

Cariboo Ski-Touring Club

Minutes January 13, 2015

In Attendance: Peter van Leusden , Brian Black, Marilyn van Leusden, Amy Reid, Mike Alborn, Lee Morgan, John Redburn, Jim Crellin, Ron Watteyne, Vicki Esplen, Herb Chlebek

Absent with Regrets: Greg Strebel, Chris Elden, Paul Mednis, , Holly Nelson, Lisa McCarger, Bruce Self

Adopt agenda: M: Mike 2nd: John

Adoption of Minutes of December 9, 2014: M: John 2nd: Ron

Adoption of treasurer report for December 31, 2014 M: Jim 2nd: John

Correspondence:

1. PHOTOS AND ARTICLES FOR THE 2015-16 ISSUE OF SKI CROSS COUNTRY!

Please mail or email to:

Cross Country BC #106 3003 30th Street, Vernon, BC V1T 9J5 or office@crosscountrybc.ca

"Photographs"

If you have ski photographs that would be suitable for this publication you are welcome to submit them. Photos using good quality film or high resolution digital images are both acceptable. The preferred format for digital photos is tiff or jpg. Minimum 300 dpi resolution. These are generally the original images supplied by the photographer. NOTE: Images that have been optimized for the web, (72 dpi) are too low resolution and should not be sent.

Unless you indicate otherwise, all photos will go on file for possible use in future publications.

"First Tracks"

Each year club initiatives and achievements that are encouraging the development of cross-country skiing in communities throughout BC are considered for the "First Tracks" section of the publication. If you have club information you would like to share with other skiers, please forward it to the CCBC Office **no later than April 15th, 2015.**

Action Item: Ron and Marilyn to put together an article with photos about the new obstacle course.

2. LOST SKI TAGS

If you should happen across a ski pass/tag on your outing, please turn it in to the rental shop.

3. FREE Introduction to Back Country & Wilderness Travel

January 22, 2015

6:30-9:30 pm

Hallis Lake Lodge

Both beginners & the practiced will learn something to enhance your back country experience.

Topics covered include:

Planning, Safety, Food, Communication, Navigation, Equipment, Warmth, Hydration

Both Summer & Winter Travel will be Covered

Presenters: Arnold Kilsby, Heather Peters & Bruce Self

The presenters have over 100 years of combined back country experience

For more information contact Bruce at: bself@goldcity.net

4. Cathryn Kirsh, Secretary/treasurer for the Hallis Lake Community Pasture Association has invited an executive member of the Cariboo Ski-Touring Club to attend their Annual General Meeting to be held Jan. 22, 2015 at the Forest Service meeting room at 6pm. Vicki and Brian will attend.
5. Brian received a letter from an Open House guest, Gavin Barry suggesting CSTC signage improvements on the trails.

Old Business:

1. Criminal Record Checks

CRC's can now be done on-line

Link: <http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/criminal-records-review/forms/index.htm> .

Criminal records have been received for Suzanne Wright and Chris Elden.

Action Item: Lee to keep Peter updated as forms are received.

2. Sponsors

A 30" X 50" sign listing all obstacle course sponsors is posted at Hallis Lake. The sponsors will also be posted on the website

Action Item: Marilyn will send the website link to the sponsors

In progress

3. Trail Maps

Work is in progress on the trail maps. The team of Greg, Ron, Sunshine and JR continues to labour with building an interim and new map. West Road consultants is donating their services to complete.

Action Item: John will send a map of the CSTC trails to Greg. Greg will print copies to leave in the lodge for skiers to take with them.

In progress

4. Web Cam

Herb and Mike have set up a webcam to show a view of the staging area as well as the temperature on the CSTC website.

5. List of events to Olive for potential donations

The following leaders have provided Olive with a list of items for their event.

Marilyn Ski School

Jim Biathlon

Brian Open house

Vicki Loppet

Sunshine Elementary school races

Peter 75 km challenge

6. Lodge Rental Guidelines

Tania and Dianah have taken the Food Safe course.

7. Lodge Catering

Ron has created a poster advertising the Bliss "Warm Concession" that will be available on Saturdays & Sundays in the Hallis lodge. Greg has forwarded the poster to the membership.

Herb has updated the website with the Bliss warm concession poster. A price list for concession items is posted in the lodge.

