

Whiteshell Ski Club



ex-cetera



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2004 January

President's Message

Elaine Greenfield

Ah, the start of a New Year and we even have snow! On Sunday, January 11 with the thermometer at -10C, there were hordes of people out skiing, sliding and snowmobiling. That is how it should be; Canadians, young and old enjoying being outdoors on a beautiful winter's day.

On the previous evening, we were finally able to go on the Starlight Express Tour which had been postponed twice (once because there was no snow and then because it was too cold). The moon was still fairly large, but that night the sky was completely covered by thick clouds. However, many people brought headlamps. I found that the closer to town one came, the more light there was. The light of the town was bouncing off the clouds so it was possible to see without a lamp. It was quite magical. We had a total of nine people, some of whom wondered when we might do it again. I think we could organize another such ski tour just by choosing a nice Saturday night when there is some moonlight and the weather is good. Watch Channel 12

and/or wait for a phone call. Our next scheduled tour will be the Doreen Dick Fortitude Tour which will be held February 15. This tour takes us over the Blue Trail to the English River cabin for lunch, then up the Jones-Graham Freeway to the Orange Cabin and finally home. Because it is a long tour over some challenging trail, it probably is not recommended for beginners.

We were disappointed before Christmas when someone (mistakenly, we hope) drove a quad over the whole length of our Red Trail. We have decided to put up more signs advising that motorized vehicles are not permitted on the ski trails. If you see someone out on our trails who is unaware of this restriction, speak to them about it and perhaps the problem will be solved. Skiers and motorized vehicles do not mix well, in terms of both safety and trail condition. Our members put in many arduous volunteer hours packing and setting the ski trails. It is discouraging, to say the least, to have them ruined by a single errant machine.

We have had some requests for lessons, so Don Ewing and Bruce Goodwin put their heads together to advertise lessons on three successive Sunday afternoons. They began on

January 11 with six students. Everyone looked like they had a good time and they made rapid progress.

We expect that between the issue of this Ex-cetera and the nicely groomed trails, there will be lots more memberships sold. Encourage your friends to try the trails and to join WCCSC!

28th Annual Manitoba Loppet

Sunday, January 25

11 a.m. Race Start
9-10 a.m. Registration
Pinawa Club

Distances of 2.5 km, 5 km,
7.5 km, 15 km and 30 km.

Registration forms available at
www.cski.mb.ca
or call Peter at 753-2971

Loppet Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed during the morning of January 25 for a number of duties, which include controlling snowmobile traffic at the Pinawa Club and the end of Hwy 211, making sure that the younger skiers turn around at the correct place, collecting race bibs from the racers, and handing out refreshments to the participants (at the Club). We hope to limit the time outdoors to less than one hour. The more volunteers we have, the better for everyone! There will be lots of draw prizes for volunteers. Call Peter at 753-2971, if you are able to help.



Maren, our shortest skier in Jackrabbits, escorts Mom on the time trial and tour held Sunday, Jan 11. The young lady in the background is Avery, a two-year veteran of the Jackrabbit program, who is unstoppable on the uphill, solid on the downhill, and already knows two ski skating techniques.

*Jackrabbit photos by
Peter Vilks and Tom Bree.*

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. We resurrected the school ski program last year with the blessings of Principal Light and staff of Gilbert School. All of the Grade 3 children had five lessons that covered dressing in layers to downhill survival. These condensed Jackrabbit-like lessons covered most of the basics, and several of those children have since joined Jackrabbits!

We're currently planning for 2004 and the current crop of Grade 3 children. We intend to be up and running some time during February. Would you like to help? Call Bruce at 753-8393.

Ski Festival

Canadian Birkebeiner Ski Festival, February 13 and 14, Edmonton, Alberta. Reduced rate if registering before Jan. 24. Top distance is 55 km with a pack or without. We have attractive registration forms and information pamphlets available. Call Elaine at 753-2515.

Did You Know?

Beausejour, Pinawa and Springhill Park will host the 2006 MTS Manitoba Winter Games and our Ski Club will provide the race venue for the cross-country ski competition.

