



SKITRACKER



From the President

Andrew Howlett

For many of us a new ski season has already started thanks to some early snow in November. The new rule seems to be: take advantage of the snow when it appears for it may soon be gone. Our trail captains and groomers update their trail reports on the bruceskiclub.ca website after they groom the trail so you can ski new snow as soon as possible.

I need to make a correction to my last message. Our insurer advised us that the Bruce Ski Club insurance policy DOES NOT cover dogs on the trail. As a consequence, Bruce Ski Club cannot offer dog-friendly trails. We are investigating alternate insurance. In the meantime do not bring your dog to Bruce Ski Club trails. If you find a dog friendly trail somewhere, then that is great but it has nothing to do with our club so remember to thank the trail sponsors. Bruce County will operate a dog friendly ski trail at Lindsay tract this year, BSC cannot include the dog trail as part of our system.


Thank you to John Tamming, Richard Bonert, Don and Al Elliot, Peter Stewart and the many volunteers who helped fill in wet spots at Rankin Trail. Somehow Don and Al were able to bring heavy equipment to isolated spots of the trail. They cut new trail, built bridges and filled in huge

ditches made by ATVs. Peter and Richard re-opened an old BSC trail. Make a day trip to Red Bay this winter to enjoy the new trails and visit an old friend.

The Ski Swap was well attended but someone forgot to pay for a pair of Sprint Crown 140cm skis. If you thought that pair of skis was a super bargain then please contact a member of the executive to finalize the sale.

Skiers at Colpoys will notice that the barn is gone. Our grooming machine lives in a tent, partly protected by an old stone wall. It would be nice to have a structure at the trail to offer some shelter to machines and club members. If you have an idea about what we can do, within our limited budget, that would serve the club, complement the natural beauty of the area and celebrate our first trail then please talk to Martin.

This winter, Sawmill skiers may find themselves in the middle of our first High School Invitational race. If you go to ski and find an event taking place remember that we have three other trails to enjoy ... or stay because new volunteers are always welcome at events - join our experienced crews for a great time of camaraderie and skiing. Check our event list. Challenge yourself to try one new event this year.

Part of my job is to remind the membership of our rules. Our most important rule is to respect the landowners. Bruce Ski Club does not own any land: all our trails are generously provided by private owners, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority and Ministry of Natural Resources. We are guests. Please treat their property with respect. Stay on the signed trails; do not damage the vegetation; dogs are not allowed at the trails. Pack out your garbage and please pack out garbage someone else might have accidentally dropped. Remember the hut at Sawmill is used by all so please clean up after you are done. Many different people and groups share our trails for recreational and training purposes which occasionally results in congestion. Understand that different people have different skill levels and appreciate our sport in different ways. Be considerate of others And have a great ski. 

COMING EVENTS


Wednesday 1 January	Enduro
Saturday 4 January	First Jackrabbits Lesson
Sunday 12 January	Men & Women on Skis
Tuesday 14 January	High School Invitational
Saturday 18 January	Moonlight Ski
Sunday 19 January	Colpoys Loppet
Sunday 26 January	How Far Can You Ski?
Thursday 6 February	BAA
Saturday 8 February	Jackrabbits Carnival
Sunday 9 February	Suntrail Special
Sunday 23 February	Geocaching at Rankin
Saturday 1 March	Last Jackrabbits Lesson
Thursday 17 April	Annual General Meeting

Ed.

Tom Hakala


What a great start to the ski season. I skied three days in November and to my amazement the skiing was really very good. After reading that Sawmill had been rolled and packed, I waxed both my good and rock skate skis and headed to Hepworth. I pulled into the parking lot to find no other cars??? Did I get it wrong? Did the website actually say, "We couldn't pack the snow." I drove up and checked out the trail. It definitely was groomed and there had been other skiers there earlier in the day. The base looked firm enough to use my better skis... plus Sawmill really doesn't have rocks... so the rock skis stayed in the car.

The snow was very fast and it really felt good to be back on the boards. There were a few lumpy and bumpy spots because of the thin layer of snow and weeds were poking through here and there, but overall it was fantastic.

