

**Cariboo Ski Touring Club
Minutes: February 12, 2013**

In Attendance: Brian Black, John Redburn, Marilyn van Leusden, Peter van Leusden, Kari Bolton, Ron Watteyne, Bruce Self, Sunshine Borsato, Vicki Esplen, Tony Jaffary, Elaine Watteyne and Paul Mednis.

Absent with Regrets: Chris Elden , Herb Chlebek, Holly Nelson, Jim Crellin, Greg Strebel, Kathy Jaffary,

Adopt agenda: M: Vicki 2nd: John

Adoption of Minutes of January 8, 2013: M: Peter 2nd: Tony

Treasurers Report: M: Bruce 2nd: Vicki

See January 31, 2013 Bank Reconciliations & February 9, 2013 Year-to-date Revenue & Expenses Reports

Motion: Kari moves that the Cariboo Ski Touring Club make a payment of \$10 000.00 to Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) towards our loan for the purchase of the Snow Groomer.
Seconded by Paul. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

1. Letter received from Bob Lebeck, Grant Chair of Quesnel Community Foundations dated January 21, 2013. The Grants committee is interested in considering an application from CSTC. Application form must be submitted by 5pm on Thursday, February 14, 2013.
2. Letter received from WorkSafeBC naming Tania Gruene as CSTC's Administrator of WorkSafeBC's online services. The letter was scanned emailed to Brian and Tania.
3. Letter and card for CO-OP Cardlock was received. A cardlock Cardholder Application must be signed and mailed to PG. Another copy of the Cardholder Application is attached for our records. Also attached is the Cardlock Application Process.
4. Five more criminal record checks were received from the RCMP for Claudine Savoie-Boucher, Charlotte Kurta, Lisa McCargar, Shannon Jonasson, and Nicole Strand.
5. Letter received from Quesnel Community Foundation dated February 7, 2013 outlining details about the 12th Annual Awards Gala that will be held on Saturday, April 6th at the Quesnel Senior Centre. QCF is requesting a cash donation or merchandise for the auction. For amounts of \$100 or more, one will be recognized as a sponsor. Attached is a Sponsorship Confirmation form and a reservation for gala tickets @ \$50 per person.
6. Letter received from Claudia Gagnon, Coordinator, Community Outreach, Coaching Association of Canada dated January 24, 2013. Attached to the letter is a cheque to CSTC for \$500 that represents Investor Group's support to the Community Coach NCCP Workshop, which took place January 11-13, 2013 in Quesnel.

Old Business:

1. **CSTC Open House/Pancake Breakfast:** Sunday, January 8, 2012:
Action Item: Marilyn and Elaine will request feedback from all the volunteers via an email.
2. **Lodge:**
Action Item: Marilyn and Brian will organize old CSTC files in the Office storage area and discuss with Tania what is needed to organize the Office, shelving etc. **Not yet done, but will attempt to do this after ski season is over**
3. **Youth Ski Program Power Point Presentation**
Sunshine has revised and developed a Youth Ski School Power Point Presentation.
4. **Lodge Maintenance:**
Tony built a box to store CSTC's pictures that need to be removed for Lodge rental purposes. Instructions for storage and hanging are in the Rental Policy binder which is stored in the kitchen at the Lodge.
5. **Succession planning:**
The executive should be thinking about their current jobs and who could succeed them. We need to be thinking about ideas to entice new volunteers to get involved and to spread out the work.
Action Item: Committee members (Jim, Ron, John, Sunshine and Brian) will meet. **Not yet done.**
6. **Accessibility trail:**
The CRD has applied for money for trail building. \$20,000 is currently available to CSTC, the CRD is committed to help raise the remainder of the funds required. Approximately \$30,000 is required. Daniel Dobson needs a sketch of our building modifications for the ramp and roof for wheelchair access ramp. We need to do this in the next few months.
Action Item: Brian, Tony, Ron are working on this, at this time, a sketch is required which needs to be forwarded to the CRD.
7. **Communication to members:**
Vicki is working on creating our first newsletter and she shared a draft copy with directors. The newsletter will be kept short, include a calendar of upcoming events and be generally distributed by email.
Action Item: Vicki will send the first newsletter out in February 2013. The newsletter will request feedback and submissions for future newsletters.
Action Item: Peter will forward to Vicki email addresses of biathlon athletes.
8. **CSTC Policy to promote adaptive cross country skiing**
Cariboo Ski Touring Club passed a motion January 8, 2013 to have a policy to promote adaptive cross country skiing for people with physical and sensory disabilities, including athletes who are blind or visually impaired and/or deaf, wheelchair users, amputees and those with neuromuscular conditions such as brain injuries and cerebral palsy. All skiers with a disability pay the youth rate for a pass of any duration of time (i.e. day, week or season's pass) and a support person who is assisting a skier with a disability receive a complimentary day pass on an as-needed basis.

