

Here's our new logo, created for us by David Macaset.



# X-C SKI MONTANA

News from the Missoula Nordic Ski Club and Around the Region

## Message from the President

We saw some good changes to our Nordic community last year. Mike Myers from the Rossignol team began coaching the juniors and the masters. Early season grooming at Lolo Pass was a huge success. Missoula Nordic Ski Club hats were dotting the trails. We had a record turnout at the first annual potluck at the Nordic Pines. Membership grew and the snow was good!

I'd like to express everyone's gratitude to our past and present volunteers. Thanks to Ed Van Aelstyn for his many years as treasurer of the club and Gordon Opel for always putting together a great Ozone race! Tory Kendrick has taken over as Treasurer. Ben Sullivan and Mike Myers are co-directing this year's Ozone race, scheduled for January 8 and 9 in Seeley Lake.

Fundraising is always a challenge for our sport. Thanks to REI's generous donation, we'll be able to groom the Rattlesnake more frequently. Tom McClay also

made a generous donation and is working hard to develop a world class downhill and nordic area outside of Lolo. Thanks to all our other sponsors, members and volunteers. This is a great group of people!

Now we just have to sit back and wait for snow...

Kathy McGann, President

*Kathy McGann is currently in her second year of a two-year term as president of MNSC. Besides Pattee Canyon, her other favorite ski destinations are West Yellowstone Rendezvous and at Sugarloaf Maine. Her secret ski extravagance is Toko fluoro spray wax. In the off-season, she is an avid cyclist and napper.*

Buy a great looking Missoula Nordic Ski Club hat for \$25. Proceeds go to fund the junior ski program.

\*\*\*\*\*

Is anyone interested in ordering a MNSC club vest, race suit or warm-up jacket for the 2005-2006 season? If so please contact Eva Karau or Kathy McGann. These items need to be ordered in advance, so they'll compile a list of people and items for a possible order next year.

<b>1</b>	Message from the President
<b>2</b>	Treasurer's Report
<b>2</b>	Annual Meeting Wrap-Up
<b>2</b>	Membership Dues Reminder: Club Nudges Membership Rates a Bit Higher
<b>2</b>	Thank You to Missoula Nordic Ski Club Sponsors
<b>3</b>	Ski Programs & Lessons For 2004-2005 Ski Season
<b>4</b>	Directory of Club Officers
<b>Insert</b> 2004-2005 <b>Race and Event Schedule</b>	

## *Treasurer's Report*

We have been fortunate to have had another year of great skiing and hopefully another to come. Last season the club purchased a "ginsu" style groomer that along with the hard work of our dedicated grooming staff helped make for those great skiing conditions. The club was once again awarded a grant from the State of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks that helped pay for our increased grooming expenses. Membership dues are another essential component of funding grooming. Our membership total stands at 225 members/families, which is a significant increase from last year! We paid \$3205.87 for grooming costs and currently have \$9320.88 in the club account. Special thanks go out to all of the generous members that gave additional contributions to help the Junior Ski Program!

-Tory Kendrick, Treasurer

## NORDIC SKIERS SOCIALIZE AT NORDIC PINES

Nordic ski enthusiasts kicked off the 2004-2005 ski season by gathering at the Nordic Pines Lodge south of Missoula on November 6<sup>th</sup>. About 60 members were on hand to visit, shop for club logo hats and browse Open Road's product demonstration booth. Following a pot-luck dinner, MNSC's annual business meeting convened. Meeting agenda included election of Vice President (Mike Myers) and Secretary (Eva Karau). In the next election cycle (2 years), the Vice President will ascend to the Presidency. In other club business Mike Myers presented information on ski lessons for juniors, adults and groups (see page 3) and the date of the club's race, the Ozone Pursuit was announced (January 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>). After club business, Steve Gaskill presented an informal seminar on the importance of rhythm and timing in skiing. If you didn't attend this year, watch for the postcard next fall and try to join us in 2005!

## MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

The winter of 2003-2004 will be remembered fondly by area cross country skiers. Some highlights of the season included the addition on MNSC club grooming on Lolo Pass in the early and late season, classic track set to the Franklin Bridge in the Rattlesnake (8 miles one way!), and many, many days of great snow in Pattee Canyon! I, for one, am hoping that the rainy August and September of 2004 are predictors of white stuff to come! Good snow years add up to money well spent on grooming, which leads me up to the annual dues reminder. After many years at current rates, MNSC has decided to raise membership dues *a little*. My newsletter archives only go back to 1997, but dues were at the same rate then. The new fee schedule is: Individuals \$18, Family \$30. It's a great season price for all that grooming and skiing. Feel free to make additional donations as you see fit! Dues envelopes are included in this issue. As always, thank you to all our members for your support! Happy Skiing☺

## A Special Thank You to this Year's Special Sponsors

Missoula Nordic Ski Club would like to extend our sincerest thanks to the following local sponsors. Their generous contributions support grooming and junior programs in the Missoula area. When making your ski purchases this season, please remember their generosity. Ski globally, shop locally!

