

Whiteshell Ski Club



ex-cetera



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2004 May

President's Message

Elaine Greenfield

What did I do right to be rewarded with such a good ski season in my first year as President? I probably don't want to waste too much time thinking about that one, but it was one of the best ski years in a long while. We seemed to have a reprieve with fresh snow after every little melt, so that not once did we have to think about using klister. Not that I have anything against using that sticky stuff, but it's a lot easier on the clothes, car and everything else if you don't have to use it. My last ski was on Tuesday, March 30. Although we had an incredibly rainy, melty day on the previous Saturday, the little bit of snow that fell on Monday made all the difference to the trails. We did the long Red Trail doing the first big hill, but avoiding the Derek Martin Loop for fear of what we would find in the swamp, and in fact, we ran into a wet-ice mass at the bottom of the hill on the Red turn-off going north after moving away from the Channel. That area has traditionally

been a problem with water spilling over the trail from the swamp, but this was the first time this year that I had seen any sign of water/ice there. The fix that the trails people made several years ago has done the trick it seems.

Our club is in the process of purchasing new tracksetting equipment as we need to replace our aging Alpines. You will read elsewhere in this issue about the funds that have been put aside and about the grant that we have been given. Ron Brehm has spent a considerable amount of time looking at possible replacement machines for us



On the Trail (l-r): Keith Reid, Elaine Greenfield, Alf Wikjord, George Montgomery, Oliver Greenfield, Edith Olson, Keith Olson, Jennifer Brehm & Heinz Ehlers

and a decision will be made by the Board before the Spring AGM.

I want to thank all the volunteers who have worked so hard to keep our trails in good shape this year. There was a great deal of snow, which meant that track setters had only just finished setting the trails when they had to go out again. We really appreciate your work!

WCCSC Spring AGM

May 17, 2004

7:00 pm

Pinawa Club

Please plan to attend!

Ski Club to Replace Tracksetting Equipment

For some time now, the WCCSC has been saving towards the purchase of new tracksetting equipment (see articles on page 2). This past year, an ad hoc Committee comprising of Ron Brehm, Larry Gauthier, Jeff Long, Peter Chernis and Nat Fenton has been evaluating different options to replace the aging Alpines. During the ski season, they compared the on-site performance of three machines: our current double-track Bombardier Alpine

Skidoo, a wide-track Bearcat owned by Lloyd Dreger of Pinawa and a Suzuki 4-track Quad supplied by Luke's Town Service in Elie. The Suzuki Quad demonstrated superior pulling power, traction, stability and maneuverability under heavy drag loads on the steep slopes and craggy outcrops characteristic of our ski trails. Notably, the 4-track system did not spin on sharply inclined rock faces and shear
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Sports Legacy Trust Distributions for 2004

For more than a decade, the Whiteshell Cross Country Ski Club has been building a capital reserve known as the "Track-Setting Equipment Fund." The main purpose of this fund is to replace our two aging double-tracked Alpine snowmobiles - the rugged "work horses" used for grooming and track setting our network of trails often located on difficult terrain. They were purchased in the 1980's, are no longer in production (hence, parts are rare), are prone to frequent breakdowns and have become a significant drain on the Club's finances.

Last year, to support the costly replacement of the Alpines, the Club applied for additional funds from the Sports Legacy Trust administered by Sport Manitoba. The Trustees reviewed 51 applications with a total value of approximately \$1.2 million.

New Equipment

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off the underlying snow base. Also, since wheels can be mounted in place of the tracks for off-snow use, the 4-track machine can replace the Argo swamp buggy for fall trail-clearing operations. The committee all felt that this was the best option for our club.

This spring, Ron Brehm evaluated quotations from four suppliers of 4-track machines. All the machines under consideration have automatic transmissions, liquid cooling, and a front-mounted winch. For about \$475, they can be fitted with a top rack for carrying equipment, similar to the one presently mounted on the Argo swamp buggy. Rear illumination would also be a desirable feature for trail grooming at night. At the most recent WCCSC Executive meeting, Ron recommended that the club purchase the 2004 Bombardier Traxter Max 500XT because of the following unique features: robust construction for heavy-duty utility use (rather than sport model streamlined for speed), direct-drive gear box (avoids belts for power transmission), manual or automatic gear selection, viscolok traction system (instantly transmits

In mid-March of this year, we received great news! The Trustees approved distributions amounting to about \$200,000 for 19 projects and our Club was designated to receive 50% of the cost of a new snowmobile to a maximum of \$6000.

