

**BLACK JACK CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB
NEWSLETTER MARCH 2007**

We are approaching the end of the ski season and we have two great events planned to cap off a great year. We are still grooming out at Black Jack and will continue to groom two loops as long as there are skiers skiing. Check with the kiosk for up to date information regarding which loops have been groomed. Or, phone the snow phone at 364-5445, listen to KBS for Richie's grooming report, or check our website at www.skiblackjack.ca If you want to post anything to this website, email Susan at svanasselt@telus.net

SHORT TRACK RELAY

The short track relay will be held on March 31, 2007. It is a classic skiing race with 3 people to a team. It will begin with registration at 9; race at 10 and BBQ afterwards. The theme is **Dr. Seuss**. Everyone is welcome to dress up, come out and have some fun with this event. We are looking to borrow a BBQ for this event as well (call Diana at 362-7717 if you are able to loan one.) Fee: \$5 per person.

AGM

The AGM will be held at the Parish Hall this year and doors open at 5:30 pm on March 31, 2007. There will be a wine cellar raffle - club members have been asked to donate a bottle of wine to the cause. Everyone who donates a bottle will receive a ticket for the raffle. Otherwise, tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00. Those planning to donate a bottle can bring their donation to the AGM dinner or call Diana at 362-7717. Other raffle items include a pair of ski poles that have been donated by Gerick's, value \$200.00, and a gift basket put together by the Junior Racers. Junior Racers will also be doing the 50/50 draw again this year, with proceeds going back to the racers. Speakers include Tracey Saxby who will give a short talk on banning plastic bags in Rossland and Junior Racers coach, Chris Manhard, will take about his coaching experience since he arrived here last September. Tracey will be playing her guitar. Dave Cornelius is putting together a slide show of Black Jack Ski season - 2006-07 - please submit pictures to Dave via CD. **A VERY SPECIAL SURPRISE GUEST MAY MAKE A SHORT APPEARANCE- Can you guess???...YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS EVENT.** Tickets for the dinner are on sale at Alpine Drug Mart in

Rossland and at Gerick's in Trail. Adults - \$17.00; children 12 and under - \$11.00 and children 6 and under - \$6.00. Please purchase tickets by March 28th as the caterers need to know how many people are attending. For more information: please call Diana at 362-7717 or e-mail at: soltice-wilkes@shaw.ca.

ELECTIONS AT BLACK JACK

Elections will be held for Director and Officer positions and nominations can be made from the floor at the AGM .Or contact Kathy Moore with your nomination- Don't be shy, nominate yourself! km@2cats.net

VOLUNTEER VOUCHERS

Remember, if you volunteered this year and earned 30 units you can get a \$30 rebate on your pass. You must let us know you want to do this. Pick up your copy of the volunteer vouchers at the kiosk and send Kathy Moore an email-km@2cats.net We'll have a check for you at the AGM.

PARKING LOT MAINTENANCE

In an effort to control erosion and wash-out in the parking lot we have closed it to cars. Hopefully this will give the dirt a chance to settle. Constant traffic continues to churn it up and cause muddy run off. Please park on the road. Due to the generosity of Forestry, we have obtained some bags of seed and will be seeding some of the area as soon as conditions allow. Additionally, we have requested more seed from the Ministry of Highways and in several grant applications. We will also be putting hay bales in our ditches to filter the runoff as soon as the ditches are visible. (currently still under snow) So far the French drains (trenches of rock) installed last fall have mitigated the situation somewhat but if heavy rains continue our problems will intensify. Your help is greatly appreciated.

SNOWMOBILES UNWELCOME AT BLACK JACK

Know anyone with a snowmobile? Please ask them not to use BJSC trails. Skating out Gibbards has been very unpleasant since a snowmobile had gone all the way out to the end. The City have assured us it was not their workers and had nothing to do with the new reservoir. Unfortunately tracks have also been seen on Mugwumps and Spitzee.

