

Whiteshell Ski Club



ex-cetera



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2003 January

Pinawa to Host Provincial X-C Ski Championships

Each winter the Whiteshell Cross Country Ski Club hosts its annual ski event called the Manitoba Loppet. A loppet is a mass-participation event for all ages and abilities of skiers. The Manitoba Loppet attracts skiers from all over Manitoba and Western Ontario, who come out to race or just to enjoy the day on our trails, the company of other skiers, and the hospitality of the community.

This year the Club will be hosting the Provincial cross country ski championships and the loppet on the same weekend - Feb 8-9.

The Provincial freestyle event will be held on the golf course on the first day (Saturday). Freestyle allows the participants to either skate-ski or use classic technique on the course. Skate skiing is similar to ice skating or speed skating. Distances will vary from 2.5km to 15km.

The loppet and the Provincial Classic Championships will be held on Sunday, on the golf course and Red trails. Distances will be 2.5km, 5km, 7.5km, 15 km, and 30 km.

All loppet prizes will be given out by random draw of all participants. Winners of each Provincial age category will be presented with medals. There will also be draw prizes for volunteers. Watch for entry forms at various places around town.

The Ski Club requires volunteers for shifts of about 2 hours in duration on Feb 8 and Feb 9. We need people to control snowmobile traffic where the snowmobile and ski trails cross, to hand out refreshments to skiers, and to check off skiers as they pass control points to ensure that no one gets lost. If you can help, please call Peter Chernis at 753-2971.

President's Message

Well, it is mid-January and we have been visited by both extreme cold and record breaking warm temperatures this month alone. Unfortunately, the snow has been pretty thin on the ground. All these conditions have made for another sub-normal ski year, but despite less-than-ideal conditions, our club perseveres and indeed thrives. In February, we shall host the provincials during our Loppet weekend (Feb 8-9) and the following weekend, we are to be the host club for a group of journalists from across the country who will be exposed to our sport, our facilities and our hospitality. We have also seen the rejuvenation of the jackrabbit program. These successes despite the strange weather make me sad to announce that I shall be stepping aside as club president after my term ends this fall. I am proud to have worked beside some exceptional volunteers, but I believe now is the time for a new focus for the club; a new focus which can only come from the injection of new blood. Although there is someone waiting in the wings, I encourage any interested party to give consideration for taking on the office.

Jeff Long

Notes from Abroad

From the top of the Gondola, we get an incredible view of the Matterhorn, a strong black peak, 15,000 feet high, off in the distance. "La plaine morte" offers a spectacular glacier landscape and is the site of some amazing cross country skiing at 3000 m elevation... a little hard on the lungs, but worth the trip.

CANSI, the Canadian Association of Nordic Ski Instructors, has sent delegates in both the Telemark and Cross Country disciplines to the World Interski Congress for snow sports instructors in Crans-Montana, Switzerland. I am one of the CANSI delegates. I feel very privileged to be here.

As I write this, the Congress is only two days old. When I walked into the outdoor ice rink during the opening ceremonies on Saturday night, January 18, under a full moon and surrounded by a well defined landscape of

Swiss Alps, the feeling was incomparable.

Today, we were surprised by an u n s c h e d u l e d demonstration that certainly threw the cross country team for a loop. I would love to say that we shone in front of the world's snow sports instructors, but we truly made fools of ourselves. I'm thankful that we all have a good sense of humour. Imagine yourself on cross country skis, at the top of a black diamond alpine slope of sheer



This photo and many more can be found on the 2003 Interski Congress web site at <http://www.interski2003.ch/en/default.asp>

Bidding is on for 2006 MTS Manitoba Winter Games

In 2002, The Pas hosted the MTS Manitoba Winter Games. Dauphin will host them in 2004. In 2006, they could be held in Eastman, if a joint bid of the towns of Beausejour and Pinawa and the Springhill Winter Park is successful.

Three locales, Carman, Souris-Hartney and Beausejour-Pinawa-Springhill, originally provided notice of intent to bid for the 2006 Games. Subsequently, Carman, the host community for the 1990 Games, withdrew their bid because "they weren't able to pull a solid proposal together". That leaves the other two potential venues in the running.

At its Fall General Meeting held on October 30, the WCCSC moved to support the bid spear-headed by the Beausejour Recreation Commission. The 2006 Games will be a major 12-sport event: Springhill would host down-hill skiing; Pinawa would host the cross-country skiing; and Beausejour would host ten other sports. The purpose of the MTS Manitoba Games is to promote friendly competition for all ages and skill levels.

The Manitoba Games Council will evaluate the venues for the twelve sports on Sunday,

January 26th. A team of WCCSC representatives, led by our Technical Chairperson, Don Ewing, will be their hosts when they visit the cross-country ski facilities in Pinawa.

