

Cariboo Ski-Touring Club

Minutes March 10, 2015

In Attendance: Peter van Leusden , Brian Black, Marilyn van Leusden, Amy Reid, Mike Alborn, Lee Morgan, John Redburn, Jim Crellin, Ron Watteyne, Greg Strebel, Holly Nelson

Absent with Regrets: Vicki Esplen, Herb Chlebek, Bruce Self, Lisa McCarger, Chris Elden, Paul Mednis

Adopt agenda: M: Greg 2nd: Jim

Adoption of Minutes of February 3, 2015 : M: Peter 2nd: Ron

Adoption of treasurer report for February 28, 2015 M: Greg 2nd: Ron

Correspondence:

1. CSTC has donated \$679 worth of services to the Quesnel Community Foundation annual fundraising dinner/ auction to be held April 11 at the Senior Center:

- 1 membership and season pass, value of \$95 each
- 2 sets of 3 lessons for 2 including rentals, value of \$252 each
- 1 snowcat tour of Hallis Lake, value \$80

2. **QUESNEL V DAY VOLUNTEER FAIR**

WHERE CORRELIEU

WHEN APRIL 17, 2015 12:30-5:30 (Open to the public 2:30 – 5:30)

PRESENTATIONS: 12:30-1:35 **FAIR DISPLAYS:** 1:35 – 5:30

CSTC hopes to set up a booth at this fair.

Old Business:

1. **Trail Maps**

Work is in progress on the trail maps. The team of Greg, Ron, Sunshine, Mike, Jim and JR are working on the 3rd draft of the map to be ready for next season. **In progress**

Jim has sent executive members the track files that will show individual trails and he suggests that Maps 3D for Iphones is a good App to use the track files with. He and Herb are looking for an equivalent program for Android. The intent is to have the downloadable files on the website prior to the start of the 2015/16 season.

2. **Meltdown:**

Saturday March 28 has been set for the CSTC Meltdown at Hallis Lake. It will be a catered meal with doors open at 5:30, dinner at 6 pm. Dinner tickets will be sold in advance at Rocky Peak for \$15 /adult \$7.50/child. Prizes and certificates will be awarded for the 75 Km ski challenge.

Action Item: Ron to publicize and take tickets to Rocky Peak. Holly to confirm catering details with Bliss.

3. Implementation of CSTC cabin use policy

Before members use the CSTC cabins they will need to read the Backcounty policy on the website, and after agreeing to the terms and conditions of the policy they will be able to book with Barb. Herb has updated the website with the desired links. It looks very good and is a huge improvement.

4. Members in Arrears

Rental shop staff have contacted members in arrears.

5. Big Brothers and Sisters day at Hallis

Sunday March 1 CSTC hosted a free ski day for 8 Big Brothers/Sisters and their partners. Thanks to Peter, Paul and Bruce for making this successful day happen.

New Business:

1. Rename some of the ski trails

Trail names will be discussed at the Meltdown.

Committee Reports:

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

The final SDP session was held March 7.

Total enrollment for the winter was 60 children.

We had difficulty communicating financially between our club and CCBC. We did not receive the final 21 toques for the SDP program because of a long delay in the cheque leaving our club and reaching CCBC. The toques are in the mail now, one week too late for the kids. This needs to be addressed for next year. We would like the children to be receiving the toques at the beginning of the season. Timely submission of cheques to CCBC is needed for the SDP program to receive the toques.

Track Attack Program had four skiers. We did not have a committed regular coach. Could the club please brain storm to think of someone who is interested in skiing at a higher level, and would be willing to coach the kids, and facilitate race information and opportunities? This program will not work unless there is a dedicated coach.

We are working on plans for next year. We would like to develop a SDP executive for next year, to help spread the work load amongst more people. We would also like to have a coaching pool organized so that we have a sense of who will coach for next year.

We are actively recruiting new coaches for next year, and have several signed up for the upcoming ICC course, and several more on a list.

