

CARIBOO SKI TOURING CLUB
37th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MINUTES
OCTOBER 30, 2013

In Attendance: attendance sheet recorded

Absent with regrets: Kari Bolton, Bruce Self, John Redburn

Introduction of executive:
President: Brian Black
Vice-President: John Redburn
Vice-President: Chris Elden
Treasurer: Kari Bolton
Secretary: Marilyn van Leusden

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Kari Bolton

The Cariboo Ski Touring Club had another financially successful year. The support of the community with grants and volunteers has enabled the Club to remain in a strong financial position. The club ended the year with \$42,476 in cash and investments. Over the year the club was able to pay \$52,528 towards the loan for the piston bully and has only \$17,500 remaining on the loan from Northern Development Initiative Trust. The club currently has investments that will pay off this remaining amount when they become mature in 2015.

The Club spent \$35,845 this year on new capital assets, including the new Ginzu machine, skis for the rental shop, rifles for biathlon, the new sewer system, the accessible trail project and a television for the lodge.

The various programs run by the club continue to be successful. The Club applied for and received a Grant from Gaming for \$10, 275. These funds will be used to enhance the skill development programs, biathlon, community events and the youth ski school this coming season.

The financial statements have now been adjusted to show the depreciation of assets. At the end of this year, the club had \$602,705 in net capital assets.

Jackrabbits: Sunshine Borsato

Last year Jackrabbits bounced to an unprecedented 60 kids from a typical roster of 35! About half the participants were 5 and under which enhanced our Bunny program (2-4 year olds) and means these kids will be moving into the jackrabbit program this year reflected by fewer older or higher skilled rabbits in the top end of the program but very large groups in the earlier stages which I expect to carry through the next few years.

Program Layout – Bunnies (2-4) – Jackrabbits (4-12) – Track Attack which is new this year targeting youth aged 12 to 18. Registration is available at Rocky Peak or at the lodge during the ski swap November 9th.

Elementary School Races: Sunshine

A fabulous event for all school aged children sponsored by local small businesses, the Cariboo Ski-Touring Club and Cross Country Canada. – This year will be the 32nd annual and is a fantastic fun way to introduce kids to sport and competition but boy do I need help as it requires a lot of volunteers leading kids through the courses and timing and serving refreshments and lunch – but you get some of Sally and Lou's amazing quesadillas for lunch!

Biathlon: Jim Crellin

The Nordics Biathlon group had a successful season in 2012-2013. We were up again in our athlete group over the previous year with 15 athletes registered and coming to training sessions.

We attended the BC Cups in Callaghan, Telemark and Prince George with a strong group of athletes who did very well in competition.

For the 2013-2014 season we have 15 athletes training so far, with possibly some new junior athletes joining as well. We acquired two new Izhmash 7-3 biathlon rifles in the rental program for this year and one athlete purchased their own rifle last year so the rifle situation is much better than last year. As some of our senior athletes move on over the next few years there may be potential to acquire their rifles for the rental program as well. Our goal is to have all athletes who are seriously competing using a proper biathlon rifle once they are past the Juvenile age group.

The first BC Cup race will be at the Whistler Olympic Park (Callaghan Valley) on December 14-15, 2013. Caledonia Nordics is hosting BC Cup 2/Western Canadians on January 31, February 1-2, 2014, and then Smithers is hosting BC Cup 3 on March 1-2, 2014. We will likely host a regional race in the February/March time frame.

The coaching transition initiative is progressing well. Jim Crellin is committed to be partly available for this season primarily to help with shooting coaching and to help organize the club rental rifles program.

Chris Elden, Jim Kurta and Greg and Kathleen Roll are scheduled to take the IC-2 biathlon coaching course being held in Quesnel in January, that is being organized by Peter van Leusden. Greg and Kathleen have also completed the Level 1 officials course this fall. As well the Kurtas have constructed a new 6 target range for off –season use at their ranch near the Hallis Lake trails.

Hallis Lake Lodge Managers: Kathy and Tony Jaffary

A number of lodge projects are underway, with a few being completed this past month. The projects so far this year include;

1. Replacement of the old snow dams with stronger gauge steel and continuing all the way across the roof bottom.
2. Traction strips installed on the outside stairs.
3. Internet antenna installed on the roof and wired down to the office.
4. Hand towel dispensers were installed last season.
5. A box was built to store the pictures in when the rental groups need to remove them.

