

Revelstoke's NORDIC SKI REPORT

Volume 10, Issue 2

Box 1618, Revelstoke, BC V0E 2S0

February 2007

www.revelstokenordic.org

President's Message

It appears that this winter's snowfall will rival any in memory— certainly the most snow we've seen since 1997. Just as in '97, the prodigious snow has created challenges to grooming. Not only is the machine bumping into branches that we haven't had to contend with before, it's a challenge just to keep the tracks and parking lot in shape. The relentless snow and two breakdowns in January certainly tested the stamina of our grooming crew. Fortunately, the repairs weren't too costly and the groomers have worked beyond the call of duty to keep things in great shape. Once again we are deeply indebted to the outstanding volunteer efforts of Brian Abear, Mickey Olson, and Allan McInnes who have groomed 36 times so far this winter for a total of 166 hours on the machine.

Despite the grooming challenges, all this white stuff along with cooler temperatures has made for a fantastic ski season so far, and should provide us with an ample base to carry on through to April. Classic skiing is the best in quite a few years with many days on simple hard wax. And now that we have a break in the weather and the tracks have firmed up, skating conditions are also fantastic.

In late 2006, the club undertook a survey of our members to explore opinions on future directions for the club. A survey form was included in the November newsletter, and additional copies were handed out at Membership Night. In all, fifty-one survey forms were returned. The survey results are summarized in a seven page document that you can find on our website (www.revelstokenordic.org). If you prefer a paper copy, phone Michael Morris at 837-9354, and he will get it to you.

My interpretation is that respondents placed their highest importance on our strategy to continue to save money for a replacement groomer in the future, and to maintain club self sufficiency. Next in importance was a need for increased trails, followed by a trailhead warming hut. Lower importance was given to night skiing and more social events. The Board will use the survey results as a guide for future projects. Obviously, projects beyond our highest priority, the provision of skiing, are subject to availability of funds and energy of our members. If there is a project of particular interest to you, I urge you to get involved.

In the meantime, happy trails!

— Rob Mohr

Dates to Remember

Team Scream Race

Saturday, February 17

Registration 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Race at 11:00 a.m.

- Free for members.
- Regular trail fees for others.
- Bunny race to follow the main race

Ski Club Potluck Dinner

Sunday, April 1, at 5 p.m.

Community Centre

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, April 4, 7 p.m.

Community Centre

*Prize
for best
Team
Scream
Costume!*





Lantern Ski Report

Once again the January 1, 2007 event was well attended and enjoyed by all. It was quite the wintery evening with blowing snow, but it didn't stop 183 intrepid skiers from coming out. I would like to say thank you to the volunteers who

came out to make the evening a success.

This is also my notice to the membership that I will not be organizing another Lantern Ski. I would hope that another member will take over where I have left off. I have made a wonderful step-by-step manual that makes organizing this event very easy. I am available to walk any interested party through the process.

– Bev Clark

Editor's Note: Robyn and Brian Abear organized the first two Lantern Skis, Ruby Ann Meda conducted the next six events, and Bev has led the last five.

Hut Duty Volunteers

Would you like to help the Revelstoke Nordic Ski Club with a vital club function? Here's your chance to volunteer and meet interesting people at the same time! The fee collection hut seeks volunteers for weekends in the latter part of February and early March. Please give Nancy Martin a call at 837-2831 to book a time.

Using the Bulletin Board

Members are encouraged to post cross country ski related items on the club bulletin board at the MacPherson Trailhead, beside the large map. Please do not put your posters in other locations.

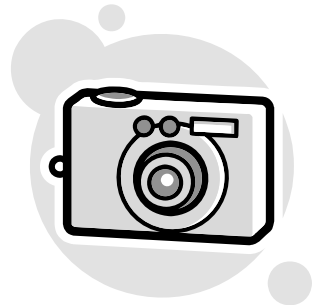
Keep up with the Nordic Report

To reach our 317 members, newsletters are mailed to 130 households and emailed to 50 additional households. It's also posted on our web site.

To keep receiving the Nordic Report, please send your change of address to michael.morris@telus.net or call 837-9354. You can switch to receiving your newsletter by email, anytime. We encourage you to share your newsletter!

Photos Wanted

Our website needs more photos of skiers on our trails. Please submit a couple of your best shots to michael.morris@telus.net .



