



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

Although we don't have much snow for skiing yet, we have had cold temperatures making fabulous conditions for skating out at Nancy Greene Lake - what a great way to prepare for the ski season! For up to date snow conditions you have a number of options this year:

- visit our website at www.skiblackjack.ca
- phone our snow phone at 364-5445 and choose option 1
- or listen to KBS on the Wayne and Jane show.

Thanks to all volunteers and participants for making our Ski Swap and Snow Show a big success. For organizing this great event, a big "thank you" goes to Sue Bennie and Diana Wilkes.

When the snow arrives, we are ready to roll with Big Red Cats providing the grooming this winter.

WELCOME, FROM BIG RED CATS



Blackjack Grooming for 2007/2008

Who is doing the grooming this winter: Big Red Cats, a Rossland company, will be organizing the grooming this winter.

What is the general approach to grooming?

Subject to snow conditions there will normally be some type of grooming 7 days per week. The aim will be to have approximately a 7-10km loop (see Figure 1 below) groomed by around 7.00 am each day. The rest would be done in a timely manner, generally early in the morning. The following schedule outlines what type of grooming makes up a "full week" of grooming.

Type of groom	Times per week – and default day
Full Groom – entire network	3 times per week – Default days would be Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday
Half Groom - half network	2 times per week - Friday and Tuesday would be the default days
Touch up - single loop	2 times per week - Monday and Thursday would be the default days

Should conditions be less than favourable for grooming (early and late season typically), "partial week" grooming will be done.

Who will be grooming? Variety of drivers for Big Red Cats – all will be experienced snowcat drivers that have been selected by Big Red Cats

When will the grooming start? Once there is enough snow on the ground – so that we do not damage the machines. Depending on that date and the amount of snowfall, we may start off on "partial week" grooming rather than "full week" grooming.

Why Big Red Cats? We have a large pool of drivers and we can provide expert mechanical, administrative and logistical support.

How will we communicate what has been groomed?

- We will aim to have the website updated by 7am – 7.30am each day.
- Look out for the sign in the middle of the main trail saying "Grooming in progress".
- Look for the board at the Blackjack kiosk with updates as to what has been groomed

What if you have an issue or concern with grooming? Please talk to Richie Mann as Blackjack's grooming representative who will then talk to Big Red Cats. We will also try to have a feedback form at the kiosk that can be completed by members and day pass users.

How can I stay safe around snowcats?

- Look for the sign stating that the groomer is out on the trails – exercise a high degree of caution if it is on the trails – please listen for the machine
- Do not get too close to the machines
- Try to make sure that the Driver has seen you and that the driver has lowered the blade of the machine before approaching.

Looking forward to a great season!