'Sno Wonder

Pinawa's record amount of snowfall in a single day occurred on April 4, 1997, when 48 cm of the white stuff fell over a 24 hour period. That same month also set a record for extreme snow depth in Pinawa, measuring 90 cm on April 7, 1997.

Snowfall records for January show that Pinawa's greatest snow depth by this month occurred in 1974 when we had 66 cm of snow on the ground by the 29th of January. The greatest amount of snowfall in a single January day was 23.9 cm, on January 25, 1974.

WCCSC Tries Out Some New Equipment

For some time now, the WCCSC has been discussing various options for new tracksetting equipment. The two Alpines which are currently used to pack and set trails, as well as supply the cabins with firewood, are nearing the end of their reliability and usefulness. Parts are getting more difficult to attain, and the machines themselves are aging.

One of the options under consideration is a four-tracked quad. Many of the club members were sceptical that an ATV could replace the Alpines. Ron Brehm arranged to try one out, and brought out the quad shown in the photograph below, in order that it could be tried "in action." Ron, Alf Wikjord, Jeff Long, Peter Chernis and Bruce Goodwin spent several hours trying this machine out on the trails. They used it to set a ski track on the Orange, Blue and English River trails, and hauled some firewood to the Red trail cabin. Jeff was even able to use it to pull the large drag up "the wall" from a standstill, to the surprise of Alf and Derrek Owen. Indeed, all were impressed with its abilities.



Bruce Goodwin and Peter Chernis trying out the quad. (Photo by Ron Brehm)

A Rant against Inconsiderateness

Michelle Long

Last year, it was decided that some new distance markers should be put onto the ski trails. Some visiting skiers had expressed concern that they didn't know how far they had gone on a trail, nor how much further they had to go. Signs marking distance had been put up several years ago, but many of them had gone missing over time. So, I spent several hours painting new distance signs for the Orange and English River trails, fitting it in during the few minutes I could, when my

It is easy to operate, has excellent pulling power, and is remarkably stable on the trails. There are some disadvantages in that the Alpines are able to pack a nice wide base and can carry a lot of equipment. However, since we are no longer able to purchase a double wide snowmobile with a large platform like the Alpine, those features are lost to us anyway.

The quad has other useful features, as the tracks can be changed to wheels for trail work during the spring, summer and fall, which would allow it to replace the Argo as the non-winter work vehicle.

New tracksetting equipment will continue to be on the agenda for the next few months, as the executive and the club decide what would work best for the club's needs and finances.

daughter had her (always too short) naps. I put several layers of paint on the lettering of each sign, as I wanted them to last several years without fading. The signs were put up last fall and winter, and according to all the reports I received, they were bright, easily seen, and appreciated.

As of last week, however, most of the new signs on the Orange and English River trail are missing. It appears that someone has deliberately removed them. I surmise that the action

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Membership Update

Thanks to a strong membership base and many dedicated volunteers, we have an extensive network of trails, a busy schedule of activities and an active program of fund raising. In the last few years, over 200 people from Pinawa, Lac du Bonnet, Beausejour, Whitemouth, Stead, Warren and Winnipeg have joined our Club.

If you enjoy hiking or biking our trails in the summer or skiing them in the winter and have not yet paid your 2003-04 fees, please join our Club again this year. Your support helps to sustain:

- ⊙ *over 40 km of groomed trails*
- ⊙ *3 cozy warming huts*
- ⊙ *qualified instructors*
- ⊙ *liability insurance for leaders, instructors and volunteers*
- ⊙ *competitions and programs sponsored by CCSAM and Sport Manitoba*
- ⊙ *the Jackrabbit ski program for family participation, fun, fitness and skill development*
- ⊙ *the Whiteshell Ski Team for fitness, instruction & competition*
- ⊙ *the Manitoba Loppet (the 28th annual Loppet will be held on January 25, 2004)*
- ⊙ *the X-C ski competition of the MTS Manitoba Winter Games to be held in Beausejour, Pinawa and Springfield in 2006.*

As of January 11, the following have paid their 2003-04 fees (*denotes Jackrabbit):