Marilyn informed Tania of this policy and will inform Nordic Racers of our motion.

Action Item: Marilyn will include this new policy in our policy file. **Not yet done.**

9. Ginzugroomer financing:

CSTC is in the process of submitting an application to Quesnel Community Foundation requesting funds to purchase a Ginzugroomer. Application will be submitted on February 14, 2013.

10. Dealing with success:

Parking lot greeter: Janet will do. Ski shop help: Charlotte Kurta.

Rental shop hours: Skis can be borrowed around times that the Youth Ski School is operating if arranged in advance.

Action Item: Tania will open the Rental Shop on two Friday evenings: February 22 & March 1 as a trial evaluation. Tania should contact Ron for publicity.

11. Winter Carnival:

Successful from CSTC point of view; 230 users, 12 volunteers.

New Business:

1. Integris Day: Sunday, February 17, 2013

Informal: 11 am to 5 pm

Instructors and a guide will be provided.

Concession will be open and Integris employees know that if they wish to, they can purchase from the concession.

2. Desi Cheverie Meeting

Bruce, John and Brian met with Desi on February 6, 2013 at the Lodge.

Backcountry and CSTC status, as well as, Hallis Lake maintenance issues were discussed.

Desi was able to see the Youth Ski School in operation.

Danger trees and trail widening were discussed.

The low mobility trail and the need for a wheel chair accessible outhouse was also discussed.

Desi complimented the CSTC executive on the huge progress the club has made with its venue and particularly the programs in the last few years.

3. Marketing Plan

The need for a marketing plan for next year was discussed that would increase efficiency and consistency.

Action Item: Tania will approach individuals presently involved for a meeting in March to discuss. Tania will contact Ron, Greg, Vicki, Sunshine, Herb and Brian.

4. Meltdown date: Friday, March 8, 2013

Wrap up of the season and 75 km Challenge.

Action Item: Ron, Vicki, and Greg will do publicity.

5. 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 regarding the "Contest" with a deadline of March 8th, Meltdown Party.

6. Community Futures Night: Wednesday, February 20, 2013.

Informal: 7 to 9 pm, with rentals and passes as well as help with skiing provided.

Action Item: Brian will organize instructors & guide.

Committee Reports:

1. Jackrabbit – Sunshine.

- 60 kids - one session left as wrap up party February 23rd - traditionally games and hot dogs.
- Safeway did not sponsor this year so club will pay for hot dogs, as well as, coach wrap-up party February 22nd
- Possibly - 9 total sessions plus two events

• Elementary School Races – Sunshine.

- February 16th - need a couple more volunteers but getting close to ready - deadline for registration is February 11th.
- On February 13th, we will be in lodge setting up packages, spreadsheets, etc. I am setting up for 120 participants with technical t-shirts and sunglasses from CCC and quesadillas for volunteers and participants!
- Medals and cookie medals for double cross.
- Day passes will be issued for accompanying adults

