

CARIBOO SKI TOURING CLUB
40th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 3, 2016

In Attendance: 42 members

Introduction of Executive: President: Brian Black
Vice-President: Vicki Esplen
Treasurer: Amy Reid
Secretary: Shannon Coffey

**Motion: To accept the Constitution and Bylaws of the Cariboo Ski-Touring Club 2016. Moved by Charlotte Kurta.
2nd Ron Watteyne** **Carried**

Committee Reports:

1. Treasurer's Report - Amy Reid

CSTC ended the 2015-16 season with less cash and fewer investments than the previous season. The Lit Track project required the use of our internally restricted funds which were designated for a major project such as this one. A grant payment is owing on this project which will reimburse many of the expenses encountered for the project. We ended the year with \$17,804 in cash. Revenues were up overall, with the anticipated grant revenue. Operating expenses are down slightly, but the decrease in cash mainly comes from the investment in trails, which are considered capital assets. This cash position should help us in applying for additional grants for future projects.

2. Skill Development Program - Sunshine Borsato

Another great year with 60 participants in the Skill Development Program including three groups: Bunnies, Jackrabbits and Track Attack. We utilized about 17 coaches and the average the last few years has been 60 kids and 17 coaches and helpers with a high of 89 kids and 20 coaches in 2013. Last year, we re-structured our program to include Monday night sessions and Saturday sessions with the option of attending one or the other or both (Monday and Saturday) totaling 16 sessions last season for the approximately 30 kids who did both Mondays and Saturdays which was 24 hours instruction time on snow for those kids. The Bunnies Program (under 5) only runs on Saturdays. This is new framework is intended to provide more snow time for kids who want it and to be more flexible for newer participants who have other activity commitments plus allow us to accommodate more kids when membership/participation grows.

The new SDP subcommittee introduced formally last year was a significant improvement with events coordinators, registration coordinators and coaching coordinators to help run the program and this structure is continuing this year with more volunteers invited. We have a good base of certified coaches recruited again this year but we are of course hoping to introduce more people to how much fun we have on snow at all skill levels so even if you are not a fast or technical skier, we have a group for you! We would like to have 19 certified coaches and parent helpers with a lot of imagination and enthusiasm and we always strive to pair people with experienced coaches, provide external and internal training and support plus we provide lesson plans and equipment you can choose to use for every lesson.

Dryland training started this year with a dedicated group of 6-7 youth ranging from the ages 8-13 years old who are running, doing intervals, yoga and strength building on Saturday mornings. We have been training approximately five weeks already in the mud and drizzle and I am totally impressed with everyone's commitment and keen attitude.

An improved and moved Monster Steps has been installed as a fun obstacle for the smallest to biggest skiers to the side of the stadium and a few more fun installations are being planned for this year and next. SDP registration is this weekend at the gear swap – Saturday 12-4 at Hallis Lake – plus always on-line and at Rocky Peak or the Hallis rental shop.

Please contact Sunshine Borsato if you have ideas, feedback or some time to volunteer on our SDP subcommittee or coaching - even as a back-up coach when we need a substitute as this is a huge help to us to have a call list of people who can step in when a coach is sick or away and of course we are ready for another great season starting December 10th and December 12th.

Elementary School Races – Last year we had our consistent average of about 90 kids in the races mostly from our own ski club plus Williams Lake and the kids did marvellously well with our last minute course changes in the biathlon range area since much of our other normally utilized race courses were all ice!

This race is intended to introduce new skiers to a fun day of cross country skiing while providing an opportunity for our rabbits to show off their skills in this fun competition including all elementary aged kids from our community and neighboring communities. This year we will be holding the race February 18th and as always, require a lot of volunteers to make the race a huge success – my continuing goal is to show off our venue and programs while making sure everyone has fun and very few kids are crying – this takes a lot of people! There are some big time commitment jobs like poor Christine K in the timer's hut all day and Sally Johnston who grates 5lbs of cheese and assembles 150 quesadillas but also some very small time commitments like parking lot attendant and quesadilla flipper.

