

Cariboo Ski Touring Club - AGM
Thursday, Oct. 30th, 2008
Hallis Lake Lodge

Meeting called to order at 7:15 PM

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Ron Watteyne

Welcome new members and guests. Hopefully this season will be as long as last year. Reports are that some skiers skied for 6 months, starting in late Nov. and skiing through to May.

Thanks to the executive and directors who worked very hard last season to make it one of the best seasons.: **Brian Black:Vice-President, Rita Rief: Treasurer, Marilyn van Leusden: Secretary**

Thanks to Elaine for filling in tonight for our secretary, Marilyn vanLeusden

Thanks to outgoing directors Elaine Watteyne - social (15 years)
Glen Beaudreau - backcountry and Steve Levitt - lodge manager

Welcome new comers to the executive, **Bonnie Chlebek and Holly Nelson -Social,**
Andrew Roberts - lodge manager.

We are looking for a backcountry director to fill the vacated position.

Thank Greg Strebel for his almost daily update on Hallis Lake. We would like to encourage someone from Ten Mile to give an update on the ski trials out there and the backcountry skiers to send in a report whenever you are in the backcountry so the emails aren't always focused on Hallis Lake.

Thanks to Herb Chlebek for keeping the web site up to date.

Thanks to Brenda & John at Rock Peak Adventures for taking memberships and donating their rental equipment for the free ski day.

A huge thank-you to the tracksetting team. We were lucky to have lots of snow last season. Tracksetting was done as usual by a dedicated group of volunteers who serviced the equipment, fixed the breakdowns and combined, spent hundreds of hours setting tracks. Volunteer tracksetting is a huge benefit to all members and it's the main reason why our fees are so low. **We need to acknowledge this great effort by Herb Chlebek (10 Mile Lake) and Murray Andrews, Jim Crellin, Al Schutz, Mark Courtenay, Greg Strebel, Steve Levitt, Brian Black (Hallis Lake)**

Big Thanks to HMC for keeping the parking lot and road plowed. These guys went out of their way to make sure the lot and road were clear. It may have had something to do with the cookie platters that I took out to them throughout the season.

All of the events that we hosted last season were well attended. The Loppet, Olympic Tournament, Elementary School Races, Pancake Breakfast, Free Ski Day, Yoga & Skiing, and drop in adult ski lessons. Thanks for the great effort from all the volunteers.

The Olympic Ski Tournament, organized by Sunshine Borsato, was especially fun as we hosted a former Olympian Melanie Therault. The highlight of the day was the first ever ski cross. The kids had lots of fun and laughs and Melanie got a good workout as she skied the course 8 times with the kids.

Major repairs on the Pisten Bully:

Cost in the neighborhood of \$20,000

Donation from:	Integris	3000
	Dunkley Lumber	500

UMBC	5000
CRD	5000
City of Quesnel	<u>1750</u>
	\$15,250

I just checked on line today and with the purchase of another twin track Alpine skidoo last year we are now in the Guinness world book of records for the ski club with the most Alpine skidoos. Brian is still looking for a breeding pair.

This Year

We have a huge project in the works. We have received funding from Western Economic Diversification, Northern Trust, and Quesnel Foundation and have an application into Sunrise 2000 Rotary. We are looking for volunteers to help with certain aspects. Brian will fill you in further.

Logging

Some small patches of fir beetle kill will be removed this fall and all hauling will be finished by Dec. 1st. West Fraser will be doing the work. The areas involved are west of the 15km junction. Brian & I have had a meeting with Greg Scott from West Fraser and identified our concerns and got our rep from Min. of Tourism involved and we are confident they will be finished by the deadline. They will be working in the area for the next 2-3 years.

New trail

Thanks to Peter van Leusden and Victor Stobie, we have laid out a new trail at the north end of the stadium. This will be a flat trail (pancake flat) and will be about 800 m long. We are working on getting approval from Min. of Tourism. With any luck WF could log it next year when they come back to do the beetle kill logging.

