

# **BVCCSC Annual General Meeting**

**April 24, 2007  
Buchfink Lodge  
7:00 – 10:30 p.m.**

## **Attending:**

### **Board Members**

Geoff Recknell, Jill Krause, Alex Woods, Troy Larden, Darlene Doogan-Smith, Jill O'Neill, James Cuell, Tenley Dahlie, Kevin Kriese and Francois Depey

### **Non Board Members**

Karen Mitchell, Brandin Schultz, Brant Dahlie, Teresa White, Kirsteen Liang, Al Gamble, Steve Osborn, Anne Harfnerist, Kathy Spiro, Irene Ronalds, Mark Blayney, Loretta Malkow, Joelle Botel, Blair Ellis, Barbara Erni, Kurt Baumann, Dave McMillan, Christine Birnie, Bob Mitchell, Conan Petursson, Kathy Petursson, Des Moran, Peter Krause, Donna Jones, Tom Pendray, Jane Pendray Risk Firesen, Gary Quanstrom, Jeremy Penniga, Kathleen Yates, Kirtsy Leighton, Liz Holdyk, Debbie Courtliff, Dave Pellow, Brian Fuhr, and Dennis Courtliff

## **Part 1: Open Discussion and Presentations**

### **A. Olympic Opportunities – Tenley Dahlie**

The Town of Smithers is interested in partnering with the club to promote Nordic Centre and the Town of Smithers to draw Olympic athletes to train in the 2 years prior to 2010 Olympics. Expression of Interest due May 15 (see attached News Release)

Before committing to this opportunity the club executive would like to get a better sense of the effort required and possible benefits that could flow to the club. The club executive would also like to see an individual or group from the membership step forward to act as a champion for this initiative. A request was made for volunteers to form a committee to collect more information, gauge the level of support and provide information back to the executive to allow an informed decision. Any members interested should contact Geoff Recknell or any Executive Member. The club executive will make a decision in May or June.

### **B. Summer Projects and Project Proposals – Kevin Kriese**

1. **Big Improvements (next year)**- Waxing hut and toilets, a proposed plan for 2008. Need a committee to determine cost/funding for large projects. The committee would be responsible for determining feasibility, design, cost and pursuing funding. It is anticipated that projects of this scope will require external funding.

2. **Mid Projects (this summer/fall)** Core Maintenance, work bees  
Terrain Park- 2 people required designing park and supervising machine work. Lodge Ceiling - volunteer required to supervise the work. Storage boxes/display boards need to be built. Interested individuals to contact lodge manager.

## **Presentation of the Chris Dahlie Memorial Award for 2007**

Award was presented to Mark Blayney and Loretta Malkow.

## **Part 2: Business Meeting**

### **1. Adoption of agenda:**

Motion to adopt agenda as written Anne Harfenist / Tenley Dahlie

### **2. Minutes from AGM April 6, 2006:**

Motion to accept minutes as written Steve Howard/Troy Larden

### **3. Reports**

- i. Chair-Geoff Recknell: Thanks to all directly and indirectly involved in running our club-everything ran very smoothly this year. A big thanks to those members of the executive stepping down – Tenley Dahlie, Alex Woods and Kevin Kriese. This year Tenley Dahlie carried a huge load as chair for Promotions and Special events, and Event Coordinator for the Westerns.  
Strategic Plan- Our goal is to put together a strategic plan for the club next season and to adopt a new vision statement for the club. Following on the membership survey completed last Spring a focus group was held to brain storm strengths and weaknesses of the club. This input will provide the basis for developing the plan.
- ii. Membership- Jill Krause. See attached.
- iii. Promotions and Special Events – Tenley Dahlie. See attached.
- iv. Lodge/Area – Kevin Kriese – See attached
- v. Community Forest – Geoff Recknell for Fred Oliemans. See attached.
- vi. Race Committee- Darlene Doogan-Smith. See attached.
- vii. Rabbits – Troy Larden. See attached.
- viii. Biathlon – Jill O’Neil. See attached.
- ix. Back Country - Francois Depuy See attached
- x. Masters – Kathy Spiro. Verbal
- xi. School Program – Karen Mitchell. Verbal.
- xii. Westerns Overview – Tenley Dahlie. Verbal – written to follow.
- xiii. Financial Report/proposed budget – James Cuell. See attached.

