

**Cariboo Ski-Touring Club
Minutes February 16, 2016**

In Attendance: Brian Black, Mike Alborn, Ron Watteyne, Greg Strebel, Bruce Self, Amy Reid, Brian Kennelly, Shannon Coffey, Charlotte Kurta, Jim Crellin, Sunshine Borsato

Absent with Regrets: Marilyn van Leusden, Peter van Leusden, Lee Morgan, Vicki Esplen, Holly Nelson, Chris Elden, Herb Chlebek

Adopt Agenda:	M: Greg Strebel	2 nd : Bruce Self
Adoption of Minutes of December 8, 2016	M: Jim Crellin	2 nd : Ron Watteyne
Adoption of Treasurer Report for January 31, 2016	M: Charlotte Kurta	2 nd : Brian Kenelly

Correspondence:

Completed Criminal Record Checks have been received from Tania Gruene, Christopher Hyde, Nicole Strand, Sunshine Borsato, Dianah Bergensen, Angela Mezzatesta, Nancy Last, Lisa McCargar, and Sherrylynn Gosselin.

- there was discussion about the above list of names as some of the above named had not done criminal record checks this year
 - Peter van Leusden has the criminal record checks and was not in attendance
 - Further discussion is needed on this
- In progress**

A thank-you card was received from Joan Huxley.

Old Business:

1. Trail Maps - Jim Crellin

- the new maps are up
- the maps can be downloaded from the CSTC Website, when used in combination with an app on your phone you can see where you are when you are out skiing. Jim can help with getting someone set up to do this.

New Business:

1. Open House Report – Tania Gruene

The open house was again very well attended with a few more people than last year for a total of 312 people. 246 were non-members and 66 were members. We saw 184 rentals go out in the course of the day. 164 skis and 16 snowshoes. We saw many more people coming with their own snowshoes to try the trails than we have seen in previous years.

The lessons were well attended and it seemed to work well that Ron and his crew were outside and we were able to send people to them for their lesson as they came out with their skis. This seems to work much more smoothly than 2 set lesson times.

Holly and Crew did a wonderful job putting together breakfast. The pancake breakfast served approximately 250 breakfasts. All of the pancake batter was donated by the Bread Peddler and the coffee was donated by McDonalds.

We do see an increase in rentals in the rental shop beginning right after the Open House. This was short lived due to poor conditions but we see people from the open house returning to rent skis or snowshoes.

Feedback and suggestions for next year that have been passed on:

More equipment- perhaps a demo day from a retailer or borrowing some gear from Rocky Peak?

Ski and SS tours starting earlier. 1030 and 1130 instead of 12.

A designated ski patrol person skiing the close in trails to help people. (Al Fleck says he will volunteer to do this in 2017)

The runner numbers converts sizes on the rental sheets for the rental shop area. Pre numbering the rental sheets.

Less elaborate items on the breakfast menu to reduce costs or charge slightly more for the breakfast.

Motion: Sunshine moves that next year there will be a set budget and a suggested donation price increase including a family price.

Seconded by: Greg Strebel

motion carried

2. Loppet Report – Brian Black

- There were about 90 participants in the race
- Positive feedback given on the 8 km course
- nylon brushes or marker flags for marking the courses need to be ordered – Jim Crellin will look into

3. Winter Carnival Report – Brian Black

- About 270 people got out skiing
- the general skill level of participants is improving
- the general public now knows about the Hallis Lake Ski facilities

4. HLCPA AGM Report – Brian Black

- fence repair is done and paid for
- it would be good to get minutes from the meeting

5. Hallis Lake trail policy on flagging/ribbon use – Bruce Self

- Discussion: If you put up flagging, take it down!

- people need flagging to stay on the snowshoe trails
- perhaps a consistent colour could be used for marking the snowshoe trails

6. Lines of Communication – Sunshine Borsato

- A system is needed to make clear what has been groomed
- Groomers could mark on a white board or map on the outdoor lodge bulletin what has been groomed when they finish so skiers can know when they get to Hallis

7. Criminal Record Check Update & Revisions – Tania Gruene

The Ministry of Justice has modernized the Criminal record check system to an online system. It is fast and easily done. The only people who have to go to the detachment now are individuals who are requested to by the detachment because of birth dates or last names matching known offenders.

