

CARIBOO SKI TOURING CLUB
36th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OCTOBER 25, 2012

In Attendance: attendance sheet recorded

Absent with regrets: Marilyn van Leusden, Peter van Leusden, Holly Nelson

Introduction of executive:
President: Brian Black
Vice-President: Sunshine Borsato
Vice-President: Chris Elden
Treasurer: Christine Kraayvanger
Secretary: Marilyn van Leusden

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Christine Kraayvanger

Overall, Cariboo Ski Touring Club is in good financial shape.

At year end the club had cash & investments totaling \$56,563. Capital Assets total: \$832,653, and liabilities: \$70,182.

Including all capital & operating funds, club revenue exceeded expenditures by \$954 this fiscal year.

Adjusted for capital projects, club revenue was: \$57,745. Of this, \$11,983 came from the new Rental Shop & Elementary Ski School Program. Expenses totaled: \$36,156.

The club has purchased a new snow groomer at an estimated cost of \$120,250.

With the sale of the old groomer, ski club investments, and fundraising, the club has commitments of \$100,000 already in place, and hopes to have the rest of the cost committed this fiscal year.

In order to cover the deficit and take advantage of favorable interest rates on our GIC's, the club has secured a \$70,000 low interest loan from NDIT. It is expected that the loan will be retired within three years as the last of these investments mature.

Club Capital Assets have been increased to reflect improvements to the Lodge & cost of equipment for the rental shop, as well as the purchase of the new PB & sale of the old one.

It is worth noting that mainly as a result of having the staffed rental shop, the revenue from day pass sales almost doubled this year over last. (2219 / 4149)

Jackrabbits: Sunshine Borsato

Another banner year in the 2011/12 season with 17 volunteer coaches and over 40 kids participating. This program is not only the foundation of a strong ski club, skiing community and active kids who are enthusiastic about winter, it is a fantastic opportunity for other skiers to share their skiing enthusiasm, skills and fun ski time with kids who are excited to be part of the activity.

We are desperately short of coaches this year and it does not require as much skill as enthusiasm to be a coach so I am seeking volunteers for Saturday mornings 10:30-12 and a few Monday nights. New coaches are paired with experienced coaches and there is an excellent support for training new coaches but with an impressively growing 2-5 year old skiing group, many coaches are needed to help the younger kids in playing games on skis. We have room for as many coaches as we can get with any skill level but I do need more volunteers and it is a very fun activity that feels great to support and will improve your own skills at the same time!

Also, JackRabbit coaches not only receive coaching training but also get in free on the Wednesday night group ski lessons with Ron Watteyne!

Guided Ski Tours: Sunshine

A sensational season building in momentum through the year, Wednesday night guided ski tours included all of the trails in the Hallis Lake circuit except the marathon loop. Approximately a dozen different guides and sweeps took turns touring up to a dozen skiers through brilliant snows capes illuminated by headlamp showing off the Hallis trails by moonlight.

This year we are hoping for another “stellar” year kicking off Wednesday Dec 26th and wrapping up in March before the club’s social meltdown. All tours will start and end at the lodge so people have an opportunity to enjoy a warm fire before and après ski and I happen to know the first tour guides are bringing hot chocolate and cookies!

75K Ski Challenge: Sunshine

Participation is growing in the 75k ski challenge as more and more people are challenging their friends to ski every trail at Hallis Lake totaling 75kms accumulated through the season. The guided ski tours facilitate this challenge as they take people on a different weekly trail but some do complete the total kilometers in a single day.

Anyone can win this race from the fastest to complete the distance, the most inspired, a near death experience, the most interesting companion to complete the distance with the participant and more – anything goes and with incredible past prizes donated by Cariboo Therapeutic Massage, Rocky Peak, Richbar Nursery and more that means the prizes are well worth the challenge!

Elementary School Races: Sunshine

Another brilliant turnout for the 2012 elementary school races in which all community elementary schools or alternative learning groups are invited to represent their team competing for individual medals but also a team trophy for best participation and school spirit. Two out of town teams also participated but in order to reach our goal of 100 kids taking part we need more schools to be involved! Every participant receives a prize donated by Cross Country Canada and a hot chocolate and lunch and the enthusiasm of the racers having fun with their teams is well worth volunteering to share in one of the most fun days of the season so please put your name forward for this season’s event: Saturday February 16, 2013.

Biathlon: Jim Crellin

The Nordics Biathlon group had a successful season in 2011-2012. We were up again in our athlete group over the previous year with 13 athletes registered and coming to training sessions.

We attended the BC Cups in Burns Lake, Telemark and Callaghan Valley with a strong group of older athletes.

