



Notes from the President

BY TERRI STRIGHT

DID I HEAR SOMEONE say **El Niño**? Yes, the rumor is that Grand Mesa will be inundated with snowfall this coming winter. (But I do trust that everyone is doing their snow dance, just in case!)

IN ANTICIPATION OF THIS, GMNC board members and volunteers have been hard at work the past few months preparing for an excellent ski season on Grand Mesa. I'd like to acknowledge the efforts and dedication of a few of **our many volunteers**.

THIS PAST SUMMER we made a small appeal to recruit volunteer workers for a number of needed trail improvements at Skyway and County Line, and were amazed and gratified with the dedicated core group that developed from that. Several volunteers showed up twice weekly for work parties from August through October, and did hard physical labor with no complaints or signs of giving up! One three-some, **Peter Forte, Dave Poling, and Gil Davis**, was especially impressive with their rock busting/moving feats, and earned the affectionate nickname "the Jean Valjeans".

WE ARE ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL to our new Operations Manager, **Rich McCreanor**, and our new Operations Director, **Eric Jansen**. Rich and Eric have stepped up big time to initiate and organize major trail improvements this past summer and fall – as volunteers – at Skyway and County Line. (Check out Eric's article on page 2).

OVER ON THE SOUTH SIDE of the Mesa, **Art Trevena** and **Joyce Tanihara** have continued as the leading stewards



*Terri Stright, President
Grand Mesa Nordic Council*

of the Ward trails. Art and Joyce have taken the initiative for many years to organize volunteer trail maintenance groups to clear the Ward trails every fall. We could not do all of this without them and their dedicated allies.

OUR DEDICATED HUT CREW is entering its eighth year of operation. The hut crew is responsible for setting up, breaking down, and maintaining our Weatherport warming hut each year. "First lieutenant" **Bob Major** has been there from the beginning, as has hut crew leader **Dave Knutson**.

IN CASE ANYONE is wondering why we "set up and break down" a building each year – we were wondering that too! It has to do with GMNC's "old" USFS permit. I am happy to announce that the USFS has agreed to give GMNC a new and more appropriate operating permit this season. The new permit has the potential for allowing permanent structures on-site. So – this could open the door for a real trail-head lodge in the future!

As you can see, it really does take a village to run GMNC!

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HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE 2018-2019 SEASON!

See our website for updates!

www.gmnc.org

- Meet our new President
- Meet our new Operations Director
- Improved Trails this Summer
- Reflective Posts for Grooming
- Sign-up or Renew your Membership on-line at www.GMNC.org (save a stamp!)

Operations Update

ERIC JANSEN – OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

AFTER LAST SEASON'S LOW snowfall it was apparent that we had problem areas with brush and other obstacles on our trails. Summer trail surveys at Skyway and County Line revealed up to one hundred tree stumps that needed to be cut, several kilometers of heavy brush, and numerous protruding rocks. In addition, low areas needed to be built up with tree cribbing, and additional trail markers were needed for grooming.

WE REALIZED THAT REGARDLESS of snowfall, improving this situation would allow better early season grooming and earlier opening of more trails. This prompted GMNC to put out a call for volunteers to help with trail improvements. Thanks to the new group of volunteers, our experienced veterans, and the hard work

of Operations Manager Rich McCreanor, we have been extremely successful this summer and fall.

Looking forward, we are planning to do evening/night grooming with the Pisten Bully, so the tracks will set up overnight and be firm the next day. We have been working with the groomers to develop a more predictable schedule that will still allow adjustments based on snow conditions and storms. And we plan to include extra grooming days for holidays and weekends.

We hope to see you for an early ski season on Skyway, County Line, and Ward.

Enjoy THE IMPROVEMENTS AND HAPPY SKIING!

About Eric Jansen

Eric Jansen recently retired from a career in international industrial construction.

We feel that his skills and experience in personnel and project management, budget and cost controls, scheduling, and safety make him eminently qualified to direct GMNC operations at the board level.

Eric and his wife, Penny relocated to Fruita where they could be closer to family in Montrose. They enjoy cross country skiing on the Mesa, skiing at Powderhorn, and hiking, mountain biking and cycle touring overseas.



We need your support to provide the best Nordic skiing in Colorado!

Membership provides: Discounted member rates on lessons, online grooming reports, and a vibrant Nordic community.

GMNC Membership Supports

- 50 km of Nordic skiing near home
- World class groomed trails in a pristine setting
- Email updates, announcements, and newsletter
- Healthy, active, winter fun

Membership levels for every budget!

RENEW ONLINE
GMNC.org/membership



Board Members Update TERRI STRIGHT

Recently, GMNC has had two key board members retire. **Callie West** has retired after seven years of board service, including four years as treasurer. We will miss her sharp mind and business skills. Fortunately for us and for present and future Nordic skiers, Callie is continuing as head of GMNC's lesson program.

And **Winslow Robertson** has retired after several decades of service on the board. I'm not sure we can continue to call this place "GMNC" without Winslow, but at least we have a trail named after him! Thankfully Winslow is still lending us his operational expertise as well as helping with trail work.

