



Revelstoke's

NORDIC SKI REPORT

Volume 9, Issue 2

Box 1618, Revelstoke, BC V0E 2S0

December 2005

www.revelstokenordic.org

Big Thanks to our contributors!

The new groomer has arrived! As reported in the previous newsletter, the purchase of a new groomer is a rare event. It was made possible by far-sighted club members and years of saving. With a price tag of \$101,121, it is quite an achievement for the club to have come up with 68% of that sum.

The remainder was provided by funding agencies that were impressed with the club's commitment of money and its annual 3,000 hours of volunteer effort. The *Revelstoke Credit Union*, the *Columbia Basin Trust*, *BC Hydro*, and the *BC Gaming Commission* contributed a total of \$32,500 towards the purchase of the groomer, and an additional \$10,000 towards its operation.

These contributed funds enabled us to purchase a much newer machine than we could otherwise afford. This matters a great deal in terms of the time and money that will be needed for maintenance in the future. We are doubly fortunate that our volunteer grooming crew can also perform many of the routine maintenance requirements. These guys put in about 2,000 volunteer hours as it is, so a newer groomer does a lot to help prevent volunteer burn-out.

The remainder of our volunteer time comes from a range of activities: the Lantern Ski, the Jackrabbit Ski League, hut duty, the fun race and cook out, cabin and sign maintenance, directors meetings, year-end supper and awards, newsletters, and so on. Please consider participating in one of these roles at some point in your time as a ski club member.

-- Michael Morris

Bev's Bungalow (a.k.a. Hut Duty)

Staffing the hut at the Mount MacPherson trailhead is a great way to meet people and contribute to the financial viability of groomed skiing. Contact Nancy Martin at 837-2831 if you can contribute a few hours of your time.

Lantern Ski

January 1, 2006

5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Mount MacPherson Trailhead

Start the New Year off in style with an evening glide around the Main Loop. Volunteers will hang lanterns along the trail, and provide hot chocolate at the Ole Sandberg cabin. Please bring your own mug.

Lantern Ski Coordinator Bev Clark reports that although she has enough volunteers, a few more would be appreciated. You can call her at 837-5805.





BC Rabbits Ski League news

Registration for the upcoming 2006 Ski League season is now complete. We look forward to meeting on the first day “on snow”, Saturday, January 7, 2006. Jackrabbits and Junior Development are from 10 a.m. to noon, and Bunnyrabbits are from 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.. Bring your bounce and enthusiasm!

Ski League Orientation will be held on Monday, January 2, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Revelstoke Community Centre.

Many thanks to the Leaders that make this program possible: Kim Blommestein, Rebecca Parkin, Lucie Perusse, Cam Molder, Rob Evans, Simone Palmer, Kendra Von Breman, Ken Gibson, and Norm Tennant. Our part-timer Leaders are: Ardelle Hynes, Ruth and Tom Harvie, and Angus Woodman.

Your support to the program is really appreciated.

The After School program has moved from Monday to Wednesdays this season. The program begins on January 18 for five weeks. There is no additional fee for members of the Ski League, although there is a \$25 charge for non-members. This is a skill improvement program designed for children in Grade 2 and up who have already have skiing skills.

The Junior Development team will meet December 20, 21, 22 at Mount MacPherson, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. for an “on snow” camp with Norm Tennant.

Sally Thomson

Revelstoke Nordic Ski Club 2005-2006

Board of Directors

Ken Gibson	President
Bev Clark	Treasurer
Rob Mohr	Secretary
Brian Abear	Trail Coordinator
Karen Bray	Membership
Keith McNab	Director
Cam Molder	Director
Michael Morris	Director
Sally Thomson	Rabbit Coordinator

Trail crew

Brian Abear
Alan McInnes
Mickey Olsen

Hut coordinator

Nancy Martin

Newsletter and web site

Jackie Morris
Diana Graham

Ski apparel makes a great gift

The Revelstoke Nordic Ski Club logo would look good on your family or friends! Selkirk Graphics on First Street can embroider our ski club logo on any of their extensive lines of hats, shirts, vests, and jackets. Prices vary, as they carry several style choices in each type of garment. Note that club colours are blue and white. Drop by Selkirk Graphics and place your order.