For the 2012-2013 season we have 15 athletes training so far, two of our older athletes having moved on to other pursuits, but new junior athletes joining as well. The number of new athletes is stretching our rental rifle program to the limit, despite four of our senior athletes having their own rifles. We will need additional full biathlon rifles in the program over the next two years to facilitate the progression of these athletes.

The first BC Cup race will be at the Whistler Olympic Park (Callaghan Valley) on January 18-20, 2013. Telemark (West Kelowna) is hosting BC Cup 2 on February 8-10, and then Prince George is hosting BC Cup 3 on February 22-24, 2013. Nationals will be held at Whistler Olympic Park on March 15-20, 2013.

The initiative to facilitate phasing the current coaches out of mainstream coaching and organizing over the next year or so is progressing well. Rob Johnston and Peter van Leusden have retired from regular coaching duties after the 2011-12 season but will be helping out occasionally with training and other issues when they are needed and available. Jim Crellin is committed to be available for this season to help with coaching and organize the club rental rifles program through the transition.

Several parents have stepped up to fill in. Chris Elden, Jim Kurta Cindy Sherstan and Greg and Kathleen Roll took the CI-1 biathlon coaching course in Quesnel in early September that was organized (complete with outside funding!) by Peter van Leusden. Several of the parents also helped at the Biathlon BC summer camp in Vanderhoof. They are keen to put all this new knowledge to work. Cindy Sherstan has taken over the communications duties for the group and has it well in hand.

Hallis Lake Lodge Managers: Kathy and Tony Jaffary

A number of lodge projects are underway, with several being completed this past year. Thank you to everyone who helped out.

The projects this year included:

1. The Rental Agreement policy was updated and a comprehensive "Rental Agreement Binder" was compiled as a resource for rental groups. Included are the newly adopted decorating policies and guidelines, emergency response procedures, inventories, rental checklist, floor plans, and the rental agreement.
2. A series of hooks and wires were strategically placed throughout the facility to aid in decorating in an attempt to eliminate the use of nails, tacks and tape.
3. Several safety items were identified and systems established for routine inspection. The following are tested or checked on a regular basis: the fire extinguishers, first aid supplies, emergency exits snow removal, emergency lighting, the smoke alarms, exit lights, and testing of the water.
4. A minor roof repair was done and snow dams are ordered which will hopefully be installed before the season.
5. Inside painting was done where the roof leak caused damage.
6. The plan is to install handrails to the exterior stairwells.
7. A skid proof surface will be applied to the interior stairwell to prevent slipping.
8. We were fortunate to have a rental group re-stain the exterior decking over the summer.

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:

Lodge rentals have been very successful hosting everything from meetings, baby showers, birthdays, Halloween parties, Christmas parties, graduations and wedding ceremonies. Successful work parties are maintaining the facility - organizing, cleaning and staining the deck. Members do receive a discount when renting the lodge for any function.

Membership: Greg Strebel

Our club membership reached nearly 400 last year. There are 395 entries, but one is a group entry for the Special Olympics group for snowshoeing.

13 memberships were for snowshoeing and 17 were for Backcountry only, with a heavy representation from Prince George. A large majority of the members were in the All Options category, which suggests their interests were mostly use of our groomed trails.

For the first time we were able to provide a means of self-registration online. Some 14 memberships were made or renewed this way. The number may have been higher if not for the fee of approximately 5% added to the CSTC fee structure to cover credit card and website administration fees. The online registration process ensures that all fields on the registration form are filled in and that fees are properly applied and added. This reduces the errors and misunderstanding associated with manual completion of forms and greatly reduces the clerical chore of transcribing member information. The main shortcoming of the system is the inability to generate a Trail Pass as part of the online process.

John Courtney and Brenda Beatty once again generously provided the service of accepting dues payments and issuing Trail Passes at their conveniently located Rocky Peak Adventure Gear shop in downtown Quesnel.

We participated at the Quesnel General Registration and the Health Expo held at the Rec. Centre, however few registrations were forthcoming at these venues and I do not think the exposure justifies the time commitment. Registration tables set up at the Ski Swap and the Pancake Breakfast Open House were more productive and should be continued. Of course, registration will also be available at the Annual General Meeting.

I think we can be optimistic about a modest increase in membership in the coming season, given the enhancements to our programs, facilities and equipment, as well as strategies such as the Complimentary Ski Pass promotion. Of course, the weather will have a large influence on membership numbers. Early snowfall and good skiing conditions ahead of the Christmas season will definitely encourage both renewals and new members.

