

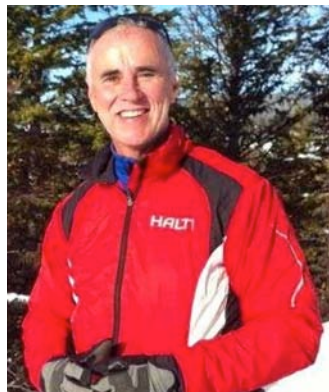
Ski Tracker

Don't Forget the AGM!

From the President

Mike Campbell

Staring out the window at the green grass in the yard, it's hard to believe that we are only in mid March. It's been a short ski season this year. One day it would rain the next we would get a dump of snow. The ground never really froze and this made it difficult to groom the trails, especially the Colpoys and Rankin trails. Having said that, we have had some pretty decent skiing this year. I have to commend the hard work of the trail captains and groomers for the fantastic job they have done in dealing with really adverse conditions.



Again this year our club hosted many events and races, we had a very successful Jackrabbit program with over 80 kids. Many elementary schools and high schools in the area use our trails for their programs. These kids are the future of our club and they are learning a skill that they can use for life.

The executive are not recommending any changes to the membership fees this coming year. Last year we increased the rates in order to set aside funds for the purchase of new grooming equipment for the Sawmill Nordic Centre. We are really pleased to see that our membership numbers are still over 700 members even with the increase in membership fees last year.

Between the generous donations of club members and increased revenues from membership sales we have been able to set aside \$15,000 in reserves (our goal was


\$10,000) for the purchase of a new groomer. This brings our reserve fund up to approximately \$105,000. The cost for a new groomer is approximately \$250,000. We have made a grant application to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for \$130,000. Keep your fingers crossed. We should hear from them in the next few weeks.

The Bruce Ski Club operates the most affordable, accessible and best maintained trails in Ontario. We accomplish this because of the strength of our volunteers. Thanks to everyone who helps out, regardless of how small or large your contribution, you make the club happen. Special thank you to our many Sponsors and Friends who contribute to make this club affordable for everyone. Thank you to our patron Suntrail Source for Adventure. In addition to supporting the club as a Patron, Suntrail sponsors many of our events, including the Ski Swap, Men & Women on Skis and Suntrail Special. Lastly, I remind you that Bruce Ski Club does not own any of the trails on which we ski. We owe a great deal to the landowners who generously allow us to ski on their property. If you meet any of the fourteen landowners, please thank them personally for sharing their property.




COMING EVENTS

Apr. 14 - AGM - The Bruce Ski Club Annual General Meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. at Gerry's Place, Sawmill Nordic Centre

Our Annual General meeting will be held on April 14th, at 7:00 pm at Sawmill Nordic Centre. This is your opportunity to have input into the operation of our club. New ideas are always welcome! 

