

**Cariboo Ski-Touring Club
Minutes: March 11, 2014**

In Attendance: Peter van Leusden , Brian Black, Marilyn van Leusden, Amy Reid, Ron Watteyne, Bruce Self, Mike Alborn, Lee Morgan, Greg Strebels, Kathy Jaffary, Sunshine Borsato, Holly Nelson

Absent with Regrets: Chris Elden, Vicki Esplen, Herb Chlebek, Paul Mednis, Tony Jaffary, John Redburn, Jim Crellin

Adopt agenda: M: Bruce 2nd: Peter

Adoption of Minutes of February 11, 2014: M: Ron 2nd: Peter

Adoption of treasurer report for February M: Kathy 2nd: Mike

See February 28, 2014 Bank Reconciliations & February 28, 2014 Year-to-date Revenue & Expenses Reports

Correspondence:

1. A representative from the North Cariboo Aboriginal Family Program Society requested a prize donation from CSTC. See new business item 2 i
2. Troll Telefest report:
Mark Savard from Red Shreds is bringing several pairs of the new G3 skis for demo with boots. Len will be firing up the snow cat to give free rides up to the powder on the "Knob". The shirts designed by Claire Kujundzic and Bill Horne are available at Rocky Peak and Troll Resort. The draw prizes alone will be worth the \$35.00 for a shirt yet alone the music by The Joey Onley Outlaw Band. Curried beef, butter chicken with rice and a spinach salad will be offered along with refreshments from the Barkerville Brewery.
3. CSTC received a certificate acknowledging CSTC as a proud supporter of the Quesnel Community Foundation (QCF)
4. Yoga workshop in Wells March 28-30. Instruction by Brett Wearne
www.spacetoremember.com e-mail: brettwearne@yahoo.ca
5. Brian received the following request from Jerry / Laura Entzminger about Harvesting birch syrup at Hallis:

As per the telephone conversation I am writing to request The Cariboo Ski Touring Club's approval to allow us to continue to harvest Birch Syrup through the area we have leased. We will be Harvesting syrup in the latter part of April for about 3 weeks. We would work with the club to make sure they were finished with the road going into the pasture. The main area we would be harvesting the sap is within the pasture and at this point there are no ski trails only cow trails. We would clear debris and make the trail wide enough to get the sap out to a main road to bring it home. We would have to have the forestry's okay as well. We have talked to the Hallis Community Pasture and have their approval. If there is no problems with us doing this we would need a letter or email confirming you are okay with us doing the sap and clearing the trails. There has not been any change since the last time with the exception of clearing some trails within the pasture.

Brians reply:

Thank you for the notification with regards to your intention to harvest birch syrup this coming spring. The Cariboo Ski Touring Club has no objections to your activities provided that they take place after April 15th when the ski clubs tenure with regards to the ski trails on the FSR ends and also provided that you conduct your activities in such a manner to avoid any damage to the FSR and the ski trails. Please note that the CSTC is the builder and prime user of the recreation trails that you intend to use to access birch trees for sap harvesting purposes. . The club supported your initiative to harvest syrup in 2008 when we responded to a referral from the Integrated Land Management Bureau. Our chief concern at that time that you avoid damaging the FSR and trails remains unchanged

The CSTC would also appreciate a map of your proposed area of operation so that we can better understand your proposed activities.

6. Ready, Set, Coach workshop presented by the Quesnel Autism Committee will take place Saturday May 3 at Quesnel Junior School \$20/person
Registration forms available online at quesnelautism.ca or at the School District Office for more information, e-mail Laura Hender at sinder@telus.net
7. An ICC course is planned in Prince George Friday, April 4, 5-9pm and Saturday, April 5, 8:30-5 for 10 hours in total. 6 participants are needed to run the workshop which will be facilitated by the awesome Gillian Warner.
Contact Cynthia at [250-613-0025](tel:250-613-0025)
8. Otway in PG is hosting FUNDAY - Sunday, March 16th 10 am to noon (Stadium)
Family Campfire Noon to 1:30 (Gravel Pit)
Dual slalom, BIG SKIS, jumps, moguls and luge courses, sprint races and so much more!!!
Olympic themed face-painting, team tug-o-war, and after all this a wienie roast with the whole family (you bring the wienies & buns, we supply condiments, marshmallows, roasting sticks).
This event is FREE and open to all children in our bunnytots, bunnyrabbits, jackrabbits, jackalopes, biathlon bears, & track attack programs and is warmly extended to all our neighbouring clubs (Vanderhoof, Mackenzie and Quesnel) skiers aged 3 to 13 years!!!
Registration is required for all (coaches, skiers and volunteers)!!!
Registration closes Friday March 14th at 9 pm!!!
To register your child as a skier click here: <http://cnsconfunday.eventbrite.ca>

Old Business:

1. Trail naming, practice hill

It was suggested that we have a "Contest" to name the "New Hill".

