

Deep River Cross Country Ski Club

January 2013 Newsletter

www.drxc.ca

Happy New Year to everyone! We hope that you have enjoyed a great holiday with family and friends, and with lots of skiing and snowshoeing to burn off some of those many calories and to enjoy the wonderful natural landscapes that we have at our doorsteps. We are very blessed!

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome back, continuing members, to another ski season and welcome to new members. Those who are new, please ask questions of the old-timers—we're happy to share our favourite trails, ideas and skills. Maybe you have something to share as well!

New members are welcome to join our beginner adult ski lessons at no charge. See below.

If you are already capable skiers, you might prefer to have a guided tour of some of the local wilderness ski trails, such as those at the Petawawa Forestry or the Bass Lake trails. These tours can be arranged for weekday or weekend, depending upon your availability. If you might be interested in this, please contact Cheryl Rhodes or Wally Kalechstein.

ADULT LESSONS

Beginner adult **classic** lessons for DRXC members will be held on Sunday, January 6 and continue on January 13, weather and snow conditions permitting. If you have pre-registered, meet at the chalet on Balmer Bay Road at 1:30.

Adult **ski-skate** lessons will be held on Sunday, January 13 for skiers with some experience at skating and Sunday, January 20 for beginners. The lessons start at 1:00 at the chalet.

All lessons are free to new members and \$20 otherwise. Those interested in lessons must be registered as club members. You can register either online (by credit card only) or by mail (with a cheque). Forms and instructions for registering are available at www.drxc.ca. Skiers who are already members but have not previously indicated an interest in lessons can sign up by calling

Phil Davis at 584-3033 or by emailing pddavis@magma.ca.

GROOMING

Remember that you can check the status of grooming by following of the groomer's blog: <http://drxcfasttraks.blogspot.ca/>. There is also a link on the DRXC website. If you are puzzled by grooming strategies, you can read the Grooming Policy, posted on the website under Programs.

PERMITTED SKI TRAIL ACTIVITIES

Please remember that, once snow is on the ground and as long as it remains on the ground, skiing is the only activity suitable for our Silver Spoon ski trails. Walking, snowshoeing, and skiing with dogs are all strongly discouraged, in order to preserve good trail conditions for all skiers.

If you are not skiing, please stay off the ski trails, groomed or ungroomed, except very briefly and carefully where snowshoe routes maintained by the Four Seasons Conservancy cross ski trails or use their bridges. Give skiers the right of way as they are likely moving much faster than you and won't expect people to step out from behind the trees.

Dogs under control are welcome on the snowshoe routes, but not on ski trails. You may ski the snowshoe routes (slowly!) with or without your dog.

Please also be aware that all of the groomed trails do have an accepted direction. The direction is generally clockwise, but you can refer to the arrows on the Silver Spoon ski trail map to be sure. If you decide to ski backwards on a trail for some reason, please give right of way to those skiing in the correct direction, by stepping well off the trail so that they can pass easily. Skiing backwards on the big hills is strongly discouraged as it is dangerous for everyone.

VOLUNTEERS

First of all, many thanks to the dozens of volunteers who worked very hard on trail maintenance and improvements this fall, and then had to turn around and do it all over again in December after the heavy wet snow and wind that introduced our ski season.

More volunteers are always welcome—most work is done between September and snowfall. If you can wield snips, small saws and shovels, or larger tools such as brushers, chainsaws or tractors, then we'd love to have you in a work party.

TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS—Silver Spoon Trails

Under the able direction of Wally Kalechstein, a considerable amount of work was done on parts of M, S and R trails—rock removal, corduroy and culverts in the wet hollows, and large quantities of sand, pit run and wood chips. Many thanks to Aubrey Fletcher, Craig Stuart, Dave Lee and Andy Archer for using their machines to spread fill.

All this work enables us to groom and ski earlier in the season, rather than waiting for deeper snow cover.

D-loop saw major trail improvements in the fall of 2011. After testing these changes for a season, a few additional tweaks were made this fall. We hope that skiers enjoy this beautiful hilly trail.

FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN—Purchase of "Cooper Property," Including Original D-Loop

It has been a long-term goal of skiers and others to restore the original D-Loop by acquiring land along Banting. Expect to hear more details from the Four Seasons Conservancy about their initiative to attempt this in the near future. They will need your help.

TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS—Cabin Trails

Erik Hagberg reports that the middle section of the Winterbon trail (including Corkscrew hill) has been cleared and opened up this year. To access from the east, ski down the Sidetrack Link (yellow diamonds), past the junction with Cedar Lane, all the way to the end where it meets the Winterbon trail (red diamonds). Follow Winterbon downhill to the railway, head right

towards Sidetrack Lake on the railway bank. Soon after you cross the lake drainage, look for a red diamond on your left next to a pile of railway ties and head up the trail. Following the trail from this point is easy; it will go up and down over a few big hills and finally down to a beaver pond. Go straight across the beaver pond and pick up the trail on the other side, marked with a red diamond. Just a little bit further is the junction with Beaver Link where you turn right (yellow diamond) and then pick your trail soon after that when you come to the junction with Canyon Bottom.

To access from the west, read the instructions in reverse.

PETAWAWA RESEARCH FOREST

The Hawk loop will be closed this season, due to logging and forest research. Instead, try out the New Maunsell loop, prepared by Ray Metcalfe and David Ross.

The HSA and Acer trails continue to be available to capable skiers, although further maintenance is likely to be needed after the recent snow and wind damage.

Parking this year will be at the new headquarters site only. You cannot drive through the gate to the old headquarters.

For further clarification, see the map page at www.drxc.ca to access a copy of the 2012 PRF map.

CONTINUING MAINTENANCE

No matter how thorough our trail preparations are, wind, snow and ice bring down branches during the ski season. PLEASE pick up branches and twigs as you ski, and toss them well off the trail so they don't get tangled with the grooming equipment.

Also, if a sapling is hanging over the trail because it is laden with snow, it sometimes takes just a swat with a ski pole to dislodge the snow and let the tree spring upright. It would be great to have overhanging bows out of the way for skiers who follow you on the trail.

If you can, carry a small folding saw or snips in your backpack when you ski, especially after a storm.

Please report any large downed trees to Wayne Workman at 584-2385.

CHAIN SAW COURSE

The club, with Wayne Workman as organizer, hosted a two-day chainsaw course on October 27 and 28, 2012.

As before, in 2007, Marvin Kellar was the instructor and approved trainer for Professional Chainsaw Operator through the provincial Ministry of Labour.

Saturday was in-class, indoor aided by discussion and video. There seemed to be a good mix of younger/older and experienced/novice that created a great classroom atmosphere.

Sunday was hands-on, get-your-motor running practical around the chalet. Everyone was able to practise on at least two trees each and this session lasted about five hours.

"I really enjoyed working with the group this weekend." These are the exact words of Marvin and I wouldn't be surprised if all participants felt the same.

If you have not had the opportunity to take this course, you are expected to read and be fully familiar with the safety standards set out by the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/safety_haz/chainsaws/.

SKI TEAM

High school aged skiers are training and racing under the DRXC banner this year, as the ongoing issues between teachers and the Ministry of Education have resulted in the cancellation of extra-curricular activities.

Thanks very much to Bob Donders, Fabrice Guerout and Steve and Ailsa Eyvindson for coming forward to coach these enthusiastic young people.

This group plans to host a small free-style mass-start race on Sunday, January 13, starting at 10:30 sharp. Register between 10:00 and 10:15 am at the DRXC chalet. The race will use the M-loop only, 1 or 2 times depending on age. The event is open to all DRXC members. Non-members may enter subject to a \$5 entry fee.

SKI RENTALS

Many children and adults are very appreciative of the volunteer work that Helena Rummens does for the DRXC through our not-for-profit ski rentals. Over the years Helena has put together a sizeable collection of good-quality equipment. For this season alone, 155 people have been outfitted with rental equipment! Helena can be reached at 584-4321.

SILVER SPOON—Saturday, February 9, 2013

Check the Silver Spoon website <http://www.silverspoonskifest.com> for information about the race, and for the link to online registration.