2. Nordics / biathlon – Jim Crellin

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

Several of the coaches and parents from the Biathlon group helped out as officials at the Canada Winter Games in Prince George and 3 of our athletes skied the course as forerunners ahead of the main competition. It was a very well organized and well executed event and the weather cooperated

with mixed sun and cloud and comfortable temperatures. There were some very exciting close finishes, especially by the BC Girls. Course speeds were clocked at over 50km/hr on the downhills.

Almost the entire Biathlon group attended BC Cup #3 at Vanderhoof on February 28-March 1, 2015. Weather was freezing at night, brilliant sunshine and warming to above 0 during the day. There were some excellent finishes by CSTC athletes, with Claire Elden taking 1st in the Individual and 4th in the Sprint, Ryan Elden taking 8th in the Individual and 5th in the Sprint, Anni Kurta taking 2nd in the Individual and 1st in the Sprint, Kyra Teetzen taking 5th in the Individual and 2nd in the Sprint, and Chris Elden taking 1st and 1st. Graeme Hamelin was 5th and 4th and Jared was 11th and 14th. Kieron Langan was 1st both days and Tristan Langan was 5th and 9th. Madison Roll was 1st in the Individual and Gerd Teetzen and Ginger Langan competed in the Rec 1 and Rec 2 categories. Selections for the BC Team for Nationals were announced early the week following BC Cup#3. After some discussions with Biathlon BC, Anni, Ryan and Kyra were selected to the team. The competition is in Hinton, Alberta on March 10-15, 2015. With Prince George having 9 athletes selected and the CSTC with 3 we have more than half of the 19 positions on the BC team in the north.

A very successful "Give it a Shot" day was held on Saturday March 7th. Funding was supplied by Viasport as part of the CWG legacy. They covered costs for the ammunition and paper targets, honorariums for the Coaches, and, hopefully, some funding for fuel for tracksetting. We had 9 youths and 12 adults try out the sport and several requested a call when we start up in September.

That pretty much wraps up a successful biathlon season except for range dismantling.

We do owe CNSC an undecided amount for 3 used targets.

We would like to go after a newer 2nd hand Izhmash rifle if one becomes available as there are none being imported due to embargoes.

3. Membership – Greg 505 members

I would like to raise the matter of membership fees for club members who are not involved in track skiing. I think there is an issue with being a fee collector for CCBC for our snowshoe and backcountry members. I would like to clarify what services CCBC provides to these members (insurance?) if any, given the raised contribution rates we experienced this year.

How are other clubs handling non Nordic components?

Action Item: Greg and Amy will draft a letter to send to the CCBC regarding the difficulties we experienced with their staff in processing payments and registering participants in the Skill Development Program. If someone attends the AGM this spring it could be discussed there.

4. Equipment – Mike

Not much to report. Things are winding down. The conditions this past month have usually dictated the use of either the Pisten Bully or the Ginzu; the PB can deal better than the Ginzu with the hard ice left over from long periods of high temperatures, but the Ginzu works better when conditions are soft. The bottom line is that we wouldn't be doing as much grooming right now if we didn't have the Ginzu. However, midafternoon temperatures have tended to be warm, so grooming isn't really necessary anymore, except for scheduled events like Jackrabbits or ski school that are happening in the morning. We've had some issues with the steering on the twintracks, which I hope to rectify this summer.

5. Backcountry – Bruce

6. Signs & Trails , Lit track – John

New Map

The map is currently in the second draft with a third draft should be available later this month.

Signage

New direction signs have been erected in the stadium, at the top of the Adventure Park hill and on the South Loop. Return trail signs have been set up on two locations of the BFSST. As well as two trail name signs for Syrup Alley.

Trails

A trail name for the new snowshoe trail is required. Mapping and clearance still in the works. Ron W and John R effected repairs to Gerry's Choice and the North Marathon Loop with varying degrees of success.

The BFSST received two clearing and trail marking efforts. Al S, Clive P and John R hung ribbon and killed willows on two separate occasions.

Projects

A new signage plan will be developed as soon as the new map is approved. A trail management plan is currently in early stages with an initial draft for April's executive meeting. The trail management plan will outline proposed vegetation management (clearing) and water management. Signage

7. Social – Holly

8. 75 K Ski Challenge – Peter.

