

New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club



NEWS

January Meeting Re-cap

For those of you who missed our general club meeting in January, we had a great turn-out both in person and over zoom. Ed DiBello from New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors gave a wonderful presentation on the all-volunteer organization. There really are no such things as house elves or leprechauns who diligently maintain our open spaces and public lands. It is done by honest, hard-working, caring individuals so that we may all enjoy our recreation areas.

Our next club meeting will be a hybrid meeting on **February 10 from 7:00-9:00**. A zoom link will be sent out before the meeting for those wishing to join from afar. For the February meeting, we have a fabulous speaker who will be talking about **Search and Rescue**. **Evan Ashcraft** is an Albuquerque native who was a member of New Mexico Search and Rescue support team from 2017-2019 and has been a member of Cibola Search and Rescue Support Team since 2017. He is very knowledgeable and has great stories. He also happened to be one of the teams that rescued folks from the Tram in the incident last month. Come and learn all about our S & R.

Board Meeting Summary

NMCCSC Board Members met virtually over Zoom on January 27. We discussed some changes for board members for next season, talked about COVID testing for trips and finalized details for the Leadville car trip.

For next season Marlene and Peter will be switching positions. Marlene will be our new club VP and Peter will take over programs.

We are looking for a new Membership chair for next season. What does this person do?

- Monitors the club gmail account
- Collects membership dues beginning in October. Members pay their dues using PayPal. Transfer money accrued in PayPal to the club bank account.
- Sends reminders to members to pay their dues
- Sends emails to the Website chair and Egroup chair to add new members
- Attends board and general meetings
- Keep an updated list of current members
- Non-renewed club member purge

If you are interested in this position, please contact **Catherine at membership@nmccskiclub.org or Peter at VicePresident@nmccskiclub.org.**

Mailing list: NMCCSCEgroup@mailman.swcp.com **Website:** www.nmccskiclub.org

Meetup: <http://www.meetup.com/New-Mexico-Cross-Country-Ski-Meetup-Group/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Sports-Club/New-Mexico-Cross-Country-Ski-Club-199720217573925/>

Club Member Adventures!

Better late than never right? Here in New Mexico if it snows, you goes. Many of our club members have been out and about enjoying the snow on our local mountain, in the southern Sangre de Christos, Jemez, Taos, and Chama...just to name a few. I know it can be deceiving if you live in town. You look up at Sandia Crest and think, "Hmmm looks the same as it ever does. Where is winter?" Well there IS snow up there, and a pretty good amount too! The January 1st storm



Aspen Vista
Photo by Peter Marks



Beginner Lesson

dropped about 15 inches up there and a more recent storm laid down another 3 inches. As I write this it is snowing right now and I can't wait to get up there again. We have had a beginner trip to Redondo Campground, and intermediate ski in the Sandias, and another beginner lesson on the Crest. Want to join some of these fabulous outings? Pay attention to our facebook page and our membership club email! Members often post about outings they will be leading. Some of these are short notice, but when it snows, you've just gotta go!

WHICH SKI TOUR IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Ratings

Class	Vertical Climb (ft)	Distance (miles)	Notes
One	Less than 1000	Less than 5	Skiers should be able to execute stops and turns. Some Class I outings are appropriate for novice skiers. Persons with no experience MUST take the beginning instruction offered by the club prior to joining a Class I tour.
Two	Less than 2000	Less than 10	Class II tour requires intermediate skills and ability to maintain control on moderate slopes using snowplow and Turing techniques.
Three	Greater than 2000	Greater than 10	Class III requires advanced skills and ability to competently climb and descend steep, narrow trails. Skier should be experienced with using climbing skins and have plenty of endurance.
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.

<http://nmccskiclub.org/ski-outings/>

Trail slopes are categorized as follows:

1. Gently slopes have less than 5% grades.
2. Moderate slopes have greater than 5% but less than 15% grades.
3. Steep slopes have grades greater than 15%.



Margy's Hut Trip Diaries

This past week I finally was able to realize a dream I've had for years...exploring the Colorado mountains by staying in a 10th Mountain Division hut tucked away at 11,300 ft. in the White River National Forest. The amount of planning such an adventure is noteworthy. Doug Erb, with Guy Miller's guidance and Dana Price's experience, made the whole adventure well worth the effort.

