

# New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club



February 2023

## Upcoming General Club Meeting

Our local ski season is finally underway! I always get both excited and frustrated at this time of the year. Excited for snow and beautiful skiing on our home mountain and elsewhere, but frustrated because we now have all of these great outings piled on top of one another to take advantage of the conditions. Too bad we can't spread things out a bit more, but winter is short here so if there's snow, we go! Our club members have been enjoying a variety of outings from avalanche beacon practice, Crested Butte car trip, instruction, and skiing in many places in New Mexico.

Our **February General Club meeting** will take place at the **Albuquerque Garden Center on February 9th from 7-9pm**. Our club presentation this month will be given by **Rob Suminsby**. Rob will be talking about backcountry ski adventure on the Haute Route which goes from near Mt Blanc in France to the Matterhorn in Switzerland. Come and hear all about this amazing trip!

Mark your calendars because on **February 13 from 6-7pm Bryan Taylor will be giving an avalanche awareness presentation at the International District Library (7601 Central Ave NE)**. Bryan is a Level 1/Level 2 Avalanche Instructor with the National Ski Patrol and has been an instructor through the Colorado Avalanche Information Center since 2015. Register now on our website!

## NMCCSC Board Meeting

NMCCSC board members met via zoom on January 26.

The board would like club members to know that our new website has a multitude of information! (See Lisa's write-up toward the end of the newsletter.) Please go to our club calendar to keep up to date on our programs and outings that have been planned. You can also go to the "Resources" tab, scroll down, and visit our gear exchange list. This is the place to advertise any gear that you wish to list.

### **Board Members for 2023-2024 season:**

Several of our board members will be stepping down at the end of this season so we are looking for some new faces to fill these positions. Below is a very shortened description of these positions. Please head over to our website to take a look at more detailed descriptions of the jobs. You can find this information by going to the "About" tab and then selecting "Board Job Descriptions"

**Newsletter Chair:** Compile the monthly newsletter from current club happenings.

**Vice President:** Promotes the club through publicity and handles club meeting in absence of the president.

**Social Media Chair:** Maintains the NMCCSC Meetup Site.

## **Club Outings**

Hopefully you have been getting out and enjoying the snow this season. Want to know what our club members have been up to since the last newsletter? Read on to find out.

Several members ventured up to the Chama Chili Ski Classic. They got to enjoy some wonderful snow conditions, take advantage of the ski clinics, and race in the wooden ski race! If you have never been to that event, consider going next

The very next day we held an avalanche beacon training at Sandia Ski area. What a valuable training this was! We learned how to use our beacons, how to transmit a signal, how to search for someone buried in an avalanche and how to dig them out.

Club members have also been enjoying the Sandia trail, Norski trail and Aspen Vista in Sante Fe, the Southwest Nordic center near Pajarito, and trails in the Jemez. Whoo! Lot's to enjoy this time of the year.



year. The Chama groomed course is beautiful and challenging.

On January 21 we had our intermediate downhill techniques lesson at Ski Sante Fe. You may recall that January 21 was a stellar snow day due to a recent storm. That mean everyone in New Mexico was fighting their way through traffic to reach the ski area. The students were rewarded with great conditions and wonderful instruction to help give confidence on XC skis in hilly terrain.



**Avalanche Beacon Training**

The Redondo Campground outing was great success. Sam Beard lead a Class 1 outing around the loop trail and back to the parking area for lunch. Michael Arndt lead a secondary group on the loop trail in the forest around the campground and on to the Crater Spur Trail. Snow was falling and there was about a foot of fresh, new snow!



**Amy Near**



**Valles Caldera outing**

## Crested Butte Car Trip Success!

Our club members just returned from Crested Butte! It was a fabulous 4-day weekend in a Winter Wonderland. Folks enjoyed the Crested Butte Nordic Center and ventured out into the backcountry for an enchanting time in the snow.

