

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

**In Attendance:** Brian Black, Kari Bolton, Jim Crellin, Marilyn van Leusden, Peter van Leusden, and Ron Watteyne.

**Absent with Regrets:** Holly Nelson, Sunshine Borsato, John Redburn, Kathy Jaffary, Tony Jaffary, Vicki Esplen, Bruce Self, Chris Elden, Herb Chlebek, Greg Strebel, Elaine Watteyne and Paul Mednis.

**Adopt agenda:** M: Ron 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jim

**Adoption of Minutes of February 12, 2013:** M: Peter 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kari

**Treasurers Report:** M: Ron 2<sup>nd</sup>: Peter

See March 10, 2013 Bank Reconciliations & March 10, 2013 Year-to-date Revenue & Expenses Reports

**Correspondence:**

1. Letter dated 18 February 2013 from Northern Health regarding the payment of Health Permit Operating Fees. Permit costs \$62.50 for Hallis Lake lodge from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.
2. Criminal Record check received from the RCMP for Al Fleck.

**Old Business:**

**1. CSTC Open House/Pancake Breakfast: Sunday, January 8, 2012:**

Feedback from volunteers via emails:

**Comments:** Elaine

- Membership table needs to be front and centre to collect memberships, donations, and breakfast fee.
- Outside welcome table needed maps.
- Would have been awesome to have the PB in the stadium.
- Good idea to have trails marked with red hearts, blue markers for newcomers.
- Perfect time to hand out the 5 free passes.
- Early lessons a big hit.

**Comments:** Marilyn

- Consider having CSTC Open House on the 2nd Sunday of January.....so January 12, 2014 instead of January 5, 2014. The event is difficult to plan so close to the Xmas season, it is hard to organize before Xmas as people are focused on Xmas and the time after Xmas is too short.
- Determine hours of Open House. 2013 poster states the event begins at 10 am, but there is no closing time
- Loan the equipment for a time period (i.e. 90 minutes) as we have a shortage of adult skis and coordinate with scheduled lessons

- Opening time for issuing ski equipment can be discussed and decided by Event organizer, Rental Shop Coordinator & Lesson Coordinator. Volunteers can be organized accordingly.
- Volunteers for the Rental Shop should have a 2 or 3 hour shift so they can also participate in the Open House  
**Comments:** Brian
- Open the rental shop at least 30 min early to support the early lessons and relieve the congestion at start time
- The outdoor table people should promote membership sales. This is an ideal time to speak to people about joining.

## 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

A power point slide presentation of CSTC with a focus on the Youth Ski Program was created by Sunshine, Brian and Marilyn. This 19 slide presentation was shared at a Sunrise Rotary meeting on March 12, 2013. The intent was to thank Sunrise Rotary and inform them of developments in CSTC and the Youth Ski Program. The presentation was extremely well received by the group.

Laurey - Anne Roodenburg (city counselor) suggested that CSTC present the slide show to the Joint Committee which is the northern CRD directors plus the City Council.

## 4. 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.**

## 5. Accessibility trail:

**Action Item:** Brian, Tony, Ron are working on building modifications, at this time, a sketch is required which needs to be forwarded to the CRD.

## 6. Communication to members:

Vicki sent the first newsletter out in February 2013 and it was well received.

## 7. CSTC Policy to promote adaptive cross country skiing

**Action Item:** Marilyn will include the adaptive cross country skiing policy in our policy file. **In progress.**

## 8. Dealing with success:

Tania opened the Rental Shop on two Friday evenings: February 22 & March 1. February 22nd had business but March 1<sup>st</sup> had rainy, discouraging weather.

## 9. Integris Day: Sunday, February 17, 2013

Approximately a dozen Integris employees borrowed equipment and were involved with lessons. A good time.

#### **10. Meltdown date: Friday, March 8, 2013**

About 40 people attended with several new faces. Great potluck. A thank-you to Tim Landon for the live music.

Plenty of prizes were handed out for the 75Km Challenge. Thanks Sunshine.

Good date choice: the weekend before Spring Break.

Reminder to publicize more: posters at the Lodge and on the sandwich board, a reminder email to members 10 days before and more prior to that.

