

DRXC Annual General Meeting
Friday May 17, 2019, 7pm, Club Chalet
MINUTES

In Attendance: Bob Donders (President), Diane Davis (Vice President), Phil Davis (Past President), Dave Rhodes (Treasurer), Adrian Cecco (Secretary), Christian Kaiser (Membership), Kathryn Chiasson (Jackrabbits), Helena Rummens (Trail Improvement Coordinator), Doug Killey (Chalet), Stuart Craig (Trail Clearing Coordinator), Paul Chiasson (Rentals), Erik Hagberg (Ski Cabin), George Doubt (Bridges), Bruce Heinmiller (Four Seasons Conservancy), David Lee, Dave Ross, Norm Spinks, Karen Colins, Mary Lynn & Walter Benz (general members)

Regrets: Dave Steer (Grooming), Aubrey Fletcher (Junior Racing), Anne Murphy (Silver Spoon)

Items

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm. Bob

1. Approval of agenda Bob
– approved

2. Approval of minutes of 2018 AGM – approved Bob

Actions from 2018 AGM:

1. Completed: Kathryn to look into coaching courses available for next season
2. **(Ongoing) Action:** Phil to check if coaches are insured under current policy, and look into insurance
3. **(Ongoing) Action:** Kathryn to form an Emergency Plan Committee to create a formal plan. Bob will participate in the committee.

3. President's remarks Bob

- Another successful year, in part thanks to a cold and snowy winter
- The club is thriving thanks to the many volunteers. Bob thanks them on behalf of the club.
- Membership is up this year, reversing a downward trend over the past few years
- The club had a reasonably good year financially, and is well positioned to move ahead with some significant capital projects (short term: new bridges, long term: grooming headquarters).
- An expanded grooming crew did a fantastic job getting and keeping the trails in great shape.
- The club offered adult lessons in classic and skate skiing, and ran three reasonably well attended moonlight skis.
- During the season Christian Kaiser assumed the role of Membership Coordinator, with Lori Walters stepping down because of work commitments. Thank you Christian for volunteering, and thank you Lori for your work on the membership file.
- A more detailed President's Report is attached in Appendix A

4. Financial Report

Dave Rhodes

- Actual total revenue back up around the 5 year average after a dip last year, expenses similar to past 2 years, resulting in a surplus back up around the 5 year average
- Continued to contribute \$2000 each to Equipment, Building, and Trails Funds
- Revenue from membership fees up from last year but below the previous 3 years
- Revenue from Jackrabbits up from last year but below the previous 3 years
- We received about \$500 from the Deep River Community Grant this year
- Investment income up considerably from past years
- Rental revenue up from last year but below the previous 3 years
- Club still has a healthy cash reserve, about 80% of which is invested in mutual funds
- Total value of assets remains relatively constant
- Budgeting moderately decreasing revenues and moderately increasing expenses for next season, resulting in a smaller forecast surplus
- Financial Report available from the DRXC Treasurer

5. Membership

Christian

- Total membership up 16% from last season, but down from previous 10 years
- 88 new members this year (49 adults)
- 41 returning lapsed members re-joined the club, however 30% of last year's membership lapsed this year
- 60% of our current members have been members for at least 3 of the past 4 years. However, only 12/46 new members from last year returned this year
- 45% / 55% split female to male, 50% of members are aged 50+
- Had discussion regarding how to encourage regular trail users that don't register to register
 - It was suggested to post a list of members inside the chalet, but this idea was not generally supported for privacy reasons. It was also suggested to post a few printed membership forms and drop box at the chalet for members to pick up / drop off
 - Was suggested to add a low cost snow shoe membership, though it was noted that the snow shoe trails are managed by the 4 Seasons Conservancy, so any snow shoe membership should be implemented by them. The 4 Seasons Conservancy has previously mentioned that they are not interested in this membership, so this snow shoe membership discussion was deferred for the time being.
- A more detailed Membership Report is attached in Appendix A

6. Jackrabbits

Kathryn

- 47 kids registered this year (26 new), which reversed the declining trend of recent years
- Were able to offer 8 sessions of lessons, only needing to cancel once due to extreme cold
- Had a full complement of 6 student and 6 adult coaches
- Some positives from the season are the successful enlisting of adults new to skiing to help with lessons, and running 3 Orienteering Courses during the Jackrabbit Fun Day
- Concerns for next year:

- Budget (insurance, training, toques). The time and cost of coaching certification requirements have increased significantly in recent years. A future option to consider if these costs keep increasing is to evaluate whether we would like to keep running the Jackrabbits program, or run our own, non-Ski Canada program. It was also noted by Dave R & Bob, however, that there is some flexibility in balancing the Jackrabbit budget, as the program is worth the investment for the club.
- Instructor gap, as a number of senior student instructors are graduating and there will not be new ones old enough to replace them for 2 years
- Recruiting enough adult volunteers to help with teaching and administration
- Some recommendations for next year:
 - Consider incentives to encourage more student and adults to become coaches
 - Consider incentives to encourage more coaches and families to enter in the Silver Spoon
 - Consider amalgamating adult lessons with mentor skiers and older Jackrabbits to encourage families to ski, to increase ski competence and confidence, and to revitalize the Jackrabbit and DRXC volunteer community.
- A more detailed Jackrabbits Report is attached in Appendix A

7. Grooming

Bob (for Dave Steer)

- Successful season with an early start and good snow for much of the year, and a few new dedicated groomers added to the mix
- Our equipment is in good working condition
- Snowmobile shed is showing signs of age and wear and needs to be replaced
- Dave is still looking for a head groomer replacement, or to rotate the headship among several groomers, though the responsibility was less onerous this year thanks to the increased number of groomers, and the crew that groomed for the Silver Spoon.
- A more detailed Grooming Report is attached in Appendix A