### *Crested Butte - January 27-30, 2023*

*My husband and I joined the club just before COVID came to town. We hadn't been on skis much over the past decade or so due to living 11 years on Maui. We were happy to be back in New Mexico and eager to meet people and ski. Last year we enjoyed Leadville with the club and this year we got to enjoy Crested Butte. I'd say the most important thing for me on this trip was to meet other club members and enjoy their company. It still feels like we are new members and have gotten to know so few of you so these car trips have been an integral part of our social life and making another check on our ski-bucket-list. We arrived on Friday evening, dropped our stuff at the Old Town Inn and hit the Ranch Town loop trail just down the street. Dana, James, and I enjoyed a good, short ski after a long day in the car. The following morning we got up and enjoyed breakfast at the Inn and drove ourselves to the trailhead to venture into the Oh Be Joyful trail area. What an adventure it was! If you have never been in the backcountry before in fresh snow, it is quite a challenge to even find the trail! We slowly pressed through the wilderness in deep snow, taking turns to break trail. It was exhausting work but the scenery was well worth the effort. We were in moderate avalanche danger and as a new person to backcountry skiing, I must admit that I was a bit nervous. I faithfully wore my beacon and carried my probe and shovel. Suddenly we heard Boom...*

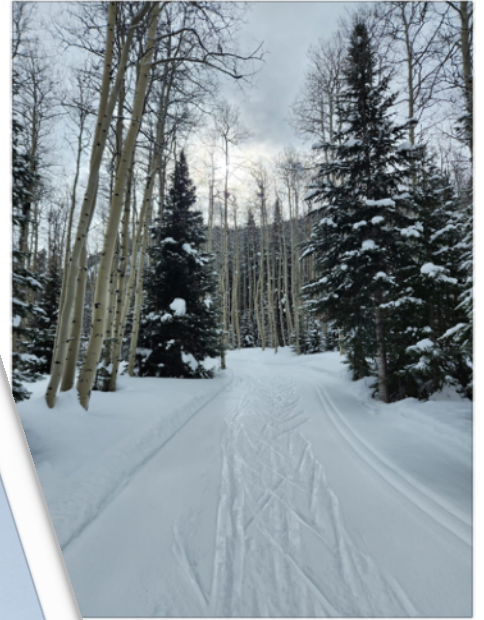
*BOOM! An avalanche cannon had been deployed in an effort to alleviate the avalanche danger somewhere near the valley. I put my avalanche pole in the snow and discovered 4.5 feet of coverage!! We skied on and I felt safety in numbers and safe in the presence of others in the group far more knowledgeable of the danger than I. We enjoyed a gentle descent back to the cars and headed back to the Inn for some Apres Ski and fellowship. The next day James and I joined several other members at the Nordic Center. I had never been to a world class nordic center and it was exhilarating. Oh how I wish I brought my skate skis but I had a grand time on my skinny classics. We enjoyed a break at the warming yurt and ate a thoroughly delicious and wholesome sweet potato soup and croissant. Our group covered nearly 10 miles of trail that day and my wine, crackers and cheese felt completely justified after a long day. Our final day was a 4-mile ski on the Crested Butte recreational trail. I must admit I was moving slower than usual. I was tired from 4 days of skiing. The snow continued to fall, making for a powdery outing. Next it was time to pack up and make the long drive home. What a wonderful trip! My favorite thing about the trip by far was enjoyed the social atmosphere of the club and getting to know our members better!*

*-Amy Mathis*

# Crested Butte 2023



Oh Be Joyful outing



Crested Butte Nordic Center outing



### **Harry Gates Hut Trip**

Remember what I said about ski outings being close together? Didn't get enough at Crested Butte or on our local mountain? Some of us are bound and determined to get more and are headed out into the Colorado backcountry wilderness for several days at the Harry Gates Hut. We will be skiing in at the Montgomery Flats area and making the 7-mile, 2000 foot climb up to the hut. We have a full crew wearing everything from AT gear to backcountry, tele, and light-duty BC skinnys. We will begin our adventure at the Beyul Retreat very close to the trailhead. We will be spending 3 nights at the hut and touring around the area before returning back down the trail to civilization. This trip will no doubt be a challenging but wonderful time in the

backcountry with good food, fellowship, and GREAT skiing. I'd better stop writing about it and start packing!

---

### **British Columbia Trip**

Nine ski club members will be going to British Columbia on February 27th to ski for 4 days at Silver Star Mountain Resort & Sovereign Lake Nordic Center. Part of the group will be staying at the Endorph-Inn at Silver Star Mountain and the rest of the group will be staying at a house that was rented through VRBO. You can ski directly to both of these nordic areas from these accommodations. If you are interested in joining us, you will need to find your own

accommodations. If you would like additional information about this trip, you can contact Peter Marks at [petermarks10@aol.com](mailto:petermarks10@aol.com) or 505-414-3005.

