

Deep River Cross Country Ski Club

January 2014 Newsletter

www.drxc.ca



TRAIL CLEARING AND IMPROVEMENT

Many thanks to the dozens of volunteers who were busy this fall preparing our trails and buildings for the ski season. Special thanks to Wally Kalechstein for improvements to C-loop, to George Doubt for shoring up our bridges, and to Aubrey Fletcher, Craig Stuart, Dave Lee and Andy Archer for use of their earth-moving machines. D-loop has also been upgraded and now has fewer trees and turns to negotiate.

Inevitably, debris will continue to fall on the trails throughout the winter. If you come across small debris while skiing, please stop and remove it. Similarly, try to break (or saw) off low-hanging branches. Report larger deadfalls requiring chain saw work to Wayne Workman at 584-2385. A trail clear of debris allows the groomers to get their job done much faster.

All the snow we've had this year has left our back country trails in good shape. The Hawk loop at the Forestry has re-opened and the traditional Bass Lake trails have all been broken. Enthusiasts have opened up some of the historical trails at the end of the Bass Lake network that have grown in over past years. You can find updated maps of the Silver Spoon, Forestry and Bass Lake trails, as well as a new map of the snowshoe trails on the north side of Balmer Bay Road, on the club website. Thanks to Ray Metcalfe, Erik Hagberg, George Doubt and Amir Sartipi for putting these together.



PLANT EXTENSION TRAIL

The Town has turned down our request to cut a new trail on the road allowance at the far east end of Balmer Bay Road to bypass the properties of several residents who have withdrawn permission for skiers to cross their land. Please continue to respect the wishes of the residents and stay off the existing trail on the north side of Balmer Bay Road, from the first driveway past the parking area near the gate to the Metcalfe property. Rather than skiing on the old trail in this area, ski on the snowbanks or on the road itself. If you do ski on the existing trail, you will be trespassing and may be subject to all the legal ramifications that that entails.



GROOMERS AND GROOMING

The club is pleased to welcome Dave Steer as our new head groomer. We're fortunate that Dave is willing to share his knowledge, energy and time with us. Our previous head groomer, Barrie Greiner, continues to be heavily involved, and Aubrey Fletcher rounds out the crew. All three are doing a great job of providing the best possible trails given the difficult snow conditions this year and the absence of one of our snowmobiles, which has been in the shop for much of January.

You can check trail conditions on-line by going to Dave's blog at drxcgroomer.blogspot.com. Or click on

the "Trail Conditions" tab at the bottom of the DRXC homepage.



SILVER SPOON

This year's Silver Spoon races will be held Saturday, February 8, starting at 11 am at St. Mary's School. A wide range of events is available for all ages and skill levels, including competitive classic races, participation events and ski-skate knock-out sprints. New this year are age categories of 60+ for women and 70+ plus for men. Registration forms are available at the club chalet or can be downloaded from the Silver Spoon website www.bright-ideas-software.com/silverspoon/. The traditional roast beef buffet will be served at the Bear's Den on the evening of February 8, followed by an awards ceremony. Buffet tickets are available through registration or from the Olive Tree shop in Deep River. The deadline for registration and buffet tickets is Wednesday, February 5.

Volunteers are always welcome and needed to run the Spoon. You can marshal, put up signs, knock down snow banks, prepare road crossings or any number of other tasks. Please contact Diane Davis at 584-3033 or diane.davis95@gmail.com if you can help out.



BLUE SKY LOPPET

Those looking for a warm-up for the Spoon can head up to North Bay on Sunday, February 2 for the 2014 version of North Bay Nordic's "Blue Sky Loppet". This event is open to all ages, with distances of 18, 8, and 3 km for adults and 1.3 and 0.6 km for Jackrabbits. You can find more information at www.northbaynordic.ca.



TAY VALLEY LOPPET

Those with energy left over after skiing the Spoon can participate in the Tay Valley Loppet, which will be held Sunday February 9 at Murphy's Point Provincial Park near Perth. Events include a 20 km classic loppet, a 10 km tour and 2.5 and 5 km freestyle 'Cookie Races' for youth. The back-up date is Sunday Feb 23 if snow conditions on Feb 9 are unsuitable. Entry forms are available at <http://tayvalleyskiclub.wordpress.com/>.



