

December 2003



View from top of clearcut on Panorama taken November 24, 2003. One of the trails that was improved in October. Photo: Rod Charlebois

MEMBERS MADE SKI TRAIL IMPROVEMENT HAPPEN by Tammy Thielman

LHSC Newsletter Contributor

LHSC members -- and other Larch Hills trail users -- think our ski trails are great, but this fall, they became even better.

Thanks to a \$10,786 Forest Investment Account grant, some of the most popular Larch Hills trails were improved for the 2003-2004 ski season.

Work began in early October and lasted about two weeks.

Local machinery contractors were backhoe operator and skier Len Lega and bulldozer operator Larry Scott. Reimer's Farm Services five-tonne chip truck hauled sawdust from Thielman's sawmill and John Thielman did some skid steer work and contributed a few hours on the family's old grader, used to pull the chip truck out of the mud on Reino's Run! Don Huntington used his pick-up and trailer to haul up some donated culverts.

Landscaping -- like raking and pruning -- was done by hand, in a Take Back The Hills work party, after the machine work was finished.

The upgrades were needed to increase trail safety and allow better track setter access.

"Banking corners, improving sight lines, ditching, placing water bars and locating culverts will make our ski trails even better," said head tracksetter and trail supervisor Blaine Carson.

Trail improvements will make the tracksetters' jobs easier, says Carson.

"We can set some trails earlier than we could in the past, as the bumps and stumps are gone. The banking of corners will make it easier for skiers to negotiate some of our famous "sit-spots" and where we have been able to provide separation lanes at intersections, we have dramatically improved safety."

"This trail maintenance was due," said volunteer project coordinator John Thielman. "There's more work that needs to be done, but we prioritized the jobs that needed to get done first and this is what we had funding for." See **Improvements** Page 2

Winter Comes Early to Larch Hills

Please advise your readers, watchers and listeners that the Larch Hills Ski Area, 20 minutes from Salmon Arm, off Grandview Bench Road and 97B, is open for classic and skate skiing Thursday, November 20th, with tracks being set on a 35 to 60 cm base. Admission by membership or donation. One of our earliest openings ever!

This is a quote from one of the first snow condition reports of the year from Blaine Carson. It was sent to all news media in the area. That and word of mouth seems to have brought skiers out in force. With the excellent snow cover on top of many trail improvements (see article this page) we have been enjoying mid-winter conditions. Ski on!!!

Club Ski Weekend at Nickel Plate Nordic Centre Planned for February 7 & 8.

If you'd like to share a weekend of recreational X-C skiing with other Larch Hills Ski Club members at Penticton's fine Cross Country Ski area consider this possibility:

The Group leaves Salmon Arm by chartered bus or van at 7:00 a.m., Saturday February 7

We Ski Saturday afternoon at Nickel Plate Nordic Centre - 40 minutes west of Penticton

A Group Dinner and comfortable overnight accommodations are being arranged for Saturday night.

We Ski Sunday morning and return to Salmon Arm by 6:00 p.m. that evening

The Cost will be determined by the number of Club Members participating

Please contact Jeanetta at 832-9335 or Eileen at 832-7167 if you have questions or to register. Monday, December 15 is the deadline for registering for this Club Ski Weekend.



John Thielman On low section of Reino's Run - Woodchip fill
Photo: Jeff Lipsett

Santa skis again with his eighth SANTA CRUISE

On Sunday, December 21, 2003 starting at 1:00 P.M. with registration beginning at 11:30 A.M. This will be a low-key fun event with free technique which allows skiers to skate or diagonal stride or switch from one to the other. Check your time against previous records. See the face of Heartbreak Hill and try the new speedy corners. Distances are approximately 10 km for 18 and over, 5 km for ages 14 to 17, 3 km for 10 to 13, and 1 km for 9 and under. People who wish to ski shorter distances are welcome to do so. Entry fee is a money donation to the Shuswap Food Bank or a donated item for the Auction. Pay by cheque and you get an Income Tax receipt.

There will be draw prizes and food. Skiers will be able to match a secret race time to win a prize. Pete will be plucking your money with an auction of donated items. If you have any unique items to donate to the auction, bring them along.

Come, have fun, get ready for Christmas turkey, and help out the Food Bank! There is a rumour that Santa will be skiing to get in shape for Christmas Eve!

For more information call Blaine Carson, 833 4008

Improvements cont'd from page 1

"It was very good to have three chainsaw and brushing days. That was a big help in trail maintenance," says a pleased Connie Crowley, Shuswap Outdoors president, though recent blowdown made more work for SO members.

Some of the improvements were: Brushing on Treebeard's Trail, an unset backcountry-type trail used mainly by the Shuswap Outdoors Club; some trails used by both skating-style and classic skiers, Marathon Loop and Reino's Run were widened and levelled; the intersection of Ermine Frolic and Hot Shot was widened, levelled, and sloped; Panorama, a classic-technique trail, was levelled; The intersection of Sky Trail, by Pentti's Shelter was widened, sloped and proper water drainage was installed; Larch Hills Road was widened and culverts were installed.

Some ski trail beds were widened to 11 feet for classic trails, 17 feet for classic and skating trails, and four-lane trails were widened to 34 feet across. Contractors concentrated on making the trail beds free of rocks and stumps, wherever possible.

Many members of the ski club volunteer track setting crew -- clad in a safety vest and hardhat -- spent days with the contractors, as they worked.

Some of the trail supervisors were Blaine Carson, Peter Molnar, Clint Smith, Ron Everest, Bruce Motherwell, Brian Ayotte, Don Huntington, Gary Kalloch, John Pickard, Jeff Lipsett, John Thielman, and Verne Gummesson.

"Larry Scott and Len Lega, machinery operators, were fantastic and donated many extras for the benefit of the Ski Club. John Thielman's expertise with people and machines was really appreciated as was the dedication of the tracksetters who supervised the improvements," says Carson.