BACKER, Rick/Susan/Madison/Justine; BAKOSTI, Bellamy/Sara/Gregory; BERNARDIN, Romeo/Lois/Deanna/Amanda/Dominic; BESEL, Donna/Allison/Bradley*; BIGELOW, Doreen/Michael/Donna/Erin/Kristy; BILSKY, Fred/Rebecca*; BUTLER, Claudia/Dan; CANN, Dennis/Shirley/Kendra; CONNELL, Valerie; DEARING-BARNETT, Kevin/Susan/Ben*/Emma; EHLERS, Heinz; EWING, Don/Lyn; GAUTHIER, Larry (Honorary Lifetime Member); GOLEBESKI, Barbara; GOODWIN, Bruce/Marlene/Bryn/Austin*/Avery*; GRAHAM, Edna; GRANT, George/



Katya on her first outing learns a key Jackrabbit skill: how to roast marshmallows.

Doreen Dick
Fortitude Tour

February 15

Watch Channel 12 and
The Paper for details.

Marilyn; GREENFIELD, Elaine/Clark/Jeremy; HANNA, Gary; HILLIARD, Janet/Tom/Skye*/Liam*; JACKSON, Kevin; JONES, Bob; KOROLL, Grant/Margaret/Katherine/William/Richard*; KUZYSK, Greg; MELNICK, Jeff/Thecla/Kilmeny*/Madi*/Katya*; MONTGOMERY, George/Helena/Keith; OLSON, Keith/Edith/Bethany; OWEN, Derrek; PATTERSON, Don; PELLISSIER, Louis/Doreen/Anna/Renee/Tim; RANDALL-GRYZ, Carol/Zbigniew; RYZ, Marvin; SCHATZLEIN-SANDUL, Carol/Bob/Heidi/Ben/Daniel; SCHRAM, Lorne/Paulette/Rilla/Raechelle; SHEPPARD, Steve/Marsha/Katie; SIMPSON, Jeff/Kim/Jenna*/Steven*; TAIT, John/Linda/Maren*; TARR, Allan; THOMPSON, Vanessa/Shawn; VILKS, Peter/Florence/Kirk/Tracey/Crystal; WAZNEY, Ray; WESTDAL, John/Heather/Tanis/David/Paul; WIKJORD, Alf/Marg; ZACH, Reto

Inconsiderateness

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was not done by a skier, as the tracks in the snow wherever the signs were missing, were those of an ATV. I find this kind of behaviour incomprehensible. A similar thing happened 2 years ago when someone decided to tear down the trail system map at the Diversion Dam. That sign had been created by a ski club volunteer long before I arrived in Pinawa. All his volunteer time could have been wasted (as it turned out the sign was later found washed up at the suspension bridge by Steve Sheppard). Since we were not to know the sign would be recovered, someone else, this time Bruce Goodwin, volunteered his time to create a new sign. Why are these things such targets? And why do some people feel the need to destroy other people's work?

I can only hope that come spring, I will be able to find the missing signs. I am hoping that the person who undertook this deplorable action was as lazy as he was inconsiderate, and threw the signs into the underbrush rather than cart them all home. Then, at least, I can simply re-affix them, rather than having to spend more time making new ones. I wonder how long they will last next time?



Yowza - that is cold!

The coldest day ever recorded in Pinawa occurred on February 19, 1966, when the mercury dropped to a bone-chilling -47.8C!

Ski Club Executive

President:	Elaine Greenfield 753-2515
Vice-President:	Peter Chernis 753-2971
Treasurer:	Alf Wikjord 753-8844
Secretary:	Kevin Dearing 753-8239
Trails:	Derrek Owen 753-8842
Equipment:	Ron Brehm 753-8437
Jackrabbits:	Bruce Goodwin 753-8393
Excetera:	Michelle Long 753-2073

Jackrabbit Tracks

Bruce Goodwin

Our Jackrabbits make the Energizer Bunny look anemic! We started this season on November 9, when about 20 children and a few hearty parents hiked out to the cabin on the Red Trail. The following Sunday our hike led us from the Suspension Bridge to the Diversion Dam, despite the rain and foggy conditions. On November 23 we held our second annual waxing clinic, and about 30 pairs of skis were readied, thanks to experts Don Ewing, Derek Owen, Peter Chernis and Ken Young. Some of the older Jackrabbits helped, while the younger ones hiked out the Trans Canada Trail, and returned to a bannock feast organized by Lyn Ewing.

