

Cariboo Ski-Touring Club

Minutes February 3, 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, Greg Strel, Paul Mednis, Holly Nelson, Bruce Self

Absent with Regrets: Herb Chlebek, Lisa McCarger, Chris Elden

Adopt agenda: M: Peter 2nd: Ron

Adoption of Minutes of January 13, 2015 : M: Ron 2nd: Greg

Adoption of treasurer report for January 31, 2015 M: Jim 2nd: Peter

Correspondence:

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

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

2. **Nechako Nordics race notice:** Teck Northern Cup Race February 14 and BC Biathlon Championship Feb28/ March 1 in Vanderhoof : [Zone4 Registration](#)

3. On behalf of Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Nicole Strand is asking CSTC for donations as they are hosting NRS provincial bonspiel in Quesnel March 6, 7 & 8.

Motion: Greg moves that CSTC donate 4 adult trail passes with rentals.

Seconded by Mike

carried

4. CSTC has received 2015 Property Assessment notice, and our CCBC insurance from JLT.

Old Business:

1. 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**

Recently Gavin Barry shared a map app with Jim.

Action Item: Jim will send executive members the app that will track trails and Mike will look into getting the information to Herb for the website so skiers can upload to their mobile devices.

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 contact Bliss for catering and organize a group to help with games. Suggestions are scavenger hunt, minute to win-it games and fun ski races.

3. Conflict of Interest and Backcountry Cabin use policies:

CSTC executive have adopted a conflict of interest guidelines policy.

CSTC executive have adopted a backcountry Cabin Use Policy.

Lee has tallied e-mail responses.

4. Update Brochure:

Ron is updating the CSTC brochure to include rental shop, lodge opening and concession information. This will be ready for the 2015-2016 season.

5. New snowmobile:

Mike has researched snowmobiles suitable for pulling the Ginzu and is currently considering the Ski-doo Skandic with a 24 inch track

Motion: Mike moves CSTC purchase a Skandic 24” super wide track snow mobile for trail grooming.

Seconded by Bruce

carried

New Business:

1. Wednesday Evening Guided Tours

We are offering Wednesday night warm concessions.

Pizza \$2 mega slice. Hot Soup Chili and bun Hot drinks

The lodge is open from 12-9pm Wednesdays.

Pizza, soup and chili available 5-8 pm.

2. 75 km Ski Challenge

Peter is encouraging skiers to meet Sundays at the lodge at 10:00 AM and participate in the 75 km challenge. Skiers can find others to ski with. Peter will facilitate starting Feb 8.

3. Review skate ski rental rate

Some SDP parents asked to have the skate ski rental rate reviewed as they felt it was high. The executive discussed this and the possibility of having rental specials with lessons or a daily special. Skate rental records will be review at the next meeting to help with decisions on this topic.

4. Implementation of CSTC cabin use policy

Before members use the CSTC cabins they will need to read the Backcountry policy on the website, and after agreeing to the terms and conditions of the policy they will be able to book with Barb.

Brian will talk with Herb re updating the website with the desired links.

5. Members in Arrears

Rental shop staff will contact members to remind them to sign up for the season.

6. Review of HLCPA meeting

Brian and Vicki attended the Hallis Lake Community Pasture Association annual general meeting. There was discussion about a few fences and gates that CSTC were asked to repair. We were also reminded of the need to seed the biathlon area in the spring.

7. Big Brothers and Sisters day at Hallis

Motion: Bruce moves that CSTC host a free ski day for Big Brothers/Sisters and their partners similar to the one held in 2014.

Seconded by Mike

carried

Action Item: Bruce will speak with Paul Mednis about contacting Big Brothers to set up a day.

8. Track attack in SDP /Uniforms

Sunshine would like to suggest a proposal for consideration regarding track attack in the SDProgram. Track attack is in its fledgling stages and intended to be a transition to a racing program as an alternative to biathlon. To further develop this program, I would like for the club to purchase six racing suits that match the biathlon team as a way of identifying our athletes as being part of the same team representing the club. Because these are not committed racers to the sport and we are still at the developmental stages, these would be suits that stay at the club and are used by athletes when they participate in races and therefore would belong to the club to be used by different track attack athletes each year.

Note that the CSTC Biathlon racers have purchased their own racing suits

Motion: Peter moved to revisit the option of CSTC purchasing some racing suits for rent to skiers once track attack is more established.

Seconded by Ron

carried

9. Family Day Monday February 9

Monday Feb. 9th. Come out and enjoy some great skiing and a bowl of soup (free for club members with Trail Pass). Lodge is open and hot food will be available.

10. Dogs on Snowshoe Trails

Snowshoers are reminded to keep their dogs under control particularly enroute to Wallys way via Pancake flats.

Committee Reports:

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

We've got 60 kids signed up now in the Bunny, Jackrabbit, and Track Attack program.