Projects still left to do;

1. Install TV in the lodge by the fireplace.
2. Install hand rails down the outside stairs leading to the basement door and hand rails on the stairs on the front of the lodge.
3. The stairs inside going to the basement need another coat of paint and traction. Once this is done they can then have the edges painted with a yellow marking paint for safety.
4. The microwave/range hood can be installed over the stove.
5. The wheelchair ramp and roof overhang covering the ramp (these are being done by a contractor)

Thanks again for everyone's help. We have a few projects to complete before the season and could always use a few extra hands.

Hallis Lake Lodge Rental: Sunshine Borsato

Please note lodge rentals on the club website. Although we don't usually book during the season, we do have one rental during the ski season which is a wedding of club members – yeah – and we will have the upstairs closed that day for decorating. But the downstairs ski shop will be open and a warm fire for warming up – December 21st

Membership: Greg Strebel

Membership Statistics

- 474 Total Members (including 10 Snowshoe and 15 Back Country) compared to ~395 last year
- 295 Adult "All Options", plus 41 Junior and 15 Family
- 20 Non-Paying members (gift memberships donated by CSTC and children under age 5)
- 288 Early registrations (\$20 before Dec 2) 166 registrations after Dec 1 (\$25)
- 19 Number of membership transaction conducted On-line
- 130 Credit or Debit membership transactions at Rocky Peak (\$16,410)

At the October 8, 2013 Extraordinary General Meeting, the attending membership approved a motion for a modest increase in Option fees to cover budget requirements and to also provide for the cost of on-line registration to avoid having an impediment to the use of this labour-saving mode of registration.

Equipment & Lighted Track: Brian Black

EQUIPMENT:

Pisten Bully:

The PB 100 purchased last year has now been in service for one season. The executive took the initiative to purchase the machine last year taking advantage of a very good price on the near new groomer. Operation is much better, less work and much more comfortable for our volunteers. We are extremely happy with the acquisition.

Ginzu Groomer:

We recently purchased a Ginzu 84 with the help of the Quesnel Community Foundation. This implement is manufactured by Yellowstone Track Systems and is now used extensively at many ski venues; producing very good results. It will be used when the snow is thin and for regular grooming of the school area. Our track setting crew has it set up and ready for service.

Twin Tracks:

The three Alpine 2 machines are in good shape and ready for the season. All of these twin tracks are getting long in the tooth and are due for replacement. Our next equipment priority will be to replace one of them with a new snow machine.

Grooming Equipment:

Our snow grooming implements, roller and packer bar are ready to go. The utility sleds are also in good repair. A new frame drag was built in the off season.

TRACK LIGHTING:

There are currently 3 repairs required to the lighting system. These will be done before the season begins.

Hallis Lake Loppet: Elaine Watteyne

The Loppet was held on Saturday, January 26th, 2013 with 100 registered participants and 97 completed the event. The new course was a great success.

We had perfect weather and ski conditions.

Many thanks to the great team: Stadium & course set-up and tracksetters: Al Schutz, Greg Strebel, Brian Black, and Mike Alborn.

Safety: Jim Crellin; Luncheon: Vicki Esplen,

And a huge thanks to my right hand man, Ron Watteyne, and of course, the host of volunteers who made this event such a success.

Loppet raised \$2814: my thanks to Marilyn van Leusden for keeping track of registration and finances.

Minus expenses, the Loppet had a profit of approximately \$800

Thank-you letters have been sent to all sponsors and phone calls made to thank the volunteers.

I have organized a binder, with information and reports from committee members that will be available in the office for the 2014 organizing committee, as this is my 5th and final year assisting with and organizing the Loppet.

Just some thoughts for this year:

- We need more Loppet flags from Fisher and or Swix.
- We definitely need racing bibs
- The announcer should be replaced by a ski club member.
- We will shop for microphone set up that we can link to our stereo. It will be handy for other events as well.
- Consider high visibility vests for officials. It will help people with questions know who to ask.
- A course official should be stationed at the end of the staging area
- We need to continue to widen the trail in areas where it is growing in.
- Our online information needs to include that it is a classic event.
- Someone who is very familiar with the course at information table between 8:15 to 9:15 would be very helpful.

Backcountry: Bruce Self

It has been a busy year in the Back Country.

All four cabins are in good shape for the upcoming season. All are well supplied with firewood. Maintenance work has been done on all. Murray saw stovepipe repairs, Waverly had a through cleaning after a four footed visitor, Moncton got some new countertop material installed and the trail re-flagged and Cariboo had a new table and porcupine protective metal sheathing installed and the floor stained.

Work continues on the lower Yellowhawk bypass trail and it is expected to be completed this fall.

We have started the process to have an outhouse installed at the Yellowhawk parking lot.

The reservation system through Barb Daigle is working extremely well. A reminder that cabin day use is open to all but overnight use requires a reservation.

