

Treasurer's Report

2011-12 was a bit of a roller-coaster year for the club's finances. Uncertainty regarding grant funding once again proved to be a challenge, resulting in much head-scratching, hair-pulling, hard work and (eventually) high-fiving by those involved in grant funding applications on behalf of the club.

In September we learned that the club's application for a Haywood Grant was unsuccessful, leaving a large hole in the funds forecast for the paid coach position. In order to secure a three month contract with Chris Werrell, the executive agreed to underwrite an amount of \$10,000 of general club funds towards the ADP if necessary to cover the contract. Thanks to cost-cutting with respect to coach travel and training, support from the Rabbits and School programs, and a huge fund-raising effort by the ADP, Chris' contract was extended to seven months and the additional funds committed by the executive were not required. To offer some security moving forward, the club executive has agreed to provide \$10,000 annually towards the paid coach position, as well as a continued commitment to underwrite the balance of funds required to cover any apparent deficit in the coaching budget at the beginning of the year when other funding sources are uncertain. This commitment was made with the understanding that the ADP will strive to obtain necessary funds through other means.

September also saw a change in the way the club's finances are handled. Traditionally, the bookkeeping has been done by the Treasurer as a volunteer position subsidized by a small honorarium. This is a big job for a club of our size and requires specialized skills. To minimize volunteer burn-out (read 'help maintain Laura's sanity') and to enable some much-needed reorganization and clean-up of the books, the executive decided to hire a paid bookkeeper on a trial basis for the season. Kirsteen Laing was approached and did a fantastic job. Everybody on the executive agreed that this was money well spent; bookkeeping costs have been included in the 2012-13 forecast and we're very pleased that Kirsteen has agreed to continue in this role.

Lots of snow this winter meant lots of tracksetting, and fuel costs for the year were higher than forecast. There were, however, no unexpected maintenance expenses for the lodge and area, and none of the club's programs ran a deficit this year. In November, we also received an unexpected and much appreciated surprise in the form of a Wetzin'kwa Grant for \$10,000. As a whole, the club finished the 2011-12 season with an operational surplus of \$11,779.74, leaving us with a healthy bank account. Approximately \$13,000 has been earmarked to be set aside as restricted funds for future club projects. This amount will join approximately \$57,000 of savings the club had previously set aside in term deposits for future repair or replacement of the Pisten Bully and other Nordic Centre infrastructure.

Another unexpected and much appreciated surprise arrived in March, when it was announced that the BVCCSC was successful in our bid for a Community Recreation Grant. This grant, in the amount of \$102,000 is to replace the Pisten Bully and to build a new biathlon warming hut. A huge thank-you is due to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako for their support of this project, and to everyone who worked hard on the grant application.

So, after a difficult start, the club's finances finished the season in fine form. Looking ahead, however, grant funding remains a big question-mark and it is important that the club continues to be sensible with our current financial resources and proactive about exploring new opportunities for financial support.

Laura Bakermans, Treasurer

Athlete Development Program 2011-2012

The athlete development program was comprised of 22 athletes including:

- 9 Track Attack (10-12yrs)
- 5 Junior Racers (13-18yrs)
- 8 Senior Racers (14-18yrs)

Chris Werrell returned for a second season as our paid club coach. In addition to the ADP, Chris was involved in all skill development programs provided by our club which included Biathlon, Rabbit, Masters and the School program. As a club coach Chris mentored many levels of volunteer coaches and instructed all ages of skill development participants. To this end the ADP has broadened its scope of definition to include all of the above mentioned programs under the Nordic Skills Development program. This year Chris spent the majority of his time dedicated to the Athlete Development Program. The following volunteer coaches gave hours of dedication to the program

- Track Attack: Amy Copland, Steve Hug
- Junior Racers: Jody Barber, Anne-Marie Findlay
- Senior racers: Alex Woods, Jane Woods

Larry McCulloch took on the role as the coaching committee Coordinator. The Coach Management team was comprised of Jill O'Neil, Alex Woods and Liz Holdijk. Behind these highly visible volunteers is a group of dedicated parents which enable the coaches to focus their time on the skill development aspect of our program. These parents are led by Kathy Wilford and LJ MacMillan and are recognized and greatly appreciated as the Ski Boosters. This group provides a valuable role in organizing the workforce behind the various fund raising events, fall and winter regional camps, race concessions, ski swap and lodge clean up duties. In addition they inform parents of the inner workings of the Athlete Development Program.