Motion to accept reports and proposed budget. Brian Fuhr/ Kirsteen Laing.

#### **4. Open Floor**

Suggestion to not man ticket booth during Free ski days. We need someone still in booth to act as “ambassador” for the club. Also a pass is required for liability reasons.

Review the commitment from the Racing program. Liz Holdyk to provide feedback at a later date.

Peter Krause- Fund raising at 12 hour relay was for Affordable Recreation. There is \$1200 available to sponsor a family. Interested families to contact Peter K. in September.

Debbie Courtliff

Suggested for club to consider expanding the dog use areas to include the 2.5 and 5.0 on lower side. Debbie C to submit a proposal in writing and bring it to the Executive.

Bob Mitchell

Club should consider a long term investment for purchasing a tractor for trail clearing. We need to spend more money on trail development.

Gary Quanstrom/Brant Dahlie/Peter Krause

Open discussion about backcountry cabins and motorized use conflicts. It was recognized that this is a difficult issue for the club to address. If a structured process was initiated to address the issue of motorized and non-motorized recreational use the club should participate.

A recommendation was made to develop better signage for crossing the road. Area manager to contact Ministry of Transportation.

Motion to Adjourn the meeting Anne Harfenist/Debbie Courtliff.

#### **5. Elections for 2006/07**

Run by: Dennis Courtliff.

11 Directors and 11 nominations.

##### **Nominees:**

Geoff Recknell

Jill Krause

James Cuell

Darlene Doogan-Smith

Larry McCulloch

Troy Larden

Jill O’Neil

Francois Depey

Fred Oliemens

Tinka Von Keyserlingk

Brandin Schultz

No additional nominations, therefore list of members declared as standing.

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT April 2007**

### **MEMBERS**

2006-2007: 665 members, 631 season passes

2005-2006 : 575 members

### **TICKET BOOTH SALES**

2006-2007:   Open 37 days  
                  Total sales \$4921.83  
                  Average daily total \$133.02

2005-2006:   Open 20 days  
                  Total sales \$3163.36  
                  Average daily total \$158.17

Self serve tickets are included in these amounts.

I feel that ticket booth sales are actually up this year, even though this shows an average per day decline of 3 tickets. With the late start last year season passes were down and ticket sales were up. This year season passes are way up and ticket sales are almost the same, which indicates an overall increase. I also must add ~ Never underestimate the power of the dog trail!

### **STORE SALES**

Since we are continuing to sell tickets until mid April the store sales are not available at this time. I will have them ready for the AGM.

Jill

Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club  
**AGM Report 2006-2007 Season**  
**COMMUNICATIONS, MARKETING, EVENTS & PROMOTIONS**  
Tenley Dahlie

It has been a banner year for Nordic Skiing in the Bulkley Valley. The season has been long, the snow conditions superb; the club operated the facility very well, and we hosted a major event.

Marketing and promotion of the club was empowered by a generous budget – I spent a lot of club monies! It was a pleasure to be able to hire local professionals to create a great suite of promotional materials that should last for a few years.

**WEBSITE**    [www.bvnordic.ca](http://www.bvnordic.ca)

This project was started the year previous – Amy Copland had secured the budget to replace the old site, and set the initial structure to meet the club’s needs. We engaged the services of BC Designworks, and worked closely with them in its development. They used a new software called Textpattern so that club members could update the content very easily from any computer, and one called Flickr to create photo albums.

We established bvnordic.ca e-mails and have a core crew of people doing the updates.

- Lorna Halvorson continues to act as webmaster
- Kirsteen Laing posts race information
- Teresa White and Peter Krause help update conditions
- Loretta Malkow posts newsletters and has made some photo albums

The home page is continually updated, with news and current conditions, and there is still room for more of the club history, program information and more photos, this is an ongoing pet project.

