

## BLACK JACK CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2006

Here's our latest newsletter. If you have information you would like posted in this newsletter, please email Susan at [svanasselt@telus.net](mailto:svanasselt@telus.net)

### GROOMING

Notes from Richie Mann in his own words:

- This year we have 2 new people on the grooming machines: Graham Jones and Tom Pearson. They are doing very well at learning this complicated job. They are both retired, very conscientious and trying to turn out the best product they can while at the same time being careful not hurt our equipment.
- Grooming can be a very stressful job, made even worse at the beginning of the season when you have to deal with 16' wide trails (15' in spots) with a 15' wide machine and wet & sticky snow conditions that just plug up your tillers. Other clubs have much wider trails than we do which makes getting rid of soft centers a lot easier.
- There aren't many people who would go out in the dark in a snow storm by themselves armed with a chainsaw to cut out fallen trees & try to negotiate a 15' wide machine through these trails while watching your 4 corners, your many dashboard gauges, your 2 track-setters & your front blade all while trying to not make any wiggles in the classic track. Not an easy job.
- Our groomers would welcome anyone who wants to come ride along in the comfortable passenger seat & see what it is really like out there. They would welcome the company. Bring a snack and warm clothing. Call me (Richie) to set it up. 362-9465
- After they come in from grooming each operator cleans the snow off & checks the machine over good to look for possible cracks, loose connections, bolts, tracks, tires, electrical etc. He oils, greases and fuels it up for the next shift. Sometimes there are things to fix. The demands and expectations of the club increase each year too.
- I am writing this because I hear that people have had complaints. If you have a complaint don't go hollering at people who can't give you an answer. Call me (Richie Mann) 362-9465 so we can discuss the problem. No email please 'cause I won't answer it.
- We are not running on any set grooming schedule. We will be setting when we get a snowfall but if it is wet & sticky we won't groom then. We'll wait til it is possible to groom when it cools off. We will also groom when the trails are getting skied out and need re-doing.
- We got our new Ginzu groomer (Purchased in part with a donation from the Rossland Credit Union) together today thanks to Graham Jones & Rick Ewings so I hope we can use it to freshen up our trails & save the big machines for the tougher jobs. We have the Ginzu hooked up to our old Alpine ski-doo- it has lots of power to pull it.
- Both our Sno-cats are running fine now but they are getting tired so we really need to baby them along. The biggest problem we've had so far this year is the starter which went out on the BR400 & cost over \$700 for a replacement from Vancouver.
- For people who complain about increased fees, they should know that all of our operating costs for fuel, oil and parts have gone up alot. We also have more trails to groom & early in the season like this it takes longer to get around all the trails.
- There are a couple more good people who want to learn to operate our equipment & so the plan is to bring them into the loop as soon as possible.
- Please phone me if you have concerns about anything. When you see an operator doing his best out there give him the thumbs up and a big smile. It's not an easy job!

Richie- December 2007

## MASTERS AND NORAMS

All Nordic skiers take note, especially Master, Junior and U23 racers: Our club will be hosting our two biggest race events ever:

First, we are proud to have been selected to host the third race of the **2006-07 Haywood NorAm Series**. The Haywood NorAm event is also a qualifier for the **Junior and U23 World Championships** to be held in Italy. Our event January 4-7, 2007, will feature both up and coming Canadian and USA national team members as well as the hottest younger skiers in the country. There will also be open categories for other racers. We are very pleased to announce that **Hosting BC** gave us a **\$10k grant for operating expenses for the Jr/U23/NorAm race**. Our **Kootenay Cup races** will be included in this weekend too- fun for all ages! Sign up now.

Next, we'll be hosting the **2007 Canadian Masters' Championships**, now called the **Kootenay Savings Community Foundation Canadian Masters Championships**. This event, for skiers over 30 years of age, will feature interesting racing events and include demos, clinics, and much more during the week of February 4-11, 2007. Our **25<sup>th</sup> Annual Loppet** will take place this weekend, and is now included in the Salomon Marathon Cup Series.