Registration

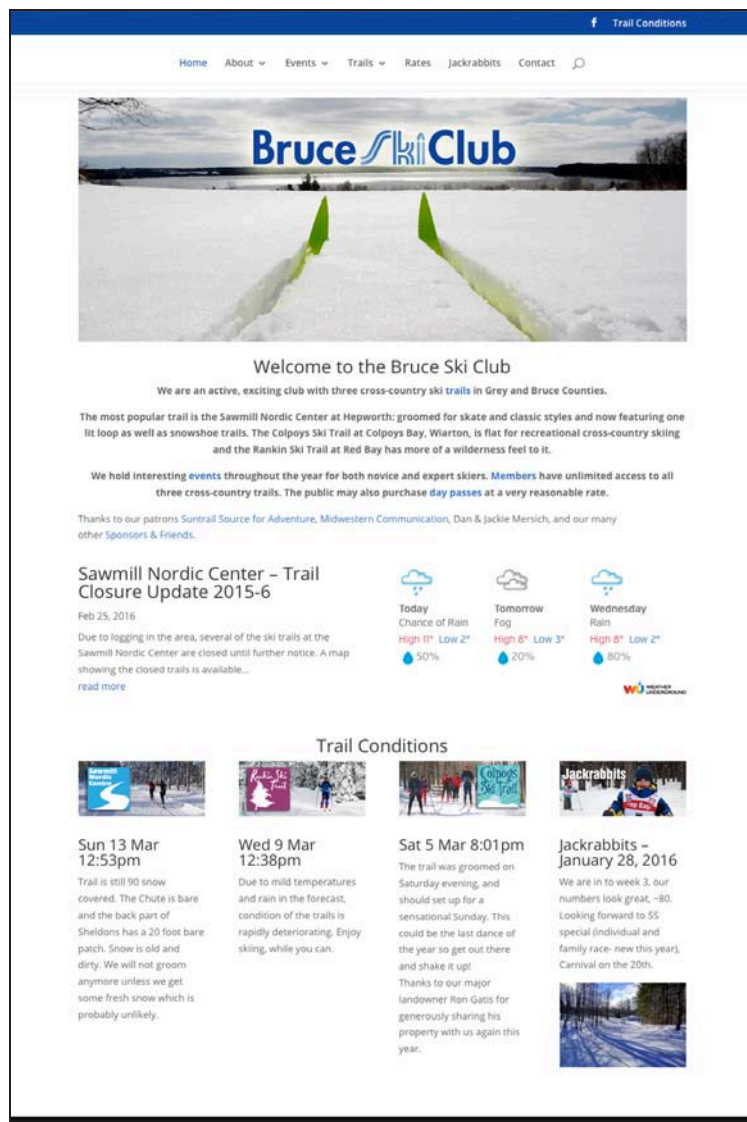
Phil Johnston

We now have 714 members and the snow is leaving us quickly with nary a storm on the horizon. Online registration went well. Now its time for evaluation of the system. On the executive end we will be discussing the cost vs. the benefits of the current system, the justification of the data collected, and tweaks to make life easier. On your end, I ask that you send us any info or ideas that you consider important. I would like to thank each of you for your patience and understanding. A special thanks to Suntrail Outfitters in Hepworth and to Bikeface in Owen Sound for providing membership application forms, keyfobs and stickers on our behalf. 

Ed.

Tom Hakala

Have you been to our new website yet? If not, you are really missing a good one. It is located at the same place that our old one was: bruceskiclub.ca, but it has a new clean look. Gone is the blow-up of the Profil binding, now we have that great shot that Martin Kerr took of the ski tips overlooking Colpoy's Bay. There are other changes as well, and in the end we hope that it will be easier to maneuver around the site and find what you are looking for.




The screenshot shows the Bruce Ski Club website. At the top is a navigation bar with links: Home, About, Events, Trails, Rates, Jackrabbits, and Contact. Below the navigation bar is a large banner image of a snowy landscape with the text "Bruce Ski Club" overlaid. Under the banner is a "Welcome to the Bruce Ski Club" section with a brief description of the club and its trails. Below this is a "Sawmill Nordic Center - Trail Closure Update 2015-6" section with a date of Feb 25, 2016, and a brief description of the closure. To the right of this section is a "Trail Conditions" section with a table showing the status of three trails: Sawmill Nordic Center, Colpoys Bay, and Rankin Ski Trail. The table includes columns for the trail name, the date and time of the update, and a brief description of the trail conditions. Below the table is a "Jackrabbits" section with a date of January 28, 2016, and a brief description of the event. At the bottom of the page is a "Race Coordinator's Report" section with a date of January 28, 2016, and a brief description of the report.

Trail	Date/Time	Conditions
Sawmill Nordic Center	Feb 25, 2016	Trail is still 90 snow covered. The chute is bare and the back part of Sheldons has a 20 foot bare patch. Snow is old and dirty. We will not groom anymore unless we get some fresh snow which is probably unlikely.
Colpoys Bay	Wed 9 Mar 12:38pm	Due to mild temperatures and rain in the forecast, condition of the trails is rapidly deteriorating. Enjoy skiing, while you can.
Rankin Ski Trail	Sat 5 Mar 8:01pm	The trail was groomed on Saturday evening, and should set up for a sensational Sunday. This could be the last dance of the year so get out there and shake it up! Thanks to our major landowner Ron Gatis for generously sharing his property with us again this year.

We can thank our vice-president, Shawn Radcliffe, for creating the site. After doing the basic layout, Shawn listened to all of the executive's nit-picking and ideas then quietly made the changes, trying to accommodate our whims.

The good thing about this site is that Shawn created it in Wordpress. Wordpress is a free and open source content management system (I got that from Wikipedia) or to put it more simply, it is a system that lets average numbskulls like myself, to actually go in and make changes or additions without learning HTML code. This will allow our executives like the race coordinator or a Jack-rabbit leader to update the website without having to wait for the webmeister to implement the change. The process should be more timely and up-to-date and the website will be a more reliable source to go to for finding out stuff like when a race is happening or how much is that Moonlight Ski.

As we get more familiar with the site, there will be changes made to improve the flow of information. That is the beauty of this design... It is flexible.

