

CARIBOO SKI TOURING CLUB
41th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OCTOBER 28, 2017
MEETING MINUTES

In Attendance: 37.

Introduction of 2016/2017 Executive:

President: Bruce Self
Vice-President: Brian Kennelly
Treasurer: Amy Reid
Secretary: Shannon Coffey

Committee Reports:

1. Treasurer's Report - Amy Reid. Presented by Bruce Self.

2016-17 was another successful financial season for CSTC. Though we saw lower membership revenue, we also had lower costs on grooming, and hydro. We ended the year with excess cash and have allocated \$30,000 to be set aside in a term deposit for a future capital project or major repairs.

2. Skill Development Program - Sunshine Borsato. Presented by Bruce Self.

While we wait for snow, the JR and TA and Biathlon group are participating in dryland training doing parkour style core training at the IFLY studio once per week. SDP (bunnies, JR and TA) will start on skis Saturday December 9th and the season will continue on Saturdays and Monday nights as we did last year to maximize our snow season.

Last year we had 40 kids participating in the program, a little lower than our typical 60, but even with the poor snow year, we only missed one lesson due to poor conditions and the kids took advantage of brilliant work done by the tracksetting team to be able to ski the entire season on about six centimeters of snow! Thank you tracksetters from the SDP program!

Our track attack team traveled to Williams Lake to participate in a ski race there and the CSTC cleaned up with almost every participant we brought medaling at least once. This year I would like to encourage the CSTC ski team to attend a 100 Mile ski race Dec 17th, a PG race December 30th and the Williams Lake ski tournament in March and I am planning to purchase race jerseys to match biathlon so everyone participating can feel like they are part of the CSTC ski team.

This year we just brushed out two new bush trails between Katimavik for our smallest skiers to expand their territory a bit and to challenge them with some skidoo packed adventure trails. We also have a new box of toys on the adventure park to be able to expand some of the skills we can play with out there. Again, thank you to grant writers Marilyn and Brian for that piece.

3. Elementary Races - Sunshine Borsato. Presented by Bruce Self.

Apparently, I am really lucky when it comes to getting snow and it paid off for last year's annual elementary school races. This was the 35th annual race and we needed to modify the course substantially to be able to have the races Saturday, February 18th. There was no snow on the ground the morning of Friday, February 17th! However, we did receive the snow I was hoping for and Brian and Jim were dragging ice Friday morning so the snow would better adhere to the ice and we had another successful elementary race with approximately 60 skiers participating, again a little lower than the typical participation level of approximately 90 kids. I know that most everyone else did not share in my optimism the races would happen and hope they have more faith next time!

4. Loppet - Vicki Esplen. Presented by Bruce Self.

The 2016 Hallis Lake Loppet was cancelled due to poor snow conditions.

5. Nordics/Biathlon – Jim Crellin, Chris Elden

2016-17 was another successful year, but the local snow conditions was challenging for training in the latter half of the season. Athlete numbers were steady with about a dozen participating. A number of new younger athletes replaced the few who finished their careers.

We attended all three BC Cups hosted at: Kelowna, Whistler and Burns Lake, as well as hosting one in Quesnel under perfect weather conditions. We received many compliments on the Hallis Lake facilities and trails from the participants. It was nice to be able to host a competition under comfortable weather conditions after the two very cold previous ones. Thank you again to all of the volunteers for their outstanding support. Three athletes also competed at Western Championships in Hinton.

Two athletes competed at Nationals in Canmore in March. Ryan Elden had solid performances in the hotly contested Youth Men category, and Chris won a couple of individual medals and was part of the silver medal BC relay team.

Initial discussions have been held with the Ministry and the Hallis Lake Pasture Association regarding year round access to the biathlon range. This has spawned the proposal for a committee consisting of representatives from the: Ministry of Forests, CSTC, Pasture Association and the local neighbourhood to improve communication between the various groups and address issues and proposals such as the biathlon range use. Charlotte Kurta has graciously volunteered to represent the CSTC.