If you see any of our hard working volunteers or past or present board members out on the trails, please take the opportunity to say "thanks." And GMNC is always in need of volunteers, so if volunteer service appeals to you, please do check one or more of the volunteer boxes when renewing your membership.

DONATIONS ONLINE ARE APPRECIATED!

GMNC.org/donate
(SAVE A STAMP!)

2018-19 Race Series



David James

TOM ELA – GMNC RACE DIRECTOR

GMNC LIKES TO START EARLY and stay late! Look for another long season of fun ski racing for all types on some of the best snow and terrain you can find. We try to make the races challenging for the top athletes but also comfortable for the rest of us who just want to get out and test ourselves against a fun course. This year the trails will be in top shape as we have done much trail work this summer to eliminate obstacles! Your very affordable entry fees raise valuable funds for regular grooming. You can expect plenty of hot soup and some good giveaways after every race!
Join us in the race series!!

4-Race Point Series

Racers with the best totals after 4 races are declared the Male and Female Overall Series Champions. Any ties will be broken by order of finish in the Mesa Meltdown 20K. Note that no points will be awarded for the WinterStart 5K Freestyle nor for the Mesa Meltdown 5K.

Entry Fees and 4-Race Point Series info at:
www.gmnc.org or Tom: 970-434-9753.

****All events will take place at Skyway Nordic Trail-head, Sign-up is on race day.****

GMNC RACES

Sunday, Dec. 2

WinterStart

5K Classic - 11 am

5K Freestyle - 12:30 pm

Saturday, Dec. 29

Skyway Skuffle

10K Freestyle - 11 am

Sunday, Jan. 27

Grand Mesa Classic

10K Classic 1- 1 am

Sunday Mar 17

Mesa Meltdown

5k/20K Freestyle - 10 am

**ALL RACES: \$20 MEMBER
\$30 NON-MEMBER**

NOTE: Road closures do happen on Grand Mesa and there can be weather so nasty even us Nordic stalwarts find it necessary to postpone a race. Please check the website for late breaking news regarding races before heading up.

New! Adult Ski Programs 2018-19

CALLIE WEST – PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Private and Semi-private Ski Lessons available all season: go to www.GMNC.org

Free 1-Hour Ski Improvement Clinics for GMNC Members

- Saturday, Dec. 15
- Saturday, Jan. 19
- Saturday, Feb. 9

These clinics are for skiers with experience who are generally proficient and who want to improve their technique. Appropriate for all levels, including skiers that are beginners or in the beginning stages of learning correct technique.

Classic Clinic:

10:30 - 11:30 am

Skate Clinic:

12:30 - 1:30 pm

Space is limited, 7-day advance registration is required.

Discount 3-Pack of 60 minute Private or Semi-Private Ski Lessons

Ski lessons available any day throughout the season on a request basis. 7-day advance registration is required.

GMNC MEMBERS: \$110

NON-MEMBERS: \$150

(A semi-private lesson has a maximum of 3 skiers/lesson)

90 Minute Private Ski Lessons

The private lessons are personalized instruction. This is a great way to learn. Our experienced ski instructors will tailor your 90 minute lesson to your

goals and ambitions, with a focus on personalized one-on-one instruction. Bring along 1-2 friends or family members to share the fun and share the cost. Private lessons are available any day throughout the season on a request basis with a 7-day advance reservation requested.

GMNC MEMBERS: \$65 for one skier plus \$20 for each additional skier.

NON-MEMBERS: \$85 for one skier plus \$25 for each additional skier.

Womens Skate Ski Clinic
Sat. Feb. 23, 2019
www.gmnc.org

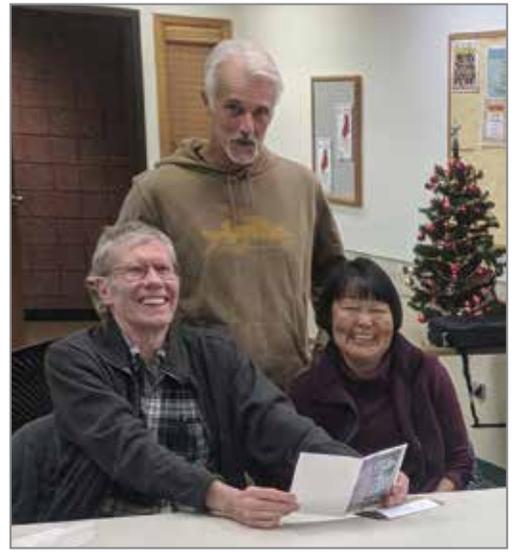
What's New! Grand Mesa Nordic Council



Trees cut to widen trail and then cut into chunks to move to the side.



Volunteers buzz-cut the brush to smooth out the trail for early season grooming preparation.



Winslow Robertson (former GMNC President, standing) at the presentation of 2017 Volunteer of the Year Award to Art Trevena and Joyce Tanihara for their outstanding stewardship of the Ward trail system.

Give the Gift of Nordic Skiing!!

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