

NEW MEXICO CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JAN. 2026, ISSUE 9



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR THE 2025-2026 SEASON IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T DONE IT

Now that it feels a bit more like winter in the Southwest, it's definitely time to renew your membership if you haven't already. Membership gives you the opportunity to sign up for hut and car trips, participate in classes, practice, and other skill-building activities, join groups for ski-outings, and peruse the buy/sell section of the website. To renew (or to encourage your friends & family members to sign up), 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!

Jan 31, 2026

What: Intermediate Downhill Techniques
Where: Sandia Ski Area (snow permitting)
Details: Mark your calendars for the annual cross-country ski practice session. More details on Page 3 of the newsletter!

Feb 3-7, 2026

What: Emmelyn Hut Trip
Where: Sandia Ski Area (snow permitting)
Details: The 10-person Emmelyn Hut is the newest addition to the 10th Mountain Hut System. The hut has incredible views of the Sawatch Range, including Mountain of the Holy Cross and Mount Elbert (the highest peak in Colorado). The hut is located just north of Leadville at an elevation of >11k feet. This promises to be an incredible trip.



Feb 12, 2026

What: February General Meeting
Where: Albuquerque Garden Center
Details: The monthly meeting will go from 7-9pm.

For more details and a complete list of other events, please see the club calendar on the website

Feb 7-9, 2026

What: Spruce Hole Yurt Trip
Where: Near La Manga Pass in southern Colorado
Details: The club will be organizing a weekend trip to the lovely Spruce Hole Yurt again this year (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.

Feb 21, 2026

What: Tele Rendezvous 2026
Where: Sandia Ski Area (snow permitting)
Details: Get those quads pumping and join the club for the annual tele-adventure! If Sandia continues to get good snow and is open, this year's Rendezvous will be held there. If not, we will meet at Ski Santa Fe. (TBD as the date nears.) Note to the tele-curious: This will not be a formal ski lesson. Instead, a sharing of experiences and tips to take advantage of the Telemark technique, as well as how to overcome its limitations. The goal will be to increase our level of fun and efficiency. Come and be part of the Telemark Tribe! For more information or questions, please contact Barry Ritchey, aka TeleRanger

INTERMEDIATE DOWNHILL TECHNIQUE: COME LEARN WITH US!

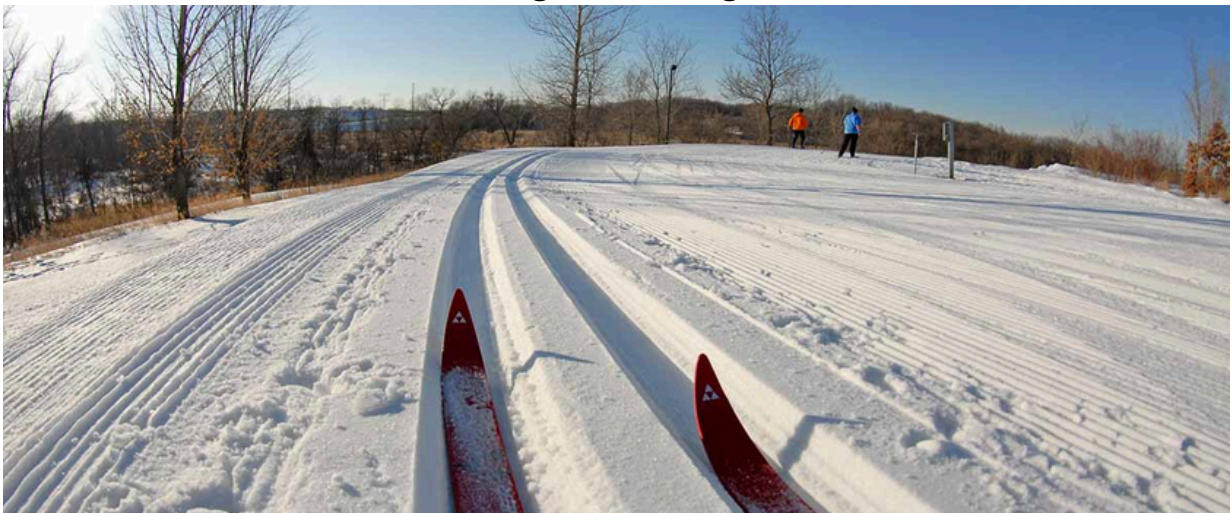
Want more intermediate cross country ski instruction? Come join Marlene Brown, assisted by other experienced skiers, on **Saturday, January 31**. **Snow permitting, we will meet at Sandia ski area** because it's closer to ABQ, lift tickets are less expensive, and it's less crowded.