On November 30, we wandered around the Golf Course, apparently aimlessly, but we eventually found the ideal location for our new fire pit. The lack of snow made us desperate and we held the first snow dance of the year. We were rewarded next week with a few centimetres of snow – enough for some rough skiing and tobogganing. Two more snow dances brought us more snow and by December 21 we could see the season was going to shape up after all. We were finally able to test out our technique and learn some new steps.

Christmas week was great for the sun birds but very disappointing for the rest of us. Our outing on December 28 was a real workout. The temperature was above zero and we attempted just about every technique we knew, but nothing much was good for the slush and open water. Then the big time snow finally arrived! About 50 cm of beautiful fresh white stuff arrived in the first

few days of the new year and it just kept coming. By Sunday January 4 we had almost more than we could handle. Despite the temperature (-25 C), about 15 children plus assorted older Jackrabbits came out to enjoy the snow. Fred Bilsky set up a huge track for a game of fox and hounds and we learned how to plough through huge heaps of snow.

Fortunately the no-snow conditions are over, at least for a few months, and the temperatures will hopefully continue to moderate. On Sunday January 11, we held our first ski tour. The temperature was perfect (-10C), and more than 25 children showed up, along with at least 15 parents and coaches. Most went from the Pinawa Club to the Red Cabin – about 7 km, while some started from the Transformer Station and had only 4 km. We also combined the tour with a time trial. Congratulations to Gary Tooke, Richard Koroll, Stephan Young (50% speed badges), Miguel Young, Austyn Stam-Goodwin, Ben Dearing, Rebecca Bilsky, Kilmeny Melnick (40%), Ted Bowles, Megan Bree, Justin Podaima, Heidi Schatzlein, Katya Melnick, Ben Schatzlein, Daniel Schatzlein, Bradley Besel (30%), Avery Stam-Goodwin, Tommy Town, Madi Melnick, Tessa Truman, Maren Tait and Katie Webb (20%).



Line up for the Time Trials on January 11. More than 20 Jackrabbits displayed their speed over a 1 km course. Best times were near 5 minutes; more relaxed skiers took up to 15 minutes.

and Steven Simpson, Katie Webb, Tessa Truman and Maren Tait. Our intermediate skiers, working on their Orange or Red Badges, include Bradley Besel, Austyn and Avery Stam-Goodwin, Ben Dearing, Alexis Brunet and Stephanie Turner. Finally our senior Jackrabbits, who are now at the final Blue or Purple Badge levels, include Rebecca Bilsky, Richard Koroll, Gary Tooke and Miguel and Stephen Young.

Our regular leaders are Donna Besel, Peter Chernis, and Bryn and Bruce Goodwin, with cameo appearances by Peter Vilks, Elaine Greenfield and Ken Young. We also must mention our newest (and possibly best skier) Leader-in-Training, Rebecca Bilsky who is passing on her skills to others just starting up. Don Ewing also joins us and often helps the leaders or gives tips (and lessons) to adults. Finally, all of the Jackrabbits and their leaders appreciate the efforts of the volunteers who have made the hot chocolate and built the fire for marshmallows. Our thanks so far this season go to Fred Bilsky and the cubs, Lyn Ewing, Tom Wallach, Joel Taylor (x3!), Belamie Bakosti, Evan Bowles, and Peter and Kirk Vilks.

Come out and join us, or just watch the excitement. We meet at the Pinawa Club, every Sunday at 1 PM. If you like, order a cup of coffee at the club and watch through the windows or come to the end-of-session fire and get a free marshmallow (short visitors are especially welcome). Or better yet, come out and help. The program is definitely strengthened and more fun when the whole family participates. 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).



Sorting out the speed badges at the Red Trail cabin. All participants in the time trial earned a speed badge, but the calculations sometimes challenge the leaders!

We now have at least 15 Jackrabbits officially registered and regularly see three to five visitors and parents every session. Novices who are working on their Green or Yellow Badges include Liam and Skye Hilliard, Kilmeny, Katya and Madi Melnick, Tommy Town, Ted Bowles, Heidi, Daniel and Benjamin Schatzlein, Jenna