We owe many thanks to the Council of the Local Government District of Pinawa for passing a resolution in favour of our Club's initiative and to the following organizations for co-sponsoring and supporting our application: Eastman Sports Council; Eastman Regional Office of Sport Manitoba (Shannon Schade, Manager); Cross Country Ski Association of Manitoba (Karin McSherry, Executive Director); Pinawa Community Development Corporation (Rhonda Kennedy-Rogers, CDO); and Pinawa-Lac du Bonnet Recreation Commission (Michelle Chudd, Recreation Director).

power to tracks with strongest grip), 2-year warranty (if purchase order is placed before April 30th), long wheel base and chassis designed to carry driver plus passenger, and noted that this machine is the preferred option for other ski/biathlon club operations (numerous clubs in Quebec currently use Bombardier's four-track machine). The WCCSC executive passed a motion to purchase this machine.

Once we take delivery of the Bombardier Traxter, equipped with mountable tracks for winter operation and mountable wheels for summer trail work, both the 1988 double-track Alpine Skidoo and the six-wheel Argo swamp buggy will be surplus to the needs of the Club. The Alpine has already got a prospective buyer from Winnipeg, and the club will look for people interested in the Argo.

Did You Know?

Dave McMillan, a long time member of our ski club, told our president recently how much he enjoyed skiing the club's trails over the years. He then commented how one winter in the mid 80's, he was so enthusiastic about the Orange Trail that he skied it a total of 53 times! Sounds like a record!

2004 Loppet Sponsors

Thank you to our sponsors of the 2004 Manitoba Loppet, held on January 25. Your continued support of this event, our club and the sport of cross-country skiing is greatly appreciated!

South Interlake Credit Union Limited, RRR Realty Inc., Pinawa Dental Clinic, Sheppard Environmental, Aquatic Life Ltd., Olympia Cycle & Ski, Acsion Industries Incorporated, Granite Internet Services, Northern Stores, Book Break

2003-2004 Manitoba Cup

Alf Wikjord

Did you know that the Whiteshell Ski Club placed 7th of 14 ski clubs that were awarded points for the Cross Country Ski Association's 2003-04 Manitoba Cup? Jeff Long, our Past-President, received the cash prize of \$305 at the Annual Awards Banquet held at the Windsor Park Nordic Centre in Winnipeg on Friday March 12, 2004. The top seven placements in the 2003-2004 Manitoba Cup Race Series were as follows:

1 st Prairie Storm	198.0 points
2 nd Wolfpack	192.0 points
3 rd River Rats	171.0 points
4 th Red River Nordic	128.0 points
5 th Kenora	127.2 points
6 th Manitoba Masters	104.0 points
7 th Whiteshell	85.0 points

The Manitoba Cup is based on points for athletes' performance, volunteer participation and hosting events. Details can be found on the CCSAM's web site (http://www.ccski.mb.ca/mc_2003-2004_ManitobaCupPoints.pdf)

Last year when our Club hosted the Provincial Championships, we edged out Prairie Storm by 10 points and placed 1st among 17 ski clubs that were considered for the 2002-03 Manitoba Cup.

Doreen Dick Fortitude Tour

Elaine Greenfield

We had scheduled the Doreen Dick Fortitude Tour for Sunday, February 15, which proved not to be the best timing for two reasons; the Provincial Ski Races were held on that same weekend and the weather was COLD! At 8:00 am, when I checked the thermometer, it was -33°C and I wondered if anyone would show up. I had originally suggested we meet at the end of the road at 10:00, but we had revised it to 11:00. I dutifully got ready and packed a lunch for myself, as Oliver wasn't feeling well enough to come, and then received a cheerful call from Don Ewing who was getting ready as well. We drove to the end of the road where we found one faithful soul waiting for us, George Montgomery! By that time, the temperature had already warmed up to -20°C. While we waited there for about 10 minutes, we could feel the warmth of the sun on our backs and almost as soon as we started skiing, we began to warm up. We headed up to the English River Trail skiing it the way that had been done when we toured it the first time with Doreen. By the time we reached the cabin for lunch, we were all very warm and comfortable. Once the stove was putting out enough heat, Don and George took off their jackets and clouds of steam arose from their bodies. After lunch, we went on to the Jones-Graham Freeway where we all

took some spectacular falls! After a brief stop at the Orange Cabin, we continued on to finish the tour and were off the trails at about 2:30. We all felt that the day had been an excellent

one, but were sorry that there had only been three of us. I proposed that we repeat the tour going the other way on the following Saturday.