The goal is to improve your enjoyment and confidence with class 2 / 3 tours of skiing on hiking trails (for example the trails in the Sandias and near Santa Fe). We will focus on balance and speed control techniques and therefore maintaining control of your skis while going down hill. Ski instruction is free, but you will need to purchase a beginner lift ticket. More info will be sent to those that sign up.

Required equipment: Whatever skis you use on class 2 outings. Skis with metal edges are preferred. NNN, NNN-BC or 3 pin bindings are fine. Lighter weight gear is recommended as it provides more of a challenge.

Space is limited- do not sign up unless you are going to participate and ski with the group! Purchase your lift ticket in advance at <https://www.sandia.ski/lift-tickets> It's \$41 in advance but likely to go up as it gets closer to the date.

Meet at the Sandia Peak ski hill 9:30 am READY TO GO - allow at least an hour more than you think it will take to get there! We will meet **inside the lodge**, do some introductions and walk over to the beginner lift together.



NEW BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

AMY MATHIS

Amy is originally from the northeast where she spent winters kicking around cornfields and woods on old wooden cross-country skis. She moved to New Mexico in 1996 to attend New Mexico Tech and only got to ski occasionally during her years in the central New Mexican desert. From 2007 - 2018 Amy and James raised their son on Maui where they exchanged skis for surfboards. Since moving back to New Mexico, she has picked up downhill tele, skate skiing, classic XC, and light-duty backcountry skiing. Amy works for Talking Talons Youth Leadership as a program coordinator and lead educator developing curriculum, and teaching youth about environmental issues and climate change. In her free time, Amy enjoys birding, hiking, backpacking, camping, and of course...SKIING!

Welcome to the Board, Amy!



NEW BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

The club's serving Program and Car Trip board members, **Peter Marks** and **David D'Antonio**, will be stepping down from their positions effective at the end of this ski season (a HUGE thank you to them both for all of their service to the club!). We are now looking for their replacements.

Without two club members stepping forward to help the club by assuming these responsibilities, there will no longer be someone to plan the membership meetings, programs, or the annual car trip to places like Frisco, Crested Butte or Leadville. Imagine that for a minute...why would you even join the NM Cross Country Ski Club??

You do not need to have a degree in Hospitality or Entertainment Management to do either of these jobs--Just a creative spark now and then to put it together. The good news is that both Peter and David will make themselves available not only to train, but guide the new people through a full season of actually doing Programs and Car Trips.

Our club has been very lucky to have these two outstanding Board members serving the club for several years now. It is time to turn the reins over to new blood and some new ideas. These are not difficult jobs to accomplish and you will not be alone. Far from it.

If interested, here is the contact information for Peter Mark and David D'Antonio:

Programs: Peter Marks 505-414-3005
petermarks10@aol.com

Car Trips: David D'Antonio 505-553-2795
lbghose@aol.com

BEGINNER ON SNOW DAY A SUCCESS!

A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL THE SKIERS & INSTRUCTORS

NMCCSC held a successful, if slightly chaotic, **Beginners On The Snow Day** on Jan. 10 for beginning skiers* and people wanting to refresh their cross-country skiing skills. A storm the day before made logistics challenging as we weren't sure if driving to our usual instruction place at Ellis would be possible. Many Albuquerque skiers rode the tram while several others braved the road. The groups worked on skills starting at opposite ends of the Ellis service road and eventually met up. With several instructors, we were able to have small groups of different interests/ ability levels to help everyone learn at the appropriate level for them (we hope).

Enormous credit goes to all our instructors and assistants: James Mathis, Dean Kuethe and Joe Kobliska leading the "roadies"; Michael McDonald, Peter Marks, Nancy Shane, and Dana Price, with the "trammies" (a James Mathis term that I'm sure will catch on)! Participants this year included John Bullivant, Brad Wolaver, Cathy Taylor, Debbie Bryant, Nuttaphol Sinthavatorn, Molly Arevalo, Tabatha McMahon, Anjella Shick, Rhea Trotman, Jill Sandal, David Sandal, Samantha Darling, Leigh Sellari, Robert Eager, Nathan Kandus, & Julie Hayes. For those who aren't counting, that's 16 students! There were several no-shows, possibly due to confusion because I sent the final update so late. But still a large class! Thanks to all who made it despite the challenging conditions and complicated logistics!

One instructor commented "I thought the day went very well. All of the people I worked with were very enthusiastic and wanted to practice on some things they were struggling with." Another suggested "One thing you may want to consider in the future is to have everyone together at first to talk through the basics and demonstrate everything before breaking into groups."

