

LARCH HILLS NORDIC SOCIETY
General Meeting
Tuesday, December 12, 2023
7:30 PM Salmon Arm Rec Centre Rm 1
Minutes

1. Welcome- President Suzy Beckner.

Acknowledged that we are gathering on the traditional territory of Secwépemc Nation.

Larch Hills Puffy Jackets are on sale online. Sizing was available at the meeting and will be at the chalet on Saturday December 14th. Thanks to Angela Parker.

Loppet 40th anniversary long sleeve shirts are also available until Dec 15th.

2. Quorum – 22

3. Adopt Agenda – Additions Duncan Moore motioned to adopt, Cam 2nd.

4. Minutes of Oct 10, 2023. Kerry Orchard motioned to approve with corrections. Cam Brown 2nd

5. Business arising outstanding issues: Nil

6. President's Report – Suzy B.

Suzy mentioned the later start to the season. The Groomers are working hard to prepare the trails for us. Thank you to all who participated in firewood and trail prep.

7. Treasurer's Report - Don M.

See attached report

Membership income is up from this time last year. Insurance cost increased significantly as we had increased the covered value of the chalet and bunker.

Fiscal year end has been changed to match with the ski season with the goal in future to have trail clearing and AGM together in the fall at Larch Hills in Fall, including presenting the budget and holding elections.

8. Manager's Report – Karen T. Operations Manager Report

- Chalet is getting busy. Lots of activity hiking and snowshoeing for a few days. Skiers are beginning to arrive. With the new snow the weekend got busy. 50 cars were up on Monday.
- Membership Draws have been made and published. Thank you to the sponsors:

- John's Ski Shack
- Skookum Bike and Ski
- Kintec
- Rancho Vignola
- Come pick up your prizes in the chalet office between 9am and 3 pm
- Some exciting events are coming up. Santa Cruise – Sunday, Dec 17. Come dress up in your festive attire and ski with Santa. Socializing with the Auction will take place in chalet after the ski. Some great items already donated:
 - Grandview Bench handmade truffles
 - Pottery
 - Active Chiro treatments
 - Hand made wool blanket
 - The infamous Christmas Cake
 - The very popular platter of home made baking
 - Anyone wanting to donate can drop it off in the chalet office or bring it with you on Sunday.
 - Please let Karen know what you might be providing.
 - All proceeds go to the Second Harvest Food Bank
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- Lantern Ski, December 28 – entry by donation – proceeds also going to Second Harvest
- Greeting Hosts needed for the Christmas holiday time. 2 hours shifts to greet visitors and answer questions in the stadium. Let me know if you want to take a shift.
- Thank you to Peter Wyss who put his carpentry skills to work and completed some upgrades at Cec's Cabin.
- Safety Committee is busy getting ready to put out the
 - Safety buckets, totes and manual toboggans will be put out starting December 15.
 - Always looking for extra people to join the safety hosts
 - Snow mobile training and on snow mock rescues are being scheduled for January.
 - Contact Karen if you are interested
- Always look forward to all of you to stop in and say a quick hi.

9. Programs Reports

- General Report – Sarah B.(Suzy)
JR registration is full.
CC coaching course is full. Sarah is checking to see if Vernon has extra space. 40 coaches are registered.

School host program -65 classes have registered.
Holiday hosts are still needed for Dec 26 and 28
Tonight is the first women's night. They are running Tuesday and Thursday this year at 7pm.

- Ski Team – Glenn B.
Tonight was the first evening practice at LH.
46 registered athletes and 21 coaches.
There were 2 races at Sovereign last weekend attended by 10 local athletes. Madeleine Wilke placed 7th nationally and top in her year.
BC games trials and OK cup are the next races in Revelstoke.

10. **Registrar's Report** – Jan N.

924 have registered so far. 191 less than last year at this time. Registration numbers have decreased since the peak during Covid.

11. **Tracksetting Report** – George J. (Suzy)

PB broke down yesterday but is now fixed and running. They will work on finalizing a set grooming plan for each day of the week.

12. **Carbon Committee Report** – Hermann B.

We are currently still waiting to hear back from Ostram Climate for Darkwoods Forest carbon credits to be approved and released.

That is expected by the end of this year after which we plan to apply the carbon offset funds we've accumulated over the past 2 years towards purchasing carbon credits.

Pauline Hickson continues to faithfully note down the daily vehicle counter numbers. So huge thanks are due to Pauline!

The numbers she collects not only give us an estimate of carbon emitted commuting for skiing (and summer activities too), but also provide valuable statistics comparing number of visitors from year to year or if we ever need to make a case for road improvements or better maintenance. I'll create a graph showing the 3 years of data we have so far for the next meeting

13. **LUTPC** – Craig M.

- The Land Use and Trail Planning Committee met on October 16.
- The main topic of discussion was the proposed trail from the Far East Summit to Sidehill Salmon and the North Hub. Pros and cons were discussed and the Committee decided that it would not be in the club's and other stakeholder's interest to proceed.
- A bridge has been built on Treebeard's where it crosses East Canoe Creek. Thanks to Shuswap Trail Alliance for donating the materials and Adrian Bostock for his assistance.
- Signage and maps have been updated to show the new dog trails.

- Work is ongoing for the new Ginzu groomed trails on the private land. The trail is mostly cleared but needs packing and contouring in some places.
- We discussed firesmarting tips when clearing our trails. Good practices such as distributing branches well off the trail and not in big piles.
- The private landowner is quite concerned that there has been trespass on his land. Just a reminder that members are only allowed to x-country ski during our winter season and no access is permitted to anyone outside this time. That includes walking, biking or motorized traffic. Woodlot Ramble, the new dog trails, ginzu trails and Devil's Lunge are off limits

14. **SEC** – David M.

David was not able to attend the meeting after grooming with Bill and Hermann for a very long shift. They groomed for 9 hours, not knowing that the PB would be repaired today. The equipment is working well and the trails are in good condition considering the late snow. Everything has been packed a couple of times and they set tracks Sunday and Tuesday. Feedback has been great. The new dog trail was packed with the Ginzu as well.

15. **Snowshoe Trails** – David M. No report.

16. **RKSL** – Cam B.

- They are working on holding the Wine and Cheese again but more volunteers needed.
- Volunteer sign up for jobs will be online.
- Brian has the course organized. The 30km course will include the Whoopies.
- Registration will be up soon.
- Loppet shirts are for sale online. Mugs will also be available to purchase.
- Steve King will be announcing.
- Ski team will register for free this year as with the Jackrabbits.

17. **Announcer Booth/Storage Container** – Alan C.

- Construction on the booth is complete
- The storage container is in place thanks to John Thielman. A volunteer is needed to build the shelving. Brackets are in place.
- Alan is the head organizer for BC champs in March.

Announcements/Upcoming Events:

- a. Santa Cruise – Dec 17, 2023. Ski at 10. Auction event at 11.
- b. Lantern Ski – Dec 28, 2023
- c. RKSL – Jan 20, 2023

Additions:

- Proposing to do Master's program on Wednesday morning- Dirk mentioned that Robin, a ski team coach (formerly head coach in Saskatchewan) is interested in running a group. Glenn will talk to him further about his plan.
- Dirk has a vision for huts along the Larch Hills Traverse. Suzy will talk to Adrian Bostock from the STA.
- Groomer- We are waiting to hear back about the grant for a new groomer. If we get the grant we will order the machine. If not, fundraising will continue. We did not get the operating gaming grant because we have too much money saved for the tracksetter.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, Feb 13, 2024 – 7:30pm – Rec Centre Rm 1

Meeting adjourned at 8:46pm.

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Operations Manager Report

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