8. Trails

a) Trail Clearing

Stuart

- Had a full suite of trail captains, including two new recruits
- The Rhode's brush-saw worked well once the pull-start mechanism was reinforced
- The folding hand-saw saw productive use by the groomers after one heavy snowfall
- After tomorrow (May 18), there are expected to be two more volunteers with basic chainsaw operations training.
- Discussion regarding possible trail widening and / or limbing to help reduce debris on trails.
- A more detailed Trail Clearing Report is attached in Appendix A

b) Bridges

George

- Maintenance was performed on the Hollo's, Bishop's, and Omrod's bridges to maintain them for this past season
- Bob suggested getting more people involved than just Dave and George. Dave mentioned that Tim Sykes is also currently involved.

- M bridges are the highest priority. At least 1 of these bridges need to be replaced before a tractor can be taken over it to complete larger trail improvement projects in that area
- George noted that the design could be completed and ready to submit to the MNR in a few weeks.

9. Trail Improvements

Helena

- Progress in 2018:
 - Project 1: Continuing surface improvement of short-M loop with wood chips to allow for grooming earlier in the season. ONGOING PROJECT.
 - Project 2: Improved drainage on R loop by digging drainage channels at several large puddles, and laying corduroy cut from small trees or logs. ONGOING PROJECT.
 - Project 3: Replacement of old ski rack (may be reported on by Doug Killey)
 - Project 4: Rerouting the start of R loop by cutting a new section of trail farther from the road to avoid the track being covered by snowplows.
 - Project 5: Replacement of wooden bridge crossing Kennedy Creek on the snowshoe trail / P loop with a sturdy aluminum extension ladder and other materials.
 - All labour was on a volunteer basis. Operators of machines (truck, ATV, tractors) and the ski rack builder were reimbursed for gasoline / material costs. The aluminum ladder was the only other expense for the club.
- Plans for 2019:
 - Continue collecting and spreading wood chips on M loop
 - Continue improving drainage on R loop
 - Spread fill on first downhill on M loop to even out the slope
 - Dave Ross suggested removing first sharp left turn on R loop
 - Bob and Dave Ross suggested creating a new loop – a modified, intermediate, M that bypasses the big M hill along King’s Lane, and avoids both bridges. The trail already exists, but isn’t groomed, and is currently used by some snowshoers. Suggested to add to grooming schedule for next season.

10. A more detailed Trail Improvements Report is attached in Appendix A

11. Junior Racing

Bob (for Aubrey)

- Dave Ross noted that the Invitational Race held on our trail could use more adult volunteers, that have skis or snow shoes, to marshal (so the trails are not stomped on by high school student volunteers)

12. Chalet and area (outhouse, sheds)

Doug

- Doug thanked the volunteers for opening and closing the chalet.
- Electricity usage was only 25 kWh (after an abnormally high usage the previous season)
- A snow guard fell off of roof, but did not result in any leaking. At Bob’s suggestion, Doug will look for a quote for replacement guards to be put up.

13. Ski Rental

Paul

- Very successful, literally ran out of adult skis, and had only a few junior skis left
- Large percentage of rentals took place during ski rental weekend
- Had volunteers help fix broken gear
- In general we have a decent coverage of skis of different sizes. However we have few skate skis and few waxless skis – could use about 30 pairs of skate skis.
- Paul asked Gear Head for a quote to procure some of their rental supply (which they admitted to being unable to rent). He has not received the quote yet.
- Paul would like to develop a continuous equipment upgrade program to replace a certain portion of the equipment every certain number of years. Dave R noted that, on our books, the value of the ski equipment depreciates 10% each season, and he likewise budgets a corresponding expense each season to replace ski equipment so it's worth actually using at least some of that budgeted money.
- Paul mentioned that we could increase the rental fee slightly and people wouldn't likely complain. Bob noted that since we're bringing in significant revenue from rentals, it is worth it for the club to invest in improving the rental equipment supply regardless of whether or not we raise the fee.

14. Ski Cabin

Erik

- The cabin was used for 12 nights (58 person-nights) - about the same as last winter.
- The profit for the year was \$280.65. The total assets at the end of the year were \$3,432.50.
- Erik noted that the volunteers that maintain the Bass Lake trails and cabin are aging, and we will likely need new volunteers to replace them in the next few years.
- It was noted that we have no insurance coverage for the cabin. Dave R has looked into adding coverage to our club's general insurance policy.
- Helena suggested organizing a trail clearing day in the fall for the Bass Lake trails, similar to the trail clearing events that place for the Silver Spoon trails
- A more detailed Ski Cabin Report is attached in Appendix A

15. Silver Spoon

Bob for Anne

- Was a successful race, in all categories, bringing in a net revenue of \$3300
- Discussion regarding Norm Spinks' suggested categorization of "winners":
 - Norm does not agree with the current system of awarding winners by age group category
 - Norm suggests a new system, in addition to the current system, that awards "winners" as anyone that finishes faster than everyone else their age and older.
 - Bob suggested to Norm that he ask to join the Silver Spoon Committee to complete this list of "winners". Bob noted that, if there are no prizes awarded to these "winners", there would be no cost to the Silver Spoon. Bob agreed to discuss this further with Anne.
 - Helena noted that Anne has been considering adding Norm's list of "winners", but had some reservation about publishing age related information. However, the Silver Spoon

Committee did create a new Johansson award this year, which recognizes senior skiers (it's awarded to the oldest local male and female skiers).