We will be adding two extra lessons in February and March to make up for the lost December lessons. Final lesson day will be March 7.

We are still waiting for the next installment of CCBC toques/buffs for the kids. There seems to be some confusion between CCBC and an uncashed cheque from CSTC? Or a follow up cheque for SDP insurance? Could Amy Reid please follow up on this? We had another two kids sign up for SDP in January. We are waiting for twelve more toque/buffs from CCBC so that every child gets their Rabbit Swag.

We are recruiting parents for an ICC training course, hopefully to be held at the end of March. I am collecting names, and once I have enough committed people will be contacting Peter Van Leusden to set something up for the end of this year's ski season.

2. Nordics / biathlon – Jim Crellin

Not too much to report as we covered BC Cup #1 in the previous report.

Regular practices were held at the Hallis range and trails on Tuesday nights, Thursday nights and Saturday mornings. We are encouraging younger athletes to come and give biathlon a try about noon on Saturdays after the formal practice winds down.

Most of the Biathlon group attended BC Cup #2 at Callaghan Valley on January 24 and 25, 2015. Weather was similar to Quesnel that weekend with lots of rain but relatively fast snow. There were some excellent finishes by CSTC athletes, with Claire Elden taking 1st in the Sprint and 3rd in the pursuit, Ryan Elden taking 3rd in the Sprint and 4th in the Pursuit, Anni Kurta taking 4th and 5th, Kyra Teetzen taking 5th and 4th, and Chris Elden taking 1st and 1st. Graeme Hamelin was 9th both days and Jared was 12th and 14th.

The final BC Cup race is in Vanderhoof on February 28 – March 1st.

Nationals will be in Hinton, Alberta March 10-15, 2015. We are hopeful that at least a few of our athletes will qualify to attend on the BC Team

3. Membership – Greg

As of Feb 2 we have 504 Members, including: 60 SDP, 13 Snow Shoers, 13 Back Country

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

- The recent lack of snow has made grooming a challenge. The results have been less than perfect, owing to the loss of base that we have suffered from the warm weather. That said, considering the circumstances, the results have been good. Since the recent dump of snow, everything has been groomed.
- Green Gables is down awaiting repairs to the brake system. We have the parts and are just waiting for some volunteer time to become available.
- Replacement PB combing boards are incorrect. Brian B is following up with All Cat.
- We have drained the diesel tank and are working from the reserve barrel. Brian is arranging a refill of the tank.

5. Backcountry – Bruce

Arnold & I replaced the stove pipe elbow at the Murray cabin on Sat. Thanks to Jim Gorsline for transporting the replacement to the cabin. We also removed the last external stovepipe brace.

The snow was level with the deck. The snow pack is still below normal e.g. there was open water showing in the glades at the Waverly junction sign. The recent snow helped but there were many places where there was only a thin covering over the rain crust/ice. Hopefully this will improve.

The Cariboo Mt. cabin either has, or is about to receive a new propane cook stove. Mice had made a nest in the existing one and the parties involved felt that it was impossible to clean it to a usable state.

Bruce is planning to supply the cabins with chlorine crystals (mix with water for cleaning) to replace liquid bleach.

The 1300 (Swift River) will not be plowed any more at all this winter so access to Cariboo Mt. involves a long snowmobile trip.

The 3100 rd. has been plowed to the Cariboo River up until a few days ago and may still be passable.

Backcounty 101 presentation hosted by Bruce, Heather and Arnold had a few attendees. Bruce is planning to hold this informative seminar earlier next season.

6. Signs & Trails , Lit track – John

New Map

I sent a reminder to Jim Kurta.

Trails

The Loppet route received the bulk of this month's trail work. Two successful work events were conducted despite the Green Gables incident. Brian K and ClarkeW were instrumental in conducting the brushing. The freeze and thaw weather continues to create problems with overhanging trees. Members are asked to report down or low overhanging trees to the good folks at the lodge or to me. They will be dealt with as time permits. Brushing along portion of the BFSST are planned for this week.

Signage

Additional signage for the stadium trails is currently in the works. We hope to reduce the confusion after skiers leave the stadium. Return trails signs are going up in two spots where the BFSST crosses ski trails. Gavin Barry has downloaded some of the trails onto his electronic device. I forwarded his email and attachment to Mike and Herb for their comments.

Projects

A new snowshoe trail starting near the lodge along the lakeshore and looping around the black spruce swamp at the east end of Hallis Lake has been brushed and flagged out. Next steps are to accurately map it, submit for a clearance with Trails BC and name it.

The shortcut to the fields will hopefully be laid out and brushed this week

Hopefully these two projects will reduce the number of snowshoers on the ski trails

7. Social – Holly

Possible Friday night social

8. 75 K Ski Challenge – Peter.