Board of Directors for 2006-07

Rob Mohr	President
Keith McNab	Vice President and Secretary
Bev Clark	Treasurer
Karen Bray	Membership
Cam Molder	Jackrabbit Coordinator
Mary Clayton	Jackrabbit Coordinator
Michael Morris	Newsletter, Website
Wade Viznaugh	Director

Trailhead Hut Coordinator: Nancy Martin

Trail Crew: Brian Abear, Allan McInnes,
Mickey Olson

Newsletter Crew: Jackie Morris, Diana Graham

Ski League Report



With five sessions under our belt the Ski League is rolling along smoothly. There are a record 52 skiers enrolled. It is great to see so many familiar faces and some new ones. It is even better to see kids truly enjoying themselves on skis and skills are improving noticeably. This winter, following the lead of Cross Country BC, we've moved away from the badges program and initiated a new passport-style system. The kids each receive a colorful, age appropriate booklet that explains the skills they'll be learning. Stickers are given out throughout the season as each skill is mastered.

Kids five and under are in the Bunnies group. Having fun and developing fundamental moving skills are what we're working on with this group. Rabbits is for kids aged six to nine. They're working on some more advanced skills, including an introduction to skating, but having fun is still the main focus. Our older kids, the 10-12 age group, have two programs to choose from. Those in Track Attack are focusing on becoming technically competent skiers, and using those skills to explore a wide range of cross-country ski activities. There is also a Junior Development program for kids in this age group who are interested in competing. Skiers are also encouraged to ski outside of class and keep track of these sessions, as they count towards awards at the end of the season.

A number of special events are planned for the remainder of the season.

February 3 – Avalanche awareness talk by Mary Clayton and some off track skiing in the “swamp”.

February 10 – Sprints and relays. Parents, can you keep up with your young skier?

February 17 – Team Scream event for all. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served.

February 24 – Regular session

March 3 – Wrap up session with the mini-Olympics.

Rabbits and Bunnies are learning from thirteen volunteer coaches and a large number of participating parents. Thank you for all of your support! We have a great team this year, but we could use more volunteers. If you're interested in helping, we'd love to have you. Parent helpers are always welcome and if you're interested in developing your own coaching and technical skills, we encourage you to take an Introductory to Community Coaching course. These are held in the late fall in a number of locations around BC, and they're a terrific investment. For more information, contact Cam at molder@telus.net.

- Cam Molder and Mary Clayton

Race Results

Larch Hills Elementary School Loppet

This gentle four kilometre route was lined with cheering organizers dressed in pirate theme. The event attracted 190 children including nine from Revelstoke. We are pleased with their results! The placing in brackets was overall standing.

Grade 6-7: Hanna Thomson 1st (4th), Brittany Evans 2nd (5th), Bronte Viznaugh 7th (30th), Laura Richardson 18th.

Grade 5: Megan Evans 1st (11th), Isaac Smith 2nd (15th).

Grade 4: Kellen Viznaugh 2nd (20th).

Grade 3: Tayla Koerber (oops wrong category) 2nd (54th), Adam Smith 5th (35th).

Reino Keski Salmi Loppet - 6 km

Female 11-13 yrs: Alei Mohr 1st, Brittany Evans 2nd, Hanna Thomson 2nd, Megan Evans 3rd, Bronte Viznaugh 6th.

Male 11-13 yrs: Cam Kaegi 1st.

Male 7-10 yrs: Rhys Evans 1st, Kellen Viznaugh 4th.

Overlander Loppet - 10 km

Ages 14-17 yrs: Hanna Thomson 2nd, Brittany Evans 2nd, Megan Evans 2nd.

This is what happens when you have a three way photo finish!

Kootenay Cup

Midget boys: Cam Kaegi - free technique 3.5 km 8th, classic technique 5 km 8th.

Mini-Midget girls: Hanna Thomson - free technique 1.7 km 3rd, classic technique 2.5 km 1st.



- Sally Thomson

About the BC Ministry of Tourism Sport and the Arts

At the beginning of 2006 most of the management of Forest Recreation Sites and Trails was transferred from the Ministry of Forest and Range to the newly formed Ministry of Tourism, Sport, and the Arts (MTSA). Many of the Forest Service staff that looked after the management of Forest Recreation Sites and Trails were given the option to move over to the new ministry. Most accepted this option.

There are fewer MTSA Recreation districts than Forest Districts, hence most of the recreation districts are now larger. The Columbia Shuswap Recreation District includes the Columbia Forest District and the old Salmon Arm Forest District. It contains the communities of Revelstoke, Golden, and Salmon Arm.

The management of recreation sites (campgrounds) and trails fall into three categories.

Managed with fees: These sites are managed through partnership agreements. Partners managing recreation sites and trails include recreation groups, community organizations, First Nations, private citizens, local governments and forest companies. Trail use or camping fees are charged to pay for the services provided by the agreement holder. Services may include, grooming of trails, supervision, daily maintenance and facility maintenance. The agreement holder collects the fees on site and retains the fees to offset the cost of services provided at the site. In the Revelstoke area, examples of sites and trails managed for fees are the Mount MacPherson Cross Country Nordic Ski Trails, the Boulder and Frisbee Snowmobile Trails, Carnes Creek Recreation Site, and Wadey Recreation Site.