The CSTC is registered with the Ministry of Justice and has an access code so that our volunteers can direct their results to the club. This means that almost all crim check results can be emailed directly to the coaching director instead of coming in the mail. The Ministry of Justice has also revised the criminal record checks to be current for years. We will need to update the Criminal Record Check Policy to match how the current system actually works. With Peters input I have suggested some revisions to the current policy. I have attached the revisions and the 'how to' that we send to coaches as a starting point for revisions. I have just attached the 'how to' so that directors can see how the system currently works for our coaches when they are asked to complete the check.

In Progress

- discussion on availability and access to CSTC Policies occurred
- Shannon Coffey and Brian Black will go through the files and compare policies

In Progress

Committee Reports:

1. Skill Development Program: Jackrabbit/Track Attack – Sunshine Borsato

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RACES committee report - The event is Saturday February 20th - while approved for sponsorship by CCC (note: they said they love our event!) they just informed us they have budget restraints and can only sponsor up to 75 kids. I usually get sponsored for both events, the ski tournament and the double cross, and so I am negotiating separate sponsorship for both but in such a way I will have one item for each kid. Our back up plan is that Rocky Peak will donate ski sleeves for additional prizes.

Volunteers - I am still looking for key volunteers for this event. Christine K will do results but she needs a partner in the timing hut. Timers etc are still needed as well as chief of course.

If Ron can start publicizing on the radio and invite the paper that would be great!

SDP/JACKRABBITS - 60 kids - some Saturdays, some Monday nights and some both - 17 coaches - offering the two different times has been very successful and I will definitely duplicate it going forward plus the kids who are doing both are getting 16 sessions this year and it is definitely showing in their ski ability. I am looking for ideas for coach gifts - something like toques or similar - this is at cost to the club and ideas are welcomed. In the past I did gift cards but a CSTC item was requested. Wrap up is February 29 and March 5th. We started extra skate ski lessons for kids 12:15-1 on Saturdays January

30th til the end of the season (4 sessions) which is well-attended as an opportunity for younger kids anxious to skate ski to keep enthused as well as other kids who want to do biathlon next year to get extra skate ski lessons. For example, my 7 year old and her friend took part and rented skate skis and it was exciting to see them progress in the one lesson and they loved it. Three of us are coaching to accommodate the different skill levels.

As of January 12th we will have had six sessions, Monday night and Saturday included, and have approximately 55 kids enrolled. The Monday night and Saturday format is working well thus far. Kids are currently working toward the loppet but it would be great to have a parent "how to register for the loppet" information from the loppet committee and the detailed descriptions of categories and routes so we can share that with coaches and the kids can prepare.

The slackline was purchased for SDP and the ski school is welcome to use it - it has been very very popular and works on balance in a fun way. It technically needs to be moved to a better spot between two trees as the current two trees became stumps this year! I believe Tanya is planning to find a spot. The in-house coaching session with Ron was excellent - participants were very excited about what they learned and met our objective: to build coach confidence. In-house parent lessons scheduled January 9 and 11th with Peter and Sunshine and parent waxing sessions to prepare for the loppet Jan 16 and 18th. I will start an extra lesson group in late January focused on skate skiing for kids who are planning to go into biathlon next year.

Second committee report:

Elementary School Races - the CCC proposal has been submitted and we will continue with the same race format as last year with beginner and experienced race categories. I will begin to solicit volunteers and I am hoping some key people including Peter, Jim and Brian are available. The website already has the updated information for the race scheduled February 20th.

2. Nordics/Biathlon – Jim Crellin

Regular shooting and skiing practices were held most weekends at Hallis Lake. Shooting practices are on Saturday mornings at 10 AM as well as ski training Tuesdays and sometimes Thursday evenings. We now have 12 junior athletes and 2 masters training and competing..

The BC Winter Games Qualifier on January 3 was a successful event. We used the Biathlon BC timing equipment and ran the competition as if it were a BC Cup with some simplifications. Lots of volunteers came out and the competitors had a good time. Ryan and Claire Eldon and Graham Hamelin qualified for the BC Winter Games Zone 8 Team.