Federated Co-op Corporate Forestry Superintendent Jeff Lipsett helped facilitate the trail improvements on Larch Hills, part of Co-op's Timber Supply Area (TSA).

"We've dealt with the LHSC in the past with forest development work on Larch Hills and we've tried to help them out with this trail maintenance work. This is an excellent thing and we'd like to continue our relationship with the club."

FIRES, FLOODS, WINDSTORMS!

It's been an unusual summer and fall in B.C. Now the snow has come early and we can look forward to enjoying the beautiful Larch Hills and it's Ski Trails this winter.

Reading this Newsletter you'll appreciate the efforts of the many Club Members who have offered their time (and had some fun!) working to prepare the Ski Trails and facilities for the ski season. Your Club's Executive Committee offers a Big Hug and a Hearty "Thanks!" for your support! Larch Hills Ski Club is truly a "Community" of cross country skiers. Besides enjoying "just skiing" I think you'll agree that it's each of us, as skiing friends, that make our Club special!

Last March, at the Club's AGM, we voted to increase our membership Fees by 20%. We compared our current fees with those of 12 other Clubs. We found that our Fees were,

and still are, among the lowest. Thanks to everyone who has become a Larch Hills Ski Club Member for the 2003-04 season. If you have not already sent in your Membership registration, please do.

Wow! The Tracksetter Replacement Fund Raising is off to a good start! Thanks to the many Club members who have donated to the Fund. You can look forward to some unique and fun ways to "grow" the Fund over the next few years.

Besides enjoying the Ski Trails, I hope you will enjoy the many Events and Programs our Club has to offer this winter -- either as a participant or as a volunteer, or both.

Merry Christmas! Happy Trails in 2004!

George Zorn for your LHSC Executive Committee

LARCH HILLS SKI CLUB PHOTO CONTEST: 2003/04 SEASON

You're invited to submit photo images (prints, slides or digitals) taken on the Larch Hills Ski Trails, this winter, in the following Photo Contest categories:

1. Skier(s) participating in Club Programs & Events, enjoying Larch Hills Ski trails and facilities, competing in Larch Hills Ski Races
2. Larch Hills "Nature & Scenery"
3. Larch Hills Ski Club Volunteers in action

Photo images must be submitted, by 6:00 p.m., Monday, February 23/04, in an envelope marked "Larch Hills Ski Club Photo Contest", with the name, address and phone number of the photographer to appear on each photo image, to:

Larch Hills Ski Club, Box 218 Salmon Arm, V1E 4N3
Members of the Club Executive Committee at the Dec. 16/03 or Jan. 27/04 Club Meetings
Skookum Cycle & Ski - Salmon Arm
John's Ski Shack - Larch Hills Road
Or e-mail to: gnjzorn@sunlite.ca (indicate "Larch Hills Ski Club Photo Contest" in e-mail Subject Heading)

A display of the contest's photo image submissions and the results of judging of the photo images will be announced on Tuesday, March 2/04 at the Club's Annual General Meeting.

First Prize in each of the three Categories will be invited to a Dinner for Two hosted by the Club Executive Committee. All contest participants will be eligible for a series of Draw Prizes.

With permission of the photographer, photo images may be displayed in the future on the Club's website, in the Club Newsletter or in other Larch Hills Ski Club material.

Ski Club Trail Hosts Welcome Skiers over the Christmas Holidays

Last February our Club tried something new. Twenty four Club Members volunteered to serve as Trail Hosts, each for 1.5 hours on the 4 weekends in February. A heated Trail Host Hut was set up just north of the Parking Lot where Volunteers provided a friendly greeting to both new comers and seasoned Larch Hills skiers. Ski Trail maps, Club Newsletters and Membership Forms, information about Club Programs and Events, Tracksetter's Reports and waxing suggestions were shared along with some good conversation and laughter! Based on that experience, a call for Trail Host Volunteers is extended to all Larch Hills Ski Club Members. If you would like to volunteer to serve as a Club Trail Host for 1.5 hours starting at 10 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. during the period Saturday, December 20 to Sunday, January 4 please contact John Henderson at 832-4127 or George Zorn at 832-9335 by December 17.

Babysitting Service at LHSC Meetings -- LHSC member and Jackrabbit Monica Gignac would like to offer babysitting for \$2.50/hr. at the Community Centre during the club's monthly meetings. Monica, age 12, has completed the Red Cross babysitting course. If you're an interested parent, please call to let her know in advance at 833-0047.

LARCH HILLS SKI CLUB AT THE MOVIES

What kind of films (including specific titles) would you enjoy watching when Larch Hills Ski Club hosts a Movie Night fund-raiser at the Salmar Classic sometime in the future? Please pass along your comments to the "TRF Committee" via larchski@telus.net Thanks! - your LHSC Tracksetter Replacement Fundraising (TRF) Committee.

Wanted:

'JACKBUNNIES AND JACKRABBITS.'
REGISTER NOW AT SKOOKUMS SPORTS STORE
PROGRAM STARTS JAN. 3, 2004, AT LARCH HILLS.
SEE YOU THERE !!!

Current Trail & Snow Conditions on LHSC's Website:

Want to know what ski conditions are like on the Larch Hills Trails? Thanks to our Club's Volunteer Tracksetters, Blaine Carson and Rod Charlebois you can read the latest trail and snow conditions (often updated in the morning, daily) at
www.larchhillsskiclub.bc.ca

SKI FOR ALL

SATURDAY DECEMBER 13, 2003

LARCH HILLS CHALET

Larch Hills Ski Club invites new and beginner skiers to enjoy the cross country ski experience on our track set trails. Club members will serve as guides and hosts providing tips on waxing technique and equipment



Morning session: — 10:00am - Noon
Afternoon session: 1:00pm - 3:00pm
FREE HOT LUNCH PROVIDED AT THE CHALET
(Noon-1pm)

(Bring your own bowl, spoon and mug)

To register contact Tom or Linda at Skookum Ski and Cycle - Salmon Arm

Special rate on rental equipment available for this event (\$10.00 / skier) from Skookum Ski and Cycle. Family discount available.

