

February 2004



## Tracksetter Replacement Fund

Heavy snow years are a mixed blessing. Great skiing is assured but our trusty volunteer tracksetting crew is working overtime. Also working overtime is our venerable but increasingly cranky Pisten Bulley. It is clear that we need a replacement machine and fortunately the club response with financial support has been outstanding.

We currently have **\$19,200** earmarked for replacing our aging tracksetter and by the end of the ski season we hope to be at \$25,000. We are, of course, eventually looking at in excess of \$100,000 but with a number of requests and initiatives pending, including the **March 6 Fundraising Auction**, we should be well on our way.

Salmar Movie passes are still available at Skookums and John's Ski Shack. Enjoy the movies and support your favorite ski club in one go.

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

## LHSC Pot Luck, Auction and Family Dance

Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> is not far off. Our season finale this year promises to be a fun evening for all members of the family. We'll meet at the United Church Hall at the bottom of Okanagan Avenue.

**Pot Luck Dinner:** (5:00 to about 6:30)

We all know that Larch Hills potlucks feature some of the best dishes in the Shuswap – this year promises to be no exception.

**The Auction:** (6:30 to 8:00)

This is the money making part of the evening and with Bruce Bolton (a real live auctioneer) donating his services it should be a lot of fun. We plan to have tables for silent auction items to supplement the actual auction.

With such a multi-talented and diverse membership we'll have a lot of high value items and services on 'the block'.

Please think of your skills and talents and what you might be willing to contribute to the auction table.

Several of the many possibilities mentioned to date include:

- guiding a hike
- hosting a dinner
- teaching a skill or sharing a hobby
- doing some house or garden work
- donating a handicraft, etc. etc....

Drop off your donations (or intentions) between 3:00 and 6:00 on Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at the United Church. Even better, let George (832 9335) or Pat (832 7242) know what's coming a week or so in advance. We'll then try to distribute a partial list of what will be available.

**Family Dance:** (8:00 to 10:00 - or thereabouts)

Our local group Birch Bark will be donating their time and talents to help us wind up the evening. Should be a lot of fun.

**We really hope many of our members will be able to make it to either all or part of the evening – and it's okay to enjoy the auction without contributing or even buying anything. Just come along, and even better bring a friend!**

### FUNDRAISER FILM NIGHT

What kind of films (including specific titles) would you enjoy watching when Larch Hills Ski Club hosts a Movie Night fundraiser at the Salmar Classic sometime in the future? Please pass along your comments by e-mail to the "TRF Committee" [larchski@telus.net](mailto:larchski@telus.net)

Thanks! - Your LHSC Tracksetter Replacement Fundraising (TRF) Committee.

## Thank You

Production of this newsletter 3 times a year is a big job that like most things at Larch Hills Ski Club, is shared by many. Many people have written articles and reports and there have been several feature articles and many pictures contributed as well. Next comes assembly and layout, printing and collation, folding, envelope stuffing, label printing, file conversion and web posting to get the newsletter to you through one or another channel of distribution, by mail, handout or electronically on our website. There are between 2 and 3 dozen people involved in every newsletter. Some are club members and volunteers and some are not. **Some jobs are big and some small but each is essential to getting the final product into your hands.** **A big thank you to every one of you!**

## 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
- ❖ Skookum Cycle & Ski - Salmon Arm
- ❖ John's Ski Shack - Larch Hills Road
- ❖ the Club's e-mail address: [larchski@telus.net](mailto:larchski@telus.net) (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 23/04 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 Video Library To Be Set Up

Eleanor Marshall has volunteered to maintain a Ski Club Video Library. If you have X-C Ski related videos or DVD's you would like to donate or loan to the Club so that other Club Members may view them, please contact Eleanor at 832-1073. A list of video and DVD titles with content descriptions and viewing times will eventually be posted on the Club's website Bulletin Board and in a future edition of the Club Newsletter.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our Tuesday, March 23 Larch Hills Ski Club Annual General Meeting will provide Club Members with an opportunity to look back and to look ahead. With mixed feelings I'll end a 3-year term serving as your Club President at the AGM. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Club Members/Volunteers for their on-going support of the Club in so many ways! For me, the time spent has been challenging and fun and rewarding. In particular, I want to thank the members of your Executive Committee for their enthusiasm and dedication in serving Larch Hills Ski Club Members.: Chris Letham (Vice President) , Dave Wallensteen (past President), Val Heckrodt (Secretary), John Pagdin (Treasurer), Marcia Beckner (Director) , Pat Hutchins (Director) and Christine Hutchins (Registrar).