SILVER SPOON SKI-ORIENTEERING MEET

Sunday, February 10, 2013
 DRXC Chalet – Balmer Bay Road
 Sponsored by the Four Seasons Conservancy
 and the Ottawa Orienteering Club
 Three ski courses: short (2 to 3 km), medium (3 to 6 km)
 and long (6 to 10 km)
 Registration 10 to 11 a.m. / Starts 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
 Cost: \$10/person
 Contact John McKay by Thursday, February 7 to
 pre-register—613-584-4975

DEEP RIVER COMMUNITY WOODS

The majority of the land on which the Silver Spoon trails are located is owned by the Town of Deep River, purchased from AECL through the donations of many caring residents. For lack of a better description, this property used to be referred to as the East End Lands. The town has an advisory committee to help manage the property, and so that the various users and interested parties, such as the DRXC, the FSC, the snowmobile club and others can communicate with each other. Acting upon the advice of this committee, the town now calls this property the Deep River Community Woods.

Both the DRXC and the snowmobile club have an annual user agreement with the town for maintaining and using our trails.

JACKRABBIT LESSONS

The Jackrabbit program for skiers aged 3 to 13 will begin Saturday, January 5. Every Saturday afternoon sees over 50 children, of all skiing abilities, and 15 volunteer coaches out on the trails. There is always room for more young skiers during the season if you know any that wish to join. Also, Kevin McDonald (Jackrabbit Head Coach) would love to have several more regular or guest coaches out to volunteer their time. If any experienced skiers (even if you don't have kids in the program) want to help out, please contact Kevin at 584-1287 and he will find a spot for you – you are guaranteed to have a good time, and young skiers keep the health of the DRXC strong.

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

JACKRABBITS—Tax Receipts

Please note that receipts for income tax purposes are available through the zone4 Jackrabbit registration site.

TRAIL SIGNS

The club would also love to have someone volunteer to make some new trail signs—just a letter (R,X,C,D,M,S,H,B,F) on a board. Signs can be made of metal, wood or plastic, and we can put you in touch with volunteers who have made them in the past. Please contact Cheryl Rhodes at 584-3932 if you could help.

FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/DRXCSkiCommunity/>

We have just started a Facebook page for DRXC skiers, so if you have ski equipment for sale, want to provide information about local trails, have a question, suggestion or a photo, feel free to post it on our new site.

MEMBERSHIP—Why join?

Your commitment to our trails is very important—they are a treasure and we are very, very fortunate to have them. While we are more than happy to share the trails with guests, we do ask that local residents join the club. We need you to be involved. We need your time and

talent, and your annual membership of \$70 for adults, \$25 for teens and \$20 for children aged 6 to 12.

The fees have gone up this year. The club now forwards \$12.00 per member to Cross Country Canada for liability insurance and to support their programming. Local expenses include grooming, electricity, training for Jackrabbit coaches and chainsaw operators, insurance for property and equipment, building repairs for the chalet and equipment shed, etc. We are also saving for the considerable expense of replacing the two bridges on the M-loop.

If you meet any 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. Donations are used to pay the cost of municipal taxes on the property.

DRXC registration is available online at zone4.ca; then search for “Deep River”. The paper form can be printed from our website, or picked up at our chalet on Balmer Bay Road. For further information, phone Carol White at 584-4629.

FRIENDS OF THE PETAWAWA RESEARCH FOREST and THE FOUR SEASONS CONSERVANCY

If you enjoy the trails at the Forestry, and would like to support the work of the Friends of the Petawawa Research Forest Inc., please consider making a donation, by contacting Susan Yatabe at 584-3171.

Likewise, if you enjoy the Silver Spoon trails, the snowshoe trails and the observation platform on Kennedy Creek, please consider a donation to the Four Seasons Conservancy, P.O. Box 591, Deep River.

Both groups are able to give charitable tax receipts.

Happy Skiing from your DRXC Executive:

Cheryl Rhodes	President	584-3932
Bruce Heinmiller	Past-President	584-3269
Phil Davis	Vice-President	584-3033
Danielle Beaton	Secretary	584-4194
Wally Kalechstein	Treasurer	584-2224
Carol White	Membership	584-4629