For instance, now you can go to the website to register your email address to receive this fine newsletter. FYI... To find the place to register your email just go to: <http://bruceskiclub.ca/>, click on "ABOUT", a pull-down menu will appear, scroll down to "NEWSLETTER" and you will find a box with the words, "SUBMIT YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS". Just type in your name, the old email (if there is one) then type in your current email and hit SUBMIT. 

Race Coordinator's Report

Ruth Scheel
Race Coordinator 2016 Summary

This season the 4 different nordic events that we hosted relied on a large group of volunteers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank

Sawmill Groomer Fund Donations



them and inform the members at large as to the huge number of people who contributed to the success of this BSC Race Season.

Convenors - set dates, outline the venue and organize the volunteers: Aimee Vereecke, Ruth Scheel

Race Secretary - sets up the online registrations, creates start lists, results, and runs office during races: Andrew Howlett, Fred Schlenker, Erin Scheel, Jean Campbell, Reed Bell



Bib Control - Distributes bibs and information prior to race and collects and accounts for bibs after the event: Barb Gray, Kathleen Cassidy, Suzanne Farla, Colleen Purdon, Ruth Ann English, Rhiannon Lewis, Rebekah Lawrence

Chief of Course - Sets the course markers and supervises the Course Marshals: Fred Scheel, Harry Hong

Course Marshals - monitor racers on course, reset barriers as needed and report any racer irregularities: Lynda Matthies, Colleen Purdon, Norm Bell, Ross Thompson, Gwen Bell, Claudia Solinger, Tim Smith, Ken Beauclerc, John Cameron, Brian Wall, Harry Hong, Doug Crane, Mike Campbell, Neil Sim

Start Crew - consists of a starter, assistant starter, time controllers, and marshals who get racers to the start line: Dan Purdon, Marilyn Suke, Betty Tuinema, Kelly Rogers, Jackie Mersich, Mike Rutherford, Suzanne Rutherford,


Colleen Purdon, Ann West, Heidi Tones

Chief Timer - supervises the finish line crew and communicates with the race office: Ken Clarke

Finish Line Crew - record finish times and bib numbers as racers cross the finish line - electronically and manually: Bill Haley, Norm Bell, Lloyd Lewis, Mike Edney, Ross Thompson, Paul Matthies, Marj Thompson, Tim Smith, Brian Wall, Mike Rutherford, Kari Shufflebotham, Sean Currie, Sonya Mount, Bill Courage, Ken Beauclerc, Bill Moriarty, Kristine Lawrence, Jackie Mersich, Sandy Stevenson

Lap Monitors - during races that run over several laps of a course or are longer in duration they record bib numbers and offer beverages, and in some cases, food to the racers: Lloyd Lewis, Bill Moriarty, Colleen Purdon, Marilyn Suke, Gwen Bell, Sandra Hong

Public Address - Announces start times and relays information during race duration: Sandy Stevenson

Each race requires between 28 and 32 volunteers - this does not include the food booth volunteers who run a food service during races. I would also like to thank Mayda Reid for decorating the Cookie Awards for the Suntrail Special. It takes a village to raise a child and it takes club volunteers to run a race. 



Sawmill Nordic Centre

Fred Scheel

Our 2016 ski season has been somewhat of a roller-coaster ride as far as temperature and snow conditions were concerned, however, the Sawmill Nordic Centre trails withstood what mother nature threw at us. To this point we have had great snow coverage and very good ski conditions. Our grooming team of Harry Hong, Neil Sim, Dj Perrin, Zane Davies and Fred Scheel have been able to provide our members with excellent tracks and skate lanes. We hosted 5 major ski events between Jan 7th and Feb 22nd and delivered a good product for these events. Enjoy the rest of the season. 



Rankin Ski Trail

Richard Bonert

Despite a late start and several interruptions by a day with rain, the 4 core loops of the Rankin trails have been ski-able since the 14th of January. The northern and new southern loops were groomed after we got enough snow in the 4th week of January. Not a bad winter considering that many skiers from southern Ontario think this is winter without snow even up here.

A big thank-you to Peter our tireless groomer who kept the trails groomed under these varying conditions this season and kept us well informed by posting the trail conditions promptly on the BSC website. A big thank-you to all the volunteers who helped in fall to prepare


the trails, and last but not least, to all our generous land owners, who permit us to have our trails on their lands.

The arrangements for parking and the port a potty worked well as usual. As the restaurant of the Red Bay Lodge was open after 4:30pm Thursdays to Sunday, a ski trip ending at 4:30 could end with a drink or early supper at the Lodge.



