

Minutes of Nelson Nordic Ski Club (NNSC) AGM

November 7, 2015

Rod & Gun Club, Nelson BC

Directors in attendance: Louise Poole, Katie Weir, Kaj Gyr, Chris Mulvihill, Erin Bates (absent: Peter Lewis, Nancy Quackenbush)

Staff in attendance: Ann Popoff, Lisa Butterworth, Karen Redfern

Members in attendance: see attached list. Total of 28

1. **Call to Order:** The Nelson Nordic Ski Club Annual General Meeting convened at 10:00am, with Co-President Louise Poole presiding.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes of previous AGM (November 9, 2014) was made by Lex Baas, and seconded by P'nina Shames
3. **President's Report & School Outreach Report – Louise Poole**
 - Introduction of the Board members and staff.
 - Thanks to all our Board members and volunteers for another great year last year. We could never do what we do without everyone pitching in for grant writing, work bees, brushing trails, etc.
 - Also like to thank our staff, Ann, Lisa, Kjell, Ralph and Karen who work tirelessly at times to keep the club running, the trails groomed and the programs full of happy kids having fun.
 - Last year our season was cut short due to lack of snow. The Board decided to give our members from last year a 10% discount to make up for losing about a month's worth of skiing last spring.
 - Our club is doing well financially as you will see in the financial report. We were able to sell our old PB60 as it was starting to require more repairing. Ann and Andy Popoff found a great machine in Kelowna which was delivered this week. We are quite excited as it is a smaller unit, a BR180 and will be versatile for plowing and getting on the snow sooner to pack and groom.
 - We had all our bridges and light poles inspected this year and we are replacing one bridge out on Apex and will make plans for future replacements as needed. We use the decks of flatbed trucks so it takes planning and equipment to install them.
 - Thanks to our grant writers on the Board, we have been fortunate to receive \$5000 last year and again this coming season from the RBC Learn to Play program. We also received \$3500 last year and \$2000 this year from CCBC. This funding is used to support our School Outreach program. We buy ski equipment, replacement bindings, terrain park equipment and other games and activities to enhance the fun experience the kids have. We use the funding to train the instructors. We're also putting up a story board throughout the trail system which will make it fun for the kids to read and see pictures as they ski along. We had 676 kids go through 2-3 times last year. The funding supports us keeping our costs low to make it affordable for the schools. We are fully booked for this year already.

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- We are still looking for one more coach for the School Outreach program if anyone is interested in about 20 hours a week working in the great outdoors. See Karen or myself after the meeting.
- We've also used some of the funding to support our junior programs. We bought 5 sets of roller skis for the Track Attack program to use for their dryland training which started Oct 25th. We have about 15-18 kids from 9 years and up and I think they are having a great time so far. It's all about fun, being active, working as a team and improving their fitness and ability to cross country ski. The TA group is purchasing some team uniforms for the kids to ski in at Kootenay Cups. We will also be offering the uniforms to any adults who are interested. Please see me afterwards if you want more information. The parents are fundraising for the event, including \$10 for a ski cleaning and wax job just outside under the tents today. They are also looking for sponsors who would have their logo on the uniforms.
- We could use some more parent volunteers to help coach the Jack Rabbit and Bunnies this year. We pay for parents to take the coaching introductory courses that are being held in Rossland this year on Nov 13-14 and Nov 27-29. These are great courses if you want to learn better technique yourselves too. Please see Lisa if you are interested in helping out. We are limited in how many kids we can accommodate by the number of parents who volunteer to coach. We will also have Doris do a coaching clinic for all coaches to give you a brush up. The kids are there to have fun and be active and at that age it isn't as much about technique as feeling balanced on skis and being able to ski the bumps and jumps.
- We have a variety of activities and events planned for this season. Check out our event calendar online to find out when. Our Kootenay Cup and a Hill climb challenge are Jan 16 and 17. We have the Valentine's evening, a ski improvement clinic and Slopes for Hope event.
- We are looking for someone to coordinate the Slopes for Hope event along with Whitewater. If you are interested please Louise afterwards. It won't be a lot of work.
- We had around 800 members last year and that has been a consistent number for a while. We hope we can increase our membership this year – if the snow gods are good to us.
- Thanks to Jennifer and Joanne who coordinate the ski swap each year and to the volunteers who come out to help.

