



TELEMARK

Cross-Country Ski Club

April, 2010

Message from the President

Now that the office has been officially closed for the season since March 14th, it is nearly time to hang the skis up until next season. For some, the skiing is still very good at Sovereign Lake however, for most with the mild sunny valley temperatures of late it becomes increasingly more difficult to want to experience more winter. Cycling, running, water sports, golfing and gardening have greater precedence, myself included.

As seasons go this was not a banner one by any measure. We started late by over 2 weeks and finished right on our seasonal average of mid-March giving us a 12 week season, about 2-3 weeks less than average. The relatively snowless, mild valley weather was likely a major factor in our drop in both day pass and rental revenue compared to the previous 2 years. Our membership declined very slightly, about 2%.

We will have to be even more fiscally responsible this season considering we have lost our gaming grant, although this could change. We did not get our Direct Access Grant

for a newer groomer however, this is still a major priority for our club as ours is getting very 'long in the tooth'. We are actively seeking one at this time. They are not easy to find in this economic climate. Most venues are keeping their used ones postponing the purchase of new machines.

Our events were very successful with the BC Cup having record participation of 334 athletes (a record for Telemark) and a Loppet record with 201 participants thanks to the participation of the Ski League Programme. We also hosted a Special Olympics event in February drawing 48 participants from throughout the Province. Next season we are committed to hosting the International Children's Winter Games in late January and the Special Olympics Provincial Championships in early March. Telemark has developed a special bond with these athletes. They

love coming to our venue as they feel they are very well treated. Our Loppet will be held in January and possibly a BC Cup Biathlon or XC Ski event as well. We have had several requests from other groups but we try to limit





your memberships. We do need your support to keep Telemark functioning as a very viable, well respected XC Ski facility giving members a great venue for a winter activity.

Gerry Morrison

the number of events we host as we do not like over-using our volunteers. There is also the general ski membership that must be considered since these events always result in some trail closures or limited access.

We have been very pleased with Ron Earle, our new General Manager, who had a tough act to follow after Gloria retired. He recently assured me he would like to come back next year. We have added a new treasurer, Lanita Platt, who grew up at the coast but spent the past 10 years in England. She lives and works close by at Alpine Helicopter so we are pleased to have her take over from Gloria. We were all very saddened to learn of the recent departure of Dorothy and Kneale Quayle to Saskatoon. Dorothy did a great job developing and promoting the Kal -West Loppet Series and specifically our own Loppet. Kneale was the club and Loppet photographer. He also edited our recent newsletter. Kneale has thankfully volunteered to do this from afar.

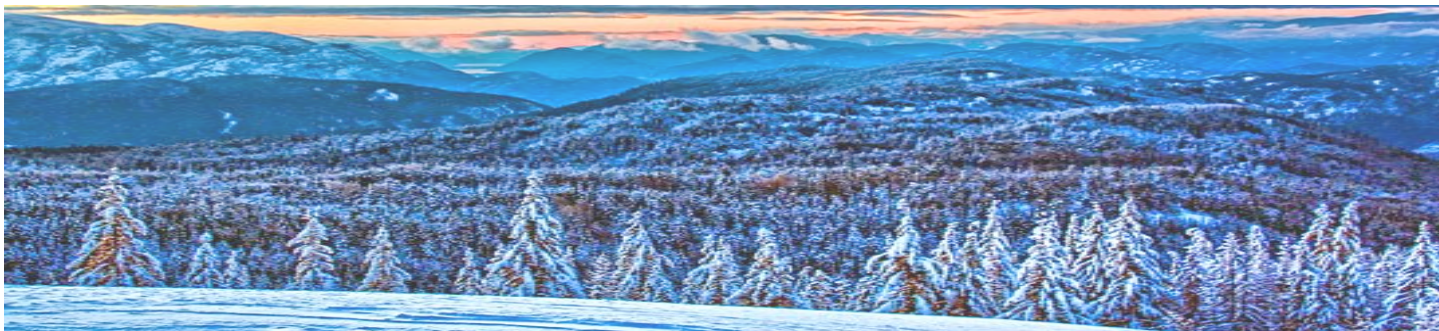
In closing I would like to thank all the members of the executive and those on the various race committees and club programmes. Without them the club would not function as well as it does. The groomers whom I like to call the 'Triplets of Telemark', Lyle, John and rookie Mike for being there very early in the morning on a regular basis. They have had some trying conditions to deal with considering our lack of snow and the very early freeze-thaw cycle which made both grooming and skiing more challenging this year.

The odds are we will have a longer, colder, snowier next season so we hope you all renew

2010

Club Executive

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Grooming Thoughts Eric Rayson



the area the fire hall now stands, and set a track (by skiing) over the fields - long since plowed under-towards Powers Creek.

Despite the lack of snow, our grooming crew did a fantastic job with limited material to work with. When we did get a dump of snow, we had to do a major brushing job to keep the trails open due to tree branches being weighed down with heavy wet snow, which then froze to the branches increasing the weight and bending them down over the trails. While it looked quite pretty it was quite a problem for both grooming

From a XC Skiing point of view, this season has been about the worst that I can ever recall due to late, lack of snow and a cold snap just before Xmas.

