will be good for some time as we have lots of snow for a change. It did come in bunches like bananas and mid-February was indeed a challenge.

As of March 21st we have groomed, or attempted to groom 23 times. My thanks to Jim Arneson and Allan Meyers, our regular crew, and Ed Hastings, Mel Holloway and Joe Navarra who helped out but didn't have nearly enough fun.

The new Yamaha Viking is an impressive machine and we are in the process of obtaining a second one. It is nice to have quieter and less polluting equipment.

Summer work will start soon after the snow leaves as we have many of the downed hazard trees to cut and stack to prevent further deterioration. This will be a wood supply for the Hut for a number of years, if we can salvage it. The clearing of stumps and other debris from the trails will continue.

We'll be attempting to obtain permission from the Forest Service to flag snow shoe trails this next season. There is a lot of interest in snowshoeing and Dale and Judy LaScala have volunteered to lead the effort. They will need your help to identify routes away from the ski trails that provide beauty and solitude.

Thanks for all your support this past season and have a great summer.

/s/ Mel Mooers

CANCELLATIONS AT THE GORDON REESE SKI HUT

As many of you know, the opportunity to host the Hut is extremely popular. The hosts are not charged for their stay at the Hut and, in return, they agree to accept some minimal responsibilities which benefit the Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club, the Forest Service and the many cross-country skiers who visit the Hut. It is ideal when the Hut is hosted every night of the cross country ski season but changes in plans, unexpected circumstances, illness, and sometimes emergencies result in cancellations by people who have signed up to host the Hut. Thus, the Bitterroot Cross Country Ski Club developed a plan for filling these cancellations.

Currently, we have over 90 families or individuals signed up to fill cancellations once we are notified. Sometimes we are given advanced notice of cancellations and sometimes circumstances result in a cancellation being posted the morning of the cancellation. However, when the cancellation notice is sent out by e-mail, we often get replies from 10 to 20 people. Thus, a lottery is used to fairly select someone to fill the cancellation. I am beginning to think there is a problem with the lottery since

it has not selected my name for a cancellation that I could fill.

We have filled 20 of the 23 cancellations that were reported this past season for an 87% success rate. We know that some cancellations were not reported and we hope to improve the notification of cancellations in the future. People who have filled these cancellations have come from Hamilton, Corvallis, Darby, Missoula, and Butte, Montana, in addition to Salmon and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

I want to thank everyone who has helped me fill these cancellations. This includes all those people who waited for an appropriate cancellation, those who failed to get selected for a cancellation, and those who hosted the Hut. Numerous skiers have commented that they wanted to sign up on the cancellation list after experiencing the positive attitude of the people hosting the Hut. I also appreciate the support of Dennis Havig, Patti Johnston, and Walter Harper from the Wisdom Ranger District who have provided us with the necessary information to keep this program going. I look forward to providing this program next year with the goal of keeping the Hut filled throughout the cross-country ski season.

/s/ Earl Philips

MARCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

March 13, 2008

By Kay Fulton

President George Corn called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. There were approximately 35 in attendance.

Membership Report: Jack Losensky reported that our membership numbers are now at 357 (just one less than last year). Nine are from Idaho.

Treasurer's Report: Jeane Lippert reported: Income, \$1,200.65; Expenses, \$1,141.43; Checking, \$5,057; Savings, \$3,236.

Upcoming Events and Items of Interest: The Annual May Potluck will be May 8th. We are looking for a location. Please contact Kay if you have a suggestion. (Editor's note: May Potluck will be at Judy & Allan Meyers, 712 Deer Ridge Road.)

Car-pooling next year: There was a request to re-institute a car-pooling system whereby we could publicize regular meeting days and times. If anyone is interested in coordinating an e-mail list also, let Kay know. Otherwise, we will probably just identify a parking lot and a time and then see if anyone shows up.

Trails Report: The groomers had groomed today and it snowed all day. The tracks were still in perfect shape. Mel also reported that the Club has an opportunity to buy a slightly used Yamaha Viking, like the new one we just bought, with 511 miles on it for \$6,500, as opposed to the new price of \$10,500. It would be a great acquisition since it is more powerful than the Skandics, quieter, cleaner and uses less fuel. Scottt Grasser of Lost Trail Ski Area has made the offer and is considering doing some kind of a trade for one of the Skandics. The Club will need to come up with about \$2,500 to \$3,000 to do so. Earl Philips has just completed a Rapp Family grant application asking for \$3,000. It spells out the contributions the Club makes in terms of volunteer hours, gas, and supplies already. They will keep us posted.

Cancellation Program: Earl Philips reported he has been able to fill 89% of the cancellations —21 in all, so far, with three (3) misses. People have been very excited about this service that Earl provides.

Old Business: Extravaganza report by Linda Stoudt: Pat Hastings, Mel Holloway and Bill Stoudt helped Linda with the dinner. Randy Lovell from Valley Bike, the winner, and his family loved it.

Change in the By-laws allowing the Immediate Past President to sit on the Board: In the January 10th meeting a motion was made, seconded and passed to allow the above change to the By-laws. It is necessary to announce this motion at two meetings prior to voting on it. It was not announced at the February meeting but was announced in March. It will be announced at the April meeting, as well as published here. Then we will vote on it in May.

New Business: George has had several people recommend that we do some early season Ski Lessons; such as an indoor presentation at a November meeting and then maybe an additional lesson on the trails in December, plus the January lessons. Mel Holloway has agreed to coordinate the January lessons and may help with the above suggestion. Thanks, Mel!!!

Program: Scott Battion of Tufts University presented a program on Ice-coring by the WAIS Divide Outreach Program in Antarctica. (Scott lives in the Bitterroot Valley.) His slide program showed pictures and graphs explaining how ice coring provides vital information about 100,000 years of climate change. The National Science Foundation provides funding, which includes workshops for teachers at glacier sites in Glacier National Park. Scott will be deployed to WAIS in the fall and promised a follow-up program when he returns next year.

Membership Renewals / Dues

Annual Memberships EXPIRE November 1!

Renew your membership now!

INDIVIDUAL \$15 • FAMILY \$25

SUPPORTING INDIVIDUAL \$30

SUPPORTING FAMILY \$40

LIFE MEMBER - \$500

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Nov. 1, 2007 - Oct. 31, 2008

MAIL TO: Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club

PO Box 431, Corvallis, MT 59828

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

City _____ ST ____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Type of Membership: _____
(Listed above)

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Newsletter preference: (Check all that apply)

Send by USPS _____; Send by e-mail _____

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