Action Item: Greg will send an email to members requesting names for a vote once the area is being utilized for lessons. **In progress**

2. CSTC Ski Swap: Ron spoke with George Ryan about a combined ski swap for 2014. The topic is still under discussion.

Action Item: Ron to continue discussions

3. Criminal Record Checks

Action Item: Lee will compile a list of volunteers who have been given the CRC forms to fill out and submit with a column to record the completed returned requests.
CSTC has received criminal record checks for Barbara Gorsline and Sunshine Borsato.

4. Sponsors

Action Item: Marilyn will make a list of sponsors for obstacle course. Thank-you letters sent to sponsors will include a website link. **In progress**

5. 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.

Action Item: John is targeting April for completion of a venue map(s) for use by skiers. **In progress**

8. Web Cam

Herb is working on a project to set up a webcam to show a view of the staging area as well as the temperature on the CSTC website.

Action Item: Herb to work towards completion

9. Volunteers

CSTC would like to generate a list of club volunteers.

Action Item: Vicki will put together a brochure with a simple form for people to fill out ticking off areas in which they are interested in volunteering. Brochures will be located in the lodge and rental shop and possibly at Rocky Peak where memberships can be purchased. Vicki will also mention volunteering in the next newsletter. The membership form will be revised to include a volunteer section. A new executive position of volunteer coordinator may be created.

10. Rotary Day at Hallis - Paul

Paul Mednis coordinated lessons at Hallis for a Rotary group on Sunday March 2.

11. Big Brothers Event - Paul

CSTC hosted the Big Brothers Big Sisters Saturday afternoon March 1. Paul Mednis instructed a handful of youth and some adults. All went for a ski, then returned for bannock and hot dogs.

New Business:

1. Review of projected revenue and expenditures for the remainder of the year

Remaining expenses and revenues for the year were discussed.

Action Item: Marilyn to send Amy the Loppett registration from zone 4

Action Item: Amy to review revenue & expenses and reallocate items as required

2. Community

- i. CSTC will donate a prize package of ski rentals, and trail passes to the North Cariboo Aboriginal Family Program Society.
- ii. CSTC has donated several items for the Community Foundation Gala (April 5 at the senior center). These include 2 sets of 3 lessons each one for two people; two CSTC memberships for next year. One ride in the PB covering several trails.

3. Seminar

- i. An Introduction to Back Country Travel covering winter and summer travel was presented at Hallis lodge Tuesday March 4, at 6:30 pm by Bruce Self, Heather Peters and Arnold Kilsby. Thanks for all the interesting and valuable information

that was conveyed, with anecdotes galore collected from multiple decades of experience. The wonders of birch bark firestarter were demonstrated, with a piece of the bark submerged in a bowl of water for over an hour, then shaken and ignited with a lighter.

Bruce would like to hold another similar seminar in the late fall.

4. Cariboo Pulp rec club

For the first time CSTC hosted members of the Cariboo Pulp social club on Sunday March 9 for a family day of cross country skiing and snowshoeing. It was a delightfully pleasant day at Hallis, with good conditions, even by late afternoon the snow was not overly soft, just soft enough to take the worry of falling down a notch for some of our newbie guests. And the temperature was quite honestly warm enough for T-shirt and glove-less skiing. The day was enjoyed by all with several requests to hold the event again next year.

Special thanks to Peter and Marilyn van Leusden for helping with the gear and doing the ski instruction.

5. Draft Policy regarding Birthday Parties

1 successful youth birthday party was held on a Wednesday night for a group of ~16. Further discussion is required to decide on a policy going forward.

6. Trail improvements

A suggestion was made to improve the grade on the north end of Canius Lupis for 200-300 meters to remove the side slope. CSTC will consider hiring a machine and operator to widen trails by clearing the willows back. This will be reviewed again at the May meeting and included in the 5 year plan.

