



Programs

What method and tools do you use for navigation on your ski tour: follow your nose, follow your dog, your fond memory, map-compass-sextant, smart phone, GPS, or some combination of the above. The program for the January 9th general meeting addresses the battery powered navigation choices.

"Gerry Trujillo will be presenting "Current Location Technology and Route Planning Resources." He'll "lift the hood" on the GPS system and explain how current systems provide us with our location on the ground. Topics covered will include how consumer GPS receivers differ from mobile phone location capabilities. Recommended practices for improving your device accuracy will be covered. Our expectations for position accuracy may change once we learn how external factors impact position reliability. Is the position provided absolute? Is a 10 digit coordinate better than a six digit coordinate? Should we still learn old school map navigation? What is meant by "Death by GPS?"

There are many products on the market that help us go from point A to point B. Our trust in the new technology may at times cloud our need for research and common sense of getting to our destination. Gerry will provide a brief overview of mapping and route planning applications as well sources for mapping data. Members are asked to share their experiences with hardware, applications, and workflows they utilize. You may submit your brief bulleted list to Gerry via email before the January meeting to gertruj@yahoo.com or at the meeting. Gerry will summarize those submitted on a follow up article in a subsequent newsletter.

Pagosa Springs Bus Trip

The bus trip to Pagosa Springs is set for February 21 to February 24. Lodging is at the Quality Inn. Trail options on the Pagosa Springs trip may be Fall Creek Road, Treasure Mountain, West Fork Rd., Radio Tower & Power Line, Summit to Wolf Creek Rd., and East Fork Rd. The Alberta Lake Loop provides groomed trails from Wolf Creek Ski area down to the lake and back up. Lift served downhill skiing available at 'Wolf Creek Ski Area', which typically has the deepest snowpack of all the lift served mountains in Colorado.

Direct any questions to the bus trip chairman Bob (hvac87108356@yahoo.com) or David (BusTrips@nmccskiclub.org). We hope you will join us for this fun bus trip season with lots of skiing opportunities!

Bus trip guidelines can be found at <http://nmccskiclub.org/ski-outings/bus-trips/>

INSTRUCTION

Beginning Cross Country Skiing:

The Beginner Cross Country Outdoor Session is scheduled for **Saturday, January 18, 2020**, in the Sandia Mountains. The meeting location will be announced to club members as we get closer to the week-end. The ski lesson is free, but one must be a ski club member to attend. The Outdoor session will focus on learning balance and control, kick and glide technique, side step and kick turns. Participants also practice herringbone steps up hill, and the snowplow.

More Information found at: <http://nmccskiclub.org/instruction/beginner-instruction>

Questions: contact our Instruction chairman - Instruction@NMCCSkiClub.org

Other Cross Country Ski Instructions

1. Intermediate XC ski instruction,

There will be an opportunity to improve on a few intermediate XC ski skills later in January or February. It will be announced through the ski club e-groups. It will be a 1/2 day practice session at the beginner hill of Sandia Peak Ski Area to sharpen ones intermediate skill set. (Please see focus areas for improvement on ski club website, under ski instruction, intermediate skills.)

2) Telemark Instruction and Backcountry tour, February 8-9, 2020 at Monarch downhill ski area

Barry Richie is considering doing a backcountry tour [beacon/shovel/skins] one weekend day and then do a tele lesson the other weekend day at the Monarch downhill ski area. More information will be available soon.

Questions and feedback: contact our Instruction chairman at - Instruction@NMCCSkiClub.org

Beacon Practice – Second Opportunity

It's your lucky year folks, a second opportunity for beacon practice if you could not make the first session. The plan is to practice at the gravel pit area on the service road (Ellis Trail Head parking lot), on Saturday, January 11, 9AM-Noon. Before practice, place fresh batteries in your beacon, and review the owner's manual. See the group wide email from Doug on January 3, for more detail, and Doug's contact information.