Lease

Presently the club has a License of Occupation that allows us to operate the club on crown land. It has some limitations and with the proposed developments the LOC is not big enough. When we applied for the LOC 12 years ago we were told by Min. of Lands that we should apply for a lease in the future.

Applying for 38 hectares.

Includes all the lighted trail and extension with the exception of the biathlon loop

Cost will be \$5000.00 for the legal survey \$250 for the application fee.

Snowshoe trails

There has been interest in developing snowshoe trail in the Hallis lake area. Other x-c ski areas have trails and they have been very successful.

Interested people can sign up tonight and attend a meeting sometime in Nov. to discuss where the trails should go. Once the trails have been laid out, we then need to get approval from Min. of Tourism before the work starts.

The club would require a representative for the snowshoes to become a director and attend monthly meetings.

Mini Playground

Victor Stobbe and Chris Eldon have built a mini playground across the stadium for the bunnies, as it is too far for the younger kids to go up to the adventure park.

The CSTC has been built and is run totally by volunteers.

I hear comments from members like the club should do this or do that.

The executive welcomes suggestions and are open to new ideas, but as your executive, we do not have the manpower to implement all the suggestions.

If you have an idea or suggestion and are a club member, are you willing to volunteer your time to make the project or idea happen?

Closing Remarks:

I will be letting my name stand for re-election tonight, but I feel it will be my last term as president. I have enjoyed the challenges and rewards that have come with developing the Hallis Lake facility, the 10 Mile Lake trail system and the backcountry cabins. I have served 12 years consecutively as president and previously to that a 4 year term as president, as well as backcountry chair, and vice-president.

In total I have been on the executive for over 25 years in various positions. I would like to step back and let someone else take the reins. I will still be involved, possibly as a director of publicity.

Jackrabbits: Sunshine Borsato

The season will begin December 13th and the wrap up party is Feb 9th, the Monday night prior to the Elementary Races. The ski club is taking over sponsoring this race and it will be held Feb 14th. Still unscheduled, there will be some parent lessons again this year in Jackrabbits and also some yoga for kids taught by Joanne DiGuseppe.

There has been a lot of interest in the upcoming coaching clinics which is very exciting that we will have so many parents out helping coach the kids this year as well as quite a few former jackrabbits and biathletes coaching including Shawna McIlvenna (who coached last year), Rietta Briscoe, and Wyllie Mednis.

There are quite a few Monday night sessions scheduled this year to ensure older rabbits get more lessons packed into the season (about 12-13 sessions in total) and there are many out of town races on the calendar we'd like to encourage jackrabbits to attend especially the Williams lake BULL MTN freestyle race in February.

Biathlon Report 2007-2008: Jim Crellin, Peter van Leusden, Rob Johnston

The Nordics Biathlon group had a successful season in 2007-2008. It was a transition year as we had lost several of our senior athletes as they moved on to university and other time consuming interests, leaving us with only one returning athlete.

However by the time training started in mid September, we had a new group of keen athletes and parents signed up and were quickly back up to a group of 6 athletes.

The first BC Cup race of the year in Rossland was cancelled due to rain and lack of snow, but we raced at the other BC Cups in Vanderhoof and Callaghan Valley as well as a fun regional race in Prince George. It was a treat to race at the new Olympic site, but it was early days for them and there were some organizational bugs to be worked out.

For the 2008-2009 season we have 10 athletes training so far. The first BC Cup race will be at Callaghan Valley in early December, and then Quesnel is hosting BC Cup 3-4 on January 17-18 at Hallis Lake. We are expecting 50-60 athletes and probably 30-40 coaches and support crew. It will be a good event and we will need quite a few volunteers to make it work smoothly.

We have funding available in the latest grant to upgrade the biathlon range by filling, smoothing and widening the shooting platform and widening and smoothing the start finish area. These upgrades will probably not now be in place until the 2009-2010 season due to time constraints and permits required.