For anyone who is on the fence about participating in future club classes (or knows someone who is), consider this comment from a participant "Today was my first day on cross-country skis and I was very unsure of how I would do so I signed up for the beginners course through the NMCCSC. We met today and practiced on Ellis trail. I had an AMAZING experience and will definitely be a life-long cross-country skier, health permitting." This is wonderful feedback and a credit to all of you for helping make this a positive experience.

A special thanks to Nancy for swapping skis with Tabettha during the session after her bindings iced up. Fortunately taking the skis in to thaw out did the trick and Nancy was able to ski and helped Dana with the group of five "not very confident" beginners, one of whom needed some extra TLC. I couldn't have provided the extra care without Nancy being there. I am very proud of our small student-to-instructor ratio and the personal attention we're able to provide.

It sounds like everyone who participated had a great day and honed their skills--one of the participants even went to Chama and completed the 6k race the very next weekend! Thank you again for coming, and to all the instructors and volunteers for making the day a success.

FOR QUESTIONS, COMMENTS,
OR IDEAS RELATED TO
INSTRUCTION, PLEASE
CONTACT **DANA PRICE** AT
DANA41MPRICE@GMAIL.COM



Beginner* Day on Snow

***THE GROUP WAS NOT
ACTUALLY ALL
BEGINNERS, BUT
INCLUDED RETURNING
ADVANCED BEGINNERS
OR FOLKS WHO SIMPLY
WANTED A SKILLS
REFRESHER**



Evidence that
fun was had by
all (& what a
relief to actually
have some
snow!)

**REMEMBER TABETHA'S RULE: "WHAT HAPPENS AT THE GRAVEL PIT
STAYS AT THE GRAVEL PIT."**

Beacon Practice

Staying safe in the backcountry

On a beautiful Sunday morning 6 club members met up at the lower part of the Sandia Peak Ski area for the Avalanche Rescue Review. Members spent several hours reviewing essential backcountry equipment. Topics covered were trailhead checks, signal search, probing and shoveling. The class ended with a single and multiple burial scenario. Thanks to all who participated!

Photo & content credit: Doug Erb



Intermediate Cross-Country Ski Instruction

Building skills in lots of fresh powder

The January 24 Intermediate Cross-Country Ski Instruction was a success despite a foot of new snow on the crest and the closure of the new gate to Crest Road. Eight participants rode the Sandia Tram to attend. Those hoping to drive were disappointed and a few others were deterred by snowy highway conditions. Members of the Sandia Nordic Ski Club were up early grooming the Ellis Trail, and conditions were beautiful. John Delios led the group through balance, weight shifting, striding, training exercises, skiing without poles, downhill turns, and techniques for skiing downhill with confidence. He also stayed afterward to work individually with interested participants. It was a full and productive few hours!

IDEAS FOR NEWSLETTERS? IMAGES FROM
OUTINGS? PLEASE SEND ANY NEWSLETTER
CONTENT OR IDEAS TO KRISTEN LITTLE AT
LITTLE31K@GMAIL.COM. WE WOULD LOVE TO
FEATURE YOUR SKI CONTENT & PHOTOS.

Ski Area Spotlight

Club member recommendations on their favorite places to explore the snow

For those who haven't been, **Pagosa Springs** is about four hours from Albuquerque by car. The area has a variety of cross country ski trails, some groomed by the Pagosa Springs Nordic club. The Nordic club maintains a helpful [website](#) with information, including trail maps and grooming reports. NMCCSC member Robert Evans enjoys skiing in the area, and said "Some of my favorite trails include coyote Hill Trail, trails at Wolf Creek ski area, and Lobo overlook." Unfortunately, the trail at Falls Creek Road is no longer viable as the road has collapsed. While Pagosa has numerous options for accommodations, Robert recommends the Wyndam Pagosa condos, which can be booked through Airbnb and are usually plentiful, complete with a full kitchen. There are several options for renting in the gear in the area as well, including [Pagosa Mountain Sports](#), the [Ski and Bow Rack](#), [Alpen Haus](#), and the ski area at [Wolf Creek](#) (Wolf Creek also has their own groomed cross-country ski area and is worth the short drive from Pagosa!). For sore and tired muscles after a day of skiing, the Overlook hot springs are affordable, and the main Pagosa Springs Hot Springs are also popular (albeit often busy).
Happy skiing!

Have trails or ski areas in the region you love? Beta you'd like to share? Send your favorites to Kristen Little (little31k@gmail.com) to be featured in a future newsletter!



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