Cross Country Canada will not be sponsoring any events this year and we are looking for some local sponsors to provide a tshirt, water bottle or similar item for participants as it is very attractive to new skiers and also helps with the “nobody crying” goal!
Please contact Sunshine with any suggestions, feedback or hours to volunteer!

3. Loppet - Vicki Esplen

Once again weather was a concern for this year's Loppet. Warm weather and rain really made conditions a challenge for track setting. Luckily we had a freeze the night before so that the tracks could be set. Al Schutz did an amazing job at setting the tracks despite the melting conditions. He was unable to set the 5 km track so participants did three loops of the 2.5 track. Feedback on this change was positive. Something to consider for next year??

From Zone 4 registrations:

91 participants registered
Total Paid by Registrants \$3150.00
Zone 4 fees \$244.00

Net Revenue from registration: \$2906.00
Total Expenditures: 1930.17
Net: 975.83

Actual participants for the day: 83 (26 from outside Quesnel)
29 – 16 years and under
34 – Recreational/ 11 – 8 km and 23 – 16 km. There were 3 teams of Women's Recreational Pairs
20 – 32 km participants

Feedback:

1. Add one more category to the SDP lineup to divide up the ages 5 – 11 into three groups instead of just two.
2. Consider looping for the 8 km (7.5km) track – repeat of this year's default plan
3. Having registration online prior to Xmas is a good plan
4. Now that all registration is online and there is no paper registration with the details on it, more information needs to be available on our website. Categories, costs, deadlines... We had a brochure but it was not available to outside Quesnel folks – and those are the ones that have the questions. This information could be added to the website early in the season – possibly early December...
5. Could we open up the Recreational Pairs to more than just a Women's category? Men/ Parent & child...
6. Announcers did a great job.
7. Draw prizes were terrific – lots of good choices for participants to choose from. Purchasing items at cost from Rocky Peak was a good plan.

4. Nordics/Biathlon – Jim Crellin, Chris Elden

The CSTC Biathlon group had another good season in 2015-2016. We were slightly up in numbers in our athlete group as the previous year with 13 athletes registered and coming to training sessions.

It was a season of good results for our athletes. We attended the BC Cups in Vanderhoof, Prince George and Callaghan with a strong group of athletes who did well in competition. At the BC Winter Games in Kelowna, Anni Kurta was first in all of her competitions, Ryan Elden was 2nd in all of his and Graham Hamelin was first in the Individual competition. We had 3 of our athletes named to the 2016-2017 Development and Talent squads. This is a great performance for a group of this size. As well we had two athletes and one Master on the BC Nationals Team. Anni Kurta and Ryan Elden were at the top of their categories in the overall selection for Nationals and brought home a bronze medal in the relay. Our master athlete, Chris Elden came 2nd at Nationals in all three individual competitions

For the 2016-2017 season we have 11 athletes training so far, with 2 new junior athletes joining as well. We acquired another Izhmash 7-3 biathlon rifle for the rental program for this year. Our goal of having all athletes who are seriously competing using a proper biathlon rifle once they are past the Juvenile age group has been met and we may be able to retire some of our older, well worn rifles.

We hosted a Regionals competition and BCWG selection trial in January 2016 which went well. We were thankful it wasn't scheduled for later in the season.

The CSTC has been chosen to host the BC Cup #2 competition at Hallis Lake on January 13-15, 2017. Chris Elden will act as Chief of Competition with Jim Crellin as Assistant. We have most of our key positions filled but we will be looking for many volunteers.

BC Cup #1 will be held at Telemark on December 16-18 2016. The following BC Cups will be at Hallis Lake, Callaghan and Burns Lake. Nationals will be held in Prince George on March 7-12, 2017.

5. Membership - Greg Strebel

Club membership was lower last season due to the poor conditions and particularly the lack of snow over the Christmas holidays. Our total was 405, considerably lower than the previous two years 470 and 520.

The new early bird discount dates makes a comparison with last year quite dramatic. At the time of the 2015 AGM we had approximately 30 members signed up to date this year we have a total of 178.