Work at a trail system never stops and Rankin is no exception. The new Sky Lake loop is fun to ski, but this first and mild winter revealed some wet spots and at least one correction to the original layout. I am confident that we will get all of that done this summer and fall, as Rankin has a great group of dedicated volunteers working with the trail captain. If you have been new to Rankin and loved it, why not to join that volunteer group? Write to the trail captain.

If you skied on the Rankin Trails at Red Bay this season and have suggestions and/or feedback, let your trail captain know, at bonert.rbsc@gmail.com.


Have a great summer and see you again at Rankin in fall and winter 2016-17. 



Colpoys Ski Trail

Martin Kerr

With a late start and an early ending, this season could be described as "short but sweet". We were able to ski for all but a few days from the first week in January till the first week of March, and conditions were generally good although we always seemed to be living close to the edge as the thermometer went on it's roller coaster ride throughout the winter.

Thanks to our principal landowner Ron Gatis for generously sharing his property with us once again, and to Keith Butchart for keeping the parking lot cleared. Thanks to Zane Davies for helping with the grooming and Mike at Pinkerton Automotive in Wiarton for keeping our grooming machine in operation. Please remember to join us next fall to clear the trails in preparation for the 16/17 season. 

Jackrabbits


Keith Day & Aimee Vereecke

What a great season!! JR were out in large numbers every Saturday this year. You looked great out there on the trails. We have had a very committed group of talented leaders support our skiers. Keith and I would like to thank everyone for all of their support, time and positive energy. You are doing a great job at sharing your love of skiing. We can't do this without you. A special shout out to our new leaders – your enthusiasm has been great. Our partnership with Georgian Bay Nordic and our Track Attack group was a great way to highlight the additional opportunities that are out there for our skiers who want to continue to challenge themselves. Thanks to Marilyn Suke, Timothy Smith and Bob Groh for your instruction throughout the season.



Parents, you have been a great group to work with. Thanks for volunteering your time with JR events and weekly duties. You make our job much easier. We are always looking for new ideas and leaders. If you are interested in sharing some of your skills or talent, please let us know.

Keith Day and I have enjoyed the opportunity to help organize and coordinate our JR Crew. After four years in this roll we are both looking forward to passing the torch to a group of leaders. If you are interested in helping coordinate the JR program please be in touch with either Keith or I at jackrabbits@bruceskiclub.ca. There are a variety of tasks that need various skills, if you enjoy working with great volunteers, committed leaders and enthusiastic kids, the job is for you. Both Keith and I are planning on playing a coaching roll next year and will help out with this transition.

Although JR might be coming to an end, we look forward to seeing you out there on the trails. Thanks for another great season! 

Georgian Bay Nordic

Timothy Smith

While the season is nearing an all-too-soon close, there are still exciting times ahead for our racers.

First an update on some recent results:

The final O-Cup of the year was held last week in Temiskaming, where we had some fabulous racing. Deanna Oliver and Rylee Dawson competed in their first ever O-Cup. Dylan Beck came away with three first place finishes in the midget category. Meanwhile, Colleen Beck, James Beck, Simon Smith and Spencer Vreugdenhil-Beaucherc all earned their way into the "Ontario Top-Forty" list, due to their consistent efforts of racing all season. Congratulations team.

The previous week, in Kawartha, the development team attended the Ontario Midget championships. The conditions were great for some fast and exciting racing. The athletes took part in a classic interval start race, some team sprints and a mass start skate race. There were many awesome efforts and good results. For details, please visit the GBN website at skigbn.ca

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"often copied but never duplicated"

The SOD series of races wraps up this weekend in Midland. GBN currently holds a close third place in the team standings.

The final event of the racing season is the National Championships to be held in Whitehorse, Yukon from March 20-26. Five skiers and a dedicated team of parent/coaches will be travelling to represent GBN. Former GBN athletes Matthias Pardon, David Askwith and Julian Smith, will also be representing our club. Keep track of the team's efforts by checking zone4.com for results. Good Luck to our excellent young athletes! 



Remember last winter when
the Pisten Bully broke down
and was stuck at crossroads
and you couldn't get through...

DONATE NOW TO THE NEW SAWMILL GROOMER FUND!

Check the Sawmill Groomer box when you register online or send a cheque to BSC, Box 2, Owen Sound, ON N4K 5P1

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SKIERS, there's no need to feel down.
I said, SKIERS, though the snow's not around.
It's always fun to attend the...

A.G.M.

Don't forget the
Bruce Ski Club Annual General Meeting
on April 14th - 7:00 p.m.
At Gerry's Place, Sawmill Nordic Centre



The Bruce Ski Club would like to thank

MIDWESTERN
COMMUNICATIONS

for printing of this newsletter.