Membership: Don Cunningham

40 members to date. Memberships are available at Rocky Peak Adventures. Deadline for discount is Dec. 1st

Equipment Report: Brian Black

1) Pisten Bulley:

The PB experience significant track problems during the 2006-2007 season. The track rubber was replaced and a general pm of the hydraulics, including hose replacement, was done prior to the start of the season.

The machine ran well with very few problems during the ski season. In the spring when doing the servicing we found some significant problems which were addressed. The radiator was badly plugged and was cleaned. The rear hitch cylinders were found to be bent and were removed and repaired. At the same time it was found that there is malfunction in the hydraulics and parts are now on order and expected soon for that repair.

2) Twin Tracks:

The club owns two machines for use at The Mile. The Alpine 2 is being looked after by Jerry Chlebek and is in good shape and ran reliably. The older machine was little used.

The club acquired an additional alpine 2 for Hallis Lake. The machine is in excellent condition and it was thought to be very good value for the club.

The older alpine 2 had extensive repairs and is now in very good condition. The older alpine 1 runs well and is available as a standby.

3) Grooming Equipment:

The compaction drag, track setter and roller are in good shape and are ready to go when the snow comes.

Hallis Lake Loppet Report: Marie Skinner

The annual Loppet in 2008 was part of the first annual Gold Rush Trek series. It included races in 100 Mile House, Williams Lake, Prince George and Quesnel. There were series prizes as well as the prizes for the individual races. Thank-you to all the volunteers for their help. We didn't note increased participation as a result of the series but decided to continue with the concept of a series in 2009. Quesnel is again the first of the series, taking place on January 24. There are a variety of age categories. The second race of the series is the Bull Mountain Challenge on January 31 followed by the Cariboo Marathon on February 7. Prince George will not be part of the series this year.

The race is a chance for young and old to ski a longer distance through beautiful terrain with friends. It makes a small profit for the club.

Backcountry Report: Al Schutz

There is firewood at all cabins, Murray, Waverly and Moncton. The trail to Moncton was brushed. Murray Cabin had the chimney replaced.

Social Committee Report : Bonnie Chlebek, Holly Nelson

The social committee has a few events happening this season.

The following list can be found on the club's website:

December 5 – Adult's "Trim the Tree" social
January 4 – Pancake Breakfast
January 9 – Friday night ski and social (adults)
January 30 - Friday night ski and social
February 13 – Friday night ski and social
February 27 – Friday night ski and social
March 7 – "Melt Down Party"

Watch for details in the newsletters as the events draw nearer.

Anyone who would like to help on this committee call Bonnie at 992-7337 or Holly at 747-3595

Ten Mile Lake: Herb Chlebek

The debris on the trails has not been cleared yet. There was lots of logging done and quite a mess left. A different contractor should be starting the clean-up this week.

Lodge: Andrew Roberts

We had a group of volunteers come out and stain the deck. The lodge was cleaned and is ready for the season.

Newsletter: Greg Strebel

Thanks for the call out to the membership Ron, for contributions to the newsletter.

Project Report

October 30, 2008

Hallis Lake Venue Improvement

1. Detailed project description

The Hallis Lake venue has been developed as a year round community recreation facility by the Cariboo Ski Touring Club, a registered non-profit society, under a management agreement with the Ministry of Forests. The facility is extremely successful. The lodge has been used by many community groups; the trail system is used extensively by all types of non-motorized users in all seasons. The CSTC proposes to do a number of upgrades to enhance the value of this venue for local users and to be prepared to host visiting biathlon and cross country ski teams and events prior to the 2010 Olympic Games. The proposed upgrades include:

a) Drilled Well

The current water supply is from a shallow well near the shore of Hallis Lake. Water quality is inferior and does not conform to the Canadian Drinking Water Standards and therefore is not adequate for drinking. This is problematic for the caretaker who resides and provides security at the venue. Also the public using this facility require safe drinking water and are discouraged from using the local supply. Currently all drinking water must be carried to the site by club volunteers.

