

Nordic Tracks

The Newsletter of the Nelson Nordic Ski Club

Vol. 19, No. 1

October 2000

Nelson Nordic Ski Club

SKI SWAP

Sunday November 5, 2000

North Shore Hall

675 Whitmore Road

Located on the north shore on the corner of
Whitmore and Johnstone Road.

Times :

Equipment Drop-off 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Ski Swap 1:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Pay out to Sellers 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Purpose :

- Sell any old gear for cash
- Equip the whole family for some winter fun.
- Last chance to purchase an early season membership
- Come buy some baked goods from the Junior Racing Team
- Coveted Nordic Nelson T-shirts will be available for purchase

For more information call:

Joanne at 352-7675

Pre Season Membership Sales

Thursday Nov. 2, 2000

10 AM - 3 PM & 5 PM - 9 PM

Friday Nov. 3

10 AM - 3 PM & 5 PM - 9 PM

Saturday Nov. 4

10 AM - 3 PM

Sunday Nov. 5

Ski Swap Hours

Chakho-Mika Mall Nelson

These times and dates are your opportunity to benefit from the pre-season membership fees.

You need to bring along your photo ID from the previous year and a sticker will be adhered to it at the time of membership renewal.

If you have lost your ID there will be a \$5.00 replacement fee. If any member of your family needs a photo taken, they must be available during this membership drive. For any new members, your photo will be taken at time of membership purchase.

Also, if you have volunteered at least 8 hours in the 1999 – 2000 season and are entitled to the volunteer discount please indicate in the correct location on the form. The registrar will verify this entitlement against Ann Popoff's volunteer master list.

President's Message

Thank you for responding to our late season survey. We will implement several things to improve our grooming and trails this year, you won't be disappointed. You spoke and we listened. Read on.

For this season all but one of the executive returned to volunteer their time on your behalf. Tom Johnston decided not to stand for re-election and I know that the club is very grateful for his years of dedication and contribution to the club, Thank-You Tom. Brian Simms is a new addition to the Executive.

This Years Executive is in alphabetical order:
George Edney, Jim Fisher, Doug Hurst, Peter Lewis, Richard Marchand, Doug Nottebrock, David Planedin, Roger Pratt, Brian Simms

Survey Summary and Action - We asked members to contribute input on a variety of issues in a survey we distributed at the end of last year. If you can believe it, surveys which were returned, represented an astonishing 38 % of the clubs members. We really needed the help and our members came through, thank you. The survey results are summarised later in the newsletter.

Three things became clear from the survey:

- 1) The skating lane must improve, 89% of those who can skate ski were unsatisfied with grooming.
- 2) Grooming must improve
- 3) Members would support nordic trails at Whitewater. An average of 90% of respondents said that they would support developing trails at Whitewater.

We have done two key things which should go a long way to improve skiing at our Apex / Busk Trails. We have upgraded our new grooming machine for operations this winter. We got a great deal on the parts and didn't have to go into debt or sell the old machine. Within the constraints of our budget, we will also upgrade the old machine to complement the new machine.

We have budgeted 100 hours more grooming time. Last year we budgeted 350 hours and actually only groomed 250 hours. So this year we expect to groom over 200 hours more than last year.

There are also a number of more subtle things which we will do like;

- 1) Change the finishing mats on both machines,
- 2) Update the snow phone more regularly,
- 3) Mix up our grooming techniques,
- 4) Try touch up grooming on days when the *Full Monty* is not needed,

One of the critical things that you can do, is to call the snow phone before you go up. For our part we will try and be more diligent in updating it. If it has not been updated then no grooming has occurred and trail conditions have not changed.

Membership Fees - There will be no increase in the membership fees this year.

Cottonwood Trail - As one of our more popular trails, we will revive it this year. The problem is that it may not be the full loop that you remember. The landowners logged last year and may log it again this year. If they do, then we will groom a shortened version of it. If they don't log, then we hope to restore its full length.

As a contingency, we are looking at grooming the old portion of Clearwater Road as well as grooming for a few kilometers further up the existing Clearwater Road.

Whitewater - Whitewater has proposed developing a cross-country ski area in the Hummingbird Pass area, adjacent to the end of the main parking lot. The trails will be based on roads, which were built to access logging cut blocks. Some old trails will form the rest of the trail system.

Cutting permits were delayed and the work started later in the season. Logging could be finished before the snow falls, but not in time for Whitewater to properly think through a new operation. The Nelson Nordic Ski Club is very excited about these plans and is delighted with any new nordic trails in the region.

Cheers, see you on the trails.
Doug Hurst

Memberships & Volunteers

Just a reminder, volunteer hours are not carried over from year to year. Any volunteer time you have performed before November 7, 2000 will expire. Any volunteer time after November 7, 1999 will go towards the 2001/2002 ski season. Thank-You for your contributions.