4. Treasurer's Report – Chris Mulvihill

- Financial Statement from Aug 31, 2015 was circulated
- Although the surplus/deficit shows a negative balance, that is due to the timing of the term deposit transfer.
- The club is in a solid financial position, and even after payment for the new BR180 is withdrawn, we will have a significant amount in the bank.

Motion to approve the financial report was made by Bill Smith, and seconded by Andrew Earnshaw. **Motion carried.**

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5. Programs Report – Kaj Gyr

- Track Attack training has started, as mentioned by Louise
- Nelson Kootenay Cup will be January 17 this year. Requested an informal show of hands to see whether the club would prefer to hold a classic or freestyle race. Support was roughly even for both options, with the majority of members abstaining. Club will need volunteers to help organize the race.
- Gericks will sponsor and help organize a Clearwater Hill Climb race on the Saturday preceding the Kootenay Cup (Jan 16)
- There is a new calendar on the website that has all upcoming events on it.

6. Operation Manager's Report – Ann Popoff

- Very excited to take delivery of the new grooming machine recently.
- The work bee and brushing efforts have been successful and the trails are ready
- Staff are busy preparing for the season, let's hope for a good snow year

7. Avalanche Assessment Update – Mark Duschene

- Kalesnikoff has proposed to harvest above and below Clearwater road approximately 0.5-1km up. If their proposed harvest goes ahead, some areas would become hazardous in winter due to increased avalanche risk.
- Mark has been working with Kalesnikoff to revise their harvesting plan in order to minimize avalanche hazard. They have been cooperative so far and Mark is hopeful that the impact on Nordic club members will be negligible.
- Harvesting would not take place during ski season.

8. Upcoming Paranordic Clinic – Katie Weir

- Tony Chin will be holding a Paranordic clinic aimed at enabling disabled community members to learn the sport of cross country skiing. Dates will be Dec or Jan, depending on snow conditions.
- Members are requested to spread the word to anyone who might be interested/qualified.

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9. Membership Input

- Doris Hausleitner: when will the club build a new lodge or upgrade the current one?
 - Response (Ann Popoff): Major improvements are difficult as the club does not own the property at Apex, and septic field is not allowed due to location at the headwaters of the Salmo River.
 - Some discussion regarding potential other locations and improvements
- P'nina Shames : Clearwater hut is “raunchy” and could use upgrades
- Andrew Earnshaw: are there any ideas for expansion or new location of club trails/facilities?
 - Ann Popoff: maybe Hall Siding, it is higher and would be Crown Land
 - Louise Poole: suggestions from membership would be welcome
 - Chris Mulvihill: there is some potential further up Clearwater but terrain is steep and access is difficult for majority of members.
- Sophie de Pauw: Is it possible to improve the heat retention in the new Euphrates cabin?
 - Ann Popoff: actually we have lowered the ceiling this year, hopefully that will help quite a bit.
- Andrew Earnshaw: suggested that surplus funds be used to fund a feasibility/vision project looking at expansion and/or relocation.

10. Election of Officers

- In the past year, three directors have resigned: Kevin Johnson, Michele Fisher, and Ron Sherman.
- Call for nomination of new directors: none were forthcoming
- Motion to re-elect the current board members was made by P'nina Shames, and seconded by Sophie de Pauw. **Motion carried.**
- **Note:** *Since the AGM, Jakob Dulisse has agreed to become a Director, and Marilyn Lee and Amy Taylor are planning to attend a Board meeting to see if they are interested.*

11. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Katie Weir, and seconded by Kaj Gyr. **Motion carried.**

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Members & Guests in Attendance:

Steve Kobs (guest)

Andrew Earnshaw

Eric Marks

Heather Lyon

Lauren Smith

Laurie Carr

Katie Sylvester

Rodica Janz

Amy Taylor

Lex Baas

Bill Smith

Lui Marinelli

Cal Read

Sarah Waterhouse

Bev Beek

Drew Danniels

Shawn Torgas

Kurstun Smith

Marc Deschenes

Marilyn Lee

Avery Debver

Carol Wallace

Andrew Chuuter

Dave McIntosh

Rod Taylor

Erik Leslie

Mike Terlesky