

Welcome to the September edition of the MiBCA Minute; your place for everything backcountry skiing and snowboarding related in Michigan. Kids are back to school and the cool mornings paired with shorter days are early signs that summer is fading to fall with skiing and riding inching closer. While we have not been earning turns on snow this summer, we have been earning future turns through meetings, advocacy, and collaboration leading to quite a few exciting updates to share. Let's get into it!

As previously shared, we have been engaged in ongoing collaboration with the Michigan DNR regarding [Mt. Frederic](#), a former ski area between Frederic and Waters. Earlier this month, we got word that our permit for glading was approved. Mt. Frederic already has open slopes that are definitely skiable but often see heavy snow mobile traffic. Our tentative plan is to focus on several lightly wooded slopes that have potential for gladed runs. We will spend some time in early fall walking the site and establishing a work plan with trimming, lopping, and scattering to commence after a site plan is developed. Stay tuned for more information and opportunities to help.

We are also extremely excited to share development about our partnership with the Leelanau Conservancy and the newly acquired Sugarloaf Scenic Area. While Sugarloaf is not open to the public yet, MiBCA is partnering with the Leelanau Conservancy to offer three work days to improve BC ski zones at Sugar Loaf.

- Thursday 9/17 5-7pm: Lighter workday, overview of what we hope to accomplish, waking some of the zones. Doing some stick clearing and maybe light limbing of low branches. Ending with a cold beverage (or warm depending on the evening) and low-key grill out on the summit.
- Sunday 9/27 10a-2p: Getting more involved. Working through ski zone skiers left of the old Manitou ski run. Also helping clean up Awful Awful, moving brush and limbing to have this be a gladed ski run this winter.
- Sunday 11/8 1p-5p: Working on a series of individual lines that take off from the old Devils Elbow ski trail.

We would love to have a strong showing from MiBCA members! You can sign up to volunteer on any of the dates here: [Sugarloaf Workbee Sign Up - BC Ski Run Clearing](#). You will also need to fill out a volunteer waiver form here: [LC Volunteer Waiver Form](#). Don't let the paperwork deter you - the forms only take 2-3 minutes to complete and it is well worth the time to resurrect a beloved mountain for backcountry skiing and riding to Michigan. Spots are limited so act quickly!

Finally, we are in the early stages of an exciting partnership with Lake Louise Camp near Boyne Falls. Not only is the location incredibly scenic, the topography is perfect for backcountry lines and is located in a prominent lake effect snowbelt region. Pete Sherman and Matt Emeott have already been on location to begin developing a site plan. As the vision takes shape, we are planning to have several work days before the snow flies. Stay tuned for more details and check in on the [groups page on the MiBCA website](#).

All of this work takes time and money and we could use your support. We have recently purchased insurance to cover our work days and are also incurring costs to travel and attend conferences, meetings, and ski sites. Your donation would go a long way in helping us continue to bring dedicated backcountry ski areas to Michigan - [Click here to donate to MiBCA](#). Consider joining MiBCA by visiting our updated website at <https://www.mibcalliance.com>.

Be sure to join us for our next members meeting on Thursday, October 8th at 7:30. Use the link below to access the meeting:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/89512045005?pwd=V3J5t1mSoTRYG5ysracbvbvkFOPMjX>.

Meeting ID: 895 1204 5005

Passcode: 8mLm4G

In the meantime, stay connected to our Instagram and Facebook pages for future meetings, meet ups, and project updates. As always, ski safe, ski kind, and have fun.

Kirk Ranney
Secretary, Michigan Backcountry Alliance
Traverse City