

LARCH HILLS NORDIC SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING FEB. 03, 2015

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:05 pm. 33 members in attendance.

Moved by Pauline Waelti and seconded by Blaine Carson to accept the agenda with 2 additions.  
PASSED

Moved by Tim Crane and seconded by Peter Molnar to accept minutes from Dec. 2, 2014 meeting as read. PASSED

**BUSINESS ARISING:** none

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Written by Al Bahen, presented by Duncan Moore, and attached to these minutes.

Income to date: \$128,152.59  
Expenses to date: \$98,922.66

Moved by Chris Letham and seconded by Jan Naylor to accept report as presented. PASSED

**STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE:** Dave Wallensteen

A summary of the public input meeting will be posted on the club website tomorrow, followed by a questionnaire/survey for the club membership. Attention will be drawn to the presence of the survey in the Friday AM as well as a posting on the sandwich board at the Chalet. Following directives from the public meeting, opinions will be gathered on operations, land use planning, human resources/volunteers, infrastructure, and governance. Results will go to the consultant and a draft plan created and presented to the membership at the AGM on March 31, 2015 .

**PROGRAMS:**

**Junior Race Team:** Abbi May

The team has just completed 9 straight weeks of races including 3 Tech Okanagan Cup Races for which they won the team title. Twenty skiers participated in an exchange with the Nakkertok Club in Ottawa where they also participated in the Eastern Canadian Championships and finished as the fourth place team! The team had 10 podium finishes in events fielded with 80+ competitors. Next weekend, 21 team members are off to Mt. Washington to participate in the BC Midget Championships. The BC Championships will follow in Kelowna. 7 skiers are heading to Thunder Bay in March for Nationals. The team has been fund raising for the trip and have also received generous donations from two Salmon Arm Rotary Clubs and from Askews Foods. The team is soliciting designs for club buffs and headbands which will be offered for sale, along with club jackets and tights, to club members in the fall. Check the club website for info.

**Jack Rabbits:** Marie Peterson

There are 144 registered Jack Rabbits and 21 coaches. A technique improvement session was held in December for the coaches and put on by the Race Team coaches. It is hoped that this successful session will be repeated next year to build coaching continuity in the two programs. Between 90 and 100 Jack rabbits participated in the RK-S Loppet. The need for more trails in the vicinity of the chalet that would be accessible to a large number of young skiers was expressed. Appreciation for new signs produced by Len Sept for the kids' fun/animal trails was noted as well as the occasional track setting of these trails. A few of the level 3 and 4 classes have held extra sessions on a Sunday or Wednesday in order to cover all the material specified for those levels.

**Explorers:** Jennifer Henrie

Although they are low in numbers this year (3), the group is working on enticing more participation for next year. There will be a promotional article in the local papers. They have enthusiastic support from leaders, Matt Henrie and Danielle Gifford, and well as the parents of those children involved. The program is ideally suited to those young skiers who have completed Jack Rabbits and who want to ski longer distances and a variety of terrain, yet aren't interested in racing.

## **EVENTS:**

### **Lantern Ski:** Ed Bouma

Many volunteers helped to make the lantern ski a success despite sub-zero temperatures were acknowledged. \$443 and 4 large boxes of food were collected for the food bank. Some new globes will need to be purchased and some wicks and seals on some of the lanterns replaced. There is a need for 4 propane or LED lanterns for future lantern ski events.

### **Okanagan Cup/Fun Race:** Duncan Moore

The race was well attended. They had great snow conditions and excellent set-up and timing crew. The sprints went off like clockwork unlike at other events. There was a problem with blocking off the trails from the public during the race. Some discussion ensued regarding the race trails available on our hill and where we might possibly expand in future.

