

New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club



March 2022

NEWS

February Club Meeting Summary

In case you may have missed our February general club meeting, you missed a great one! We all got to hear the “Tram Story” up close and personal from Cibola Search and Rescue. Can you imagine being stuck on an icy tram for 15 hours? That is exactly what happened to 21 people on New Year’s Eve. Conditions were incredibly difficult for helicopter flying and rescue repelling was a must. No one was hurt or injured in this incredible real-life harrowing event thanks to a conglomeration of rescue services. Thanks goes out to Evan Ashcraft for this extraordinary presentation.

Board Meeting Summary

The NMCCSC Board met via Zoom on February 24th. It is hard to believe but this was our last board meeting of the winter season. Our finances are in fine shape and we are discussing the future use of our Meetup site. We are developing a separate, temporary committee to discuss details for potentially using the Meetup site for instruction for next season.



Next General Club Meeting

March 10

It’s hard for me to admit, but our season is rapidly coming to a close. Our final club meeting will be on **March 10** both in person at the garden center and on zoom. Just because this is the closing newsletter of our winter season does not mean we hang up the skis. Not so fast. La Niña might take a break again and let us have a few more magical outings yet to come.

The speaker for this month on March 10 is **Vernon Bradley CPT, LMT, CKTP**. We are now at the end of ski season and slowly transitioning to spring and summer activities. Vernon is a personal trainer and massage therapist. He knows how the body works and moves and can help you achieve your goals. He studied massage therapy at UTMI-Universal Therapeutic Massage Institute in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He enjoys helping clients

personal fitness bodies. He loves and give clients protect their rather you come than a major Vernon will give on how to get in shape, and do it He may even give stretches and moves to get started.



working and with their and care of their to help educate guidance to help bodies. He would in for a tune up overhaul. us info and tips shape, keep in safely and sanely. us some

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/>

We are STILL 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.

THE CLUB NEEDS YOU!

SAVE THE DATE - Our annual club picnic will be Sunday September 25 at Oak Flats. Look for our Summer newsletter for details!

Club Donation to Enchanted Forest

As many of us know, the wind storm in December brought unprecedented 65-115 mph winds to the Enchanted Forest area. With over 30,000 trees down and yurts damaged and destroyed Enchanted Forest is in the initial stages of fundraising and re-building. So far they have a Go Fund ME site and their goal is to raise \$100,000.

They have raised almost \$30,000 toward this goal. As a club we are hoping to help out with their goal. If you wish to help give financial support, please make out a check to the **New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club**. You can bring it to our final general club meeting on March 10, or you can mail it to

Max Shepherd at 1413 Adams Street NE Albuquerque, NM 87110. The club will make a one lump-sum check to Enchanted Forest. Our deadline for checks is March 10. Should you miss the deadline, you can still make a personal donation via the Go Fund Me site at <https://www.gofundme.com>



Club Member Adventures

It's that time of the year again. It's almost time to force myself to embrace spring and then endure the summer heat. I've completely ignored the Pagosa Springs nordic grooming report and have had to admit that our ski season locally is nearing an end. I feel sad about it as I usually try to ski until the end of March often living in some weird twilight zone where I'm planting flowers one minute and skiing the next...but not this year. Time marches forward and change is in the air. But hey....next year we are

hoping for more snow (please?) and hopefully more outings! Despite La Niña and COVID we have gotten out there in the snow as much as we could. We've had several club ski clinics, practice sessions, meet ups at Oak Flats and other places. Many of our members have enjoyed a hut trip, a trip to Leadville and a trip to Vermont. I've been enjoying reading all about club member adventures as they venture out to hit the slopes or woods to enjoy what our state has to offer.

Advanced Beginner Clinic

On February 13, we were fortunate enough to have a clinic with professional ski instructor, Jon Dellios. Want to know how it went? Here are a few comments from some of the students.