CSTC Memberships to Oct 30. 178 Members, consisting of:

- 4 Snowshoers
- 9 Adult back country
- 1 Student back country
- 118 Adult All Options
- 10 Junior All Options
- 1 Student All Options
- 5 Under age 5
- 1 Bunny program
- 7 Saturday Jackrabbits
- 2 Monday Jackrabbits
- 9 Saturday plus Monday Jackrabbits
- 3 Track Attack
- 8 Biathlon

Three of our backcountry members are from Williams Lake, three are from Prince George and one is from Wells.

6. Equipment - Mike Alborn

I want to start by thanking last year's tracksetting and maintenance team: Brian Black, Brian Kennelly, Al Schutz, Greg Strebel, Mike MacLaughlin, Jim Crellin, Jim Capan. These guys have done a remarkable job maintaining the skiability of our trails, and keeping our equipment in fine shape. Unfortunately, Al won't be joining us this year; he takes many years of experience with him, both at the controls and under the hood, and he will be missed.

The 2015/16 season was a challenging one for our tracksetting team. After an initial dump of snow in December, a continuing warming trend for the rest of the season presented a set of requirements rather different than what we're used to.

Primarily, the focus was not so much on packing the powder as it was on preserving the base we were given at the beginning of the season and which saw little replenishment. The Pisten Bully is a very powerful grooming machine, but it's also hard on the snowpack; this meant the Pisten Bully saw what was probably a record low amount of use last season.

However, the conditions were ideal to break in our new Arctic Cat Bearcat. It proved a very capable companion to our twin track machines, and paired with a Ginzu, an excellent middle ground between the twin tracks and the Pisten Bully. It was especially useful for the ski school;

their full schedule meant that the stadium area needed daily care, and doing such with the Pisten Bully would have been too hard on the fragile snow. However, the wet soft base that came from the relentless warm weather gave even the mighty Bearcat its share of headaches. Thankfully, all our snowmobiles are equipped with winches; the wet conditions gave our team a chance to become intimately familiar with them.

The Farmer's Almanac is predicting colder temperatures this season; I for one am hoping that we can spend more time packing snow, and less time getting unstuck. Despite (our maybe in spite of) the conditions last year, our team did a remarkable job, and I look forward to seeing them in action again this year.

7. Backcountry - Bruce Self

All of the club cabins are stocked with firewood and are ready for winter. All we need is SNOW!

8. Trails & Signage – Brian Kennelly

- A new kiosk map was installed for last year's Open House. Sponsorship ad panels, 16 x 24", have been offered to local businesses and partners on the Kiosk sign. That would generate \$1000.0 for two years and can be resold at end of this term for that much again. There are firm commitments for 3 of the 8 signs to date.

- all trail junction signs corresponding to the Kiosk and printed maps, approximately 50, were created and placed around the system. The existing signs with trail names will remain in place and more signs will be added for clarity. The **P** signs indicating the shortest route to the parking lot are being replaced ongoing.

- signs were created and placed at the Lodge end of the parking lot to, as much as possible, encourage trail users to access trails via the Lodge/Stadium area. This is meant to be an aid to those unfamiliar with the trail system to utilize the latest maps, as all mapped ski routes begin in the stadium. It also encourages day users to purchase a day pass at the lodge. Those travelling with dogs are still to use the designated dog friendly trails accessed from the parking lot.

- the new Lakeshore snowshoe trail had a new entrance from the South end of the parking lot marked out, and more signage and flagging added to it for clarity. It has been well used, but random trails around the East meadow started to appear which prompted making the designated route around that meadow more obvious and more clearly marked. This trail only comes into use when Hallis Lake is safely frozen over.

- some clarity in the marking and brushing occurred on both Wally's Way and the Big Foot snowshoe trails last winter and will be redone in the early season this year.

- the main ski trail system has just been mowed, and trees over the route cleared, so we are only awaiting snow to get underway. The access gates will be opened in December when the ranchers no longer require access.

9. Lit Track – Brian Black, Ron Watteyne

The project to install underground wiring, replace fixtures with LED's and extend the lighting to include the Pancake Flats trail is now complete. Difficulties mainly due to the wet weather this

summer were encountered while installing the underground wiring the project cost has increased from an original estimate of \$88,000 to a projected final cost of \$107,000.