- Norm noted that he would only need a list of racers ordered by age, not each individual racer's age, to determine and post this list of "winners".
- Norm has requested (by email) that his following statement be on record:
"For the 2019 Spoon, my "Winners" agreed with the official winners except for four additional well deserving older women and three additional well deserving older men who cannot be named because I have been gagged by the Club from publicly naming them."

16. Adult instruction Phil

- Helena, Tom Holden, and Joan Kalechstein filled in for Phil this year, and had a good turnout

17. Four Seasons Conservancy Bruce

- Question by Bruce: if a snowshoer collides with a skier at an intersection of a snowshoe trail and a ski trail, would they be covered by the DRXC insurance policy? Kathryn noted that in such cases, fault is sometimes spread among multiple parties.
- **New Action:** Phil to look into what the insurance implications are if a skier collides with a snowshoer.

18. Parking on Balmer Bay Road Bob

- Balmer Bay Road residents have signed a petition to the town stating that they believe the new diagonal parking on the north side of Balmer Bay Road is dangerous
- Several new parking / accommodation options have been submitted to the executive.
- Bob will discuss with the town and Balmer Bay Road residents as part of a committee that the town will put together
- Dave R noted that he had an experience with one excessively irate Balmer Bay Road resident. He also spoke with 2 other residents, one of whom noted that the residents driving 80 km/h on the road are the same residents who are most worked up about the situation.
- Kathryn noted to involve other user groups (snow shoers, cub scouts) in these discussions

19. Election of Executive Bob

- all positions acclaimed

Adjournment: 9:20 pm Bob

Summary of action items:

Ongoing Action: Phil to check if coaches are insured under current policy, and look into insurance

Ongoing Action: Kathryn to form an Emergency Plan Committee to create a formal plan, with a priority for Jackrabbits. Bob will participate in the committee.

New Action: Phil to look into what the insurance implications are if a skier collides with a snowshoer.

Appendix A – Executive and Subcommittee Reports

Presidents Remarks (Bob Donders)

The club had another successful year, in part thanks to a cold and snowy winter.

As you will appreciate from the reports presented later in the meeting, the club is thriving thanks to the many volunteers who put in a tremendous amount of effort. On behalf of the members, thank-you volunteers for making this club so successful.

Our membership is up this year, reversing a downward trend over past years. What is particularly encouraging is that the number of younger adults (<50 years old) increased significantly. Also, our retention rate for new members has increased from the previous few years. Let's keep doing things to help these trends continue.

The club had a reasonably good year financially. Overall we are well positioned to move ahead with some significant capital projects (short term: new bridges, longer-term: grooming headquarters).

With the large amount of snow and several major snow storms and wind storms, grooming was a real challenge. Fortunately the grooming crew has expanded. They did a fantastic job getting and keeping the trails in great shape.

The club offered adult lessons in classic skiing in January, and skate skiing in early March. There were also three moonlight skis, all of which were reasonably well attended.

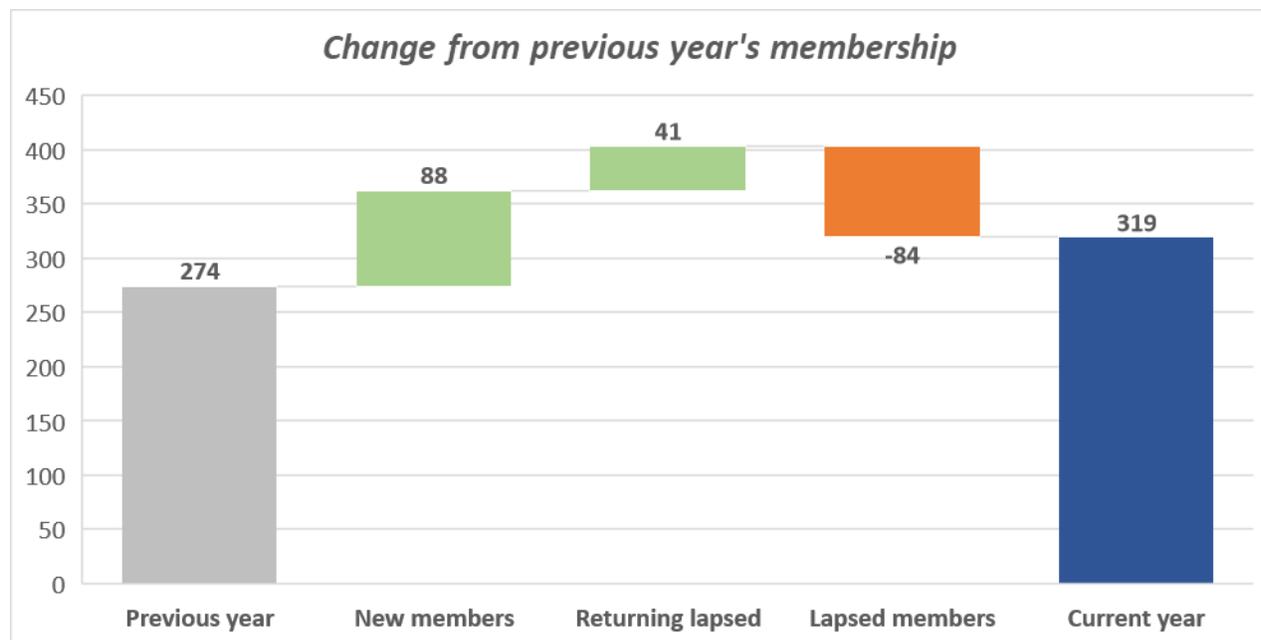
During the season Christian Kaiser assumed the role of Membership Coordinator, with Lori Walters stepping down because of work commitments. Thank you Christian for volunteering, and thank you Lori for your work on the membership file.