The six of us drove in two Subarus made for such an outing. Having a hut that sleeps 16 was an added bonus. I was told that other hut trips had more members along but I was thrilled to have so much space and time to get to know my fellow hut mates.



The ascent to Margy's Hut covers 2400' in 6.5 miles. It definitely challenged this novice.

Arriving and attending to chores that get the hut up and running was invigorating. We were all motivated to get settled after the long day of travel and skiing (a 25 jelly bean ski according to Stacey). (John can tell you of his misfortune which turned into a great story and a challenge for Dana and Doug to take on the following morning.) That second day after Dana and Doug returned we all went off to summit Mt. Yeckel (aka Yemini, Yentl ..a 5 Jelly bean climb..maybe you had to be there?)What a thrill to reach 11,765 ft. I was so

impressed with the team's navigational skills. The weather was picture perfect.

Thursday, our second full day, the weather changed but our enthusiasm for an outing did not wane. We took off for Mt. Porphyry, 11,556 ft. Again, reaching the summit was such a cherished achievement (an 8 JB climb) That evening those that

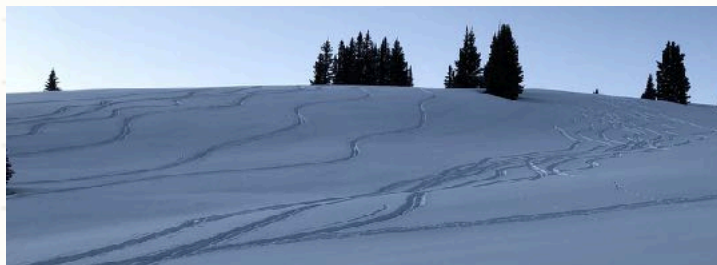
could get several "loops" in on a nearby beautiful slope. Seeing those S-trails as we skied out the following morning was so satisfying even for this rookie who enjoyed watching them be created.

We had great conversations, plenty of food and a fun game we decided to call "Letters to Words" (In under one minute!) Dana and Doug took the wordsmith prizes for being able to come up with the most unique words. The snow conditions and weather were superb.

I must admit now that I "survived" my first ever trip of this length and breath that I am feeling very grateful to have had this opportunity. This is why the NMCCSC plays such a critical role in getting people together to enjoy the snow.

- Cheers!
Vicky

Somewhere on the trail to Margy's Hut, I lost my cell phone! With soft snow on the ground and snow still falling, I gave up any hope of ever finding it. But Dana Price and Doug Erb didn't let a little thing like an impossible Quest discourage them. The next day they skied back down at least a couple of miles,
—John Watson-Jones



found nothing at the most likely spots, and headed back up. Then Dana felt a little catch on one of her moving skis, so she looked down, and her eye caught a short dark line in the middle of the trail: the edge of my phone! Those two skiers are truly heroes of the heights!



Captured 
Memories

How to Repair Delaminated Cross-Country Skis

(Adapted from norwiski.com)

Maybe you are new to cross-country skiing and you just picked up a used pair from the club for free! Maybe you paid a little something for an XC set at the Ski Swap this past October. Many of us are budget minded when it comes to ski equipment. Let's face it. New ski equipment can be expensive. Sometimes it is hard to know exactly the type of skis that you want, so why not start out with a used set or even something free? While getting into used gear is often a real bargain, it can come with some unfortunate side-effects that we need to be aware of before we take them out in the snow for some fun. Always give your new-to-you gear a thorough look over before you actually take them out. Make sure the bindings work properly and the laminated layers are soundly sandwiched together.

Most cross country skis are made with either a wood, foam, or

aluminum core, with a polyethylene ski base and a fiberglass, carbon fiber, or epoxy top coat. The layers are compression molded together using heat and pressure.

Depending on the types of layers your skis have, they can be built for strength, flexibility, weight and speed. What happens though if those precious layers begin to separate? You get

DELAMINATION. Does this mean that your skis can never be used again? Not so fast. Minor delimitation can be fixable so that you can give those used skis a second, or third, or fourth life!

I picked up a free pair of older Madshus 65mm light duty backcountry skis with a 3/4 metal edge and Rossignol NNN-BC bindings from the Sante Fe Ski Swap. When I got them home I realized each ski had a rivet placed

near the tip. On closer inspection it appeared they had become delaminated and someone carefully repaired them. I have used them almost exclusively this season and they have been great!