If you haven't already signed up to **volunteer** at the **big races** coming up its not too late! These will be fun and exciting events for our club and town. (And don't forget you can get a rebate on your pass price by volunteering!) Contact Alex: [alex\\_loeb@msn.com](mailto:alex_loeb@msn.com)

For more information on both of these exciting events see [www.skiblackjack.ca](http://www.skiblackjack.ca) and accomplish your competitive goals at Black Jack!

## GENEROUS DONATIONS

We are pleased to announce that we just received **\$15k grant for our new groomer from Kootenay Savings Community Foundation**. Money from other generous donors like **Red Mountain Resort** and the **Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (\$5k each)** as well as other donations will be used to bolster our application to the government for a matching grant. Hopefully by next season we'll have a new big kitty. Until then Richie is "babying" our machines. Watch for the new **Ginzu Groomer** on the trails this year. Many thanks to the **Nelson & District Credit Union's gift** of  $\frac{1}{2}$  the cost and, with **Gericks**, the CU helped to purchase our nice new lycra racing bibs.

**Check our list on the web of all corporate donors for the 2006 & 2007 seasons and be sure to thank our generous friends.**

## SKI SWAP & GST

Thank you to **Sue Bennie** for stepping up and organizing the Ski Swap. We got rave reviews for this event and we appreciate all of the hard work she and her team put into it. We would also like to report that our membership revenues for Black Jack are way ahead of last year and we have already brought in an excess of \$52,000. This is great news but it also means that we now have to pay GST, starting January 1. Please pay for your season's pass before January 1 in order to avoid paying GST. Everything will be subject to GST after Jan. 1, 2007

## TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Ethan Meginnes, who with Andy Morel, headed up our trail maintenance committee this year has had a number of people out to help get the trails ready for grooming and skiing. We would like to thank Tom Pearson and Bob McQueen who went with Tim Peacock and finished brushing the alder above Beaumont meadows. Ethan went with Scott Leyland, the original Black Jack President, and Scott's wife down Hemlock. They clipped all the saplings, cut any branches they could reach and moved several rocks and logs that were getting hit. They also went over and clipped at Loggers. Andy also went out with several work parties in October and got a lot done. Fred Bushell and Andy cleared some dead trees out for us too around the kiosk. Rick Ewings did a lot of heavy lifting up at biathlon. Thanks guys for getting things going so we can ski earlier!

## BUILDINGS MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR

We are still looking for a Buildings Maintenance Coordinator. Someone to keep an eye on our buildings and organize work parties as needed for repairs. If you are this person, please contact Kathy Moore at [km@2cats.net](mailto:km@2cats.net). We're also looking for an engineer to look at our maintenance shed- we have a drainage issue there that needs to be addressed. Please contact Kathy Williams [Kathy@dkw.ca](mailto:Kathy@dkw.ca) if you are willing to donate some time to look at the maintenance shed. Remember a volunteer organization is only as strong as its volunteers!

## POTLUCK

Look for details of a potluck and social event happening at Black Jack at Winter Carnival in the next newsletter.

## SKIER DEVELOPMENT: RABBITS, JR. RACERS & BIATHLON

Biathletes are at a race in Sovereign Lakes this weekend. We need a biathlon enthusiast to update the newsletter and website with news. Ditto for Jr Racers and Rabbits. Send info to [svanasselt@telus.net](mailto:svanasselt@telus.net). Send photos to [tgpearson@gmail.com](mailto:tgpearson@gmail.com) for the website.

## KATIMAVIK & KIOSK

Welcome, Beth Chipman, our first Katimavik volunteer. Please greet her when you see her at the Kiosk or volunteering at our events. Be sure to say hello to our other new kiosk attendant, Nerrisa too. And, make life easy for these gals, **SHOW YOUR PASS**. Patricia Senecal is our very capable kiosk manager this year.

## VOLUNTEERS

Kiosk attendants have volunteer vouchers at the kiosk if you have volunteered and would like to cash in on your volunteer hours. Please see them for the appropriate forms. If you want a rebate on your pass at the end of the season you must submit your volunteer vouchers before the AGM. Rebates will not automatically be given because many members have indicated they are happy to volunteer with no expectation of a rebate.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU ALL!

To all who want to celebrate New Year's Eve in classic Black Jack style- come out to the bonfire at Torresson's cabin and gaze at the stars! (BYOB etc)