The latest addition to the site is the video of the Westerns – a very cool piece of work.

**MAP/ BROCHURE**

The last one had a long shelf life through a couple of reprints. This time, BC Designworks took on the job, starting with the updated mapping work done by Steve Howard. Coordination included selecting the right content, considering what to include and what was too much information, and coordinating with the evolvement of trail names, signage etc with Brian Fuhr. I hope it is good for a few years now.

**POSTER**

Using the same designwork from the brochure, a small promotional poster was produced, more can be printed as needed in a variety of sizes.

**ADVERTISING & MEDIA RELATIONS**

Paid ads secured a regular spot in the Interior News, Northword magazine, and CCBC handbook. In addition, these publications also provided a lot of news and content in their pages.

**NEWSLETTER**

This is put out monthly using contributions from executive and key club volunteers; edited by Linda Robertson, posted to the website with membership reminders by Loretta Malkow, and hard copies distributed around town by Trish Farrow.

### **VIDEO**

Footage taken last season of the Rabbits, Racers and the Marathon provided the material for a club video of about 6 minutes. This was a door opener to make presentations to groups all over town to promote the club and the upcoming Westerns. Incite Media was the local professional for this job.

### **SOCIAL EVENTS**

The other side of my activities has been as a good old-fashioned social convener. Organization, promotion and execution of the following events this year:

CLUBS DAY

SKI SWAP/FALL SOCIAL

BUCHFINK LODGE DAY

SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAINS

The BV Nordic Centre has achieved a great reputation – our club’s facility is now considered to be one of the top local community assets for Smithers to brag about! General awareness of Nordic skiing, both as recreation and as a competitive sport, is rapidly growing; quite a change from times gone by. Our membership is increasing, and our reputation across the province as a model full service club is still tops.

The local Spirit Committee is actively promoting Smithers for any spin-off benefits we can get through 2010 Legacies Now. The club procured a Hosting BC Grant of \$15,000 to help with the Westerns; and put on a great event, further enhancing our reputation.

We have lots to run with, and Olympic Opportunities are knocking.

## **Annual Report: Lodge and Area**

### **Major Projects**

- New 0.75km sprint trail constructed at a cost of approximately \$5,000
- New windows installed in timing hut to improve visibility and function.
- Two new change rooms constructed.
- New storage locker installed in first aid room for first aid supplies.
- New wood shed constructed for caretaker cabin.
- Bridge across wetland at Goldeneye lake was resurfaced and widened to improve tracksetter access. A final section needs completion.
- Linoleum floor installed in bathroom and entrance of caretakers cabin
- Laminate flooring purchased for main floor of caretakers cabin.
- New phone line to the lodge partially in place.
- The club purchased a brush saw.

### **Ongoing Maintenance**

- Second floor deck on the lodge was sealed and painted;
- Walls painted in first floor locker rooms and wax room;
- New signage was installed to reflect to the new trail names.
- New trails were grass seeded and regular brushing was completed.
- Many of the major roots, logs and rocks removed from the dog trail.

### **Tracksetting**

- The new pisten bully performed well this year, with a couple of breakdowns.
- The tracksetting crew was busy, with constant snow and a long season. New volunteers, especially Jim Gordon, helped significantly to keep up to the snow and reduce the burden on Brant.

### **Summary**

- The lodge is in good shape and all required maintenance is being performed. Additional projects are constantly continue to improve storage, function, and comfort of the lodge.
- The caretakers cabin is in good shape. Some parts of the cabin that were not completely finished when it was constructed (flooring, baseboards, landscaping) are now complete or planned. If the club completes one or two projects per year, the cabin should be “finished” in a year or two.
- Generally, volunteers did a good job of cleaning the lodge as required. Areas for improvement are cleaning of the outhouses, removing garbage, and wiping up the kitchen.
- Trails are in good shape. Ditching undertaken in the past two years has dried most of the problem wet areas. Pine creek will need attention as it has not been hand brushed for a couple of years

## **Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club**

### **Community Forest Report, 2006/7**

#### Mountain Pine Beetle

Logging for mountain pine beetle killed trees occurred for the first time in spring of 2007 along the Pine Creek ski trails. Approximately 50 M3 was removed. The wood was skidded out along the ski trails in February and March. Although we thought that the trails would be hard enough to skid on, the contractor ended up having to plow the snow off the trails, rendering them unusable for skiing. We expect that there will be an increase in the incidence of beetle attack over the coming year, and we will work with the Ministry of Forests and the Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation to ensure that future logging operations disrupt skiing as little as possible.

