

NEW MEXICO CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NOV. 2025, ISSUE 7



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR THE 2025-2026 SEASON

ANNUAL DUES

Snow has already been falling in the mountains, and it's not too late to renew your membership for the 2025/26 season! If you would like to renew, please visit the membership website at: <https://www.nmccscmembership.org>.

Members can also go Membership -> Member Login, login to your account, and scroll down to click the "Renewal" button. Payment can be with credit card or PayPal.

Rates for the 2025/2026 season:

Individual Membership: \$25

(Children <18 are free with a member parent)

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

(Use discount code UNDER40NEW)

Household Membership: \$45

(Each adult must sign up for their own Individual Membership. The second adult can use discount code 2NDHOUSEHOLDMEMBER for a \$5 discount)



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



UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Nov 13, 2025

What: Second membership meeting of the 2025/2026 ski season - Starts at 7pm

Where: Lomas Garden Center, 10120 Lomas Boulevard NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112

Details: Membership meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. Kerry Jones, a meteorologist who spent 30 years with the National Weather Service, will be speaking to us about weather predictions for the upcoming season. Contact Bill Heitz, NMCCSC Club President, for any specific agenda items.

Nov 14-16, 2025

What: 2025 NM Ski Swap

Where: Expo NM - 300 San Pedro NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108

Details: Details and information can be found [here](#). Follow NM Ski Swap on Facebook to get more information. Volunteers are needed for the NMCCSC table on Saturday and Sunday. Contact club VP Mary K. Gallagher if you're interested in volunteering.

Dec 4, 2025

What: Beginner skier classroom session

Where: Virtual (Zoom), 6-7PM

Details: This online session will introduce new skiers to basic concepts, equipment, and techniques, and will precede the on-snow instruction later in the season. For questions, please e-mail Instruction@nmccskiclub.org.

Dec 9, 2025

What: Beginner Classroom Session

Where: International District Library, Multigenerational Activity Room, 6-7:30PM

Details: The class covers introductory information about equipment, nutrition, weather, and where to ski. Register on the club calendar.

Dec 11, 2025

What: December General Meeting

Where: Lomas Garden Center, 10120 Lomas Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112

Details: Speaker details TBD

Jan 10, 2026

What: Beginner On-the-Snow Instruction Day

Where: Details coming soon

Details: Free for registered club members. If you're new to skiing or just haven't been out for a while, this is a great opportunity to build skills and meet other members! Typically includes 2-3 hours in small groups working on basic skills and doing a short ski tour.

Registration will open on December 1st.

Email Instruction@nmccskiclub.org for more information.

Jan 11, 2026

What: Avalanche Rescue Review/Beacon Practice

Where: Details coming soon

Details: The class will be led by Doug Erb and will include a day of practice with our transceivers (beacons), shovels and probes. Topics include trail head checks, search patterns, coarse search and fine search, probing, and shoveling. Must be a current member of the club to participate

Jan 23-25, 2026

What: Grouse Creek Yurt Trip

Where: Near La Jarosa Peak, Colorado

Details: Join club members for a weekend of skiing in the Colorado backcountry. The [Grouse Creek Yurt](#) is a 4-mile ski in from the highway, with gorgeous mountain views from the yurt deck. **Registration will open on Sunday, November 23rd at 12:00PM.** Email David D'Antonio for more information.

NEW BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

LIZ MCGRATH

Liz McGrath is a long time resident of New Mexico. She retired in 2017 from Pegasus Legal Services for Children where she was the Executive Director for many years. Liz started her xc skiing career in western Massachusetts where she specialized in coming in last in every race she participated in. Liz is looking forward to getting more involved in the club this year and hoping for a super snowy season. Liz will be serving the board as a new member of the Snack Committee.

Welcome, Liz!



Jan 25, 2026

What: Skills clinic with Jon Dellios

Where: Ellis Trailhead

Details: Professional instructor Jon Dellios will be helping club members build their skills, confidence, and enthusiasm on classic skis. Intended for advanced beginners/intermediate skiers. Must be a current club member to participate. For questions, please e-mail Instruction@nmccskiclub.org.

Jan 31, 2026

What: Intermediate Downhill Techniques

Where: TBD

Details: Mark your calendars for the annual cross-country ski practice session. Details coming soon!

Feb 7-9, 2026

What: Spruce Hole Yurt Trip

Where: Near La Manga Pass in southern Colorado

Details: The club will be organizing a Presidents Day weekend trip to the Spruce Hole Yurt (more information on the yurt can be found [here](#)). This trip will be suitable for all abilities. **Sign-up will open Sunday November 23rd at noon.** Contact David D'Antonio (lbghose@aol.com) with any questions..

Feb 20-23, 2026

What: Long Car Trip

Where: Leadville, Colorado

Details: The group will be staying at the Columbine Inn. Trip will be suitable for beginners. With >60 miles trails in & around town, there will be something on this trip for everyone, from groomed skate and classic trails to ungroomed backcountry adventures. **Registration for this trip opens on Sunday, December 7th at noon.** Please direct any questions to David D'Antonio.

NEWSLETTER IDEAS?

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR YOUR SUGGESTIONS!

Have content you'd like to share? Photos of the snow or skiers you think should be included? Stories from recent outings? Topics you'd like to see covered?

Please e-mail Kristen Little (little31k@gmail.com) with ideas or suggestions for future newsletters.



Photo from the 2024/25 season Shrine Mountain Inn Hut Trip, courtesy of Guy Miller

SHRINE MOUNTAIN INN HUT TRIP

RECAP FROM A 2024/25 SEASON HIGHLIGHT FROM 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 ...



BOARD MEMBERS 2025-2026

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	505-414-3055	Programs@nmccskiclub.org
Membership	Nancy Shane	--	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	Amy Mathis Debbie Pierson Elizabeth McGrath	808-344-8543 505-450-8646	Refreshments@nmccskiclub.org

SKI ACTIVITY COMMITTEE 2025-2026

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	505-828-0673	Trails@nmccskiclub.org