



It's hard to believe but the days are getting shorter and we are less than six months away from being back on our skis—exciting, right?! Take a virtual break from the recent heat by taking a look at this nordic centre lodge [time-lapse from April 2020 to April 2021](#).

In this update you'll find some recognition for the people who helped make the 2020/2021 season a great one despite COVID restrictions, a call for a variety of help, an update on our search for a head coach, and a summary of the club survey results.

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## 2020-2021 Thank You

First of all, thank you to all of our members, new and old. It was a record year for membership and it makes us very happy to see so many people enjoying the trails and facilities that we put a lot of time and effort into.

### Operations

The club operations, programs, and events are run by many dedicated volunteers and a handful of paid staff. Head groomer **Patrick Dumais** spent many hours grooming trails and coordinated many other grooming team members to keep our trail network in tip-top shape. Thanks **Patrick, Bryan**

**Swansberg, Brant Dahlie, Mark Williams, Kelsey Stasiuk, Kevin Kriese, Dick Harrison, Geoff Recknell, James Cuell, Michel Poulin, Adrian de Groot and Sean Fraser** for all of your trail work this past season.

**Steve Osborn** put in many, many hours once again as director of nordic centre operations to make sure everything went smoothly (as smooth as things could go given COVID). **Kevin Kriese** is our trail coordinator and oversaw continued off-season trail works that allowed us to start skiing as early as we did.

Last fall, just before our ski season, a team of skilled volunteers put in the slab foundation for the tracksetter garage so that we can complete the building this summer. **Brant Dahlie, Stephen Howard, Wally Lesawich and John Schibli** put in many hours along with **Kevin Kriese, Jack Stratton and Ray Hollenberg. Erik Lilles** contributed professional time to make the project possible.

Thank you to **Gen Perkins and Michel Poulin!** Our caretakers of the nordic centre perform a wide range of duties to ensure our buildings are maintained and heated.

## **Skill Development Programs**

A significant amount of volunteer time goes into our skill development programs: bunnies, jackrabbits and beyond. **Dawn Hanson** was once again our bunnies & jackrabbits Coordinator and did a great job navigating the challenging COVID impacted season. Dawn has been the coordinator for a number of years and is handing off the role to **Sue Pearce** for the 2021/2022 season—many thanks Dawn for all your hard work making sure we have the coaches (and cookies) to keep our young athletes going. The 2020/2021 bunnies and jackrabbit coaches were: **Carey Ma, Erin Williams, Heather Cosman, Kara Przewczek, Nils Erasmus, Roger McMillan, Ryan Chapman, Sue Pearce, Tlell Glover, and Vaughn Ellis.** They were assisted by: **Caitlyn Gillis, Lucia Gastiazoro, and Sophie Cooke.**

The older athletes had as close to a normal season as possible (minus travelling to races) thanks to the many hours of planning and coaching by the following volunteers: **Ryan Chapman, Jodi Preto, Andy Rosenberger, Adrienne Rosenberger, Kaia Andal, Richard Alton, Seonid Davis, Eric Holdijk, Helene Fleury, Sandy MacLean, Steve Wickham, Patrick Williston, Mel Dumont, Josh Wimbush, Antje von Seydlitz, and Alan Baxter.** We are extremely fortunate to have such an amazing team of volunteer coaches.

An extra special thank you to Alan Baxter who has just completed his last year coaching with us as his kids have graduated out of the program. Alan has been an invaluable leader and mentor within our athlete development program and he will be missed. We greatly appreciate your contributions Alan!

The ski boosters team of **Tamara Gillis and Paula Bartemucci** helped coordinate parent and athlete volunteers for things such as lodge cleaning and ticket checking, as well as fundraising and providing food at our local events (when a global pandemic doesn't prevent us from hosting such events).

**Denise Kelly** was the program coordinator for 2020/2021 and did an excellent job of ensuring everything was running smoothly. She also coordinated the elementary school program "Ski S'kool" which is quite a large undertaking on its own.

## Events

While COVID prevented us from hosting our usual social and competitive events, we were able to provide some very popular virtual events thanks to the contributions of a number of people who helped do things like: create Strava segments, help people learn how to use Strava, put signs up to mark routes, collate results, do social media updates etc. Thank you **Ali Howard, Kevin Kriese, Jen Chapman, Ryan Chapman, Sue Harrison, Liz Holdyk, Kaitlyn Bailey, Emma Hoffman, Kira Hoffman, and Malcolm Johnson**.