BC Cup #1 at Vanderhoof was well attended with 10 CSTC athletes competing. Snow conditions were thin but adequate. The Individual competition on Saturday Jan 9 was the first competition of the season for most and the first BC Cup competition for some. Chris Elden and Anni Kurta both took Gold in their categories. Our athletes fared better in the Sprint Competition on Sunday Jan 10 with Clare Elden taking 3rd place, Chris and Ryan Elden 1st place and Anni Kurta 1st place.

BC Cup #2 at Otway on January 30 and 31 was attended by the same 10 athletes with the addition of Graham and Laura Balkwill attending for their first BC Cup competition in the Sprint on Saturday. Ryan Elden and Anni Kurta took first place, Chris Elden 2nd place and Clare Elden 3rd place in that event. In the Individual event on Sunday we had some new CSTC athletes on the podium with Megan Strand taking 1st

place in Juveniles, and Jared Hamelin taking 3rd place in Senior Boys. Ryan Elden took 2nd place and Chris Elden and Anni Kurta took gold again ☺

Honorable mention goes to Landon Aiislie who just started biathlon as midget this year and who has competed in every competition so far. He started off in 12th place in the first BC Cup competition and has moved up to 7th by the end of BC Cup #2.

A team of 9 athletes with coaches and parental support crew are on their way to Callaghan Valley for BC Cup #3 on February 13-14 which will end the BC Cup series for this year.

Still to come in February/March will be the BC Winter Games and then Nationals.

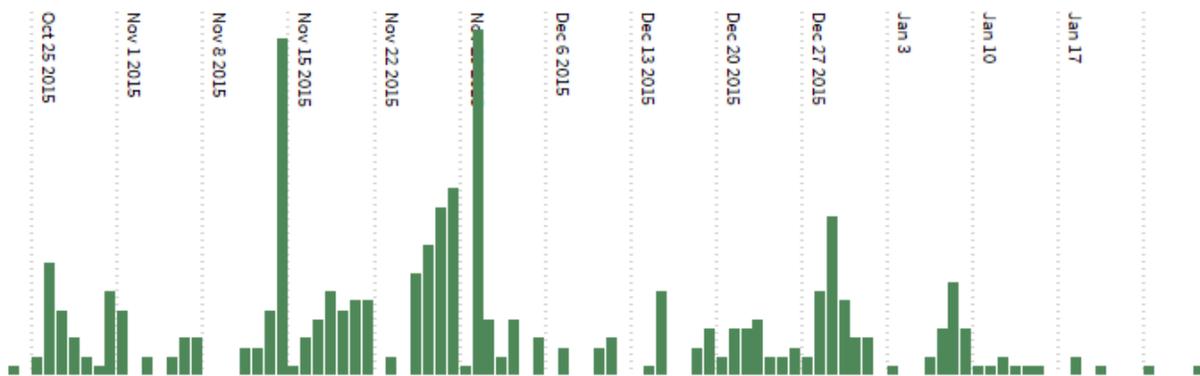
Funds for rifle rentals have (almost) all been remitted. We are looking to purchase a new stock for one of our Izhmash rifles and a spare Izhmash rear sight that is available.

Preliminary organization is underway for an advanced coaching clinic funded through our Lottery grant.

3. Membership – Greg Strebel

Membership Report, as of 16 February 2016

Registrations by Date



248 Carts

Family Back Country	3	\$300.00
Family 'All Options'	19	\$3420.00
Family Snowshoe	0	

403 Individuals

Basic Individual Membership	11	Under age 5 as of 31 Dec.	
	379	Basic Skier Membership	\$10161.00
	13	Snowshoer Membership	\$160.00
	403		\$10321.00
Individual Activity Options	18	Club Supporter, not using trails or cabins	
	84	Family Backcountry, Snowshoe or All Options (S...	
	18	Adult - Back Country	\$900.00
	3	Junior or Student - Backcountry	\$80.00
	242	Adult - All Options including groomed trails	\$19360.00
	27	Junior (ages 5-18) All Options	\$810.00
	2	Student (with card) All Options	\$80.00
	9	Adult Snowshoe	\$90.00
	0	Junior/Child Snowshoe	\$0.00
	403		\$21320.00
Skill Development Program	8	Bunny Rabbit Program (Under 5 as of Dec 31)	\$200.00
	23	Saturday Jackrabbit	\$920.00
	4	Monday Jackrabbit	\$160.00
	23	Sat & Mon Jackrabbit	\$1265.00
	2	Track Attack (for children age 10 and up)	\$100.00
	60		\$2645.00
Biathlon Program	12		\$660.00
CCC Membership	370		\$19.00

The actual membership is 402 individuals. One individual inadvertently signed up as Club Supporter and had to re-register as Back Country.