Funding for our paid club coach was challenging given the loss of two previous major sources of funding, the BC Gaming Grant and the Haywood Grant. In April of last year, the executive budgeted \$10,000 in support of the club coach. When it became evident that there would be a funding shortfall the executive further resolved to support Chris' wages to the end of March knowing that the ADP would be committed to fundraising to acquire those funds. Through necessity the ADP developed a more creative approach to fundraising which resulted in the Wellness Program. The BV Credit Union supported the ADP through a \$5000.00 donation in exchange for three sessions of skill development and waxing instruction by Chris, Larry, Steve Howard, Jody and Jane. This program was very well received and will be continued next year. Donations directly to the ADP were also made by Hy-Tech Drilling and Ted Bobb. The Ski Boosters raised more funds than ever before through a variety of means from bottle drives to the ever popular dessert night. Jane Woods coordinated BV Wholesale coupons as another means to raise funds. A Special intake application for Gaming Grant funds was also successful. Due to the success of the fundraising efforts of the ADP, it was not necessary for the executive to budget more than its original commitment. To summarize sources of funding for the Paid coach see below:

Athlete Development Program 2011-2012

- ADP support \$9131.60
- Rabbit support \$1000.00
- School Program support \$1000.00
- BC Gaming special intake \$12,500.00
- CCBC Coaching Grant \$2000.00
- Club Support \$10,000.00
- Wetzinkwa support \$2270.44

This past season our athletes attended some or all of the following races:

- BC Cup #1- Kamloops (Cancelled)
- BC Cup#2 - Prince George
- Snow Valley Open- Kitimat
- BC Cup #3 Club Championships- Salmon Arm
- Western Canadian Championships- Canmore
- BC Midget Championships - Callaghan Valley
- BC Winter Games- Vernon
- BV Open and Chris Dahlie Cup- Smithers
- BV Marathon/Wetzin'kwa Loppet- Smithers
- National Championships- Mont St. Anne, Quebec

Our club also hosted both the Fall and Winter Regional Camps.

Provincial team members are Kathleen Woods, Gabriel Price and David Walker are on the Development team and Hamish Woods and Skyley Recknel were named to the talent squad. As of the 1st of May the summer training program will begin for the senior racers and those Junior racers who choose to move up to a year round schedule. A less demanding program will be available to younger skiers who wish to remain fit over the summer months.

With Chris at the lead and with the support of the volunteer coaches and the continued participation of parents, the skiers made great progress this season. Each athlete improved technically and as a result many achieved personal bests. For the 2011/2012 race season our oldest athletes were all at the juvenile age group. Kathleen Woods, Gabriel Price and David Walker attended the Western Championships in Canmore. Kathleen Woods won gold for the juvenile girls sprints and all three of our athletes consistently had top 10 finishes. At the BC Winter Games, David Walker won a silver in the juvenile boys category for the 5 km classic race. Gabriel Price and Kathleen Woods attended the Haywood Nationals in Mont St Anne, Quebec. Gabriel, had two top ten finishes for the juvenile boys category including a 4th place finish in the interval start skate, as well as a 13th place finish in the distance classic race. Gabriel was 9th overall in aggregate individual standings, and 7th aggregate by YOB for the 2012 Nationals. Kathleen Woods finished 7th in the juvenile girls interval start skate, qualified 5th for the skate sprint and finished 17th in the classic distance race. Kathleen was 8th overall in YOB aggregate standings for the 2012 Nationals. There is renewed interest in racing amongst younger skiers in our

Athlete Development Program 2011-2012

ADP with a strong contingent moving up into the race program from the Extended Rabbits group. At the second BC Cup race there were twenty-two Bulkley Valley participants including rabbits. Our team won 1 gold, 4 silver and 7 bronze medals for athletes in the midget and juvenile age categories. Midget championships is a time for our younger skiers to shine. We sent a strong contingent down with Chris and one of the many highlights was Travis Pete's gold medal performance in the sprints.