## Board Of Directors

Working mostly behind the scenes, the club's board of directors meets once a month to oversee the execution of all club business and plan for the future. Your 2020/2021 board of directors (in order listed on <https://bvnordic.ca/about-our-club/executive/>) were: **Ben Forsyth, Anne Harfenist, Barb Guillon, Jill Krause, Steve Osborn, Jen Chapman, Sarah Sacharoff, Stephen Wickham, Ali Howard, and Kevin Kriese**.



*Tracksetter garage foundation under construction, September 2020*



*U14 practice December 1st*



# Help Wanted!

We have a need for some trail help this summer and fall; board position vacancies for next season we'd like to fill; and a new paid, seasonal General Manager position. Keep reading to learn more about these opportunities.

## Trails

Our trails coordinator Kevin Kriese is looking for a couple of volunteers to help with some summer and fall trail works. Possible duties include: installation of gate signs, grass seeding, and some brushing work. He is also looking for someone to help with the planning of some additional dog trails. If you'd like to volunteer for any of these tasks please email Kevin at [kevin.kriese@bvnordic.ca](mailto:kevin.kriese@bvnordic.ca).

## Board Of Directors

For the 2021/2022 season we have vacancies for the following board of director positions: Grants & Sponsorships, and Communications. Additionally, our director of nordic centre operations would like to find someone to shadow him in his role and pass the torch for the 2022/2023 season. Below you will find a list of responsibilities for these roles which has been copied from the [list of director responsibilities and key positions on our website](#). There are tasks for each of these roles that can be done without being a director, so if you have the skills and desire to help please reach out. Please email board chair Ben Forsyth at [ben.forsyth@bvnordic.ca](mailto:ben.forsyth@bvnordic.ca) if you are interested in volunteering for these positions or have any questions about the roles.

### Director Of Grants and Sponsorships

- Coordinate, track and report grant applications
- Ensure compliance with grant obligations, and follow-up thanks/recognition.
- Investigate grant opportunities and potential partnerships/sponsorships
- Coordinate solicitation of businesses by club members

### Director Of Communications

- Lead/coordinate publicity for the club and club events
- Oversee newsletter committee to ensure production
- Oversee social media and website updates and maintenance
- Manage expenditures within communications budget

## Director Of Nordic Centre Operations

- Board liaison with Wetzin'kwa Community Forest and government agencies (including RSTBC & Northern Health)
- Oversee grooming, snow clearing and maintenance of trails, equipment and buildings
- Oversee Nordic Centre projects
- Manage expenditures within Nordic Centre budget

## Seasonal General Manager

Outside of a few specialized paid positions, the operation of the nordic centre is run by volunteers. As our club grows, and the scope of work increases to maintain the level of service we want to provide our users, we are finding that it is increasingly unreasonable to put all of this work on volunteers.

Therefore, like many other clubs of our size in the province, we are moving to a paid general manager model. This is a seasonal, November-April, full-time position. The General Manager will provide management support for our mostly volunteer-powered organization. It is a new position and its scope is expected to evolve. Initially, the General Manager will have assigned responsibilities within: Nordic Centre Operations, Grants and sponsorships, Membership recruitment, and Volunteer support.

A draft job description is [available on our website](#). We expect to advertise and seek applications in August. Direct any questions to our director of nordic centre operations Steve Osborn, [operations@bvnordic.ca](mailto:operations@bvnordic.ca)

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## Nordic Skills Development Program

All signs are pointing towards a relatively normal 2021/2022 season with respect to our skills development program. We will provide as many bunnies & jackrabbit positions as our coaching capacity allows—hopefully back to our historical level of around 100 (or more) participants and not the 75 or so we had last season because of COVID. Keep an eye on [our mailing list](#) (and subscribe if you haven't already), [website](#), and [Facebook/Instagram](#) pages for updates on registration opening in the fall.

## Head Coach News!



### **Andrew Brisbin - Our New Head Coach**

We are very excited to announce that we have hired Andrew Brisbin as our new full-time head coach.

Andrew comes to us from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan where he most recently worked as the Provincial Coach, and before that the High-Performance Coordinator. He grew up ski racing in Saskatoon, moved to Camrose, Alberta for university and more skiing, and then spent time racing out of Canmore before transitioning into coaching. Andrew has ski raced all over Canada from Newfoundland to the Yukon, and even made it to Smithers in 2007 for Westerns!

Andrew is looking forward to his move to Smithers and living in the mountains. When not skiing, he enjoys mountain biking, kayaking, or trail running with a good podcast and dreaming about the next backpacking or canoe trip adventure.

Andrew will be starting with the club in early July.

We are looking forward to the leadership and support a head coach will provide to our programs that we have been missing over the past two seasons.

