

CARIBOO SKI TOURING CLUB
39th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 5, 2015
AGENDA

In Attendance: 45 members recorded on attendance sheet

Introduction of executive: **President: Brian Black**
 Vice-President: John Redburn
 Vice-President: Vicki Esplen
 Treasurer: Amy Reid
 Secretary: Lee Morgan

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Amy Reid:

2014-2015 was a good year for our financials. We ended the year with \$31,745 in cash, with nothing owing and nothing owed, well set to start the new season. Our investments have increased as 2 GICs came due in early 2015, and were reinvested, with the interest. You will notice in the financial statements that our expenses slightly outweighed our revenues, however this includes depreciation AND the purchase of new skis and our new snowmobile which is completely paid off. With thanks to Marilyn, Brian, and Tania, we have again been very successful with grant applications, and have also received several donations supporting various programs.

Looking at revenue memberships, you will notice a decrease from 2014. This is not due to a drop in membership, but due to not booking the monies we owe to CCBC as revenue (as it is never our money). If we did all of our registration online, we would never show any of this, so we've made a change to make it more clear what our actual revenues are in memberships. Membership costs are lower for the same reason. We are not showing the money that we are essentially transferring to CCBC.

Skill Development Program and Elementary Races: Sunshine Borsato

About 60 SDP participated last year with Nicole Strand and Lisa McCarger taking the lead with an incredible force of coaches. This year I will coordinate again with a super group of committed parents acting as a subcommittee, taking on many of the jobs previously conducted by a coordinator, a legacy graciously left by Nicole and Lisa.

This is a huge boost to the program already and we have a lot of exciting changes that we hope will draw this program to another level of fun on snow while learning to train and have fun racing.

One of the most significant changes early on is that we are running the program differently with Saturday classes through the winter, as well as, Monday classes and for committed skiers, Saturday and Monday classes. We expect this will encourage our committed skiers to take advantage of more on snow lesson time and attract other members who can choose a lesson plan that fits their schedules. We also hope this lends to better coaching planning.

WE are always looking for more interested coaches or support people and are excited to continue to offer this fantastic program to our community's youth - plus, it is fun!
Please contact Sunshine if you can lend a hand or ski!

Biathlon: Jim Crellin

The CSTC Biathlon group had a great season in 2014-2015. We were slightly lower in numbers in our athlete group as the previous year with 12 athletes registered and coming to training sessions.

We attended the BC Cups in Callaghan, Vanderhoof, and ,of course, Quesnel with a strong group of athletes who did very well in competition. We had 6 of our athletes named to the 2015-2016 Development and Talent squads. This is an outstanding performance for a group of this size. As well we had three athletes on the BC Nationals Team and two of them, Kyra Teetzen and Ryan Elden brought home medals, a first ever for the CSTC.

For the 2015-2016 season we have 10 athletes training so far, with some new junior athletes joining as well. We have funding to acquire another Izhmash 7-3 biathlon rifle for the rental program for this year, but are looking for a used rifle as no new Russian rifles are being imported due to embargoes. 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 exceeded, all athletes except one are using Izhmash or Anschutz biathlon rifles and we have one spare Izhmash biathlon rifle at this time.

We hosted BC Cup #1 competition at Hallis Lake on January 3-4, 2015. This was the first BC Cup held at Hallis Lake since 2010 and the organizing committee did a great job in putting together the competition. The technical delegate's report was most complimentary and we were asked to host another BC Cup in 2016. We felt that it would be too much load on the organizing committee and volunteers, but we have agreed to host a BC Cup in 2017 and we are hosting the BC Winter Games trials on January 3.

BC Cup #1 will be held at Vanderhoof on January 9-10 2016. Caledonia Nordics is hosting the BC Cup #2 on January 30-31 and Callaghan Valley is hosting BC Cup #3 on February 25-28, 2016.

Chris Elden has completed the Advanced Level officials course this fall and will act as Chief of Competition for the BC Winter Games trials. Training continued all through the summer and fall at the Kurtas' 8 target range at their ranch near the Hallis Lake trails.

Membership: Greg Strebel

In 2014-15, CSTC had 505 members. Membership/renewals as of this evening 47, all but 2 are All Options. One is back country and one is snowshoe.

Attached is the list of those who signed up by end of day Sunday, deadline for the draw for rebate of membership/user option fee. I think we should make the draw at the AGM. The winner drawn was Anders Eriksson.

