

Ski Tracker

Bring on the Snow!!!

From the President

Mike Campbell

Greetings from the president's office. Can you feel the anticipation in the air for the start of the ski season? It starts with the ski swap and trail work crews and continues with all the work that happens behind the scenes that many club members may not be aware of.



This includes, but is not limited to, trails being cleared of debris, bulldozer work, weeds mowed down, signs put up, lights for the night loop tested, equipment serviced and maintained, volunteers tasks organized, ski races scheduled, events planned, membership forms sent out and registrations are compiled and funds are collected, jackrabbit coaches lined up, trained and lessons planned, newsletters put together and distributed and website and facebook pages updated. Shoot that's a lot of work!!! We could not do it without all the great volunteers that help out with every aspect of running our great club. I would like to thank all our volunteers and trail captains for all the work they do for the club. If you meet a volunteer out on the trail thank them for all their work. If you wish to help out please let us know we are always looking for help.

By now most of our club members has purchased their memberships through Zone4.ca. If you have not yet reg-


istered, I would encourage you to do so. Once you have purchased your membership you can pickup your sticker for your membership key-fob at Suntrail Source for Adventure in Hepworth or Bikeface Cycles in Owen Sound. Please support these two great businesses that help our club out with registration. I would like to remind club members to wear their membership tags when on the trails.



COMING EVENTS

- Jackrabbit 1st Session - Jan. 7**
- High School Invitational - Jan. 16**
- Moonlight Ski - Feb. 10**
- Awesome Adult Afternoon Ski Lesson - Feb. 11**
- Suntrail Special - Feb. 12**
- CWOSSA - Feb. 15**
- Bruce Ski Club AGM - Apr. 20**

I would like to thank Suntrail Source for Adventure for again, hosting our club run ski exchange. This is a great event that enables people to get into the sport of skiing in an affordable way, it is also a fund-raiser for the club.

Please keep in mind that much of the land our ski trails are situated on are privately owned, and we are guests of the land owners. Without the generosity of these owners we would not have the great trail systems we enjoy today. Please stay on the trails and leave no trace except ski tracks. 

Registration

Phil Johnston

Zone4 shows we have 503 members and I have paper registrations for another 55 members making a total of almost 560 members. The online registration system seems to be working great for most people but changes made by Zone 4 over the summer have really messed it up for me to enter the paperwork later. We will continue to work at it and I am sure that everyone will be entered soon. Best wishes for a Safe and Happy Holiday Season. 🛷

Ed.

Tom Hakala

I woke up this morning and looked outside... SNOW!!! Lots of snow! Sadly, by noon much of it had melted, but it sure was beautiful to see the trees laden with white again. I just checked the Weather Network and it looks like the temps are dropping as the week progresses and by Thursday we should see more white stuff. Whoopee!

In my excitement I headed down the basement and pulled my skis out of the storage cupboard. It's time to get them ready just in case we have enough snow to ski on by the weekend.

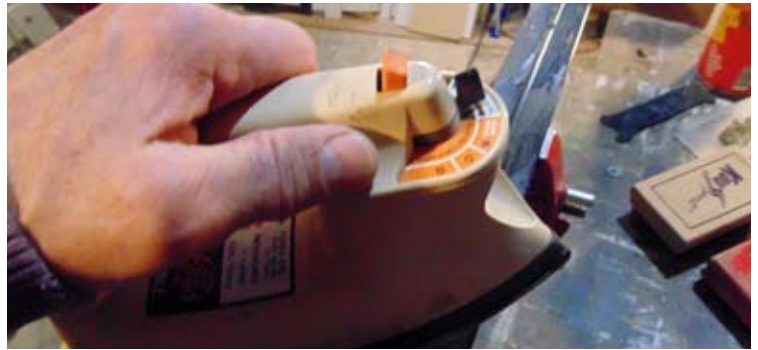
So where do I start... Many people think that "No-Wax" skis do not require waxing. Wrong. They do not require wax along the kick area (the middle of the ski where the fish scales are) like "Waxable" skis do. They do need to be waxed on the smooth areas on both the tips and tails of the skis. Otherwise they could be draggy in cold or wet snow and require more work to ski on... which is not that much fun.

First I clean the tips and tails using a soft clean rag sprinkled with base cleaner or alcohol. Then check the bases for gouges or scratches. If there are curly strings of plastic, remove them with a steel straight edge or carefully with a knife. You can sand the scratches with 400 grit sandpaper (always sand or scrape along the length of the ski).



Now it is time to apply wax. If you use the paste wax that comes in the little tear away cans, you must use

a cork to work the wax into the base. This is fine, but the wax doesn't last very long. Hot wax lasts longer and is not that difficult to apply. Use an old iron to melt the wax onto the base (the iron should be just hot enough to melt the wax without smoking). Apply the wax to the



tips and tails only (not the fish scales). Let the wax cool, then scrape it off with a plastic wax scraper (get one from Suntrail). Also scrape out the centre groove with the rounded corner of the scraper. Do this many times until the base feels almost waxless.