#### Tenure

We are actively working with Government agencies to secure long term tenure over our facilities. There are two types of tenure that we require. The first tenure is for intensive use, and will cover the lodge, staging area and associated buildings, parking lots, lit trails, and possibly the biathlon range. The other tenure will be for extensive use of the entire area, including existing trails and areas to be used for potential expansion in the future.

#### Relationship to the New Community Forest

Talks are ongoing with the Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation, which is the group who now holds a forest licence within the newly issued Community Forest. The new community forest completely surrounds and is much larger than the old community forest. The old community forest will remain as a management unit within the new one. Wetzin'kwa, a group made up of the town of Smithers, the village of Telkwa, the Office of the Wet'suwet'en, and NEWPRO, have been very co-operative and supportive of the objectives of our club, and we will be working closely with them in the future in regards to any harvesting and roadbuilding activities they may undertake that may affect our operations.

Fred Oliemans

Community Forest Rep



## **Report for AGM from Race Committee for the 2006-2007 Season**

During the spring of 2006 Georgia Manhard came to Smithers to help us organize, brainstorm and get hyped about putting on the Westerns. The Spirit of the Mountains theme transpired from this session. An excellent theme which the Town of Smithers also adopted.

During the summer the Pre-race Notice was put together so we had as much information available on-line as possible.

During the fall we put on both a Level I and Level II officials course. Both courses were very successful even though the Level II course was during one of our most survive snow storms.

Though out the fall and winter, there were many organizational meetings.

The Canada Game Trials on December 28 & 29, 2006 were our test races. Both races ran smoothly.

The Westerns was on February 8, 10 & 11, 2007. There were approximately 120 volunteers and 270 skiers. The entire event was a huge success.

Next year we have shown an interest in potentially hosting BC Cup #1/BV Open on January 5 & 6, 2008. These would be the only races we put on this season.

## **XC Racing Report**

### Racing Rabbits

The Racing Rabbits group started their season the first week of November, their earliest start ever! Two coaches worked with seven athletes in this group. Racing Rabbits participated in six races this season, five local and the BC Championships in Kamloops. A highlight for the season was the Westerns where everyone in the group raced in at least one of the races. With the long season and two sessions a week for most of the season this groups skills have really improved. One member of the group won the bronze aggregate award for combined BC Cup points accumulated over the season.

### Mini-Midgets

The Mini-Midgets began with one day a week practices in November and by December were up to two practices per week. After Christmas this group went to three practices per week up until the BV Marathon. The final day for practice for the Mini-Midgets was March 29<sup>th</sup>, our longest season yet! There were thirteen mini-midgets in the program who were coached by three people. Highlights for the Mini-Midgets were: the Westerns, BC CUP #1 and #3, and the races in Burns Lake and Kitimat. Off snow the Mini-Midgets enjoyed the pool in Houston, the hot springs near Terrace and the use of Muheim's gym. Many of the athletes in this group achieved their race goals, and were rewarded with good standings in races!

### Juveniles/Juniors

The early start to the season definitely gave these athletes a jump start to the season. With Lisa Perry leading this group of 18 (a veritable mob on the trails) it was definitely a high energy scene for their practices. This group was in high performance mode with weekly training schedules, mental training sessions, core training and plenty of technical analysis from the coaches. Highlights were obviously the Westerns, with some excellent performances at the BC cup series. Eight athletes were selected to attend the national championships in Mont St Anne, Quebec. Four of the eight elected to attend with team BC, along with Lisa as one of the coaches. With the spring, the athletes will take a short break from training. Then it will be full speed ahead with track and field, soccer and triathlons as well as their cross country ski training. Look for a strong season in 2007!

