



Greetings,

2015 marks the 15th season for the Black Mountain Nordic Club. Since its inception the club has done all the grooming and most of the trail maintenance and improvements with volunteer help from club members.

Last season we spent 32 days and about 300 volunteer hours grooming and hauling equipment. We had good snow early and snow fall during the season was good, but an early spring did shorten the season by a couple weeks.

This summer we did some major work on the Prune Creek Trail. We rented a mini excavator and spent two weekends on the trail removing rocks, trees, and stumps and benching the trail in the areas that had off camber slope. We weren't able to go all the way to the hut because of environmental limitations. You will see a big improvement in how level the trail is, some of the narrow spots are wider and it will be safer for all users and easier to groom. Some of the worst areas are now the best areas. We also put in a small re-route on the main trail to the hut. It is only a couple hundred feet long but it takes out a difficult corner in the trail. The Forest Service added bench seating to the east and west walls of the warming hut, more than doubling the seating capacity. They also installed a self-contained vault to the toilet at the hut enabling us to change it out mid season if it gets full. They also took out a few problem trees and hauled some firewood to the hut.

Since we had a low turnout the last two years, Linda and I will not be hosting the chili feed this year. Instead we will have a hot dog roast on February 6th at the warming hut. We will build a fire and you can cook what you bring and enjoy some comradery. We also have three dates for group moonlight skiing. 1/22, 2/20, 3/23/16. I will email you as to details or any changes in those plans.

We will no longer be posting grooming updates to the website. One of the benefits of being a supporting member for the season is getting grooming updates as soon as we get off the mountain. There are a lot of people that use the trails and do not support

them, and it is not right for them to receive the same benefits of those that pay to support the trails.

Our trails do not have a daily fee because the club and its' volunteers do the grooming. If the day comes that the club cannot continue, the Forest Service would probably take over the grooming and there would most likely be a daily trail fee put in place. Your continued support is very important as your dollars go directly to maintain all the equipment we use to groom the two trail systems.

We had three groomers move out of town this summer but we have two new people that have volunteered to help, so we should still be able to provide consistent grooming each week during the season.

A big thank you to all the groomers and people that helped with the trail work this season and **Thank You** for your continued support of the Black Mountain Nordic Club.

Curt Schwamb
President