2. Nordics / biathlon – Jim Crellin

- The first major competition for the season was BC Cup #1 at Whistler Olympic Park on January 18-20, 2013. Nine athletes competed.
- With over 80 athletes competing, Kyra Teetzen did exceptionally well in the Jr. Girls category taking Silver in the Sprint Race and Gold in the Pursuit Race. Claire Elden also performed very well in the Midget category earning bronze in the Sprint and gold in the Pursuit race.
- Anni Kurta placed sixth in the Sprint and third in the Pursuit. Ryan Elden placed 4th in the Sprint and second in the Pursuit, 0.5 seconds out of first place in a hard fought finish. Tristan Langan placed 5th in the Sprint and third in the Pursuit. Maddison Roll placed 6th in the Sprint and 5th in the Pursuit. Konrad Teetzen placed ninth in the Sprint and 8th in the Pursuit and Kieron Langan placed 5th in the Sprint race. Chris Elden rounded out the team with two third place finishes in the Masters Category.
- Competition was especially tough in the 15 -20 years old categories as the Sprint race was one of the qualifying races for selection to the BC team for the Canadian National Championships in March.
- The second BC Cup race was at Telemark on Feb 9/10 with the same team of 9 competing. In the Sprint race on Saturday, the Elden family cleaned up with Clare first in Midgets, Ryan first in Jr Boys and Chris second in Masters. Anni Kurta took 3rd in the Jr Girls category. The other racers put in good performances as well in a big field of 100 athletes. Tristan Langan was 5th in Jr Boys, Kyra Teetzen was 8^h in Jr Girls. Maddison Roll was 6th in Sr Girls, Konrad Teetzen was 8th in Sr Boys and Kieron Langan was 5th in Youth Men.
- In the Pursuit competition on Sunday the Elden family cleaned up with Clare 2nd in Midgets by 0.5 sec, Ryan first in Jr Boys and Chris second in Masters. The other racers all put in good performances as well in a big field of 100 athletes. Tristan Langan was 3rd in Jr Boys, Kyra Teetzen was 3rd^h in Jr Girls. Maddison Roll was 6th in Sr Girls, Konrad Teetzen was 8th in Sr Boys and Kieron Langan was 3rd in Youth Men.
- Coaching transition continues to progress well with the newer coaches/parents organizing and coaching two very successful BC Cup races.
- A successful biathlon and Jackrabbit transition morning was held.

3. Membership – Greg

- CSTC has 449 people, 450 counting Rick Dupuis, honorary life member.
- 13 Members are in the Back Country category, mostly people from PG and Wells.
- Sign-ups are drying up. Only two from Rocky Peak in the past two weeks, though they were closed for a week.
- Still, the numbers compare quite favorably with last year's 395.

4. Equipment / lighted track – Brian

Equipment:

Pisten Bully:

- Operation continues to be excellent. The operators are continuing to improve their skills at running the new machine. We are still in the warranty period but will likely exceed the covered hours by the end of the month.

Twin Tracks:

- The three twin tracks are in good condition, two have been used regularly for packing and taking equipment to the range.
- Our snow grooming implements, roller and packer bar are in good shape. The frame drag is worn out, a new one will be built when time permits.

Track Lighting:

- A light at the south turn of the Katimavik loop is not functioning but visibility on the lit track is still okay; it will be repaired in the off season.

5. Loppet – Elaine

- 100 registered participants, 97 completed the event.
- 2 refunds given out: (1 sick/1 didn't realize it was a classic event)
- We had perfect weather and ski conditions.
- Many thanks to the great team: Stadium & course set-up and tracksetters: Al Schutz, Greg Strebel, Brian Black, and Mike Alborn.
Safety: Jim Crellin; Luncheon: Vicki Esplen,
And a huge thanks to my right hand man, Ron Watteyne, and of course, the host of volunteers who made this event such a success.
- Loppet raised \$2814: my thanks to Marilyn van Leusden for keeping track of registration and finances.
- Minus expenses, profit of approximately \$800. Kari has a copy of the spreadsheet with income and expenses.
- Thank-you letters have been sent to all sponsors and phone calls made to thank the volunteers.
- This has been my 5th and final year assisting with and organizing the Loppet.
I have organized a binder, with information and reports from committee members that will be available in the office for the 2014 organizing committee.
- Thanks to Brian and Jim for the following comments.

Brian Black has made these suggestions:

- So many things were done extremely well that I won't list them all:
- I think most notable was the kid's participation. It has increased considerably and seemed to work well.

- The new course was a great success; I meant to mention this in my address and thank Ron for the recon work he did to make it happen.
- Radios on the SD 28 channel definitely enhanced our ability to deal with an incident.

Just some thoughts while it is all fresh:

- We need more Loppet flags from Fisher and or Swix. About 60% of our inventory was thrown away this time because they were worn out. Marie had in the past begged for more after the event. You may have contact info.
- I have always been a proponent of paper numbers for participants in loppets. They are used in all mass participation events are dispensable but a recycling box can be used to get more than one year out of them. We definitely need racing bibs as well for the serious racing events as Jim has correctly pointed out.
- The announcer should be replaced by a ski club member. His sound system was good but he was rather useless; Bonnie had to tell him every word to say. Also the speakers should have been placed so that everyone entering the lodge didn't suffer hearing damage.
- We will shop for microphone set up that we can link to our stereo. It will be handy for other events as well.
- Consider high visibility vests for officials. It will help people with questions know who to ask.
- A course official should be stationed at the end of the staging area. A person there can deal with issues on the spot like confused kids, a club member taking her dog on the course etc. I was there a fair amount of the time but continuous coverage would have been better.
- We need to continue to widen the trail in areas where it is growing in. Jim Cappan's initiative, spending two days doing this solo, was very helpful. I will pass on our thanks and put this on our list to do for next season.
- Our online information needs to include that it is a classic event. Sarah Menzies of PG had no way of knowing since she saw only on line info. (her fee has been refunded)
- Someone who is very familiar with the course at information table between 8:15 to 9:15 would be very helpful.