#### **11. 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 8<sup>th</sup>, Meltdown Party.

#### **12. Marketing Plan**

**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.

#### **13. Community Futures Night: Wednesday, February 20, 2013.**

Four employees attended but no board members.

Next year offer to Quesnel Rotary and Sunrise Rotary possibly on the same night.

#### **14. Lodge Rentals**

Ron was away for the deadline of the Quesnel Info Book; Yellow pages, so the Lodge will not be listed this year.

#### **New Business:**

##### **1. Community Futures Awards Gala, April 6th**

**Action Item:** Brian will send an email informing the Executive that CSTC will be receiving a grant at the Community Foundation Awards Gala. CSTC would like to fill a table or two with our members. Please let Brian know in the next few days if you would like tickets and he will order them for all of us. The cost is \$50 each; should be a fun evening.

##### **2. Northern BC Sport Equipment grant application**

A grant request for \$5,000.00 was submitted on March 4, 2013 to ViaSport for ski equipment and two biathlon rifles.

Notification will be by March 31, 2013.

### 3. Pending grant applications: BC Biathlon Club Development; BC Lotteries

Peter has applied to BC Biathlon for a grant of \$300 to aid with the costs of the regional race held on Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> in Quesnel.

**Action Item:** Peter is working on the BC Biathlon Club Development grant for \$3000 that must be submitted by the end of March.

**Action Item:** Brian and Marilyn will work on BC Lotteries grant application by mid-April.

### 4. Pending order for ski shop inventory

**Motion:** Peter moved that CSTC submit a Rossignol ski equipment order to Rocky Peak using the “necessary list” created by Tania and the order be reevaluated and discussed at the April meeting when we have feedback from the ViaSport regarding CSTC’s Northern BC Sport Equipment grant application.

Seconded by Ron

Motion carried

### 5. CSTC Ski Swap. Saturday morning, late October

**Action Item:** Ron will discuss with George Ryan the possibility of CSTC having a cross country ski swap at Hallis Lake.

### 6. Webcam for Hallis Lake

**Action Item:** Brian will follow-up with securing internet access for the office of the Hallis Lake Lodge.

**Action Item:** Marilyn will confirm with Shayne the possibility of Stride & Glide donating a webcam for Hallis Lake.

### 7. Fundraising coordinator and Continuance

Sunshine has worked with Olive Walsh on fundraising this year. Sunshine would love for someone to approach her to be the fundraising coordinator as she thinks Olive is perfect but feels like she has asked her to do enough recently!

**Action Item:** Sunshine is requested to ask Olive to be the fundraising coordinator for CSTC.

### 8. Procedures for Criminal Record Checks

**Action Item:** Marilyn will contact CCBC to find out the requirements of coach’s criminal record checks.

**Action Item:** Jim will check with Biathlon BC and the biathlon coaches in PG regarding criminal record checks.

### 9. Coaching Courses

**Action Item:** Peter will attempt to book an ICC course in November, a CC course in early January, an IC2 Biathlon on snow, as well as, a CANSI Level 1 pre-course & course with Bruce Bennett.

Peter will apply before the scheduled coaching course for an Investors Group Grant of \$500 per course.

## Committee Reports:

### **1. Jackrabbit – Sunshine.**

- stellar season with 9 sessions and 60 kids
- in coaching closing meeting we addressed needing more coaches and holding a central registration next year to better disseminate info to parents – this would be scheduled with early bird registration deadline
- Coaching – to add to Peter’s question – yes, we need to hold all of those coaching courses next year but we can cancel if we need to so no harm booking them. I have asked every coach to find another coach (bring a friend campaign) for next year but in theory this is what JR needs as I was running two short for sure this year but could have used more especially to cover other people’s holidays.
- Track Attack – this will need to be marketed early – Josh and Paul interested in participating as coaches – two nights per week and should include no races as well as the option to train for junior races and travel with parents. Should include dryland training coaching course for these two coaches and the program will need to be marketed to start kids with dryland training participation. Josh and Paul will need to be included in some club meetings about how the program will look, who will be involved and what the club can do to support the program.

