

**Cariboo Ski-Touring Club
Meeting Minutes February 14, 2017**

Attendance: Bruce Self, Brian Kennelly, Shannon Coffey, Brian Black, Brad Benson, Jim Crellin, Vicki Esplen, Holly Nelson, Elaine Watteyne, Ron Watteyne, Tania Gruene

Absent with Regrets: Herb Chlebek, Charlotte Kurta, Sunshine Borsato, Amy Reid, Marilyn van Leusden, Peter van Leusden, Evi Black, Taylor Mastre, Greg Strebel, Mike Alborn

Adopt Agenda: M: Brian Black 2nd: Vicki Esplen

Adoption of January 10, 2017 Meeting Minutes M: Vicki Esplen 2nd: Brian Black

Correspondence:

None.

Old Business:

1. **CSTC Website** – discussion postponed.
2. **Legal Responsibility of Boards Workshop – Marilyn van Leusden (absent)** discussion postponed.
3. **Volunteer Pass Checkers on Weekends**
The poor weather conditions have greatly lowered the number of skiers and other users of the trails at Hallis Lake the last month and so no checking of passes has taken place on the weekends. Some new users of the trails have been using the skate side of the ski trails for walking their dogs, seems to be a misunderstanding on their part.
4. **Rick Depuis**
Rick Depuis currently is the electrical permit holder for Hallis Lake and may shut down his business soon. He would like the CSTC to pay or help pay his business fees if he is to continue holding the permit. CSTC is looking for a replacement and Bruce Self will write a letter to Rick Depuis when a decision has been made.

New Business:

1. Review of Policy – Policy on Fees for Users with Disabilities

It was noted that the Special Olympics group utilizes this policy every week. The executive is happy with this policy as is.

**Motion: The CSTC will keep the ‘Policy on Fees for Users with Disabilities’ as is.
Moved by Brian Black. 2nd: Brian Kennelly**

Motion Carried

2. Snow Making – Bruce Self

Bruce is researching the details involved with purchasing and running a snow making machine at Hallis Lake. There is enough electrical power and the water supply is currently being looked into, it is expected that it will be fine. Have a snow maker machine would help

ensure the running of the ski school, SDP, and other programs that utilize the trails that are closest to the lodge. It would also be good for patching bare or low snow areas on trails. The goal is to apply for the Co-ops of Western Canada grant, the club would likely be applying for a \$25,000 - \$50,000 capital purchase grant depending on the details that are still to be worked out. If that is unsuccessful Bruce will continue to work on the project and look for other grants in the future.

In Progress

3. Season Length

Due to the poor conditions the Rental Shop has been experiencing little usage and the hours have been greatly reduced. About half of the school sessions have been cancelled. A snow making machine would help extend the season on low snowfall seasons such as this.

4. Fireplace Safety

Arnold Kilsby has donated a metal guard that has been placed in front of the fireplace in the lodge.

Committee Reports:

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

Bring a friend day was a huge success Saturday Feb 11 and Monday Feb 13th thanks to rental shop providing free rentals I believe there were a number of extra day passes sold for kids and some new families who rented and I think we definitely attracted at least three new families to the program for next year - it was a great energy and lots of fun for everyone (three crying kids aside). Estimate about 15 kids came to try out JR over the two days. We have two Mondays and two Saturdays left in the program plus a ski tournament in Williams Lake we are attending March 5th finishing off the season.

2. Elementary Ski Races – Sunshine Borsato

Are this weekend. Hoping snow holds up but we are in good shape with volunteers and venue - skiing was great Monday night so I am hopeful - if not, we will hold it on last minute altered courses and that will be great too! I am finalizing the details, making race packages and picking up essentials after work all week and expect some lower numbers this year due to gymnastics competitions, soccer playoffs, hockey tournament etc (we usually have about 90 participants) but know there are some very excited kids already!!!!!!

3. Newsletter/Loppet Report – Vicki Esplen

Hallis Lake Loppet January 2017 – Report

With great disappointment the 2017 Hallis Lake Loppet had to be cancelled due to lack of snow and deteriorating track conditions. On the recommendation of the track setters, the weather prediction of very warm temperatures and no new snow on the horizon, the decision to cancel was made one week prior to the event. Cancelling at this time enabled us to inform potential registrants prior to the early (cheaper) entry fee deadline – I had received numerous emails and calls as to the status of the event.

The caterer had needed to know, cancel or go ahead, the Wednesday prior to the event and the bakery as it turns out – had already made up the cookie medals but said they would not charge us – they would sell them in their store.