There will be at least one introductory back country day trip this season but the timing and destination are yet to be determined.

We encourage you to come out and visit some or all of the cabins this season.

Social: Holly Nelson

Three social events occurred in the 2012-2013 season: Christmas tree decorating party, Open House and the Meltdown Party. All were well attended and a big success.

This year we will try to include some Friday night socials to our 3 main events.

Ten Mile Lake: Peter van Leusden, Paul Mednis

The CSTC still has the winter use permit for Ten Mile Lake Provincial Park. Nominal brushing and cutting of wind falls was conducted by CSTC volunteers.

Early season conditions were very good for classic skiing. When conditions got icy, Paul would set tracks on the lake, which proved popular with local residents.

Snow shoeing and dog walking is more popular on the trails than x-c skiing. Clear winter days, brings out a large contingent of regular ice fisher persons.

The twin track CSTC snow mobile, is kept at the Ten Mile Lake Fire Hall. The Parkland Recreation Commission has purchased a Ginzu Groomer for this ski season. This should help improve the ski conditions during icy conditions.

Trails & Signage: John Redburn

Signage

Large information signs for stadium and parking lot are almost complete. Sign repair and upgrades are scheduled for early November. We are getting a quote from the Sign Shop for the replacement of the large stadium map which is starting to deteriorate.

Trails

Club volunteers (George Paul and Mark Courtney) are doing an inspection tour of the trails in the next few weeks. Any blow down will be removed and areas requiring work noted. Snowshoe trail brushing is scheduled for Nov and early December.

A brushing contractor has been hired to mow all of the trails, work has begun and completion is expected soon.

Low Mobility Trail

The new low mobility trail is being funded by grants through the Cariboo Regional District. The trail itself and the viewpoint were completed by several club volunteers who put in a huge effort.

Two benches have been constructed and are in place. Signage is yet to be designed and a quote from Sign Stop obtained.

Two items are yet to be completed:

- Outhouse will soon be installed
- A plan is in place to rebuild the wheel chair ramp to the lodge and extend the lodge roof over the ramp.

Adult Lessons: Ron Watteyne

Taught 60 adult lessons on the Wed. night ski's

Skate and classic for a total of \$1165.00 income

Would like to have some lessons on Sat & Sun but

In order for the program to grow we need more certified instructors

CANSI course will be available this winter for interested people Contact Peter vanLeusden if you would like to take it

Publicity Report: Ron Watteyne

In desperate need for some help in this department.

I need someone to put up posters in and around town.

Anyone with new ideas on how we can promote the club, your ideas are welcome

Youth Ski School Program/Rental Shop: Marilyn van Leusden

The Cariboo Ski Touring Club hosted its second year of the Ski S'Kool program this season. We had elementary classes from 7 schools attend with a total of 250 students in a total of 9 school groups. We have had very positive feedback and are looking forward to seeing our program grow. Our original plan was to have 220 students this year and 330 in the third year.

1. The Cariboo Ski Touring club hosted the program at the club's Hallis Lake Ski Center. CSTC members with their ICC and CC1 coached all of the sessions.
2. The schools that participated from School District #28 were:
 - Voyageur elementary
 - Carson Elementary
 - Bouchie Elementary
 - Narcosli Elementary
 - Nazko Elementary
 - NCCS
 - EQDL (home school group)
3. This year our Youth Ski School Program has grown to include more than 250 students from 9 school groups and a total of 756 student days as a result of 27 ski school sessions and 2 ski camps.

Rental Shop

The rental shop is set to open again for season 3. This year we will be open 7 days a week from 10 am to 4 pm with extended hours Wednesday nights till 9 pm. The Rental Shop and Lodge will open December 21, 2013 and continue to the end of March or beginning of Spring Break depending on snow conditions, except for Christmas Day and New Years Day. Additional skis and boots in the small junior sizes and larger adult sizes have been ordered. We needed more small junior sizes for Bunnies and kindergarten students. A few sets of surplus equipment from the Rental Shop will be sold on Saturday, November 9th at CSTC Ski Swap: 10am to 2pm at Hallis Lake Lodge

Youth Ski School Program

Season 3 preparation has begun. Our target for season two is 330 students attending 3 sessions for a total of 990 student days. We have opened up the booking calendar. To this end information about the ski school and booking has been emailed to elementary schools and a hard copy of the booking package has been sent out to the principal of each school. We will follow up with an email newsletter early November, and further email updates to our distribution list. I think considerable follow up will need to be done to achieve our goals as it is a considerable increase from season 1 numbers of 411 student days. As important as marketing may be, word of mouth has been a very important part of our success in Season 1 and 2. So we ask everyone to spread the word about the Hallis Lake youth ski school.