Managed without fees: These sites are managed through partnership agreements or other means. No fees are charged for the services provided because the agreement holder has alternative ways of covering the costs (e.g., volunteers). Examples are: the Echo Lake Recreation Site and the Sprout Mountain ATV trail, looked after the Revelstoke

ATV Club; the McRae Lake trail and site and Mount Begbie trail and site looked after by the Columbia Backcountry Society; the Sprague Bay Recreation Site looked after by the Revelstoke Rod and Gun Club; and the Keystone Standard Basin Cabin looked after by the Revelstoke Snowmobile Club.

User Maintained: Camping is free at these sites and users provide the majority of upkeep at the site. Campers are asked to respect the forest environment and pack out whatever they pack in. The ministry will pump toilets, remove hazard trees, paint and replace signs and other structures where necessary. Structures and access will not be removed unless there are significant on-going public safety hazards or environmental concerns.

The Forest Service is not responsible for the management of the recreation sites and trails but does have a maintenance program for access roads and bridges. They are supportive to MTSA for helping in the achievement of program goals. Last year in the Mount MacPherson area, the Columbia Forest District spent close to \$15,000 providing culverts and machine time to fix up the trails. The Protection Crew provided about \$6,000 in labour costs on bike and ski trail improvement. The Ministry of Tourism, Sport, and the Arts spent about \$12,000 fixing up bridges, providing culverts and building bike trails in the area.

However, all the above works is just drop in the bucket compared to all the labour costs associated with the friends and family of the Allan and Mickey crew.

The total Ministry of Tourism budget last year for sites and trails in the Columbia Shuswap was \$120,000, which really doesn't go far when dealing with a large district. This is primarily used to maintain the existing infrastructure (tables, outhouses, and signs). A lesser portion of the funding is used to build a few new trails. Some funding is also used to facilitate agreement holders in achievement of mutual goals.

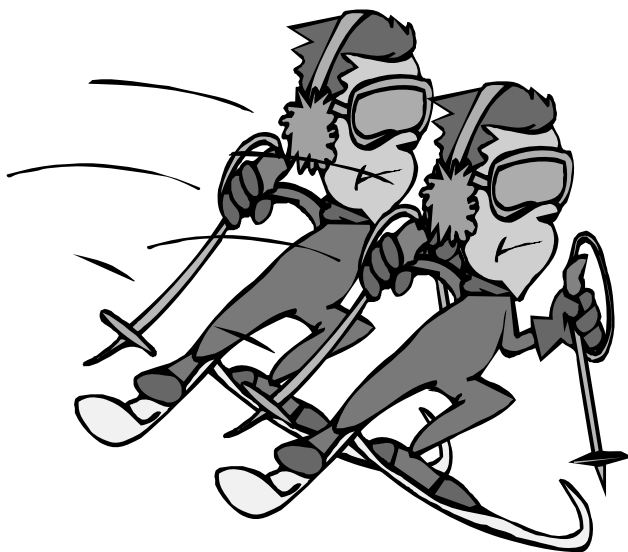
Another big task that does not officially fall into the mandate of MTSA is that of planning and conflict resolution. The land base is becoming more accessible with more users, some of which are not compatible with each other. Often conflicts can be resolved by just getting the affected parties together to talk about solutions. If these solutions call for some funding MTSA tries to help out.

In the Mount MacPherson area we are seeing a significant increase in the use of the area by backcountry skiers which is having an impact on parking. Enlarging the parking lot is something that will have to be considered in the future.

- Ken Gibson

Team Scream Tandem Relay Race

A fun team relay race for all ages and abilities



Saturday Feb 17, 2007

Mount MacPherson XC Ski Area

Registration: 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Race starts: 11:00 a.m.

A relay race with teams of one classic and one freestyle skier each racing a lap on Mickey Olson Loop (3.7 km)

Either come as a team or as a single and we'll help team you up.

Sponsored by

BC hydro 

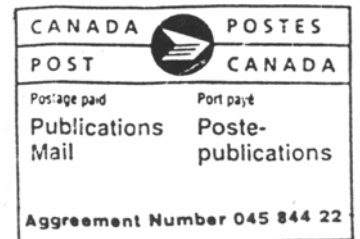
- Lunch provided
- Bunny race to follow the main race
- **Prize for best costume**

Note – Trail fee applies for non-members.

For information, to register, or to volunteer to help,
call Keith MacNab at 837-5910



Revelstoke Nordic Ski Club
Box 1618, Revelstoke BC V0E 2S0



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