We had one athlete named to the BC Development squad and two to the Talent squad. All have attended a number of training camps throughout the off-season and are gearing up for the first competitions in November. Ryan Elden has graduated from high school and is now training full time at the High Performance Centre in Whistler.

We started our 2017-18 training in September with 9 committed athletes with several other younger ones who are considering joining. Our rifle supply is in good shape with all juveniles and older (11+ yrs) on biathlon rifles.

There are four BC Cups scheduled this year in Whistler, Prince George, Burns Lake and Kelowna, as well as a Nor-am in Whistler, BC Winter Games in Kamloops, and Nationals in Charlo, New Brunswick.

The club received approximately \$10,000 in funding for equipment including proper rubber shooting mats to replace the used carpet we have been using, two toboggans similar to the yellow Olympic tub, and the supplies to build a mountain of new v-boards. The toboggans and v-boards are good assets for many club activities and events. Thank you to the eight volunteers who spent a long day building and painting approximately 1170 4-foot v-boards at work parties on October 15th and 27th.

With the promise of early snow we are all looking forward to a fun and active season.

6. Membership - Greg Strebel

Last year's membership totaled 366, slightly below the 2015/2016 season, which itself was well off the previous high of 505 members experienced in the 'good snow' year 2014/2015.

Fifteen members were snowshoers, up from 10 the previous year.

25 members registered in the Back Country category.

22 members lived outside of Quesnel.

Ten members were under the age of 5, and received free memberships, subsidized by the club. Our oldest member was 80 years old last year.

This year membership is off to a good start, with 177 members as of October 26th.

7. Equipment - Mike Alborn

Last year was another tricky grooming season, with most of our efforts focused on conserving the precious little snow that did fall, in order to extend the season as much as possible. We put something like 30 hours on the Pisten Bully last year, with the bulk of our time spent on snowmobiles. It was another good opportunity for our tracksetting team to get more experience using the Bearcat/Ginzu combination.

As with the previous year, the Bearcat/Ginzu combo was instrumental in keeping the trails around the stadium in the shape needed for the youth ski programs, especially since the conditions were not suitable for the Pisten Bully for so much of the season.

I, like many others, am hoping for a longer season this year, and I look forward to returning from the Wet Coast to a welcoming blanket of the white stuff.

Finally, but most importantly, I want to extend my thanks to the grooming and maintenance team last season:

- Brian Black
- Jim Cappan
- Mark Courtney
- Jim Crellin
- Brian Kennelly
- Mike MacLaughlin
- Greg Strebel

8. Backcountry - Taylor Mastre

Mt Murray cabin – The Mt Murray cabin was filled with wood for the 2017/2018 season (October 1st work party). The partially rotten foundation runner beams were assessed and discussed at the last board meeting. It was felt that these could be replaced next year without flying in any materials.

One of the 100 lbs propane bottles at Mt Murray is empty. It has been organized with Doug Nelson to fly a replacement bottle to the Mt Murray cabin and retrieve the empty bottle, at his convenience. Thank you President Bruce, who filled and delivered the propane bottle (should someone make a motion to refund Bruce?)

Mt Waverly cabin – Waverly did not receive a lot of use last year and so the wood chopping was deferred to next season. A stretcher was flown into Waverly last year and dropped in the net. The net has since been retrieved by Doug during a subsequent trip.

Moncton cabin – I have still never been here and look forward to finding it this February!

Cariboo Mtn cabin – A wood chopping work party planned for October 15th had to be delayed until next season due to an unexpected dump of snow. It was reported that the road to the cabin had received 2 feet of snow by the time of the work party.

It was reported that there were cracks in the foundation blocks at the cabin, which will be assessed for replacement in 2018.

Plan for 2018:

Replacement of Mt Murray foundation

Wood chopping at Mt Murray, Mt Waverly and Cariboo Mtn

Assessment of foundation at Cariboo Mtn

9. Trails & Signage – Brian Kennelly

- The new kiosk map has 3 sponsor signs now starting their 2nd year earning us \$150.00 each. We have spaces for 5 more sponsors; if anyone knows a business that might be interested please let me know.

- all trail junction signs seemed to survive the year; the P signs indicating the shortest route to the parking lot are being replaced.