Please be sure to have your I.D.s with you at all times when coming for a ski. They are to be kept for following years. If you lose them your photo need not necessarily be re-taken. We have most members on file. Just notify me and a new one will be processed for a \$5.00 fee.

Ann Popoff



B.C. Rabbits Ski Program

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B.C. Rabbits is a cross country skiing development program for children aged 6-12 years. The sessions will be held Sundays, 1:00-2:30 PM, at the Apex trails, from January 7 to March 4. Registration for the program will take place along with season pass purchases (see the schedule in this newsletter).

B.C. Rabbit Leaders Needed

We desperately need more leaders to have fun with the kids. As of now we have only three leaders, and since we try to assign 10 skiers per leader, that means we'll be very limited as to how many children we can accept at registration. Last season we had 76 registrants with six leaders. The more leaders the merrier! If you enjoy skiing & like to work with children, please consider this program as a way to pass on your knowledge of the sport.

B.C. Rabbit Leader Training Course

Cross-Country B.C. Rabbit Leader Training will be available on December 16 in Rossland for those interested in helping out with the B.C. Rabbits program. This is an 8-hour course focusing on the successful delivery of BCRabbits (e.g. games & ski playgrounds), not on learning to ski.

NCCP Level 1 Technical, which teaches proper ski techniques, is also recommended & will be held December 8-10 in Rossland.

If you are interested in volunteering as a BC Rabbit leader or for more information on the courses, please call Jennifer Lehmann at 352-6705 or email: jlehmann@netidea.com.

Jennifer Lehman



Racing News

Some of you may have seen the race schedule for the upcoming season in this year's edition of "Ski Cross Country". The Kootenay Cup schedule looks peculiar, with the first race of the season in Rossland on December 9/10, and the next one not until February 10 in Kimberley. This is followed by Kootenay Cup #3 in Castlegar on February 24 and #4 in Nelson on February 25.

There are reasons for this. First, with the large number of races in a season it is difficult to schedule them all. Cross Country BC wanted an early season Points race at a reasonably low altitude. The Black Jack club volunteered to host this, and combined it with Kootenay Cup #1. Castlegar Nordic was asked to host Kootenay Cup #2 in early January, but one of their trails requires more late-season snow. It is difficult for Nelson Nordic to host an early January race because it clashes with the start of the Rabbit season.

Kimberley hosts the race the same weekend every year because it fits with the Kimberley Winterfest. Nelson Nordic usually hosts the race the first weekend in March, but this year a new Midgets race has been introduced, which is in Kelowna on March 3-4. Many young Kootenay Cup racers will be at these races. So, that's how it worked out for the 2000/01 season.

Keep in mind that the Kootenay Cup series is a series of friendly races between local clubs, and participation is encouraged. It is open to all age groups and there is a variety of distances.

Roger Pratt

Forest Development and the Nelson Nordic Ski Club

I was asked to provide a short article about forest development and our ski club. You will notice a new road as you ski up Clearwater and next year you will see a new harvested area. Kalesnikoff Lumber is the forest licensee and has a portion of our ski area in their operating area.

The operating area consists of the area that the Ministry of Forests has granted them the harvest rights for a certain volume of timber. Kalesnikoff is required to balance the harvest of the timber with a number of other forest uses in the area. The NNSC is a recognised forest user in the area and Kalesnikoff Lumber has been referring and reviewing their plans with the club.

The Forest Development Plan is applicable to crown land only, so those portions of our ski club on private land which includes the Apex side of the highway and the Busk property are not involved in the forest plans that Kalesnikoff is required to prepare. In addition to Kalesnikoff Lumber, Atco Lumber has harvest rights in our area with an operating area up Clearwater road.

Kalesnikoff Lumber presented their harvest plans at an open house last fall, which was attended by the club executive. In addition, Kalesnikoff sent a letter notifying us of the harvest plans and requesting review and comment of the plans.

The club reviewed the plans and provided comments which included:

- Season of harvest restrictions, so the harvest would not interfere with our ski season,
- The potential for using some of the new road or trails for our ski trails
- Limiting the amount of harvested area directly adjacent to Clearwater road or provisions for leaving some trees and/or patches of trees to maintain the aesthetics of our ski trail.

After a field review with Kalesnikoff personnel and members of the Busk Society we agreed to establish a new trail that will leave the Clearwater road just past the bridge and will connect with the

Busk trail before the steep hill. Kalesnikoff will use the trail to harvest timber in the area, but will construct the trail so that it more resembles a ski trail.

The co-operation we received from Kalesnikoff Lumber was excellent and they agreed to accommodate our concerns. Kalesnikoff recently donated a logging truckload of firewood to the ski club and we are grateful for this.