On behalf of the ADP team I would like to thank all the volunteers and parents for their support and hard work in making this a successful season.

The ADP coaching committee is continuing to actively pursue funding opportunities in order to bring Chris back for the next season.

Liz Holdijk

Athlete Development Team Board of Directors Representative

Race Events Report

for the May 8, 2012 Annual General Meeting

This year, our club hosted five timed races and one informal sprint race.

December 11, 2011 – Team Sprints

We provided an informal, freestyle team sprints competition for the 53 athletes who registered for regional snow camp that was moved to BV Nordic Centre due to insufficient snow at Burns Lake.

December 31, 2011 - Chris Dahlie Open

60 racers in this classic, interval start race included 13 racers from neighboring clubs (Nechako, Snow Valley and Omineca). The race served as the Northwest Zone qualifier for the BC Winter Games.

January 8, 2012 - Bulkley Valley Biathlon Regional Open

29 biathletes competed in an individual-format biathlon with 10 of the participants from Nechako, Omineca and Biathlon Terrace. This was the Northwest Zone qualifier for the BC Winter Games.

February 12, 2012 – Spirit of the Mountains (BV Open)

47 registered including 7 from neighbouring clubs Snow Valley and Omineca. .

This was a freestyle technique, mass start race followed by a “reverse pursuit”. The first race was timed with fasted names going on the Ken Stewart memorial trophies. Each skier’s finish time from the first race was used as their start time for a second race with the clock counting down to a “mass finish”.

March 3-4, 2012 – Wetzin’kwa Loppet (BV Marathon)

This year was the 25th annual Bulkley Valley Marathon. As usual, this was a social, year-end wrap-up event starting with a Friday night potluck and dessert night. The marathon has a new name to recognize the location of the BV Nordic Centre within the Wetzin’kwa Community Forest and the support the club receives from the Wetzin’Kwa Community Forest Corporation.

169 skied the classic marathon on distances from 1 km to 51 km. All Rabbits and their parents were included in the event this year. Like last year, the classic marathon was preceded by a Rabbit parade. 39 skiers completed the skate marathon on the following day. 22 hardy souls skied both days, including several Rabbits who completed their 7.5 or 17 km in very impressive times!

Race Participation in Recent Years:

	2009	2010	2011	2012	Average
BV Regional Biathlon	--	24	33	29	29
Chris Dahlie	69	72	80	60	70
Spirit of the Mountains	65	52	67	47	58
Marathon - Classic	117	87	126	169	125
Marathon - Skate	--	46	30	39	38
Total:	251	281	336	344	303

We strive to break even so that race fees cover all expenses but income varies considerably with participation levels. Last year, we were short about \$500 but in 2011-2012 we made a modest profit of \$1100. That money will go into general club revenue.

For our local, non-sanctioned events (i.e. not a BC Cup race), we try to minimize the number of officials needed but it still takes 12 to 25 volunteers to have a good event. Thank you to all of the people who show up on race day to help. Special thanks go to the race organizers:

- Sean Levenson sets up the course and works with the trackers, controllers, and first aid volunteers to ensure everyone stays on course, safely and on good tracks.
- Dave Pellow organizes the stadium setup which ensures a good traffic flow for racers, spectators and officials.
- Sylvia Pawluk manages the team of timers and starters who accurately record every skier's time.
- Rick Friesen is in charge of the mysterious workings of the timing computer program and cheerfully produces accurate results quickly, despite various gremlins who frequently visit the electronic systems.
- Sara Belanger and Terri Weme expertly administer the race registrations, bibs, result postings and prizes.
- Kathy Wilford organized our Ski Boosters, Biathlon and other fundraisers to provide healthy lunches for all of the racers and volunteers.

We continue to get great support from our neighboring northern clubs. We participate in each other's events and share equipment and expertise. This year we promoted a Northern Spirit Race Series.