9. Guided Ski Tours–.To be reviewed next season as turnout was low most Wednesday s.

10. Email communications – Greg

11. Elementary School Races – Sunshine

The 32nd annual Elementary School Races on Saturday February 21st were superb with 88 enthusiastic participants. The snow was good and the weather perfect. Much thanks to our organizer Sunshine and her many volunteers for staging an excellent event!

The sun was already bright at 7 a.m. as the courses were being groomed and set up for the 33rd annual ski tournament at Hallis Lake in Quesnel, B.C. The first few competitors started arriving at 7:30 to register for the big day of racing and for some it was their first time coming to the cross country ski facility at Hallis Lake.

New to this year's race, there were beginner categories as well as experienced categories encouraging more new skiers to participate trying to earn points for their school or community with their eyes on the bright medals for individual skiers and the trophies for the top schools and communities.

By 8:30 the stadium was filled with anxious kids eager to start skiing for their school teams, heading out on the guided ski tours, hugging friends or just skiing in circles because they couldn't contain their enthusiasm!

At 9:30 the skiers were off in a series of loops for each age category and experience level culminating in a two kilometer hilly course for the oldest and most experienced skiers. This was followed by relay races and downhill events and by the end the kids were thrilled and exhausted and couldn't stop smiling.

Including a brief break for fuelling with bean and cheese quesadillas and hot chocolate, the athletes were pumped about the day and how well their schools and teams had done and everyone cheered loudly for the many kids on the podiums as well as the schools who took this year's trophies home to proudly display.

12. Winter Carnival Saturday February 7 – Brian

The winter carnival was a great success with our wonderful volunteer crew! It was quite obvious that we are making very good progress with regard to building ski skills and knowledge of the CSTC and Hallis Lake in the community. Lots of the younger set now know how to ski. The ones that have done ski school are very keen to use poles! Also, the knowledge of the adults with regard to Hallis Lake has improved considerably over the few years and many are intending to use our venue.

Excellent teamwork enabled us to serve 325 customers! The warm really brought them out. In comparison we served 144 in cold temps last year and 225 with very good conditions the year before. All in all, it was great exposure for our sport and the club; it would not have happened without our 14 hard working volunteers!

Thanks again for all of your help!

13. Fundraising – Marilyn-Brian

CSTC is fundraising to purchase a snow machine for trail grooming.

We have received \$2000 from Community Futures North Cariboo.

We have applied for:

\$5000 from the Recreation Foundation of BC

\$6000 from Mountain Equipment Coop

\$6000 from the Quesnel Community Foundation

We have also applied for \$1000 from Community Futures to fund a CSTC brochure.

14. Publicity/ Adult Lessons- Ron

Adult ski lessons Finished for the season.

Publicity

Ron is meeting with Tania Thursday morning to discuss the brochure

15. Youth Ski School - Marilyn

1. All 14 ski school sessions scheduled for the month of February were successfully completed plus the third session for Riverview students, which was moved forward from March.
2. Classes from Carson, Bouchie, Ecole Baker, St Ann's, Riverview and Voyageur schools attended in February. Three ski school sessions were held in March, students from North Cariboo Christian School participating. The last ski school session will be held tomorrow, March 11th.
3. Riverview brought an older group of kids than we usually see (Grades 4-6) and were very pleased and stated that they would like to push it as being part of their curriculum. They felt that the students had a great time and also that as a sport it was more accessible financially for their students.
4. A Grade 8/9 group participated in a full day ski session through a grant. The teachers who chaperoned the Grade 8 class were very enthusiastic about their day here and talked about trying to plan a ski day as a field trip next year through the ski school program. Tania will follow up with them in September when she begins to promote to the Elementary schools again.
5. An evening ski camp was held on Friday, February 27th for kids between the ages of 10 to 13. This was sponsored by the Imagine Grant and registration was free.
6. Despite one week of sessions in the rain everybody was positive and the kids didn't even seem to notice the rain. So far it looks like we will successfully complete all 30 elementary school sessions.