I survived my first year as President, and didn't send out a single tweet that caused controversy – phew. Now on with the meeting

DRXC: Membership report for 2018 / 2019 season

Current membership

- The total number of members registered for the 2018 / 2019 season **has increased from 274 to 319 members** (a **16% increase in total membership**).
- **88 new members¹** joined the club. Of these **49 were new adults**.
- **41 returning lapsed members²** re-joined the club.
- **30% of the 2017 / 2018 membership lapsed³** their membership in the current season.



Category	Number of members	Percentage of total membership
All new members	88	28%
New adults only	49	15%
Jackrabbits	47	15%
Youth and children (under 19 years old)	27	8%
Male / Female	176 / 143	55% / 45%

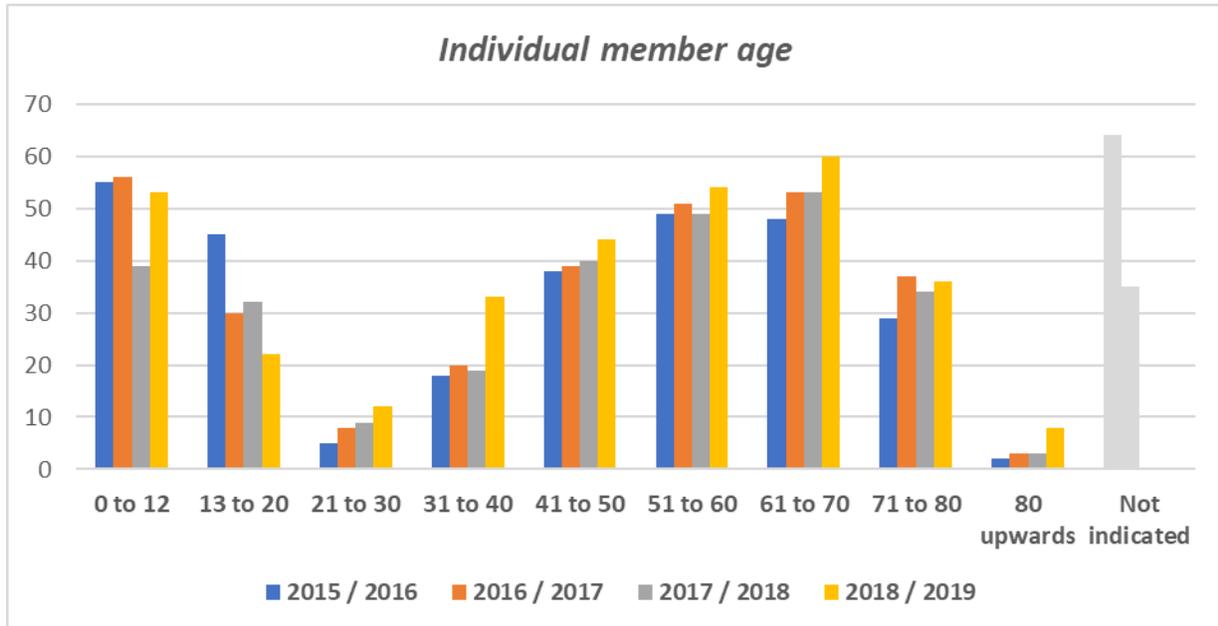
¹ **Individuals who have not been members in the last four years; includes adults, Jackrabbits, child and youth members.** Note that this is a slightly different definition on new member to the “New Adult Member” membership category used to determine the club fees. “New Adult Members” are those who have not been members in the previous 5 years. The difference arises from the unreliable Zone4 data available prior to the 2015 / 2016 season.

² **Individuals who were not members in the previous season, but had been members previously; includes adults, jackrabbits, child and youth members.**

³ **Members in the immediately previous season that did not renew their membership for the current season.**