Big Country Printers is behind in their expectation to have the trail passes ready by last Friday. They haven't called me today either. Consequently I have not yet set Rocky Peak up with the registration package.

I see that Zone4 has a platform for sending out emails/newsletters to club members. I will be investigating that once we have a decent number of people signed up (registrants emails automatically go into a list according to whether they have chosen to accept mailouts.)

Equipment & Tracksetting: Mike Alborn

Thanks to the volunteers who maintained the trails last year:

- Brian Black
- Greg Strebel
- Mike MacLaughlin
- Jim Crellin
- Brian Kennelly
- Jim Cappan
- Al Schutz

Thanks to the volunteers who did the necessary maintenance last summer: our grooming crew, plus Pete Swanson who was instrumental in the construction of the snowmobile shed.

250 hours of grooming

100 work party hours

New snowmobile shed worked out well

CSTC got a new snowmobile to pull the Ginzu. Already paid for. This machine will be valuable during the early and late parts of the season, when the weather is too warm and the snow too soft to use the Pisten Bully. Also integral for our ski school program, which requires frequent grooming of the stadium and the close in trails.

Newsletter, Loppet: Vicki Esplen

Newsletter: The first newsletter of the season has been sent out to last year's membership list. Submissions and ideas for future newsletters are welcome. Contact Vicki Esplen at cvesplen@gmail.com

Loppet: Despite the crazy weather conditions, the 2015 Loppet held in January was a success. There were 78 participants: 44 adults and 34 youth/kids. We had 16 participants from out of town: PG, Williams Lake, Vancouver and North Vancouver. All registration was ONLINE. The recommendation is that we continue to do all registration for the Loppet ONLINE. Work load was significantly reduced by having all registration done the same way. We served lunch to approximately 125 participants, family and volunteers. Our volunteer numbers: 42, with a conservative estimate of 247 volunteer hours. Our profit was approximately \$400. At the debriefing, there were several suggestions for streamlining and improving some of the event day workload.

There are some ideas being developed to perhaps modify the Loppet to encourage more CSTC club members to participate. When registration is announced, in late December, please consider taking part, it is a fun, non-competitive event. And... it takes the support of many volunteers to host the Loppet so when you get a call to help out – please say YES!

Backcountry: Bruce Self

The Mount Murray Cabin, Waverly Hut and Moncton Hut have all a good stock of fire wood. Thanks to the volunteers that helped with this.

The Cariboo Mt. Cabin still awaits someone to organize a firewood work party.

Minor repairs were we made to cabins through the season and they are all in good shape for winter use.

The new Yellow Hawk trail head outhouse is a really good addition. Winter users are reminded to help maintain and stock it. Assisting by shoveling snow away from the door will be appreciated by those who follow.

Last season we organized the **AST 1 AVALANCHE COURSE** in January. It was fully subscribed and well received.

The second addition of the Backcountry Seminar was put on by Bruce, Heather and Arnold in the Hallis lodge and was very successful and informative.

Social: Holly Nelson

The following events have been scheduled for the 2015-16 season:

- January 10, 2016 Open House/Pancake Breakfast
- January 15th, 29th Friday night social
- February 8th Family/Members Day
- February 12th, 26th Friday night social
- March Meltdown Party

Trails & Signage: John Redburn

Signage: Upgrades to the signage in and about the stadium area were the prime focus this year. This included repairs to the large signs in the stadium, direction signs, a large club logo sign in the parking lot and a sign for the ski rental shop. The new map and related signage need to be completed. There will be a unique identifier sign for each junction corresponding to a similar one on the new map.

Trails: The trail system took a major beating starting in November and continuing throughout the season culminating with the destruction along the lit track and Katimivik loop. Volunteers were essential in keeping things clear and later in keeping the trails open by channeling water and building brush bridges. A new snowshoe trail was laid out, cleared and marked. It starts at the old sign kiosk on the access road, then to Hallis Lake along the south shore, then loops around the swamp and then reconnects with the trail. A short cut to the fields was laid out but not cleared or marked. A preliminary reconnaissance was carried out for an extension of the Big Foot Snow shoe trail.