Questions? Call Chris or Tina at 832-8676

See www.larchhillsskiclub.bc.ca for details

Holy Cats! - Tales from the Dales!

Last winter, around mid February, I was skiing along East Dales by myself, when a Lynx stepped onto the trail less than 20 metres in front of me. I stopped and watched in disbelief as it sat down and languorously licked one of its forepaws. It then got up and trotted along the trail, unconcerned as I followed slowly along behind. When it stopped, so did I. After a few minutes of this cat and mouse game, it stepped off the trail, and I passed within a few metres of where it sat hidden in the trees just off the trail. I was so eager to share this tale, that I stopped the next skier I saw and recounted my experience. He said that the previous day his wife and some other skiers had seen what appeared to be a family of four Lynx as they were skiing along Reino's Run. What incredible luck! I'd seen plenty of tracks, as I'm sure you did – but I hadn't actually expected to see one in the flesh!

In subsequent telling of this story, it became apparent that many people are unclear of the difference between a Lynx and a Bobcat, and some are even unsure how to distinguish these two from a Cougar! So, I offer the following as a quick identifier to help you recognize which species you've actually seen. We are fortunate to have all three of Canada's wild cats living in our neighbourhood. Although all are secretive, you are **least** likely to see a cougar in the Larch Hills (and as Martha says - that's a good thing!!).



Cougar (or Mountain Lion, Puma) - *Puma concolor*

The cougar is the largest wild cat native to British Columbia. Its secretive habits, and sometimes astounding predatory abilities (the cougar is capable of killing a 600 pound moose or elk), have resulted in a wealth of human misconceptions and irrational fears. The heaviest recorded was an Arizona cougar which weighed 276 pounds. Although there have been several cougar recorded in British Columbia weighing between 190 and 210 pounds, the average adult male weighs about 125 pounds and the female 100 pounds. Large adult males may measure 9 feet in length, including a 30-inch tail. Hint: if it's big and has a long tail, it's a cougar! Both Lynx and Bobcats are no bigger than a mid-sized dog and have little stubbies for tails!

Cougar fur is short and, in British Columbia, ranges in colour from reddish-brown to a grey-brown, with light undersides. Very young kittens are spotted, with ringed tails; this coloration is gradually lost as young cougars reach adulthood. Adults are unmarked. There are few authentic instances of cougar attacking humans. Normal behaviour is one of human avoidance. The infrequent attacks on humans are usually attributed to old, starving cougars, or to cougars which are defending their young. However, should you be fortunate enough to see one, do not attempt to follow it or get closer for a photo op!!

Lynx - *lynx canadensis*

Lynx (and Bobcats) are much smaller than Cougars. They are buff or tawny in colour with mixed blackish hairs and the undersides are cinnamon-brown. The tail is short and tipped with black; ears have long black tufts (much more noticeable than on Bobcats) and cheeks have long pale ruffs which form a beard at the throat. The feet are very large and well furred. Average weight is from 20 to 40 pounds. The lynx prefers the deep forest, but they occupy most habitats where their chief prey - the snowshoe hare - is abundant. Lynx also prey upon birds such as ptarmigan, and some other small mammals. Lynx have never been known to attack humans, but if cornered, are equipped to inflict damage, so keep a safe distance!

The lynx resides mainly in snowy country and has therefore adapted to this climate. They have very long legs – especially the back ones. The heavily furred feet make the tracks appear rounded and often obscure the toe prints. The tracks are larger than that of a bobcat and similar to a cougar's although the lynx doesn't sink as deeply into the snow.



Bobcat (or Wildcat) - *lynx rufus*

Bobcats are the smallest of BC's three cat species. Average weight is 15-20 pounds with the male being slightly larger than the female. The color of the bobcat is tawny (greyer in the winter) with indistinct black spotting. Bobcats are generally "spottier" than Lynx, but this is not a reliable indicator. The tail is short and stubby with 2 or 3 black bars with a black tip above and pale or white below (Lynx has only a black tip on it's tail with no bars). The face has broken black lines which radiate onto the broad cheek ruff.

The bobcat primarily occurs in scrubby country and broken forests, but its ability to adapt to a large number of habitat types, such as woodlots, agricultural lands, second-growth forests and swamps, has made it a much more successful species on the margins of human settlements. It is an excellent climber who often waits in the trees to pounce on their prey

which includes rodents, hares, squirrels and birds. The bobcat track is easily distinguished with a round shape, four toes and no claws evident. It is generally twice the size of a domestic cat's print and loosely resembles that of a coyote or dog but is more rounded.

I hope you have a great ski season this year, and if you're lucky enough to see one of our elusive cats up there (family felidae – not Piston Bulley!), you'll be able to regale your friends with tales from the dales! Happy skiing! - - Roger Beardmore

Larch Hills Ski Club Planned Club Events "HELP WANTED" (2003/04)