### **2. Elementary School Races – Sunshine.**

- record year – almost fully funded and successful day

### **3. Nordics / biathlon – Jim Crellin**

- The last major competition for the season was BC Championships at Otway on February 22-24, 2013. Eight athletes competed in a field of 60 athletes and the results were exceptional.
- Kyra Teetzen put in another consistent performance in the Jr. Girls category taking Gold in both the Sprint Race and the Pursuit Race. Tristan Langan skied and shot very well with one miss in the sprint race and 4 in the pursuit race and took Gold in both races. Claire Elden also performed very well in the Midget category taking Silver in the Sprint and Pursuit races.
- Anni Kurta earned Bronze in both the Sprint and Pursuit races. Ryan Elden took Silver in the Sprint and Bronze in the Pursuit. Maddison Roll placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the Sprint and 5<sup>th</sup> in the Pursuit. Konrad Teetzen is having back/shoulder trouble and placed seventh in the Sprint and the Pursuit. Chris Elden rounded out the team with two Bronzes in the Masters Category.
- Maddison Roll was selected for the BC Team for Nationals which will be held at WOP in the Callaghan Valley on March 15-20, 2013
- The CSTC hosted a Regional Biathlon Competition on Sunday, March 10 with 27 athletes competing. This was a relatively low key event and intended to give athletes a chance to try out racing in a less stressful atmosphere than a BC Cup race and all of our athletes except one competed. The weather was alternately snowy and sunny. Quesnel athletes did well, with Claire Eldon, Kyra Teetzen, and Graeme Hamling first in their categories, Ryan Elden, Anni Kurta, and Maddison Roll taking second and Nicole De Blois, and Tristan Langan taking third. Ginger Langan completed her first ever biathlon race in the recreation division. Long Johns and edible medals were donated by Quesnel Bakery, the medals were a big hit with all. We did have two folks ski down the biathlon trail with a dog during the race, despite the signage at the top of the hill requesting that people not bring dogs down that trail.
- Coaching transition continues to progress well with the newer coaches//parents organizing and coaching two very successful BC Cup races and the Regional race.

### **3. Membership – Greg**

- Our total membership for this year amounts to 474 members, including honorary life-member Rick Dupuis. (last year's membership 395). The Zone4/CCBC list shows 473 because I did not send them Ivor McMahan's data since he is already a Williams Lake club member.
- There were 67 registrants in the SDP/Biathlon program. 15 Bunnies (under 5) had free registration, and one member (Pascal Sturt) also free and not in a program yet (not included in the 67). 42 Jack Rabbits and 13 Biathletes. The numbers add to greater than 67 because of a couple of overlaps.
- We have 14 Back country only members, and 8 Snowshoe category members.

### **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.
- During the month we experienced a failure of the implement hitch. This occurred after 149 hours of operation just within our 150 hour warrantee. The dealer was cooperative in covering the failure and agreed to send a new hitch component and agreed to credit our account for the cost of replacement hydraulic hoses made up locally. We wished to return the machine to service immediately so Lebrun Repair was engaged to do a weld repair on the hitch so that the PB was returned to service within 2 days. The new and improved hitch component is currently in transit from Calgary.
- One of the track drive sprockets is in need of replacement, a new one has been ordered.
- We are now beyond the warrantee period and are listing deficiencies to be addressed at the end of the season.

#### **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**

- I am looking for a new coordinator for the 2014 Loppet.
- Top of my list: Vicky Esplen: declined due to other commitments next year.
- Suggestions welcome
- Rocky Peak has donated Swix flag course markers.
- Sunshine has tie on cloth bibs that seem quite suitable for various sizes of participants to wear.

## **6. Backcountry – Bruce**

- Not much to report. Skiing in the backcountry is still great and all is (mostly) well with the world.
- Next Saturday, March 16 I will lead a guided intro trip to Jack of Clubs creek. I hope to coerce John Redburn to lead one to Kibbe Lake after that.
- Jason Griffin from Wells wanted to include the cabins in the forthcoming Wells directory. We declined to be included.
- I had feedback from a member on the untidy, kindling-less etc. state of the Murray cabin after it had been used by the PG Search& Rescue group. I spoke with the leader and he assured me that it had been an oversight and would not happen again.