Atco Lumber has been developing plans further up Clearwater road and Qua creek which they will involve the club later. The forests around our trails are on Crown Land, and various levels of harvest will occur. Our club must be involved in the forest development plan process in a positive manner to ensure that plans affecting our ski area are reviewed.

This review will ensure that the wants and needs of the ski club are incorporated into the plans.

George Edney

Survey Results

Number of skiers the returned surveys represents - 37.9% , or 231 skiers

1. **Average Visits per season**
Classic Skiers - 16.5 visits , Skaters or both - 27.9 visits
2. **Skiing Style** - Classic, 64%, Skate or both - 36 %
3. **Why do you ski** - Most entered checks for Recreation, Fitness and Fun, A few entered for training.
4. **How often do you ski** - Waxable - 18 %, Waxless - 57 %, Skate - 25 %
5. **Under perfect conditions** - Waxable - 19 %, Waxless - 52 %, Skate - 28 %
6. **Grooming Satisfaction** - Yes - 47%, No - 53%
 - For Classic Skiers - Yes - 67%, No - 33%
 - For Skate or Both Skiers - Yes - 11.4%, No - 88.6%
7. **Trail Use** - Night loop - 12%, Apex - 19%, Cottonwood - 11%, Busk - 37%, Clearwater - 18%

8. **Other Winter Sports** - Alpine - 47, Snowshoe - 11, Ski Tour - 23 Other - 7
9. **Other Winter Sports Memberships**- Alpine - 7, Snowshoe - 0, Ski Tour - 6 Other - 2
10. **Age Distribution** -0/10 - 17%, 10/20 - 14%, 20/29 - 2%, 30/39 - 19%, 40/49 - 30%, 50/59 - 13%, over 60 - 6%.
11. **Clearwater Warming Hut Use** - Yes - 51%, No - 49%
12. **Should the Club buy the Apex Land** - Yes - 29%, No - 71%
13. **Would You Use Nordic Trails at Whitewater** - Yes - 91%, No - 9%
14. **NNSC participation with Whitewaters Trail Plans** - Yes - 88%, No - 12%
15. **Agreement on Trail Fees between NNSC / Whitewater** - Yes - 93%, No - 7%

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Nelson Nordic Junior Racers.

While most of us were loafing around by the lake, members of the junior racing team were getting in shape for their upcoming season of competition. Several members of the team participated in a Cross-country B.C. sponsored hike along West Coast Trail in July and, at the end of August, Heather Weberg, Robin Simms and Mark Dodsworth traveled to Smithers to take part in a training camp that included three days of skiing on Hudson's Bay Glacier. (Mark, by the way, spent the rest of his summer cycling across Canada).

Training is now in high gear. In late September, junior skiers from across the Kootenay region gathered at Kokanee Creek Park for a dry land training camp. In early November, some of our skiers will be heading to Vernon for a three-day snow camp, and the entire team will be participating in a regional snow camp in Kimberley, December 2nd and 3rd.

The 00/01 season promises to be an excellent one for the Nelson Nordic Junior Racers, with strong skiers in all competition categories. This year, several members will be competing for the first time as juveniles, and we have a number of younger skiers joining us. The team's first outing will be to

Rossland, December 9th and 10th, for the opening round of the Kootenay Cup. B.C. Cup competition begins in Vernon on December 30th and 31st.

We would like to thank all members of the Nelson Nordic Ski Club for their ongoing support and extended invitation to come out and cheer for our young athletes. They are all winners.

Doug Nottebrock, coach.

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Clearwater loop

Photo: Tom Johnston

Other News

Attention Masters Racers!!

We are ordering new racing suits as worn by our very fashionable Junior Racing Team. This fabulous outfit includes blue tights, jersey, toque and matching warm-up jacket, and costs around \$275 (including taxes).

Please contact Doug Nottebrock (825-0065) or Brent Watkinson (352-9641) immediately to place your order.

NNSC Web Page

The NNSC web page has been constructed and can be found at <http://www.kics.bc.ca/~nns>. The web site provides information to locals and the world on the club. Anybody keen to help on this project by helping with content, design and technical advice should send an email to peterl@netidea.com.

Tuesday Night Skiing

Tuesday night will continue to be the night for a fun ski. The difficulty of these ski nights varies with the group, but everyone can be accommodated somehow. Regardless of what your motivation is: racing, loppets or general fitness come on out on Tuesday nights for a ski. Skating is usually the technique of choice but with advanced planning, we can do some classic nights. We will meet at the warming hut at 6:30 PM and ski for 1-2 hours.

There is no planned program; decisions can be made as we go. Maybe we can talk the Nordic Racing coaches into providing some training programs.

We can start as soon as there is skiing, so get the skis waxed and get ready because another ski season is upon us.

Phone George Edney at 354-2080 if you have any questions.

Hope to see you out,
George Edney

Nordic Tracks

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