b) Washrooms and Septic System

The lodge is available to community groups and for private functions on a rental basis. In this way many community users besides those with athletic interests can enjoy the facility. The wilderness setting next to Hallis Lake with its abundant wildlife is very attractive for functions and retreats. Currently many user groups and individuals are not willing to use a facility which offers only pit toilets. This portion of the project would add indoor plumbing in the basement of the lodge in the space which was allocated for washrooms in the original design. Indoor plumbing will greatly enhance the use of the facility and attract more community users. It will also increase operating revenue for the CSTC.

c) Biathlon Improvements

The current range and associated trails is one of the best biathlon facilities in the province. It has been the site of several BC Cup events and was the site of the 2000 Winter Games, as well as, the 2002 Winter Games (Williams Lake host). Some changes however, are required in order to improve the venue and also to keep up to current standards in a sport that is growing and evolving. The club has a very active teenaged group interested in this very demanding sport who are attempting to follow the lead of former international competitors: Karen Trueman and three time Olympic competitor, Tony Fiala.

d) Staging Area Development

The staging area is the large open area adjacent to the lodge where spectators can view the exciting start and finish of cross country ski events. Improvement is required in this area in order to attract more provincial or national level events to Quesnel. The improvements will include:

- a timing hut to house timers and timing equipment at a strategic location.
- waxing area complete with the required power services for visiting teams to wax skis in the shelter of a popup tent, which they provide themselves.
- a sprint loop. Sprint races are a new addition to the sport and are designed to provide a very high level of excitement to cross country competition.
- the addition of a concrete floor in the equipment storage building.

e) Trail Lighting Addition

The current lit track provides 2.5 km of lighted trail. This facility is available 4 nights per week and is heavily utilized. The Rabbits, the Nordics, as well as, adult groups and those who cannot ski during weekdays are the prime users. It is desired to add an additional 1 km of lighting to an existing trail, in order to improve night skiing.

f) Promotional Video

The Hallis Lake venue is one the best in the province for both cross country skiing and biathlon. The value of this facility is not fully understood in the community and elsewhere in the province. It is very difficult to promote the facility without the aid of a video presentation. The presentation would be used to build understanding and appreciation for this excellent community recreation facility in order to attract future events to the community. The video presentation will be a key tool to aid us in fulfilling our goal to attract a national team to train at the facility prior to the 2010 Olympic Games.

2. Timelines

Project Start Date: Sept 18, 2008

Item	Start Date	Completion Date
1. Well	Sept, 2008	May 31, 2009

2. Washroom/ Septic	May, 2009	July 31, 2009
3. Biathlon	Nov, 2008	May 31, 2009
4. Staging area	May, 2009	July 31, 2009
5. Trail lighting	Nov, 2008	June 30, 2009
6. Video	Jan, 2009	Mar 31, 2009

Project Completion **Nov 30, 2009**

Final Financial Report **Dec 31, 2009**

3. Component Co-ordinators:

a) Drilled Well	Brian Black, P. Eng
b) Washrooms & Septic System	Greg Strebels, P. Eng
c) Biathlon Improvements	Jim Crellin, P. Eng
d) Staging Area Development	Peter van Leusden, Teacher
e) Trail Lighting Addition	Brian Black, P. Eng
f) Promotional Video	Ron Watteyne

4. Financial Analysis of this project

Northern Trust

Cariboo Ski Touring Club received approval from Northern Development Initiative Trust for funding on June 28, 2006, for a total of \$36 667 (33.3%)

Community Foundation

The Community foundation granted a total of \$2800 (2.5%) to be used towards improvement of the Equipment Shop.

Western Economic Diversification

Cariboo Ski Touring Club received approval through the CEDI program on Sept 18, 2008 for \$55,000 (50%)

CSTC

The remainder will come from club cash reserves \$15,533 (14.1%)

Elections: Marie Skinner

President: Ron Watteyne (by acclamation)

Vice-President: Brian Black (by acclamation)

Treasurer: Rita Rief (by acclamation)

Secretary: Marilyn van Leusden (by acclamation)

Meeting adjourned.

Special Presentation by Denise Guthro and Al Schutz: Trekking in New Zealand