A decision was made to give all the early registrants their full refund - a good will gesture - rather than deducting the Zone 4 cost and charging for the club's expenses – which were minimal at the cancellation date. There were 13 registrants, 8 refund cheques will be issued. A letter will be included with each of the cheque refunds: an explanation of the refund (no deductions), a thank you for registering early for the event and an early invitation to join us for the 2018 Loppet.

I have created a detailed Loppet binder that includes timelines and all the information required for next year's organizer. All the forms and paperwork will be on a "stick" to pass along as well. Even though we didn't host the event, if anyone has any feedback or suggestions to add to the binder, please send them my way.

4. Nordics/Biathlon – Jim Crellin

Biathlon BC Cup #2 Competitions on January 13-15 2017 were a great success. The weather warmed up through the weekend, -15 on Friday, -10 Saturday and -5 on Sunday. Trails and venue were in great shape, the events went smoothly and all who attended were most complimentary. Thanks again to all of the many volunteers without whom the event would not have happened. The event resulted in a profit to the club of about \$2500

Registration closed on Sunday Jan 8 and we had 77 athletes, with 76 competing on Saturday and Sunday. Our CSTC athletes performed well with Clare Elden achieving 2nd and 1st and Ryan taking 1st in the Individual.

The TD's report was very complimentary with suggestions that we increase the number of V boards available and consider trail modifications to alleviate the need for midgets and juveniles to ski mixed loops.

A good contingent of our athletes attend BC Cup 3 at Callaghan valley two weeks after our competition and a larger group attended BC Cup 4 at Burns Lake on Feb 10-12. Burns Lake has made major improvements to their range, with the targets permanently mounted under a roof and the shooting platform/start/finish area widened and smoothed.

The selection of team members for the Nationals team will be announced shortly by Biathlon BC. Nationals will be held at Otway in Prince George on March 6-13

5. Membership – Greg Strebel

Not much new to report for membership. A few new or renewed members since last month. The following tabulation from Zone4 has one too many due to an error one member made in registering twice, so we have 367 members so far this year.

370 Individuals

	Gender:	201	F
		167	M
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		368	
	Basic Individual Membership:	10	Under age 5 as of 31 Dec.
		343	Skier Membership (Hallis, Backcountry)
		15	Snowshoer Membership
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		368	
	Individual Activity Options:	15	Club Supporter, not using trails or cabins
		87	Family All Options, Snowshoe or Backcountry (Sel
		22	Adult - Back Country
		3	Junior or Student - Backcountry
		201	Adult - All Options
		21	Junior (ages 5-18) All Options
		2	Student (with card) All Options
		13	Adult Snowshoe
		0	Junior/Child Snowshoe
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		364	
	Skill Development Program (SDP):	4	Bunny Rabbit Program (Under 5 as of Dec 31)
		9	Saturday Jackrabbit
		4	Monday Jackrabbit
		17	Sat & Mon Jackrabbit
		4	Track Attack (for advanced or graduate SDP)
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		38	
	Biathlon Program:	15	
	CCC Membership:	343	

6. Equipment – Mike Alborn.

Grooming has gone well, despite the warm weather. We've been making much use of the Bearcat and the Ginzu to renovate what little base we have, and most of the system has remained useable.

The Pisten Bully has seen very little use this year, due to the thin base. However, the Bearcat and Ginzu are proving their worth this season.

All of the grooming equipment is operating in good order.

7. Backcountry – Taylor Mastre

Cariboo Mtn Cabin

Wes reported some vandalism at the Cariboo mountain cabin. Someone drilled a smiley face into one of the roof trusses. Wes, Jim and I emailed back and forth about repairing the damage. Jim says that he and Ron discussed an 18 inch – 2 ft piece of ¾ inch plywood on either side of the damage, screwed and glued. I support this measure and I can do it myself, though not until March 11th. My weekends are booked near solid. If anyone is planning on being up there before then, feel free to do it but let me know so we don't double our efforts. On that note, does anyone have a couple of 18 inch – 2 ft pieces of ¾ inch plywood laying around?

No other cabin news. X-country skiing is phenomenal in Wells right now. Certainly worth the drive to spend the day on the trails. Bruce and I are offering an Intro to Backcountry tour in the Stanley area, February 26th. I asked El Presidente to lead this group, so I may learn from the best.