Seven years ago, at the January 28, 1997 Club Meeting, a Committee consisting of Ron Beals, Don Drewco, Pat Hutchins, Peter Molnar and Dave Wallensteen presented the results of a Larch Hills Ski Club Member Survey. The Survey requested responses to 16 well-worded questions. Approximately 81 Members returned completed Survey Forms. The results and follow-up discussion provided direction to the Club in planning for the future. See a Summary of the 1997 LHSC Member Survey on the Club's website Bulletin Board at [www.larchhillsskiclub.bc.ca](http://www.larchhillsskiclub.bc.ca) As we all know, the future keeps arriving, more quickly than we imagined or expected. My hope for the future of Larch Hills Ski Club is that we maintain a diverse and community-rich recreational experience, reflecting the diverse interests of Club Members.

As we look ahead to the Club's 25th Anniversary in 2005 and consider the prospect of very soon replacing our 18 year old Tracksetter, I think it's important that we take time to discuss with one another what we value and enjoy as we ski the Larch Hills trails. We need to consider how we will balance protection of nature: old growth forests, plantations, bogs, creeks, ever present animal friends - the Larch Hills web of life, with recreational use of the trails. We need to consider how we might encourage more children, youth and families in our communities to experience the Larch Hills trails in Winter.

Philosophical? Yes! But I think important. So, perhaps it's time to consider a new Ski Club Member Survey and then to take some time (lots of time if necessary) to talk about our values in light of the new survey's results. Where are we going?

Happy Trails! - George Zorn, for LHSC

## NEW RACE FOR DYNAMIC DUOS ▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶

This is a new race, which has participants race in teams of two, or solo. The first racer completes a 5km loop using classic technique, then tags off to a teammate who completes a 5km skating loop. Best combined time wins. Teams are grouped by combined age. Solo skiers must complete both classic and skating loops. Kids teams ski a 1km loop using either classic or skating. Racers are encouraged to dress up as their favorite dynamic duo!

## RACING TEAM REPORT

Have you noticed some fast looking racers in blue suits skating down the trails this winter. The junior racing team has been training at Larch Hills and in town at the Field of Dreams to prepare for the races this season. They have already shown how hard work pays off with many good results at our local Loppet. We also came home from the first BC Cup Race in 100 Mile House with a handful of medals. Alysson Marshal and Taylor Bahen brought gold medals home, while Adriene Underhill and Sergio Pike came home with silver medals.

Looking down the road, we have a series of races coming up where our racers will have an opportunity to shine. Tuie Cleveland and Jocelyn Underhill will be representing our club at the BC Winter Games in Mount Washington. On the same weekend we will be sending a large contingent to the BC Midget Championships in Kamloops. This is always a very fun event. In two weeks time, we will be travelling 'en masse' to Sovereign Lakes to participate in the BC Championships. Our racers will have a chance to have fun as a team while racing against the best in the province.