Silver Star Website: <https://www.skisilverstar.com>  
Sovereign Lake Nordic Center Website: <https://www.sovereignlake.com>



---

**Mailing list:** [NMCCSCEgroup@mailman.swcp.com](mailto:NMCCSCEgroup@mailman.swcp.com) **Website:** <http://ski.nmccskiclub.org>  
**Meetup:** <http://www.meetup.com/New-Mexico-Cross-Country-Ski-Meetup-Group/>  
**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1663936723893594>

---



## Enchanted Forest Cross Country Ski Area

Most of us are aware of the devastation that took place in northern New Mexico in the winter of 2021. Hurricane force winds struck down over 26,000 trees and destroyed several yurts. That awful weather phenomena made it appear the Enchanted Forest was gone for good and became yet another business statistic devastated by climate change or COVID. Not so! Shortly after the storm the Enchanted Forest ski community came together, developed a gofundme site, and put in hundreds of volunteer hours to clear the trails. So what is Enchanted Forest like in 2023? Is it worth the effort to get up there? The answer is a resounding YES!!

Enchanted Forest has a 9-inch base and has received enough snow this season for 100% of the trails to be open and groomed. They regularly set up classic and skate on Powderpuff, March hare, Jabberwocky, and Sherwood Forest.

Enchanted Forest still offers **skate and classic rentals, pulks, snowshoes, and ski lessons** for those wishing to give the sport a try. Not into skiing but are bringing your snowshoes? There are **snow shoe trails** to enjoy there too and you can even bring your four-legged fur baby on some of the trails.

Believe it or not, there are still some yurts that are rentable even after the devastation. Long John, Little John, and Latir Yurts can be booked online and chances are high that if you are looking for a weekday stay, you are in luck!

Want to enjoy Enchanted Forest and stuff your face with delicious local desserts? Book a ticket to the **“Just Desserts’ Eat & Ski” event on February 25**. This has been an Enchanted Forest tradition for over 35 years and will prove to be a fantastic time.

Rebuilding Enchanted Forest has been a monumental task and the community has endured

much grief and hardship. It is with a heavy heart that John Harris Miller & Helen Judy Miller passed away in November. They were longtime Red River residents and left an indelible mark on their skiing community.



If you have the time for a short stay, think about heading up to Enchanted Forest just outside of Red River, New Mexico. You won't be disappointed!

<https://enchantedforestxc.com/>



## Instruction Success!!

The weekend of January 7 & 8 was a busy time for our skiers! We held a beginner and intermediate clinic on our very own mountain.

On **January 7** we held a *beginner clinic* in the Sandias.

We had tremendous interest in our beginner instruction this year. Eighteen beginning skiers assisted by eight volunteer instructors came out on this beautiful, calm and sunny day. Having only 2-3 students per instructor is something we strive for and it allows for plenty of individual attention. One more advanced student was sent out to ski with another experienced club member, and one

student who came with AT gear got a side trip to the ski area for a short downhill run.

Students practiced getting up after a fall, kick-and-glide striding, and basic skills for uphill and downhill. After the skills instruction, several students skied the service road all the way to the ski area. Everyone worked hard and made great progress!

We had several new instructors: Amy and James Mathis, Ken Baugh, and Bryan Taylor, with Michael McDonald jumping in to help. Veteran instructors Ruth Bargman-Romero, Peter Marks, David D'Antonio, and Doug Erb rounded out the instruction team.

*Anyone willing to lead a class 1 trip would be greatly appreciated!*

Here's some feedback on our beginners instruction day from students.

- ✿ "My instructor is a -truly gifted- teacher with a lot of experience. He had us set individual goals, made sure we met them, gave a lot of detailed individual attention, went over equipment, forced us to self reflect, explained the physics. He had checked out the area ahead of time and had a game plan. He had first-timers going down rather steep if short hills. Very positive. He'd be superb at intermediate instruction as well I'm sure."
- ✿ "Thanks you for a lovely day! I had so much fun, and really appreciated everyone's patience in teaching me to ski for the very first time!"
- ✿ "Thank you SO much! I had a blast!"
- ✿ "Thanks for a great day! I really learned a lot from my instructor!"

On **January 8** we held our *beginner/intermediate clinic* with a professional ski instructor.

Sunny calm skies set the stage for a lot of hard work as ski club members gathered for the classic cross-country technique clinics with instructor Jon Dellios. We had 10 skiers in the intermediate/ advanced group and 8 skiers in the beginner group.

Jon is a ski marathon racer whose enthusiasm and

dedication to skiing shines.

He breaks down the biomechanics of efficient skiing: balance, alignment and angles, eyes up!, controlling your skis by keeping weight over the kick zone (that's \*in front\* of your boot), and poling with your core.

Jon had everyone working on balance and striding. The advanced group worked on downhill control and turns, weaving through a slalom course set up with traffic

cones. The beginners did a challenging balance exercise gliding on one ski.