Event	Date	Event Coordinator	Phone No.	Helpers Needed	Helpers Job Description
Ski For All	Dec. 13	Chris & Tina Letham	832-8676	5 in a.m.	Trail Hosts – experienced skiers willing to share their knowledge and have some fun with new skiers for 2 hours: a.m. or p.m.
				5 in p.m.	
				2-3	Coord. Prep. & Serve Lunch at Chalet, decorate Chalet
Turkey Glide	Dec. 14	Gullan	832-2988	3	Registration (1 ½ hrs indoors)
				1	Bib Collection (1 ½ hrs)
				2	Timing assistants
				1	Hot Chocolate – Prep & Serve (2 hrs)
Club Trail Hosts @ Parking Lot Hut	Dec. 20 – Jan. 4	John or George	832-4127 832-9335	30, for 1.5 hours each	Welcome Skiers and provide Club and trail info. over the Christmas – New Years two week period
Santa Cruise	Dec. 21	Blaine	833-4008	2	Gather Auction donations from businesses and individuals in early Dec.
				2	Race timers
				2	Food Preparations
Moon Light Lantern Ski	Jan. 3	Patrick or George	832-3492 832-9335	18 (9 pairs)	Skiing Lantern lighters & tenders (4-5 p.m.)
				2-3 Families	Prepare 48 Candle Bags for Chalet Decoration in early Dec. Set out & Light
				4 Families	Event Hosts at Parking Lot (Welcome Skiers, answer questions, request non-club members sign event waiver, look after donation box, give directions at heated, lit, covered outdoor location) 4, 1 hour shifts (5:30 to 9:30 p.m.)
				6 (1.5 hr each)	Chalet Hosts (5-10 p.m.) & Bon Fire Tenders (6-9 p.m.)
				10 (5 pairs)	Skiing Lantern Gatherers (9:00 p.m. to 10 p.m.)
Larch Hills Fun Race	Jan. 4	Jim	804-2033	1-2	assist Event Organizer / Coordinator
				3	Registration (1 ½ hrs indoors)
				1	Bib Collection (1 ½ hrs)
				2	Timing assistants (2 hrs)
				3	Race Results (2hrs inside)
RKS Loppet	Jan. 17	Pauline	833-0325	"lots"	A variety of indoor and outdoor jobs are available
Valentine's Lantern Ski	Feb. 14	Chalet & Event Hosts Coordinator Needed			Please contact any member of Club Exec. If you are able to Coordinate the Valentine's Lantern Ski – other than Lanterns & Trails.
		Peter Mair & Bell Pole crew			Lanterns & Trails part of event only

Treasurer's Report:

The last deposit made (Nov 28), brings the Tracksetter Replacement Fund up to \$8,257. We are hoping for a total of \$13,000 this year, a target that is well within our reach. Our hope is that all program, event and committee coordinators will be able to stay within their budgets, as outlined at the October General Meeting, so that the \$7,200 being held in our Replacement and Reserve Fund (Term Deposit) can ultimately go towards the purchase of the new tracksetter.

Our revenue so far this year is about \$34,000. Our projected expenses are just over \$49,000; ambitious amounts for a club run and supported by volunteers. So keep those memberships and donations coming in.

- Many Thanks - Many Thanks - Many Thanks - Many Thanks - Many Thanks -

ASKEW'S FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

Many thanks to all the Larch Hills members and friends that participated in last year's fundraising for the Jr. Race Team. You made a difference! Your support helped us to attain a video camera that is used to film the racers during training. This tool is used by the coaches to help the skiers work to improve their style and form.

A big thank you also goes to Askew's Grocery Store for providing such a good fundraising opportunity and for being so generous within our community. Vouchers are sold at face value and can be used at any of the Askew's locations. The club receives a return of 7% and the vouchers have no expiry date.

This opportunity will be available again this season to support our future racers. The vouchers can be purchased from Ellen Underhill @832-6178 (they cannot be purchased from Askew's). Please phone ahead if purchasing \$1000. or more at a time.

What a perfect fundraiser - it doesn't cost you a cent, and you're buying something every family needs - groceries!
We hope to have your continued support this season.

- - - - - Thanks to our local ski Shops who sponsor our racers . - - - They deserve OUR support - - - - -

We would like to thank John and Tammy Thielman, the owners of *John's Ski Shack*, for sponsoring us. They have been very generous, supplying us with quality equipment.

It has been a great opportunity for the three of us to be sponsored, and to have this support. John and Tammy really encourage, and believe in us. They cheer us on at the races at Larch Hills.

Having good sponsors really helps us to do well. Knowing that they are counting on us to go to lots of races, and try our best. Even if our best means coming in last, or getting accidentally disqualified. We represent their shop when we are at races that are at other ski hills. We wear the jackets and other equipment that we have been given, with pride.

We would like to say one big thanks! To you from us.

*Jeff Savage Jocelyn Underhill Adriene
 Underhill*

I would like to thank Tom and Linda and everyone else at *Skookum Cycle and Ski* for supporting me and other racers. They have sponsored us for many years and have been extremely generous in helping with our considerable equipment needs.

They are always helpful and supportive whenever I need advice and they are a great cheerleading section. They have given me encouragement and inspiration for my competitive racing. I have also enjoyed the opportunities they have provided to demonstrate equipment and techniques to other skiers, which is lots of fun. Thanks so much Skookum.

Alysson Marshall

Club Ski Swap:

Thanks to Roger Houle, Dave Maxwell and Dave Wallenstein for once again doing a great job of organizing the Ski Swap! Thanks, too, to all the Club Volunteers who worked with the guys to make the Ski Swap a success! For the "bean counters" in the Club: approximately \$1606 profit was earned for our Club from the November 1 Ski Swap. Last year's Ski Swap profit was \$1247, while the 2001 Ski Swap's profit was \$2452 - the highest in the event's 13 year history. Larch Hills Ski Club retains 15% of the dollar value of each sale.