Equipment & Lighted Track: Brian Black

Equipment:

Pisten Bully:

The executive took the initiative to purchase a newer snow groomer that had been previously at the Olympics and World Cup competitions. It was available at approximately 50% of the new price with very low operating hours. It was felt that the timing was ideal to upgrade while our 1992 model was still saleable.

The PB 100 DR was sold to the Clearwater Snow Drifters and the new machine purchased from the dealer in Calgary has recently arrived. It is a 2008 PB 100 and will be a very significant improvement

from the old unit. Ease of operation and ease of maintenance will be substantially better for the track setting crew.

Twin Tracks:

The three Alpine 2 machines are in good shape and ready for the season.

Grooming Equipment:

Our snow grooming implements, roller and packer bar are ready to go. The utility sleds are also in good repair.

Track Lighting:

We had one large tree fall down on the Katimavik loop this spring taking out a section of wire. A repair is planned and will be completed soon.

Hallis Lake Loppet: Elaine Watteyne

Loppet 2012 was held on Jan. 28th. We had 85 registered participants, who braved the blizzard conditions. On Friday night the trails were set, we had a beautiful starry night, then, the skies opened and over a foot of snow fell. Thanks to all the organizers, volunteers, and track setters who pulled together to overcome the blizzard conditions and get the trails ready for the 9 AM start. We even had to dig the caterers out of the ditch.

That said, I'm now looking for volunteers for the next Loppet to be held on Sat. Jan. 26th, 2013.

We are looking for:

: CCC Officials Level 1 to act as Chief of Race

: Fundraising coordinator

Sunshine has suggested having a loppet training program starting early in the season.

And anyone else who would like to assist me in organizing please contact me. I can't do it alone.

Backcountry: Bruce Self

All cabins are in good shape heading into winter. All are stocked with firewood.

A small improvement to the Murray Cabin chimney is awaiting the next party going up to take the new part and install it. Of note: two years of use of the Murray propane stove has consumed 1/3 of 1 of the two 100 lb. propane tanks. The balance should last quite a while.

Preliminary work has begun on changing the lower Yellowhawk trail to get it out of the creek valley to a less confined route more suitable for beginners. It is expected that this work will continue over the winter but likely not be completed until fall 2013.

Dan Goodwin, the maintenance contractor for West Fraser, reports that the 1600 rd. (access to the Moncton hut) will be plowed to 1616 at least for the early part of the winter and possibly later. He also says that the Swift River (1300 rd.) will be plowed to the O rd. for the winter. The O rd is beyond the M rd. which is the access to the new Cariboo Mountain cabin. The Cariboo Mt. cabin LOC has been amended and the club now owns the cabin. It can be booked in the usual manner through Barb Daigle.

Brent Hodgson and Shirley Smith, who have done cabin bookings for us for quite some time, are no longer able to do the bookings but we thank them for their years of service. Barb Daigle has agreed to do the bookings from now on. Her contact info to book the cabins is: 250-747-1898 or email

barbdaigle@hotmail.com

Social: Holly Nelson

Three social events occurred: The Christmas ski and social, The Pancake breakfast at the open house, and The family wind-up pot-luck dinner.

Vicky Esplen has volunteered to help with social committee.

This year's Social dates:

Friday December 14, 2012: Christmas ski and Social
Sunday January 6, 2013: Pancake breakfast at the open house
Feb. 4, 2013: Friday night ski and social
Friday Mar. 8, 2013: Melt Down Family pot luck

Ten Mile Lake: Peter van Leusden, Paul Mednis

The 5 year winter management plan was finalized with Provincial Parks and the CSTC. Basic trail preparation was done by volunteers, clearing windfalls.

When conditions warranted it, Paul Mednis was able to set tracks in the park and on the Lake.

The twin track has been stored at the Ten Mile Lake Fire Hall . The fire hall also provides the cost of the fuel.

The park trails are also used by many hikers, dog walkers, and snowshoers during the winter months.

Snowshoe Trails: John Redburn

In the late fall a work party cleaned the trail of blow down and debris as well as relocating a portion of the trail at the north east end of the trail to eliminate the sidehill portion leading to Rock Summit. A short cut back to the return trail from the viewpoint was brushed out and is in place. This is approximately 200 m north of the Viewpoint

After a number of folks got lost the trails had more arrows , trail maps and other route finding devices installed.

There was a successful moonlight snowshoe to the Viewpoint in Feb.

In the coming months there will be the usual maintenance and one small trail relocation. No major changes or improvements are planned.

