



Nordic Tracks

The Newsletter of the Nelson Nordic Ski Club

Vol. 24, No. 3

January 2006

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Busk ski trails are closed to skiers from the evening of Friday Jan 20th until late evening Sunday Jan 22nd. The area will be used by the Cadets throughout the weekend.

Apex and Clearwater will be open.

challenge for the operators. Keep at it guys.... I know it will get better!!

The new lighting system in the woods on the night loop is now functioning, though a few bugs need to be ironed out in how it operates. Once completed, the lights will turn on and off interactively as the skiers pass along the trail. Try it out and I'm sure you'll agree it creates a fun diversion on the night loop.



You may have noticed that the upper section of Clearwater has been groomed more regularly this year. In the past it has been difficult for the groomers to get that part completed without missing other trails on that side of the highway. We are hopeful with the addition of the new sled, which can travel much quicker than the PB's, that we can keep this up during the season. In addition, the new Loop 1 at the bottom of Clearwater (on the right) will also be groomed as snowpack accumulates. I believe this will ultimately be a nice addition to that side of the highway, but there is still trail grading to be completed, so watch out for the rather steep turn around at the end until that happens - hopefully next year.

We will need to close the Busk ski trails January 21-22. Look out for dates and details in this newsletter. Like much of our trail system Camp Busk is privately owned by the BC/Yukon Boy Scouts and they allow the ski club



President's Message

On Behalf of The Prez !

Since our President Richard is out of town for all of January, I'll do my best to fill you in on Club happenings since the last newsletter.

Well, we are finally getting some snow, even though it is still warmer and wetter than we would like. I'm sure many members have been a little frustrated with the conditions Mother Nature has been dishing out to us, I know I have been. It hardly seems like winter. Up until recently we have not even had enough base to take out the Pisten Bullys (snowcats) grooming. Fortunately, we managed to use the new snowmobile grooming equipment (just purchased) in mid December and it has been doing most of grooming so far. This equipment can operate with a much lower snowpack and we are also finding it allows us to groom in much warmer temperatures than the tiller (on the PB) will allow. Even so, grooming thus far this year has been a huge



to use the property during the winter. There will be another user group on the property on this particular weekend, so please plan on using other trails during this time.

Happy skiing.... and pray for snow and colder temperatures !!

Dave McIntosh

Upcoming Events

Jan 21 Ski Improvement Clinic from 10-12noon on Saturday Jan 21. Skate and Classic lessons only \$10.00 Contact Allison Lutz to pre-register or for more information at 354 1783 or arlutz@shaw.ca

Feb 11-12 Kootenay Cup #3 & 4 in Kimberley Contact Bill Green Ph: (250) 427-5554 or email sandergreen@monarch.net for more information

Feb 14 ♥ – Enjoy a Valentine's Night Ski, from 6pm to 9pm. Ski along beautiful Tiki Torch Lit Trails and enjoy some sweet treats and fun at the Apex Warming Hut.

We need some volunteers to help out with baking and set-up at the Valentine's Night Ski. If you are interested in helping please contact Ann Popoff at 354 4299 or ajpop@netidea.com

Feb 19 – Challenge Ski, a fun race, sponsored by Gerick Cycle and Sports

Wes Pilkington – Heavy grooming equipment/sled operator and volunteer. He has several years experience with our club.

Bob Wright - Heavy equipment/sled operator. He started apprentice grooming last season and is working on his own this season.

Jim Fisher - Sled operator/volunteer.

Tom Abraham- 1st year apprentice for heavy grooming equipment. He is a volunteer

Dave MacIntosh - Equipment manager/ Volunteer.

Al Mac Donald – Equipment maintenance

Along with the good intentions there has been a lot of very frustrating circumstances dealing with what Mother Nature has sent us this year!

BEFORE YOU CRITICIZE OUR TEAM.... Remember this reality - Comparing our conditions and grooming to other regional Nordic facilities is irrational. OUR ELEVATION, CAN PUT US AT A DISADVANTAGE.

Castlegar Nordic – Paulson Trails 1535 M
Blackjack Nordic – Rossland 1250 M approx
Nelson Nordic – Apex 1000 M approx
For the sake of our groomers and volunteers let's keep positive!!!!!!!!!!

If you feel you have something to contribute we would welcome the feedback.

Happy New Year!

Pray for snowy sub zero conditions...OK?



An Important Message for Members

The realities of wet snow, warm temperatures and heavy equipment create challenging nightly/daily scenarios for our well intended grooming team.

Let me introduce you to them...

John Van der Holt – Heavy grooming equipment /sled operator. John has several years experience with our club.

Gear For Sale

If you would like to put an advertisement in the newsletter please email Allison Lutz at arlutz@shaw.ca

Where We Ski

You probably already know that the Nelson Nordic Ski Club maintains 25 kilometres of trails but did you also know that around 75% of those trails are on private land! The Apex loop, Night loop, Cottonwood, Busk, and Beaumont trails are all located on private land. The Apex warming hut and machine sheds are on private land. Without the permission and support of the owners of these lands we would not have the great cross-country ski facilities that we enjoy today. The old rail grade is a "Rails to Trail" project and the remainder of the trails are on Crown land. The Busk/Clearwater parking lot is on Crown land and snow removal for parking is carried out with support from the local BC Forest Service office.