Field of Dreams to be trackset for X-C

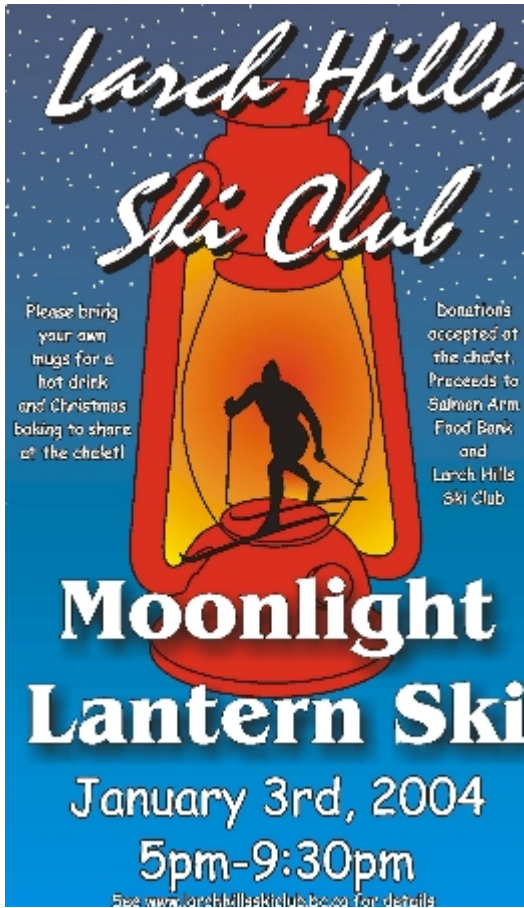
Skiing! November 26: Larch Hills Ski Club now has permission, from the District of Salmon Arm, to set classic & skating tracks (max. 20 ft. wide) on the outer perimeter of the "Field of Dreams" for X-C skiing. Thanks to Club members and Junior Racing Team supporters, Phil Wallenstein and Michael Underhill for volunteering to set tracks using Silvatech Consulting Limited's snowmobile and one of the three LHSC tow-behind Bachler units. The District has requested that Club Members (and others) restrict their skiing to the trackset perimeter.

Club's 1980 Constitution to be Reviewed:

Larch Hills Ski Club's current Constitution was written and signed by 5 Club Members (Stig Keskinen, Bev Walker, Reino Keski-Salmi, Margo Wallenstein and Lila McKinnon) on July 14, 1980. It was registered under the Societies Act with the Provincial Government on August 7, 1980. The Constitution identifies the following purpose of Larch Hills Ski Club, in addition to identifying the Bylaws of the Club as those set out in Schedule B of the Societies Act :

- to promote the development of Cross Country Skiing in the Salmon Arm and District level
- to further amateur competition with the goal of achieving excellence at the National level
- to promote good sportsmanship and a high level of physical fitness

A Committee has been formed to review the Club's Constitution. If you would like to offer comments to the Committee please contact: Pauline Waelti, Chris Letham, Clint Smith, Pat Hutchins and John Pagdin.



Club members wishing to post notices on the Bulletin board on our website should compose the notice as they would like it posted and EITHER e-mail it to larchski@telus.net OR mail it to: Larch Hills Ski Club - Attn: Website, Box 218 Salmon Arm, V1E 4N3 Submissions may be edited for length and content.

SNIP!, SNIP!, SNIP! : Please put a pair of garden pruners in your ski jacket pocket and do a bit of clipping as you're skiing the trails. The Classic tracks are set on the outside of the trails where it's combined classic and skating. There are a few branches, here and there, that could be snipped and clipped.

Tracksetting Report

Tracksetters are really pleased to see the early snow and a good base for the ski season. We have been out several times with the PB 130 and for the first time in a number of years we haven't had to use the Snowmobile or the Pentimobile for our early packing. The 1986 PB is working well without the electronics that caused several breakdowns over the years, but it only has two speeds, idle or full power, so it is not as easy to do some tasks. We are really pleased to see the fundraising begin for a replacement machine and thank those who have contributed.

Last year's crew is back for another season so the usual people you will see are: Mondays- Verne Gummesson; Tuesdays- Brian Ayotte; Wednesdays- Curt Olson; Thursdays- Bruce Motherwell; Fridays- Don Huntington; Saturdays- Ron Everest; Sundays- Blaine Carson; Spare- Clint Smith; Mechanic- Dave Brubaker. A great group to work with, dedicated and very professional.

The clean-up in the south end after the big blow-down has been completed so we will be setting tracks there as soon as there is sufficient snow. In the meantime, enjoy the great conditions in the Central and north areas. Our thanks to those who worked so hard for the FIA trail improvements as they make it

much easier to trackset and less hazardous for the machinery and the skiers.

Skiers Clear Windfall:

Thanks to Volunteer Tracksetter Verne Gummesson for organizing a Work Party to remove the many trees that had fallen across the Ski Trails (Ermine Frolic, Reino's Run, Stig's Loop, Gullan's Gulley...) as a result of the October 28 windstorm. Verne passed along this list of Ski Club Volunteers: Ron Everest (and the young fellow he brought along), Clint Smith, Frank Bristol, Bruce Motherwell, Dennis Marshall, Jeff & Peter Lawless, Des Angove, Gary Hartling, George Jackson, Ashley Ladyman, Peter Molnar, Keith Cox, Pat Shea, Don Parks, Steve & George Zorn, Markku & Marianne Nikmo & family, John Henderson

" No, I'm not lost!" Trail Signs and You are Here Maps are posted:

Thanks to Ron & Karen Beals, Pat & Christine Hutchins, Don & Anne Champion, Chris Elliott and members of Shuswap Outdoors! Club for posting the "You are Here" Trail Maps and Trail Signs at various intersections on the Larch Hills Ski Trails. The "You are Here" Trail Maps will be posted at the start of each ski season and taken down at the end of each season. "So which way IS North...!?"