Committee Reports:

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

SDP - bunnies JR and track attack - 9 sessions but our massive momentum at the front of the season was dismally dampened by the cold weather that affected integral sessions between races so some people missed a month of lessons and lost interest. Even meltdown was poorly attended Saturday March 8th as it was extended due to canceled sessions and even as a make up session it was canceled. Expect it will mean lower numbers next year.

It took 19 coaches for 88 rabbits and so far feedback is - more coaches! Upper levels have 3-5 kids in a group so they take up a coach and lower levels are stacked and require 3-4 coaches and SDP is intensive skill development compared to ski school as an example so requires kids are broken into age and skill oriented groups that are smaller than ski school where you are only throwing a few skills at them over three sessions. Also, many of my coaches cannot attend all lessons and as volunteers and my desperation for coaches they aren't always as committed to the whole program or able to attend every lesson but I still need to use them as coaches which ultimately leaves us shorthanded almost every lesson. I really need ideas for recruiting more coaches.

Track attack was a big plus this year - they had two lessons every week and are continuing now on Wednesday nights for March. These kids (and anyone that responds to a pre-season general call out) will attend dryland training with biathlon in the fall. I am intending to hold the L2T - learning to train - course in September (if can work the magic to schedule it that way) which builds on the prerequisites ICC and CC which we have continually held.

2. Nordics / biathlon – Jim Crellin

Regular practices were held at the Hallis range in February with one cancellation for cold temperatures. Snow conditions were great but again some practices were pretty cool.

Ryan Elden, Anni Kurta, Tristan Langan and Kyra Teetzen raced at the BCWG in Mission in February as part of the Zone 8 team. Chris Elden also attended as assistant coach. Results from our crew were excellent, Ryan and Anni taking gold in both events and Tristan getting two silvers and Kyra bronze and silver. CSTC rocks

The third BC Cup race and BC Championships were held in Smithers on March 1-2. Conditions were cold and slow but again our Athletes did well.

In the Sprint Ryan Elden took gold on Saturday, Anni Kurta was 2nd, Tristan 4th, Kyra 5th, Maddison 6th, Clare 6th, Konrad 10th, Chris Elden 1st, Gerd Teetzen 4th, and Ginger Langan 1st in Recreational class.

In the Sunday Individual race, Tristan was 1st, Anni was 1st, Ryan raced up in Sr Boys and was 6th, Konrad was 5th, Clare was 11th., Kyra was 3rd, Maddison was 4th, Chris was 2nd, Gerd was 2nd in Recreational class and Ginger was 1st.

A great weekend in Smithers, first time since 2005, and a relaxed atmosphere.

The coaches, Greg, Jim K and Jim C were pretty busy. Unfortunately none of our older athletes quite made the cut for the Nationals team although they were very close and it was disappointing after working hard all season.

We also held a demonstration day and opportunity for the older Rabbits to try out Biathlon on February 22 with several athletes showing interest in moving on to biathlon next season.

Practices will continue for March and many athletes will compete at Vanderhoof in a regional race later in the month.

We have purchased a used Izmash 7-4 stock for \$40 plus shipping for parts to upgrade and repair some of our older rifles.

3. Membership – Greg

520 members

4. Equipment – Mike

Our volunteers continue to do an excellent job on the trails.

February's extended cold dry spell saw us switch from packing to renovating. The PB, as usual, performed well in the cold. The lack of recent snow has highlighted the usefulness of the Ginzu as well, when it is too warm to renovate with the PB

We have some issues with the Ginzu freezing up. Thankfully this hasn't seriously affected our ability to use the Ginzu when it's needed. Brian and Al have worked hard to keep it running. I'm investigating possible causes and long term solutions for next year.

5. Backcountry – Bruce

Bruce has 2 foamies and a pair of emergency snowshoes that need a ride to Moncton, also a pair of emergency snowshoes for Waverly. Avalanche risk is still high in the back country.

6. Signs & Trails , Lit track – John

There is no change from last month 's report for changes or plans to the signs or trails.

Although I will be looking into a request for a flatter snowshoe trail.

Map upgrade has stalled because I keep finding other stuff to keep my brain busy. I plan to schedule a meeting with Ron, Greg and Sunshine in the next week to get things finalized.

Limited mobility trail . An invoice will be sent to the CRD with a request for additional funding based on a generous estimate to finish.

7. Social – Holly

A potluck social was held Friday February 14 at the Hallis lodge. Another was held Friday February 28 which was enjoyed by about a dozen of the usual suspects as well as new members Chris and Julie.