I don't have an exact comparable for last year, but as of 21 Jan 2015 we had 497 members and on 13 Jan 2014 we had 473 members.

Motion: Greg moves that there will be a discount of \$10 before October 15 and a discount of \$5 before November 30, 2016 on the annual membership.

Seconded by: Amy Reid

motion carried

The actual membership is 364 individuals. One individual inadvertently signed up as Club Supporter and had to re-register as Back Country.

I don't have an exact comparable for last year, but as of 21 Jan 2015 we had 497 members and on 13 Jan 2014 we had 473 members.

Motion: Greg moves that there will be a discount of \$10 before October 15 and a discount of \$5 before November 30, 2016 on the annual membership.

Seconded by: Amy Reid

motion carried

4. Equipment – Mike Alborn

Lots has happened since our December meeting. Right around Christmas, we got a couple of feet of snow all at once. Despite the sudden spike in workload, our team got it all packed and groomed reasonably quickly. Unfortunately, since then, we haven't had much more snow, which has presented a challenge to our grooming efforts.

On the morning of the pancake breakfast, I made some wiring changes on the Ginzu and Muska so that the Ginzu can be pulled by both Muska and the new Bearcat. The Bearcat is an excellent machine for towing the Ginzu, especially on trails that are already packed.

The small base, and the warm wet weather, has made grooming difficult, and really limited the usefulness of our Pisten Bully. Al Schutz did the grooming for the Loppett, and reported that it was the worst conditions he's ever groomed in. The previous day's rain had rotted the base, and the PH would spin out and dig up earth at the slightest provocation. The 8 km course for the Loppett had to be modified because Al was unable to groom the 7.5 trail due to the conditions. The PB left such a mess that the trail was unskiable, and we've only just recently been able to get it under control, our efforts hampered by the continuing warm wet weather.

Other team members grooming with the Ginzu have reported getting stuck quite often; thankfully our machines are equipped with winches.

In anticipation of more seasons of warm weather, I am expecting that we'll be spending less time using the PB and more time using the Ginzu in future years. To that end, I'm spending as much time as I can grooming with the Ginzu, in order that I become more familiar with the art of its operation. So far I've had mixed success, but it's been a good learning experience; I'm currently gathering insights gained from myself and the rest of the team, and compiling them into something we can use to guide our grooming decisions in the future.

5. Backcountry – Bruce Self

The Murray/Waverly area got about 6" of new snow last sat. and skiing was reported to be good to very good at Waverly. The ski out was OK but the bottom 1/3 was reported as heavy, AKA mashed potatoes. No report from Moncton. Cariboo is losing snow at the cabin but in the alpine still some snow. Barring rain I plan to proceed with the beginner ski trip into Cariboo Mt. on Sun. Feb. 21.

6. Signs & Trails, Lit Track – Brian Kenelly

- new kiosk map was installed for Open House.

MOTION: Brian Kennelly moved that the CSTC will offer sponsorship panels, 16 x 24", to local businesses and partners on the Kiosk sign. **RATIONALE:** The kiosk affords highly visible exposure well suited to advertising. The SignStop has quoted a cost of \$70.00 per panel, and may be interested in being one of the advertisers themselves. I have also contacted Rocky Peak, and they're interested as well. I thought we could sell the spaces for, say, \$200 for 4 years. That would generate \$1000.0 and could be resold at end of term for that much again.

Seconded by: Mike Alborn

carried

- all trail junction signs, approximately 50, have been created and placed around the system. More signs will be added for clarity, and the **P** signs are being replaced ongoing.
- the new Lakeshore snow shoe trail has 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 was well used, but with random trails around the East meadow on Open House. That prompted me to make the designated route around that meadow more obvious and more clearly marked.