## **BV Rabbit Program Summary 2007**

The early snow in October had several Rabbits on their skis early this year and as a result, huge strides were made by all groups. Not a single class was lost to weather this year. Timing of the program was a little later than historic years. The delay in school Christmas holiday return pushed the first day of Rabbits back to the 13<sup>th</sup> of January. Traditionally, start-up is on the first weekend after new years. This had many benefits in that we missed a cold snap of weather that may have delayed us by a week anyway and we were able to schedule a leader meeting after the break with sufficient time to notify participants of group and leader names. Total number of participants this year was 85 rabbits with 8 of those being racing rabbits. This total is reduced a little from years previous by about 15%. Cause is unknown but there was a large graduating class of racing rabbits from the previous year which did contribute marginally to the decline.

The program held a very successful fun day on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March. Again, delays in the program start up as well as hosting westerns and Marathon timing, pushed this back from the usual first week of March. This I believe was also a strong contributor to the large turnout of rabbit participants to the BV Marathon on the previous weekend. Our largest contingent yet of 30 athletes from the rabbit program participated in the Marathon. The fun day format was also changed. With help from the local rental shops and the BVCCSC executive, we encouraged athletes and parents to destination ski to the lake for hot chocolate, cookies and activities. A change from previous years where the staging area hosted the event. New thinking has injected new life into the program. We initiated an older group who have an interest in skiing but not racing. Hopes are to continue this and expand it to reduce the number of drop-out skiers who have a less competitive spirit. As in historic years, the program is only as big as the number of volunteers. Limited by leaders, group sizes averaged 10 participants. More opportunity for instruction and skill development as well as better grouping of skill level is accomplished if the group sizes could be reduced. Target should be in the range of 7-8 athletes per group leader and assistant. A formal call for more leaders is forthcoming.

Seven to eight coaches took part in the coaching certification program. It was opened to all coaches and leaders and was held in the late fall. Expectations are that, depending on need and demand, this will be offered yearly to account for succession of leaders and coaches and changing technology.

The movement to the new sticker program from the badge program is currently seen as successful. The new books are full of useful information for both the parents and the participants. Report cards from the leaders issued to program co-ordinators as well as parents are valued and will aid in group designations for following years. An unknown success is the ability of the families to maintain the books and present them in following years for updates. Let's hope.

## Biathlon

Biathlon had a successful year again with numbers staying about the same as last year, with some athletes moving to different sports and new ones coming on board. The group included ages nine to masters and a wide range of goals from competitive athletes that have made the provincial team and others that enjoy biathlon on a recreation level. Our club's goal is to be able to offer something for all the levels of interest.

Two of our athletes qualified for the nationals in New Brunswick this March and, we were able to send a large group to both northern cup races this year. The club also offered a community coaching course for the northwest. We had 10 coaches participate in the silver and gold level and were able to use the instructor from the coaching course to do a shooting afternoon with Smithers and Burns Lake athletes.

This year we opened the door towards a better working relationship with the Smithers cadets. In other clubs cadets tend to cross over between their group and the local biathlon club. This brings more kids into the program and offers wider opportunities to the athlete. It also means more club members and this proved very valuable when they helped out at the westerns even cleaning the out houses.

Sandy Mclean has continued to help coach the kids with their skiing and that allows the other coaches to concentrate on teaching shooting skills. We have received nothing but support from the ski club in developing our program and use of the facilities. We have tried to reciprocate by supporting the ski club's projects.

Our goals for the up coming year remain committed to providing a fun learning environment to all athletes of all levels. We would like to see some growth in the numbers and facilities for the future of the club. Biathlon is now trying to develop a biathlon bears program that would link into skiers at the top end of rabbits. This would be a good goal for our club to offer another path for kids coming out of the rabbits program. Also as biathlon seems to be growing in the northwest a regional race circuit should be pursued. The more closely our biathlon group works with the ski club the more of a long term asset it becomes for the Ski club and their members.