The project funders were:

• Northern Development Initiative Trust	\$60,000
• Cariboo Regional District	8,000
• Community Futures	8,000
• Cariboo Ski Touring Club	31,000

We also had significant in-kind contributions from:

- Active Rental
- United Concrete
- Joel Properties
- Big Country Printers
- Timber Trek Consulting
- Westroad Resource Consultants
- Dan's Engines

Volunteers from the CSTC had a key role in pulling this project off. It was a very difficult summer for doing ground work and we found that there were extremely rocky sections of the trail. Hundreds of hours were put in by many of our club members to complete this project! Once the cable installation was complete our main man Ron Watteyne took charge and the light fixture installation was completed without any problems.

The project is now complete, we now have 4km of lighted trail for everyone's enjoyment. Thanks to everyone who pitched in!

10. Social - Holly Nelson

11. Fundraising / Grant Applications – Marilyn van Leusden, Brian Black

Our grant writers, Marilyn, Amy and myself have been busy again this year.

We have received commitments for \$76,000 for our major project:

- \$60,000 from Northern Development Initiative Trust
- \$8,000 from the Cariboo Regional District
- \$8,000 from Community Futures

Operating grants total \$19,815 with:

- \$16,500 from Gaming
- \$510 from Vanderhoof Co-op
- \$1500 from CCBC
- \$500 from Investors Group
- \$ 815 from Rocky Peak, in kind

12. Publicity / Adult Lessons – Ron Watteyne

Ski Lessons

Taught 14 people 3 sessions each

6 people had coupons from Rotary Radio Auction

Total of \$495.00 revenue generated

Welcome new CANSI instructor Christine Turlett she helped me last season
The teaching season was very short last year.
Hopefully will be better this year

Publicity

Charlotte Kurta came on board to help with publicity and Lynn Simpson helped out with distributing the posters around town

Had bimonthly interviews with Dale Taylor at The Goat radio and we got good coverage from this

13. Youth Ski School – Marilyn van Leusden

In 2016, the Cariboo Ski Touring Club hosted its fifth year of the Youth Ski School Program with 29 ski school sessions and 1 ski camp being held. CSTC's Youth Ski School is coordinated with schools in the Quesnel area, 13 school groups attended, from 10 elementary schools. A total of 395 students from kindergarten to grade 7 participated in a set of 3 sessions of instruction.

Our Youth Ski School Program has grown from 411 student days in 2012, to 1005 student days in 2016. In 2016, we scheduled a total of 1245 student days. Due to a very low snow year, we had to cancel the last 4 sessions, resulting in a slightly reduced delivery of student days compared to 2015. Our enrolment for the 2017 season is expected to be about 1250 student days with 415 students participating.

In the 2015-16 season, the Youth Ski Program was coordinated by Tania Gruene and delivered with the dedicated assistance of 18 coaches who instructed for 456 hours last season.

The Youth Ski School Program is only possible, as a result of the enormous support of CSTC's club members, teachers and administrators in the Quesnel School District and our community. Over 400 hours were donated by club members for this program alone, volunteering by coaching, preparing activities and games, administration and the development of a teaching area behind the timing hut...our Dragon Lair Obstacle Course. This project was possible with funding from the Province of British Columbia, Gaming Grant 2015, and many CSTC volunteers including Dave McCulloch, Vicki and Charlie Esplen. Thank you. And as always, a huge thanks to the tracksetters, who groom before every ski school session to maintain high quality groomed trails and play areas allowing these young skiers a more enjoyable experience. Glazed ski tracks and icy snow conditions are very difficult for beginner skiers and are a serious impediment to learning and building confidence.

The Youth Ski School Program has received very positive feedback from those involved last season and we are looking forward to this season. The booking calendar is open and information about the ski school program has been emailed to elementary schools and info packages delivered to schools. At present, 30 sessions have been booked for the upcoming season; as a result, the program is almost booked to capacity. The Youth Ski School is looking for coaches and anyone interested can contact Tania Gruene.

The Youth Ski School program will be receiving a grant from Cross Country B.C., as well as funds from the Province of British Columbia (Gaming Grant 2016-17).

