

2008 NEWSLETTER

Greetings,

We hope this letter finds all of you in good health and ready to do some skiing and snowshoeing.

Last season the snow was a little late in coming. We started packing the base in mid December, by Christmas the trails were being groomed and we didn't quit until late March. We packed and groomed 23 days total, with most days two and sometimes three people. A HUGE thanks to Tom Bennet, Rod Obermiller, Matt Davis and Taylor Reed for all their time spent grooming the trails we all enjoy. If you see them out there grooming give them a thumbs up when they go by for their hard work. The chili feed was great this year with about 55 people attending to enjoy the great weather, good friends and great chili donated by Stephanie Zier. The date for this seasons chili feed is January 31st and the hot dog roast on March 7th.

This past summer and fall has been busy with the acquisition of some new equipment and doing a ton of work on the ski trails. Some of the things that were accomplished were:

- One re-route on the lower section of the Flume Trail
- Three re-routes on the Prune Creek Trail
- One re-route on the Blue Creek Trail
- Some general widening of all the trails especially on the downhill sections.
- Re-marking all the new routes

I won't go into a lot of details on the exact locations of the re-routes, except for the Prune Creek Trail. On the west side of the loop if you are skiing clockwise in the old clear-cut area, we moved the trail on to the logging road to bi-pass the steep downhill section in the timber as you approach the meadow where the Blue Creek Trail is. The other is in the middle of the trail as it bi-passes the steep dip as I call it. These and the other re-routes were done primarily for safety. All the trails are skiable when there is soft new snow but when things get hard and icy some of the sections are down right dangerous. This will also make it easier for the groomers to negotiate the trails with the equipment. Getting an 800+lb snowmobile, with a heavy groomer attached, stuck on a steep hill is just more fun than you could imagine. With all the work that has been done, some of the trails may be wide enough to accommodate skate skiing this year. We had three organized work days this year but there has been many other days spent doing trail work. There were hundreds of hours by club volunteers and Forest Service employees spent on the trails this summer and fall. Thank you all!

We have acquired all the new equipment from our grant we were awarded last winter from the Wyoming State Trails Program. These grants required a 20% match (this is our third) which, with all your support, has enabled us to continue to improve the quality of the grooming of the Cutler and Sibley Trails. The equipment we purchased is:

- 21' Interstate enclosed trailer
- Yamaha Viking four stroke Snowmobile
- YTS Roller / Compactor for the Cutler Trails

The new trailer will be used at Sibley as the old trailer is too small to house the newer snowmobiles. The Yamaha will replace the 1980 SkiDoo Alpine as a primary use machine at the Sibley location. We will still use the Alpine, just not as much. The new Yamaha is a very quiet, fuel efficient and powerful machine and should work well. The new Roller / Compactor will be used at the Cutler Trails.

A couple of other major acquisitions this year were a four stroke gas trimmer for cutting small lodge pole pines that encroach on the sides of the trails. Three Peaks Irrigation donated \$300.00 towards the purchase. (I had been using my own trimmer for the last few years) The other item was a small flatbed trailer to use for the port-a-potty at the Cutler Trail.

Tom Bennet and I have countless hours this spring and fall repairing and servicing the existing equipment, modifying the new equipment to fit our needs and hauling everything off the mountain in the spring and back up the in the fall. Without Tom's help I could not have got everything done this year

As previously mentioned, there will be a Port-a-Potty at the Cutler Trails this year. The Forest Service is providing the Port-a-Potty and we are providing the trailer and transportation of it. It is located next to the trailer about 100 yards off the highway.

There is always a lot of work done behind the scenes, as with any organization. Our officers and board members are:

Curt Schwamb - President

Julie Davidson - Vice President

Linda Schwamb – Secretary

Dale Jacobson – Treasurer

Claudia Schaffer – Board Member

Robert Nickens – Board Member

Steve Baribeau – Board Member

Mike Trout – Board Member

Mike and Steve are replacing Charmain Reed and Anita Edington who have moved away.

Tenley Spear still takes good care of our website:

http://www.geocities.com/bmmsc2002/classic_blue.html?1036373830350

The club email address is: blackmtnnordic@bresnan.net

If you don't have the address in your favorites just Google the club name and it is the first one up.

There is a classified section if you are selling or needing something. We just ask that you email Tenley when you no longer need the ad posted. Otherwise all postings will be cleared at the end of the season.

The club operates under a volunteer agreement with the Forest Service that reimburses us for fuel and oil for the snowmobiles, a mileage allowance for one vehicle per day of travel and \$15.00 a day per person for grooming. All costs for equipment, maintenance and repair and grant matches are supported by the club and its generous supporters. The club currently owns and maintains (just major items) four trailers, four snowmobiles and five grooming implements. Your past and future support allows us to provide the two trail systems that we all enjoy. Attached is a membership renewal form; if you wish to receive weekly and trail updates please include your current email address.

Thank you for your support.

Happy Trails and Happy Holidays!

Curt Schwamb