Volunteers: Trail clearing and maintenance can often be cold, wet, physically demanding with inherent risks associated with bush work. There would be no skiing without volunteers' hard work and expertise. I wish to extend my thanks and appreciation to the following members who never hesitated to come out and help: Greg Strebel, Bruce Self, Arnold Kilsby, Ron Watteyne, Clive Powell, Clarke Williamson Brian Kennelly, Al Schutz, Christine Krayvaager, Sally Johnson, Chris Elden

Summary: A personal note. I relished the role of trail and signage director and thoroughly enjoyed the challenges and successes we accomplished in my term in this position. More importantly I enjoyed my time spent with all of you, at executive meetings, trail or signage projects and skiing at this wonderful facility and in the backcountry.

Happy trails

PS: regarding the replacement of one of the twin tracks...one down, two to go

Adult Lessons and Publicity: Ron Watteyne

Adult lessons

2014 / 2015 season

I taught a total of 41 adult lessons

The previous year I taught 61 adult lessons, so the numbers and revenue were down by about 32%

The snow conditions last season we're not the greatest but I only had to postpone one lesson due to poor conditions.

50% of the lessons were skate lessons, which is an increase over previous years

Example in 2013 / 2014 there was only 25% of the students that I took skate lessons

I had Christine Turler come out and help. She is very keen as well as a good skier and is interested in becoming a CANSI instructor and hopefully she'll get her certification this season.

2015 / 2016 season

Lessons should start in early January unless we have sufficient snow in December.

The club is still looking for more instructors. Two years ago Bruce Bennett came down from PG and put on an introductory level 1 instructor clinic and it was well attended (12 – 14 students) but there was no interest last season for those skiers who took the course to get their CANSI Level 1 certification. Hopefully some of you may reconsider as we need more instructors to continue to grow the sport and the club

I don't want to be like Jackrabbit Johansen and still teaching skiing well into my 90's

Tania has plans to do some weekend clinics. The details have not been fully ironed out but you should see more info soon. This would be a 5 -6 hour clinic including on snow instruction, classic and skate, ski waxing, clothing lunch and video analysis.

The ski shop will be running a ½ price special on skate ski rental every Sunday throughout the season so if you have always wanted to try skate skiing but do not have the equipment now will be the time to do it

Publicity

Thanks to:

Lynn Simpson for putting posters up around town

Observer sports Editor Jonas for his great coverage of our events throughout the season. I think he has moved on to a place where it's OK to wear sneakers in the winter

Dale Taylor at the GOAT radio station for the bi-monthly radio interviews

And especially my wife Elaine for proof reading and correcting my advertising and posters.

How do you hear about the events that are happening at Hallis Lake? So we can get an idea where to allocate our advertising budget

Members Non members

Web site Facebook

Posters Radio

Newspaper Greg's emails

Word of mouth

We are always open to new ideas and events at Hallis, so if you have ideas, please share it with me and we'll give it a try.

This season there will be a Friday night social twice a month starting on Jan. 15. We'll have either a presentation like the one you'll see tonight, musician or another form of entertainment pizza or some other kind of light snacks and of course skiing under the lights

Gear and Ski Swap on November 14, 2015 between 12 and 4 pm at Hallis Lake Lodge.

Youth Ski School Program/Rental Shop: Marilyn van Leusden

Youth Ski School: In 2015, the Cariboo Ski Touring Club hosted its fourth year of the Youth Ski School Program with 30 ski school sessions and 2 ski camps being held. CSTC's Youth Ski School is coordinated with schools in the Quesnel area, 10 school groups attended from 7 elementary schools and 1 junior secondary school. A total of 394 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 756 student days in 2013, to 1046 student days in 2014 to 1164 student days in 2015. Our enrolment for the 2016 season is expected to be about 1250 student days with 415 students participating.

In the 2014-15 season, the Youth Ski Program was coordinated by Tania Gruene and delivered with the dedicated assistance of 14 coaches who instructed for 510 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 1000 hours were donated by club members for this program alone, volunteering by coaching, tracksetting, 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 2014, and many CSTC volunteers. Thank you. This season, we hope to complete Dragon's Lair as well as, adding play equipment for games and destination ski areas.

The Youth Ski School Program has received very positive feedback from those involved last season and we are looking forward to this season. At present, 8 groups have chosen lesson dates for the upcoming season and planning has begun for 2 ski camps. The booking calendar is opened to schools since the end of September, information about the ski school has been emailed to elementary schools and info packages delivered to schools. As important as marketing may be, word of mouth has been a very important part of our success in previous seasons. So we ask everyone to spread the word about the Hallis Lake Youth Ski School Program. If you are interested in coaching please contact Tania and if you would like to attend a coaching course, contact Peter van Leusden.

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 2015-16).