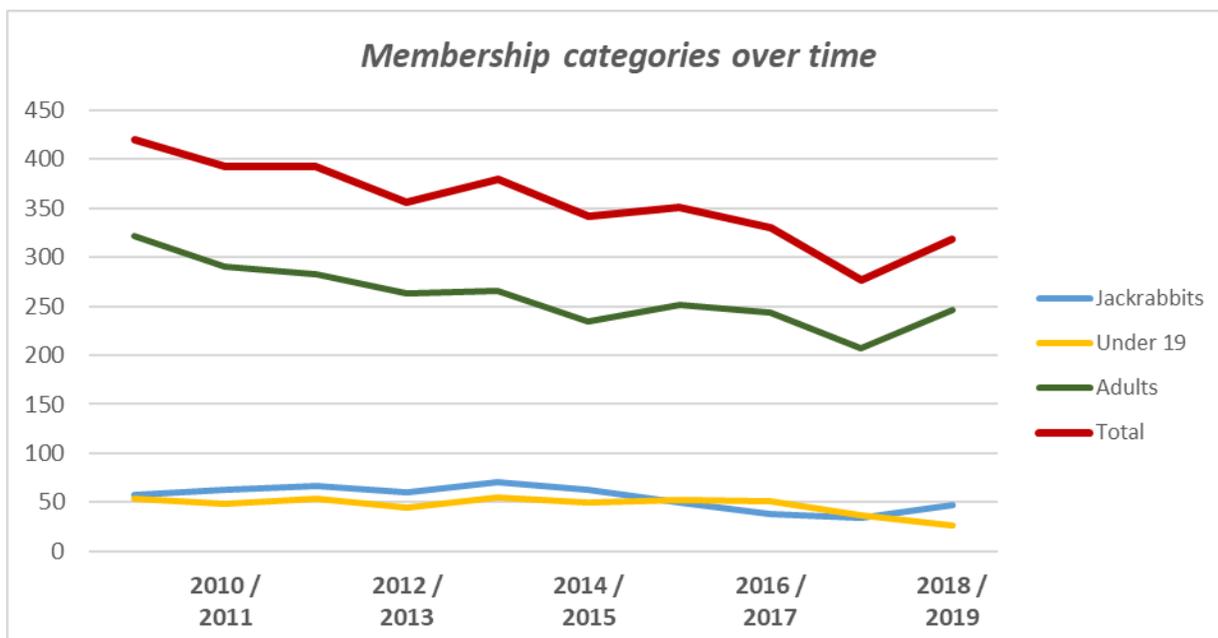
Age breakdown over time

- In general, there has been an **increase in all adult age groups**.
- However, this has been matched by a **general decrease in child and youth members** over the last four years, with a **significant drop in teen members**.
- In this season, there were **significant increases in the 31 to 40**, and child age groups.
- **50% of members are older than 50 years old.**



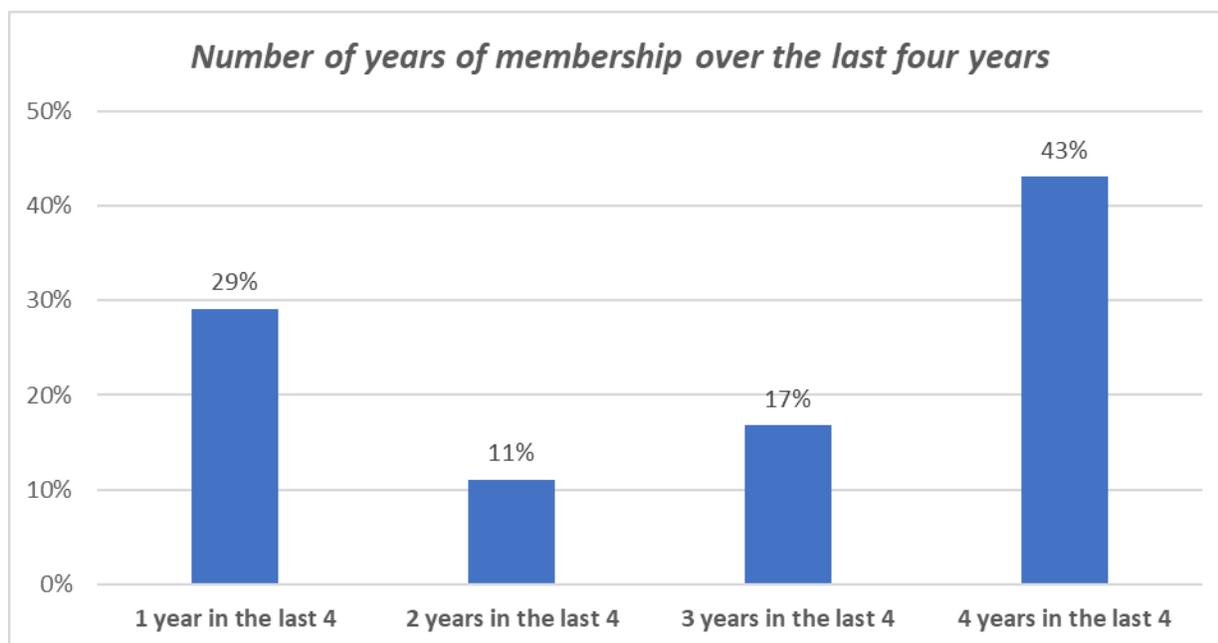
Membership trends over time

- This season saw a **strong turnaround in the general decrease** of membership over the last 10 years. **Lessons?**



Membership persistence

- **60% of our current members have more than 3 years of memberships** in the last four years, (not necessarily consecutive).
- **12 out of 46 new members¹ (26%)** in 2017 / 2018 re-joined for the 2018 / 2019 season.



Notes

- All analysis is based on the membership data as captured in the **Zone4** database. This is reliable from the 2015 / 2016 season, but not complete prior to that. For this reason, there may be some discrepancies and small errors.
- There were some limited instances of individuals registering as members more than once in a season. This has been accounted for as far as possible but may result in slight differences in total values.

Jackrabbits Report (Kathryn)

Executive Summary

The weather cooperated much more for us this year, and we had a total of eight sessions, missing one session due to extreme cold, (1 lesson day is routinely cancelled so Jackrabbits can participate in the Silver Spoon).

Helping with the lessons, we had 6 student instructors and six adults.

The year wrapped up with the last lesson on Saturday, March 9, and the potluck on Sunday, April 14.

Jackrabbit Fun Day was held Saturday March 2nd (the weekend before the March Break).

Things that went well this year included:

Enlisting adults who were relatively new to skiing to help with the older beginners ages 9 to 13 years old.

Jackrabbit Fun Day - Setting up 3 Orienteering Courses set up for Beginners, Intermediates, and Advanced (Thank you to Christian, Bridget and Martin)

Managing potential issues for next year include:

Instructor gap, as a number of senior student instructors leave town for university

Difficulty recruiting volunteers to help with teaching and administration

Recommendations include:

Consider incentives for parents or high school students with relatively new ski skills to volunteer as coaches or co-coaches, especially for Bunny Rabbit, Level 1 and Level 2 ski skills.

Consider incentives for proficient skiers (parents or high school students) to volunteer as coaches or co-coaches, for Levels 3, 4, and 5.

Consider incentives for encouraging coaches and families to enter in a Silver Spoon event.

Give age-specific information regarding possible Silver Spoon events.

Consider moving Jackrabbit Potluck Dinner to coincide with last lesson weekend, or Fun Day weekend?