Did you know ... that Beausejour, Gimli, Selkirk and Stonewall will host the 2006 Western Canada Summer Games on August 1-10, 2003?

School Ski Program

At various times in past years, Pinawa's school children have been exposed to cross country skiing as part of their physical education activities. This year we hope to resurrect the school ski program and put all of the Grade 3 children on skis for four lessons. These will be condensed Jackrabbit-like lessons, but should be enough to provide the basics.

We're currently organizing the program, and hope to be up and running during the week following the Loppet. Would you like to help? Call Bruce at 753-8393.

Skiing in Switzerland

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ice due to mild weather. Now picture yourself coming down the slope. If you pictured yourself descending in one piece, then perhaps you should have been representing the team instead of us. Although none of our delegation made it down without falling, we weren't alone. There wasn't a single national team that made it down unscathed, and the rest of them had trial runs!

So far, Interski has been all I had hoped ... a great learning experience, a chance to meet new friends, and an opportunity to meld with my counterparts from all across the world. I'm sure Interski will continue to be all those things in the remaining five days.

Switzerland is a beautiful mountainous place. If you have the opportunity to visit this splendid country, make sure you pass through Crans-Montana, the site of the 2003 World Interski Congress.

Happy Trails!

Karla Wikjford

CANSI Level IV Track
CANSI Level I Telemark
CSIA Level II
Ex-Whiteshell Jackrabbit

Jackrabbit Tracks

Our Jackrabbits have been busier than ever this year! We started the season on October 27 and hiked from the Suspension Bridge to the cabin on the Red Trail. We had a good turnout: about 20 children and numerous parents. Our next two more hikes were in November: one out the Blue Trail to the picnic table, and one out the Red Trail to the JR fire pit on the 2.5 km loop. We rounded out the dry land sessions with a glide waxing clinic on November 24. This clinic had the largest attendance yet: between 30 and 40 pairs of skis were given a fresh coat of glide wax!

Fortunately we were able to strap on our skis on December 1, although we had to wait a few more weeks for the big snow. Incidentally the big snow fall came AFTER our Jackrabbits did their snow dance. We've skied every Sunday since December 1. Most of our outings have been on the golf course but we're working in more tours than before. Our first tour was a short 4 km ski to the cabin on the Red Trail. Our most recent tour was around the Blue Trail. That trip was made on January 12 in temperatures hovering near -20° C and with in an unrelenting north wind. Our intrepid Jackrabbits did not flinch, and in fact most

did not take any notice of the cold (see the photos in this issue, courtesy of Carey Galeschuk).

We now have 25 Jackrabbits officially registered and regularly see three to five visitors every session. Novices who are working on or have obtained their Green Badges include John Baty, Amber Bilecki, Ted Bowles, Calvin Bree, Alexis Brunet, Brandon and James Eliot, Simon French, Draven Galeschuck, Jordan Harry, Jacob Lotz, Justin Podaima, Jenna and Stephen Simpson, Stephanie Turner and Colin Wallach. Many have earned their Yellow Badge, including Sara Bakosti, Bradely Besel, Geoff Bordeleau, Jamie and Meghan Bree, Ben Dearing, Joanie French, Austyn and Avery Goodwin, and Rhys Hatherly. Three have their Orange Badges: Nicole Wilson and Miguel and Steven Young, and three have earned a Red Badge: Rebecca Bilsky,



Jackrabbits prepare for their tour of the Blue Trail. Sixteen Jackrabbits, assorted parents and leaders and one dog thumbed their noses at the weather and skied around the Blue Trail.

Richard Koroll, and Gary Tooke. Most are now learning ski skating techniques which starts with the Yellow Badge!

Our regular leaders this year have been Donna Besel, Peter Chernis and Bryn and Bruce Goodwin, with cameo appearances by Peter Vilks and Ken Young, and lots of help from parents like Belamie Bakosti, Bill Boivin, Michelle and Luc Bordeleau, Kevin

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Jackrabbit Leader Clinics

Our Jackrabbit program is growing and we need new leaders! To promote development, our club has made and distributed copies of the Jackrabbit manual and held a brief introductory meeting. More importantly, we have organized adult instruction sessions that carry on in parallel with Jackrabbits. These sessions are given by our most senior and experienced instructors: mostly Don Ewing, Doreen Bigelow and Elaine Greenfield. Each session ideally has two parts: one involves improving your technique and the second is concerned with hints on how that technique can be taught to children.

If you would like to become a leader, or if you would like to better your ski skills

(and then maybe become a leader), join the adult group during most Jackrabbit sessions, on Sundays at 2 pm (check channel 12 for meeting locations). Attendance is informal, but call Bruce at 753-8393 to make sure an instructor will be available.



A Jackrabbit outing is not complete without a marshmallow roast. This stop occurred during the tour of the Blue Trail, at a sheltered site near Crater Lake.