BIATHLON NEWS

Black Jack hosted a final biathlon competition on Saturday,. Despite the rainy conditions our biathletes had a great time. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped out.

TECK COMINCO DONATES \$25,000 TO BLACK JACK

Teck Cominco Metal Ltd. Has made a \$25,000 donation to Black Jack's "Big Cat Kitty" fund to purchase new grooming equipment. Over the last 10 months the club has raised \$85,000 from local businesses including Teck Cominco Metals Ltd., Kootenay Savings Community Foundation, Red Mountain Resort, Regional District of Kootenay Boundary as well as other businesses, club members and the profits of hosting two high profile ski races. We need \$170,000 to purchase a new (gently used) Pisten-Bully cat and a more powerful Yamaha snowmobile. The club has applied for matching funds from a Spirit of 2010 Olympic/Paralympic Live Site grant program and is anxiously awaiting a response.

The club hosted two very successful events this season; The Haywood Nor Am series and the Kootenay Savings Community Foundation Canadian Masters

Championships. These events brought many visitors to our area and gave a big boost to our local economy. Due to the well run races, challenging terrain and the abundant snow conditions, Black Jack established its reputation as an excellent hosting site. The only weak link was the club's old and tired grooming equipment. In order to insure that the trails could be



groomed to the standard of excellence required for this level of competition, the club borrowed some equipment from Nelson Nordic. To continue to host high caliber events and thus contribute to the local economy, upgrading the grooming equipment is essential. The Club greatly appreciates the support of local businesses and individuals who contributed to this campaign.

BLACK JACK SKIERS RACE AT US JUNIOR NATIONALS

The 2007 National Junior Olympics at Soldier Hollow culminated a year long series of regional qualifying competitions for athletes across the United States. Soldier Hollow, Utah was the site for cross country skiing competitions in the 2002 Olympics. The 2007 National Junior Olympics was from March 5 - 10 and had more than 400 elite youth athletes competing for national championship titles, All-American status and the coveted Alaska Cup. Black Jack Ski Club members, Darrin and Monica Markvardson qualified and competed with the Pacific Northwest Division, both eventually earning All-American status and finishing in the top 10 in every race. The Markvardson's are US Citizens who immigrated to Rossland, in 2004. Darrin, a Rossland Secondary School graduate, currently skis for the University of Alaska Anchorage where he earned an athletic scholarship for cross country skiing. Darrin's age group of 18 to 19 year olds had 58 skiers. Monica is in grade 10 at Rossland Secondary School, her age group had 57 skiers aged 14 to 15.

1.3K Sprints

Darrin - Qualified with the 4th fastest time in his age group. He moved on in the quarter finals to the semi-final round by winning his heat. In the semi-finals, he was edged out in 3rd place and moved to the B-Final. In the B-final he made a statement of his speed by winning by 2.9 seconds to finish in 5th place overall.



Monica - Qualified with the 7th fastest time in her age group. She moved on in the quarter finals to the semi-final round by coming in 2nd in her heat. In the semi-finals, she was edged out in 3rd place by the eventual 3rd place finisher. She ended up with an overall 8th place by coming in 4th in the B-final.

Mass Start Skate Race - Each lap was on the Olympic 5 K course

Darrin - 15 K (3 laps) - Finished 8th with a time of 40:03.7, 1:19.3 seconds behind the winner.

Monica - 5 K (1 lap) - finished 9th with a time of 15:43.9, 37.0 seconds behind the winner.

Interval Start Classic Race - Because a downpour and high temperatures deteriorated the Olympic course, the course was moved to a 5 K course of man made snow with a long climb up a gully and descends down several up and down switch backs.

Darrin - 10 K (2 laps) - Finished in 8th with a time of 28:07.53, 1:22.79 seconds behind the winner.

Monica - 5 K (1 lap) - Monica made it to the podium with a 3rd place finish with a time of 14:17.75, 7.53 seconds behind the winner.



Monica on the podium for the 5K Classic

Full results can be found at:

http://www.summittiming.com/race_results/2007/jos/