On Saturday, February 21, we did the "Reverse" Doreen Dick Fortitude Tour starting at 10 am. It was a beautiful morning, sunny, with the temperature at about -15°C. This time there were lots of people at the end of the road as we skied across the golf course to meet them. The tour included Edith and Keith Olson, Alf Wikjord, Heinz Ehlers, Jennifer Brehm, Keith Reid, George Montgomery, Oliver and me. The skiing was perfect and the scenery beautiful. It was one of the best



"Reverse" Doreen Dick Fortitude Tour participants Heinz Ehlers, Jennifer Brehm, Edith Olson, George Montgomery, Alf Wikjord, Elaine Greenfield, Oliver Greenfield and Keith Olsen. (photo taken by Keith Reid)

ski tours that I can remember, but I concluded that I prefer going the other way on the tour as I think there is a better selection of downhills that way.

Perhaps next year when we schedule this tour we will choose a Saturday so that more of the Jackrabbit types will be able to come and it won't interfere with church for others.

Starlight Express Tours

Elaine Greenfield

For the past several years, we have arranged for one of these to happen on the weekend of a full moon before Christmas, but this year that occurred very early in December before there was adequate snow to ski, especially at night. So we postponed the tour until Saturday, January 3. We met at the substation on Hwy.211 and had about nine people show up. The sky was overcast, so the moon did not give us as much light as we had hoped, but many skiers had brought a head lamp and we found those useful on the back part of the golf course furthest away from the light of the town. Skiers included: Alf Wikjord, Steve Sheppard, Jeff Simpson, Jennifer and Ron Brehm, Don Ewing, Valerie Connell, Kevin Dearing, and Elaine Greenfield. We toured the Golf Course Trail that night, but several people were keen to try the trails another time, so it was determined to schedule another tour for the next full moon.

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2003-2004 Provincial X-C Ski Championships

The Falcon Sports Club hosted the Provincial Championships at Falcon Lake on February 14-15. The complete set of results are posted on CCSAM's web site (www.ccski.mb.ca/rr_2004_ProvincialChampionships.htm). A number of Whiteshell skiers competed and fared well. Their results in the classic and free-style events follow.

Day 1: Saturday, February 14, 2004: Classic Technique

Liam Hilliard	1 st	Atom Boys	1.0 km	00:16:23
Skye Hilliard	7 th	Pee Wee Girls	1.5 km	00:20:06
Ben Dearing	1 st	Pee Wee Boys	1.5 km	00:12:39
Miguel Young	5 th	Mini Midget Boys	2.5 km	00:15:28
Richard Koroll	2 nd	Midget Boys	5.0 km	00:29:48
Steven Young	7 th	Juvenile Boys	5.0 km	00:33:06
Ken Young	4 th	Masters 4 Men	15 km	01:11:19

Day 2: Sunday, February 15, 2004: Free Technique

Ben Dearing	2 nd	Pee Wee Boys	1.5 km	00:12:01
Richard Koroll	5 th	Midget Boys	5.0 km	00:31:10
Steven Young	9 th	Juvenile Boys	5.0 km	00:33:58
Ken Young	6 th	Masters 4 Men	10 km	00:41:13

Congratulations to all our skiers!

Jackrabbit Tracks

Bruce Goodwin

This year our Jackrabbit season started late but in late March, we were still going strong (about 20 outings!). We started on November 9th with a hike out to the Red Cabin, and had three more hikes and a waxing clinic before the snow finally kicked in. We needed two snow dances to bring it down! Since then we've had two time trials, an uncountable number of tours and lessons and tonnes of fun on skis.

We have also not missed a Sunday since November. We've been out in perfect weather – about -10C and sunny with fresh snow. We've been out in the cold, once at -23C in a wind with attitude. By late March, we were flirting with above zero weather, and hung on until there was nothing left to slide on.

Our extra special tour this year was on February 15, when 20 Jackrabbits and an equal number of parents went to the warm-up cabin on the English River Trail. Most of the older Jackrabbits and parents took on the entire distance (13 km round trip). The younger Jackrabbits had a shorter course (minimum of 6 km) plus a sleigh ride, thanks to Nat Fenton and John Trueman. This trip was a good test of their endurance and ski skills. At the beginning of the year, the younger children were quite timid around hills but that soon changed after some instructions on downhill survival and snow plow. It is amazing to see how much the younger ones have improved in just a few months. Fortunately their confidence and skills progress at much the same rate! Even the youngest skiers now know how to get up a hill and how to control themselves on the way down, and will take on every thing our trails have to offer.