Signage: John Redburn

Along with the usual replacement of damaged and old signs more signage including maps was erected along the snowshoe trails. The Wascally Wrabbit Trail and the Big Rock Adventure Park signs were removed and returned to their former glory. New direction signs were erected on the Lighted track and Gerry's Choice. A sign plan was prepared with an inventory of current signage, including; location, condition and possible improvements. As part of the plan a set of standards were developed for future reference as well as a work plan for the 2012 2013 season. Currently work related to the plan is underway involving the relocation of signs from trees and the use of steel tele posts where possible.

We obtained teleposts from HMC through Brian Black and Bruce Self lent his equipment and expertise in straightening and repairing the teleposts.

Final notes; All trails were mowed this summer by Jim Gorsline, Jim Kurta, and Brian Black resulting in a savings for the club. The trails are being walked by volunteers removing brush, debris and rocks.

Hopefully more of this effort will follow.

Adult Lessons: Ron Watteyne

A total of 68 adult lessons last season

Total income from lessons \$1270.00

Some free lessons were given to coaches and successful bidders at Rotary Auction

Presently have 4 instructors but could use more. Rob Rolfe, Chris Elden Josh Boutotte and Ron Watteyne I would like to encourage anyone interested in improving their skiing skills and would like to teach to get their Level 1 CANSI certification

There are now two Level Two CANSI instructors in Prince George that are interested in coming to Quesnel to host a Level 1 certification clinic.

All Jackrabbit and Biathlon coaches will have free lessons and a date and time will be set as snow permits

Try something new this season for group lessons.

If you get 7 of your friends, co-workers, family together for a group of lessons (which consists of 3 nights @ 2 hours per night) you will ski for free a savings of \$60.00. So you need 8 people total.

There will be classic and skate, private and group lessons are available

Instructor's Course CANSI Level 1

Why would you want to become an instructor?

Will improve your skiing technique immensely

Great satisfaction from teaching new skiers to ski and watching them improve

The club needs more instructors to continue to grow and encourage younger skiers to the sport

There is a possibility of holding a CANSI Level 1 course here this winter if there is enough interest.

The club will pay for the course (approx. \$250.00 / person) if you teach adult lessons for the next 2 seasons.

The club has developed a kid's school program and there will be opportunities for instructors and if you have CANSI certification you can teach. There will also be a ICC (introduction to community coaching) Nov. 16 & 17 and CC (Community coaching)

Please see me after the meeting if you have any questions with publicity or instruction.

Improvements have been made to the trails by Fir Tree Hill, Gerry's Choice, the Adventure Park, and the clearing behind the Timing hut.

We now have Ski Host armbands which can identify ourselves to new skiers. They will be available in the rental shop.

Publicity Report 2011/12

Show of hands how people found out about this event so we know where to focus our advertizing budget?

web site, poster radio, newspaper, friend, Email, Facebook

Anyone has new ideas to promote the club I am open to ideas. One idea is to print a flyer promoting our venue and distribute it to all business, mills, institutions schools etc. in the community describing the Hallis Lake lodge and ski trails and what we can offer in the way of rentals, lessons, functions, parties etc. I put this idea forward last year and asked for help but never got any so I am asking again.

Upcoming events:

Chris Harris Presentation "Flyover" Dec 8 Correlieu School 7:30PM Tickets will be available at Rocky Peak \$5.00 Children & Students \$10.00 adults advance \$12.00 at the door

Snow permitting there will be weekly ski tours in the evening starting in Dec.

Pancake Breakfast Jan 6. Last year we asked for a donation for the breakfast but this year we will have a set cost for the event to offset the cost of the breakfast

Mark www.caribooski.ca as one of your favorites and check it for upcoming events The minutes from all executive meetings are posted on the web so if you would like to know what is happening internally in the club check it out.

This is a big job and I do need help with publicity. I would like 2 more people

Rental Shop: Tania Gruene, Ski School Coordinator

The rental shop is set to open again for season 2 with some improvements. The rubber floor was extended through the main area downstairs to the back door. This is an important improvement as the painted concrete floor was slippery in ski boots. Additional skis and boots in the small junior sizes and large adult boots have been ordered. We found last year that we often needed more size 47 and even larger sizes for rentals. We needed more small junior sizes for Grades K-2. The rental shop opening schedule has not been finalized but it is not expected to be very different from last season with rental days being Wednesday late afternoon/evenings and weekend days.

Youth Ski School Program

Season 2 preparation has begun. Our target for season two is 250 students attending 3 sessions for a total of 750 student days. We have opened up the booking calendar to start the week of December 10-March 15. 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 we ask everyone to spread the word about the Hallis Lake youth ski school.

One school (Narcosli) has already booked 3 sessions for their K-5 students. EQDL is interested in joining sessions with another school.

We are very excited about the development of a new hill 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 \$2000.