## **7. Signs & Trails – John**

### **Trails:**

- I have heard of no major incidents or problems along the trails except for some overhanging brush on the upper trails  
Future
- I would like to identify any problems or potential problems with the trails and deal with them prior to break up. If any of the exec have noticed some issues please forward them to me with the nature of the concern and an accurate as possible location.

### **Signage:**

- There have not been any upgrades to the signage since last report.
- There has been no contact with FLNRO regarding signage issues. This week I will be following up about this with Sandy Latins, Range Officer, FLNRO.  
Future
- I will prepare and forward to the executive a proposed sign plan for 2013 including budget estimates.

## **8. Social – Holly**

- No report.

## **9. 10 Mile Lake Committee – Paul & Peter**

- The skiing at Ten Mile was exquisite a week ago. Hopefully it has continued.
- Machine still runs so no issues at all to report.
- Paul has been able to set tracks when conditions have been favourable. This has been infrequently this past month, due to the thaw, freeze cycles we have been in. Paul reports that the machine has been running well.
- Ski skating on the lake, has been improving this past week, and should become excellent in the coming week.

## **10. 75 K Ski Challenge – Sunshine.**

- Double participation – good prizes for some great entries

## **11. Guided Ski Tours– Sunshine.**

- Ten guided tours held Dec 21<sup>st</sup> till end of February
- Well-attended with average of about 8 people each week

## **12. Lodge – Tony & Kathy Jaffary**

- No report  
**Action Item:** Kathy and Tony will create a list of Lodge closing up routines.

## **13. Lodge Rentals – Sunshine**

- Definitely the insurance cost is deterring a lot of interested parties (in response to last month's query). I think we still need to try to get in with CRD insurance umbrella that we were attempting last year but in the meantime, club can be satisfied with fewer renters as it is not our main business but probably four of every five serious calls does not rent due to cost.
- It is in the plan but would love to roll this into Tania's job – doesn't in itself take much time but one too many things for me to do and I think she has such a good handle on what is going on at the lodge it becomes natural for her to do it.  
**To be discussed at the next meeting.**

## **14. Newsletter- Greg**

- No report.

## **15. Publicity/ Adult Lessons- Ron**

- No report

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

- The ski school season is almost over. Our last elementary school class will ski on March 14th.
- We ended up with 732 student days. This falls short of our initial number of 750 because EQDL (homeschool group) did not bring the number of kids initially booked and only 1 of their group showed up for the last session with no prior notice. We will charge them for 2 coaches but next year I will plan differently with their co-ordinator. Other schools have been consistent and excellent to deal with.
- We have reports back from Bouchie, Nazko, Voyageur and NCCS that they will be coming back next season. Carson liked the system where skis are out ahead of time and we are not trying to manage skis and kids going up the stairs. The only negative comment I have heard so far is from a parent of a Carson participant because they had a different coach each session. I know this is not ideal and we need to continue to recruit coaches. We need more coaches who have high availability and commitment if we want to continue to grow. The large classes between 40-50 kids are much more financially healthy for us, but these classes need between 6-8 coaches each session.
- After the last session I will again send out a survey to teachers /administrators who participated this year. I would also like to send out a ski school newsletter to SD28 to wrap up the season and possibly get schools that have not participated interested in next season.
- We have offered the Kids ski camps. Superhero Camp went well with 15 kids. We will see if we have enough to run the spring break camps. I think each one we do we will learn from and be prepared to run camps with larger enrollment next year.