New Business:

1. Tracking Executive volunteer hours

Action Item: Lee will circulate a chart at monthly meetings for tracking executive volunteer hours.

2. Meltdown:

Saturday March 28 has been set for the CSTC Meltdown. It will begin in the afternoon with family games, bonfire with hotdogs/marshmallows followed by a catered meal for those choosing to stay for the evening. Dinner tickets will be sold in advance to cover catering costs. Prizes and certificates will be awarded for the 75 Km ski challenge.

Action Item: Holly will organize a group to do this. Potentially including Elaine and Dave McCulloch

3. Conflict of Interest:

Lee has converted the CCBC conflict of interest guidelines into a CSTC document. This will be circulated for feedback and revision. Executive will vote to adopt.

4. Update Brochure:

Ron has updated the CSTC brochure to include rental shop, lodge opening and concession information.

Action Item: Amy is looking into grants for printing the brochures. Ron is working on the content.

5. Open House:

We had over 300 people attend the Open House non- members and members; many people trying it out for the first time and many happy faces. In addition we had people attend from out of town, the newspaper and Shaw cable were there and we received some Kudos from our Mayor. This made for lots of great recognition for the club.

Thank you volunteers for the sheer amount of time and work that you put into the open house. You all managed your areas like a well oiled machine and made it easy to coordinate. All your efforts created happy skiers and a smooth, efficient way of loaning out 168 sets of skis and 7 pairs of snowshoes in 5 hours. Wow, what a great job! We had 103 adults borrow skis and 65 youth. This is an increase from last year of 125 sets of skis....yet it seemed less hectic.....must have been the great crew.

Comments from Desi to pass on:

Once again your club has outdone itself. We had a fantastic time today. All the volunteers were very welcoming from the time we rolled into the parking lot.

The trails were in fantastic, and we thoroughly enjoyed them.

Please pass along to all, a great job!

6. New snowmobile:

Mike has researched snowmobiles suitable for pulling the Ginzu and is currently considering the Ski-doo Skandic with a 24 inch track. Mike is checking into one that will be used for the Canada Winter Games in Prince George.

7. 2015 HALLIS LAKE CLASSIC LOPPET - Jan 24

The online registration is now open for live registrations at: <https://zone4.ca/reg.asp?id=8465>

Early bird pricing until midnight, Sunday Jan. 18.

Registration final cut-off is 8:00 p.m. Thursday Jan 22.

8. 75 Km ALL TRAILS CHALLENGE

The Annual 75 km Challenge is now open for this ski season. The event runs between the open house, held on Sunday Jan. 11, to the date of the Meltdown Party in March. Keep a record of the date you ski every trail at Hallis Lake. The information sheet including the entry form/log is now available at the lodge, rental shop, Rocky Peak, and on line at the club website, under the Special Events tab. Once the challenge is completed, drop your completed form, off at Rocky Peak. Creativity in your entry form or your log presentation will be a consideration in awarding prizes.

9. Wednesday Evening Guided Tours

The season's guided tours start Wednesday January 14th. Meet at the lodge at 7:00 p.m. to enjoy the experience of night skiing away from the Lit Track

10. At QCEDC's request CSTC will donate 4 day passes with rentals to promote Quesnel at the Canada Winter Games in Prince George in February.

11. ICC Course in the Spring

Motion: Peter moved that CSTC host a free ICC course in the spring to get SDP coaches certified for the 2015-16 season

Seconded by Jim

motion carried

Committee Reports:

1. Skill Development Program: Jackrabbit/Track Attack – Lisa.

2. Nordics / biathlon – Jim Crellin

Regular practices were held at the Hallis range as conditions permitted. Approximately 80 volunteer hours were dedicated to range setup for the BC Cup Competition. Many of the athletes attended a practice competition in Prince George to help them warm up for the CWG in February

Preparation to host BC Cup #1 on January 2-4 occupied a lot of time. Paper Target racks on the LHS of the metal targets were fine tuned. The range was packed several times, wind flags were constructed, infrastructure for the competition timing system was constructed, and further clearing of willows was undertaken to improve trails in the low snow conditions prior to the race. A lot of time was spent on learning and fine tuning Biathlon in a Box, the required timing program. A training session for all officials was cancelled and rescheduled to Dec 20 to familiarize as many officials as possible with their duties prior to the competition date.

