

# BLACK JACK CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB

## NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2007

For up to date skiing conditions, visit our website at [www.skiblackjack.ca](http://www.skiblackjack.ca) , phone the snow phone at 364-5445, or listen to KBS in the mornings for Richie's report on grooming and snow conditions at Black Jack. To add information to this newsletter, please email [svanasselt@telus.net](mailto:svanasselt@telus.net)

### **AGM**

The Annual General Meeting for Black Jack this year is March 31, 2007. The event will be held at the Miner's Hall and will start at 6 PM. We will let you know if the event will be catered or pot luck style. Plan to be there! Diana, our social chair, has many different activities planned for this year's AGM. Watch for additional information coming soon.

### **SHORT TRACK RELAY**

The Short Track will also be held on March 31, 2007. The theme this year is Dr. Seuss characters and start time is 11 AM. This is a fun event for the whole family. Come out and celebrate a GREAT ski winter in Dr. Seuss style!

### **GROOMING**

Richie and his troop of operators are out in full force these days, preparing a loop starting at 6 AM for early morning skiers and completing the grooming in time for afternoon and evening skiers to enjoy their skiing experience as well. Mark Martin, and Tom Pearson are out grooming now and Graham will be back next year after his return from Australia. Mark is a very experienced mechanic and has been able to locate many of the mechanical issues on the machines which have helped our trails to be groomed more consistently recently. Richie's plan for grooming is to keep the Bombardier once we have the new Groomer which will allow two people to be out grooming at the same time when this is needed. We also have plans to widen the trails and this will also help with grooming. The LMC, which is slow as it only has one speed, is being used to plow the parking lot and Richie's field as well as Centennial Trail. Richie is always interested in hearing from anyone who has mechanical experience who would be interested in grooming. Please phone him at 362-9465.

### **BIG CAT KITTY AND FUNDRAISING**

The fundraising committee has been hard at work applying for matching grants to complement the money that has been donated to buying the new Groomer. \$15,000 has been donated by Kootenay Savings Community Foundation, \$25,000 has been donated by Teck Cominco, \$5,000 has been donated by Red Mountain, and \$5,000 has been donated by the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary. \$18,000 was raised by hosting the Masters and the NorAms and individual members have donated \$15,000 to go towards the new groomer. This is a total of \$83,000. Check the website for a complete listing of our donors and be sure to thank them. Kathy Moore and her committee of fundraisers have just sent in the applications for the matching grants. If we are successful, we will be able to buy our new Groomer and snowmobile for next year. This means more consistent grooming next year. If you still want to donate to this fund, please contact Kathy Moore at [km@2cats.net](mailto:km@2cats.net) This is a very key component to Black Jack's plans for the future and we are very committed to making this happen.

## **RACER NEWS**

Racers at Black Jack have been having a very busy season. Read on for information regarding the BC Championships and impressive placing from our Black Jack Racers.

Clare Peacock and Rebecca Reid have been named to the BC Ski Team A will attend the 2007 Canadian National Championships in Quebec, March 18-25th.

Monica Markvardsen competed in the Junior Olympics Qualifier in Washington, US. She was 1st in the classic race and 2nd in the sprint race. She has qualified for the US Junior Nationals.

Sierra Gibson and Susanne Fraser have been applauded for their skating technique at the BC Midget Championships.

Jonas Sandstrom raced in the Keskinada Loppet in the Ottawa area and placed 14<sup>th</sup> in a field of 2800 people.

Feb 24 & 25, BC Championships at Stake Lake near Kamloops. 11 skiers from Black Jack- 8 kids and 3 adults competed. Saturday was skate race with individual start and Sunday was Classic Relay with mass start.

