

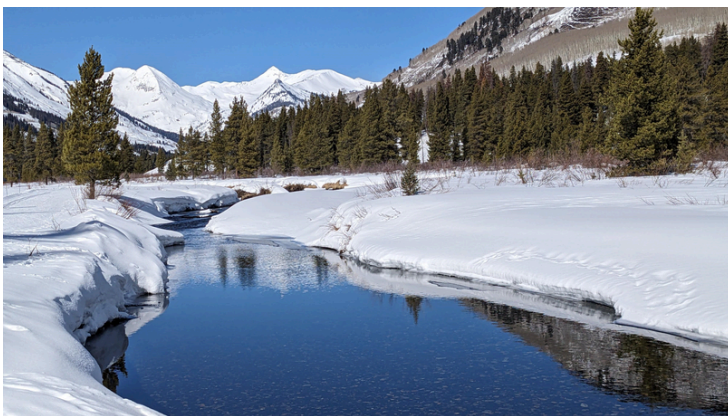
NEW MEXICO CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB

THE MONTHLY(ISH) NEWSLETTER

FEB. 2025, ISSUE 5

IS WINTER HERE YET?

The snowpack remains a challenge across much of New Mexico, as forecasts change, storm warnings vanish seemingly overnight, and club members watch snow totals in other mountain ranges (has Mt. Bachelor in Oregon really gotten 300 inches of snow this year??) with envy. Regardless of the paltry snow totals, club members have been out across the region making the best of things this past month. This will be a special extended edition of the monthly newsletter in order to capture all of the races, hut trips, car adventures, lessons and ski-shenanigans. Thanks to everyone who shared stories and photos. Please keep them coming!



A view from the Crested Butte Nordic Center trail system, shared by Susan Russo

CONTACT US:

- **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/
- **MAIL:** NEW MEXICO CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB, PO BOX 50534, ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87181

MEMBERSHIP RATES FOR THE 2024/2025 SEASON:

Individual Membership: \$25

(Children <18 are free with a member parent)

Household Membership: \$45

(Each household member must renew through their individual account. The second household member can use the discount code for \$5 off their individual membership. Use discount code 2NDHOUSEHOLDMEMBER)

Under-40 years old (First year only): \$1

(Use discount code UNDER40NEW)

SHRINE MOUNTAIN INN & CHUCK'S HUT

TRIP REPORT FROM JAN 25-29, 2025

Skiers: Eric Russell, Carol Meincke, Catherine Waters, John Stephens, Lisa Chai, Mike Gaffney, Miriam Vaughn, Penina Ballen, Maryse Lapierre, Stacey Kittner, and Guy Miller

Report (Courtesy of Guy Miller):

Shrine Mountain Inn consists of three sister huts, Jay's, Chuck's, and Walter's Cabins. The upstairs and downstairs parts can be rented separately. We occupied both floors of Chuck's. The trailhead, at 10,580 feet, is located near Vail Pass on I-70, not far from Leadville, Colorado. The 2.7 mile trail climbs 600 feet to Shrine Pass, and the hut is a scant quarter mile from there.

Eric Russell, Carol Meincke, Catherine Waters, and John Stephens have been on numerous hut trips with us. Lisa Chai and Mike Gaffney joined us along with Miriam Vaughn, Penina Ballen, and Maryse Lapierre. A late cancellation allowed Stacey Kittner to jump in at the last minute.

On the drive up, we saw little in the way of snow until we got to Leadville, and even that was unimpressive. But on the approach to Vail Pass, things changed, and it was looking like winter in the Rockies is supposed to look. The snow was sugary powder that maintained its consistency for our entire 3 night visit.

The ski in to the hut was moderately challenging but entirely pleasant. Some of us skied around a bit after arriving at the hut, and on the ensuing two days, we found plenty of Nordic touring opportunities.

Catherine, Penina, and Maryse took turns preparing group meals, for which we were most grateful. Mike insisted on washing dishes, so of course, we just had to let him. What a guy! We had our dinners together, and spent our evenings with casual conversation, with some of the ladies disappearing to patronize the outdoor sauna. On our final morning, the group members all pitched in for final cleanup before departure.

Another hut trip is now history, and in a few days we'll be sending in our application for another one for 2026. Stay tuned ...

Interested in joining the club for more ski adventures? Check the calendar for upcoming trips!

SHRINE MOUNTAIN INN & CHUCK'S HUT (CONTINUED)

PHOTO EVIDENCE OF A FANTASTIC TRIP

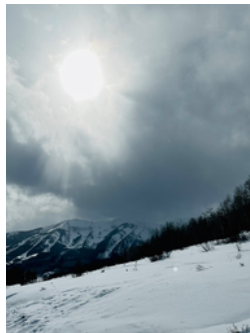


CRESTED BUTTE

TRIP REPORT FROM FEB 7-10, 2025

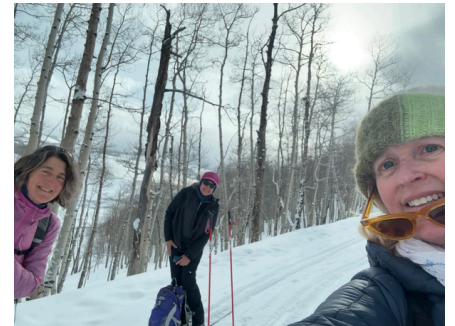
Skiers: 41 in total!