### **Reino Keski-Salmi Loppet:** Louise Bruns

411 skiers registered and 250+ volunteers were involved. There has been quite a demographic shift whereby 50% of our participants this year were ages 13 and younger. There was fantastic weather and snow conditions, & super tracks on Loppet day. All the changes made (i.e. the 1 & 2 km course, expanded wine and cheese offerings, pizza option, family dance, etc.) seemed well received.

### **Pirate Loppet:** no one present to report

It was generally expressed to be a fun and successful event. Thanks were extended to the Lady Striders for their work feeding the hungry pirates.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Membership:** Jan Naylor

To date we have 957 registered members of which 143 are Jack Rabbits, 88 on the race team, 4 explorers, and 26 are snow shoe only.

### **Facilities:** Duncan Moore

Jim Beckner and Peter Molnar put screening on the stairs to help prevent people slipping. Although it is working, the screening is not holding up and will need to be redone. Tim Crane mentioned that he can provide a sample of a heavier gauge material that should hold up better.

### **Track setting:** Steve Raffel

Due to low snowfall, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> was the first outing for our new PB. There was a double shift of track setters out on Christmas Day whose work was well appreciated by eager skiers. More recently, they've had a challenging week with warm weather and therefore only the snowmobiles could be used. There are 6 volunteer track setters and 6 spares. Wayne Buchanan reported that we have 3 functioning snow mobiles that together can groom a trail in one pass. They provide a good learning opportunity for track setters. The safety hosts are also being familiarized with their use. Our newest snow mobile now has 1200 kms on it. There was a minor mishap with the '09 machine hitting a tree but Dave Brubaker has it functioning again.

### **Trails:** Blaine Carson

We have had to abandon Heart Break Hill for the rest of the season due to a water build up at the bottom. John Theilman will improve the drainage sometime during the off season. Blaine noted a few other minor single track trails that could possibly be developed for kids or race trails.

**Snow Shoe Trails:** Clint Smith

No new changes since the last report. All the trails are open and appear to be very well used. The trails are also well signed. New, glossy snow shoe and ski trail maps published by the CSRD are available in town at the Chamber of Commerce Tourist Information.

**Safety Committee/Ski patrol:** Steve Raffel

Steve and Mike Dobbin have ski patrol training and provide coverage at events. They have attended the 4 major events our club has hosted. They have trained 6 safety hosts. An AED is now available at the chalet. It was purchased with donations from Terratech, Dr.s Breugem, Howatt, and Phillips, and S. Raffel. There are zero incidents to report for 2015. A joint rescue exercise was held at Larch Hills together with the Search and Rescue. S.A.R. is keen to do a repeat exercise next year.

**Safety Hosts:** Keith Cox

There are 21 volunteer safety hosts, 10 of whom have their Level I First Aid. The hosts are working on snow mobile practise. George Zorn has developed a 'cell phone hot spot and emergency contact information list' handout that is available on the club website or at Wickett Business Service in town.

**Website:** Chris Emel

The issues with the drop down menu have been fixed. It is noted that the Events Calendar is not being utilized as it might be. Send information you want posted to Chris at [website@skilarchhills.ca](mailto:website@skilarchhills.ca)

**UPDATE ON DOG TRAIL:** Duncan Moore

Communication was received from Curt Olson stating that Woodlot 1572 now has new owners who have built a road connecting to Woodlot Ramble. The LHNS can continue to use our present dog trail which is on private land until the end of this season but he "requests that the club review and consider moving the canine trail back to its original location"....."now that track setter access is available." A bit of discussion ensued but the issue will go back to the executive to decide how to deal with it.

**SECURITY FOR SNOW MOBILES:** Blaine Carson

The club now owns \$25,000 worth of snow mobiles. At present the ignition keys are locked in the track setter shed which itself is protected by an alarm. However, we should be considering some sort of alarm system for the machines themselves.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

AGM Date is set for March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015

Herman Bruns requested members to consider nominations for executive positions. Elections will be held at the AGM.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 9:34 PM Moved by Dave Wallenstein

Minutes recorded by Tina Letham