

Whiteshell Ski Club



ex-cetera



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2004 November

President's Message

Elaine Greenfield

WCCSC had its Fall General Meeting on November 10 at the Pinawa Club with about 15 people in attendance. These people were able to see the new signs which have been designed and made by Northern Lights for our club (about 90 of them). We have been upgrading signs bit by bit over the years, always very aware that it is a very easy thing to become disoriented and lost out there, and finally we decided that a complete overhaul was the way to go. Watch for the new signs this fall.

Another new acquisition was on display for members -- although it was only by way of a photo being passed around -- and that was our new Bombardier Traxter. It hasn't yet been used on the trails and as of last week the tracks had still not arrived. I think that our trail volunteers are looking forward to putting the machine through its paces.

We heard the reports of the various sections and learned that Jackrabbits has been underway now for several weeks and that the attendance is good. Derrek Owen said that the trails had all been groomed as far as the water permitted and that the volunteers were waiting for freeze-up to finish the grooming and to clear the deadfall. Our treasurer, Alf Wikjord did an excellent job of explaining our finances and it appears that we are in decent shape. Peter Chernis who has been organizing the Loppet for

several years asked for and found a co-chair, Don Ewing. All in all, it seems that we are ready for winter.

We discussed a membership drive like we have done in the past in order to make WCCSC more visible especially to newcomers to Pinawa and we are going to have volunteers in the Pinawa Mall kiosk on Thursdays and Saturdays starting November 18 until December 4. If there is anyone out there who might like to help, just give Alf or Elaine a call. There was also discussion of ski lessons and tours. We could offer ski lessons on request. Some ski tours have been planned for the next few months -- see the notice below for dates. These tours are all weather and snow dependant. We will advertise them with more detail on Channel 12. Other simpler tours can be organized during the season if members would like, i.e. the golf course, to the Red Cabin, etc. I also would like to revitalize the Powder Puff Skiers to ski on a set day at a set time going out for a one or two hour ski with whomever shows up. Someone could organize the same kind of group for men. Please let me know if you are interested in any other kinds of tours and the club will try to accommodate you.

Finally, the Fall General Meeting was a very good one with a good attendance and some excellent platters of munchies provided by Karen of the Pinawa Club Restaurant. We are looking forward to a great winter season. See you on the trails!



The lack of snow does not prevent our members from enjoying our trails. Here, Heinz Ehlers and Jeff Long explore a large slough out near English River.

Bingo Volunteers Needed

The WCCSC regularly works at Bingo as a way to earn money for our club. Eight volunteers are needed to work at a Bingo on December 8, from 4:30 to 6:45 pm at Club Regent. Please call Marj Ehlers at 753-2574 if you are able to help.

Starlight Express Tours

(evening tours at the full moon)



December 26 (Sunday)

January 21 (Friday)

February 26 (Saturday)

March 25 (Saturday)



Doreen Dick Fortitude Tour

(approx. 16 kms over medium to difficult terrain)

February 12 or 19

(weather depending - Saturdays)

Moveable Feast



(a tour with food at all three cabins. This is one that has been planned for several years but which we haven't managed to yet hold).

March 19 (Saturday)



2003-2004 Financial Review

Alf Wikjord

The fiscal year of the Whiteshell Ski Club runs from May 01 to April 30. The 2003-2004 financial statements were presented and approved at the Spring AGM held at the Pinawa Club on 2004 May 17.

The highlights for the year were:

✿ a 12% overall decline in membership despite excellent snow conditions and another bumper crop of Jackrabbits;

✿ the sale of the Club's aging 1988 double-track Alpine Skidoo and six-wheeled Argo swamp buggy;

✿ a generous distribution from the Manitoba Sports Legacy Trust to support the acquisition of a new 4-track Bombardier Quad; and

✿ the upgrading of the tow-mower from a fine-cut to a rough-cut model.