14. Rental Shop / Lodge– Tania Gruene

Rental Shop Report

The Hallis Lake rental shop has grown busier each season. We are happy to have CSTC programs like Jackrabbits, Youth Ski School and Adult Lessons expand and use the ski gear. Our community has also 'found' the rental shop. We are pleased to see young and old, families and groups coming to Hallis and using the available skis and snowshoes to explore our trails. The 2015-16 season saw a large increase in snowshoe rentals with more people discovering the ease and enjoyment of snowshoeing our trails. CSTC has three snowshoe trails at Hallis Lake. Each winter we have various groups like Special Olympics, scouts, youth groups and others booking days or evenings to bring groups out to ski.

In the 2016/17 season the lodge and rental shop will be open for business 7 days a week beginning on December 17th. The rental shop hours will be 10-4 on weekends, 12-6 weekdays except for Wednesdays which are 12-9pm for late skiing. We also offer hot waxing for your skis.

CSTC has a large stock of quality Rossignol classic and skate ski's available as well as snowshoes for children, and adults. Our inventory has grown to 137 pairs of skis, and 13 pairs of snowshoes. We are pleased to make these available to our community and see more people enjoying this great venue managed by CSTC.

Lodge Report

The lodge is in good shape this season with no major repairs needed. The change to the lodge rental policy disallowing private party rentals (ie. Weddings, Halloween parties etc) has been a positive change and has resulted in less cleanup and less risk to the premises.

This season the lodge and rental shop will again be open to the public seven days a week beginning December 17th. We will offer a warm concession catered by Bliss on weekends and a self-serve concession with warm drinks and snacks on other days.

Many may have noticed that the driveway is wider. This project was undertaken this summer and will make walking to the lodge from the parking lot much easier when there are vehicles passing down the driveway. Each year CSTC strives to make small and large improvements to the venue to improve the quality ski venue that we have here at Hallis Lake. There are many jobs big and small that happen to keep the lodge maintained and available for all of us to enjoy. We appreciate every hour of volunteer time that our members contribute to painting, maintaining and helping out on work parties big and small.

15. Coaching – Peter van Leusden

The CSTC hosted two coaching clinics this past year:

1. ICC (Introduction to Community Coaching) - 4 participants, all club members

Held on November 20 -21, 2015, Facilitator was Ann Quarterman

2. CC (Community Coaching) – 11 participants, 10 club members, 1 from Williams Lake

Held on January 15 – 17, Facilitator was Jamie Stirling

The club received a \$500.00 Investors Group Grant for hosting this course.

Cansi, one club member was reimbursed 50% of her course fees for Instructing adult lessons.

16. President's Report – Brian Black

Welcome to the 40th annual AGM for the Cariboo Ski-Touring Club! The last year has been another very successful one for our ski club. The winter was far too short and we did feel

slightly cheated when the skiing ended early for the second straight year. Despite the short winter, our members did enjoy some very good skiing at Hallis and in the backcountry. Our facilities, our equipment and our public programs continually improve due to the hard work and direction of our hard working executive as well as the huge volunteer effort put forward by the entire membership. During the year we tallied over 9300 hours in volunteer time to complete projects, maintain and groom trails as well as complete projects to improve the venue. This is definitely an underestimate because it is impossible to keep track of all of our activities. I thank you all for the efforts you have made to make Hallis lake and our backcountry facilities first class.

Our treasurer Amy Reid reported that we are in solid shape financially. This is excellent considering the grooming equipment acquisitions that we have made over the past years and this year's undertaking of the Lighted Track Modernization Project.

We have once again been successful in obtaining financial support for the CSTC. The reason for this is our experienced grant writers and the fact that they represent a community minded organization which has developed and operates a public recreation venue and serves the community. Our community strongly supports the CSTC, its facilities and the many programs we offer. The several grants that we received this year total more than \$95,000, this is to carry out our major project and also to assist in financing operating costs of our programs.