Two schools (Baker and Bouchie Lake) have already booked 3 sessions for their students and today we received a request from Carson for 3 dates in January. Hopefully bookings will continue at this pace, so our goal for student ski days will be achieved.

We are very excited about the development of an obstacle course behind the timing hut and some ski/play areas. This is a great addition to existing trails. New equipment (balls, games etc) will be ordered for the ski school and jackrabbit students to use.

The Ski school program will be receiving a grant from CCBC of \$2500.

Coaches

The expansion of the ski school means that we need more coaches. The courses and the coaching are rewarding and a lot of fun! We ask that anybody interested in coaching contact Sunshine or Tania. Coaches must take the Intro to Community Coaching course and Community Coaching course. CSTC is offering these courses free for anybody who wants to help coach our programs. Coaching the ski school sessions requires a 2 hour commitment (generally 9-11am) when a session takes place on a weekday in the winter. We require a commitment to coach a minimum of 3 sessions between January and mid- March. The ICC course runs November 1st & 2nd, the CC course runs January 3rd to 5th. Contact Peter to put your name on the list!

Coaches: Peter van Leusden

2012 - 2013 Season:

- 2 biathlon coaches attended a biathlon bears silver and gold course in PG
- 5 biathlon coaches attended the IC-1 course held at Hallis Lake
- 6 new coaches completed the ICC (Introduction to Community Coaching) course held at Hallis Lake
- 8 coaches completed the CC (Community Coaching) on snow course.

Part of the \$3500 grant from Biathlon BC helped pay for the IC-1 course
The Investors Group \$500.00 Grant assisted to defray the cost of the CC course.

2013 – 2014 Season:

- ICC Course being held Nov. 1 – 2, 2013 at Hallis Lake. Nine new coaches from the CSTC are enrolled and 4 from Williams Lake . Investors Group is assisting us with funding, total will be determined after budget and costs for the course are submitted.
- CC Course being held Jan. 3 – 5, 2014. Hopefully those taking the ICC Course will also take this CC course. Investors Group grant has been submitted for this course.
- IC-2 Biathlon Coaching on snow course is being held Jan. 17 – 19, 2014. Four CSTC Biathlon Coaches have committed to taking the course, and the course is being advertised on the Biathlon BC website. Biathlon BC is committed to pay 1/3 of the cost of the course up to \$500.00. Investors Group grant will also be applied for.
- Cansi Level I recertification is being held at Hallis and Ottway on Dec. 21-22, 2013.
- **The CSTC passed a motion at the October 8, 2013 executive meeting; where the CSTC will pay up front, for Introductory coaching courses; including the ICC and CC x-country courses and the IC-1 and the IC-2 courses for biathlon coaches.**

President's Report: Brian Black

Our club has made wonderful progress in the last year. The contribution of our many volunteers has been outstanding. I can't begin to thank you all for your efforts to make the Hallis venue and this club one of the best in the province. Your executive has worked very hard to lead the way and many members have pitched in to complete projects and run our many club programs.

You have already heard the directors' reports so you have a good understanding of what transpired in the last year but I will hit on the highlights.

The financial report indicates that we are in good shape. This is due in large part to the dedication of the many club volunteers who make things happen with very little cost. We also get lots of financial and in-kind support from the community and other funders. Marilyn, Peter and I have been busy with grant applications and it has paid off. Many local business offer prizes for our special events, the Co-op donated some diesel fuel for the groomer and Dunkley donated lumber for our projects this fall. Some notable grants that we received in the past year include:

Mountain Equipment Coop—Pisten Bully \$5,000 (balance of the \$10,000 announced last year)
Cross Country BC—Ski School subsidy \$2,000
Biathlon BC—Rifle \$3,000
Sport Agency Society Equipment—Rifles and Ski Equipment \$4,000
Cariboo Regional District---Accessible Trail Project \$10,000
Quesnel Community Foundation ---Ginzu Groomer \$5,000
BC Lotteries—Capital and Operating Funds \$10,275

For the last several years, our focus has been to get more people out to enjoy the fabulous public recreation facility that we have created and operate. We have definitely succeeded! Our membership is now 470, up 18% over the previous year. Our youth programs are thriving with the Jackrabbit group at over 60.

The Youth Ski School Program has grown from 145 students in its first year to more than 250 students from 9 school groups with each student participating in 3 sessions for a total of 756 student days. Two ski camps were also very successful. This season we hope to enroll 330 in the ski school. More instructors are required for the ski school and for Jackrabbits and Track Attack so if you are interested please let us know. The CSTC provides the courses to get you ready.