184 people from Pinawa, Lac du Bonnet, Whitemouth, Beausejour and Winnipeg joined our Club last year. The number of family memberships declined about 20%, while individual memberships held steady. 28 energetic Jackrabbits enjoyed another season of fun, fitness, frolic and family participation. 86% of the applications emanated from Pinawa. 34% of the membership receipts were redirected to affiliation with the Cross Country Ski Association of Manitoba (CCSAM) and, indirectly, to Cross Country Canada.

The Manitoba Sports Legacy Trustees awarded the Eastman Regional Sport

Council "up to \$6000.00 for 50% of the cost of acquiring a heavy-duty snowmobile for use by the Whiteshell Cross Country Ski Club in Pinawa to maintain 50 kilometres of ski trails". These funds, along with a draw down of our capital reserve and the proceeds of the sale of our 1988 Skidoo and Argo, supported the purchase a new 2004 Bombardier Traxster Max XT 500 4-Track Quad.

The acquisition of a new "rough-cut" tow mower was financed, for the most part, by a \$1250 development grant from Sport Manitoba – Eastman Region and the proceeds of the trade-in of a "fine-cut" mower. It will be used primarily for grooming portions of the 26-km Pinawa Trail section of the Trans Canada Trail between Seven Sisters Falls and the Old Pinawa Heritage Park.

The 28th Manitoba Loppet, held in Pinawa on January 25th, incurred a small deficit because of adverse weather and fewer than expected entries. Planning for the 2006 MTS Manitoba Winter Games has been in low gear and will undoubtedly speed up in the coming year. Our Club's 7th place standing in the 2004 Manitoba Cup sponsored by the CCSAM earned a small financial reward. The standings are based on the performance of competitive skiers and the level of participation of coaches, officials and volunteers in the CCSAM's program of activities.

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 for the 28th

Manitoba Loppet; volunteer participation in bingos at the Regent and McPhillips casinos; golf poker derbies; donations from corporate sponsors, club members and casual skiers; and income from our account at the South Interlake Credit Union yielded about \$14,000 of revenue during the past year. Membership fees, grants, awards and bingos accounted for about 70% of the revenues.

Expenditures for trail clearing and track setting; purchase, maintenance and repair of equipment; CCSAM affiliation fees; awards, prizes, and gift certificates; printing and distribution of three issues of the Club newsletter, eXCetera; insurance and registration of snowmobiles; and a land-use permit issued by Conservation Manitoba collectively cost the Club over \$22,000 in 2003-2004. The acquisition of the 2004 Bombardier 4-track ATV accounted for almost 75% of the expenditures.

\$2000 was directed to our capital reserve, known as the Track Setting Equipment Fund. This Fund is now showing red ink due to the acquisition of the new 4-track ATV. Funds payable from the Sports Legacy Trust and a local buyer of our Argo swamp buggy will help to restore a positive balance.

Generous donations from the Charleswood Ski Club, the Alpine Ski Association of Manitoba, club members and casual skiers are testimony that our extensive network of groomed trails was much appreciated again this past year.

Bingo Report

Many thanks to the following volunteers, who worked at 6 Bingos recently:

Doreen Bigelow, Fred Bilsky, Ron Brehm, Dennis Cann, Judy Chernis, Metro Dmytriv, Marj & Heinz Ehlers, Elaine Greenfield, Barb Golebeski, Gary Hanna, Bob Jones, George Montgomery, Keith Olson, Keith Reid, Betty & Bob Shewfelt, Carol & Ray Wazney, Marg & Alf Wikjord

Another Bingo is scheduled for Dec. 8, from 4:30 to 6:45 pm at Club Regent and we need 8 volunteers. Please call Marj Ehlers at 753-2574 if you would like to volunteer.

The CCSAM 2004-2005 Events Schedule has been posted on their website at www.ccski.mb.ca/events_schedule.htm.

The calendar has some touring and family participation events along with classic and free technique races. Details about each of the events will be posted a few weeks before the event on the Events Information page at www.ccski.mb.ca/events_information.htm.



