

An Early Start! --and Stop!

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? That little dusting of snow made me dig out my skis and scrape the summer wax off. I think we will all need to do a snow dance to get Mother Nature to dump some snow in our area.



What Goes On before the Season Starts.

The season starts with the crews preparing for the ski swap and trails cleanup, and continues with all the work that happens behind the scenes of which many club members may not be aware. This includes, but is not limited to, trails cleared of debris, bulldozer work, weeds mowed down, signs put up, lights for the night loop tested, equipment serviced and maintained, volunteer tasks organized, ski races scheduled, events planned, membership forms sent out, registrations compiled, funds collected, Jack-rabbit coaches lined up and trained, Jackrabbits lessons planned, newsletters put together and distributed, and website and facebook pages updated.

That's a lot of work!!! We could not do it without all the great volunteers who 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.

Annual Ski Swap

Our annual Ski Swap was a great success, with over \$5,000



Andrew diligently processing some satisfied ski swappers.

in sales and a profit of \$800 to the club. I would like to thank Suntrail Source for Adventure for again hosting our club run ski swap. This is a great event that enables people to get into the sport of skiing in an affordable way.

Memberships

By now most of our club members have purchased their memberships through Zone4.ca. If you have not yet registered, I would encourage you to do so. Once you have purchased your membership, you can pick up your sticker for your membership key fob at Suntrail Source for Adventure in Hepworth. ***I would like to remind club members to wear their membership tags when on the trails.***


Thursday--No, Tuesday--Night Time Trials

Jack Van Dorp is running Tuesday night time trials, (see details in this newsletter, p. 3). If you want to test out your fitness level over the season why not race against the clock at the Time Trial and see how much faster and fitter you get as the season progresses?

XCSO Kilometre Challenge 2021-22

Last year we had over 100 members participate in the XCSO Kilometre challenge run by Cross Country Ontario. XCSO is running it again this year, also we may run a challenge for club members only. **SEE P. 8 FOR MORE INFO.** Why not sign up and see how many km. you can put in throughout the entire season? See if you can beat your totals from last year..

Thanks to our Land Owners

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. 



- 9-15 Jan 2022 - Trail Exchange Sauble SC
- 16-22 Jan 2022 - Trail Exchange Glenelg SC
- 23-29 Jan 2022 - Trail Exchange OSCSC
- 6 Feb. 2022 - Suntrail Special Race
- 13-19 Feb 2022 - Trail Exchange BVSC
- 8 Feb. 2022 - CWOSSA Race



Colpoys Ski Trail

Richard Bonert

A big thank you to all of you who helped with the fall trail work on Saturday, October 30th. The work party on Saturday went well (no rain with about 20 volunteers plus a second large group of volunteers of the Special Olympics group.) All trails were worked over and the growth and grass around the registration kiosk and the shed were cut using a brushcutter.

Regarding debris or fallen trees, the trails are in good shape, but a recent inspection walk showed that several sections, like last year, are still flooded. The problem is we had hardly any frost so the ground is not yet frozen. We are looking not only for snow but also for some good freezing weather.

Trail Reroutes

For those of you who know the Colpoy's Trails better: The trails around G, where the north end of the Beaver Pond Trail and the West Trail meet, which was non-passable last year and had only a non-groomed detour, have been rerouted with the help of the landowners Laura and Bevan. They will be groomed and track set as usual (no detour as last season). The change is minor so no new map is required. The point 'G' will be there, but about 100m. more south towards 'A' as before. New signs will be posted.

There is also some reroute on Ron's Trail to avoid one of the most rocky areas; everything is well marked.

Otherwise we are ready with the equipment, and snow clearing of the parking lot is ordered. Unfortunately, we will once again not have a port-a-potty on site due to the health regulations. Registrations and payment for day use will be the same set up as last year's (cash accepted). Signs will go up as usual as soon as the snow falls.



Winter Maintenance: Oh, a tree? - You told us. - Gone in 48 hours. - Ron's Trail

We are ready and waiting for snow so we can start packing and grooming. As soon as there is enough snow to ski safely, the signs will be posted at County Road 9 and our website will have a report.