Rental Shop: The Rental Shop and Lodge will be open 7 days a week: 12 noon to 6 pm weekdays with extended hours Wednesday nights till 9 pm. Hopefully, with a closing time of 6 pm, we will be able to accommodate those who would like to ski after work. On weekends, the hours will be 10 am to 4 pm.

The Rental Shop and Lodge will open December 19, 2015 and continue to the end of March or beginning of Spring Break depending on snow conditions.

The lodge will again be offering warm lunch catered by Bliss on the weekends and Wednesday Pizza nights. The lodge will stay open late on several scheduled Friday nights for adult oriented socials, with either live music, presentations or Tapas nights.

During the Christmas holidays the Rental Shop will be open except for Christmas Day and New Years Day. We are hoping for another busy Christmas skiing week with extended family groups enjoying our facilities.

Our first ski camp is scheduled for December 30, 2015 followed by a second ski camp on February 26, 2016.

Additional skis and boots have been purchased to meet the needs of the Rental Shop for CSTC members and participants in the Youth Ski School and Skill Development Programs. Our inventory now includes 137 pairs of skis, 9 pairs of adult snowshoes, 4 pairs of children snowshoes and a pulk.

CSTC is encouraging community groups to use our facilities in the afternoons and Wednesday evenings. Quesnel's Special Olympics group will be skiing at Hallis again this season. We will be contacting youth and senior groups to encourage their participation. Contact Tania if you have any groups that might be interested in lessons and rentals.

If you would like to volunteer, we have a variety jobs and would welcome your support.

Coaching: Peter van Leusden

This is a summary of the courses that CSTC sponsored during the past year, 2014-2015:

1. September 12, 2014. L2T (Learning to Train Dry land) 4 participants
(only 2 CSTC members)
2. October 3 – 4, 2014. ICC (Introduction to Community Coaching) 3 CSTC members.
3. November 22, 2014. Officials Level 1 Course (X-C) 5 CSTC members
4. January 17 – 18, 2015. CC (Community Coaching) Cancelled due to lack of numbers
5. March 29, 2015. ICC (Introduction to Community Coaching) 12 CSTC Members
6. Cansi Level 1 held in PG 1 CSTC member was certified.

Courses scheduled for 2015 – 2016

1. November 20 – 21, 2015. ICC (Introduction to Community Coaching)
2. January 15 – 17, 2016 CC (Community Coaching)

President's Report: Brian Black

Last season was another very successful one for our club. The season was rather short with the snow coming late and leaving rather early but despite that our membership and the skiing public enjoyed a lot of very good skiing and snowshoeing on the Hallis trails as well as in the backcountry. As usual there was much progress made with improving our facilities, our programs and our equipment. This progress was as usual, driven by your very hard working executive and the many, many volunteers that make this club a vital component of the community. An amazing total of 8,100 volunteer hours were logged by this group. That is the equivalent of 4 full time employees!

Amy reported that we are in very good shape financially. This is really wonderful since only a few years ago we acquired our Pisten Bully and our Ginzu groomer. We now have money to cover the cost of unforeseen breakdowns and seed money to save for a new snow cat or a major 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 club its facility and the many programs we offer. If we were a self interested organization interested only in a facility for elite skiers we wouldn't be nearly as successful. The several grants that we received this year total more than \$30,000 this is very helpful to finance new equipment and the operating costs of our programs.

Our key project for last season, was to finance and purchase a new grooming snow machine to replace one of the 27 year old twin tracks. Some of you may have already checked out Mike's new toy, the Bearcat Groomer special parked in the snowmobile shelter. It is an excellent addition to our grooming tools. The purchase was strongly supported by the following donors:

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|---|---------|
| • Community Futures North Cariboo | \$2,000 |
| • Quesnel Community Foundation | 5,000 |
| • Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development | 5,000 |

In the spring, we had a few disastrous wind storms. The lit track was particularly hard hit with about 20 trees down across the wires. The brand new wheel accessible outhouse was absolutely flattened and many of the wire spans and one light pole taken down. The good news is that our volunteers have risen to the occasion and completed the repairs. It was a huge job. Our thanks to Ron Watteyne and his several volunteers; thanks also to Dan Kaleta's for the donation of his bucket truck which made it possible to do the repairs. Thanks to Joe Daigle and Grant Schaan resurrected the outhouse. Thanks to BC Hydro for assistance with electrical lines.