After much nail biting, we received enough snow prior to the event to make grooming possible. Trails were in great shape and the competitions on Saturday and Sunday went very smoothly. Sixty six volunteers were present each day to run the competitions. Total volunteer hours for the weekend were 594, excluding set-up prior to the event.

We provided lunch from Bliss for all the athletes on the Saturday as part of the competition package and this was well appreciated by all. We also sold an additional 57 lunches.

Income to the club from the event will be approximately \$1500 once all the receipts are in.

3. Membership – Greg 480 members

The following is the link to the CSTC membership page where you can choose to download a PDF of the registration form or you can go to the site of the on-line host Zone4:

<http://www.caribooski.ca/membership-info.html>

4. Equipment – Mike

- Green Gables has developed some quirks. Less experienced users should stick with Rubber Ducky for the time being.
 - Battery doesn't seem to charge, so the electric start is not reliable. However, pull starting works OK.
 - Reverse gear is tricky. The transmission linkage may need to be adjusted, or something may be wrong with the transmission.
 - At this point, Green Gables is my selection to put out to pasture next season, when the new machine arrives.
- No major problems with the other equipment.
- We may need to replace some combing boards on the PB this summer.
- We've kept well abreast of the grooming needs this month. Both the Ginzu and the PB have been working to keep the trails in good shape for the ski schools and the SDP.

5. Backcountry – Bruce

For the safety of new members who wish to use the cabins, Bruce has drafted a Cabin Use Policy that the executive are in process of reviewing.

6. Signs & Trails , Lit track – John

New Sign and Map

No news is good news

Signage

New signage includes a sign for the ski rental shop, a club logo sign for the parking lot and a trail sign for the Yellowhawk alternate trail. Repairs and upgrades to the large signs in the stadium were completed early December.

Trails

Early heavy snowfall and then freezing rain created some significant problems for the trail system. The lit track on the Kat. Loop took a beating but Ron and Brian and crew facilitated repairs. Al Schutz and JR spent a day clearing blowdown brush and trees on most of the system. Bruce Self, Arnold Kilsby, Clive Powell and John Redburn removed a danger tree adjacent to the lit track. A portion of the Big Foot snowshoe trail was also brushed. Brushing of the remainder will happen later this month. New snowshoe trails have yet to be laid out.

7. Social – Holly

8. 75 K Ski Challenge – Peter.

See new business item 8

9. Guided Ski Tours–.

See new business item 9

10. Email communications – Greg

OPEN HOUSE / PANCAKE BREAKFAST - Another Great Success

I don't have all the statistics, however I know we ran out of the first batch of 150 day passes for guests, and there were probably a hundred or so club members on top of that.

All enjoyed a super breakfast put on by our great gang of volunteers who spent many hours behind the counter, over the griddle, hands in dishwater, etc. etc, not to mention the group handling the rentals, those providing lessons and guided tours, the Fiddle group providing musical entertainment, and of course the tracksetter who started in the wee hours.

11. Loppet – Vicki

See new business item 7

12. Newsletter – Vicki

13. Fundraising – Marilyn-Brian

McDonalds generously purchased 12 red vests for officials at club events. They were worn at both the BC Cup Biathlon held Jan 3 & 4 and the Open House Jan 11. A photo for the Observer was taken with Jonathan Metcalfe, McDonalds owner.

14. Publicity/ Adult Lessons- Ron

Adult ski lessons

First session of classic completed with 6 attending

First session of skate lessons started on Monday Jan 12

Next lessons are as follows

Classic start Jan19

Skate start Jan 26

Classis start Feb. 2

Skate Feb 9

I will add classes if there is more interest.

I had Christine Turlet come out and do some mentoring with me and she has expresses some interest in becoming an instructor.

Publicity

2014 / 2015 gift certificates ready and available at Hallis Lake rental shop and at Rocky Peak.

Something must be working as we had a 35% increase in the attendance at the Open House. Placed an ad in the Observer and they gave us a free ad. Also ran an ad for the ski rental shop.