I brought my camera so I could take a few shots for the newsletter... but as I already said, I was the only one there. Photos of empty trails didn't seem to cut it, so I took a shot of my skis and a selfie. This is where you come in... Last issue I put out a request for ski photos from all of you. Like the parking lot on that first day of skiing, nobody showed up. I received nothing. So here's the deal... Please send me pictures of your ski adventures. They could be taken right here at one of our great BSC venues or on a ski trip to some exotic destination like Quebec, B.C., Finland or Duntroon. Otherwise you may see more of my face. Send your ski photos to:
hakalathomas@gmail.com 



Marilyn Suke Receives Coaching Award

Cross Country Ontario is pleased to announce the recipient of 2013 Heinz Niederhauser Coaching Award as Marilyn Suke of Georgian Bay Nordic. Marilyn is a well respected member of the Ontario coaching community. Marilyn was also honoured by the Coaching Association of Ontario with the Good-to-Great Coach Award (Female) at the 2013 Ontario Coaching Excellence Awards in Toronto recently. Congratulations from all your friends at the Bruce Ski Club upon receiving this well deserved honour, Marilyn. 

BSV – Best Ski Value

Tom Hakala & Hector Lazzarotto

After checking out a few websites of other ski clubs, we may have to change our club's name to BSV for Best Ski Value. Our rates are lower and at the same time offer more trails, more venues and more variety of terrain than other clubs. To accomplish this, we rely on our volunteer members' generosity of time and donations. With this year's Application form, an encouraging number of you volunteered your time. Others chose to participate by adding a donation along with their membership fee. We thank all who contributed in a way that matches their individual desires and abilities.

Our Club now offers 4 different trail systems with a delightful mix of terrain. The trails are groomed frequently according to snow conditions. We can ski every day of the week and find a completely different exhilarating and enjoyable experience.

The large Pisten-Bully groomer at Sawmill Trail, with almost daily grooming, assures that these trails are in the best possible condition for members, Jackrabbits, school groups, racing teams as well as visitors. Comparable trails, groomed with similar equipment, have fees close to three times what BSC members pay. For instance, a club in northern Ontario posted their adult membership at \$161.00 while the family rates top out at \$349.00. Our early bird rate was \$50.00 per adult while our family rate was a remarkable \$120.00... Even our regular rates are only \$65.00 per adult and \$140.00 per family. Our day pass comes in at \$5 compared to most other regional clubs who hit non-members with a \$13.00 to \$15.00 fee.

Sawmill Trail is the most popular venue in our system. You can ski 11 km. of trails groomed for both skate or classic. There are also 8 km. of snowshoe trails if you prefer 'la

raquette à neige'. As well, there is lighted night skiing on the Jackrabbit loop. Try it after work as a way to get in a few laps to ward off that hectic day. This lighted trail is unique among ski clubs. Sawmill has its own warming cabin and large parking area just off Highway #6 one kilometre east of Hepworth.

For the most part the 11.5 km. of classic groomed trails at Colpoys Trail are relatively flat and consist of progressively longer loops, which will give novice or endurance skiers a good day's workout. The trail starts in an open area with a panoramic view of Colpoys Bay, then heads into a majestic hardwood and evergreen forest adding protection from the wind. Colpoys Ski Trail can be found just up the hill from the village of Colpoys Bay on Bruce Road #9.

Rankin Trail at Red Bay offers 14.2 Km. of classic groomed trails through a varied mix of flat and rolling fun loops in a natural wooded dune setting. The trails are situated east of Lake Huron at Red Bay and can be accessed from a parking area at Red Bay Lodge. There are many options available at Rankin with interconnecting loops that twist and turn through the forest, over hills and around Beattie Lake. There is enough variety to keep skiers interested every time they come to Rankin.

This is the first Season for the newest trail, Lindsey Tract, and this year will start with 1.4 km. of classic/skate groomed trails. The trail system cuts through beautiful and rugged northern Bruce Peninsula terrain in the 8000 sq. kilometre Bruce Country Forest. The trails can be accessed from a parking area on the west side of Highway #6 just north of Miller Lake.

