

Whiteshell Ski Club



ex-cetera



Volume 31 No. 1

P.O. Box 438, Pinawa, MB R0E 1L0

2003 November

Annual Fall General Meeting

Thursday, November 20
7:00 pm, at the
Pinawa Club

President's Message

♪ "I saw it was a time
for a change" ♪

As I prepare to step down as club president, I have taken the opportunity to look back through the files over my time in the position (1999-2003). At the beginning, I was brimming with enthusiasm and filled with an equivalent amount of ignorance and naiveté. As the time passed, I became more adept at the position, but this improved understanding came at the expense of a certain amount of emotional energy. So, who cares? After all, what's new - this phenomenon is true for all organisations. Well, this is why it matters: as our club winds its way through its history, we are in constant need of a fresh set of people who are willing to put their emotion, ideas and energy into the club. Renewal is a necessary part of any successful organisation. Walk with me through the following thank-you which is both a tribute to those whose efforts have kept this club strong and (it is hoped!) an inspiration to others to fill the shoes of those who are standing aside.

When Allan Tarr found that his employment circumstances no longer allowed him to fill the role of Treasurer, the club was temporarily left reeling (after all Allan had been doing an excellent job for 15 years!). However, without hesitation, I stepped Alf

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The beauty of winter in Pinawa.

WCCSC Membership

Dedicated volunteers are the life and sustenance of our Ski Club. Thanks to them, we have an extensive network of trails, a busy schedule of activities and an active program of fund raising. Over the years, we have been fortunate to recruit a strong roster of members from across our region. Last year, over 200 people from Pinawa, Lac du Bonnet, Whitemouth, Stead, Warren and Winnipeg joined the Club.

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

- © over 45 km of groomed trails
- © 3 cozy warming huts
- © qualified instructors
- © the Jackrabbit ski program for family participation, fun, fitness and skill development
- © liability insurance for leaders, instructors and volunteers
- © competitions and programs sponsored by CCSAM and Sport Manitoba
- © the Whiteshell Ski Team for fitness, instruction and competition

- © the Manitoba Loppet (the 28th annual Loppet will be held in 2004)
- © the X-C ski competition of the MTS Manitoba Winter Games to be held in Beausejour, Pinawa and Springfield in 2006.

Our 2003-04 membership fees are \$50.00 for a family, \$30.00 for an individual (over age 18) and \$15.00 for an individual (under age 18). Applications can be given to any member of the Executive or mailed to: *Whiteshell Cross Country Ski Club Inc.*
P.O. Box 438, Pinawa, MB R0E 1L0

Mark Your Calendar!

The **Midnight Express Tour**
will be held on
Saturday, December 6.

*Come ski under the
brightness of the full moon!*

Watch Channel 12 for details
on time and location.

2002-2003 Financial Review

Alf Wikjord

The fiscal year of the Whiteshell Ski Club runs from May 01 to April 30. The 2002-2003 financial statements were approved at the Spring AGM on 2003 May 02.

Over 200 people joined our Club in 2002-2003. The Jackrabbit Ski League enrolled a bumper crop of 29 energetic young skiers and offered another enjoyable season of fun, fitness, frolic and family participation. The combined 2003 Provincial Cross Country Ski Championships and 27th Manitoba Loppet, held in Pinawa on February 8th and 9th, were a smashing success in spite of frigid temperatures. With the cooperation of the Pinawa Club and the Pinawa Community Development Corporation, we vigorously supported Beausejour's successful bid for the 2006 MTS Manitoba Winter Games; consequently, Pinawa will host the cross-country ski component of the Games in March 2006. Our Club's crowning achievement in 2003 was winning the Manitoba Cup awarded by Cross Country Ski Association of

Manitoba (CCSAM). This award is attributable to the outstanding performance of our competitive skiers, including top rank in five age categories, and the active participation of our coaches, officials and volunteers in the CCSAM's program of activities.

The financial highlights are:

Club membership fees; grants and awards from the CCSAM, Sports Manitoba, and the LGD of Pinawa (for clearing of the Tran Canada Trail); entry fees from the 27th Manitoba Loppet and Provincial Championships; volunteer participation in bingos at the Regent and McPhillips casinos; banquet tickets and ski rentals; donations from corporate sponsors, club members and casual skiers who appreciate our trails; and income from our account at the South Interlake Credit Union yielded over \$10,500 of revenue during the past year.

Memberships, grants, awards and bingos accounted for close to 70% of the revenues.

77 membership applications were received during the year, the majority of which were family memberships. 84% of the applications emanated from Pinawa; 16% came from elsewhere,

including Lac du Bonnet, Whitemouth, Stead, Winnipeg and Warren; and 30% included one or more Jackrabbits.

Expenditures for trail clearing and track setting; maintenance and repair of equipment, warming huts, storage buildings and trail signs; CCSAM affiliation fees; honoraria, including medals, prizes, awards, certificates and badges; ski banquets and hosting costs; meetings, travel, materials and supplies; newsletter, communications and training materials, including printing and distribution of three issues of the eXCetera; and insurance, registration of snowmobiles and a land-use permit issued by Conservation Manitoba collectively cost the Club over \$9,000 in 2002-2003.