The various club events were very well organized and well received:

- The Open House was really well attended and gave the public an opportunity to see what the CSTC and Hallis Lake are all about.
- The Loppet was excellent and much appreciated by many out of town skiers and the elementary school tournament was definitely a hit with the young skiers.
- Each year we have been participating in the Quesnel Winter Carnival and I believe it gives the CSTC and cross country skiing good exposure in our community.
- The Wednesday night ski tours have been happening for two years and continue to receive rave reviews. If you haven't already give it a try this year!

The big news at last year's AGM was the club's commitment to acquire our new Pisten Bully. Believe me it has turned out to be all that it was cracked up to be! The machine is really excellent to operate and the results on the snow are definitely superior. Our crew of volunteer track setters is still grinning! It is worth noting that the purchase is at this point fully funded. The backcountry segment of our club continues to be strong. The cabins are in great shape and the new Cariboo Mountain cabin is getting significant use.

So what is new this year?

- The Track Attack program will be offered for kids aged 10-12 who have been in Jackrabbits.
- Our venue has a new wheel chair accessible trail. John Redburn, one of our hard working Vice President spearheaded the effort to build the trail and enlisted many of our volunteers to complete the work. The trail has been completed but there are some finishing touches required before we have the official opening in the spring.
- The lodge is connected to the internet and has two televisions.
- Our rental shop will have snowshoes.
- The new Ginzu groomer will facilitate grooming when we don't have enough snow for the PB and will also be used for the daily grooming required by the Ski School.
- CSTC will have its own Ski Swap on November 9th at Hallis Lake Lodge from 10 am to 4 pm. For further information check our website: see Special Events page.
- The lodge and rental shop will be open every day from 10 am to 4 pm and until 9 pm on Wednesdays starting December 21. It will be closed on Christmas and New Year. Tell your friends! Let's get more people out to enjoy skiing and snow shoeing.

In summary I would like to thank all of the club members who have so willingly pitched in to make this another very successful year for the CSTC. Your directors have been outstanding in taking leadership and doing a huge amount of work to make this club a success.

In any strong club we have some changes for the coming year:

- Chris Elden is leaving his position as Vice-President after 4 years but remaining as a Director to focus his energy on the Biathlon program.
- Kari Bolton is stepping down as treasurer after contributing to a very good year and particularly in helping us to submit a very strong proposal to Lotteries BC.
- Elaine Watteyne has done a wonderful job of organizing our last two loppets. She has for several years been an energetic director contributing in many ways to our success.
- Marilyn van Leusden has been CSTC Secretary for the past 6 years and has been truly excellent in keeping the rest of the directors on task and making sure that no issue falls between the cracks. Her perseverance and dedication have been remarkable.

Motion to accept Committee Reports: Vicki Esplen 2nd: Ron Watteyne Motion Carried.

Election of Officers: Jim Crellin to officiate

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| 1. Nomination for President: Brian Black | elected by acclamation |
| 2. Nominations for Vice- President #1: John Redburn | elected by acclamation |
| 3. Nominations for Vice- President #2: Vicki Esplen | elected by acclamation |
| 4. Nominations for Secretary: Lee Morgan | elected by acclamation |
| 5. Nominations for Treasurer: Amy Reid | elected by acclamation |

**DIRECTORS FOR AGM
APPROVAL**

Nordics/Biathlon	Jim Crellin
Nordics/Biathlon	Chris Elden
Membership Registrar/ Email updates	Greg Strebel
School Program / Grant Applications	Marilyn van Leusden
Equipment / Grooming	Mike Alborn
Back Country	Bruce Self
Trails, Trail Lighting and Signage	John Redburn
School Program / Newsletter	Vicki Esplen
Social	Holly Nelson
10 Mile Lake Trails	Paul Mednis
Lodge	Kathy or Tony Jaffary
Adult Lessons / Publicity	Ron Watteyne
Website	Herb Chlebek
Coaching Coordinator	Peter van Leusden
Skill Development Program/ School Program/Lodge Rentals	Sunshine Borsato

**Motion to accept the list of Directors for the next year: Joe Daigle 2nd: Christine Kraayvanger
Motion Carried**

Meeting Adjourned at: 8:30 pm Motion: Chris Elden 2nd: Ron Watteyne Motion Carried

**Special Presentation: TOUR TRANSALP: 7 days, 4 countries, 60 000 vertical feet on a bike.
Presented by John Courtney**

50 members of Cariboo Ski-Touring Club were in attendance.