## **Ski Rentals**

- The ski rentals in February are still up from last year but the rain and warm weather has certainly reduced rental traffic. The previous 2 Wednesday evenings have only had 1 or 2 walk in renter. These Wednesday evenings have done well hosting groups though. Special Olympics has brought a group of 8 to ski every second Wednesday. Wednesday, Feb27 the Brownies brought a group of 11 kids. Wednesday, Mar 6th the girl guides brought a group of 11 kids and a church youth group brought a group of 13 teens. I had offered a special rate for these types of groups if they come on Wednesday nights. Youth ski for \$5 each and chaperones ski for \$10.00. This works well for Wednesdays to increase exposure and many or most of these groups always meet on Wednesdays and plan their activities accordingly.
- Fridays were not well attended. 10 people renting on the first Friday evening and none on the second. That said the weather was terrible, rain, sleet etc. I think we should give it a try at the beginning of the season next year (after Christmas).
- A few minor items re: equipment- 1 pair of skis will need some repair where the edge has been damaged. We need to purchase new laces for some boots. The 170 and 160 skis are underused and it is possible that we could sell 3 or 4 of each to adjust our inventory. We need to add 100, 110,120 skis and smaller boots to accommodate Jackrabbit demand and ski school demand for small sizes.

## **Trip to Otway**

- Vicki, Angela, Marilyn and I made the trio to Caledonia Nordics to watch them get a class out the door and ski out with groups being coached. Carolyn, the ski school coordinator was very welcoming and I think we can really share information and ideas back and forth. Seeing their equipment room made me feel quite lucky- our system with a double door and going around the ski rack is much more efficient! They have much more beginner terrain available with gentle rolling hills. We have been taking starter groups on Gerry's choice backwards to 4 corners and that is comparable to some of their areas. They have 2000 kids booked this year from Dec- April. Most of their schools only do 1-2 sessions. I absolutely think 3 sessions is a minimum for our groups, in the second and third session you can see huge gains and you can see kids and teachers relaxing and having fun. They leave with a much more positive experience on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day than the first day which is critical to rebooking next season for us. I think it will be helpful to continue to communicate and share ideas with Caledonia Nordic. Interesting to note that they doubled their year 1 participation numbers in 4 years. I think we will do more than double year 1 in year 3 if all goes well.

## **Other Items**

- I am passing on some suggestions for improvements that I have heard over the last month:
- Sally J noted that the railing on the outside steps leading down to the rental shop doors should have a railing that you can put your hand around. There is no way to actually grab and hold the railing going down- this could be an issue for young and old.
- Angela M- suggested a very short ramp or something on the 2 steps leading of the deck to the ground in front of the lodge. The steps nearest the lake. The idea being that it would cover the slippery slope that develops and be easy to just shovel off to keep a clear path.
- Vicki E- suggested gutters on the areas of roof above the 2 sets of steps leading off the deck that way it wouldn't get so wet and then so icy when we have these patterns of warm and freezing that way the last month has gone.
- Sunshine- suggested we paint the ski racks to match the group & bunny colors. I love the idea. I will get the paint and a paint party together to do it this summer if we get the ok.

- I would like to put some shingles on the long set of outside steps leading down to the rental shop. We saw this at Otway, it worked well for traction in ski boots.
- **Note-** Track setting for the schools has been fabulous and it makes a huge difference in what we can do with the kids. Thank You!

### **17. Coaching- Peter**

- During the past month, we have received a list of certified x-c ski officials from CCBC. This includes those with level 1 and level 2 certification.
- A coaching needs survey has been circulated to relevant club members. The purpose of the survey is to identify which coaching courses we should try to offer in Quesnel next season.
- As a result of the survey we will communicate with CCBC and Biathlon BC to attempt to offer the following courses:  
 ICC - Introduction to Community Coaching x-c  
 CC - Community Coaching x-c  
 CC1 – L2T Dryland x-c  
 CC1 – L2T On snow x-c  
 IC2 Biathlon on snow
- Note CCBC states that those interested in taking the CC1 L2T dryland have to complete an on line course MED (Making Ethical Decisions), and have completed a CC, practical experience form. Will try to get clarification on how firm CCBC is on having to have those prerequisites met, before taking the CC1 – L2T courses. Dryland is also considered a prerequisite requirement for the on snow CC1 – L2T component.
- Coaching certification spreadsheet has not been updated, but plan to work with those in the know, as the season winds down.

**Meeting adjourned at: 8:43 pm**

**Next Executive Meeting: April 9, 2013 at QCEDC office at 7:00 pm**

**Goodies Schedule:**

April: John Redburn

May: Brian Black