The clinics were inspiring and challenging.

Jon challenged all of us to rethink how we ski and to pay attention to where our center of gravity is.

If you missed it, ask someone who was there. It was a lot of information and we all need to practice!

Or you'll just have to attend next time.

- Dana

## New Website Information

We have successfully (more or less) made the move to the new website. The old website homepage now relocates to the new website and all current members have accounts in the new system.

Here are some of the positives:

1) We have removed the need for a time-consuming yearly purge and manually processing members. The manual member processing was not only time-consuming for the board volunteers but also somewhat error-prone and could take a few days. Now new members get an account instantly and are automatically added to the egroup within 24 hours.

2) We have an easy-to-navigate website that allows us to post events signups on the calendar, restrict signups to members, post gear listings, etc. It has LOTS of good functionality.

3) My sense is that we are slightly ahead on membership to date because the website is easier to navigate -- the treasurer/membership would have to confirm if this is actually true.

Here are some of the negatives/things we/I still need to work on:

1) We are still learning the ropes of the right way to post events and process sign-ups. We have made some mistakes and learned that it is hard to undo mistakes in the system once they are made -- they carry through to the financial reports which

makes those more complicated (ie wrong). (Solution: I hope to write some documentation so that next year it is easy and clear how to set up and manage the events for our specific needs.)

2) Running all the money through Paypal results in more significant charges than we would like AND the reports we are getting are not at all easy to decipher. This has made more work for Max rather than less and it is making me really annoyed too -- I like elegance in my reports. (Solution: I plan to write some code that merges the financial reports from the new website with the reports from paypal in a way that organizes all the charges more transparently.)

3) We are having email delivery problems with our [.nmccskiclub.org](mailto:nmccskiclub.org) emails. I am attempting to reconfigure them to see if I can get around these issues.

4) We have had just a few people who have had trouble logging in/getting to the site. I have mostly managed to resolve their issues. Anyone having issues can email me at [lisarhales@yahoo.com](mailto:lisarhales@yahoo.com).

5) There is still content on the old site (outing photos, old blog posts) that I hope to move to the new website over time.

6) It is a little harder to edit the content of the new website. In particular the secretary and treasurer used to post their documents to the site themselves but the file posting interface in the newer version of wordpress is much more cumbersome (so much for progress!) so I want to find an alternative (a plug in or some added code) to make it as easy as before.

That is all I can think of right now, perhaps because the snow is calling me!!

- Lisa





# CALENDAR

## February

Feb 6-11	Harry Gates Hut Trip
Feb 9	General Club Meeting - ABQ Garden Center 7-9
Feb 13	Avalanche Awareness Presentation - International District Library 6:00-7:00
Feb 23	Board Meeting via Zoom
Feb 25	Telemark Clinic - Ski Sante Fe (beginners 10:00-12:00, intermediate 1:00-3:00)
Feb 25-26	Telebration 2023 - Pajarito Mountain - Come celebrate all things tele! \$45 for 1 day, \$60 for both days. Go to <a href="http://bit.ly/3J9prfO">http://bit.ly/3J9prfO</a> to preregister
Feb 27-Mar 3	British Columbia Trip

## March

Mar 9	General Club Meeting - ABQ Garden Center 7-9
Mar 23	Board Meeting via Zoom

## 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%.



Board Members 2021-2022			
President	Bill Heitz	259-8745	<a href="mailto:President@nmccskiclub.org">President@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Vice President	Marlene Brown	452-7202	<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	Guy Miller & David D'Antonio	306-2628 553-2795	<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	Amy Mathis	808-344-8543	<a href="mailto:Newsletter@nmccskiclub.org">Newsletter@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Instruction	Dana Price	417-9787	<a href="mailto:instruction@nmccskiclub.org">instruction@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Membership	Nancy Shane		<a href="mailto:membership@nmccskiclub.org">membership@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Meetup & Social Media	Bet Gendron	228-8025	<a href="mailto:SocialMedia@nmccskiclub.org">SocialMedia@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Programs	Peter Marks	414-3055	<a href="mailto:programs@nmccskiclub.org">programs@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Mailing/Egroup	Marilynn Szydlowski	332-8018	<a href="mailto:egroup@nmccskiclub.org">egroup@nmccskiclub.org</a>
Refreshments	Phyllis Pryor & Terri Elisberg	980-3241 450-9961	<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	Lisa Hales	925-528-8393	<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 50534 Albuquerque, NM 87181		



