



Maintained entirely by volunteers operating the Big M Cross Country Ski Area in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and your donations.

Manistee Cross Country Ski Council

P.O. Box 196-Manistee, MI 49660

Big M website: www.skibigm.org



August 2015

We are preparing for another great year of cross-country skiing at Big M. We are sending out a plea for contributions early because we have instituted a new maintenance plan for our trackers. As you may know, in past years our older equipment has been plagued with breakdowns and consequently, downtime, where we haven't been able to track. As a board we decided to have a commercial repair facility do maintenance that is needed both as repair and as prevention. We have received estimated parts and repair costs that exceed \$5000. We have the money on hand to repair the newer tracker. These repairs are underway. However we would like to have our old(er) tracker repaired and ready to run in case of problems with our main tracker.



Our expenses are repairs, gas, maintenance for the trackers and snow plowing by the Forest Service. (We pay them to plow the parking lot for us and maintain the outhouse and collect trash). Our groomer and Ski Council members are volunteers.

As you can see, the Manistee Cross Country Ski Council needs your financial support to continue maintaining and grooming the trails at Big M. This would be impossible without contributions from Big M supporters.

We thank you for your past support.

Also of note, one of our groomers will not be able to continue grooming due to a shoulder replacement and a lifetime weight limit for lifting. We are therefore down to one groomer. We are in great need of volunteer help with grooming.

Also, we might not be able to groom the advanced trail Oh Me II this winter if the snow gets very deep. You will be informed by a sign at the main trailhead at Big M and on our website at skibigm.org



Board members of the Manistee Cross Country Ski Council are: Dave Martus, President, Dave Buchanan, Vice-President, Jacque Erdman, Treasurer, Loren Bach, Secretary, Ramona Venegas, Ken Blakeyshell, and Ann Buchanan, Members At Large.

Our dates for 2015 are on the Saturdays of **January 23 and February 20 at 7 PM.** (Please check the website or email us for updated dates if we have inclement weather).

We will be serving dessert goodies and hot chocolate by the fire in the lodge.

Come and Join Us!

These events are free and open to the public although donations for Big M grooming and maintenance will be gratefully received.

We will have planning meetings on Friday, January 15, 2016 and Friday, February 12, 2016 at 7 AM at the Bungalow Restaurant in Manistee. You are welcome to join us. If you have questions you can contact:

Dave Martus 231 729-0544
Loren Bach 231 510-1983
Jacque Erdman 231 864-2622

Email us at:

xcskibigm@gmail.com

We need more volunteers! Our small group would welcome you. Please consider joining us.



We will have a new 2015-16 patch. We will send you a Big M embroidered patch for donations of \$50 (two patches for benefactor level giving, see below) or for significant volunteer hours. Show your support for Big M by sewing them on your ski wear.

Suggested Donation Levels:

- \$30 for Patrons
- \$60 for Sustaining Members
- \$100 or more for Benefactors
- \$8.00 per person per time at the donation tube at Big M.



your contributions.

Thank you for

Designed by Loren