"The advanced beginner clinic with Jon Dellios and Dana was just GREAT! My husband and I learned so much in the 2+ hours and happily look forward to many days of more skillful, safe and fun skiing. The "safe" part is a big deal for us at 70+ years old ;) Anyway, his presentation of key points, observations of students, and sharing of his life long experience with outdoor recreation and mind-body practices like yoga was so



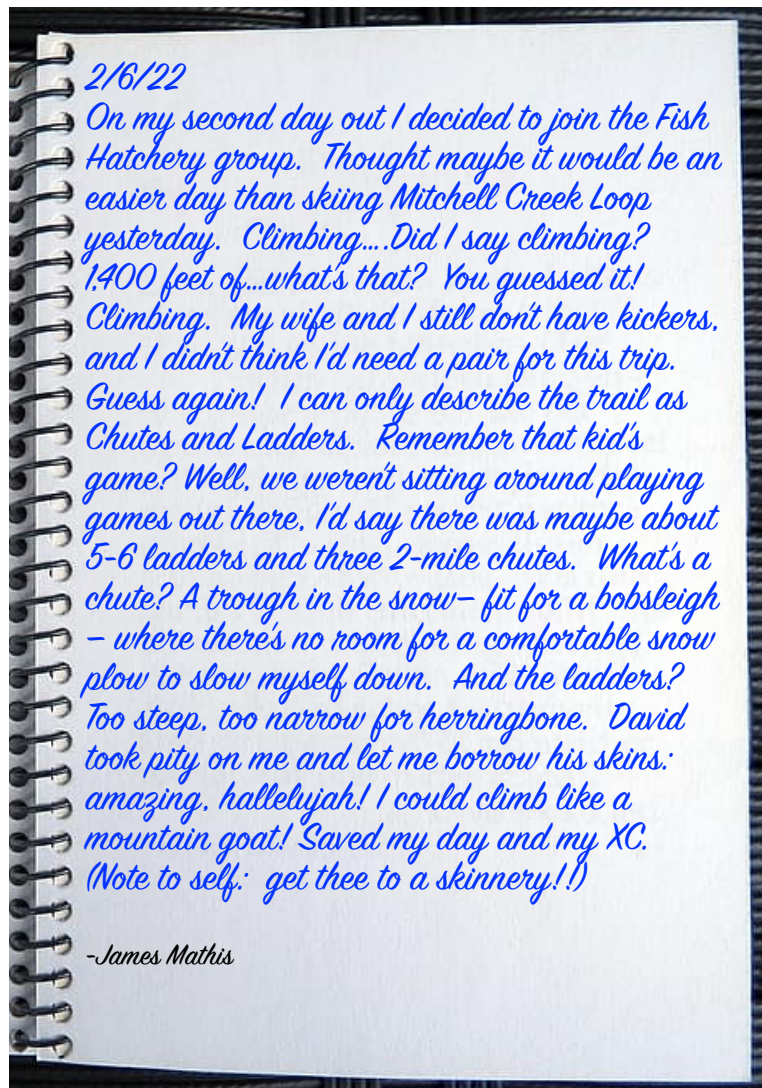
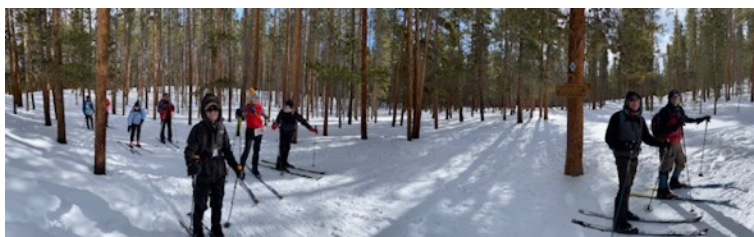
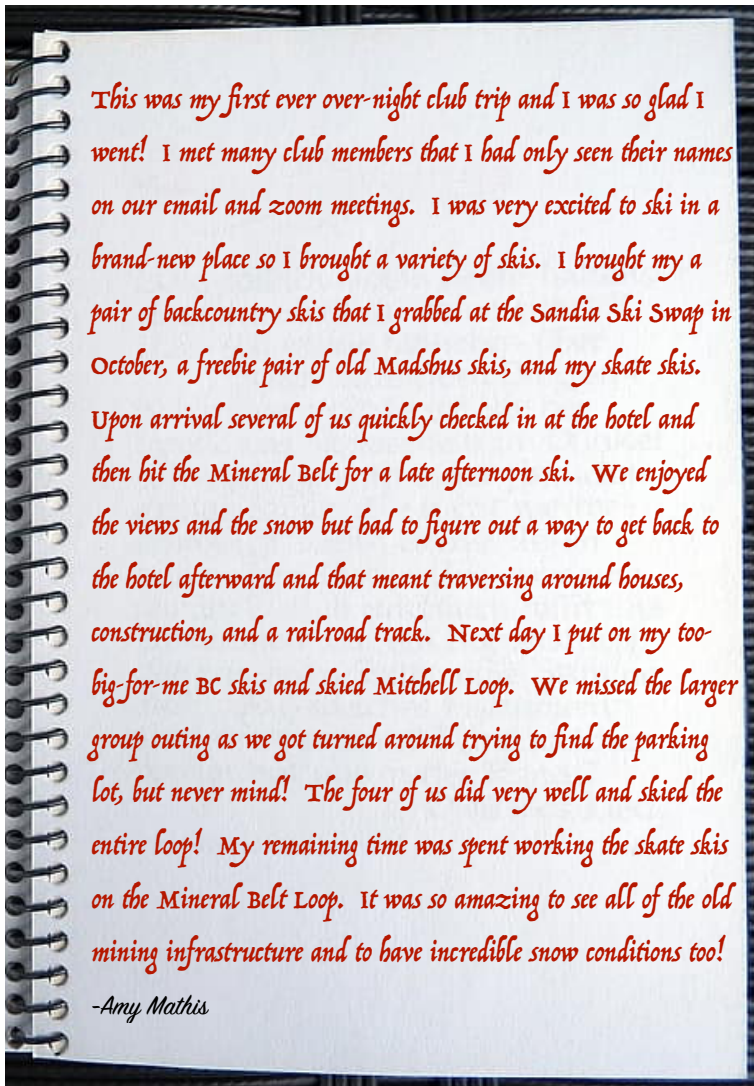
helpful. I am inspired and excited about getting back on the snow (though we may be close to the end of snow in Sandias) and trying out my new skills!" -Laura McCann