Saturday Results: Mini Midget Boys (2.5 km)- 5th Mackenzie Gibson. Midget Girls (3.75 km)- 4th Sierra Gibson, 5th Suzanne Fraser, 14th Christine Cook. Juvenile Girls (5 km)- 3rd Rebecca Reid. Juvenile Women (7.5 km)-2nd Clair Peacock. Juvenile Boys (7.5km)- 9th Alex Cook, 20th Stewart Cook. Senior Men (10 km)- 8th Rob Spiller Master Men 41-50 yrs (10 km)- 2nd Eric Sachs. Master Men 51-60 yrs (10 km)- 1st Fred Bushell Sunday Results: Midget Girls Relay (3 x 2.5km)-3rd Sierra, Suzanne and Christine. Senior Men Relay (3 x 5km) -6th Rob, Eric and Fred.

In overall club placing at the Championships Black Jack was 7th out of 17 teams. As well 2007 BC Cup Aggregate Awards were presented (points collected by placing in all BC cups for that season): Juvenile Girls- 1st place Rebecca Reid. Juvenile Women - 2nd Place Claire Peacock

## **JACK RABBITS**

Jack Rabbits have had another great year. Forty children signed up for the program which started before Christmas and wraps up March 11th. Classes run every Sunday from 1:00pm to 2:30 pm and Tuesday evenings from 4:30pm to 5:30pm. Ages range from 4 to 12 years old.

We implemented the new Jack Rabbit program this year switching from the old system of multiple badges to 5 levels (Bunny rabbits up to Level 4). Children are awarded stickers that go in each child's individual Jack Rabbit book, a keepsake that stays with them throughout their time in the program. There are also stickers awarded for sprints, days skied outside of class and a hat trick category. The children are all excited about getting their stickers and report cards this Sunday March 4th and having our fun wrap up day on Sunday March 11th.

Fun was had by all at our annual Mini-Olympics (organized by Fred Bushell and Nellie Fisher). The kids had chariot races, relay races and a balloon popping race. Teams were formed with kids from all levels and each team represented a country.

All the children learned lots of skills and had an abundance of fun during the season! Thanks to all the great coaches who volunteer for this program and to all the parents who help out each week with snacks and as assistants.

We are in need of more coaches. If you are interested please contact Nellie Fisher at 362-5807 or [glennandnellie@shaw.ca](mailto:glennandnellie@shaw.ca).

### **MASTERS AND NORAMS**

Black Jack hosted two high caliber and intense ski races this winter. Feedback from both races was that we did a great job! Thanks to all the volunteers. You made the events happen. Also, thanks to Jonas Sandstrom and Ian Sibbald, our two Chiefs of Race for overseeing these two prodigious events.

Apparently, during the NorAm's, Ferraro Foods ran out of eggs and bananas and other businesses noticed an increase in business during both races. Gerick's almost completely ran out of klister during the Masters races. Events like these definitely contribute to our local economy. Recreational skiers who had to put up with less than perfect skiing conditions during this time, we thank you for your patience and understanding. Our plan for next time we have big races will be to continue grooming the rest of the trails at the same time as grooming for the races. This will be possible when we have our new Groomer as that will allow two operators to be out at the same time. As a result of hosting these races, Black Jack was able to add \$18,000 the Big Cat Kitty.

### **NEWS FROM GEORGE**

George Grey has posted his best result in the men's 30 km pursuit race at the World Cross Country Ski Championships when he finished 25<sup>th</sup> in Sapporo, Japan. He sends his regards to Black Jack and thanks us for the support we give him.

**NEW LOFT!** Many thanks to Andy Morel, Chris Wolf, Roly Worsfold and Ken Absher for building the new loft in the grooming shed for all of the equipment we have accumulated for the races we hold. These master carpenters built the entire structure in one hard charging afternoon. Volunteers are what make Black Jack great!

### **OTHER SUCCESSFUL EVENTS AT BLACK JACK THIS WINTER**

- Lesley Beatson's skate ski clinic
- Andy Morel's women on x-c skis clinic
- Kootenay Winter Quest

**STILL LOTS OF SNOW OUT THERE- KEEP SKIING!**