Consider amalgamating adult lessons with mentor skiers and older Jackrabbits, ages 12 and up who are interested in longer social ski outings either **after** lessons, or maybe Fridays after school or Sundays, or March Break... working towards resurrecting the Challenge Program. The point is to encourage families to ski, to increase ski competence and confidence, and to revitalize the Jackrabbit and DRXC volunteer community.

Thank you,

Kathryn Chiasson

JackRabbits Coordinator

Detailed Report

The majority of income associated with the Jackrabbit program is variable income based on Jackrabbit enrollment numbers.

We also have a fixed income through the Ontario Community Grant but we don't know the success of our application or the amount of the grant income until late into our Jackrabbit season.

Most expenses vary with that income, e.g. per registrant CCC insurance \$18, toque \$18, Silver Spoon \$10.

A few fixed expenses include hall rental for the potluck, hot drinks, Fun Day food/beverages, student honoraria, and coaching certification courses.

This year we had a few challenges.

November Coaching Certification Costs - Fixed Expense with no idea what enrollment numbers/income will be.

There was a need to qualify more coaches and while the course fees are not fixed they do not vary directly with enrollment numbers.

Coaching certification levels correlate to the age-range of skiers being taught, and attaining higher levels requires completion of prerequisite levels. This takes time and money, and the best return on investment is when a certified coach volunteers for more than one year, ideally more than two years. Not too many years ago, the majority of parent-coach-volunteers could ski with their children from Bunnyrabbits to Level 5. Coaching numbers has dropped in more recent years, with several years of zero new parent-volunteer coaches. Reasons often given for not volunteering to coach are not feeling competent enough in skiing or teaching or not sure they can commit to 9 Saturday afternoon lessons. Many families are concurrently involved in hockey or figure skating or similar winter activities.

CCC Toques

We netted \$1872 from online registrations, but this amount doesn't reflect the cost of toques which would have normally been \$18/registrant for a total \$972.00 plus shipping costs. We were able to partially compensate for this shortfall by reducing the number of 2019 design Cross Country Ski Canada Jackrabbit toques ordered and giving out left over toques from prior year designs.

Student Honoraria - budget \$880, based on \$160 x 5.5 students (1 student coach was only there for half of lessons because she races in O-Cups but she's able to coach our Level 5s, most advanced skiers.)

Volunteer Hours excluding Lessons per student coach:

2 hours online coaching course completion (required for coach's liability insurance and improves the quality of our program)

20 hours in-person and on-snow Community Coaching Workshop (required for coach's liability insurance and improves the quality of our program)

2.5 hours for attending End of Year Potluck as coaches and giving out their students' awards/report cards; as well as assisting with tables/chairs set-up and set down.

2 hours completing administrative duties (individual skills and awards jackrabbit evaluations, and general email/phone correspondence)

1 hour (staying 15 to 20 minutes after lessons in the early weeks, advising me on moving skiers up or down a level)

2 hours promoting Jackrabbits and DRXC at Community Registration Night

8 hours at DRXC Ski Rentals before and after the ski season

Plus 16 volunteer hours for Jackrabbit Lessons (8 Saturdays this year) 1 lesson cancelled for extreme cold)

We are relying more heavily on student volunteers as Lead Coaches whereas in the past parent volunteers filled the role of Lead Coaches, while student volunteers assisted during lessons. With student volunteers now as Lead Coaches, we're also relying on students to perform evaluations and require them to have all certification qualifications. Recruiting and retaining student coaches is challenging, as students graduate high school and move away, or as students find part time employment in order to save for university. Other Deep River clubs and organizations pay their student coaches/instructors, e.g. swimming instructors, downhill ski instructors, sailing, tennis instructors, and soccer referees for example. This year's student volunteers who achieved their ICC and CCC coaching certification levels had volunteered x number of hours before our ski season even began. This year's student volunteers also found themselves in charge of completing Jackrabbit evaluations and presenting awards to Jackrabbits at the Potluck dinner, whereas in the past parent or adult volunteers filled these roles.

I am very proud of our student coaches' dedication and commitment in stepping up to carry the Jackrabbit program. We will continue to rebuild our parent-coaching roster but we anticipate a coaching gap. Furthermore, we seem to be in a plateau for available student coaches, in chatting with students and the teacher who runs the high school program, most of the current school xc ski club are also new to skiing. Our oldest Jackrabbits won't be old enough to coach for 2 more years. So we really need to retain our current student roster.

Ontario Community Grant Short Fall - This year, we learned in late March, that we are only receiving \$547.40 for this season's Ontario Community Grant. Previous grants had been \$785.

Recommendations for next year:

Consider keeping the price of registration close to \$60, but making toques purchase an optional additional cost during online registration.

Incentives/discounts to promote parent coaching volunteers. Perhaps if parents commit to being a Lead Coach, for the duration of lessons, we cover the costs of toques for their kids.

Consider incentives to recruit and retain more student volunteers. Note: We are competing for student recruitment with other organizations who pay their student instructors, e.g. DRXC membership, or cost of ski rentals (some student coaches only own skate skis, but need classic for Jackrabbit lessons), or some other.

This last item is really more of a Silver Spoon item, than a Jackrabbit item.

Silver Spoon - \$10 goes to automatic enrollment in the Silver Spoon for *all Jackrabbits and Bunnyrabbits*, yet few Jackrabbits participate in the Silver Spoon, and fewer still Bunnyrabbist (3 to 5 years old) would participate in the 1.5 km Mass Start which would also cost an additional \$10 registration for a parent to accompany them.