It seems to me, that over the years the snow level has been gradually receding as I recall that we first skied in the Glen Rosa area, in 1973. We used to park in

and skiing; we were also concerned that we might bust the windshield on the Bombardier.

Larry and our grooming crew along with Mike Shannon's brushing band kept the trails open. I even saw John Gordon out there on his day off armed with pruning shears "way to go guys".

Once again, we had no major delays in grooming due to mechanical or electrical breakdowns with equipment. Not that we did not have any, it's just that Lyle and the guys worked behind the scenes and kept the equipment running, particularly with the renovator as it was in constant use, as was Lyle, with his welding machine fixing it up. Without the renovator we would have had a very short season.

All in all we did quite well and as I often tell people it's the trails and grooming that make a good club.

This season Min and I skied at 4 areas that we had never skied before and I can tell you due to the fact that none of them have a renovator, ice axes and crampons would have been a good addition to our XC skiing equipment! The unbelievable thing was that no one complained.

Cheers.
Eric



Trails Larry Krar

It is March 13th and I have just come back from one of my best skis of the year. Just as I was about to start Crystal Rim, Lyle was coming down the hill with the groomer. For the next hour, I skied an immaculately groomed trail in brilliant sunshine and views to die for. It just confirmed my belief and I am sure most of you would agree that we are indeed fortunate to have such a wonderful facility so close to most of us. The cost of this in regards to a season's pass has got to be one of the best bargains in the Okanagan!

After our late start, we have had remarkably good conditions for most of the season considering how little snow we actually got after the end of December. Because the snow that we did get was so wet, we had some problems with snow laden branches and bushes and for two weeks we were actively cutting these out. We will work on cutting back most of the remaining ones over the summer so we will avoid this problem occurring again.

The summer work in regards to removal of major rocks on a number of trails paid definite dividends as far as being able to groom with limited snow. It also reduces the risk of damage to the groomer. Thanks Eric!



The addition of new snowshoe trails brought more people out and I believe that there was the least interference of snowshoers with skiers this year since we inaugurated the snowshoe trail system. We are becoming well known in the valley for our varied and scenic trails (just like our ski trails) and more and more of you have been trying out this activity that is a great complement to skiing. The club benefits not only financially (snowshoeing has made the club over \$20,000 in profit over the last 4 years), but also is actually considerably more "green" than skiing!

I am currently reading a terrific book on the history of skiing. Check it out on the web – it is called "Two Planks and a Passion" by Roland Huntford. He is well known for his "Scott and Amundsen", "Shackleton" and "Nansen" books. If you have any curiosity about how the sport started and developed, I can guarantee that you would enjoy this book.

Larry





Biathlon end of season report 2010

Ken Ransom

Looking over the season, our biathlon team performed well.

- Julia was named to the Canadian Junior Team and competed in both Oberhof and Torsby with top 20 placings (4th, 11th, 15th 19th) in both World Summer Championships and WYJCH
- Jasper joined Julia and competed at World youth trials with personal bests
- 6 medal placings at nationals (3 Nationals and 3 Cadet Nationals)
- All Telemark athletes winning medals at BCWG - Due to snow conditions, running the course.
- Solid performances and attendance at all the BC Cups with several members in line for top aggregate in their age group
- Medal placings in Masters category by Dave. Way to go!!

Our season was a very busy season (last BC Cup event was March 20th - 21st) with Telemark athletes competing throughout BC, Canada and Europe. Biathlon is showing continued growth and support within our club. We have more members each year, limited only by the number of rifles available. The support of the club to expand the range area and penalty loop has made a much better training area. We have a strong group of supporters and parents who help at every practice setting up and putting away the equipment as well as generously donating this equipment.

Lastly, and definitely not least, our coach Rob Swan, who puts in the extra time, commitment, and all that goes with a successful team.

Our group has done well in developing coaches and officials. So far, 3 athletes and 6 parents completing community coach programs. We have 3 parents working on officials courses as well as many more with hands on experience.

This summer, Rob continues to cross train at least 6 of our athletes for next season. This works well for any athlete wanting to commit to a stronger season. Our team grew to 13 at the end of the season with several more showing interest for next season.

We welcome any skiers that would like to explore biathlon as a sport next season by calling either:

Rob Swan at 250-826-0305
or
Ken Ransom at 250-769-4098



Kal-West Interior Loppet Series 2010

Telemark Member Results

Dorothy Quayle, Co-ordinator



Skiers can be recognized by participating in all 5 of the races in the Kal-West Interior Loppet Series, and/or by placing in their age group.

Three Telemark skiers earned a long-sleeve technical shirt by participating in all the events:

- Allison Campbell-Urness
- Bill Stephens
- John Davina, whose company is the title sponsor for the Series

Telemark members who did well in their age group were:

- Annick de Gooyer 2nd in 18 – 39
- Gary Wade 5th in 40 – 49
- Dorothy Quayle 2nd in 50 – 59
- John Davina 2nd in 50 – 59
- Bob Bartlett 4th in 60 – 69
- Eric Rayson 1st in 70+

The Series was another success, thanks in part to the generosity of our sponsors:

Kal-West Building Systems, Prestige Hotels, Fresh Air Experience and Rossignol, Stussi Sports and Print Three.

As I write this little report on April 9th from Saskatoon, the snow is blowing horizontally. Those who wished for more snow, come visit us!