Ski under the Moon

The bus to Crested Butte arrives just in time for skiing under the full moon, on January 10. No need to make a reservation, just put on you moon glasses, moon screen, grab your skis and go. Following is moonrise data for the upcoming ski months, skiers are responsible for scheduling clear skies. Moonrise data is for Gunnison Colorado via mooncalc.org. Astronomical data for northern New Mexico and Colorado will be within a few minutes of the times listed below. Daylight savings time begins on March 8.

Date	Illumination @ Moonrise	Degrees above Horizon			
		0 (Moonrise)	30	40	50
January 8	96%	3:15	6:07	6:59	7:52
January 9	99%	4:08	7:01	7:54	8:47
January 10	100%	5:10	8:03	8:56	9:49
January 11	97%	6:16	9:08	10: 0	10:55
February 7	97.5%	3:54	6:47	7:40	8:33
February 8	99.8%	5:05	7:55	8:48	9:43
February 9	99.1%	6:20	9:07	10:01	10:58
February 10	95.2%	7:34	10:21	11:17	0:22
March 7	95.1%	3:50	6:39	7:33	8:29
March 8	99.0%	6:05	8:53	9:48	10:48
March 9	99.7%	7:21	10:09	11:08	0:19
March 10	96.9%	8:36	11:29	0:36	2:44

Trip reports



Volunteers have removed timber that fell across the trails last spring, summer, and fall. However, with a large population of weak trees, dead fall continues to come down across the trails in the Sandia's. So please be more careful this year on the downhill segments of the Sandia mountain ski trails (especially if coming up on a corner with obstructed vision).

Beacon practice was well attended. The organizer, Doug Erb shared the latest news regarding avalanches this season. Everyone in the group shared little pointers regarding equipment, techniques, and communication. Interesting to note how many useful little pointers were shared that are not in a textbook. Extra beacons allowed for multiple burial exercises, and chances for everybody to do the initial and fine search phases. As with any technical skill, one gets rusty without practice, it was very nice to see experienced people recognizing this and coming out to share and practice.

Places to Ski

Learn about Alpine Touring options in New Mexico and Colorado at REI, January 23, 6PM.

Janet's Cabin

This intermediate level hut trip involves a 4.6 mile ski in, and an elevation gain of just under 2000 feet. Skiers have the option of taking a free chair lift which is a fun way to cut a couple of hundred vertical feet off of the trip in.

Trip dates are January 20, 2020 to January 25. This includes an extra day to get home, if necessary, after skiing out of the hut. The cost is \$200, which includes group dinners at the hut. Guy Miller

Yurt Trip

Three spots have opened up, for the Presidents Day weekend Yurt trip. The trip involves 2 yurts Trujillo Meadows and Flat Mountain. Skiers can stay at one or both yurts depending upon logistics of who wants to stay in one place, and those who want to traverse over to the other yurt for the second night. The trail between the yurts is beautiful. Approximate lodging cost per person is \$80.

<i>Calendar of Events 2019-2020</i>		
Thursday	January 9 7:00 – 9:00PM	General Meeting at Garden Club
Friday-Monday	January 10- January 13	Bus Trip: Crested Butte, Colorado
Saturday	January 18	Field Instruction - Beginning Cross Country Skiing
Monday - Saturday	January 20 – January 25	Hut Trip: Janet's Cabin
Friday - Sunday	January 24 - January 26	Yurt Trip: Spruce Hole
Weekend	January or February	Beginner friendly overnight trip (compliments beginning ski lessons)
Thursday	February 13 7:00 – 9:00 PM	General Meeting at Garden Club
Saturday - Monday	February 15 – February 17	Yurt Trip, Trujillo Meadows and Flat Mountain
Friday-Monday	February 21 – February 24	Bus Trip: Pagosa Springs, Colorado
Thursday	March 12 7:00 – 9:00 PM	General Meeting at Garden Club

Board Members 2019-2020			
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Finding Us			
Web Page	http://nmccskiclub.org		
FaceBook	https://www.facebook.com/groups/1663936723893594		
Mail	New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club PO Box 51563 Albuquerque, NM 87181		

Ratings		
Class	Vertical Climb (ft)	Distance (miles)
One	Less than 1000	Less than 5
Two	Less than 2000	Less than 5
Three	Greater than 2000	Greater than 10
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/		

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

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