



Telemark Nordic Club Doggy Trails are Open

November 18, 2017

One of the most common questions our non-profit sports club has received from the community over the last few years is, "Do you have doggy trails?" The answer to that question is, "Yes we do".

For the last five years, long time Telemark volunteer Emile Brokx has been working with government agencies to add the doggy trails to our 115 kilometer trail system. With government approval the trails could be built, mapped, groomed and a safety plan put in place. Telemark had the go ahead about three years ago but it fell through. With some more hard work by volunteers we were able to get approval to build a beautiful three kilometer cross country ski trail, and a four kilometer snowshoe trail for dogs to walk their owners. This fall the two new trails were built by Telemark volunteers and staff. The cross country ski trail is a wide rolling trail that will be groomed for classic cross country skiing only (no skate skiing). The snowshoe trail is hilly, with some very scenic views. The new trails are located at the entrance to our parking lot, by the large Telemark Nordic Club parking lot entrance sign. (Please park in the far end of our lot to use the doggy trails.)

For decades skiers and snowshoes have been parking in the Telemark parking lot on Glenrosa Road, and walking their dogs in the forest, on the other side of the road. These trails were not signed or mapped. We were happy to pay the costs of free parking to users of these trails. However, allowing the community to use our property did cause hardship during our busy days, such as during the Christmas season, on weekends and during events. There were also problems related to people using that area becoming lost. Even though the vast majority of our club members and visitors wanted doggy trails, our fifty kilometers of cross country ski trails can be very hilly, and cross our sixty-five kilometers of snowshoe trails, so dogs are not allowed, to avoid collisions. Every winter season we have thousands and thousands of visits from children and youth. Mixing kids with unleashed dogs, on our trails and by the chalet is dangerous. The new doggy trails have separation from our established trails, and the chalet.

Our doggy trails are available to anyone who has a 2017-2018 club membership, as well as the general public. For those without a membership, tickets are available at our chalet, or you can pay the \$5 fee by placing money in drop box, at the entrance to the doggy trails. Rental cross country ski equipment and snowshoes are also available at the chalet.

Dogs are not permitted at the chalet, or on the regular cross country ski and snowshoe trails. Due to break-ins, do not leave valuables in your car or trunk, in our parking lot.

Telemark Nordic Club
PO Box 26072
West Kelowna, B.C. V4T 2G3
Telephone: 250 707-5925 email: gm@telemarknordic.com
www.telemarknordic.com