"My husband and I also want to give a "thumbs up" to the clinic by Jon. He is a great teacher and the love of skiing inspired us as well." -Laura and Lew Shepardson

Leadville

We had 37 people drive to Leadville for a wonderful weekend of skiing. Leadville is blessed with high elevation (the town is over 10,000 feet) and fantastic snow. There is a 12-mile groomed trail loop that surrounds the town plus numerous backcountry ski trails in close proximity to town. Our club members met at the common room for social gathering every

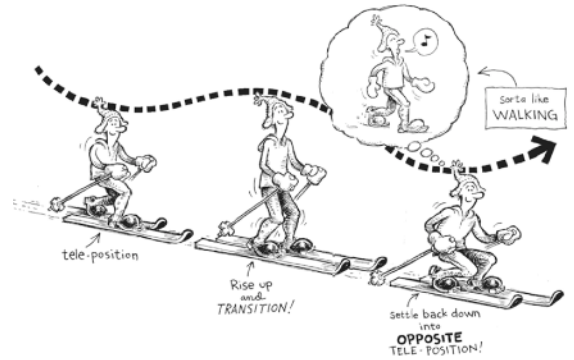
evening to discuss their adventures of the day and to plan for the following morning. Some groups skied Mitchell Creek Loop, Fish Hatchery, Lily Lake, Mineral Belt, Cooper downhill area and the nordic center just to name a few. What was it like? Check out the memoirs below.



Telemark Clinic



On February 26 Barry Ritchey lead a telemark clinic at Ski Sante Fe. His clinic filled up in a hurry and if you got to go, lucky you! Barry is an excellent teacher and has been tele skiing since the early 1980s. I didn't get to go this year, but I did last year and let me tell you...he is a wonderful instructor!



Vermont trip to Stowe

Several of our club members traveled to Vermont to enjoy some good 'ol fashioned New England weather. How about blizzard conditions and sub-10 degree days? Well that means the snow won't constantly freeze/thaw! The group got to enjoy good food, good fellowship, and good snow.

Other Club Outings

We actually got some great snow in February. Oak Flats is a favorite among our members and you can only enjoy that area right after a good dump. If you wait much longer it gets too warm to ski there. Several club members enjoyed the trail there after our February storm. How I wish we could ski there all season long!



Club members also enjoyed the Taos area, Coyote Call and Redondo Campground in the Jemez, Valles Caldera, and of course our own home mountain.



An Interview with our Trails Maintenance Chair

By Sam Beard and Amy Mathis

I'm sure you've seen all of the amazing things our trails maintenance crew does for us but have you ever wondered how they do it and

what is involved? Take a look at the interview that I did with Sam Beard.

Amy: Seasonal storms, historic fires, and dead trees all wreak havoc on our trails. It seems every year there is more and more deadfall to remove. What keeps you motivated to clear the trails?

Sam: We are motivated to clear the trails year after year because we so enjoy using them, because we want them to be available for other skiers, and because we know that no one else will maintain them. We relish the challenge of analyzing the fallen trees and deciding how to complete the job safely. We appreciate the special skills we have developed to remove fallen trees, leaners, and hang-ups and want to use them to open the trails. We like being out of doors and value the camaraderie of working compatibly together. For all these reasons, we find volunteer trail maintenance to be very enjoyable.