Then use a brush to structure the base by making long strokes from front of the ski toward the back. I use a mid-temperature wax that generally works for most days. That way I don't have to keep fiddling with waxing every time I ski. If your skis start to feel draggy again, it is time to wax.



This is how I prepare my skis, you may use a different technique. But in the end waxing will make your skiing more enjoyable and preserve your bases for many years. 🛷

Race Coordinator's Report

Ruth Scheel

The race dates are set for the coming ski season. We are hosting 3 races and will be looking for lots of great volunteers to help run these races.

The dates are Jan. 16th for the High School Invitational; February 12th for the Suntrail Special ; and February 15th for CWOSSA High School Championships.

We have been very fortunate in past years to have a great group of club volunteers to help run these races. You do not have to a strong skier to help out. There are many different jobs involved in running a race and they cannot happen without lots of volunteers.



When filling out your application to the club please think about helping out with races. If you have already done this I will be contacting you to see if you are available to help out on these dates.

Please mark them on your calendar and we will see you when the snow flies.

Thank you in advance for helping and Merry Christmas. 



Sawmill Nordic Centre


Fred Scheel

Hope everyone had a wonderful off season. Snow will soon be on the horizon and our volunteers have been busy preparing our trails for the upcoming ski season. This year members will notice a new fence between the Whispering pines property and the Conservation Property. This fence has created a new Freefall run and added another



.5 km of trail to our network. This addition of the new Freefall has also forced some changes in ski directions. New trail maps have been posted, so please become familiar with the changes in trail direction. We have had 3 work parties this fall to deal with the new changes. We thank all those volunteers who showed up to make all the changes necessary.

Our club depends on volunteers. Certain people make our day to day operations easy, so please thank these people if you see them: Ian Stewart, opens the shelter every morning Monday thru Friday on his way to work. Suntrail Source for Adventure closes the shelter on the weekends and looks after the snowshoe trail. The high school and GBN coaches lock the shelter on weeknights. DJ Perrin, Harry Hong, Zane Davies, Neil Sim, Ron Downie (a newbie) and Fred Scheel are dedicated to groom the best trails possible for our membership. And last but not least, lets not forget our dedicated executives.

Enjoy the upcoming season, Your Trail Captain, Fred Scheel 

Rankin Ski Trail

Richard Bonert



No further words. 



Colpoys Ski Trail


Martin Kerr

The trail has been clipped and cleared, the equipment made ready, and all we need is a few feet of snow to get going. Thanks to the eleven club members who turned out to help with the trail clearing this year, your contribution is appreciated!

If you've not skied at Colpoys before, here is what to expect as the season gets underway. Unlike the Sawmill trail which needs very little snow to get going, the limestone rocks at Colpoys require a foot of snow (at least) to allow us to safely operate the grooming equipment. The trail is first packed with the snowmobile to help establish a base and then we can start to set tracks on all or part of the trail where there is good coverage.

If you just like to get out and ski in the forest and field regardless of grooming, you can get out there as soon as the snow flies and make your way around the trails setting your own tracks as you go.

The portable toilet is usually ordered as soon as we begin grooming, and it is best to consult the club website for up to date trail conditions if you intend to come out for a ski.

We will try to groom whenever there is new snow and hopefully grooming will be complete by 10 a.m. as long as the weather and snow conditions cooperate. I look forward to a great ski season and hope to see you out enjoying the trails. Martin. _____ 

Jackrabbits

Mark Avery and Jason McDonald

Thanks to all who have registered for Jackrabbits this season. We have already exceeded our registrations from this point last year, as we are now at 80 Jackrabbits! We continue to accept registrations. Spaces are limited, so register now! Just a reminder that JR registrations will close on December 18th; any registrations following that point will be organized via email (jackrabbits@bruceskiclub.ca). Currently, JR fees are \$60.00 plus the BSC membership.

Please mark your paper or digital calendars. JR season starts on January 7th. Our JR race day is Sunday, February 12th.


We would like to thank our many fine JR instructors. Jackrabbits would not be a success without our dedicated volunteers. We are always looking for a variety of skills to help run a great season. If you feel you would like to contribute on the snow please let us know, as we are always looking to build our team of instructors. If you prefer to work behind

the scenes, we can also use your help. In order for us to keep our costs low, we continue to count on volunteer support. If interested, please contact us via the JR email. Coordinators will be in touch soon to confirm your volunteer commitment. Thank you in advance for your support.

Do you have a high school student who needs to complete their secondary school volunteer hours? We have a great placement for them! We have roles both on snow and off. Contact the JR email for details.

Lessons start at 10:00am. Please have your skiers ready to go 5 min. prior to the start of the lesson.

Skiers are presently being placed in instructional groups, parents will be contacted during the week prior to the first lesson with details regarding routines and coaches.

For further information or if you have specific questions contact us at jackrabbits@bruceskiclub.ca _____ 

See you out on the trails!

Georgian Bay Nordic

Bryan Dubeau and Marilyn Suke

GBN continues to train hard on the current green snow.