The Meltdown social will be wiener roast/pot luck dinner 5:30 Friday April 4 at Hallis lodge. Bring an item for the silent auction and BYOB.

8. 10 Mile Lake Committee – Peter/Paul

Report from Ten Mile

Trails continue to be set in the park, when needed and conditions enable track setting.

9. 75 K Ski Challenge – Sunshine.

75k ski challenge is wrapping up and forms can be dropped off at Rocky Peak by Saturday March 15 or before 4 pm at the Hallis Rental Shop on Sunday March 16. Prizes collected by Olive will be given out at the Meltdown April 4.

10. Guided Ski Tours– Sunshine.

Guided Tours - overall 11 tours on Wednesday nights December til march - much lower turnout this year from last with typically only an average of 3-4 people attending and not sure what is needed to improve - possible it has served its purpose but I think it will always have a place for newer skiers joining the club, etc so suggest it be continued as a regular seasonal activity even though turnout may be low.

11. Lodge rentals – Sunshine

A wedding in February and possibly 4-H speeches April 5th - probably half the enquiries choose not to rent due to the added insurance costs. Wedding rental - will send photos for our rental page as it was decorated very well and will be an attractive feature

12. Lodge – Tony & Kathy Jaffary

Repair to the stereo speaker wire. Must have been cut when work was done in the ceiling below Tony painted the stairs last month with non-skid paint, however it is flaking off. Could have been it was too cold in the lodge so the paint did not bond or the surface preparation was not thorough enough (cleaned with TSP) or the paint was not compatible with the old paint. The stairs will have to be re-done in the spring once the lodge warms up and is not being used. Tony will install self-closing hinges on the bathroom doors.

13. Email communications – Greg

The Lost and Found bin is quite full.

The dog poop situation at the trail head is very disappointing. Reminder to dog owners, please pick up after your pooch.

14. Newsletter- Vicki

15. Publicity/ Adult Lessons- Ron

Publicity report

John Dunn Presentation - After expenses the club made \$100.

Meltdown poster will be e-mailed to club members.

Adult Lessons

- taught 30 students for a total of 68 student days

16. Youth Ski School and Hallis Lake Rental Shop- Jill

We have had another interesting month with Ski School and in the Rental Shop.

Elaine Watteyne is now trained for the 10-1 (during ski school) shifts and helping to fill in some of these shifts that we need covered for the remainder of the season. The way the hours of the rental shop are set up this year it has become clear that it is absolutely necessary to have at least 2 trained rental shop staff as well as the Ski School Coordinator position. If there is only one rental shop staff person, apart from the Ski School Coordinator, then throughout our full weeks of ski school, it is a struggle to organize any days off for either employee. Having a third rental shop employee allows for a more reasonable schedule for rental shop workers.

The cold weather has been somewhat cumbersome this past month- resulting in a total of 8 cancelled sessions in February & March. We had been able to reschedule 4 of these cancelled sessions (cancellations from the beginning of Feb.) into the first 2 weeks of March. We are now working on rescheduling the sessions cancelled from the end of Feb. into the week after Spring Break. Coaches have been confirmed, we are just awaiting responses from the schools.

We have had several successful Group Rental bookings in February- including several youth groups, company outings, and a Birthday Party. These were successful on several counts- they had good turnout, enthusiastic participants, and positive feedback after the event.

We have more Group Rentals coming up this month, including another youth group, and a recreational event for Cariboo Pulp & Paper, and expect these to be similarly positive experiences & good promotions for Hallis Lake and the Rental Shop.

Our average Rental Shop earnings (not including ski school invoices) for February were around 150\$ per day on weekends, and 90\$ per day on weekdays.

Thank you all for your continuing support of the Ski School and Rental Shop

17. Coaching- Peter

Cansi Level 1:

- Tried to get one to go for March 8th weekend, however there was not enough interest.
- Will try to get one going for early in the snow season, next year.

Courses for next season:

- Time to consider what coaching courses we need to offer next year.
- Had one request to hold a X-C learning to train course for Sept. – Oct of 2014.
- Have contacted CCBC on cost etc.
- Program co-ordinators please submit your coaching needs, so that they can be discussed at the executive meeting.

Meeting adjourned at: 9:27pm

Next Meeting: May 6, 2014 at 7 pm at QCEDC office

Goodies Schedule: May: Chris