

# LARCH HILLS NORDIC CLUB

Newsletter October, 2010

## President's News



Last season we were off to a record early start as we had over 20 cm of snow in the Larch Hills in the 3rd week of Oct. The Tracksetters were out track setting with the Ginzogroomer and skiing was almost mid winter conditions on this early date. This was not to last however and the snow base did shrink in the following weeks but did not disappear so we were able to continue skiing albeit many days were spring-like ski conditions. Last winter was a low snow year throughout B.C. so we like most other areas had a below normal snow base. However, we were able to ski every day from that first snow fall in October into April making it one of the longest ski seasons on record. As long as the ground is white X-C skiers can survive.

Our membership last year was an all time record number of 982, 3rd largest X-Country Ski club of the 62 clubs registered with Cross Country B.C. The Reino Keski Salmi Loppet continues to attract the largest number of skiers in the province. Other news of note, we have two young skiers on the B.C. team: Alysso Marshall who once again has been awarded the CCBC female athlete of the year. Alysso is training with the Alberta World Cup Academy at the National Development Centre in Canmore; and Adrian Underhill was named for the first time to the BC team and is training at the Callaghan National Development Centre. Also, the LH Ski team have 5 skiers on the B.C. Development squad: Elena Bruns, Eliza-Jane Kitchen, Jonathan Bakker, Kyle Flatman, and Thomas Hardy. Congratulations! to all these young skiers who have worked hard. It is a testament to the Racing team leaders. They have developed a very successful junior ski program and I know all have a lot of fun, leaders and skiers, in the process along with their achievements.

We were doubtful about our lottery grant application this past year with the many cut backs; however, we were awarded \$10,200.00 by the Lottery Corporation. Other grant applications were submitted by the LHNS and

we have been awarded the following: \$1000.00 from the City of Salmon; \$1000.00 from the CSRD area D, thanks to Renee Talbot; and \$1000.00 from CSRD Area C, thanks to Ted Bacigalupo - all for operation expenses or general revenue. The Community Foundation awarded LHNS \$1500.00, the funds to be used to purchase another rescue toboggan. Thanks to our treasurer Roy Decker for submitting the Lottery fund application and to Past President John Henderson for applying to all the other local organizations for funding assistance.

Now that we have received funding we are in a financial position to proceed with the development of the washrooms in the basement of the Chalet. This fall we will be connecting the Chalet to the septic system which was completed two years ago. Also, we will be completing as much of the basement and washroom facility as funds available will take us, which means we should be able to do all except install the washroom fixtures. Unfortunately, it looks like the washroom facilities will not be totally completed for this season but will be one step closer to completion.

With growing numbers the current Chalet is at times not large enough to accommodate the crowd so we are looking ahead and have developed a vision for future expansion. This would be to build an addition onto the existing Chalet on the south side towards the parking lot. This main floor and basement would result in more than double the existing floor space. The construction of the basement and washrooms in the existing Chalet is planned with this addition in mind. The photo shows what such a structure would look like attached to the original Chalet.



Our CCBC insurance which covers skiers does not have a category for snowshoers so we have not been able to offer a snowshoer membership. However, we now have acquired additional insurance to cover snowshoers so this year snowshoers can become members of LHNS. This is at 50% of the skier rate. If you have a X-C ski membership this entitles you to snowshoe as well but you cannot ski on a snowshoer membership, it is for snowshoeing only.

## Ski Swap

**Saturday Oct. 23**

Gathering Place @ Kings  
Christian School.  
Sign In & Equipment Drop off  
8-10:30am.  
Sales 11am-1pm  
Pick up 1-2:30pm.  
Equipment early drop off at  
Skookum from 9am Monday  
Oct.18 till Thursday Oct. 21  
6pm.  
Volunteers call Allan 832-  
8484

**Come to the LHNS  
General Meeting on  
Tuesday, October  
19<sup>th</sup>, 7PM in the  
Community Centre  
basement**



*Register for  
Jackrabbits at*

*Zone 4*

*Become a member  
first then click  
"continue" to join  
Jackrabbits*

Last season was our introduction to registration on-line. This proved to be very successful for the convenience of the skier, and was a big time saver for our registrar. I know last season being the 1st year on zone 4 did take extra time for the set-up. Thanks to Mavis Jackson our registrar for her efforts getting this up and going and for continuing as registrar for this year. Hard copy registration will be available for those who don't have access to a computer. Registration forms will be available at the ski shops. At the Annual General Meeting a motion was passed to increase annual membership dues. This represents roughly a 10% increase which helps to cover the administration cost of the on-line service and increasing costs operating the club facilities. Our membership fees are still on the low end compared to other clubs in the province, especially considering the services and facilities we are able to provide. We still do not have trail fees for non members; it continues to be by donation. By and large, we are able to continue on a low budget by the fact that we have so many volunteers devoting their time and energy to get the job done and provide materials where needed. So with everyone contributing we are able to accomplish much. Thanks to all those members whose attitude is one of taking ownership of our trails and facilities which makes for our great success. Those who have adopted a trail I am sure have been out or planning to go out and clip their trail. Those who haven't adopted a trail and would like to or

## Jackrabbit News

The Jackrabbit Program will be up and running again this ski season. The first session will be on December 11th this year. Registration will run until November 30th. We are currently looking for volunteers to coach Jackrabbits. There are training sessions running in Salmon Arm this fall. If you are interested in coaching, or have any questions about the program please contact Suzy Beckner at 832-0089 or Carmen Fennel at 833-5786.

would just like to go out and contribute by doing some clipping can call Gullan Hansen - 250 832-2988. Gullan can tell you which trails need clipping and she has the club pruners you can use. Gullan lives on Edgar Rd. on the way to the ski hill. "Take Back The Hills" will be on Sunday, October 24th.