Trails Report

Derrek Owen

This fall, parts of the trail system were inaccessible to trail clearing due to unusually high water levels. For example, the 5 km cut-off of the red trail is almost totally flooded. Three swamps at the north end of the Orange trail have made this region impassible even with hip waders. A large swamp just off the cutline section of the trail leading out of the spruce bog near the south end of the orange trail is also under water. Despite these difficulties, however, most of the trails are cleared. After freeze-up we can get to what remains.

Up to now, 19 volunteers have done approximately 120 hours of work on the ski trails. (This does not include work done during the summer on sections of the Trans Canada Trail that overlaps our ski trails.)

Many thanks to Larry Gauthier, Peter Chernis, Ron Brehm, Alf Wikjord, Peter Vilks, Heinz Ehlers, Oliver Greenfield, Grant Koroll, Richard Koroll, Frank Walton, Ken Young, Romeo Bernarden, Shawn Thompson, Kevin Dearing, George Montgomery, Andrew Chambers, Paul Chambers and Chris Greenfield.

Special thanks to Alkf Wikjord who organised work parties for the Trans Canada Trail over the summer months; to Ron Brehm who looks after equipment maintenance; and to Larry Gauthier who has used his boat to transport work parties to to the English River part of our trails.



Some of the Jackrabbit Hikers from October 17. Most of the others took a wrong turn, but eventually found our warm up cabin on the Red Trail.

Loppet 2005

Peter Chernis

Those of you have lived in Pinawa a while likely know what a Loppet is, but not so for all the new-comers to town. Our loppet is a mass-participation ski event, held each year in Pinawa near the end of January, for skiers of all ages and abilities. It attracts skiers from all over Manitoba and Western Ontario, who come out to race or just enjoy the day on our trails.

This year the loppet will be held on Sunday January 23 at the Pinawa Club, which is a week earlier than normal. The course will start and end at the Pinawa Club, and will utilize the Golf Course and Red Trails as in previous years. As always we will need volunteers to help keep the young skiers safe.

Last years Loppet was held during a cold period so attendance was lower than normal.

The Pinawa Dental Clinic, South Interlake Credit Union, Sheppard Environmental, RRR Realty Inc., Whiteshell Agencies, AECL, Aquatic Life, and Acision Industries Incorporated donated prizes and/or money for expenses and prizes. The L.G.D. provided equipment and labour for making a snow bridge across the end of highway 211 so skiers wouldn't have to remove their skis to cross the highway! The Pinawa Club prepared the staging area adjacent to the Club House, and provided warm hospitality. The Ham Radio Operators also gave valuable assistance at the aid stations and

with communications. The Paper let us use their FAX line to receive pre-registrations. Many other Pinawa citizens helped to ensure that the kids went the right way on the course, controlled snowmobile traffic where the course crossed the snowmobile trail, kept track of skiers as they passed the aid stations, and recorded when the skiers finished.

Skiers and patrons of The Pinawa Club were treated to very enjoyable music supplied by members of the Pinawa Stage Band. The distances are 30km, 15km, 7.5km for adults and youth, as well as shorter distances for children - 2.5 km, or 5km. All prizes this year will be given out by draw, although first to third place kids will get medals.

Ski Club members can also compete for the Whiteshell trophies, which are awarded each year to the Clubs fastest male and female in the 30 Loppet. Last year Peter Vilks won the trophy for the males, and would you believe it there was no female entered! Girls - did you know that you could have your name be preserved for all of time on this reverent trophy if you ski just 15km (if no other female skis 30). Start training now, and come and compete!

Come on out on Sunday January 23 and participate or cheer on the skiers in the Loppet. It won't be a success without you! If you would like to participate and need more information, or want to volunteer your help call Peter at 753-2971.