Pot Luck Social & Early Bird Membership Draw Results:

Approximately 75 Club members enjoyed an evening of great food and good conversation at the Scout Hall last night. Thanks to Skookum Cycle & Ski, John's Ski Shack and Club members Allan Bates and Debbie Phillips for the donation of Early Bird Draw Prizes and Club Social Draw Prizes. Here are the results of the Larch Hills Ski Club's *Early Bird* Membership Draw:

SERGIO PIKE (age 9): 1 pr. MADSHUS Lillihammer waxable skis - value \$199.99 - donated by John's Ski Shack

MARY SINHUBER: 1 pr. YOKO Mistral ski poles - value \$90 - donated by Skookum Cycle & Ski

LYNN MCKENZIE: 1 pr. MASTERS ski poles - value \$55 - donated by John's Ski Shack

ADEL EL GAZZAR: Nordic Clothing gift certificate - value \$50 - donated by Skookum Cycle & Ski

KATHLEEN COOPERMAN: 2 nights accommodation at the "Snow Drift Inn" (sleeps 12), Silver Star - value \$700 - donated by Allan Bates & Debbie Phillips



Photo:Ron Wedman

**Meet Your Neighbour: Woodlot 1572 and Owner Glen Ritchie
by Tammy Thielman
LHSC Newsletter Contributor**

See map at: <http://www.larchhillsskiclub.bc.ca/downloads/maps/larch-admin.PDF>

The area shown as "WL 1572 Sched. 'A' " on the map is Glen's private land portion of the WL. The remainder of area within Glen Ritchie's WL #1572 shown on the map is Crown Land. WL #1571 (west of Tom's Shelter) is Curt Olson's Woodlot which extends west toward Salmon Arm.

Registered Professional Forester (RPF) Glen Ritchie, owner of woodlot (WL) 1572 that borders the Larch Hills ski area, loves to see trees grow.

Ritchie was awarded the 457 hectare woodlot in 1997, knowing that working with the LHSC -- and other stakeholders -- was a priority.

Woodlot Ramble, Skyview, Sunshine, Marathon Loop, the south end of Salmar Loop, Canine Trail, Lover's Lane, Devil's Lunge and Thielman's Ski Out are on woodlot land; though several trails existed before the woodlot was awarded, as old logging trails.

Both private and crown land make up the L-shaped woodlot, Ritchie explains.

A woodlot, Ritchie says, is "a small area-based tenure, that involves crown and private land managed under a single management unit."

About 127 hectares of private land -- two neighbouring quarter sections -- are located directly south of the chalet and are crossed by Thielman's Ski Out trail through the area known as "the Old Farm."

Ritchie's private land cannot be developed or subdivided and harvesting is based on an allowable annual cut.

"The concept is to take privately-owned forested land and get it into a sustainable management regime, as opposed to liquidation harvesting of merchantable timber for revenue," says the well-spoken Ritchie, who holds a University of Minnesota Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry.

"Under the woodlot system, private land is managed for timber resource and other resources like aesthetics, wildlife and recreation."

The knowledgeable Ritchie can describe all aspects of the woodlot in detail. For the Bell Pole Vice President of Fibre Supply, the woodlot is a chance to practice hands-on, small scale forestry.

"With typical industry practice, licenses deal with tens or hundreds of thousands of meters. The scale and volumes are so much larger."

By reading professional journals and attending seminars and workshops, Ritchie keeps informed of new developments and research that can help him better manage the woodlot.

"Forestry is a science and an art. It's always changing and progressing."

Ritchie -- who also enjoys sports, the outdoors, and tending a small orchard -- spends evenings and weekends looking after woodlot business, with the help of a hired forester. Independent contractors carry out timber harvesting, road building and tree planting.

"Sometimes I feel like I have two full-time jobs," Ritchie admits with a chuckle. "I enjoy seeing the resource enhanced and developed and being able to be part of that. All the groups

involved have been supportive."

The woodlot is largely undulating, with some flat areas, and slopes ranging from 25 to 70%. Violet Creek crosses the NE corner, then runs into the Mara Meadows Ecological Reserve. Other seasonal, or intermittent streams, are mapped and carefully managed as water resources.

Douglas Fir, Western Red Cedar, Spruce, Hemlock, White Pine and birch are the predominant species in the area.

The woodlot's Forest Development Plan is submitted every five to ten years. Ritchie works with the Ministry of Forests, many other government agencies, as well as local native bands in managing the woodlot.

Though the woodlot is Ritchie's in perpetuity, as long as he regularly submits operational plans and follows stringent rules from various government ministries, he describes himself as "part-owner but basically a manager."

As a woodlot owner, Ritchie is committed to being very open about his management practices.

"You have to respond as best you can to public enquiry."

Ritchie acknowledges that some people may wonder why he chose a "clearcut with reserves" management system. Ritchie, who has spent days walking all areas of the woodlot, says: "All things are considered. Small clearcuts, with reserves, is an excellent system to regenerate logged sites and get them back into productive, healthy forests again."

Cut blocks average four to five hectares in size, with the smallest being about .5 hectares to the largest, about eight, so far.

All cutblocks are replanted; seedling type is based on elevation, original timber type, and soil type and moisture.

Douglas Fir, Larch, and Lodge Pole pine are typically planted on drier sites, with Western Red Cedar usually used in moist areas.

"Within a single cutblock, you can have many different site conditions and plant several species," says Ritchie.

Though seedlings are doing well, some killed by this summer's drought will be replaced.

On all blocks, Ritchie left Larch seed trees for natural regeneration purposes, and on most blocks, old growth fir and sometimes cedar for future wildlife reserves.

In the future, Ritchie looks forward to putting in more recreational trails and possibly, an interpretative trail system, a project he's discussed with the School District #83 Forestry Education Liaison.

In 2004, Ritchie and LHSC plan to extend Skyview, out along Raven's Ridge, connecting with the south end of Woodlot Ramble, creating a new 4 km. track-set loop on gently rolling terrain.

"LHSC is very fortunate to have Glen Ritchie as a neighbour," says club president George Zorn. "Glen has gone out of his way to look after the interests of our club.

Reino Keski-Salmi LOPPET



This is our 20th Anniversary!

The Larch Hills Ski Club hosted our first 'Larch Hills Marathon' in January 1985. This was also the start of our affiliation with the Heart and Stroke Foundation with whom we annually emphasize the benefits of heart healthy winter sports and for whom we raise funds.