## **Backcountry cabins: Season 2006/07**

### **Starr Creek Cabin:**

Season 2006: 80 person nights

Season 2007: 45 person nights

A maintenance/firewood visit has not been done since April 2005. The visit scheduled for March 2007 was canceled because the previous group indicated that there was still enough firewood in the cabin. A group of snowmobilers assisted us with firewood.

Traveling by snowmobile could be the most cost effective way to access the cabin (and possibly could have less environmental impact than flying with a helicopter).

A group of skiers intended to go to the cabin using snowmobiles. Access from the Houston side may be shortened due to construction of a new logging road.

The relationship with snowmobilers has been positive again this year and lends hope that multi-user backcountry enthusiasts can respect each other in this area. Maintaining a good relationship relies strongly on the booking system. Avoiding use of the area by different types of users on the same dates is a key factor in preventing conflict.

The new booking system at Valhalla seems to have worked smoothly this season. However, it would be good to find a way to encourage day users (i.e. snowmobilers) to consult the book before traveling to the cabin. It is difficult to monitor day users as they don't have to book the cabin overnight.

We are considering a visit this summer/fall 2007 for minor maintenance work and to collect firewood.

Starr Creek cabin will be featured in the first edition of the second part of John Baldwin's book "Exploring the Coast Mountains on Skis (a guidebook to mountain ski touring in Northwestern British Columbia) – to be released in 2008.

Some BV Nordic club members who are unfamiliar with the cabin have expressed interest to use the cabin during the summer or fall, and possibly to participate in a maintenance visit (summer or winter).

### **Harold Price Cabin:**

Season 2007: 12 person nights

There was no easy access to the cabin this year because back roads were not plowed.

Most of the cabin users (skiers and snowmobilers) for both cabins are not club members. It would make sense to promote these cabins to club members and to encourage them to use them during the winter or summer.

Thank you again to Mc Bike and Valhalla Pure to assist us in the booking process for these two cabins.

**Financial Statements under separate cover**

# BVCCSC Proposed Budget

## April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008

	<u>Apr 06 - Mar 07</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<b>Income</b>		
Season's Passes	41,952.39	34,000.00
Memberships	12,205.00	8,000.00
Ticket Sales	10,165.82	6,500.00
Lodge Revenue	1,802.71	1,100.00
Area Revenue	1,411.74	3,500.00
Racers	13,698.41	10,300.00
Biathlon	2,855.57	1,600.00
Rabbits	2,640.00	2,500.00
Masters	441.25	400.00
Ski Lessons	0.00	100.00
Backcountry Revenue	474.00	750.00
School Program	2,319.00	800.00
Race Committee Events	3,722.00	2,500.00
Sponsorships	300.00	300.00
Bank Interest	87.07	75.00
Misc. Revenue	724.93	150.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>94,799.89</b>	<b>72,575.00</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
CCBC Membership	6,930.00	4,000.00
Area and Trail Maintenance	12,634.21	11,100.00
Tracksetter	32,467.07	33,800.00
Hydro	2,684.22	3,000.00
Insurance	4,698.00	5,000.00
Repairs, Maintenance	80.70	500.00
Small Equip, Safety	866.70	500.00
Lodge Maintenance	2,643.49	5,650.00
Administration	4,116.47	4,450.00
Communications	8,158.13	1,500.00
Racer Expenses	8,148.14	7,200.00
Biathlon Expenses	5,227.86	1,850.00
Rabbit Expenses	2,704.37	2,900.00
Coaching	23,872.14	20,550.00
Race Committee Expenses	6,812.77	4,200.00
Nationals	1,998.00	2,000.00
Club Activities	57.78	200.00
Backcountry	14.95	1,600.00
WCB	472.31	500.00
Misc Expenses	427.11	500.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>125,014.42</b>	<b>111,000.00</b>

**Net Income** -30,214.53 -38,425.00

<b>Grants</b>		
<b>Gaming Grant</b>	38,110.00	38,425.00
<b>CCBC Coaching Grant</b>	10,900.00	0.00
<b>Total Including Grants</b>	18,795.47	0.00

Note: Fiscal Report excludes Westerns  
\*proposed gaming grant submission