Amy: What are the tools that are needed to perform the work?

Sam: We use the following tools to remove fallen trees from trails: small and large pruning saws, 19-inch Katanaboy (KB) saws with aggressive teeth, one- and two-person crosscut saws, chain saws, pole saws, loppers, Pulaskis, axes, wedges, hoists, ropes, and pry bars. We use cant hooks and peavies to move logs off trails.

Amy: How many trees do you remove on a typical outing?

Sam: Usually, 6 to 12 fallen trees are removed from trails with hand tools on one outing, and about two dozen trees are removed with chain saws. When we have several sawyers and swamper's (sawyer's assistants), over 50 trees can be removed. We removed 100 fallen trees from a road on the Valles Caldera National Preserve in one day.

Amy: Can you describe some methods of how tree removal is done for small trees compared to large trees?

Sam: Methods used to remove fallen trees – Small trees up to 6-inches in diameter are cut with any saw and moved off the trail. Medium-size trees (8"-12") are cut with KB, chain, and crosscut saws. Large trees (12" to 36") are cut with chain and crosscut saws using special compound angle cuts so that binding of the saw does not occur.

Amy: Have you come across a tree that has been too large to remove from the trail? What are some optional methods of removal?

Sam: Very large trees not removed – In the Sandia Mountain Wilderness, a few very large trees have not been removed because the root ball and branches support the trunk too high for crosscut saws to be used. In this situation, we reroute the trail around the root ball or go under the trunk if it is well supported and stable. On Coyote Call Trail this winter, we found a huge root ball about 12 feet in diameter with a large trunk lying on the trail. We have cut off some of the roots and dug away some of the soil and rocks to make a bypass. When we can use chain saws, we usually remove all very large trees.

Amy: What certifications do workers need in order to perform trail maintenance?

Sam: Certifications – No certification is required to work on National Forests with small saws. When using crosscut saws, one of the two people on the saw should be certified. USFS certification is required to operate a chain saw. Certification requires a classroom safety session, practice with a saw, and field certification by a C-sawyer. Sawyers are certified as C, B, and A. A C-sawyer certifies B- and A-sawyers. B-sawyers can work independently and train A-sawyers. A-sawyers are apprentices who must work with B sawyers.

Amy: Have you noticed that the number of trees you have had to remove this season is more than for a typical season? Are the number of downed trees increasing? If so, why do you think this is the case?

Sam: The number of fallen trees on trails this year is greater due to high wind events. In the Jemez Mountains, trees killed in wildfires eventually fall and add to the number of trees that we remove.

Amy: Can you please list the trails that you typically work on?

Sam: Ski Club/FOSM (Friends of the Sandia Mountains) volunteers maintain the following trails on the Sandia Ranger District: Switchback, Buried Cable, Gravel Pit, Rocky Point, Survey, Ellis, Challenge, and 10K North and South. On the Jemez RD, the Ski Club maintains the following trails: Redondo Loop and Crater Spur Trail; East Fork Ridge and East Loop Trails; Ladera and Elk Ridge Trails on Los Griegos Mountain; and Corral Canyon and Calzada Trail in the Peralta area. On the VCNP, we maintain Coyote Call Trail. Due to the small number of volunteers working in the Jemez Mountains now and the large number of trees down, we are no longer maintaining several trails.

Amy: If a trail has been devastated by tree blowdown, how do you find the trail again so that you can begin working?

Sam: We find trails after devastating tree blow downs by looking for blue diamonds on the remaining trees. We also look for the trail tread (dirt path) that develops on all the trails. After a wildfire and the following floods, the diamonds have been burned and the trail treads have been washed away. We then look for the aluminum nails in the standing trees that secured the blue diamonds. We also usually remember the approximate location of the trail.

Amy: What has been the most rewarding part of trails maintenance for you?

Sam: The most rewarding part of planning and maintaining the trails on the Sandia Ranger District and the Jemez Ranger District is looking back over the past 50 years, seeing the trail systems, and knowing how much the public has enjoyed skiing and hiking on them. At any one fallen tree or group of trees, it is especially rewarding to complete the job and admire the clear trail that had been covered with trees a short time earlier.