Volunteers are still needed for the two day Provincial races on Feb. 8 and 9. Please call Peter Chernis at 753-2971.

Jackrabbits for 'kids' of all ages

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Dearing, Susan Barnett, Wilma and Kelvin Eliot, Barry and Anne French, Carey and Rhea Galeschuck, Suzanne Rueckert, Brenda and Dale Hatherly, Grant Koroll, Tara Lotz, Jeff and Kim Simpson, David and Wanda Turner and others. Many of these 'groanups' have taken advantage of the adult instructions offered by Don Ewing, Doreen Bigelow and Elaine Greenfield.

All of the Jackrabbits and their parents and leaders appreciate the efforts of the volunteers who have made the hot chocolate and built the fire for marshmallows. Our

thanks go to Bryn Goodwin, Don Ewing, Rebecca Bilsky, Oliver Greenfield, Luc Bordeleau, Alf Wikjord, David Turner, Bob and Betty Shewfelt, Barry French, John and Heather Westdal, Dennis and Shirley Cann, Emma, Susan Barnett and Kevin Dearing and, most recently, Mayor Len Simpson. These volunteers have one extra duty: distributing badges if any are awarded during their shift!

Finally, I know all of the Jackrabbits and their leaders would like to thank the parents who have helped in every way possible. The program is definitely strengthened and more

fun when the whole family participates. Come out and join us or just watch the excitement. We mostly meet at the transformer station, every Sunday at 2 PM (check channel 12 for alternative locations). If you like, just come to the end-of-session fire and get a free marshmallow (little visitors are especially welcome). Or better yet, come out and help. We need more leaders, or people who'd like to become leaders. We also need volunteers to start our marshmallow fires (phone Bruce at 753-8393) We also encourage all parents to make Jackrabbits a regular family outing.



Jackrabbit Corner

WORD SEARCH

Find the following words in the adjacent grid. Words can go sideways, backwards, up or down, or on the diagonal.

BADGES	RACES
BLUE	RED
BOYS	SKATING
EQUIPMENT	SKIS
FAST	SNOW
FUN	STRENGTH
GIRLS	TIPS
GLIDE	TRACK
ICE	WINTER
POLE	WISE

J	F	U	N	G	L	I	D	E	S
B	A	D	G	E	S	C	Z	T	T
O	S	C	B	L	U	E	N	G	R
Y	T	Z	K	Z	Z	E	S	I	E
S	E	C	A	R	M	K	R	R	N
P	O	L	E	P	A	K	E	L	G
W	S	P	I	T	C	B	D	S	T
I	O	U	I	A	Z	Z	B	K	H
S	Q	N	R	R	E	T	N	I	W
E	G	T	S	F	L	E	X	S	T

2002-03 Membership Update

Members are the life and sustenance of our Ski Club. They volunteer to support our busy schedule of activities, to maintain our network of trails and warming huts, and to raise funds to finance our operations.

We are fortunate to have a strong roster of members again this year from across our region. We offer a warm welcome to the Besel and Bordeleau families, Tara and Jacob Lotz, Kathy Picard and Joel Taylor from Lac du Bonnet; the Bree family from Whitemouth; the Hawranik family from Stead; Bruce Webb and Nicole Armstrong from Warren; and the Tarr family from Winnipeg. As of January 21, the following have paid their 2002-03 fees:

Ates, Yusuf; Bakosti, Bellamy/Gregory/Sara*; Baty, Doug/Lisa/John*; Bernardin, Romeo/Lois/Deanna/Amanda/Dominic; Besel, Donna/Allison/Bradley*; Bigelow, Doreen/Michael/Donna/Erin/Kristy; Bilecky, Amber*; Bilsky, Fred//Rebecca*; Boivin, Bill and Poidama, Justin*; Bordeleau, Luc/Michelle/Stephane/Geoff*; Bowles, Ted*; Bree, Tom/Linda/Meghan*/Jaime*/Kalvin*; Brehm, Ron/Sharon/Teresa/Kevin/Allison/Jenifer; Bueckert, Ed/Joanne/Josh/Ken/Calvin; Butler, Claudia/Dan; Cann, Dennis/Shirley/Kendra; Chernis, Peter/Judy/Srah-Beth/Daniel; Dearing-Barnett, Kevin/Susan/Ben*/Emma; Dutton, Roger and Loire-Maillard, Irene; Ehlers, Heinz; Elliott, Wilma/Kevin/James*/Brandon*; Ewing, Don/Lyn; Fenton, Nat/June; French, Barry/Ann/Joan*/Simon*; Galeschuk, Rhea/Carey/Draven*; Gauthier, Larry (**Honorary Lifetime Member**); Golebeski, Barbara/William; Goodman, Troy/Lisa/Chantel/Colin/Cara; Goodwin, Bruce/Marlene/Bryn/Austin*/Avery*; Grant, George/Marilyn; Greenfield, Elaine/Clark/Chris; Hanna, Gary/Kathy/Kelly/Stacy; Hawranik, John/Jay/Drew; Jones, Bob; Jung, Dieter; Koroll, Grant/Margaret/Katherine/William/Richard*; Kuzyk, Greg; Leach-Brunet, Bryan/Cheryl/Alexis*; Long, Jeff/Michelle; Lotz, Tara/Jacob*; McMillan, Dave; Miller, Hans; Montgomery, George/Helene/Keith; Moyer, Carol/Ralph; Noel, Laurie/Harry; Owen, Derrek; Payne, Barb/Bob/Sarah/Emily; Pellissier, Louis/Doreen/Anna/Renee/Tim; Picard, Kathy; Reid, Keith; Rueckert, Suzanne/Jordan Harry*; Schram, Lorne/Paulette/Rilla/Raechelle; Shewfelt, Bob/Betty; Sheppard, Steve/Marsha/Jessie/Katie; Smith, Robert/Deb/Amy/Stacey; Sturton-Attas, Jackie/Mike/Robin/Jesse/Amy; Tait, John/Linda/Maren; Tarr, Allan/Donna/Nicholas/Chelsey; Taylor, Joel; Tinant,