Thanks to our Caretaker Pauline who has been vigilant and has kept an eye on our facilities and ski area over the summer. It is very reassuring knowing she is there and is looking out for our interests. Don't forget the Ski Swap to be held at King's Christian School Saturday, Oct. 23rd.

Look forward to seeing you in the Larch Hills winter wonderland!

Jim Beckner, President

## Lantern Ski December 29th

Larch Hills Lantern Ski & Food Bank Fund Raiser - Wednesday, December 29 - 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Volunteers are needed for lantern lighting for one hour on the 29th starting at 3:45 p.m., for the Chalet to serve hot drinks for 1.5 hour shifts between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. and for extinguishing lanterns for one hour starting at 9 p.m. If you've helped with this event before we will call you in early December to confirm you are available to help. If you're new to the Club and the Lantern Ski and are interested in helping with this event please call for details: Pat Shea: 832-3492 or George Zorn: 832-9335. Thank you!

## Time to Register

It's time to register for the 2010/11 ski season. Online payment is the preferred method of membership purchase. Cheque payment option is available but online payment is preferred. For those without internet access at home, the local library offers free high speed internet. [Zone 4](#)

## Tracksetting and Trail Report by Blaine Carson

Preparations continue for the first snow in the Larch Hills. Dave Brubaker has been working on the machines over the summer and plans are underway to replace the temporary roof on the Snowmobile shed. Most of the regular Tracksetters will be back and each will take a day to assess the conditions and decide what tracksetting is needed. As some tracksetters decide to be a little less involved, but still maintain their skills an active, but retired Group has formed to allow new Tracksetters to have the opportunity of a regular day. Don Huntington and Verne Gummeson will move into that category and Ernie Whitehead will begin tracksetting. So a big thanks to Don and Verne who have put in many years and a hearty welcome to Ernie!

Some of you will be interested in hours on the PB200 which last year only logged 184 hours, about 100 fewer than usual. Total hours are now 5725 and we have put on 1351 over the past 5 years. If we stay with our intended trade-in date of 2015, we are now half way there. Signs of metal fatigue continue to show up so it is great that money is being put aside each year for a replacement. Some of the fewer hours are a result of more use of the Ginzu groomer, which received a real break-in last year as many people followed its path out to the new Town View.

Logging is creating some changes in the Larch Hills with a different Town View being available on the west side of the existing swath through the forest on the other side of Lidstone. Curt Olson plans to burn the debris piles this fall so we can see whether we can create a machine path through or at the very least you will be able to ski out there. Tolko is logging eight small blocks on the East side with most of the wood going out the Rosemond Road, but one block may give us access off Mara Connection. The final block will be north of Stig's Loop and may not happen if we have early snow. As a result of the logging all of the roads in the vicinity will be graded so that may bring up more rocks.

Trail work is underway this fall with handwork on the Snowshoe Trails paralleling the Main Road and Metford. The plan is to clear a flat level path so that they will be more useable in low snow conditions as seen last year. Beginners are invited to practice on the

Animal Trails next to the Chalet, as they need packing for the Kids.



The new Sprint Trail got quite a bit of use even if it didn't get used for the Sprints due to low snow conditions. Phil Wallenstein and the Junior Racers plan on making some parallel Peanut Trails along Metford that will intersect with the Kid's Adventure Trail 2 Tuff 4 U.

The Annual Take Back the Hills is scheduled for Sunday, October 24, 9:00 AM from the Parking Lot. Bring various tools and help remove rocks, level ruts and remove branches and small bushes from the trails. Bring some finger foods and meet back at the Chalet at Noon for the first social gathering of the new season.

Collect your Auction items for the annual Santa Cruise to be held Sunday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm to support the local Food Banks. Enjoy the new season!

## 2011 Loppet

The wheels are in motion for the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Reino Keski-Salmi Loppet January 15, 2011. Our event is the only loppet sponsored by the Heart and Stroke foundation of BC and Yukon. Please consider raising funds for Heart and Stroke - you can do so individually or in teams; there will be lots of information in the brochure and on a link from our website: [skilarchhills.ca](http://skilarchhills.ca).

New this year is a new competitive category - 70 years and older can do 18 km as a competitive distance. The 70 to 79 years competitive category that does 36 km is still available for those that want to do the longer distance.

We are looking forward to celebrating another great season of skiing at Larch Hills.

## Calendar of Events 2010 - 2011

OCT.	Tues. Oct. 19th	LHNS General Meeting 7pm Community Centre
	Sat. Oct. 23rd	Ski Swap and Jackrabbit Registration The Gathering Place
	Sun. Oct. 24th	Take Back The Hills
NOV.	Tues. Nov. 23rd	LHNS General Meeting 7pm Community Centre Basement
	Tues. Nov. 30th	Deadline for Jackrabbit registration
DEC.	Sat. Dec. 11th	Jackrabbit sessions start
	Sun. Dec. 12th	Santa Cruise
	Wed. Dec. 29th	Lantern Ski
JAN.	Sun. Jan. 2nd	Fun Race
	Sat. Jan. 15th	Reino Keski Salmi Loppet
	Tues. Jan. 25th	LHNS General Meeting 7pm Community Centre Basement
	Fri. Jan. 28th	Pirate Loppet (School Loppet)
FEB.	Sat. Feb. 12th	Valentine's Lantern Ski
MAR.	Tues. Mar. 8th	LHNS Annual General Meeting 7pm Community Centre Basement
	TBA	Wind-up, Fun Day and Pot Luck