## Events & Training

The Cross Country BC competition and training schedules for 2021/2022 are available at their website <https://www.crosscountrybc.ca/>. Local highlights (all in Smithers unless otherwise noted):

## Workshops

- **October 22-24** Learning To Train (L2T) Dryland Workshop. This is the coaching level after Community Coaching and is a two part course, a dryland component and on-snow component.
- **November 20** Officials Level 1. Take this to help run races.
- **December 4-5** Community Coaching Workshop. Take this to coach jackrabbits.
- **January 7-9** L2T On Snow Workshop.

## Races

- **January 2** Teck Northern Cup #2
- **February 6** Teck Northern Cup #5
- **March 12** Wetzin'kwa Loppet

## Camps

- **August 13-15** Bulkley Valley Dryland Camp (extensos and older athletes)
- **September 17-19** Teck Regional Fall Dryland Camp (Prince George)
- **December 4-6** Teck Regional Snow Camp

## Major Events

- **March 3-11** [Masters World Cup \(Canmore\)](#)
- **March 20-27** [Nationals \(Whistler\)](#)

## Dryland Training Photos

Here are a few pictures of what some of our athletes have been up to since putting the skis away for the summer.





## Survey Results

At the end of this past season we invited all nordic centre users to complete a brief survey about how you use the facilities and gave you the opportunity to provide feedback on how we did. We received responses from 273 people, all but 6 respondents were season pass holders for the 2020/2021 season.

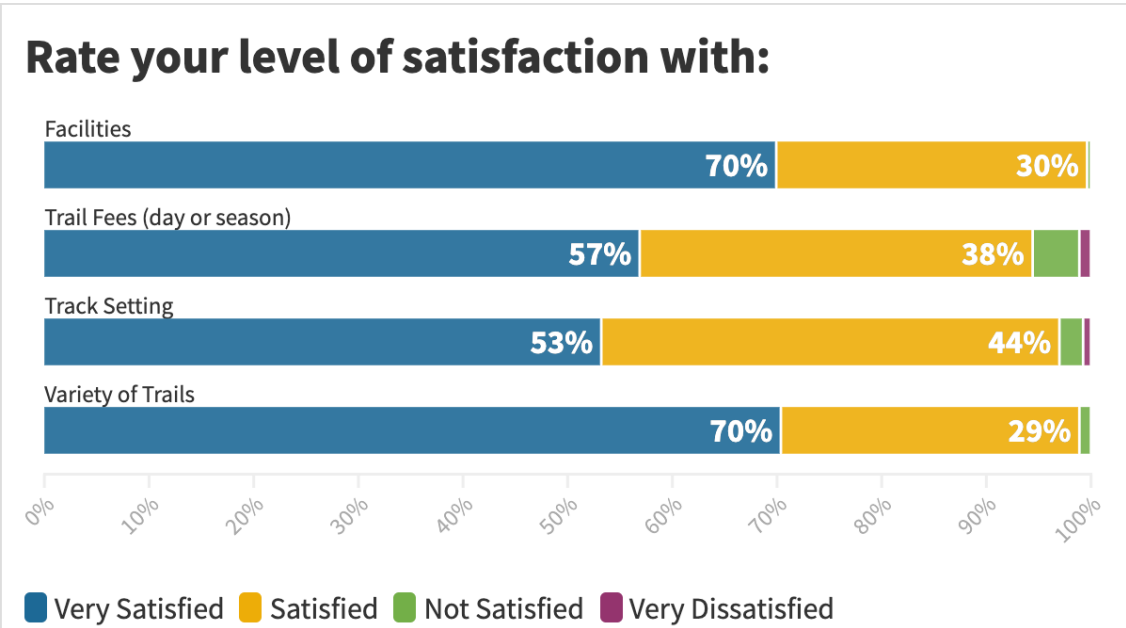
Over 50% of the respondents have had a season pass for 5 or more years, and just under 20% of respondents were first time season pass holders.

Well over 95% of respondents were either very satisfied or satisfied with the following areas: variety of trails, track setting, fees, facilities. Over 96% of the respondents felt that the price of a season pass was just right or too *low*. Some more highlights of the numerical results are presented below.