Comments from Jim Crellin:

- The Duncan Industrial race bibs have been shrunk/lost their stretch. They are effectively not usable by adults.
- We are out a set of race bibs and have nothing that adults can race in.
- A new set of bibs will run us about \$1500. We need to find a sponsor or sponsors who would like some adverting on an ongoing basis. Note to add this item to next year's Budget.

6. Backcountry – Bruce

- There is a much decreased snow pack from the last few years but conditions in the mountains are still very good. There is approximately 2m of snow at Moncton and 1.2 M at Waverley.
- All cabins are in good condition and there are no known discrepancies.
- Cariboo Mt is seeing increased use with the M Rd. being plowed. Dan Goodwin reports that it should be plowed until breakup stops the logging/log hauling. As far as I know no hauling has started on the M rd. yet.
- John Redburn and I met with Chris Elden of West Fraser to discuss logging plans for the block around the cabin. West Fraser intends to proceed with logging that area but will try to mitigate the impact. John and I & Chris will ski the area in late March and determine what will have the least impact.
- Brian, John, and I had a productive meeting with Desi Cherevrie regarding the cabins. We will apply to have the new Yellowhawk trail and the Moncton and trails around Cariboo Mt designated as official trails. This will give some small protection from other users e.g snowmobiles.
- Desi reported that the Wells quad club will probably take over the Two Sisters cabin and that the FSR up to it will be changed to a Forest Service Rec trail.
- An introductory backcountry trip is scheduled for early March....perhaps Jack of Club's Creek.

7. Signs & Trails – John

Signage:

- Repairs were facilitated on two signs mentioned in the last report.
- One aluminum sign to Cariboo Mtn cabin the other for Moncton is in the maintenance awaiting delivery to Moncton.
- Direction sign to Gerry's Choice and a P with arrow installed on the new cut off.
- Some direction signs were prepared for the Loppet
- P with an arrow installed at the second cattleguard on the return trail of the Marathon Loop

Future:

- Wally's Way direction signs to be constructed and erected.
- Meeting scheduled for mid March with Sandy Latins –Range Officer FLNRO and Conservation Officers over joint signage

Distant future:

- Aluminum map signs need to be upgraded and installed. Snowshoe map signs designed and installed. This will prove to be a costly project and can wait.

Trails

- No major issues with the ski trails have been identified.
- The Bigfoot SST is receiving a great deal of traffic Wally's Way less so. Direction signs may increase its use.
- Central Interior Mapping has all the trails except Wally's Way on digital files.
- I have contacted Victor Stobbe of Timber Trek Consulting about sending the digital files to CIMCO.
- Victor has donated a pair of snowshoes to the club and they will be at the lodge on Sat. Feb 9
- Jim Kurta – West Road Consultants is in the process of getting me some broken snowshoes which after they are prepared will be donated to the club.
- I am exploring options with the BC Assests about obtaining other surplus snowshoes.

Future:

- Moonlight snowshoe in late Feb still a possibility

8. Social – Holly

- No report.

9. 10 Mile Lake Committee – Peter/Paul

- Track Setting has continued at the park; as weather conditions permit.
- Tracks have been set on the circumference of the Lake.
- Winter maintenance report has been submitted to the ministry.
- Ice fishermen far outnumber skiers as winter users of the park

10. 75 K Ski Challenge – Sunshine.

- 75k Challenge - time to advertise more???? Sounds like a number of participants this year - typically entries must be dropped off at Rocky Peak prior to Meltdown Party on March 8th.