- Steve Osborn, 2012 Chief of Competitions and Director

SCHOOL SKI PROGRAM

Report

30 March 2012

This is the program's 8th year and participation was better than ever, with 790 student visits. Fourteen classes in five schools participated, from grades 2-12. The majority of sessions were ski lessons, a few classes went without lessons and a few classes snowshoed and skied on the same day. The lodge and trails are excellent for this program.

An exciting addition to the coaches' activities this year was the Town After-School Recreation program. The program offered a sampling of sports and our coaches ran the two x-c ski sessions held on the Chandler Park field. Age range was 6-12, though no small boots and skis were available. The Club's new set of ski equipment for Kindergarten to Grade 3 will be put to good use by club, school and community programs.

Trail fees were \$2/visit. Lessons were \$3/visit. This year 18 students used the Town's Affordable Recreation Fund, totaling \$201. In May, our club will find out which portion of these requests will be covered by the Town Fund. In other words, there will be more money coming to our Club from the Town Fund in May or June, though it may not be the full amount we applied for (on behalf of the students). I propose the Club cover the portion that we do not receive from the Town Fund. The alternative is having the Town pursue the families or the schools in June, so that the Town can grant us our \$201.

Coaches this year were Debbie Courtliff, Monica Howard, Ursina Luther, Jen Hegan, Karen Mitchell, Liz Holdyk, Kathy Fraser, Sarah Holdyk, Irene Ronalds and Chris Werrell. The coaches, teachers and students all had good things to say about their time on the snow.

I hope the club continues to encourage young skiers to train as coaches. This school program has benefited greatly from at least eight of these young adults from our club.

All schools in School District #54 book lodge use, trail use and ski lessons through the school program coordinator. This ensures good communication between the tracksetter, the lodge manager and the school program.

I have submitted the Ski S'Kool report to Verna at CCBC.

I am retiring and handing the reins over to the enthusiastic Kathy Fraser, a Rabbit coach who has also been coaching the school program for two years. Thanks for all your support. It's been a pleasure working with our active, healthy Club.

Karen Mitchell
School Program Coordinator
BV Cross Country Ski Club
30 March 2012

Membership and Ticket Booth

2011-2012

	2010-2011	2011-2012
Membership	698	701
Ticket Booth Sales	\$5639.59	\$5290.29
per day	\$181.83	\$124.53
Store Sales	\$3975.00	\$4343.75

Ticket Booth sales are collected at the lodge and from self-serve boxes by ADP parents in half-day shifts.

Store Sales are collected for the club by McBike Ski & Sport and Winterland Ski.

LODGE & AREA REPORT 2011-12 Season

It was an early season start, the first grooming was November 9th it snowed almost every day until the end of December, and the snowpack kept building through to the end of March. An extra \$2500 of fuel was consumed in keeping it packed down.

Fall trail improvements started with a new dog trail, created using a skid road from logging the year before. This required hoe work to remove stumps. A new link up with Pooch Paradise was done with help from the Forest Fire Crew. As expected, the expanded terrain is welcomed by the canine crowd and their owners.

There was a major effort to mow all trails and clear the side brush on the Chris Dahlie Trails; it had grown in so tall that the snow was pressing it down onto the trails. The solution involved lots of volunteer hours with the brush saw and the tractor.

Work also went into the Biathlon Range, including a new storage shed and completion of range expansion.

New Trails

For all the skiers that do not know, we have a new trail at the end of the lights, on the perimeter trail. With permission of the Wetzin'kwa Community Forest, the club was able to set track through the harvested area adjacent to our trails. Through gently rolling terrain, it offers spectacular views of Hudson Bay Mountain. This new extension is one kilometre long, so provides an easy 3 km ski from the lodge one way. In appreciation of using the harvested area the trail is called the "Wetzin'kwa Trail". There is also a touring trail connection from the Demonstration Forest Road, following an old logging road, to the new "Wetzin'kwa Trail". At present it can only be groomed with the ginzu groomer, but it was wildly popular with the young skiers who called it the "Zipper Twister".

There was logging activity adjacent to the Pine Creek Trails, and will possibly be more next year, between the 2.5km and the 5km junctions.