What causes delimitation? It is mainly caused by moisture entering the skis through damaged edges. If the skis are not stored in the right conditions or they have hit rocks while skiing, it damages the tips, edges, or the base of the skis and this could be the beginnings of delamination. No matter where you ski, if the snow conditions are less than ideal you are bound to find a few rocks and stumps that can ultimately cause some damage to your skis. If your skis have suffered a deep gauge that actually penetrated into the core, it is a good idea to take it to a professional at a ski repair shop.

What do you need for your DIY ski surgery?

- **Clamps**
- **Alcohol wipes**
- **Epoxy**
- **Containers (for the epoxy)**
- **Gloves**
- **putty knife**
- **Sandpaper**
- **Razor blade (Optional)**
- **Heat gun (Optional)**

It is recommended that you keep epoxy at home and repair the top sheet from delaminating by sticking it back the moment it starts chipping off. Check out this YouTube video below for a more in-depth instructional.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JaQluf8vujl>



1. **Clean the surface**

Be sure to thoroughly clean the surface that must be worked on. You can use sandpaper to gently remove build-up and then wipe clean with an alcohol wipe or damp cloth.

2. **Mix the epoxy until it is transparent**

Mix the epoxy resin and hardener in a 1:1 ratio. Read the instructions on the epoxy packages for best results. If the epoxy becomes too hard to work with, use a heat gun on a low setting to warm it up for easier use and fluidity.

3. **Apply the epoxy**

Carefully apply the epoxy solution to the ski's surface. Cover all of the edges and place the delaminated top sheet and press it lightly to prevent air bubbles.

4. **Clamp it together**

Use clamps to hold the layers together. You may wish to place rags under the clamp feet so as not to mar the skis while the epoxy is setting.

5. **Leave it to dry**

Once you have the clamps fixed, leave the setup for a minimum of 24 hours to dry and harden. Once you have waited the appropriate amount of time, unclamp the ski and check you work.

6. **Remove excess epoxy**

In all likelihood you will see some epoxy drips along the ski surface and edges. Use a scraper or file to cut off the excess and then gently rub with sandpaper to clean all epoxy residues.

7. **Give New Life to those Skis!**



CALENDAR	
February	
Feb 4-7	Car Trip - Leadville
Feb 10	General Club Meeting - Search and Rescue (Evan Ashcroft)
Feb 13	On-snow instruction - Advanced beginner/intermediate (Ellis Parking area) 10:00-12:00. Cost is \$10 per person
Feb 24	Board Meeting via Zoom
March	
Mar 10	General Club Meeting - place and program TBA
Mar 24	Board Meeting via Zoom

Leadville Car Trip or Bust!!!

Our club car trip to Leadville is almost here! There are about 40 members heading up! We are staying at Silver King Inn and check-in time is 3:00. Want to enjoy the groomed Mineral Belt Trail just outside of the hotel? You might consider arriving before check-in time to enjoy a little something to get those legs moving after sitting in a car for so long. The hotel is providing us a room so that we can enjoy some apres ski together with

fellowship and refreshments. And PLEASE: If you have not already done so, send David your vaccination information and negative COVID testing result prior to departure. ***This is very important, without proof of vaccinations with booster and a negative Covid test you will not be able to join us in any of our activities, inside or outside.***
Have questions? [Contact David at lbghose@aol.com](mailto:lbghose@aol.com)



TRAIL MAINTENANCE

If you've seen any of the club emails this season you will know how hard the trails maintenance crew has been working this year. In conjunction with the Friends of the Sandias group, they have removed dozens and dozens of downed trees so that our open spaces can be enjoyed by hikers, skiers, and snowshoers.

On January 17 the crew worked in two teams on the Survey Trail and successfully cleared all the way to the 10k junction. ***Team 1 included Dave Gable, Jamey Browing and Byron Garner and team 2 included Dave McCreery, Sim Cook and Cleve Sharp.***

The heavy winds that damaged northern New Mexico did not spare the Jemez or the Sandias so the crew really has its work cut out for them this year.

Alan Shapiro gave a detailed downed-tree report of the Coyote Call area. Dave Gabel removed numerous trees from the lower segment of the Coyote Call trail. Sam Beard lead yet another outing on January 29 to removed more of the deadfall from the Coyote Call area.



Are you interested in volunteering your time? Please contact Sam Beard at trails@nmccskiclub.org

Board Members 2021-2022			
President	Bill Heitz	259-8745	President@nmccskiclub.org
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