All these choices with one club membership, makes the Bruce Ski Club the 'Best Ski Value' around. 


Registration

Barbara Gray

It has been a busy month processing membership forms. Once again, I ask members to please remember to print clearly. It is very difficult to accurately address envelopes if I can't make out the handwriting. We pull our addresses off the program by using phone numbers. Therefore, we need members to include that information on their form.

A second reminder for members, is that we offer family membership for 'children up to the age of 21 years still living at home'. Therefore, after the age of 21 years regardless of where the adult child is living, that member is regarded as an additional individual member, rate of \$50.00- \$65.00.


Thank you for your attention to what might seem like inconsequential details, but it makes the job of registrar easier. Total number of members- 559

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the registration form or payment, please do not hesitate to call. Have a good ski season. 

Race Report for 2013/14

Ruth Scheel

Thank you to all the BSC Members who have volunteered to help with the Ski Races that we are planning to host this year. The High School Invitational on January 14th, and the Suntrail Special on Feb. 9th. Please mark these dates on your 2014 calendars.

The various volunteer groupings are currently being compiled and coordinators will be assigned as soon as possible. Thank you to these willing volunteers as well. Our Club could not function without the support of volunteers. Have a wonderful holiday and see you on the trails. 

Colpoys Trail

Martin Kerr

The Colpoys trail is ready to go and waiting for snow. Thanks to Deb Diebel who came out on a cold and wet trail clearing day and thanks to Dr. Ian Miller for his generous donation of trail clearing equipment.


The parking lot has been enlarged to allow more cars to park with greater ease and safety. A seasonal bridge has been constructed at the end of Pines Avenue to allow greater trail access during periods of flooding. With the exceedingly wet Fall and October being the wettest on record, this bridge should come in handy. These two projects cost about \$800 to complete and another \$1000 was spent on snowmobile repairs. Skiers will notice that the old barn which collapsed last year has been hauled away, feel free to park in front of the access door as it is no longer used.

It's time to show your support of the Colpoys trail. Attendance at the trail clearing day this year consisted of one member and myself, last year we had two members and myself, and the year before that two members showed up to help. The Bruce ski club relies on club members to volunteer a little bit of time each year to keep things running smoothly. Without club volunteers, trails shut down. If you enjoy skiing at Colpoys and wish to continue to do so you need to step forward and volunteer your help.

Sawmill Trail

Fred Scheel

We had our first snow on Nov. 22nd and members started skiing by Nov. 24th. We have had about 10 cm of snow since then and the shelter has been open for 2 weeks. Unfortunately as I write this report the temperature outside is 10 degrees and skiing will have to be continued when we get new snow.

All trail maintenance has been completed thanks to many of our volunteers. Enjoy the upcoming season as it continues to develop. 

Rankin Trail at Red Bay

Richard Bonert

A big thank you to our new patron John A. Tamming (lawyer), who provided considerable funds to upgrade the Rankin Ski Trails this fall. It allowed us to rebuild and reroute the trails in 12 locations to eliminate notoriously known wet spots.

To do all the work many of the Rankin volunteers came out and helped tremendously, a big thank you to all of you who helped in November to get the trails into great shape again. The improved trails are ready - we are waiting for snow.

We did a major reroute of the Beattie Ridge Lake trail (black) in the north to avoid a notoriously flooded section. New maps have been posted to guide the skiers and blazes have been changed. The trail map is on the club website and posted in the system at each intersection.

New: There will be a porta-potty at the skier parking lot at the Red Bay Lodge. The club decided to provide this facility, like it does at all the other BSC trail systems.

Last years snow-ploughing worked well and we will keep the arrangement. The main access to the Rankin Ski Trails at Red Bay Lodge will be ploughed regularly. This includes the parking lot for skiers at Red Bay Lodge and the access road to it. Nobody should get stuck.