Big Red Cats

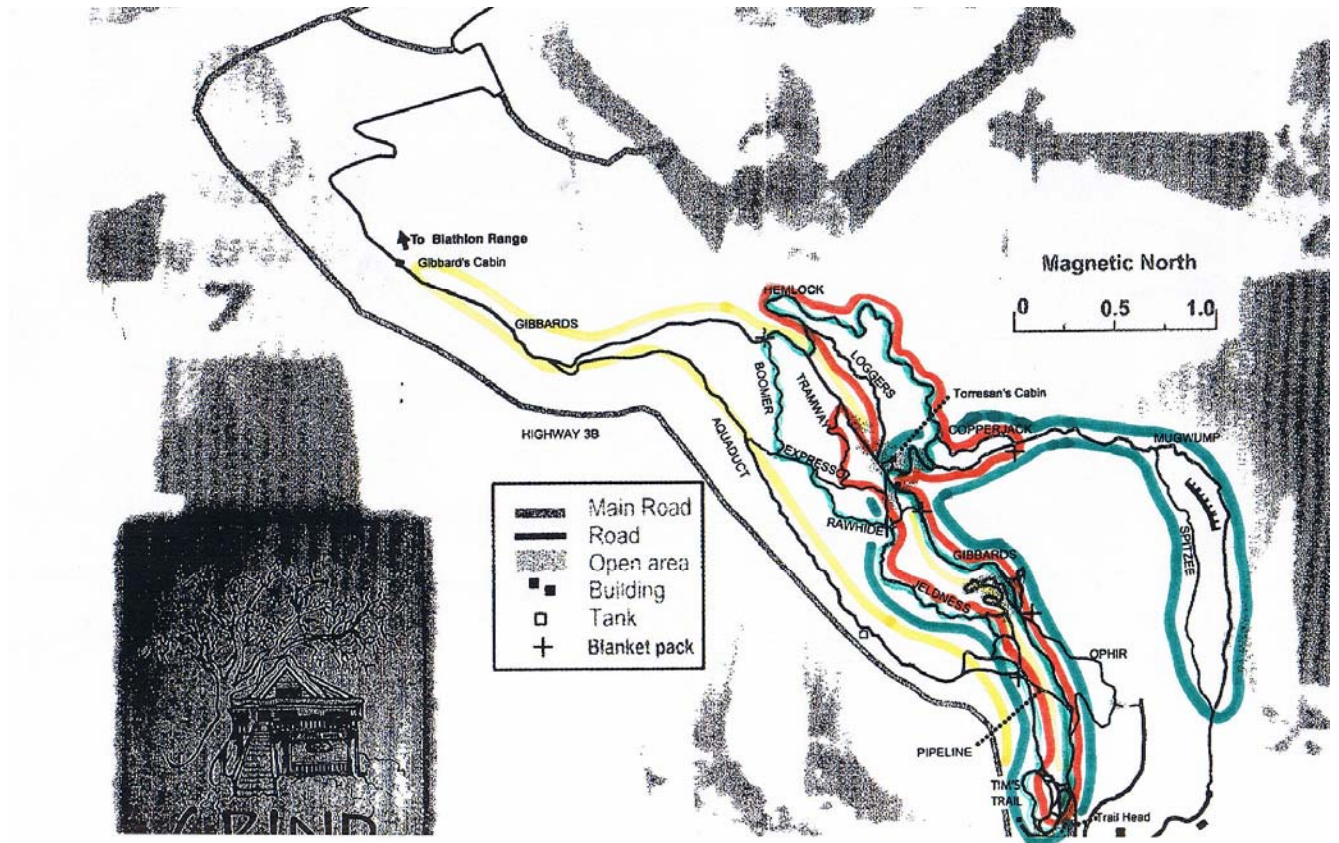


Figure 1 Sample 7-10 km loops (yellow, red, thick green, thin green)

PUBLIC TRANSIT TO AND FROM THE SKI AREA

There will be NO public transit to the ski area from town this winter. BC Transit is reviewing their schedules this year and will be sending an information form and survey to the general public via mail. It's very important that everyone fill in these forms and return them, with strong recommendations for bus service to Black Jack. Please keep an eye out for these forms in your mailbox, complete them and return them back to BC Transit!

HIGH COUNTRY SPORTS HAS CHANGED OWNERS AND LOCATION

High Country Sports continues to sell and rent cross country ski equipment and is now located in Downtown Rossland across from the Prestige Hotel at 1952 Columbia Ave. Phone them at 362-5123 or 231-4621. They will be open Thursday to Monday from 10 AM-5 PM. Individuals, families and groups are welcome! High Country Sports is open for business Saturday December 1, 2007. Join Wendy, Clea, and Michael Hargreaves on December 8, from 6-8PM for the grand opening.

GROUP USE OF THE CABINS

Due to the increased frequency of group outings on our trails, we highly recommend that you alert the kiosk in advance (in person or by email or telephone) when you are planning a large group outing and would like to use either the Trail Head Cabin or Torressan's Cabin. While cabins cannot be reserved for the exclusive use of any group, we would like to post a calendar in the kiosk to highlight dates and times when groups are planning to use the cabins in an effort to minimize conflicts.

KOOTENAY WINTERQUEST

Kootenay Winterquest is back! This multi-sport winter adventure race will be held Feb 9th, 2008 in Rossland, BC. Check out the website at www.kootenaywinterquest.com. Stay tuned for more information and start honing your mountain biking, snowshoe orienteering, and puzzle solving skills in an effort to raise money for the Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital.

ROSSLAND MUSEUM NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Rossland Museum is looking for someone to help create a display featuring Black Jack Cross Country Ski Club in the Ski Wing of the museum. If you'd like to get involved in this fun project, please phone Libby Martin at 362-9472.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank Steve Harder of Interior Signs who volunteers many hours on behalf of Black Jack to create all the signage as well as the brochure and trail maps. Thanks, Steve! Thanks also to Dave Gibson for putting ventilation in our equipment shed.

GRANT UPDATES

We have just received a \$2000 grant from General Motors which will go towards improving the skills of our volunteer skier development coaches.

KATIMAVIK AND KIOSK NEWS

We will be hosting a Katimavik volunteer who will staff our kiosk Monday thru Friday starting in mid January. Say "hi" as you show them your pass or pay at the kiosk. This year we are pleased to announce that John Clark is a new staff member at the kiosk. Many people will know John from the tennis courts. Marilyn Nelson will also be staffing the kiosk this year and Patricia Senecal continues as our kiosk manager. Please remember to show the kiosk staff your pass each time you ski.

NEW GIBBARD'S CABIN UPDATE

The new cabin will be built next year. We have secured much of the material thanks to a large donation of wood from Forestry and will be looking for construction volunteers. Tim Peacock and Johann Kruus are coordinating the project.

See you on the trails!