- **Benefactor \$1000** REI (Missoula) \$1000 Contribution to sponsor grooming of the Rattlesnake!
- **Sponsors \$500-999**
  - Open Road Bicycles and Nordic Equipment, Junior Team Sponsor
  - Missoula Bone and Joint, Junior Team Sponsor
  - Northern Rockies Orthopaedic Specialists, Junior Team Sponsor
- **Friends \$100-499**
  - Sons of Norway Lodge 424, Junior Team Friend
  - Tom McClay and Bitterroot Properties.com, Club Friend

## **Ski Programs for the 2004-2005 Season**

Missoula Nordic Ski Club Vice President Mike Myers has a long history in cross-country skiing and is offering his coaching skills to area skiers this winter. Mike learned to ski in his native Minnesota at age 7 and has been a Rossignol Ski Team member for more than ten years. Mike's favorite races are the Noquegonan in the upper peninsula of Michigan and the Birkebeiner in Wisconsin. When asked the best ski advice he's ever received, Mike responded (like a true coach) "Always work on technique, it will never be perfect." Taking that advice to heart, he estimates that he skied 60-115 days last season! When not traveling for races or in support of Team Rossignol, he plans to headquarter in Pattee Canyon for lessons purchased on a punch card system, with great rates for lessons at \$5 per lesson for juniors and \$10 per lesson for adults. For details of the punch card system, see below. Punch cards will be available at Open Road Bicycles and Nordic Equipment and the Trailhead or by calling Mike at 728-5769. Consult the web site or call Mike for further details as the season develops. Former students report that Mike has a lot of enthusiasm and knowledge of skiing to pass on, so look him up and take your skiing to a new level this year!

### **Mike Myers Junior Skier Punch Card**

Parents may purchase a \$50 punch card for junior skiers containing punches for ten (10) half-hour lessons. A single card may be shared by more than one junior skier so a family might buy one card for more than one child to share. One half-hour lesson counts for one punch per skier. Lesson days for juniors are Tuesday and Thursday from 4:30-5:30p.m.

### **Mike Myers Adult Punch Card**

Adults may purchase a \$50 punch card that includes punches for five (5) half-hour lessons. Adult cards may also be shared so that couples might take a lesson together (2 punches) or separately (1 punch each time) in any convenient combination. Adult lesson days are Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00-4:00 and Wednesday from 3:00-5:00p.m.

### **Open Road Ski Lessons**

Open Road will be offering free skate and classic lessons to anyone interested in learning to Nordic ski. The classes will be scheduled in January and will be held at Pattee Canyon, snow conditions permitting. There will be a \$5.00 refundable deposit required to insure participation. Please sign up at Open Road starting December 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Open Road Race Series**

Open Road Bicycles & Nordic Equipment will again be sponsoring and organizing a race series at Pattee Canyon. The races will be held in January and will consist of skate and classic and a relay. These are short training races in the middle of the week. Entrance fees will again be donations to the Missoula Food Bank. These are fun races for anyone who races or is interested in racing. Don't be shy! Watch the web site and Pattee Canyon Trailhead for details.

The **MISSOULA NORDIC SKI CLUB** is a nonprofit community group whose mission is to promote cross-country skiing in the Missoula area. The club maintains and operates the equipment used to groom the ski trails at Pattee Canyon Recreation Area, a service provided under a special agreement with the Lolo National Forest. Yearly membership fees are \$18 Individual, \$30 Family, \$100 Business, \$100-499 Friend, \$500-999 Sponsor, and \$1000 Benefactor. Send check to: Missoula Nordic Ski Club, P.O. Box 7354, Missoula, MT 59807.

**Your tax-deductible membership fee will:**

- Help support cross-country skiing and ski-trail grooming in Missoula
- Buy you a subscription to the club's newsletter, X-C MONTANA
- Allow you to take part in instructional clinics and other club activities.

**CLUB OFFICERS and PROGRAM COORDINATORS**

President:	Kathy McGann
Vice President:	Mike Myers
Secretary:	Eva Karau
Treasurer:	Tory Kendrick
Grooming Coordinator & Equipment Maintenance:	Ray Johnson
Race Director:	Mike Myers
Newsletter Editors:	Diane & Jeff Brooks
Forest Service Contact Missoula Ranger District:	Joe Kipphut,

**Missoula Nordic Ski Club  
P.O. Box 7354  
Missoula, MT 59807**

**Stamp**  
☺

# 2004-2005 Calendar of Cross Country Ski Events

As always, the race schedule is subject to change and errors. Please contact race directors for verification. Check MNSC's web site, [www.missoulanordic.org](http://www.missoulanordic.org) for the most up-to-date race schedule information.