Jackrabbits, parents and friends at the warm-up cabin on the Red Trail, March 7 2004.

We had another great batch of novice skiers this year, plus a bunch who keep coming back to join the fun. Congratulations to Liam, Maron, Amelia, Jenna and Grant who earned their Green Badge. These children have now mastered the basics and typically can ski 5 km on any trail. The next badge is Yellow, now owned by Jacob, Katya, Madi, Heidi, Benjamin, Daniel, Calvin, Geoff, Justin, Steven, Ted, Stephanie, Katie, Skye and Tessa. At this level, the children have started to skate ski and can demonstrate two different styles. Owners of the Orange Badge have much refined techniques, and are solid at herringbone, skating, downhill and more. Congratulations to Meghan, Jamie, Kilmney, Bradley, Austyn, Avery and Ben. The next three levels are much more sparse, with much advanced skills. They include Miguel and Steven with their Red Badges, and Richard and Rebecca with Blue Badges. These rarefied skiers are hard to spot, especially if you blink too often.

Our Jackrabbits and parents would like to give a special thank you to all the fire-starters. These volunteers provide a 'safety' spot on those real cold days, and also bring the hot chocolate and marshmallows (our Jackrabbits will drink a gallon of hot chocolate and roast up two pounds of marshmallows!). Thanks go Fred Bilsky and the cubs, Lyn Ewing, Tom Wallach (many times), Joel Taylor (twice), Evan Bowles, Belamie Bakosti, Peter Vilks, John Tait, Bill Boivin, John Trueman (twice), Nat Fenton, Kim and Jenna Simpson, Kevin, Susan and Emma Dearing/Barnett, Alf Wikjord, Ron Brehm and Jeff Long.

We also need to acknowledge the time and effort put in by a dedicated group of instructors who have done another tremendous job this year. Thank you to our main instructors Peter Chernis, Bryn Goodwin, Donna Besel, to our backups Ken Young, Elaine Greenfield and Don Ewing, and to our new volunteers Linda and John Tait. And let us not forget Bradley Besel and (especially) Rebecca Bilsky who have joined as apprentice leaders.

There are three other special classes of volunteers. Our waxing

clinic in November was a big success primarily because of the experts who showed us how, and actually did most of the work! Thank you Don Ewing, Peter Chernis, Ken Young and Derek Owen. Derek, Alf Wikjord, Ron Brehm, Jeff Long, Nat Fenton and probably a few others were always available to help set ski tracks when and where ever we needed them. And lastly, Don Ewing and Elaine Greenfield once again organized a series of adult lessons so that the Jackrabbit parents (and others) would not fall too far behind their children.

Finally, our Jackrabbits and leaders thank those parents who keep turning up and joining the fun. You make it so much more enjoyable! Our regulars include Wanda and David Turner, Fred Bilksky, Luc and Michelle Bordeleau, Tara Lotz, Tom Wallach, Tom and Linda Bree, Kevin Dearing and Susan Barnett, Tom and Janet Hilliard, Tecla and Jeff Melnick, Helena Trueman, Carol and Bob Schatzlein, Jeff Simpson, John and Linda Tait, Ken Young and John Webb.

Only 7 months before the next season starts, so keep those skis handy.

Moonlight skiing

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On Friday, February 6, a group of adventuresome skiers met at the substation for another tour. This time we decided to try the Red Trail. The moon was brilliant and the trails were almost as bright as day. It was truly magical and the temperature was perfect too at -15°C or so. Skiers were Martha Laverock, Sue Appleyard, Kevin Dearing, Don Ewing, Steve Sheppard, Oliver and Elaine Greenfield.

Our March Tour took place on Friday, March 5. It was another really beautiful night with crisp snow but comfortable temperatures. This time three couples showed up to tour the whole golf course. They were: Steve and Marsha Sheppard, Kevin and Susan Dearing and Oliver and Elaine Greenfield.

After each of these tours, we head off to Book Break where hot drinks and sometimes dessert are in order. Next year, anyone interested in trying night skiing should assume that at each full moon there will be a tour (weather permitting). If a notice does not appear on Channel 12, you can call me to confirm.