Lodge

A workbee in September focussed on clean up and getting in the firewood. We had a few maintenance issues; the most noticeable problem was lots of smoke in the lodge. After much head-scratching, we found that the chimney had been cracked during the cold weather. This was probably caused by condensation from the smoke freezing where the chimney leaves the heated building. A new chimney liner was installed by a volunteer crew, at a cost of around \$2,000.

Future plans for the lodge include adding a decorative wood ceiling with sound proofing. A new heating system is also under consideration.

Off season improvements to the area will include widening trails where needed, and a new sign at the entrance that will be noticeable from the ski hill road. Upgrades to trail signage will also be considered. The club was fortunate to receive Community Recreation grant monies that will be used to trade in our Pisten Bully on an upgraded model, and to construct a new Biathlon warming hut.

Thank you to all the people involved in helping with these many projects! This is what makes our club work!

2012 BV Biathlon Annual Report

Bulkley Valley Biathlon has had another great season. The season began with the continuation of our range expansion and upgrade project. The firing line was leveled and widened, three more targets were acquired and 14 were set up for the season. A new storage shed was built, through the labour of our devoted volunteer parents.

This season our club had 15 youth athletes and an informal group of 6 Masters. This season we had increased adult interest from non-biathlon related club members. We also ran our *Spring into Biathlon* junior program in April; a 3 session introductory program for kids ages 8, 9 and 10. All of our athletes are also active in the ski skills programs; Track Attack and Junior Development groups.

We hosted our annual BV Biathlon Regional Open race on January 8th, with 27 athletes of all ages, from Terrace to Vanderhoof. This race was also the NW zone (7) BC Winter Games biathlon qualifier in preparation for the 2012 Winter Games in Vernon.

BV Biathlon had members at all 3 Biathlon BC Cup races with 12 to Burns Lake in January, 5 to Kelowna in February and 2 down to the Whistler Olympic Park for the Biathlon BC Championships in March. BV biathletes are great club ambassadors at these events, racing well and making their coaches and parents proud! People across the province are noticing our athletes.

Two of our athletes; Ben Kinkela and Angus Tweedie attended the 2012 BC Winter Games in Vernon, as part of the North-West zone biathlon team. Peter Tweedie attended as the zone biathlon coach. These athletes were a credit to our club, skiing hard. Angus captured first place in all three of his races.

Our club remains strong with interest increasing yearly. I would like to wrap up by thanking the athletes for their interest and energy, the parents for their support and a big thanks to our coaches Jill O'Neill, Kevin Kriese, Michelle Sasvari, James Cuell and Geoff Recknell.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Tweedie

Rabbit Program 2011-2012

We had a very successful 2012 Rabbit season with, 18 Extended Rabbits, 45 Regular Rabbits. Most promising for the club, we had an enormous jump in Bunny registrations, with 47 three to five year olds joining our ski program this year.

Al Read and Jessi Wright stepped up to coordinate the Rabbits and Bunnies, and were able to find great coaches and a very enthusiastic set of parent volunteers to deliver the program. Highlights of this year included the night ski, when young athletes skied under the stars and through candle lit paths in the woods, and fun day, where Bunnies, Rabbits and Extended Rabbits trekked through the ski playground, shot hockey pucks, manoeuvred through obstacle courses, and sped down slalom courses with the help of the Track Attack skiers. The young skiers and their families loved the marathon, and would like to extend thanks to Steve Osborne and the Race Committee for their work in coordinating the event. Al and Jessi would also like to thank the board, Chris Werrell, the Athlete Development Program, and Ski Boosters for their support and guidance through the season.

Irene Ronalds was head coach for the Extended Rabbits this year. She reports that 2012 was a great year. Over half the skiers were new to the program this year, and the coaches were thrilled with their skill development. In particular, the kids worked hard on their skate skiing and were excited to have the skills to take part in the Chris Daily cup in February. They spent lots of the year chasing powder, and would like to thank Brian and Kathleen for clearing a new trail linking the Wetzin'kwa Trail and the Logging Trail. The kids nicknamed the path the Zipper-Twister, and it became their favourite trail.

We are asking club members to please consider helping with the programs for next year. Both Rabbits and Extended Rabbits need new coaches, and we need new program coordinators as Al and Jessi are stepping down for now.

- Leslie-Jean MacMillan