7. Ski school coaches are meeting Wednesday, March 11th to celebrate and collect feedback from coaches.
8. A survey will be sent to participating schools to gather their feedback & testimonials.
9. More ski school coaches are required and a notice has been sent to members of the Quesnel Retired Teachers Association for prospects.

CSTC Hallis Lake Youth Ski Program

COACHING OPPORTUNITIES

These programs have been very well received and are expanding. Volunteering for the ski school weekday sessions or the Jackrabbit weekend sessions makes a huge difference!

If you are a recreational skier (you do not need to be expert or competitive) and enjoy spending time coaching kids you can participate.

Your commitment would be:

- A minimum of 3 sessions in the season (December- to March).
- Each session is a 2.5 hour commitment from the coach. Typically 9-11:30am on a weekday or 10-1 on a Saturday.
- Coaches leading a group need to have taken the 'Intro to Community Coaching' (see following notice) and the 'Community Coaching 1' courses. Coach assistants do not need this certification right away. We will be running these courses again next season for assistants who may want to lead groups.
- All volunteer coaches and assistants are required to have a Criminal Record Check.
- Volunteer coaches will follow coaching guidelines and code of conducts that the CSTC has in place. We promote an atmosphere of inclusion and respect and enjoy seeing children gain confidence and skills no matter what their level of ability may be.

We provide:

- Other coaches and volunteers- you are not on your own with your group right away.
- Training, coaching training and on -snow training.
- A volunteer stipend of \$30 per session for volunteer coaches (excluding jackrabbits on Saturdays).
- A fun and very rewarding morning. The enthusiasm of kids learning a sport is contagious and will energize your own enjoyment of cross country skiing.
- Group sizes between 7-10 kids and a helper.

Become part of a fun friendly group of skiers and volunteers. Call Tania at 250 991-6906, or email youthskischool@caribooski.ca for more information.

16. Lodge Management – Tania

Rental Shop

1. The rental shop had its last weekend on March 7/8 and is now closed for the season. Konrad and Dianah have been laid off.. They will be given ROE's and a letter of recommendation.
2. The poor turn in weather at the end of February resulted in 1 lodge rental cancelling and two Wednesday night groups cancelling.
3. We lost the best part of the rental season in December and again in February so are under the forecast amount for revenue. Despite this the rental shop more than covered wages for Konrad and Dianah and a small portion of Tania's.
4. A full report on the seasons ski rentals and data along with recommendations will be submitted in time for the April meeting. If there are any specific questions or suggestions please forward them so that I can answer them for the next meeting.

Lodge Maintenance

1. Fire extinguishers have been certified. Only 1 more needs to be replaced in the Equipment shed.
2. Several maintenance projects will occur in the next 2 months:
 - Fireplace hearth will have new tiles
 - Brian B picked up a role of slip guard tape of the type used at the pool deck. This will be put on the inside stairs in an attempt to reduce the incidents of people falling.
 - The upstairs lino floor will be sealed.
 - A deep clean will be done of the lodge in March and plans for some painting touch ups and repainting put into place for spring projects.
 - Other small projects ongoing- baseboards etc.

Lodge Rentals

The lodge was rented on Feb 28th. The Stefan's mentioned to BB that the noise level was very loud until 3am. Renters were aware that a family lives there but I suggest we add some written noise / Time rules into our rental contract.

The next lodge rentals currently booked are weddings on Aug1/2 and Aug15/16.

Discussion idea: Do we want to advertise our lodge rentals more actively with local event planners for summer months? The QCEDC is putting together an event planning guide for conference type venues in Quesnel, All agreed that the Hallis lodge would be suitable and should be included.

17. Coaching- Peter

- ICC Course is confirmed for Sunday March 29 2015 at Hallis lake Lodge
- Investors Group has accepted our proposal for a grant for this course (\$500.00)
- To date have 10 persons that have indicated they are willing to take the course (all of these are club members). Three of which are youth from our Biathlon program.
- Propose that offer a CC course in January 2016.

Contact Peter van Leusden to register, or for more information. vanleusp@quesnelbc.com

Meeting adjourned at: 8:25 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday April 16 2015 at 7 pm at QCEDC City Hall

Goodies Schedule: April Mike May Ron