8. Signs & Trails – Brian Kenelly

9. Social – Holly Nelson & Elaine Watteyne

We decided to cancel the Friday night social on Feb. 3rd. Busy month, no snow, Holly and I both away. But when the Loppet was cancelled, it might have been a good idea to have the social. Hindsight.....

There was a mix-up with the radio station advertising for a Kim Kolenchuk concert. They had found an old poster and were using that information. I hope no one showed up on that Sunday Jan. 29th night.

Next Friday night social: March 3rd with the LaMarsh Brothers. We will have a donation box to be able to give the boys a stipend for the evening's entertainment. Charlotte had commented that these boys are giving up their Friday night to come and play for us, so it would be nice to give them a little something. I don't want to offend past and future performers. Discussion suggested we just ask the performers if they would like to pass the hat. I've asked Charlotte for a few more details about the boys and their music for Ron to put on the poster.

BYOB and Appes to share, so there is no cost to the club for this next social event. Details to follow....

10. Ski the Gold Rush Trail – Ron Watteyne

11. Email Communications – Greg Strebel

12. Fundraising – Marilyn van Leusden, Brian Black

Brian is working on a Canada 150 Grant. A letter of intent has been written to Community Futures asking for \$8000 of \$15,000.

13. Publicity/Adult Lessons – Ron Watteyne

Adult lessons have been poorly attended due to the weather conditions. Ron will make a poster for the upcoming social.

14. Youth Ski School – Marilyn van Leusden

- The weather has not cooperated!!!! Our fully booked season of 40 sessions and 600 students attending Youth Ski School this season has been thwarted with super cold days, icy roads (so busses not running) or warm weather that has melted away the snow and left an icy crust.
- In January, Columneetza attended two sessions on January 8th. The next week January 10 to 13 was too cold. Dragon Lake attended on January 16th. Busses cancelled for January 17th and then three sessions were held January 18 to 20th.
- The week of January 23 to 27th, one session was held...the other 4 sessions cancelled as the young students were unable to cope with the snow conditions or lack of snow.
- Voyageur attended on January 31st, February 1st and 2nd and Lakeview on February 3rd. We celebrated after teaching 4 days that week.
- However, the weather turned cold and this week, February 6 to 8th, all 3 sessions were cancelled. Hopefully, Voyageur will be able to attend on Thursday, February 9th.
- Summary: 23 session booked and 11 sessions taught from January 5th to February 8th

15. Rental Shop Report – Tania Gruene

16. Lodge Management – Tania Gruene

17. Coaching – Peter van Leusden

Criminal Records Checks. This season we have had 30 members whose CRC's have been approved, zero to date that have been rejected. The spreadsheet has been updated and those with approved CRC's have been notified by email of their CRC's expiry date. In most cases 5 years from the date of acceptance.

18. Snowshoeing – Evi Black

Three guided snow shoe tours have taken place at Hallis since our last meeting. The one on January 22nd was led by Brian Kennelly around the lake trail and had three participants. On January 29th, Barb and Joe Daigle did Wally's Way with 8 participants. Charlotte Kurta led the tour on Bigfoot on February 5th with 14 people and some geo-caching excitement.

Although weather and snow conditions were not optimal, all the tours were a success demonstrating that there is a need to show new-comers the trails and the scope of the Hallis Lake area.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 PM.
Next Meeting March 14

Dates for the coming season:

February 18 – Elementary School Races

March 3 – Friday Night Social

April 1 – Meltdown

Dates for PG coaching courses to be added
/Peter

Chris

5 Year Plan Tracking Items:

- Rebuild the Murray Cabin foundations **2015-16**
- Install gates to eliminate having to place no-posts twice per year **complete**
- Brushing required on the Monkton trail, approach the ministry first **2015-16**
- Conduct CANSI level 1 course again and encourage certification and re-certification **2016-17**
- Hold a Biathlon BC Cup event **scheduled**
- Increase rifle inventory **complete**
- Consider redesigning the website **2016/17**
- Modernize the trail lighting including LED lighting and underground wiring **complete**
- Diversify and expand social committee for events planning **2016-17**
- Create a new CSTC/Hallis brochure **2016-17**
- Develop information sheet for new/ prospective members **2016-17**
- Purchase club swag in advance of ski season **complete**
- Conduct a publicity drive in September/October for membership **complete**
- Consider staging a late season skate race on a very simple basis. Set course but no officials, possible meal, self timed **2016-17**
- Register as a charity **2016/17**
- Membership registration exclusively thru Zone 4 **2016-17**
- Consider improving access to lodge **complete**