The loppet name was later changed to honour and remember Reino, a local founding member of the ski club and an international cross-country ski champion who died tragically in a helicopter crash during the summer of 1985. Reino's father, Erkki, participates in our loppet and annually awards a trophy to the top local male and female finishers in memory of his son.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of our loppet. We host a first class event for competitive and recreational skiers within a fun, family friendly atmosphere--attracting almost 400 skiers per year. Our goal is to encourage participation and to promote cross-country skiing regardless of skiing ability or experience.

What's a loppet?
A loppet is a long distance cross-country ski event. The traditional Reino Keski-Salmi Loppet route is 36 km. Over the years the loppet has evolved to include distances for skiers of varying ages and abilities,

We present a bird's eye view of the loppet organization!
The loppet committee is a friendly mix of individuals who are proud to host one of Canada's most popular loppets. Many choose to work behind the scenes before the event leaving them free to ski the loppet while others share the fun and excitement supporting skiers on the hill. The talents and innovative ideas of our committee members are what bring life to the event. **We invite you to join us!** Give **Pauline**, our loppet coordinator, a call: **833-0325**

The Core Committee

The **Coordinator** is the loppet spokesperson and commander-in-chief. Working with the committee chiefs, the coordinator oversees the many details critical to putting on such a huge event and trouble shoots where necessary. The coordinator is knowledgeable on every aspect of the loppet.

The **Secretary** works closely with the loppet coordinator and registrar to share responsibility for producing and distributing registration forms, posters, results, and other printed materials. The secretary does the organizational work and setup for the November mail-out, the bib packet stuffing night and the final registration day. She also records decisions made at committee meetings.

The **Registrar's** duties include all details that result in the successful processing of skiers, collection of fees, and assignment and distribution of bibs for race day. This includes: updating our website, brochures, and posters, helping with the mid November mail-out, collecting and processing registrations from mail, fax, and on-line, data entry in computer, issuing CCBC licences, turning fees over to the treasurer, helping to prepare bib packets, and organizing volunteers for in-person registration and bib packet pickup on final registration day.

The **Treasurer** deposits all funds received, pays all bills by cheque, reconciles monthly statements, prepares a summary of expenditures and receipts, and makes recommendations to ensure sufficient funds are available for future loppets.

The **Heart and Stroke Liaison** maintains good relations and communications with the Heart and Stroke Foundation and ensures we meet their interests. She promotes the benefits of our heart healthy sport and enthusiastically encourages fund raising for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

The **Sponsor Coordinator** maintains good relations and communications with our current sponsors, ensuring they receive due recognition, and seeking out new sponsors if required. Together with the awards organizer, she allocates the goods and prizes received.

Meet the Race Committee



Chief of Race: -supervises the chiefs who prepare and conduct the loppet, ensuring that all safety concerns are met and that each skier has optimum conditions for the race.

Chief of Course: -works closely with the Larch Hills tracksetting crew, grooming and preparing the ski track in the weeks prior to the loppet. He ensures that course signage is well placed and oversees the final tracksetting before the event.

Chief of Calculations: - runs database software, maintains the computerized registration process, sets up computers for loppet day results, oversees data entry on race day, and prepares the final results for the awards and printing.

Chief of Timing: -works with a team of reliable volunteers reporting the correct time and placement of each skier.

Chief of Start/Finish: -designs a layout for the start and finish areas and organizes a crew to erect fencing, flagging, signage and banners on the day before the loppet. Duties include providing a stand for the announcer at the start and finish.

Chief of Aid/Feeding Stations: -Currently this job has two chiefs. One recruits the necessary volunteers to organize the après ski lunch options. The second chief calculates amounts, orders and organizes the food and supplies needed at the four 'on course' aid stations. The chief supervises the transportation of the food items and arranges the smooth operation of the stations.

Chief of Equipment: -arranges the pick up, transportation and secure storage of equipment to and from Larch Hills. He is in close communication with the chiefs of Aid/Feeding stations, Start/Finish, and Clean Up.

Chief of Controllers: -Two chiefs oversee the deployment of a large crew of controllers stationed at key points on the loppet course. Controllers ensure that skiers stay on course. Communicating by radio, they follow the progress of the first and final skiers.

Chief Steward: -manages a team that aligns skiers in the start area, controls track crossing points, and supplies ribbons and tissues at the finish line.

Chief of Clean Up: -with an able crew on the Sunday after the event dismantles the start/finish equipment. With the Chiefs of Equipment and Start/Finish he ensures that everything is packed and stored.

LOPPET TOQUES

- Thanks to generous help from Skookum Cycle and Ski and Smart Imprinting, the loppet has
- souvenir toques for sale this year. These
- Silverfoot hats are made in BC and designed
- specifically for X-country skiing.
- two sizes (medium & large)
- and sell for \$25.
- Wonderful Christmas gifts!
- Contact **Tina** at **832-8676**
- to obtain your toque.



Here's the Event Committee

Press and Publicity: -Gives pre loppet press releases to the local papers and radio station - Ensures that media reps have access to the ski area on race day - Gives the radio station immediate information regarding race progress.

Protocol: -Hosts the visiting sponsor and media reps, ensuring they have tickets to the après ski lunch and the banquet.

Awards: -Organizes the awards, trophies, and draw prizes -Organizes the Far West jacket raffle -Sets up for, prepares the program, and MCs the Awards Ceremony.

Wine and Cheese: -Arranges the serving of wine and cheese and organizes volunteers to help with the set up and hosting of the reception.

Banquet and Family Dance: - Books the caterer and the band - Ensures that beverage orders are sufficient. - Oversees hall set up, decorations, and serving of food and beverage.

Volunteers

As you can imagine, committee leaders can't run the loppet alone. Each year close to 250 friendly volunteers are involved in the crews and teams needed to conduct the loppet. They bring their enthusiasm, expertise and talents to the loppet. We appreciate all of the assistance that is offered.