**If you see our team out on the trails please encourage them as they work hard to represent our club.**



Presents

# THE DYNAMIC DUO 10k



**Sunday, February 8th, 2004**  
**@ Larch Hills Ski Area**  
**Start Time 1:00pm**  
**Sign-up 11:30 to 12:30**

**Entry Fee: 18 and Older - \$5.00**  
**under 17 - \$3.00**

- Teams of Two
- Each Skis One 5km Loop
- One lap Classic, one lap Skating
- Combined Age
- Mens, Womens, and Mixed Categories
- ...or go SOLO!
- Kids race, each skis 1km - Freestyle

Combined age Distances: 10km - 30 to 39, 40 to 80, 80+  
2km - up to 10, 11 to 19, 20 to 29

PLUS: dress up as your favorite dynamic duo for prizes

Call Skookum Cycle and Ski for details: (250) 832-7368

## Larch Hills Ski Club Calendar of Events: February & March 2004

### February:

1. Club Weekend Ski Trip to Nickel Plate – Penticton: February 7 & 8.
2. "Dynamic Duo" 10K Fun Race: Sunday, February 8 sponsored by Skookum Cycle & Ski
3. Valentine's Lantern Ski: Saturday, February 14 – 6:00 p.m to 9:00 p.m.
4. Ski Club Winter Photo Contest submissions deadline: Monday, February 23 – 6:00 p.m.

### March:

1. Larch Hills Ski Club Championships Race Day: Saturday, March 6 - 10 a.m. (Phil Wallenstein)
2. Auction Items Drop Off for Tracksetter Fundraiser: Friday, March 5 – 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at United Church Hall (or by arrangement with Pat Hutchins or George Zorn)
3. Tracksetter Replacement Fundraiser: Pot Luck Supper, Auction & Family Dance: Saturday, March 6 – Pot Luck Supper: 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.; Auction: 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.; Family Dance with "Birch Bark": 8 to 10 pm at Salmon Arm's United Church Hall
4. **Club AGM: Tuesday, March 23 – 7:00 p.m. Room #1 S/A Community Centre - N.B This is a change** (Ski Club Winter Photo Contest Winners announced)

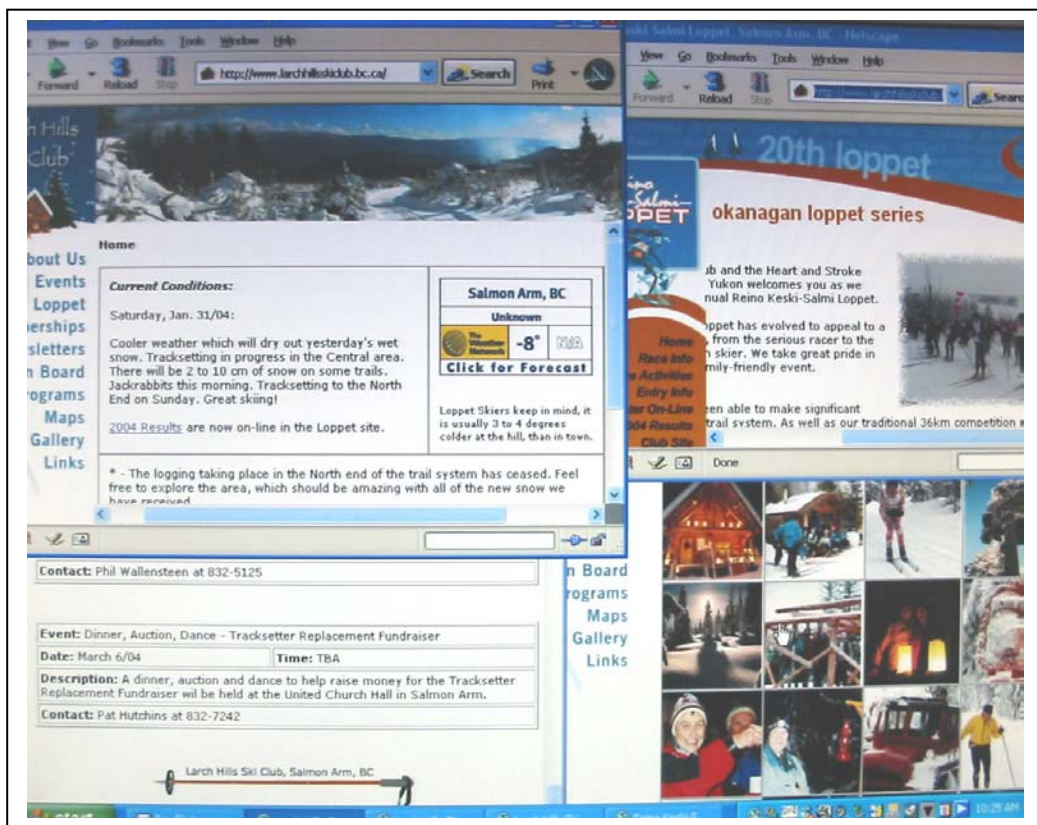
Latest Info. at: [www.larchhillsskiclub.bc.ca](http://www.larchhillsskiclub.bc.ca)