Tool names starting in the lower left corner – short Corona folding pruning saw, 18-inch Corona pruning saw, 21-inch Corona pruning saw, long-handle loppers, Collins Hudson Bay axe, 19-inch Katanaboy folding saw, bucking wedge, felling wedge, chain saw protective leg chaps, hoist, Pulaski, chain saw, cant hook, pole saw, one-person crosscut saw, two-person crosscut saw.



Important Websites

Snow Report Sites	
OnTheSnow.com	Has the latest snow report for ski resorts in NM and CO.
www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/snow	Includes Snow Telemetry and Snow course data for snowpack information. Click on the blue dots at the site for updated info about current snow conditions.
https://sandiapeak.com/snow-report/	Our own Sandia Peak snow information
https://www.sandianordic.org	Sandia Nordic's latest grooming report news for the Crest.

Avalanche Outlook	
US	https://avalanche.org/
Canada	https://www.avalanche.ca/map
Taos	http://taosavalanchecenter.org
Crested Butte	http://cbavalanchecenter.org/
Northern NM	http://www.nnmae.org/
Some of the sites from https://avalanche.org	
Colorado	http://avalanche.state.co.us/
Utah	https://utahavalanchecenter.org
Tetons	http://jhavalanche.org
Yellowstone	https://www.mtavalanche.com
Sawtooths	https://www.sawtoothavalanche.com
Central Sierra	https://www.sierraavalanchecenter.org
Eastern Sierra	http://www.esavalanche.org

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 Tiring 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.		
<p><i>Steepness of slopes, skill level, and stamina can also dictate the ski tour rating. Please see the webpage for more information.</i></p> <p>http://nmccskiclub.org/ski-outings/</p>			

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%.





CALENDAR



March

Mar 10	General Club Meeting - ABQ Garden Center/Zoom
Mar 24	Board Meeting via Zoom

Other News

Sandia Nordic Ski Club had a recent article in the Albuquerque Journal. If you wish to read it, follow the link below!

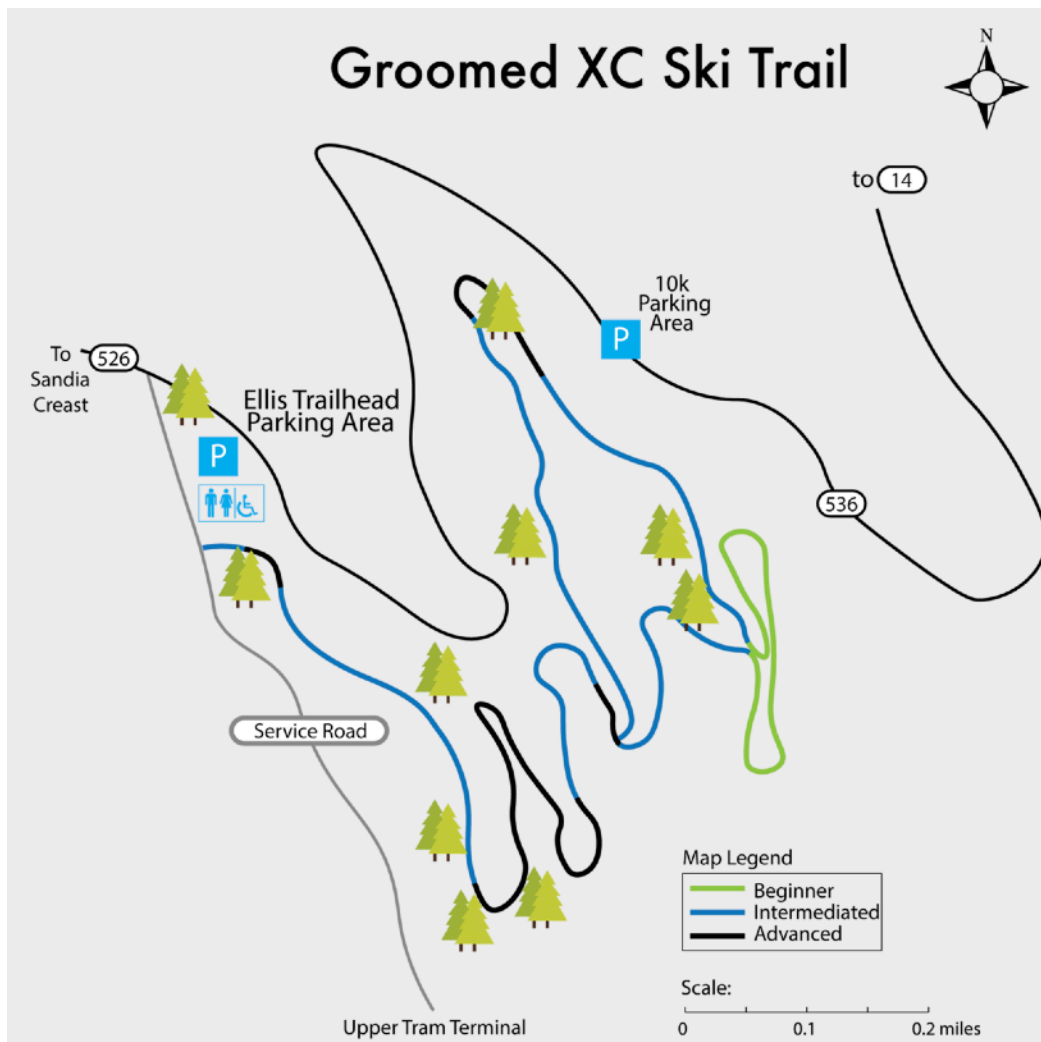
<https://www.abqjournal.com/2473361/sandia-nordic-ski-club-strives-to-grow-the-sport-while-helping-maintai.html?fbclid=IwAR2K4AxcaOHh2eDJGJb5P1t30p9w0KPtd2nAXtO9lwxdWgZbwNjXPqOAdj0>