Before the start of the last season our Ski School Co-ordinator was appointed Club Manager. This was very successful. Tania has taken on a lot of the administrative work of the club, and also puts in many hours as a volunteer. This has greatly eased the burden on the executive in running the significant business that we operate.

I would like to review some of the year's highlights:

- Our membership was slightly lower due to the poor start to the season but has shown really good growth of 28% over a three year span.
- The various club events were well organized and very successful; the open house, loppet, the Quesnel Winter Carnival and the elementary school races. The meltdown party was a great success with the biggest attendance in many years.

- The BC Cup Biathlon was excellent with our huge volunteer group doing a wonderful job.
- Backcountry cabins were well utilized and bookings well organized.
- The biathlon group was very strong and well supported by coaches and parents. Our athletes placed extremely well in the BC Cup races sending 3 athletes to Canadian Nationals and for the first time winning 2 medals.
- The Skill Development Program was strongly organized and is making good progress.
- The Dragons Lair play area is a work in progress and is a great asset for the Ski School and all of our young skiers.
- The Ski School program continues to grow. We started four years ago with 145 students; we will likely have more than 400 students this year for a total of 1200 lessons. This program has been the cornerstone of the clubs growth. It has given us the rental shop which makes skis readily available to the public. The ski rentals have opened up skiing to many more people in our community, attracted more to the venue and given us more members and more participants in our programs.

So what is coming up in the next year?

- We are planning for a good snow year. With El Nino it could be one extreme or the other but let's hope for early snow and great skiing. We have many at events planned like youth ski camps, the guided night skis on Wednesdays, Friday night ski socials at the lodge, our Pancake Breakfast / Open House, Loppet and other fun events. We encourage everybody to get their membership online before Dec 1st to get the early bird discount.
- Our project for the year is Modernization of the Trail Lighting. The project will be done next summer and will include installation of underground wiring and the conversion of the light fixtures to LED. We are estimating this to cost \$88,000 and we already have grants from Community Futures for \$8,000 and Northern Development Initiative Trust for \$30,000. We applied to the federal Canada 150 program but the decision was held up by the election. There is a potential of \$44,000 from this application. Underground wiring and LED fixtures will be a great step forward for us.
- The lodge will be open again 7 days / week. Come in and enjoy a hot beverage and snacks. Hot food from Bliss will be available on weekends.
- We will be holding a biathlon BC Winter Games qualifying race on January 3rd.
- On November 14th, we will have a ski and outdoor gear swap at the lodge. This is also a day for membership registration and Skill Development/Jackrabbit registration.

Again I thank our executive, they have done a wonderful job of making us successful. Two of them are moving on and deserve special thanks. Lee Morgan has been secretary for the last few years and has done an excellent job assisting the executive, keeping records and minutes. John Redburn, our Vice President, has moved to Alberta. He did a huge amount of work on our trail system and signage and will be greatly missed. I would also like to thank Olive Walsh for the very helpful work that she has done to solicit prizes and donations from local businesses for the last several years. Olive is very willing to mentor a replacement so if you can help us out with this, please let me know after the meeting.

I mentioned at the AGM last year that I am past my “best before date” as president and need to be replaced. We were not successful at doing this year but it is a must do before the next AGM. We will be working very hard to make this happen.

I thank you all once again for making the CSTC a huge success. What we have done is only possible with the outstanding contribution of the executive and club members.

Motion to accept Committee Reports: Ron Watteyne 2nd: Brian Kennelly

Election of Officers: Jim Crellin to officiate

- 1. Nomination for President: Brian Black**
- 2. Nominations for Vice- President: Vicki Esplen**
- 3. Nominations for Secretary: Shannon Coffey**
- 4. Nominations for Treasurer: Amy Reid**

All officers elected by acclamation.

DIRECTORS FOR AGM APPROVAL

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	Bruce Self
Trails and Signage	Brian Kennelly
School Program / Loppet / Newsletter	Vicki Esplen
Social	Holly Nelson
Adult Lessons / Publicity	Ron Watteyne
Publicity	Charlotte Kurta
Website	Herb Chlebek
Coaching Co-coordinator	Peter van Leusden
Skill Development Program	Sunshine Borsato
Member at large	Lee Morgan

Motion to accept the list of Directors for the next year: Motion: Peter van Leusden 2nd: Kathy Jaffary

Meeting Adjourned at: 8:00pm Motion: Amy Reid 2nd : Ron Watteyne

Special Presentation: Hiking Havasu Falls presentation by John and Brenda