- the main ski trail system has just been mowed, and trees over the route cleared, so we are only awaiting snow to get underway. The access gates will be opened in December when the ranchers no longer require access.

-the bridge on the adventure hill has been reformed and upgraded for safety

-A new kids trail is to be put in behind the Monster Steps humps.

-please let me know of downed trees or other obstructions or problems encountered while out on the trails by phoning me at 250-991-8709 or email at briankennelly7@gmail.com so do I can arrange a remedy.

10. Social - Holly Nelson. Reported by Elaine Watteyne.

11. Fundraising / Grant Applications – Brian Black, Marilyn van Leusden

The Lighted Trail Modernization Project was completed in late 2016 with financing by Northern Development Initiative Trust donating the major capital of \$60,000. Several donors and many volunteers helped to complete this project. Expenditures totaled about \$110,000.

Grant writing in the last year focused on two major initiatives:

Venue Equipment \$11,200 project to assist in hosting events:

- \$5000 from Community Foundation
- \$2500 from Community Futures
- \$1200 from Gaming
- Donated materials from West Fraser valued at \$1100

Snow Making Project \$78,000 to make snow in the core area to be implemented in 2018:

- \$54,635 from Northern Development Initiative Trust
- Applications for a Gaming Capital Grant completed
- Applications to Community Foundation, MEC and Community Futures are pending

Operating grants:

- \$16,500 from Gaming
- \$2000 from CCBC for our Ski School
- \$ 400 from Rocky Peak, in kind

Total grants in the 2016-2017 year = \$82,135

12. Publicity / Adult Lessons – Ron Watteyne

Adult Lessons

Gave free ski lessons on the Open House day in early Jan with 6 instructors. There were not as many people wanting lessons because of the cold temperatures. Thanks to all the instructors for their help

It was a challenging year with the low snowfall season but we managed to get in two sets of classic and two sets of skate lessons. Near mid Feb when we had the last classic session we had to cancel and give refunds for 4 skier days. Hoping for a better snow fall this season. Thanks to Christine Turlet for her help instructing.

Publicity

I would like to thank Dale Taylor at the Rush radio station for the many interviews throughout the season. The Cariboo Observer was also very good at publicizing our events and coming out to take photos of the events.

I still think the best way to get the message out to the members and public is through social media whether it is e-mail or Facebook.

We are still putting posters up around town to publicize our events and thanks to Lynn Simpson for helping with putting these up.

This was an initiative that we introduced last winter and was mildly successful considering the season. There were 3 Jackrabbits that completed the 200 km distance from Victoria to Barkerville and got all their badges. In the Adult category one person completed the total distance 850 km from Victoria to Barkerville. This is not a contest but a way for skiers to log their distance and for a club to see how many kilometers as a whole we can ski in a season. The charts are inside the main entrance and we would encourage everyone to sign up and log your distance this season.

13. Youth Ski School – Tania Gruene, Marilyn van Leusden

The elementary school program continues to grow each year. Last year we had 1456 student days that were actually completed despite the poor snow. We had Williams Lake outdoor rec students come to Hallis for Ski School sessions and this season already have inquiries from more. Currently we are capping registration at 1600 student days and have schools from Williams Lake that are interested in bringing students if we have capacity for them after SD28 cooks their days.

This brings us to the gift of Volunteers. Our coaches are what makes this program possible. The Youth Ski School has a group of 16 coaches that coach weekly, some people once a week some people 5 days a week. This huge commitment to the program, to getting out on snow with all of these young skiers, is what makes this program possible and the enthusiasm and passion of the coaches when they are on snow with children, is a key reason that schools and teachers love bringing their students to Hallis Lake.

We are always looking for more volunteer coaches. If you are interested in coaching, talk to Tania. We have a coaching course running this season in November and would love to see a few more coaches join the team.