Use of private lands comes with a responsibility for us to the land owners. We work cooperatively with them and thank them for their support. They allow us to have some great skiing. We must at all times treat their land with respect and we must recognize that sometimes their own use of the land comes before that of us, the skiers. If you see something occurring on or around the ski trails that you think is contrary to use for X-country skiing please take no action on your own. Instead advise a member of the executive of the issue as soon as possible. The executive can deal with the issue and may in fact have previously discussed it with the landowner and the resulting activity is a compromise from both sides. If you are asked your name while on the trails please provide it. We have over 600 members and



without knowing who was involved in an incident it is difficult, if not impossible, to resolve an issue properly. Landowners want to know who they are talking with, especially if it's a complaint about something. The NNSC executive wants to ensure that it has heard both sides of any issue and that the ski club's interests are properly represented.

The Busk property presents some special issues. This land is owned by Scouts Canada and was given to Camp Busk in return for some land where Kokanee Park is now located. The purpose of the Camp Busk property is to provide a place where youth in the community can recreate in a wilderness setting. Usage of this property in the winter, other than by skiers, is primarily by youth groups such as a Scouting group or by one of the Cadet Branches. They have a right to do their activities on this property and are willing to interact with the Nelson Nordic Ski Club so that the property can be used by all. From time to time it may be necessary for NNSC to close certain sections of this area to skier use. The main area of concern is the A-frame area where the youth usually have their camp located but from time to time it may also be necessary to close other portions of the Busk trail to skier use. This restriction will be minimal and will only be put in place when absolutely necessary. Please abide by the restrictions.

The other users of camp Busk may walk along the trails. This may cause some short-term trail degradation to skiing but it is their right to access the property. The next time we groom the trail this damage can be easily repaired. They may also use snow sleds, primarily for taking supplies in and out but also for their rescue and emergency evacuation, should such be necessary.

Youth groups have more stringent guidelines required by their own organizations than apply to adult only groups. For example they might not be comfortable with an unknown (or even known) adult talking to the youth so ask permission of their leader prior to interacting directly with the children. Similarly if you have a complaint that you feel can't wait for the executive to deal with please discuss it with the leader of the youth, give them your name, get their name, try to promote understanding of both sides and let a Nelson Nordic Ski Club executive know about the issue in a timely manner. In no case is it acceptable for adults to yell or swear or challenge the activity of the youth. Please hold the leader of the youth accountable for the behaviour of the youth in their care. It is their responsibility.

The Nelson Nordic Ski Club wants to continue our wonderful relationship with all the private landowners whose lands they generously allow us to use. We don't want to have any litter so please pack out everything you brought in. If you have any issues about the trails please bring them to the attention of the executive as soon as possible. Enjoy the trails and have a great ski!

NNSC Racers

The Nelson Nordic Junior Racers have been dryland training since September, doing running, stairs, core training and intervals. They had a great dryland camp in Rossland at BlackJack and just before Christmas a snow camp with Regional Coach Petr Jakl. They were happy to get on snow early in the season at higher elevations.

Their first race was the qualifier for the BC Winter Games. It was held January 2nd in Kimberley. The BC Winter Games age group is 13 to 15 year olds. Heather Mehain won her Juvenile Girls category in a 3.5 km skate race. Sonja Poole came 2nd in the Midget Girls 3.5 km skate race and Josh Hall won the Midget boys 3.5 km skate race. All three skiers qualified for the Games in February in Rossland.

On January 7th and 8th coach Mae Hooper took Heather Mehain, Sonja Poole and Josh Hall to the BC Cup #1 in 100 Mile. Heather won her 5 km classic race in Juvenile Girls by 32 seconds. There were 16 girls her category. Heather also won the sprint races in skate technique on winning the gold medal.

Sonja Poole won a bronze medal in Midget Girls in her 3.5 km classic race. There were 22 girls in her category. Sonja made it to the semifinals of the sprints in the skate race.

Josh Hall came 6th out of 22 boys in the Midget Boys category. He made it to the semifinals of the sprints in the skate race.

The first Kootenay Cup will be held in Rossland at BlackJack on Saturday January 15th. They will be sprint races. A classic race will be held in Castlegar at the Paulson Pass on Sunday January 16th.

The Juniors are training hard three times a week at our club trails. Watch for them!



World Cup 2005

A number of Nelson folks descended on the Sovereign Lake Nordic Ski Club in Vernon, BC on Dec 10 and 11 to enjoy the Viessmann FIS World Cup. We were not disappointed... the event was extremely well organized, ski conditions were perfect, the sun was shining, transportation to the event was smooth and the Canadians athletes performed. The local crowds

witnessed Beckie Scott ski to a silver in the 15 km combined event, and a gold in the sprints, with Ontario's Sara Brenner collecting the bronze. It was great to see so many familiar NNSC members taking in this international event. The bonus was getting in some early season skiing of our own on the trails at Silver Star.



GERICK
Cycle & Outdoor Sports

702 · BAKER · STREET
NELSON · BC · 250 · 354 · 4622

www.gericks.com

CROSS COUNTRY SKI INSTRUCTION

Once again, Gerick Cycle and Outdoor Sports is offering classic skiing and skate skiing instructional programs, and sales and service.

- Courses include instruction, handouts and ski trail information from our qualified instructor, Kristyn McIntosh.
- Also, throughout the winter we are offering complimentary Wax Clinics.

For more information and course dates:
Contact **Gerick Cycle and Sports @ 354 4622** or
Kristyn McIntosh @ 352 5496.