Ready for the winter maintenance, your groomer, Neil, and your trail captain, Richard

See you on the Colpoy's Trails. _____ 

Registration

Heidi Tones

With over 1000 members so far, it looks as if we have another great membership of outdoor enthusiasts! If you have a school ski team, or a community group that would like to use the trails to ski or snowshoe for one time, day passes can be purchased and filled out at the hut. You can deposit cash or e-transfer! Passes can also be purchased at Suntrail Source for Adventure, Hepworth, where they take all forms of payment (for an additional administrative fee of \$2). If you plan to take your group routinely, please contact me to get forms for a discounted price. It is important that everyone is covered under the insurance.

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If you do not have your ski fob yet, be sure to take a copy of your receipt into Suntrail and wear your fob proudly, indicating you are a member in good standing. New ski fobs with our new BSC logo were designed by Tom Hakala last year. If you would like to replace yours with a new one, please take your old one(s) into Suntrail and they will happily replace it/them!



See you on the trails, Heidi, Registrar _____ 

Time Trials

Jack Van Dorp

December 2021

You are responsible for timing yourself from start to finish, and completing the form online. [CLICK HERE](#) to submit your results.

Time Trials are back! – Tuesdays this Winter.

Looking for a mid-week speed “tuneup”?

We are again offering virtual time trials. To give a little more recovery time before the more official weekend races, Time Trials will be on TUESDAYS this winter (not Thursdays, as last year).

Each week has a set course and technique.

Courses vary in distance and difficulty, and between classic and skate techniques. Each course is scheduled to occur twice in each technique over the course of the winter. Challenge your friends, but if skiing at the same time as others be sure to maintain social distance, and leave an interval between starts.

To avoid high-traffic trail times, competition is only permitted **before 10:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m. each Tuesday**. All courses start from the “official” start-finish line, between the pole and the bench in the stadium. If we can sort out a clock, we will.

There will be no race officials, no timing people or other volunteers, course markings, or hut access.

This is a self-catered honour system event. “Official” times are based on doing the “Official” course and technique for that date. If you do the other technique, or another ‘Official’ course, just fill out the form with what you did so the results are accurate.

You can find the results by [CLICKING HERE](#). Strava segments have also been created for each course.

There will be four different courses, with a different course each week. See schedule below and maps by clicking on [THIS LINK](#) or go to the Bruce Ski Club website, Events page. Then go to: Tuesday Evening Time Trials page for all the information about the Time Trials.

Time Trial Risk Management:

- Headlamps recommended especially when the course is beyond the lit loop
- Participation is 100% voluntary.

Schedule			
Date	Course	Technique	Length (km.)
Dec. 7/21	2 x Jackrabbit	Skate	2.1
Dec. 14/21	2-Way/Paperclip/Jackrabbit	Classic	3.5
Dec. 21/21	1 x Jackrabbit	Skate	1.1
Dec. 28/21	5-ish loop*	Classic	5-ish
Jan. 4/22	2 x Jackrabbit	Classic	2.1
Jan. 11/22	2-Way/Paperclip/Jackrabbit	Skate	3.5
Jan. 18/22	1 x Jackrabbit	Classic	1.1
Jan. 25/22	5-ish loop*	Skate	5-ish
Feb. 1/22	2 x Jackrabbit	Skate	2.1
Feb. 8/22	2-Way/Paperclip/Jackrabbit	Classic	3.5
Feb. 15/22	5-ish loop*	Classic	5-ish
Feb. 22/22	1 x Jackrabbit	Skate	1.1
Mar. 1/22	1 x Jackrabbit	Classic	1.1
Mar. 8/22	2-Way/Paperclip/Jackrabbit	Skate	3.5
Mar. 15/22	5-ish loop*	Skate	5-ish
Mar. 22/22	1 x Jackrabbit	Skate	1.1
Mar. 29/22	2 x Jackrabbit	Classic	2.1

*5-ish Loop--2 Way Street, Paperclip, Yoyo, Sheldon’s, Jackrabbit



Test Yourself!! Have fun!! Tuesdays, before 10 a.m., after 5 p.m.!

Speaking of Speed:

Western Canadian Championships at Sovereign Lake



Above: Julian Smith crossing the finish line in first place for the sprint finals Sun. Dec. 5

Below: Julian on podium for 15km classic Sun Dec 12



Volunteer Screening Policy

John Cameron, Director, BSC

Getting involved as a Volunteer with the Bruce Ski Club not only increases the Club's capacity to accomplish its Mission, it also allows volunteers an opportunity to engage with and contribute to building our local ski community.