Youth program named for ski pioneer

Herman Smith-Johannsen, better known as Jackrabbit Johannsen, was born in Norway in 1875. After graduating as an engineer, he immigrated to the US in 1900 and went to work selling mining equipment in remote places around the world.

One such location was in northern Quebec where the native Cree nicknamed him “wapoos” (their word for snowshoe hare) for his speed on snow. They had not seen skis before his arrival. Nor had most North Americans. Somehow the name wapoos morphed to Jackrabbit.

After the economic collapse of 1929 forced Johannsen out of business, he devoted himself fulltime to the promotion and development of skiing. He oversaw the construction of many trails in Quebec and upstate New York, and even installed North America’s first rope tow near Shawbridge, Quebec. He intended it as a learning device to enable skiers to master downhill technique more quickly. He also built jumps and organized races.

However, he is best known for his unflagging promotion of cross country skiing through the 1950s and 1960s, a time when trail skiing had all but disappeared as a winter pastime in North America.

The revival of cross country skiing in North America prompted a flurry of trail development. While I was working on one such project in 1972, Jackrabbit came out to see how we were doing on a trail he had built in the 1930s. He arrived at our camp before we had finished breakfast. His son-in-law supported him by the elbow (he was 97 years old after all) as he spent an hour walking our crude trail.

Jackrabbit continued to ski well past his 100th birthday. He passed away in 1987 and is commemorated in the Jackrabbit Ski League, a nation wide program that fosters trail skiing among children.

-- Michael Morris

Waxing clinic (It's free!)

Jim Maybee of Skookum Cycle & Ski in Salmon Arm will wow and delight the crowd with a variety of waxing techniques designed to help you get started. Learn what essentials you need for your first wax kit or build on your existing one. Get the 'skinny' on hot waxing and the chef's choice of kick wax to suit our local climate. As the session progresses, Jim will answer the "how to" for more advanced waxing. Get great tips including Jim's own patented method of wax removal with Scott's toilet tissue! Chai tea and treats served so don't miss it! Further info: Sally Thomson 837-5784

**Wednesday, January 4, 2006
7:00 p.m.**

**Revelstoke Community Centre
Room MP1**

Selling your used gear

Members of the Revelstoke Nordic Ski Club are welcome to post notices for used gear on the kiosk at the trailhead.



Reminder to dog owners

At the Mount MacPherson cross-country ski area, dogs are allowed only on Mountain Climb Trail. To access this trail, head up the Main Loop and keep to your left at the first yellow gate. Dogs are not permitted on any of the other groomed areas. They must be under close control at all times, and you are required to clean up after your dog.



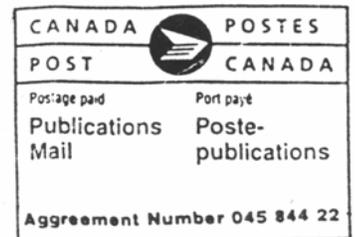
Important dates

Lantern Ski	January 1, 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Mount MacPherson
Waxing Clinic	January 4, 7:00 p.m.	Community Centre
First Rabbit Session	January 7, 10:00 a.m. – noon	Mount MacPherson
First Bunny Session	January 7, 10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Mount MacPherson
Moonlight Ski	January 14	Mount Revelstoke
Fun Race	February 18	Mount MacPherson
Awards Supper / Potluck	March 26	Community Centre
Annual General Meeting	April 18	Forest Service Office



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Revelstoke Nordic Ski Club

Snow phone

For updates on trail conditions call:

837-7303

Web site

Trail map, local ski history, and more!

www.revelstokenordic.org