UNM graduate student Jessica Yeaton competed in 5 nordic ski events at the recent Winter Olympics representing Australia. Follow the link below to read all about it!

[https://www.abqjournal.com/2472222/unm-grad-student-jessica-yeaton-competed-in-5-events-at-winter-olympics.html?utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter%20Audience%20\(subscribed\)&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=bf850a698d-EMAIL_DAILYNEWSLETTER_S&utm_edition=202202211508&utm_term=0_cebeada2dc-bf850a698d-109482918&fbclid=IwAR1nEaHB9XI58tOZzbjDfpgZ8H-wjJ0MySTMrKTFvzO5cyAWYEPGGVhpXc](https://www.abqjournal.com/2472222/unm-grad-student-jessica-yeaton-competed-in-5-events-at-winter-olympics.html?utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter%20Audience%20(subscribed)&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=bf850a698d-EMAIL_DAILYNEWSLETTER_S&utm_edition=202202211508&utm_term=0_cebeada2dc-bf850a698d-109482918&fbclid=IwAR1nEaHB9XI58tOZzbjDfpgZ8H-wjJ0MySTMrKTFvzO5cyAWYEPGGVhpXc)

Need some current information on snow? Check out the National Snow and Ice Data Center website out of Boulder Colorado. February ends not with a bang, but a soft crying whimper.

https://nsidc.org/reports/snow-today?fbclid=IwAR2fy5qEElauGFDHyh0mLkKG_E3EcZBFw-KRFmZch4E3fgeS6B4Mrug7rXw



Board Members 2021-2022			
President	Bill Heitz	259-8745	President@nmccskiclub.org
Vice President	Peter Marks	414-3005	VicePresident@nmccskiclub.org
Secretary	Nancy Jenkins	269-0855	secretary@nmccskiclub.org
Treasurer	Max Shepherd	270-5258	Treasurer@nmccskiclub.org
Day Trips	Guy Miller	306-2628	DayTrips@nmccskiclub.org
Long Bus Trips	Guy Miller & David D'Antonio	306-2628 553-2795	BusTrips@nmccskiclub.org
Hut Trips	Guy Miller	306-2628	HutTrips@nmccskiclub.org
Car Trips	Scott Mitchell	977-8893	CarTrips@nmccskiclub.org
Newsletter	Amy Mathis	808-344-8543	Newsletter@nmccskiclub.org
Instruction	Dana Price	417-9787	instruction@nmccskiclub.org
Membership	Catherine Waters	218-6936	membership@nmccskiclub.org
Meetup & Social Media	Bet Gendron	228-8025	SocialMedia@nmccskiclub.org
Programs	Marlene Brown	452-7202	programs@nmccskiclub.org
Mailing/Egroup	Marilynn Szydlowski	332-8018	egroup@nmccskiclub.org
Refreshments	Phyllis Pryor & Terri Elisberg	980-3241 450-9961	refreshments@nmccskiclub.org
Trails	Sam Beard	828-0673	trails@nmccskiclub.org
Web Site	Lisa Hales		website@nmccskiclub.org
Finding Us			
Web Page	http://nmccskiclub.org		
FaceBook	https://www.facebook.com/groups/1663936723893594		
Mail	New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club PO Box 50534 Albuquerque, NM 87181		

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