Report: A total of 41 hardy skiers ventured up to Crested Butte. The group reported nice accommodations with shops and restaurants within walking distance, great conversations, catching up with old friends and making new ones. Of course, there was lots of skiing! Many took advantage of the over 50km of groomed trails practically outside our door. Some ventured into the backcountry while others bombed down the ski runs at the resort. We all left with smiles on our face after a wonderful time.



CRESTED BUTTE (CONTINUED)

FEB 7-10, 2025



Deb Heath, Gail Borkenhagen, Nancy Shane, Marlene Brown, Amy Mathis, Michael McDonald, James Mathis, and Nancy Jenkins enjoying a trip to Crested Butte!



CHAMA CHILE SKI CLASSIC

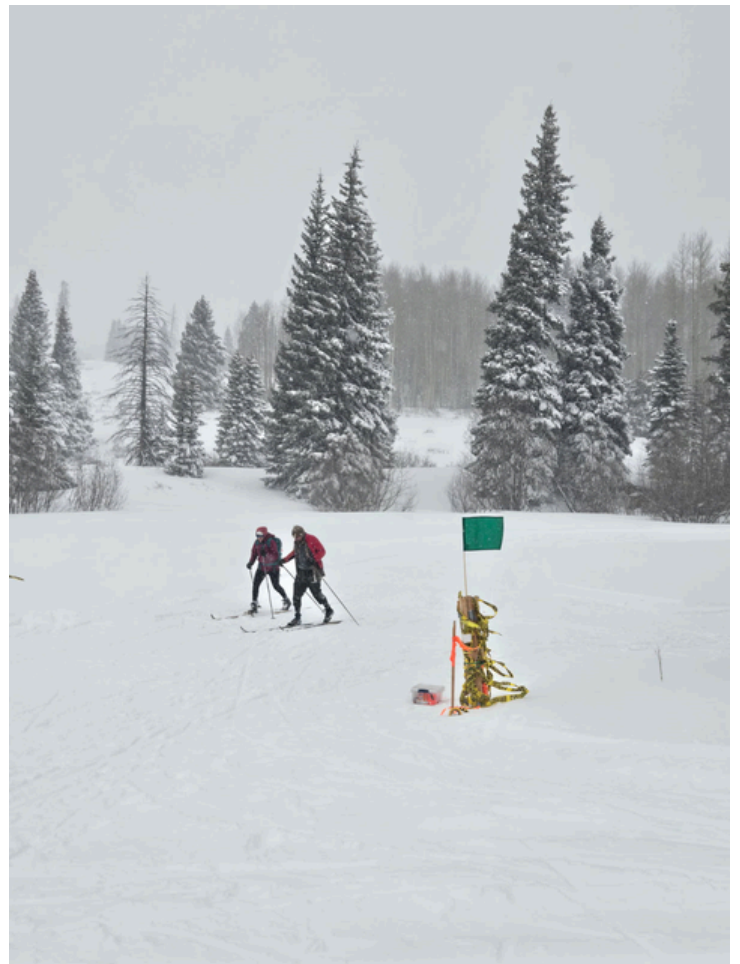
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2025

Though a lack of snow had pushed back the date of the race to mid-February, the delay paid off. The groomers had their work cut out for them on Friday and Saturday to get a track set in a whole lot of new snow (you can see one of two sleds that got caught in the snow in the picture below).

Several ski club members participated in the event. The course was beginner-friendly but had several short steep hills that got participants' hearts pumping going up, and were exhilarating going down! We hope to see more of our club members there next year.



Part of the course on the railroad grade, with a snow mobile stuck in fresh, deep powder beside the track. Thank you Dana Jones for the photo!



Dana Price and Pete (the 12k wooden ski winner--congrats!), warming up in the starting zone. Photo credit - Dana Jones

CHAMA CHILE SKI CLASSIC (CONTINUED)

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2025

Club Participants: Nicole Denham, Molly Arevalo, and Dana Jones competed in the 6k classic race. Nuttaphol Sinthavatorn completed the Rookie race AND skied the full 6k course afterwards. Mary Kaye Gallagher did the 6k wooden ski and Dana Price completed the 12k wooden ski. Deb Heath, Julie Fitzsimmons, and Ken Gordon also participated. **Nicole, Molly and Nuttaphol were all part of this year's beginner class. A huge congratulations for going out there so whole heartedly!**

Congratulations to event podium finishers, including Dana Price (who won second place in the 12k wood ski division, behind "Pinyon Pete") and DJ Jones (who won first in the 6k Classic event)!



Dana Price enjoying all that fresh snow at one of the many gorgeous spots on the course. A huge thank you to the race volunteers and especially the groomers for putting on a great event in challenging conditions!



