



SKI TRACKS

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



SEPTEMBER 2010

BITTERROOT CROSS-COUNTRY SKI CLUB MEETING

Thurs. Tuesday, October 14
Presbyterian Church, 1220 W Main Street
Hamilton

Here is your chance to sign up for a night at the Gordon Reese Ski Hut. To be eligible, you must renew your membership on or before the meeting. Watch a nature photo show by professional photographer Patrick Chaplin while you wait to sign up. And treats, too!

LOST & FOUND

There is a key ring and a set of keys at the hut. There are two Ford keys and a padlock key, along with what may be house keys. Call me at 961-3163 if they are yours and I'll bring them down on my next trip to the area.

/s/ Mel Mooers

TRAIL (etc.) REPORT

The annual work day/potluck was a great success. Although I received calls and e-mail that a number of regulars could not come, about 30 folks still showed up. The hut was thoroughly gone over and is neat and clean, awaiting December 1st when the hosting starts for the season.

Pat McCarron was back with us this year so the wood is stacked clear to the basement ceiling. There was a huge pile of wood waiting to be split and stacked and it was attacked with great vigor and enthusiasm. The two splitting crews didn't want to quit, but finally did. A few hard-core members came back on Monday and finished, leaving it all stacked and covered for the future. I paced off the piles and estimated about 19 cords!

Some of you may have noticed some red trees showing up. Beetles were first discovered last winter by Mel Holloway. On the Monday after we finished with the wood, Jim Aronson and I met with Regional Entomologist Brytten Stead and did a brief survey of some of the green trees in the vicinity of the hut and found that a large number of the trees had been attacked by the Northern Pine Beetle this year.

As a result of this meeting, the retired foresters who belong to the Club, and a few others, surveyed over 90 plots on both sides of most of the upper trails and found that a significant number of trees have been attacked. These trees will be very obvious by next summer; however, it's too late to save them from dying. We're working with the Wisdom Ranger District trying to decide the best course of action at this time. The trees that have been attacked would have to be cut down, debarked, cut and split or burned to kill the beetles that are currently in the trees and prevent them from infesting additional trees next year. As you can see, this would be a monumental task, although the Ranger District is planning to send saw teams into the area in October. We may remove the dead trees that are near the trail before the ski season gets under way.

Our goal is to prevent the closing of this ski area as happened to the area on McDonald Pass this past year because of the threat of dead trees falling on skiers. Stay tuned.

/s/ Mel Mooers

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, 2010 - Oct. 31, 2011

MAIL TO: Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club
PO Box 431, Corvallis, MT 59828

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City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

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Type of Membership: _____
(Listed above)

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BITTERROOT XC SKI CLUB

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Warming Hut Reservations (USFS Wisdom)		689-3371



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The president's message will be available next issue.

/s/ George

WORK DAY – POTLUCK **Heads Up!**

On Saturday, September 11th we will have a work day/Pot Luck gathering at the Gordon Reese warming hut to prepare for the coming ski season.

Bring your favorite goodies (first priority). Water will be furnished by the Club. You might consider plates, silverware, cups and your favorite beverage.

Bring gloves as we have wood to stack in the basement and I am bringing two splitters. There is way more than we can split on Saturday. If I can get some folks to help me, I would like to take some time in the next week or so to get it all split, stacked and covered, then not cut any more wood until what we have there is gone (which may not be long if a new gate isn't put in soon).

If you'd like to car pool, I'd suggest Quality Supply. Plan on leaving there at 8:00 a.m. as I'll try to have the gate open by 9:00 a.m.

We're not sure what the weather will be like so come prepared.

We look forward to seeing everyone again and to what might be another good snow year.

Thanks everyone.

/s/ Mel Mooers

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