Ensuring the safety and security of all members of this community is an utmost priority for the Bruce Ski Club. To this end, the Bruce Ski Club is adopting a Volunteer Screening Policy to support the safety and security of club members most at risk, those members being vulnerable sector persons.

Volunteer Canada uses this term, vulnerable sector persons, to denote individuals who have difficulty protecting themselves and are therefore at greater risk of harm. People may be vulnerable because of age, disability/handicap, or circumstances. This may include but is not limited to children, youth, senior citizens, people with physical, developmental, social, emotional, or other disabilities.

It is now the responsibility of any Cross-Country Ski Ontario (XCISO) registered club to ensure appropriate volunteer screening is in place to help ensure the safety and security of vulnerable persons. The Bruce Ski Club is in the process of introducing a suite of Safe Sport policies to meet this responsibility.


Over the last year, a Volunteer Screening Policy and four supporting policies were pulled together from best practices across multiple sports. These policies include the base Volunteer Screening Policy, as well as the following supporting policies: Confidentiality Policy, Privacy Policy, Volunteer Code of Conduct, and Member Code of Conduct.

The screening policy is to go into effect for any NEW volunteer filling a position AFTER January 1, 2022. IT WILL NOT APPLY to volunteers for short term events such as races, special events and for individuals under the age of 18. The process will involve a series of multiple, overlapping screening barriers which become progressively more rigorous for those volunteer positions associated with Vulnerable Sector Persons.

At its simplest, new volunteers will be required to complete a Screening Disclosure Form that will collect basic information – name, address – as well a brief personal history. Screening Disclosure Forms are now quite prevalent in the sport community, and ours was developed from several of these. In reality, this means we may have to go through a few revisions of our disclosure form before we find something that works for us.

For those volunteers who will be associated with vulnerable sector persons, screening will also require a Police Vulnerable Sector Check (which we do now), reference checks (at least two) and a short interview focused on the Bruce Ski Club's duty of care with respect to providing a safe and secure environment for all its participants, particularly vulnerable sector persons.

The plan is to post our new safe sport policies on the club's website as soon as possible. Also, technology willing, posted on the website will be links to our Screening Disclosure Form and a release form allowing the club to contact references.

Most of what is now formalized in our Safe Sport policies the club has been doing informally for many years. Still, formalizing a framework of Safe Sport policy has been a big step for us. Even though we incorporated best practices across multiple sports we do not know how these practices will work for us. That said, our plan is to implement our Safe Sport policies for the 2022 ski season with the intent of re-evaluating them at the end of the season. 

Special Olympics

Laura Howlett

The Owen Sound Special Olympics Waxwings Nordic Ski Team completed five or six planned weeks of dry land training this fall, being rained out only once. The teammates and volunteers enjoyed helping out at the Colpoy's and Sawmill Trail cleanups. After the Sawmill cleanup, the team hiked Yo-Yo as some of the team members have never skied such an advanced loop. In November, team member Anne Howlett was super proud to be invited to represent Special Olympics by dropping the first puck at the Owen Sound Attack game November 6. At least two of us have already been out to ski.

Fingers crossed for more snow! 



Waxwings helping at Sawmill clean-up.

I would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who helped on the day of the trail clean up. We are in good shape. Trail improvement on the Kiwanis property has been completed. The Piston bully will be able to make the rounds on Kiwanis Loop and Grunt with room to spare. Logging on the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority property will take place sometime next summer. Additional trees have been slated for removal to improve the trail for grooming with the Piston bully. We have also been approved to make two short connectors from the Jackrabbit trail to Paperclip. The goal is to extend our lit loop to include about half of Paperclip.

This is the reason for the new connectors. We will also be able to improve access to the jumps and bumps course below the first hill on Jackrabbit. Thank you again to all who have contributed to our trail maintenance.

And, as reported by Ron Downie: The grooming schedule has been sent out to the Groomers: Ron Downie, Fred Scheel, Harry Hong, Andrew Howlett.


We are waiting for snow! _____ 

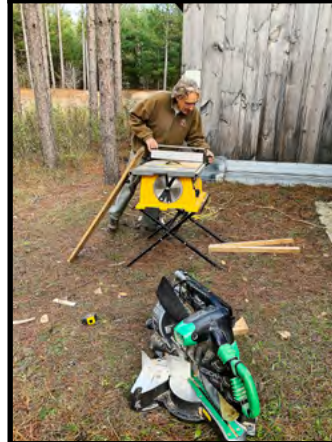
Many hands make light work.