Over 50% of our expenditures were used to maintain our network of ski trails, three warming huts, two aging Alpine snowmobiles, an Argo swamp buggy, trail grooming and track setting equipment, brush mowers and chain saws.

36% of our membership fees were redirected to affiliation with the CCSAM (and, indirectly, with Cross Country Canada).

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President's Message

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Wikjord, who brings his own strengths and enthusiasm to the position and consequently, the club continues to be fiscally well managed. As I step aside, I am heartened that Elaine Greenfield has accepted the nomination for club president. Elaine has been a dedicated member of the club for many years (as well as editor of the Excetera) and indeed is responsible for bringing many people to the town and to the club through her unabashed promotion of this beautiful town and excellent ski club! This example has been shown by others. Indeed, Bruce Goodwin returned to Pinawa and has singlehandedly rejuvenated the jackrabbit programme. All club members should give due thought to this important component of the club's present and future. Peter Chernis, who stepped aside as President in 1999, but has continued on as Vice President has continued to support the club in a

variety of ways. Peter's crowning glory is easily seen as his excellent management of the Loppet – Manitoba's oldest race of this length and calibre. Apart from this event though, Peter continues to do countless tasks on behalf of the club and cross country skiing across the province. True of this also is Derrek Owen, who as the Trails Chair report indicates, spent considerable hours preparing the trail for this year's season, as he did for last year's Provincials race. The final member of the current executive is Doreen Bigelow, who like me, needs to take a rest from her ski club commitment after many years of input. Outside the executive, there are always important volunteers. To them I say thank-you. However, I could not say "goodbye" without making special mention of our most notable "retirees." Think of Heinz and Marj Ehlers (the Bingo King and Queen) and how Heinz is always out on the Freeway or English river trails. Think also of the club's only honorary member, Larry Gauthier,

who has, like many of his colleagues, served the club for a great many years. Larry, however, has also been a driving force in the building and management of the physical aspects of the Trans Canada Trail (a trail & revenue source for the WCCSC), club equipment repair and maintenance, building cabins and stocking them with firewood, as well as filling more than his share of trail clearing work. So, despite my personal enthusiasm waning a little, when I look around at the excellent, dedicated people who have served and continue to serve our club, I am warmed. Lastly, this message leaves me room for an appeal to those of you who are next to carry the torch. As some of us step away from our roles, we need committed people to replace us. Your club can not accept the position; "I am just waiting to be called" – **now it's your turn.** Call and get involved!

Best regards for an enjoyable ski season and beyond,

Jeff Long

Financial Report

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\$2000 was directed to our capital reserve, known as the Track Setting Equipment Fund. This Fund has now grown to almost \$10,000. With further fund-raising activities, we hope eventually to be able to replace our two double-tracked, 1988- and 1990-model, Alpine Skidoos. They are no longer manufactured and are now in the twilight of their useful life.

Generous donations from the Charleswood Ski Club in Winnipeg, the Manitoba Naturalists' group of seniors known as the Grey Hares, club members and other casual skiers are testimony that our 45 km of groomed trails and three cozy warming huts were much appreciated during the past year.

Pinawa Manitoba Loppet

The Loppet is a mass participation ski event designed for all ages and abilities of skiers. This year's Loppet will be held on January 25, 2004, which is the last Sunday in January. As in the past, the Loppet will be held on the Gold Course and Red trails, and the distances will be 30km, 15km, 5km, or 2.5km depending on age and ability. Staging will take place at the Pinawa Club. Contact Peter Chernis (2971) to volunteer.

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

Trails Chair Report Trail Maintenance Summer – Autumn 2003

Derrek Owen

Approximately 125 man hours were required to mow or brush-saw our way around our more than 45 km of ski trails this fall. Many thanks to those who participated and my apologies to anyone's efforts I may have missed:

English River / Jones Graham

Freeway: Keith Olson, Larry Gauthier, Derek Ramsden, Derrek Owen, Alf Wikjord, Nat Fenton (Total 42 man hours).

Red Trail: Don Ewing, Larry Gauthier, Derrek Owen, Alf Wikjord (Total 31 man hours).

Blue Trail: Peter Chernis, Harry Noel, Jeff Long, Alf Wikjord,

Derrek Owen, Don Ewing, Yusef Ates (Total 20 man hours).

Orange Trail: Keith Olson, Larry Gauthier, Derek Ramsden, Derrek Owen, Don Ewing, Mark Tinant, Heinz Ehlers and Ron Brehm (Total: 36 man hours)

Golf Course: Peter Chernis, Derrek Owen (Total: 4 hours)

Trans Canada Trail (TCT):

The WCCSC mowed the TCT from Seven Sisters to Old Pinawa as well this year at the end of June and the end of August. About 24 man hours were required. Our thanks to Larry Gauthier, John Westdal, Heinz Ehlers and Bud Biddiscombe.