This year the Devo team (grades 5 - 8) have invited the Track Attack jackrabbit group to join them for 6 dryland/on snow sessions starting late November. This addition to the BSC Jackrabbit program allows these more skilled skiers a chance to experience dryland training, gain skills in ski preparation and maintenance as well as making gains in their strength and their technique in both skate and classic skiing. In addition we have more keen young skiers for our program that includes plenty of fun and games.

GBN has many exciting items up for auction on its website <http://skiigbn.ca> Check it out! and keep up to date on what else we are up to.

Sawmill Groomer Fund Donations




\$108,818.00

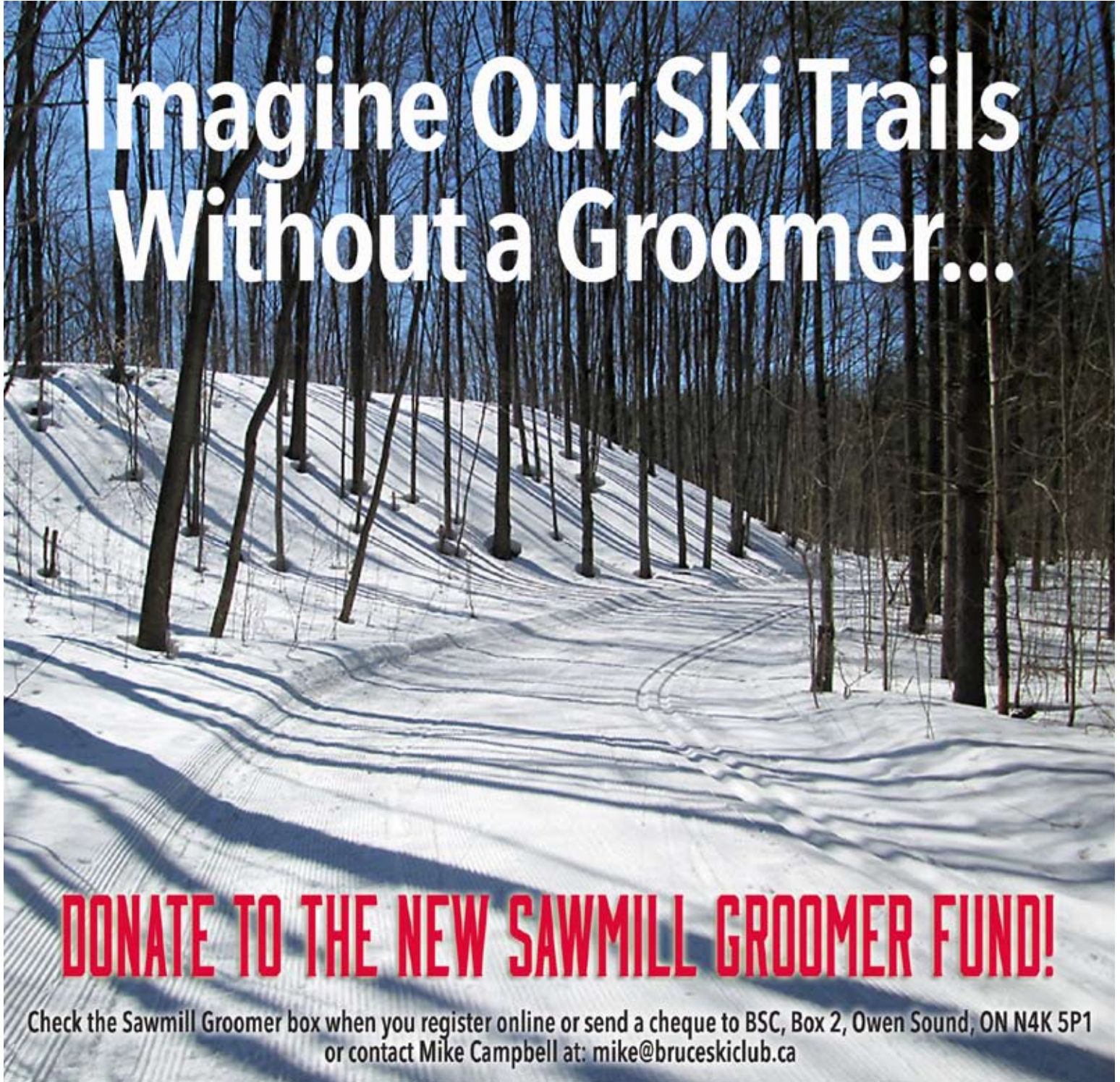
This winter Sawmill Trails will be the place to be on February 10th and 11th. A Nordic Festival starting with the Moonlight Ski Friday night (in its original form, bring your own snacks and friends) and enjoy the fellowship of the ski community. Saturday morning is Jackrabbits as usual then there will be a light lunch served - by donation - as a bridge to the Awesome Adult Afternoon ski lesson. Child care is provided and this is an excellent opportunity to tune up your technique or try a brand new kind of skiing (skate for you classic skiers? or the other way around) Check out the details at <http://skigbn.ca>

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So do those snow dances and wear your PJ's inside out.
Let it snow. 



Imagine Our Ski Trails Without a Groomer...

DONATE 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
or contact Mike Campbell at: mike@bruceskiclub.ca

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The Bruce Ski Club would like to thank



for printing of this newsletter.