POST-CHAMA CHILE SKI SPRUCE HOLE YURT TOUR

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2025

On Sunday, Dana led a ski tour out to Spruce Hole Yurt. Skiers were DJ Jones, Nicole Denham, Molly Arevalo, Nuttaphol Ma and Mary Kaye Gallagher. The group enjoyed lunch on the yurt deck then Dana led the group on 60+ minute tour through the woods in back of the Yurt. The group skiing out then met David D'Antonio's overnight Yurt group (Amy Mathis, Nancy Shane and Kim from Santa Fe) skiing in for the overnight trip.

**More on the Spruce Hole
Yurt Trip in the March
Newsletter!**



UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Feb 22, 2025

What: 2025 Telemark Clinic

Where: Ski Santa Fe

Details: Participation is free (though folks will have to purchase a full or half-day lift ticket). There will be a 10am-noon and a 1-3pm session targeting all skill levels. Meet at the bottom of the ski area outside the main building. Have metal-edged skis (wider is better) and a solid snowplow & ability to control your speed. Contact Barry Ritchey with questions

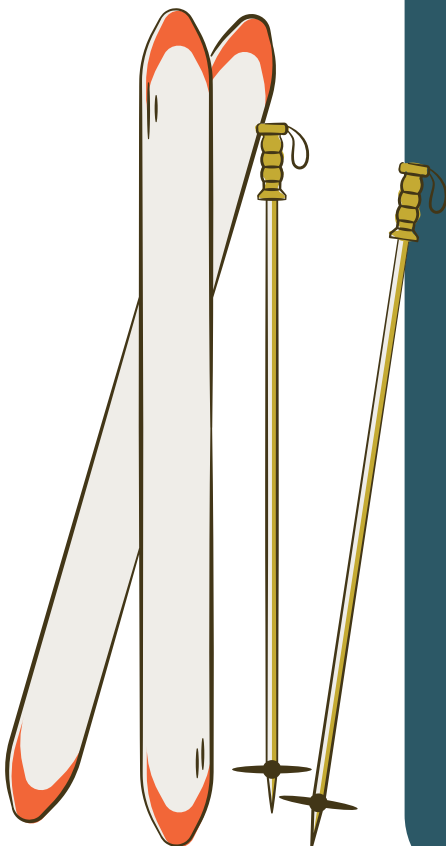


More gorgeous photos from Crested Butte, shared by Brian Shelley & Susan Russo



BOARD UPDATES

INTERESTED IN
SUPPORTING
NMCCSC SKI
INSTRUCTION ?



The NMCCSC Board and the present instructor, Dana Price, have decided it is time to fill a co-instructor position to start for the 2025/2026 ski season. Responsibilities include:

- Assist in updating beginner's classroom instruction slides
- Assist in scheduling beginner's classroom sessions, reserve library conference room for in-person instruction
- develop instructional materials and resource lists
- brainstorm/ generate ideas for instructional events and clinics
- coordinate ad hoc instructors to schedule outdoor events, avoiding conflicts with other cross country ski club events
- attend membership and board meetings
- develop clinic agenda ideas based on past instructional clinics and the present membership needs
- lead beginner and intermediate ski outings as well as recruiting other members to instruct in initial on snow instruction
- Support integration of new members to the club especially those members new to cross-country skiing.

Yes, it looks like a lot. It does come together easily as the season progresses. Dana has more than several years of experience.

Any questions, please contact either Mary K. Gallagher or Dana Price. Thank you!

BOARD MEMBERS 2023-2024

Position	Name	Phone	E-mail
President	Bill Heitz	505-259-8745	President@nmccskiclub.org
Vice President	Mary Kaye Gallagher	651-269-0477	VicePresident@nmccskiclub.org
Secretary	Nancy Jenkins	505-269-0855	Secretary@nmccskiclub.org
Treasurer	Max Shepherd	505-270-5258	Treasurer@nmccskiclub.org
Programs	Peter Marks	505-414-3005	Programs@nmccskiclub.org
Membership	Nancy Shane	505-934-5774	Membership@nmccskiclub.org
Newsletter	Kristen Little	812-614-0387	newsletter@nmccskiclub.org
Website	Lisa Hales	925-528-8393	Support@nmccskiclub.org
Social Media	Bet Gendron	505-228-8025	SocialMedia@nmccskiclub.org
Refreshments	Marcia Congdon & Geri Newton	505-301-6016 505-401-4351	Refreshments@nmccskiclub.org

SKI ACTIVITY COMMITTEE 2023-2024

Position	Name	Phone	E-mail
Instruction	Dana Price	505-417-9787	Instruction@nmccskiclub.org
Day Trips	Guy Miller	505-306-2628	DayTrips@nmccskiclub.org
Hut Trips	Guy Miller	505-306-2628	HutTrips@nmccskiclub.org
Bus & Car Trips	Dave D'Antonio & Guy Miller	505-553-2795 or 505-306-2628	BusTrips@nmccskiclub.org
Trails	Sam Beard	505-420-4475	samgbeard@msn.com