Benefits of CCSAM Affiliation

A portion of our membership fees [i.e., \$17.00 or 34 % of the family fee, \$9.00 or 30 % of the individual fee, and \$9.00 or 60 % of the junior fee] covers the costs of affiliation with the Cross Country Ski Association of Manitoba. What are the benefits of CCSAM affiliation? Trevor Potapoff, CCSAM's past Executive Director, listed the following benefits in a letter, dated September 26, 2002, to all X-C ski clubs:

- Liability insurance for WCCSC members and programs
- Eligibility for members to participate in CCSAM sanctioned events, usually at a reduced rate
- Eligibility to apply for program funding
- Eligibility to participate in CCSAM high-performance programs
- Access to CCSAM materials and resources, such as videos, manuals, stopwatches
- Liaison with all levels of sport and government
- Coordination of tour and racing events throughout the Province
- Assistance with trail and facility development

- Development and administration of Jackrabbit and youth programs
- Receipt of Cross Country Canada's biannual magazine called *Cross Connections*
- Access to Sport Manitoba's print services on a fee-for-service basis
- Hosting of the annual swap shop
- Promotion and development of cross country skiing in Manitoba

Source: CCSAM's web site - www.ccski.mb.ca

Golf Poker Derbies

In cooperation with the Pinawa Golf Club, volunteers from our Ski Club ran poker derbies during the Opening Scramble on May 10th, the Pinawa Birthday Two-Ball on July 19th and the Closing Scramble on September 13th. About \$1200 of poker hands were sold, 30% of which was allocated to the Ski Club. Thanks to Fred & David Bilsky, Florence & Peter Vilks, Marg & Alf Wikjord, Lyn Ewing, Peter Chernis, Derrek Owen, Bruce Goodwin, Jeff Long, Elaine Greenfield, George Montgomery, Bob Jones, Barbara Golebeski and Kim Simpson for volunteering their time for this fund-raising initiative.

X-Cruisers The Whiteshell Jackrabbits

Bruce Goodwin

Our Club came into being in 1973 when about 30 people decided to develop a program focussing on instruction, trail development, and touring. Their first students were themselves and other adults but they quickly extended their mandate to shorter people. The national Jackrabbit program actually started up in Winnipeg and our Club was one of the first to sign on. The accompanying picture, courtesy of coach Eva Rosinger, shows one of our earliest Jackrabbit groups. It was taken in the 1980s somewhere on the Golf Course.

The first objective of Jackrabbits is to have fun and adventure outdoors, and along the way learn some of the fundamentals of cross country skiing. It is also an easy way to fitness for some of the older coaches! A typical Jackrabbit outing includes games on snow, tours, fires, marshmallows, ski jumps, hot chocolate and more games. We also learn basic techniques such as the herringbone and snow plow, and more advanced techniques like the Christie turn and how to skate uphill and downhill. The official Jackrabbit Program is designed for children between 7 and 14 years old. Our program has always encouraged the participation of parents and

grandparents, who often bring along their 5 and 6 year olds. We offer those adults lessons on the side so that they can keep up with their children.

We've not looked back since the first few seasons.

The Program has had almost 100 children some years, dropping to a half-dozen on the slow winters. But with some good snow and a few keen instructors, the children come out of hiding to join the fun. More than 1000 children have enjoyed Jackrabbits in Pinawa over the years. And like riding a bicycle, you never forget how! The second picture (courtesy of Florence Vilks) shows our 22nd group of Jackrabbits, taken just last spring.

On November 9 we started our 23rd season with a hike out to the cabin on the Red Trail. Within the next few weeks we will organise a waxing clinic for parents and a bannock bake-off for children. Plan to join us this year. Help with the lessons or take lessons yourself (we can organise adult lessons to run in parallel with the Jackrabbit lessons). Failing that, volunteer to build a marshmallow fire for Jackrabbits – we have one every session. We meet on S u n d a y s afternoons at 2 pm, from early N o v e m b e r until the snow disappears. For more information on Jackrabbits, call Bruce Goodwin at 753-8393.



Jackrabbits, Circa 1981. Notice the old equipment and big smiles.

Annual Ski Swap Shop

Sale: Saturday, November 22nd
from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.
Doors open at 9:00 AM sharp.

Location: Windsor Park Nordic
Centre, Winnipeg

Drop-off of items to sell: Friday
November 21st from 3:00 to 9:00 PM.

CCSAM takes a 15% commission on all items sold. Photo ID must be shown when items are dropped off. This is a City of Winnipeg 2nd Hand Dealer licensing requirement.

Experienced volunteers will be on hand to assist in pricing the items. Payment for sold items will be made by cheque, mailed within 30 days of the sale. All unsold items must be picked up between 3:00 and 6:00 PM on Saturday November 22nd. Items will not be released without the claim receipt given out at the time of drop-off. Items left after 6:00 PM become the property of CCSAM.

The cost of entering the sale is \$1 per person or \$2 per family. Knowledgeable volunteer salespeople will be available to help buyers. Purchases can be paid for by cash, Interac, or Visa (no cheques or MasterCard). GST and PST is payable on new (blue-stickered) and used (yellow-stickered) items. Purchasers must provide CCSAM with contact information at the time of purchase. This is a City of Winnipeg 2nd Hand Dealer licensing requirement.



Jackrabbits, 2003. New faces, same big smiles!