Many people took the time to provide thoughtful feedback via the freeform answer questions—thank you for taking the time to do this. The board has had

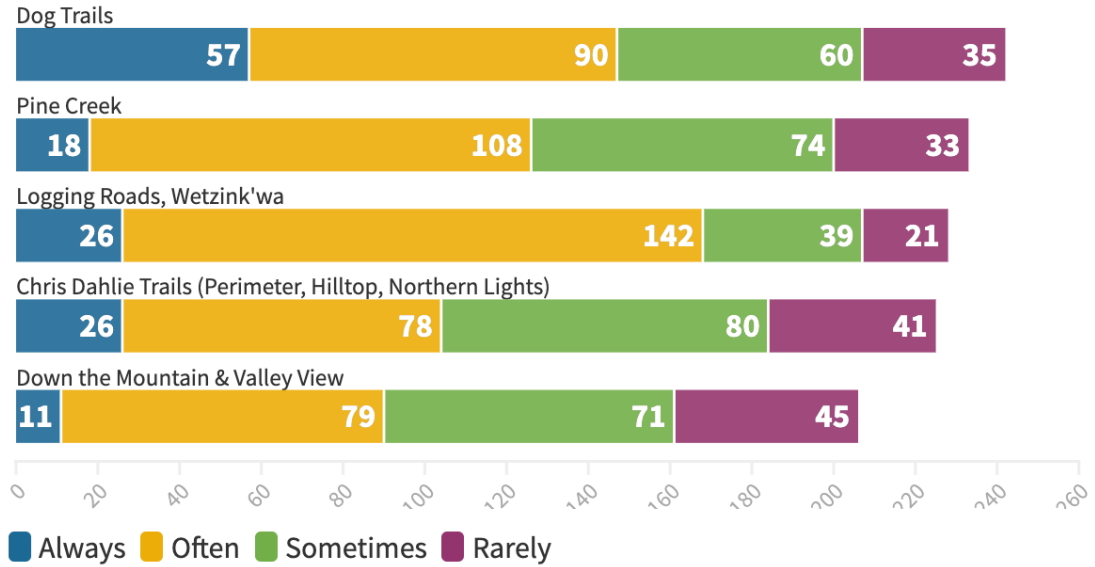
many conversations about this feedback and expect to see some concrete actions related to it in the fall.

Total responses	273
Average number of days skied per week	3
Percent of responses from season pass holders	98%
Percent of first time season pass holders	18%
Percent of respondents that have had a season pass for 5 or more years	55%
Percent of respondents who have been skiing at the nordic centre for 20 or more years	36%
Percent of respondents 40 or older	68%
Percent of respondents that only classic ski	44%

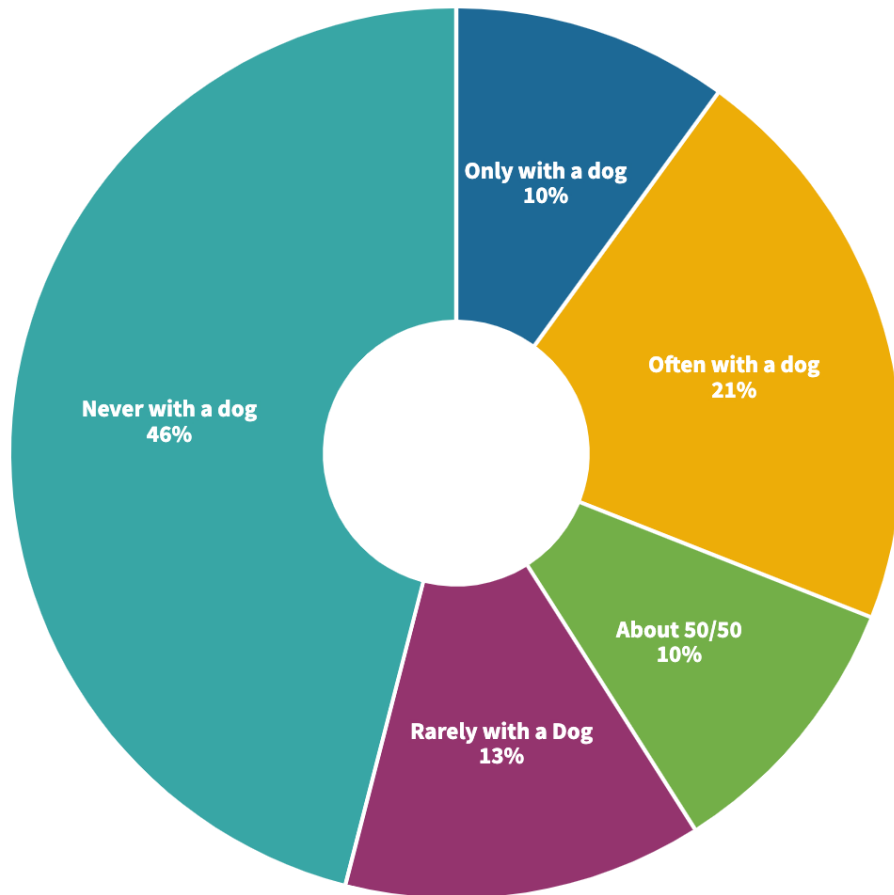


# Trail Use Frequency

(Number of Responses)



## How Often Do You Ski With A Dog?





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