\* For races marked with a star, race dates are not yet set or unconfirmed. Please check website for schedule as it develops and for updates and additions.

## NOVEMBER

- 23-27 **West Yellowstone Ski Festival** (formerly known as "Fall Camp"), West Yellowstone MT, [www.rendezvouskitrails.com](http://www.rendezvouskitrails.com)
- 25 **Biathlon Supersprints and SuperTour Classic**, West Yellowstone MT
- 26 **Classic Race**, West Yellowstone MT
- 27 **NORAM Freestyle Sprints**, West Yellowstone MT

## DECEMBER

- 4-5 **NORAM Biathlon Cup #1**, National Guard Regional Championships
- 11 **SPAM Cup #1**, West Yellowstone MT, Classic Style, [www.rendezvouskitrails.com](http://www.rendezvouskitrails.com)
- 18 **Continental Divide Classic**, Bitterroot Ski Club, Chief Joseph Pass Ski Trails, MT 10K, 20K Classic Style, and a "Wood and Wool" category. Contact Tony Neaves 406-375-0852.
- \*11-12? **Lolo Pass Skiathlon**, Missoula Nordic Ski Club, Date still uncertain, but watch the web site for details [www.missoulanordic.org](http://www.missoulanordic.org)  
In celebration of the opening of ski season and to formally introduce the public to the "new and improved" grooming and facilities at Lolo Pass MNSC will host a skiathlon. Mass start with one lap classic technique, change of equipment, and second lap freestyle. Individual or team entries with an emphasis on FUN.

## JANUARY

- 8 **SPAM Cup #2**, Freestyle, West Yellowstone MT, [www.rendezvouskitrails.com](http://www.rendezvouskitrails.com)
- 8-9 **Ozone Pursuit, Missoula Nordic Ski Club and Open Road Bicycles, Seeley Lake MT**  
8<sup>th</sup> Skate, 9<sup>th</sup> Classic  
BBQ following races! [www.missoulanordic.org](http://www.missoulanordic.org), Contact Ben 721-3482 or Mike 728-5769
- 15 **Teton Ridge Classic**, 6-28km, Driggs ID, [www.tetonridgeclassic.com](http://www.tetonridgeclassic.com), [www.xcskiworld.com](http://www.xcskiworld.com)
- Jan30-Feb5 **U.S. National Masters**, Twin Cities MN, [www.xcskiworld.com](http://www.xcskiworld.com)
- \* **Glacier Glide**, Glacier Nordic Ski Club, Pete Metzmaker Glacier Nordic Center, Whitefish, MT, 12K, 6K, 3K, & 1K Freestyle races (Mass Start), race usually in January, but no word from race director.
- 29 **OSCR Ski Marathon**, Seeley Lake Ski Club, Seeley Lake MT  
10K, 25K, 50K Freestyle, 9:00 a.m. early start, 10:00 a.m. start, Contact Lynn Carey 406-677-2343

## FEBRUARY

- 5 **Boulder Mountain Tour**, Ketchum ID, 30 km point-to-point, Freestyle, 208-788-1550, [bouldermttour@aol.com](mailto:bouldermttour@aol.com)
- 6 **SPAM CUP #3**, Classic Style, West Yellowstone MT, [www.rendezvouskitrails.com](http://www.rendezvouskitrails.com)
- 13 **Klister Klassic**, Great Falls Ski Club, Silver Crest Ski Area, near Niehart MT  
9K, 18K Freestyle, 2K kid's race, Karen Kohut 406-727-3675
- \* **Whitefish Winter Carnival Race**, Glacier Nordic Club, Glacier Nordic Ski Trails, Whitefish MT 12, 6, 3 & 1km Classic Style Races (traditional kick & glide), race usually in February, but no word from race director.
- \* **Marco's Classic Cup**, McDonald Pass, Helena, MT; 13k classic, 11 am, race was in February last year.
- 13 **Mora Vasaloppet**, Mora MN, 800-368-6672, [www.vasaloppet.org](http://www.vasaloppet.org)
- 26 **American Birkebeiner**, Cable to Hayward WI, 1-800-872-2753, <http://www.birkie.org>, 51K through the woods of NW Wisconsin
- 26 **Payette Lakes Marathon**, 15-30k, McCall ID, [www.littleskihill.org](http://www.littleskihill.org), 208-634-5691, [www.xcskiworld.com](http://www.xcskiworld.com)

## MARCH

- 5 **Ben Ali Haggin's Mile High Nordic Ski Race**, Mt. Haggin Ski Area, Anaconda MT  
9K, 19K Freestyle, junior, youth, novice 1K, 2K, 5K, Joe Griffin 406-782-0316
- 12 **Yellowstone Rendezvous**, West Yellowstone MT, 10K, 25K, 50K skate, 25K classic, West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce
- 13 **Yellowstone Youth Festival**, West Yellowstone MT