7. Social – Holly Nelson

Lots has happened since the past meeting: pancake breakfast that was fairly expensive. Would like to know if any new members as a result of it. Propose increasing cost to 3 -4 dollars. Kim Kolenchuk social was lots of fun. Kim suggested he host a coffee house for us.

8. Ski the Gold Rush Trail – Ron Watteyne

1860's Gold Rush Ski Challenge

Log sheets were sent out in an email from Greg and some were printed off and are in the lodge. The large posters to record distances (which were to be posted in the lodge) took longer than anticipated to create and with the conditions now I decided to keep the posters and use them for the beginning of next season.

I received 2 boxes of Gold Rush Trail badges from CCBC for the Jackrabbits. These were all free as CCBC no longer has this program and they wanted to clear out their warehouse so for the cost of the Greyhound freight we now have enough badges to last a lifetime.

9. Email Communications – Greg Strebel

10. Newsletter – Vicki Esplen

11. Fundraising – Marilyn van Leusden, Brian Black

- Gaming Account Summary Report for grant # 1036455, was submitted December 19, 2015.
- Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program, Application WD Western Economic Diversification Canada. Our application was declined.
- Submitted a Letter of Intent to Quesnel Community Foundation on January 6, 2016 for funding for the Lighted Track Modernization. CSTC received an email on 29 January 2016, stating our funding request was unsuccessful due to the heavy demands for grant funding this year. QCF received 28 Letters of Intent looking for a total of just over \$150,000.
- We are currently making application to NDIIT for money from the “Pine Beetle Recovery Account” to fund the Lighted Track Modernization. This application is being submitted by the CRD with our assistance.
- An application will be made in early March for funding from MEC for the Lighted Track Modernization project.

12. Publicity/Adult Lessons – Ron Watteyne

Adult ski lessons

To date we have had 17 adults take lessons and 9 of those had a certificate from Rotary Radio auction or St. Ann's auction.

Open house free lessons were a big hit with Brian B, Peter V, Christine T, Bert Sturt, Charlotte K and myself teaching

Have had help from Christine Turllet with instructing. She went to PG in Jan and took the CANSI level 1 course and passed. She has taken a class by herself and did very well.

Waiting for the conditions to improve to continue with the next session of classic lessons.

Publicity

Have help from Charlotte Kurta with newspaper articles and proofing posters.

Ryan at the Observer has been out to all the events and given us great coverage in the newspaper. Dale Taylor at the Goat Radio has been great with his live on air interviews. I have heard a lot of positive comments from skiers that have either read about the club or heard the radio interviews so the message is getting out.

Joan Huxley

We have her skis, poles, race plaque, a laminart plaque, and another photo of the Quesnel Ski Club (circa 1960) which is a work in progress.

There has been discussion of where to put this display and it has been decided to put it to the left of the stairs to the basement. Plans are to have this all ready for the Spring Meltdown and invite Joan, her relatives and friends and members of the Quesnel Ski Club to attend.

How many of you knew there was a Quesnel Ski Club??

13. Youth Ski School – Marilyn van Leusden

- We are fully booked for ski school this season but added a Dragon Lake class: so now 11 groups for 3 lessons from 10 schools. So 33 sessions in total.
- Schools that have attended to date are: Nazko, Wells, Carson, Voyageur, Lakeview and Bouchie Lake. 18 sessions have been taught, 6 more sessions to go.
- Plus 9 sessions for Riverview, St. Ann's, North Cariboo Christian School scheduled for the remainder of February & two in March.
- Hope we will have enough SNOW!
- Nazko and Wells overnight session went very well, enjoyed by all.
- An evening Ski Camp is planned for Feb 26th if the snow holds.
- We have responded to some interest by the outdoor class in the Williams Lake school district about doing a 3 session overnight format similar to the [Nazo Wells session. This would potentially happen next season.

- Tania says:

The Nazko school / Wells overnight ski school sessions was a real success. I was excited about trying this and making it possible for them to attend the ski school sessions and do something special for their students so that they could attend. We all put a lot of time into making it work and it really started the season off on a positive note.