Ski Club Executive

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

Jackrabbit Tracks

Bruce Goodwin

We've survived the summer that never quite arrived and now the best season of the year is here! Our local Jackrabbits will soon be back on their skis with nary a thought about mosquitoes and bears. For you new comers, Jackrabbits is the name of the children's ski program organized by the Whiteshell Cross Country Ski Club.

Our first few Jackrabbit sessions of the year are already over! On Sunday, October 17, more than 60 children and parents hiked out the Ski Club's Red Trail. Our trip took us through spruce bogs and pine forests, past some incredible scenery and many outstanding views. The ground was soggy, some people made a wrong turn and the marshmallows were late in arriving, but we did have a fine time. Our destination was the warm-up cabin on the Red Trail and some of the keener Jackrabbits built a pair of inukshuks. Our next hike was on Sunday October 31 and with some careful scouting we found a trail that was mostly dry. We ended up at a fantastic view overlooking the channel. The water here is often open throughout the winter and a good spot to look for busy beavers and the odd bird that forgot to migrate.

By the time this eXCetera comes out, we will have held our third and maybe fourth hikes. On November 7, we combined a hike with a waxing clinic and swap shop, and on November 14, we'll explore more trails in the area. Snow dances are planned so we'll be on skis any week now. We'll ski until the snow disappears, maybe right through into May!

The Whiteshell Cross Country Ski Club and the Jackrabbit Program have been active in EastMan for more than 25 years and over one thousand children have joined in. Jackrabbits learn the fundamentals of ski techniques and fitness in an atmosphere of fun and adventure. We play games on snow, like Fox and Rabbits, Quiddich and Soccer. We have tours, fires, marshmallows, ski jumps, hot chocolate and more games. In between we learn basic techniques such as the herringbone and snow plow, up to the advanced 2-skate and marathon skate. The Jackrabbit Program is designed for



The Gemini Innuksuk and Artists, one of many sculptures found on our trails.

all ages, but most children are between 7 and 14 years old. Parents are encouraged to join the fun.

Our Club also offers ski lessons for Grey Hairs. Older skiers can join the Jackrabbits at any time or arrange for more discrete adult lessons. We welcome skiers from everywhere. Last year we were happy to greet Jackrabbits from Lac du Bonnet, Seven Sisters, River Hills, Winnipeg and even (for a few short weeks) a small town called Fontainebleau near Paris.

We meet every Sunday from 2 to 4 PM, from late fall to early spring. Our normal meeting place will be the Pinawa Club parking lot, and any changes are advertised on Channel 12. For more information on Jackrabbits or the Ski Club, call Bruce Goodwin at 753-8393 – or just join us for a hike or ski one of these beautiful winter days.

CCSAM Swap Shop - November 20th

The 23rd Annual Cross Country Ski Swap Shop will be held this year at the Windsor Park Nordic Centre, 10 Des Meurons Street in Winnipeg.

Drop-off of items to sell is on Friday November 19th 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 licensing requirement.

The Sale is on Saturday November 20th from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The admission cost is \$1 per person or \$2 per family.

Volunteers are needed for set-up and take-down, security, sales, and

cashiering. Please contact Karin in the CCSAM office at ccsam@shawcable.com or 925-5639 if you'd like to volunteer.

This is a great opportunity to buy or sell equipment, especially kids' gear which is always in demand. Please go to www.ccski.mb.ca/events/information.htm for complete information about buying and selling guidelines and rules.

You can also check out the CCSAM website's Buy & Sell page at www.ccski.mb.ca/buy_and_sell.htm if you're interested in buying or selling ski equipment.

Did You Know?

A member of the Whiteshell Ski Club now sits on the Board of Directors of the Cross Country Ski Association of Manitoba. Drew Hawranik was elected as a Member-at-Large at the CCSAM's Annual General Meeting held in Winnipeg on October 23rd. Drew lives in Stead, Manitoba. The minutes of the AGM can be found on CCSAM's web site: http://www.ccski.mb.ca/staff_and_board_documents.htm