WEBER LOPPET (formerly the Nakkerloppet)

Those with still more energy may want to consider the Weber Loppet, to be held Sunday Feb 23 at Nakkertok Nordic in Cantley, QC. Classic 25 and 12.5 km tours are offered suitable for experienced and intermediate skiers. This is a true loppet in the sense that it emphasizes participation. Times are not recorded and awards are not given out. If you are interested in entering, email Phil Davis at pddavis@magma.ca and he will forward the information received from Nakkertok. Registration closes Wednesday Feb 19.



CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

The DRXC championships will be held Saturday March 1 starting at 2:30 pm at the club chalet. This

friendly race is always memorable - come join the excitement! There are events for all ages, and the trails will be groomed for both skating and classic. All events are free-style, with a mass start for each age group. The event is open to all club members and Jackrabbits at no charge. Race distances range from 0.5 km to 5 km, depending on the age category. Detailed course descriptions are provided in the DRXC website under the "Club Championships" tab. There will also be 4x0.8 km relay races for various categories, starting at 3:30 pm. Please arrive at the chalet and register by 2 pm for the individual races. Relay registration will be at the line. For more information contact Bob Donders at 584-4321 or dondersr@magma.ca.



JACKRABBITS

We have 70 Jackrabbits enrolled in the program this season, more than any year in recent memory. We have a great core of coaches and parents working with the kids, but not enough for our growing numbers. If any experienced skiers (even those who don't have kids in the program) want to help out, please give our head coach Kevin McDonald a call at 584-1287. You could have a class of your own or work for a couple of weeks teaching specific skills. Training will be provided so you know what's expected of you.

DRXC gratefully acknowledges receipt of a Junior Instructional grant from the Town of Deep River to support our Jackrabbit program.



FOUR SEASONS CONSERVANCY MEMBERSHIP

We ask everyone who uses the trails, both residents and guests, to sign the Four Seasons Conservancy membership book before they head out. (Adults need to do this only once in their lifetime.) While the trails are largely on town land, most cross either FSC property or private property, and that requires users to be FSC members. The membership book can be found inside the chalet, to the left of the front door. Membership is free, but donations are always welcome.



FOUR SEASONS CONSERVANCY AGM

The Four Seasons Conservancy invites you to their upcoming AGM on January 27, at 7 pm in the Deep River Library Program Room. The main item on the agenda is the status of the Conservancy's bid to buy the Cooper property (for which donations are still very welcome – contact Ron Wensel at 584-2972). At the AGM, you will also hear a little about the Conservancy and its recent work, including the BioBlitz back in July.



SKI TOURS

A link to the Wednesday afternoon ski tour schedule has been added to the program page of the DRXC website. These tours are for experienced adult skiers who want to explore some of the less heavily

used trails in the area. Contact Mira Anghel at 584-3672 for more information. A similar, less formal group often goes out on Sunday afternoons. Diane Wensel (584-2972) can provide more information. Finally, Wally Kalechstein has offered to accompany beginner or slower skiers on some of the easier club trails. Give him a call at 584-2224 if you are interested.



TRAIL ETIQUETTE

The Silver Spoon ski trails are intended for skiing only. Snowshoers, hikers and dog walkers can do considerable damage to both groomed and ungroomed ski trails. Ski club members have spent hundreds of volunteer hours clearing and maintaining them, and all have paid an annual fee to have them groomed. If you wish to ski with your dog, you are welcome to use the snowshoe trails, or the many other beautiful trails around town. If you are a skier who encounters someone “misusing” the trails, please explain the situation politely. The people you meet maybe newcomers, visitors, or potential DRXC members.

If you meet visitors on the trails, please be welcoming and helpful with directions. If they inquire about a trail fee, please point them in the direction of the donation box inside the chalet to the left of the front door, under the FSC membership book. Similarly, if you bring guests skiing, please encourage them to make a donation.



RENTALS

Helena Rummens still has some good quality ski equipment for rent at very reasonable prices for those a little late getting into the ski season. Give her a call at 584-4321 to arrange a fitting.



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As always, our website is the continuing source for news and information about all things DRXC. A separate website devoted to Jackrabbit news is in the works. And don't forget our Facebook group which started up last year: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/DRXCskiCommunity/> . If you have ski equipment for sale, want to provide information about local trails, or have a question, suggestion or photo, feel free to post it to the Facebook group.



Happy Skiing from your DRXC Executive:

Phil Davis	President	584-3033	Danielle Beaton	Secretary	584-4194
Cheryl Rhodes	Past-President	584-3932	Wally Kalechstein	Treasurer	584-2224
Bob Donders	Vice-President	584-4321	Carol White	Membership	584-4629