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 1 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 Nov16/17, The CC1 course runs Jan11-13. Contact Sunshine to put your name on the list!

President's Report: Brian Black

Another year has flown by and once again the progress made by the CSTC has been outstanding. Thanks to the many active members of our club under the leadership of your very hard working executive we have accomplished a great deal.

For the last few years the club focus has changed from further development of this great venue at Hallis Lake to further develop our the sports, cross country skiing, biathlon and snow shoeing in our community, attract more members, train more instructors and improve and enlarge instruction programs for youth and adults. Our wish is to further build an active, dynamic club and to ensure its long term sustainability.

You have heard the executive reports on the various aspects of club operation. The various club events, open house, loppet, winter carnival, Wednesday night ski tours, adult lessons and the elementary school Ski Tournament were all very successful and extremely well organized.

I would like to comment on what I think are the highlights of the year:

- The Youth Ski Program / Rental Shop

Last year at this time we were remodeling the basement to accommodate a new ski inventory for the shop and program. Thanks to the long list of club volunteers who put in many hours to do the renovation. The project was a \$40,000 initiative supported by many community minded organizations: Quesnel Community Foundation, Quesnel Rotary, Sunrise Rotary, Mountain Equipment Co-op, Community Futures, Knights of Columbus and a financial contribution from our club. Also thanks to our project partners Rocky Peak Adventure Gear and School District #28.

The youth program was a great success with a total of 5 schools participating and 411 student days of instruction delivered compared to a plan of 330 student days. This year we hope to almost double our volume to 750 student days.

Teaching kids to ski and providing equipment so that anyone can participate is fundamental for the future of our sport.

- The Cariboo Mountain Cabin

A new cabin has been acquired by the CSTC in the Cariboo Mountain area. This was done at no cost to the club and is a welcome addition to our mountain skiing venues. Skiing in the area is suitable for all levels of ability.

- Hallis Access Road

The road to our facility has been an issue since the venue was developed. The executive has tried repeatedly for the road to be taken over by the Ministry of Highways and improved. This summer, with the assistance of our MLA, Bob Simpson, we were successful! The road will now gradually be upgraded and regularly maintained.

This change definitely improves our long term viability.

- The 2008 PB 100 Acquisition

Your executive seized the opportunity to replace our previous snow cat. The previous machine was 20 years old and new units are at least \$200,000. The old PB 100 DR was sold to the Clearwater Snow Drifters for \$30,000. We have purchased a 2008 Model PB 100 which despite the same model designation is a very significant upgrade from the old one. We expect the new machine will improve our grooming and significantly lighten the load on our volunteer track setters who were spending nearly one hour maintaining the machine for every hour of operation.

To enable the purchase we have financial backing from Northern Development Initiative Trust and to date we have received grants from:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| • Mountain Equipment Co-op | \$10,000 |
| • Integris Credit Union | 5,000 |

Fundraising will continue on this \$120,000 project until all funding has been secured. So far we have secured approximately \$100,000 including club term deposits which were put aside for the purpose. 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 executive have been outstanding in taking leadership and doing a huge amount of work to make this club a success.

Special thanks to Christine who is stepping down after serving as our treasurer. Christine has done a great job of keeping our finances and records in great shape. The executive is going to miss her thoughtful input.

Brian Black
President, CSTC

Motion to accept Committee Reports: Ron Watteyne 2nd: Mike Alborn AIF

Election of Officers: Jim Crellin to officiate

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 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: Chris Elden | elected by acclamation |
| 4. Nominations for Secretary: Marilyn van Leusden | elected by acclamation |
| 5. Nominations for Treasurer: Kari Bolton | elected by acclamation |

DIRECTORS FOR AGM APPROVAL

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Nordics/Biathlon | Jim Crellin |
| Membership | Greg Strebel |
| Loppet | Elaine Watteyne |
| Back Country | Bruce Self |
| Trails and Signage | John Redburn |
| Social | Holly Nelson / Vicki Esplen |
| 10 Mile Trails | Paul Mednis |
| Lodge | Kathy or Tony Jaffrey |
| Adult Lessons / Publicity | Ron Watteyne |
| Website | Herb Chlebek |
| Coaching Co-coordinator | Peter van Leusden |
| Jackrabbit | Sunshine Borsato |

Motion to accept the list of Directors for the next year: Brian Black 2nd: Jim Crellin AIF

Meeting Adjourned at: 8:30 PM Motion: Bruce Self 2nd : Bob Skinner

**Special Presentation: “Peak 2 Peak”
Six members of the Cariboo Ski Touring Club climb Mt. Baker and Mt. Rainier**