11. Guided Ski Tours– Sunshine.

- Guided Tours - conclude for March meltdown and so far average around 8 participants each outing - 10 last week - from 6-17 this year is the range

12. Lodge – Tony & Kathy Jaffary

- Tania and Janet are managing to dry mop the floors and wipe the bathrooms down following schools group visits and after busy weekends.
- During peak season, on a need be basis, Janet will spend a few extra hours per week to wash the floors and disinfect the bathrooms.
- For the rental groups wanting to remove pictures off the walls, a box has been made to safely store them. We have put it in the mechanical room so it is out of the way. There are instructions in the Rental Agreement binder that it must be used if they are removing pictures as well as photos of where they go when returning them.
- A 24” industrial dry mop was purchased.
- Additional snow dams will be installed in the off-season.

13. Lodge Rentals – Sunshine

- February 16th and two more possible rentals on the radar but not confirmed - Feb 23rd is the next one
Action Item: Ron, will list the Lodge in the Quesnel Info Book; Yellow pages.

14. Newsletter- Greg

- No report.

15. Publicity/ Adult Lessons- Ron

Publicity

- Great coverage of the Loppet before the event:
- Cariboo Observer, CFFM the Max, Posters in Quesnel, WL, PG, 100 Mile
- Emails out to all the clubs in the central and northern interior
- Great coverage after the event:

- Cariboo Observer, CFFM the Max
- Elementary School Races
- Have sent requests to do an interview with Dale Taylor at the Max and Jonas at the Observer
- Observer ad
- Do we want to run another ad for the rental shop? Cost is around \$135.00

Ski Lessons

- 57 lessons taught to date, 44 classic, 13 skate, 27 non members, 30 members
- Revenue \$1155.00

16. Youth Ski School and Hallis Lake Rental Shop- Tania Gruene: Ski School Coordinator

Elementary Ski School

- The season is fully booked for the target of 250 kids or 750 student days. We actually have 260 booked but student absences will bring it down between 245-255. The majority of our bookings have been grades K-3. Feedback from teachers has been very positive. I am told they have to count down the days for the kids until the next session and even the students who struggled are excited to come back. The participating schools this year are Carson, Bouchie Lake, Voyageur, Narcosli, Nazko, EQDL (home school) and North Cariboo Christian school.
- We are pre-fitting the youngest classes in the school and getting the skis out on the ski racks ahead of time. Carson teachers liked that system much better in comparison to last year. It only takes approximately 1 hour in the school to size between 50-60 students. We have some different considerations with these younger students, because the ability to follow instruction and stay focused is lower we focus more on ‘play to learn’ introducing skills quickly then playing ski games and changing activities frequently to keep them going.
- Most of these sessions are using 100-140 skis. We are very short in the 100-120 size range, most kids are using skis that are past their hands. On the other end of the scale we have many 160 and 170 skis that don’t go out at all. This will be a consideration when ordering more skis for next season. Rossi order needs to be submitted soon for next year.
- For this season I project 11,250.00 gross based on the 750 student days. A very rough **net estimate** is 40% or \$4500.

Ski Rentals

- The ski rentals this year are definitely up. The days are very dependent on weather but our numbers are good.
- End of January total for ski rentals and Jackrabbit rentals only (no passes).

Season 1 Dec1- Jan31
\$1128 ski rental
\$523 JR
\$1651

Season 2 Dec1-Jan31
\$2264 ski rental includes Special O accts rec
\$ 730 JR
\$2994

- We have discussed extending opening times. I have had no inquiries about renting during the ski school session days. I would like to try two Friday evenings (Feb 22 and Mar1) to see if we can build up another opening time. The main demographic for rentals certainly is families and adults who are coming out with friends and are still working during the day. That said, on the ski school days that the lodge is open people do come in and out, enjoy a snack, sit and relax or ask for information.

- It sounds like Ministry of Social Dev will be having their team morning at Hallis on Feb 28. They will be renting a combination of skis and snowshoes. I have offered the girl guides an opportunity to come out on a Wednesday for 1/2 price for girl guides and supporting adults.

17. Coaching- Peter

- A successful CC-1 coaching course was held in Quesnel, Jan 11-13, 2013.
- Seven participants from Quesnel, 2 from Williams Lake, and 1 from PG participated in the course.
- Grant reimbursement from Investors Group for this course (\$500.00) has been submitted.
- I will continue to update coaches' spreadsheet, and contact CCBC on club members who are certified x-c officials.
- I will be doing a "needs assessment" on coaching course requirements for the next ski season.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:45 pm

Next Executive Meeting: March 12, 2013 at QCEDC office at 7:00 pm

Goodies Schedule:

March: Kari Bolton

April: John Redburn

May: Brian Black