Jackrabbit Co-Ordinator and Silver Spoon Co-ordinator should set a date to meet up to discuss incentives for coaches and families to promote more Silver Spoon participation, and also to review fairness for Bunnyrabbits particularly; to organize age-specific promotional information to give to our Jackrabbit families who aren't familiar with the Silver Spoon or the various event options available. One parent whose kids have been in Jackrabbits for several years, and are currently in Level 3 and Level 5 said they would never be interested in the Mass Start crowds and suggested that maybe \$10 should not be automatically given to Silver Spoon. I completely understand that, although I'm hopeful we can look at a few options to encourage more participation rather discourage participation. My understanding is that the Silver Spoon also needs to revitalize its volunteer roster in order to continue being able to host it. It seems mutually beneficial to promote Jackrabbit participation in the Silver Spoon. I think generally the Silver Spoon is scheduled too early for new Jackrabbits who have only had a few lessons before the Silver Spoon happens. It would also be helpful if we could find someone or a committee to take on the Club Championship Co-Ordinator Role and perhaps also a Jackrabbit Championship Co-Ordinator Role that gives new ski families several opportunities to get used to small ski competitions as a first-step or intro.

We had another successful year of Jackrabbit lessons, learning new skills and honing existing skills.

In numbers, we did the following:

We had 47 Registered individuals, representing 31 families. This is up from last year significantly with only 34 registered individuals representing only 23 families.

Break Down of the Numbers:

Returning Jackrabbits:

We had 21 returning Jackrabbits in Levels 3, 4, and 5, or approximately ages 6 to 13 years old.

13 in Level 3

5 in Level 4

3 in Level 5

First Time Beginners:

We had 26 new registrations ranging in age from 3 years old to 13 years old:

10 children ages 3 to 5 years old (Bunny Rabbits)

9 children ages Older Beginners 6 to 8 years old.

7 children Older Beginners 9 to 13 years old.

There were remarkably strong beginner skiers in all age categories.

Next year we will have a massive group of Low Intermediate Skiers, essentially Level 3, ranging in age from 6 years to 13 years old which will include the majority of this year's Older Beginners, as well as our returning Level 3s.

Level 3 splits the season between improving on basic classic ski skills and introducing beginner skate ski skills so we will need fairly proficient skiers to assist with coaching this very large group.

Coaching:

We had a great team of parent and student volunteer coaches this year.

We successfully certified 8 volunteer coaches (some adult and some student coaches), including an online course, and a 2.5 day workshop (in class and on snow).

We successfully certified Kevin Macdonald to be a CCC Coach Facilitator allowing us to run our own local CCC-Level Coaching Course that will be logistically easier and eliminate travel expenses for any new volunteer coaches.

We had 2 new parent volunteer Lead Coaches for our Older Beginner Groups (ages 9 to 13).

Next year we will be down 2.5 student coaches (Daniel Frizsche and Bridget Chiasson are moving on to university. Jamie Hopkins is splitting her time between coaching whenever she can and skiing competitively in O-Cup Races.)

Next year we will be down at least 2.5 adult coaches (Nitaya Wensel has co-coached the Bunnyrabbits for several years and it's time for her to move on. Steve Hopkins is splitting his time

between coaching whenever he can and accompanying his daughter to her O-Cup ski competitions.)

Acquiring student or parent volunteer coaches is an ongoing concern especially for the next 2 years i.e. 2020, and 2021. Our most advanced Jackrabbits are 12 years old, in Levels 4 and 5, so it will be 2 more years before they will be the minimum age to begin coaching if any of them are so inclined. This means we really need to encourage more parents and more high school students who haven't coached before to step up. Although it would be a logistical challenge to coordinate, we may need to consider part-time occasional coaches since the main barriers to new coaches are concern about the time-commitment and concern about ski or coaching competence and self-confidence.

Mentor Skiers - This new program of volunteer DRXC member skiers willing to mentor jackrabbit parents is a brilliant idea, but we will need to work on finding a good time-slot. Few parents were able to take advantage of the Mentor Skiers who showed up during Jackrabbit lessons. Parents who ski prefer to ski with their kids; most coaches preferred having parents along as assistants with large groups of children. We were short on coaches on Family Day with all of our student coaches away to be with their own families, so that was an excellent time to have extra mentor skiers to assist parents who stepped up to lead their child's group. Another suggestion was to perhaps have social skis Fridays after school, and/or over March Break, and/or *after* Jackrabbits.

Silver Spoon Race - Low Participation from Jackrabbit families

Stephen Hopkins was the only coach who successfully encouraged all his Jackrabbits (Level 4s) to enter the Silver Spoon, in at least 1 if not more events, including the age-level Classic, Skate, and the all ages Skate-Ski King's Court events. Level 4s are proficient in classic and skate ski. It helps that Steve's own children also compete in the Silver Spoon.

Next Year, we are looking at providing more age-specific event information to each Jackrabbit Level, and possibly incentives for coaches and families to get out to a Silver Spoon event.

Jackrabbit Fun Day - A great success, lucked out on weather that day, groomers worked a miracle again. Many hot dogs and marshmallows were roasted, there was bobbing doughnuts, and games and orienteering!

John Mackay loaned out the orienteering kits.

Christian Kaiser's organized maps, and set up a beginner and intermediate orienteering course, Bridget Chiasson and Martin Koslowsky set up an advanced course.

Nitaya Wensel and Catalina Anghel set up games and tents and obstacle courses for the Bunnyrabbits.

Kevin Macdonald and a few volunteers had set up a humps and bumps course in adverse melting/freezing conditions a few days prior to the Fun Day, unfortunately snow/weather conditions were not ideal and we couldn't find any trace of it on Fun Day.