I would like to pass on the Thank You from the teachers Chris and Alison, to the CSTC board and to Marilyn, the Ski School director, for being willing to be open to the idea and get behind going the extra mile for them. I would like to say thank you as well. I loved the fact that we

could make this happen for those students and felt very lucky to have an amazing board of directors who really believe in the ski school.

14. Rental Shop Report – Tania Gruene

- We did manage to open on the planned date this season but we were only able to confirm two days before with a sudden snowfall. We had an increase in rental revenue in December simply because we were able to open on time. \$1,416.25 in rentals this season and \$631.00 last season.
- The January weather has been challenging for rentals and overall numbers on the trails and in the lodge. We have seen less rentals going out but have a sharp increase in day passes sold with almost \$2000.00 in day passes sold through the rental shop in January compared to \$300.00 last January. Skiers are coming down, buying passes asking about trails, getting maps and generally checking in.
- We have seen a higher use in our snowshoes this season. This really began at the Open House with lots of people trying them out and has continued. We tend to see groups of friends or adult family groups going out with snowshoes on the weekends.
- We have sold seven of the 5 for 4 pass cards through the rental shop.
- We had a mid season staff turnover. Dianah left for full time work and we hired Rebekah DeVito as a part time person. So far she has been energetic and positive.
- We have overlapped with staff on some weekends and implemented the plan to be a presence in the parking lot, checking passes, selling passes and handing out maps and trail advice. This took place in the parking lot over two weekends but it is often difficult to be in the parking lot at the right time as people stream in and out at different times. For another two weekends Janet / Rebekah skied the close in trails with day passes etc and the red vest and checked in with people about passes. We have approached this as a friendly reminder exercise and to develop a presence on the trail. So far skiing the close in trails has resulted in meeting up with more people than the parking lot. Janet reports that many people she has reminded have had their passes tucked away inside a jacket, some say they forgot them and a few do not hold passes and did not buy a day pass. These people are the ones we really want to sell a pass to and educate to buy passes. There have been less people without passes than expected.
- With the poor conditions resulting in low turnout we will be cutting back quite a bit on staff hours and won't be doing this again unless conditions improve.

15. Lodge Management – Tania Gruene

We have 2 dates for lodge rental confirmed so far this year. This can be added to the calendar. Feb 27th – an evening Yoga workshop

July 17th - Loop of the Lake race

We are using lots of sand this season keeping entrance areas safe. Thank you to Al Fleck for keeping our sand box full and Kelly Prevost for building the sandbox in the fall.

Ron and Elaine are putting up the permanent display of Joan Huxley's info. They are also mounting the pictures permanently and looking for the banners to hang from the ceiling. Now that we are not renting the lodge for private parties we should have no reason to take them down.

Maintenance items for the summer season will include painting the downstairs seating area, the end (tall) walls upstairs and re-staining the deck floor.

We will need to put the friction tape on the inside stairs in the spring time as the sanded paint is wearing off. The tape is at the lodge.

Beki built a ski hanger for the office as we are waxing many more skis for people this year than in previous years.

16. Succession Committee

17. Coaching – Peter van Leusden

1. Community Coaching Course (CC)

- Held at Hallis Jan. 15 to 17th
- 11 participants, 10 from CSTC and 1 from Williams Lake
- Jamie Stirling from Vancouver was the facilitator – heard nothing but excellent comments about the course from the participants
- Jamie was very impressed with our facilities; lodge, course set up, grooming, trails, and billeting.
- Investors grant was approved for the course, waiting for invoice from CCBC in order to send in paper work.

2. Cansi Level I

- Christine Turlet has completed her Cansi Level 1 certification. She has been assisting Ron with the adult lessons, and therefore qualifies for ½ reimbursement for the course this season, (\$150.00). If she continues to give lessons for the club next season she will receive the second ½ (\$150.00) of her reimbursement.

3. Next Year

- Program directors should start thinking of what coaching courses you feel the club should host next year. Submissions generally go in April.

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:00 PM

Next Meeting: March 8, 2016

Goodies Schedule:

January – Marilyn

February – Jim ?
March – Ron