Grooming? We groom typically twice a week, Fridays for the weekend and in the beginning of the week Mondays or Tuesdays. We groom extra after really big snowfalls. If you want to know the state of grooming before you come out to the Rankin Ski Trails at Red Bay, check our website: www.bruceskiclub.ca. When you are at the website look for the Rankin Trail report. The report is updated immediately after grooming by our groomer Peter, look at the date

and time of the report and you get an immediate picture about the state of grooming at Rankin, before you set out for a longer drive to Red Bay.


Rankin Trail Event: Again we will have the Geocaching event at the Rankin Trail at Red Bay on Sunday February 23rd, starting at 1:30 p.m. at the Red Bay Lodge, finish by latest 4:30 p.m. We again plan to have a gathering afterwards in the Red Bay Lodge or at the Top Notch restaurant in Wiarton with hot drinks and some food (optional).



The international Geocaching logo

Please check our web-site in February, as we will announce further details and provide data and information for the Geocache hunt on skis, so you can load your GPS.

If you do not have a GPS but are interested how it works or just want to ski in company, come out and join one of the teams as some people did last year.

Looking forward to a great winter and seeing you on the Rankin Ski Trails at Red Bay, 


Come Ski at the Lindsay!

Jack Van Dorp

The Lindsay Tract Trails are taking shape! This year the trail which will offer 1.4 km of dedicated ski trails that join up to trails shared with snowmobiles for loops and out-and-backs.

The Lindsay Tract is owned and insured by Bruce County. Feel free to bring your dog on the snowmobile trails and on a special connector that we have identified that forms a 1.2km dog-ski loop, just keep your dog under control.

(Note: Skiing with Dogs is not insured by the Bruce Ski Club and dogs are not permitted at the Sawmill, Colpoys, and Red Bay Trails.)

The trails are gently rolling and the Bruce County Trail Crew has been smoothing them out so we can groom even if there's not a lot of snow. We will try to groom 12' wide wherever we can so you can skate or classic, but there will be some narrow spots. Look for postings on the website when we have it ready for you to enjoy! 

Jackrabbits

Carlo Oblillos, Keith Day, Aimee Vereecke

Thanks to all who have registered for Jackrabbits this season. We continue to accept registrations for this season, but spaces are limited so register now! At this point, registration is \$60.00.


We are looking forward to an exciting 2014 season with a few new additions to our schedule. This year Jackrabbits are pre-registered for the Suntrail Special on February 9th. Mark your calendars. We are also ramping up our Bumps and Jumps and Ski Park areas. More fun for everyone!

We would like to thank our returning leaders and welcome our new leaders to the program. Jackrabbits would not be a success without our dedicated volunteers. The first Jackrabbit session is Saturday, January 4, lessons begin at 10:00a.m., please have your skiers ready to go 5 min. prior to the start of the lesson. Skiers are presently being placed and parents will be contacted during the week prior to the first lesson.

This season we will once again be following the program guidelines as outlined by Cross Country Canada.

Our costs remain very low, we can continue to provide quality instruction and a great program only with your volunteer support. Coordinators will be in touch soon to confirm your volunteer commitment. Thanks ahead of time for your support.

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

See you out on the trails! 

Georgian Bay Nordic

Joanna Bottrell

Hey! Just so you know, it is possible to come out to GBN practices and try us out to see if you would like to join, up until December the 19th, Tuesdays and Thurs-

days at 4:00 at Sawmill Trails.

The team managed to get a few good practices on snow both at Sawmill Trails and at Duntroon/Highlands already this season. David Askwith and Julian Smith are getting some fantastic snow time right now with Ontario Team Coach Pavlina Sudrich at Silver Star in BC. Some racers here are wearing their pyjamas inside out which apparently brings on the snow!

Check out the website for Winter Universiade 2013. This year it is taking place in Trentino Italy where Peter Biesel and Matthias Purdon will be competing against top University athletes from all over the world, Dec 11th to the 21st.

Get ready for the fun filled Enduro relay race on January the 1st. Registration is from 1:00-1:30, race starts at 2:00 and goes until 4:00. And don't forget about Men and Women on Skis on January the 12th, a GBN/Suntrail Outfitters event for learning to ski or to improve your technique!

Bring on the (more) snow! 