I will try not to repeat the information in the directors reports but I need to hit on the highlights:

- Snow grooming was a real challenge with very little snow to work with. The Ginzu and the new Bearcat were valuable. Thanks Mike and the tracksetters!
- The various club events were well attended and well organized: the open house, the loppet, Quesnel Winter Carnival, the loppet, the 33rd annual elementary school races and the meltdown party.
- Enrolment in the Skill Development Program was very good. The change to Monday nights and Saturdays was well received.
- The Biathlon program continues to be great with 3 selected for the BC Winter Games bringing home 4 golds and 3 silvers. Two athletes were chosen for Team BC to go to the Nationals. Masters athletes brought home 3 silver medals. Five of our athletes were chosen for the BC Development and Talent Squads for 2016-17.
- Lots of work has been done on maps and mapping over the last year. We have a new map at the kiosk. All trail junctions have been lettered. You can now download pdf maps to your phone and with a free app follow your progress on the trails. There will be no excuse for getting lost!
- We now have a written history of the CSTC complete with the story of our founding and lots of information on our 40 years as a club. We also have a complete listing of all of the club's executive dating back to incorporation in 1975!
- The Dragon's Lair remains a work in progress as an obstacle course and games area for the Youth and SDP programs. Thanks to Vicki and Charlie Esplen as well as Marilyn van Leusden and Dave McCulloch for the great work on this.

- The Youth Ski School completed 29 of the 33 scheduled sessions with very challenging snow conditions. What a great program this has been to generate public interest in our club and skiing at Hallis. **This season's sessions are already fully booked!**
- Our Special Olympics athletes attended the nationals bringing home 3 medals for snowshoeing and 1 for cross-country skiing.
- I think one of the finest things we did during the year was to honour Joan Huxley for her amazing accomplishments in the sports of skiing while she was alive. She honoured us by attending the meltdown party and witnessed the unveiling of our wall display in her honour. Sadly she passed away a few months later.

We have a very busy season in the works!

- It starts tomorrow with the Chris Harris presentation 7pm at the Lodge (formerly the Red Bluff Inn). Tickets at Rocky Peak.
- Saturday is our annual Ski and Outdoor Gear Swap, Noon to 4pm.
- Introduction to Backcountry, Nov 30
- An Avalanche training course is scheduled for Dec 10 and 11.
- Skill Development programs start Dec 10 and 12.
- BC Cup Biathlon # 2 is scheduled for Jan 14 and 15. If you wish to volunteer please let Jim Crellin know.
- Our open house, Loppet, Elementary races are scheduled and on the website calendar.
- Please don't forget the Meltdown Party! April 1st.

The last year has been another of very significant progress for the CSTC. Once again our success is founded on the very hard work of our executive group and the many hours that our club volunteers contribute to this wonderful organization. This is a phenomenal effort that all of you have made in order to make this facility and our backcountry cabins top notch recreation venues for everyone in our community to enjoy.

It has been a pleasure to serve as CSTC president for the past 7 years. I wish to thank all of last year's directors. Going forward, I offer the new president and the executive my best wishes and my hope for great snow winters!

Motion to accept Committee Reports. Moved by Vickie Esplen
2nd: Heather

Carried

Election of Officers: Jim Crellin to officiate

1. Nomination for President: Bruce Self
2. Nominations for Vice - President: Brian Kennelly
3. Nominations for Secretary: Shannon Coffey
4. Nominations for Treasurer: Amy Reid

All officers elected by acclamation.

Directors for AGM Approval:

Past President	Brian Black
Nordics/Biathlon	Jim Crellin
Nordics/Biathlon	Chris Elden
Membership Registrar	Greg Strebel
School Program / Grant Applications and administration	Marilyn van Leusden
Equipment / Grooming	Mike Alborn
Back Country	TBA
Trails and Signage	Brian Kennelly
School Program / Loppet / Newsletter	Vicki Esplen
Social	Holly Nelson / Elaine Watteyne
Adult Lessons / Publicity	Ron Watteyne
Governance, Publicity	Charlotte Kurta
Website	Herb Chlebek
Coaching Co-ordinator	Peter van Leusden
Skill Development Program	Sunshine Borsato
Member at large	Brad Benson

Motion to accept the list of Directors for the next year. Moved by Bruce Self.

2nd Brian Kennelly

Carried

Special Presentation: Nahanni Canoe Trip presentation by Dougal Hines and John Marien