### FRESH LOOK WEBSITE

"It's a work in progress!", that's how Jim Maybee describes the development of our Larch Hills Ski Club's website at [www.larchhillsskiclub.bc.ca](http://www.larchhillsskiclub.bc.ca)

The new-look website was launched in October 2003 after the Ski Club's Newsletter, Website & Publicity Committee approached Jim last summer with a request for advice on updating and simplifying the site's design. Being a Club Member and having an interest in website design, Jim "jumped into the deep end" and applied his skills. The improvements are obvious! Our Club has received compliments from other Clubs such as Bulkley Valley - Smithers.

Jim presented ideas for further developments of the Club website at the January 27 Club Meeting.



We appreciate your efforts as a Club Volunteer Jim! Thank you!

Jim has requested comments and suggestions about the Club website from Club Members. Please contact Jim via [larchski@telus.net](mailto:larchski@telus.net) - the Club's e-mail address.

### 20<sup>th</sup> LOPPET A HUGE SUCCESS

The 20th Anniversary Reino Keski-Salmi Loppet, which hosted about 450 skiers, was a wonderful event! Thanks to the Organizers and the Volunteers! Jesse Heckrodt and Tom Hansen (graduates of our Club's Jack Rabbit Program) came in 1st and 2nd in the 36K race, with times under 2 hours! Race results are posted on the Club's/Loppet's website: [www.larchhillsskiclub.bc.ca](http://www.larchhillsskiclub.bc.ca)

Over \$13,000 was raised for the BC & Yukon Heart & Stroke Foundation by Loppet skiers!

## **NEW SKI CLUB COMMITTEES FORMED**

There are a number of new Ski Club Committees at work to serve the needs of all Larch Hills Ski Club Members. In addition to the Club Committees already active (see the list on the Club's website: [www.larchhillsskiclub.bc.ca](http://www.larchhillsskiclub.bc.ca) on the Club Bulletin Board webpage - "Ski Club Committees"), the following Committees have been established this season:

- ❖ TRACKSETTER REPLACEMENT FUND RAISING: Marcia Beckner, Bruce Motherwell, Pat Hutchins, John Pagdin, Tom Peasgood, George Zorn
- ❖ CHALET FOREST THINNING OPTIONS: Ron Beals, Jim Beckner, Blaine Carson
- ❖ TRACKSETTER SHED REPLACEMENT PLANNING: Blaine Carson, Bruce Motherwell, Don Huntington, Ron Everest.
- ❖ HIGH PERFORMANCE ATHLETE SUPPORT (HiPAS) FUND RAISING: Jim and Marcia Beckner, Val Heckrodt, Lizzie Hutchins, Pat Hutchins, Chris Letham, Eleanor Marshall, John Pagdin, Clint Smith, Pauline Waelti.

This committee was formed at the Jan. 27th/04 meeting to provide support for our Ski Club's athletes who are or will be competing at the W. Canadian, National and International level. Larch Hills Ski Club is committed to supporting our "High Performance Athletes" (term used by Cross Country B.C.), like Alysson Marshall and Jesse Heckrodt, through fund raising efforts of the newly formed HiPAS Committee. To do this, a set of enabling Policies were approved at the Jan. 27th/04 Club Meeting. See "Ski Club Policies 2004" on the Club's website Bulletin Board at [www.larchhillsskiclub.bc.ca](http://www.larchhillsskiclub.bc.ca) for a summary of these approved new Policies. Funds raised by the HiPAS Committee will be deposited in the Reino Keski-Salmi Memorial Fund. The HiPAS Committee will develop a set of Club-endorsed Policies to guide the disbursement of these funds.