You'd like to help?



Call **Pauline**, our loppet coordinator: **833-0325**

News Update!

Tracksetter Replacement Fund Raising

Fundraising for our replacement tracksetter is well underway. The response to the October mailout has proven again that we do indeed have an exceedingly generous and supportive membership.

To date (Friday Nov 28), donations to the fund total \$8,472

This amount includes \$398 donated to the fund upon the dissolution of the Larch Hills Biathlon Club. We extend our thanks to the past members and executive of this group for being on target with their giving.

When added to the **\$7,200** set aside in the Tracksetter Reserve Fund at the conclusion of the 2002-03 ski season, **we now have \$15, 672 earmarked for the tracksetter.**

The donor list included here is by no means final. It will be updated (both in our next club newsletter and on the LHSC notice board at the trailhead) as further donations are received.

Remember, it's never too late to make a donation to the Tracksetter Replacement Fund!

And now, for some other ways to spend your money while helping us on our way...

Salmar Movie Passes

This is a classic win/win deal.

Thanks to the Salmar Community Association (a community spirited organization if there ever was one) you will be able to purchase movie passes at a reduced package price (six admissions for the price of five) with a substantial portion of your purchase price (about half) going to our tracksetter fund.

Packages of six admission passes (\$45 for adults and \$35 for students) will be available both downtown at **Skookum Cycle and Ski** and up the hill at **John's Ski Shack**.

Passes will be dated effective to the end of 2004 so you can buy lots (cash or cheque only please). With the Christmas season fast approaching, there are some great movies coming up, including "The Return of the King".

And don't forget, Salmar movie passes make great stocking stuffers!

Dinner, Dance and Auction

Mark your calendars today (if you have your 2004 calendar out yet).

Saturday evening March 6 will have it all; a fund raising event in the United Church hall which promises to be lots of fun for all members of the family; a delicious dinner, an auction with a real auctioneer, and a rousing family dance with live music.

With such a diverse and multi-talented membership, coming up with lots of high value 'auctionable items' will not be a problem. We ask that over the next couple of months, you consider your skills and talents and what you might be willing to contribute to the auction table.

We truly hope this event will be a Fun Raiser as much as a Fund Raiser! More details to follow in the next club newsletter.

Remember - March 6, 2004

Donors to the Tracksetter Fund (To Nov 28) - Thank You!

Robyn Abear	Len Lega
Robert and Shannon Allaway	Chris and Tina Letham
Arnold Anderson and Lorraine Prosser	Eldene Lindberg
Lois Angle	Eileen MacDonald
Des Angove	Charles MacLennan
David and Susan Askew	Kim and Susan MacMillan
Mike and Nancy Baxter	Denis and Joan Marshall
Ron and Karen Beals	Eleanor and Tom Marshall
Veronica Bene and Paul Watts	Tricia Martin and Barry Bergh
Karen and George Bissenden	Heather and Jim McConnell
Jim Boersma	Phil and Kathy McIntyre-Paul
Jamie Bovey	Lynn McKenzie
Jack and Gayle Bowers	Maureen McTavish
Julie Bradley and Dave Kleer	Betty Miede
Ruth Brighthouse	Mitch Milgram and Pan Thomas
Frank Bristol	Kathy Moleschi
Gary Brooke and Sunni Berger	Peter Molnar
Marie Bruce and Bliss Innis	Ken and Debbie Morris
Louise and Hermann Bruns	Liz Murdoch
Fred Busch	Anne and Jeff Nakagawa
Blaine Carson and Judy Murray	Theresa and Michael Nielsen
Margaret Chrumka	Markku and Marianne Nikmo
Ian and Wendy Clay	Harry and Cheryl Ogloff
Dr. R D Cleveland	Megan Ollinger
John Coffey	Curt and Adri Otterstrom
Keith and Noelle Cox	John and Eileen Pagdin
Roy Dagneau	Dave and Alle Palmer
Don Derby and Cindy Derkaz	Don and Dorothy Parks
Anne Dixon	Wilf and Pearl Pauls
Liz and Jim Ellis	Debbie Phillips and Alan Bates
Sharon and Steve Fabro	Cammy Pieper
Joan and Russ Fiala	Colin Pike and Robin Wilmot
Sue and Mick Ford	Loretta Prosser and Mervyn Krull
Hilary Graham and Marino Bordin	Reimer's Farm Service
Terry and Indira Greenhough	Pam Rhine
Mary Hamilton	Gisele and Jacques Ricard
Mona and Al Hardy	Dennis and Doreen Roberts
Val and Barb Heckrodt	Aura Rose and Wouter van der Hall
John and Joyce Henderson	David and Berniece Saunders
Laura and Keith Hepburn	Alois and Estelle Schonenberger
Mary Hillson	Ilse and George Seiz
Karen Hoover	Roy Sharp
Cathy Hopland and Jim McLellan	Mary and Henry Sinhuber
Alison Howatt and Steve Rodwell	Dick Smith
Beatrice Huddleston	Aivar and Mara Teteris
Pat and Christine Hutchins	John Thielman
George and Mavis Jackson (Circle T Logging)	Edna Vinet
Jeff and Dana Jackson	Phil Wallensteen and Dana Fenwick
Joyce Johnson	Steve and Christine Williams
Rob and Liz Johnston	Joe Wilson
Barry Jones and Karen Andreassen	Phil Wright and Isabel Reinertson
Andre and Fredercia Jotterand	Warren Wright
Norah Kennett and Earl Holley	Randy and Liana Yates
W. Ralph Kernaghan	Richard and Lorraine Yntema
Stig Keskinen	George and Jeanetta Zorn
Margaret and Greg Kitchen	3 Anonymous donors
Garry Landers	
Joanne and Doug Leatherdale	