Tamara/Mark; Tooke, Garry*; Turner, Dave/Wanda/Stephanie*; Vilks, Peter/Florence/Kirk/Tracey/Crystal; Wazney, Ray; Webb, Bruce and Armstrong, Nicole; Westdal, John/Heather/Tanis/David/Paul; Wikjord, Alf/Marg; Wilson, Nicole*; Zach, Reto

(* denotes Jackrabbit)

If you enjoy hiking or biking our trails in the summer or skiing them in the winter, please join our Club! Your support helps to sustain:

- ▶ over 40 km of groomed trails,
- ▶ 3 cozy warming huts,
- ▶ the Jackrabbit Ski League,
- ▶ qualified instructors,
- ▶ the Whiteshell Ski Team for competitive skiers, and
- ▶ the Manitoba Loppet, the longest running annual Loppet in the Province of Manitoba.

Bingos Continue

Many thanks to Marj Ehlers who continues to organize volunteers to work for the ski club at the two bingo halls in Winnipeg. As I wrote in the fall issue, bingo money makes up about 20% of our revenue.

There were two bingos since our last issue at which the following people donated their time: Marj and Heinz Ehlers, Bruce Goodwin, Nat Fenton and Elaine Greenfield. If you would like to help out, please speak to Marj or Heinz or any of the club executive.

Ski Club Executive

President:	Jeff Long 753-2073
Secretary:	Doreen Bigelow 753-8463
Treasurer:	Alf Wikjord 753-8844
Trails :	Derrek Owen 753-8842
Jackrabbits:	Bruce Goodwin 753-8393
Excetera:	Elaine Greenfield 753-2515

Editor's Message

Although the snow conditions have not been very good this year and indeed, we have not yet set the English River or Orange Trails. However, compared to most places in the Province, I think that our trails are pretty good.

We went ahead with our Starlight Express Tour on December 21. It was the night of the full moon but because it was snowing- it was a dark and stormy night. Approximately 10 people showed up and most had brought head lamps. However, once our eyes became accustomed to the dark, we found that the head lamps really weren't necessary. We did a tour of the golf course and then some of us headed off to Book Break for a hot drink. I would like this to be an annual tour. There is something quite magical about skiing in the dark!

I hope that all of you who get the Winnipeg Free Press noticed the Leisure Showcase magazine inserted in it on Saturday, January 11. There was a five page spread on Pinawa including an article on the ski club, the upcoming Provincial Ski races on February 8 and 9 and the WCCSC trail map. The great photo of Austyn Stam in his 'coon skin cap even made it onto the front cover! I think that the more people who know and love our ski trails, the better. That way, if the trails are ever threatened, we will have more voices of protest than just our own.

Tours

This is what we have planned for tours over the next few weeks. Please watch Channel 12 for more details.

Doreen Dick Fortitude Tour – February 23 starting at 11:00. The Blue Trail to the English River cabin, the Jones-Graham Freeway to the Orange cabin and then home on the back half of the Orange. This tour will be for experienced skiers and we will have lunch at one of the cabins. This tour can only go ahead if the snow conditions are better. Please watch Channel 12 for details or call Elaine at 753-2515.

Powder Puff Skiers – Thursday mornings at 10:00. Meet at the end of Hwy 211. For those ladies who want to ski but not alone. We will try the Golf Course, Red Trail or whatever you want. Call Elaine at 753-2515 if you want more details.

Other tours – Please suggest something to us if you would like to go on a tour. Call any of the executive and we will try to accommodate you.