The Junior Racing Team's fund raising efforts, such as the Askew's vouchers, are used by the Junior Racing Team. The Team will be starting a new account under the umbrella of the Ski Club and the Team will also be developing a set of Club-endorsed policies to guide the disbursement of these funds.

As long as the club is financially healthy, funds raised by both the Junior Racing Team and the HiPAS Committee will be matched equally to a ceiling of \$1250. If there are other club members who wish to join the HiPAS Committee in their efforts, please contact Jim or Marcia.

- ❖ LARCH HILLS SKI CLUB CONSTITUTION REVIEW: Pat Hutchins, Chris Letham, John Pagdin, Clint Smith, Pauline Waelti
- ❖ JOINT LHSC/SO! FOREST INVESTMENT ACCOUNT PROJECT (FALL 2003): Jim Beckner, Blaine Carson, Connie Harris, Gary Kalloch, John Thielman
- ❖ SCHOOL DISTRICT LOPPET COMMITTEE: Brian Smith, Tom Peasgood, Jim Maybee, Pat Hutchins, Eileen MacDonald

## **SCHOOL DISTRICT LOPPET TO FOLLOW NEXT YEAR'S LOPPET**

Brian Smith made a presentation at the Jan. 27th/04 Ski Club meeting, proposing a School District Loppet on the Friday following the January, 2005 Reino Keski-Salmi Loppet! The issue of encouraging participation by more school children in cross country skiing has been raised by Eileen MacDonald at our November Club meeting.

Tom Peasgood and Jim Maybee from Skookum Cycle & Ski offered, as a business, to partner with Larch Hills Ski Club to host the School District Loppet.

Pat Hutchins and Eileen have both volunteered to work with Brian and Skookum to do the planning for the event. Brian, Tom Jim, Pat and Eileen constitute the School District Loppet Committee.

## **TRACKSETTING REPORT**

It has been a busy year for the PB 130 and its operators. Some weeks it has gone out every day and when we have a significant amount of snow it is very heavy going. Also we have had our usual problems with the mechanical side of the machine, some minor and some major, but all requiring work and downtime. Dave Brubaker, our mechanic, is able to offer considerable help, but often it is the Tracksetters who are involved as well. The throttle system installed last year has had to be repaired and has now been replaced. In addition, we have had to replace the muffler and parts of the comb at the back, work on the lights, door locks, heating system, hydraulic system and most recently the tiller system. Sometimes individual Tracksetters are working on the machine up to three times a week. We have had broken wheel guides turned into us that have been found on the trail, which is helpful, as it tells us we have a problem.

We are grateful that fund raising is underway for a replacement machine as the PB 130 is like an old car which has been on the road since 1985. It will still go, but it takes more money and time to keep it running. Thank you from the Tracksetters to all the people who are involved in the project and those who have been contributors!

A daily Trail Report which usually has accurate information about tracksetting is sent out and posted on the Web thanks to Jim Maybee and sent on to the local Sport Shops and Radio Stations courtesy of Rod Charlebois, but if you would like your own direct email copy, or if you would like to be removed from the list, contact [bcarsen@jetstream.net](mailto:bcarsen@jetstream.net)

Last year's trail extensions and this year's trail improvements have meant more tracksetting as what we could once do with 50+ Km on the machine is now taking 80+ Km on the machine. Having a wider machine would reduce that distance as anywhere we set proper skating requires two trips. Something to be considered when we replace this machine.

It has been a great year for skiing thanks to the early and plentiful snow! We will be setting tracks into March, so enjoy!

## **Thank You , Donors to the Tracksetter Replacement Fund (to Jan 31, 2004)**

Robyn Abear  
Robert and Shannon Allaway  
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