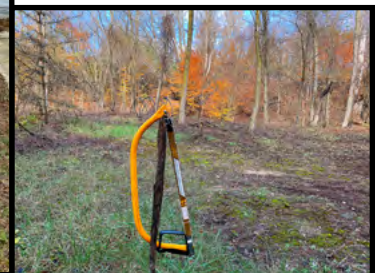
 **Clean-up is a family affair**



Imagining all the little squealing Bunnies going up, down, around, and through! 



 **It's not all trail work and apparently it's not all work all of the time!** 



Complete Kiosk Arriving Soon!

I would like to thank the efforts of Gregg MacKay (teacher) and two of his students, Cole Brown and Landon Heathers plus the hands of many others for the design and construction of our new Kiosk. It is replacing our old and tired sign boards outside of the Hepworth shelter. This project has suffered several delays due to COVID circumstances at Owen Sound District Secondary School but is now near completion. _____



Here is a clue.



Almost there.



Were you wondering what this was?



It's
on
the
move!!



To be continued...



Wait until you see the finished product!

Virtual Ski Swap

Tom Hakala

Last season, because of the pandemic, we did not hold our annual in-person ski swap at Suntrail in the fall. That left a huge hole for people looking for ski equipment, especially families with Jackrabbits who had grown out of their boots, jackets or other ski paraphernalia. To help out, we set up the BSC Ski Swap page at Facebook Marketplace.

Word of this virtual ski swap spread overnight. Soon we had over 600 members buying and selling used equipment. Coupled with a record increase in membership in the Bruce Ski Club was a short supply of new ski goods because of supply chain issues and a major ski factory fire in Europe. It seemed as if everyone wanted to try cross country skiing.

We pulled the plug on the virtual ski swap last spring, with the hope that this fall we would be able to hold our live and in person swap again in November. We did indeed hold our live swap and it was a big success. But it only lasted one day... and it was over. I received a number of messages mainly from Jackrabbit parents explaining that their kids often grow out of their ski stuff by mid-season. They wanted the virtual swap back again so they can pick up used boots, etc. throughout the ski season.

So on November 14th (the day after the live swap) the Facebook Marketplace BSC Ski Swap was brought back from hibernation. Again, within a day, activity was at a fever pitch. Someone was looking for size 45 three-pin boots... "Message me, I have a pair you can have." It has been going like that ever since.



So if you have a basement cluttered with old skis and boots that you don't use any more, go to [BSC Ski Swap](#) and ask to join the BSC Ski Swap. You just may get enough money to justify going to Suntrail and buying those boards you have been eyeing.

Newsletter

Joy Ward

From the new editor: Many thanks to Tom Hakala for his help and advice to get me set up to take on this job. He is going to be a very hard act to follow! Fortunately, he has said he will continue to produce great graphics such as the one above! As for setting up the Virtual Ski Swap, I really appreciate Tom's efforts there too. Last year I was able to help a lot of potential skiers with their needs and tidy up my ski room as well. Just one pair of mismatched poles left!

I have been involved with the Bruce Ski Club for about 40 years in various capacities. Had to take a health break, but my goal of getting back on my skis was a huge motivator for me. Not sure if what I do now can truly be called skiing, but just being out there in the beauty and freshness of winter is healing to the soul. I have had so much pleasure over the years in cross-country skiing, I am grateful to be able to pass it on as a part of this great club.

I welcome your contributions: pictures, articles, news, and suggestions for articles (send to: joyward@bmts.com.) I will try to keep up the high standard of communicating what you, the members, need to know. Snowy trails to you!

Thank you to the following

December 2021



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Distance Challenges

The XCSO Distance Challenge is currently being organized with the expertise of Logan Hong. Watch [HERE](#) for details.

Bruce Ski Club may be organizing its own challenge. Watch the BSC website Events page [HERE](#) for details.

In the meantime, get out there and keep track of your own km. Give yourself a goal!

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Our Landowners

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Ron Gatis

Kiwanis Whispering Pines Campground

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

The Spencer Family

Laura McNamara & Bevan Ratcliffe

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for the printing of this newsletter.