Jackrabbit End of Season Awards Potluck Dinner

Those who attended had a good time, the food was amazing (we really should look at producing a Jackrabbit or DRXC cookbook)

Unfortunately, only about one third of all Jackrabbits attended the potluck dinner which is typically held in April, with the idea that although lessons are over, there's plenty of skiable snow, and giving time for Jackrabbits to accumulate ski distance award points, and ski outings award points, or adventure ski award stickers for backcountry skiing. I suspect April is too late for many of our new ski families who aren't doing a lot of skiing outside of jackrabbit lessons, plus families involved in hockey and in figure skating couldn't attend.

Grooming Report (Dave S)

We had a great year with an early start and good snow for much of the year. A few large snowfalls meant we had to re-groom everything in short order but with a few more dedicated groomers added to the mix, there was skiing to be had for all at most times. Our equipment is in good working condition, and in discussions with Banvilles, our snowmobiles are in really good shape and should continue to serve us well for many years to come. The machines do have issues with staying cool during spring conditions so we are discussing (inexpensive) ways to deal with this for next year so that our season is not cut short because of equipment inadequacies.

The shed is still in good shape but our Quebec garage is showing signs of age and wear. There have been a few emails floating back and forth about the replacement of the shed but no decisions have been made as of yet - perhaps we could look at PAXC's new building as a possible design - I will inquire about its cost.

Lastly, I have dangled the carrot of Head Groomership around but have not had a single bite. This year was less onerous on my time due to an increased number of groomers and thanks to the crew that groomed for the Silver Spoon. Again, I'll dangle the carrot yet again for next year - a rotating headship could work well; it's a great job and looks good on a resume!

That's it for me - let me know if you have any questions!

P.S. The new saw is great.

Trail Clearing Report (Stuart)

Notes for DRXC AGM of 2019 May 17

Trail Clearing, S. Craig

Trail captains – we had a full suite including two new recruits. One captain became unavailable due to injury but their trail was cleared by our trail ghost (Aubrey on his ATV). After 20 years as R-Loop captain, Wayne Workman is retiring from this position.

The Rhode's brush-saw worked well once the pull-start mechanism was reinforced. This brush-saw was used for all of M-, S-, and half of B-Loop without any problems.

It appears that the folding hand-saw saw productive use by the groomers after one heavy snowfall. Weather didn't throw us any major wind/snow falls. We had two events that were handled quickly. After tomorrow, we should have two more volunteers with basic chainsaw operations training. Roman Pruszkowski and Pete Rose should complete the practical portion of the course tomorrow (May 18).

Regarding the question of reducing debris on trail – widening would have to be significant and should only be done in consultation of land owners. Limbing might have a small effect, but the elevation of limbing is limited. Via the Four Seasons Conservancy Managed Forest Plan, we expect there to be a request to reduce balsam population on FSC lands (some of R, D, and M loops). This might help with debris.

Trail Improvements and Bridges Report (Helena)

Progress in 2018

Project 1: Surface improvement for short-M loop – This involved spreading wood chips that had been delivered for free by various tree services. Short-M loop west of the power line was almost completed in 1 afternoon with dump trailer + truck, small trailer + ATV, tractor loader, and a dozen rakers. ONGOING PROJECT.

Project 2: Improved drainage on R loop – This involved digging drainage channels at several large puddles, and laying corduroy cut from small trees or logs. A tractor was used to haul the logs. ONGOING PROJECT.

Project 3: Replacement of old ski rack (may be reported on by Doug Killey) – Two designs for ski racks at the chalet were submitted and accepted. Dave Thompson built his racks in time for winter. (I believe a portable rack will be built by Eppo van Houten.)

Project 4: Rerouting of start of R loop – This involved cutting a new section of trail farther from the road to avoid the track being covered by snowplows. A small team (mostly Stuart Craig) felled trees, removed stumps, and spread chips. The tree sections were stacked at the chalet for future firewood.

Project 5: Replacement of “bridge” over creek – The wooden structure for crossing Kennedy Creek on the snowshoe trail / P loop was replaced with a sturdy aluminum extension ladder and other materials.

For the first 3 projects, a call for volunteers was emailed on 2018 Oct 10 and had excellent response.

All labour was on a volunteer basis. Operators of machines (truck, ATV, tractors) were reimbursed for gasoline costs via gift cards. The ski rack builder was reimbursed for materials. The only purchased item was the aluminum ladder.

Plans for 2019

- Continue collecting and spreading wood chips on M loop.
- Continue improving drainage on R loop.
- Spread fill on first downhill on M loop to even out the slope (suggested by DRXC member).
- (suggestions welcome)

Ski Cabin Report (Erik)

The DRXC ski cabin had a decent year. It was used for 12 nights and a total number of 58 person nights. It was about the same as last winter. The number would have been higher if winter had not been so erratic. Several periods of rain and freezing rain ruined the trails until covered by more snow. Several reservations for hut use were thus cancelled as it was not safe to ski out there.

The annual financial statement is attached. The fiscal year ends on June 30. Revenue for the year was \$665.05 and the expenses were \$384.40. The profit for the year was \$280.65.

The total assets at the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2018) were \$3,432.50, all with the Credit Union. \$2,654.45 is invested in a GIC and the remainder in a checking account. Assets have been close to \$3,000 for the last decade. Our GIC matured in February with interest of \$52.05. The interest was reinvested in the GIC. This GIC has a term of 3 years, but can be cashed annually on Feb 24. This GIC will end next year.

Our maintenance crews for the cabin and the trail system are getting older and older. We still managed to clear the full complement of trails and keep the cabin in decent shape. But every year it is getting more difficult and finding new volunteers is not easy. I expect many volunteers will retire over the next few years as they approach and exceed 70 years of age.

Erik Hagberg