Spoke with Dale Taylor at “The Goat” radio and he gave us some air time. Only put up 6 posters 2 Rocky Peak, 2 Granville’s, 2 at the lodge. It was on the web site and on Facebook. I also sent it out to many business and industry and asked if they could print the poster and post it for their employees. Seems that social media is the way to go. Poster for the Loppet is finished. Will print some posters for Backcountry 101 and have them put up around town.

15. Youth Ski School and Hallis Lake Rental Shop- Marilyn

Youth Ski School

1. First ski school session was held January 8th with 11 more sessions scheduled for January.

Carson, Bouchie, Ecole Baker and Voyageur schools attending in January.

2. A coaches meeting for Youth Ski School was held on Saturday, December 13th.

A snow session was held on Monday, January 12th to familiarize coaches with the terrain, new equipment and new Day 3 games developed by Vicki.

3. Hot chocolate and cereal bars were donated by Wal-Mart, solicited by Olive Walsh. Thank you.

Ski Camp

1. A fun ski camp, with hip hop dance class as an indoor activity, took place on Dec 30th from 10-3 for children age 10-13. 17 youth attended. This was sponsored by an "Imagine grant" so registration and rentals were completely free.
2. The next ski camp is planned for the February 27th NI Day. This will be the second camp for 10-13 yr olds that is sponsored by the 'Imagine Grant'.

Rental Shop

The rental shop and lodge opening was delayed due to our poor weather. The first official open day was December 27th with a slow start. The traffic has begun to pick up with the fresh snow and decent temperatures. It is nice to see that the snowshoes are also being rented regularly. January 10th was busy from the moment the lodge opened, seeing rental skiers, season pass holders and Jackrabbits using the lodge. It was very busy in the rental shop between 9:30 and 10:30 on Saturday Jan 10th requiring two of us to get everybody out the door with skis as we had the usual JR rentals as well as many walk in equipment rentals. Note that we have 23 kids with season rentals for JR this year! Bliss catered for January 10th and will be doing this each weekend we have JR; the soup and sandwiches were enjoyed by many.

It is satisfying to see that even though equipment rentals are low-moderate during the week, skiers are using the lodge, the concession and coming downstairs for passes, maps, to ask about trail conditions etc. Total Rental shop income up to Jan 9th is \$1703.22. This includes only equipment rentals and passes, not amounts from other programs ie membership, lessons etc.

16. Lodge Management – Tania

Items on the previous list have been completed.

1. Temporary rental shop sign installed at the bottom of the stairs.- Thanks John R
2. Stairs have been repainted, self-closers on the bathroom doors and lights changed - Thanks Tony Jaffary
3. Latches in the bathroom improved.
4. Range hood installed - Thanks Brian and Al S
5. Renovation to improve ski / snowshoe equipment storage has been completed as well as the office renovations are complete. Kelly Prevost, Wes D and Bob J got that done. Two free passes given to Bob Jefferson.

New Items

1. The new fire extinguishers were not certified and dated. Some of these will go to Cariboo Fire Protection on Tuesday Jan 13th to be labeled at a cost of \$9.00 each. Then TG will rotate and bring the others to CFP.
2. SB pointed out that the fridge is missing the Thermometer inside. TG will pick up a food safe thermometer.
3. Some tiles on the fireplace hearth are cracked and need to be replaced. We need to know if there are any extra tiles stored anywhere so that we can use them to match. If not we may be looking at replacing all the hearth tiles so they match.
4. One session people commented on the smell of the smoke outside. Question re: Chimney cleaning. This could be put on the work list for summer 2015 if necessary.

No Lodge rentals in December. The combination of not being able to access the lodge for a full day rental and paying the full price will probably mean that we do not have rentals until after the busy ski season.

Brian clarified with Tania that CSTC's Executive discussed the rental rates and decided that a flat rate of \$200 be charged for non-members and \$150 for members regardless of the number of hours.

17. Coaching- Peter

Cansi Level 1 – January 10-11, 2015

- One club member completed the course in PG

CC (Community Coaching) – January 17-18, 2015

- This course has been cancelled due to lack of club member registrants

Cansi Level 1 Refresher

- Bruce Bennett will be in Quesnel some evening in February, and will be willing to do a refresher at that time.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:40 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday February 3, 2015 at 7 pm at QCEDC office at City Hall

Goodies Schedule:	February	Vicki
	March	John
	April	Mike
	May	Ron