See new business item 2

9. Guided Ski Tours–.

Continuing on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm

10. Email communications – Greg

11. Loppet – Vicki

Despite the crazy weather conditions, the Loppet was a success. There were 78 participants: 44 adults and 34 kids. We had 16 participants from out of town: PG, Williams Lake, Vancouver and North Vancouver. We served lunch to approximately 125 participants, family and volunteers. Our volunteer numbers: 42, with a conservative estimate of 240 volunteer hours. Only a few minor glitches: jumping the gun on the second start and a few kids following the wrong signage on the 2.5 course. Lunch was a hit – as always. We received lots of kudos from the out of town folks – many of them are return participants.

I would like us to think about adding a piece to the Loppet that will hopefully encourage more recreational skiers/ families

12. Newsletter – Vicki

Vicki is planning the next newsletter for February.

13. Fundraising – Marilyn-Brian

Our focus is to raise money for the purchase of a snowmobile for next season. The total cost will be \$18,000. Grants being applied for are Community Foundation, Community Futures, Ministry of Forests, Lands Natural Resource Operations as well as Mountain Equipment Coop.

14. Publicity/ Adult Lessons- Ron

Adult ski lessons

14 people lessons for a total of 43 lessons and \$840.00 income

Next skate session will be Feb. 9, 11, 13

Grooming for lessons has been good and the last time Jim Capan set tracks I asked him to set two sets of tracks from the equipment shed to the end of the stadium.

After ski school & Jackrabbit on Mon. Feb 2 all the tracks near the timing hut were completely obliterated but the tracks near the equipment shed were OK

In order to teach and give the students a good lesson I feel that they need good quality tracks to have a positive experience.

Publicity

Posters for the Elementary School races are printed and hopefully out at the schools.

Will be talking to Dale Taylor (radio) and Observer about the Elementary School races

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

Youth Ski School

1. All 12 ski school session scheduled for the month of January were successfully held in a variety of weather conditions: snow, sun or rain. Classes from Carson, Bouchie, Ecole Baker and Voyageur schools attended in January. Ski School is now experiencing students that are participating for the second or third year.....so it is a lot of fun, as the children have remembered the basic skills, and we are able to ski more of the trails.
2. A “big” Thank You to the tracksetters for all their work and the coaches for their enthusiasm.
3. 14 more sessions are scheduled for February. Students from Voyageur, Bouchie, Carson, Ecole Baker, St Anns, and Riverview will be participating.

Ski Groups

1. A fun ski class was held on February 1st for 17 members of a PeeWee Rep Hockey team. Thanks to Peter van Leusden and Ron Watteyne for coaching.
2. A SD#28 Aboriginal group (students in grade 8 & 9) is scheduled for a lesson & ski session on February 19th. This group will bring 20-25 students for a full day session.

Rental Shop

The rental shop has been busy on weekends and intermittent during the week. We are pleased that the warm lunch concession is being used on the weekend bringing people into the lodge to visit and eat. The concession actually has a small profit to date. We had our first warm supper / Pizza night on Wednesday evening and plan to do this each Wednesday evening.

We have had one Wednesday evening youth group out in January and have two Wednesday evening youth groups booked in February.

16. Lodge Management – Tania

Lodge Maintenance Report

1. Fire Extinguishers are being rotated out to be certified. The downstairs extinguishers need to be wall mounted or off the floor.
2. Thermometer is now in the fridge.
3. Some tiles on the fireplace hearth are cracked and need to be replaced. I had called Mike Marsh to come and give us an estimate and some ideas for replacing the tiles. Mike is currently in Terrace working so I have left a message with R Heppner to come and look at the work.
4. Some concern has been voiced about people slipping on the inside steps in the lodge after a coach slipped. Some ideas involve carpet which raises serious concerns re: moisture and odor. Non slip strips from Acklands – the same type currently on the pool deck at the Rec Center, may be an option to reduce risk.
5. Brian noted that it has been 4 years since the Lodge floor has been sealed and polished. I have added this to our spring project list.

Lodge Rental Report

Two lodge rentals have been booked in February. Feb 21st starting at 4pm the Fire Hall will be having a ski social and Feb 28th starting at 4pm the lodge is booked for an adult birthday party.

Two wedding lodge rentals have been booked in August – the 1st and 15th these were tentatively booked earlier in 2014 and have been confirmed.

17. Coaching- Peter

- CSTC received a \$500.00 grant from Investors Group for the L2T Course held Sept. 12-14 2014.
- CSTC did not receive a \$500.00 grant, for the ICC course held Oct. 3-4, 2014; since we didn't have at least 5 participants enrolled in the course.
- Cansi Level 1 Refresher is scheduled for Sunday Feb. 15, at Hallis, if we have at least 3 local instructors requiring recertification.
- SDP is still trying to round up at least 6 interested parents, to take an ICC course this spring.

Meeting adjourned at: 9:20 pm

Next Meeting: March 10 2015 at 7 pm at Hoy room at City Hall

Goodies Schedule:	March	John
	April	Mike
	May	Ron