14. Rental Shop / Lodge– Tania Gruene

Manager's Report

The 2016/17 started with big plans to offer adult Nordic camps, ski socials and to continue to grow and promote youth programs. While The elementary ski program grew past expectations again, the very poor snow year and early closing made it impossible to complete all of the sessions; 4 sessions / 100 kids had to be cancelled. We were also unable to run the New 2 Nordic adult camps and cancelled some socials due to extremely poor snow conditions. This made for an early closure of trails and the lodge and rental shop. Our challenge this season and over the next few seasons will be to re-build membership, attract new members and market the CSTC to new skiers and snowshoers in our community.

Rental Shop / Lodge

We are in good shape in the rental shop with 130 pairs of rental skis and 14 sets of snowshoes to rent. Janet Allen has returned each year over the past 4 years to work part-time in the rental shop and Janet will return again this season.

15. Coaching – Peter van Leusden. Bruce Self reported.

16. Snowshoeing – Evi Black

I became the first Snowshoe Director last November. Three snowshoe tours to acquaint newcomers with our trails were organized for last January, and considering it was such a poor snow year, they were very well attended. Newcomers to the Hallis Lake trails obviously appreciate an introduction to the area since it is such a huge venue.

I am planning more tours at Hallis probably for January 2018. If anyone has input for other areas they would like to have guided tours on or any ideas for new trails, please contact me.

From my other job as Club Historian, I would like to say that the History of the CSTC has been completed and printed and is now available for a mere \$20.

17. President's Report – Bruce Self

The 2016-17 season has once again been an eventful one. As you no doubt know, a very sparse accumulation of snow made for less than stellar skiing conditions but that may have been a left handed blessing. Lack of snow certainly gave the club impetus to investigate and proceed along the snow making path. We are on track with very significant grants to finish the design, planning and construction of the snow making initiative next construction season.

By an incredible amount of work, skill & a bit of luck the school ski program only had to cancel 2 sessions out of a very full schedule. Our hard working and creative track setters managed to find enough snow even on days when by rights the kids should have been on skates and not skis. Congratulations & thanks to all who made this possible especially our volunteer coaches.

This season all the equipment worked flawlessly, our new LED lights were brilliant, social events were well attended and all in all we had an excellent season especially given the weather. I look forward to this coming season being even better.

Motion to accept Committee Reports: moved by Jim Cappan, 2nd by Beth Collingwood. Carried.

Election of Officers: Brian Black to officiate.

1. President: Bruce Self
2. Vice President: Brian Kennelly
3. Nominations for Secretary: Charlotte Kurta.
4. Nominations for Treasurer: Jamie Capan.

All officers elected by acclamation.

Signing Officers for CSTC Regular Account

1. President Bruce Self
3015 Venture Road
Quesnel, BC V2J6P8
250-747-2119
bself@goldcity.net
2. Vice President Brian Kennelly
206 Giesbrecht Road
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3. Treasurer Jaimie Capan
844 McNaughton Ave.
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250-316-0537
jmecappan@gmail.com
4. Membership Director Greg Strebel
3641 Quesnel-Hydraulic Road
Quesnel BC V2J6G4
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Signing Officers for CSCT Gaming Account

1. President Bruce Self
3015 Venture Road
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2. Vice President Brian Kennelly
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3. Treasurer Jaimie Capan
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List of 2017 / 2018 CSTC Directors for AGM Approval:

Past President	Brian Black
Nordics/Biathlon	Jim Crellin / Chris Elden
Membership Registrar	Greg Strebelt
School Program / Grant Applications and administration	Marilyn van Leusden
Equipment / Grooming	Mike Alborn
Back Country	Taylor Mastre
Trails and Signage	Brian Kennelly
Social	Elaine Watteyne
Adult Lessons / Publicity	Ron Watteyne
Governance	Charlotte Kurta
Website	Shannon Coffey
Coaching Co-ordinator	Peter van Leusden
Skill Development Program	Sunshine Borsato / Chris Hyde
Elementary School Race Director	Sunshine Borsato
Snowshoeing Director	Evi Black
Member at large	vacant

Motion to accept the 2017 / 2018 List of CSTC Directors. Motioned by Ron Watteyne, 2nd by Brian Black. Carried.

Special Presentation: Hiking in the French Pyrenees by Beth Collingwood & Michelle Arcand