

Lakewood Cross Country Ski Club Newsletter

October 2008



Message from the President...

Dear Lakewood Skiers,

At our annual meeting we reviewed the 08-09 ski season. Our club membership and finances appear to be stable. Last winter was long, with plenty of snow across the Great Lakes. Skier use of the Lakewood trail seemed to be a bit down from our best years. This was probably due to the abundance of snow in Green Bay and the Fox Valley where most of our skiers come from. I am told that in spite of the bad economy cross country ski sales have been good this last season. In the long run the recent abundant snowfall region wide will help support the Lakewood ski trails as it may bring an infusion of new skiers to the sport.

I received plenty of favorable comments about our trail, the grooming, and the new bypass of County Road F. A suggestion that continues to pop up is that the Lakewood skiing experience would be much better if there was a warming cabin on the trail where skiers could rest, socialize, eat and change into dry clothes. No doubt this would improve our trail. However, someone needs to step forward to help investigate the cost, benefits, work, and sources of help for such an undertaking. I would still like to create a committee to investigate this possibility. If no one steps forward to work on this, the message I'll take is that the club isn't ready for such an endeavor. If anyone is interested in being on a committee please contact me @ 715-276-9942

A warming shelter is just one of the recurring suggestions I hear to improve our trail. At our spring meeting we decided to send out a questionnaire with our membership renewal letter in the fall to see what direction club members want the Lakewood Ski Club to take. It is also to solicit help for any new projects the club decides to take on.

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Fall Meeting Scheduled:

Saturday, October 3

2:00 p.m.

Lakewood Public Library



We Need YOU!!

Fall Trail Clean Up

Sat. Oct. 3, 11, 17

Every fall a group of volunteers head out to the ski trails to begin the process of cleaning up our trails in preparation for the ski season. Fallen trees, branches, and brush are cut and removed on every kilometer of our extensive trail system to enable our grooming team to safely groom our trails and insure a pleasant ski experience for you.

Volunteers are Needed!

As a bonus, these work weekends usually correspond with the peak of the fall color so you'll have an opportunity to enjoy our trails during another beautiful season.

The more volunteers we have, the faster the job will be accomplished — we have over 40K of trails to check and clear.

Call Terry Van Hoof (920) 727-9956 and sign up to do your part to keep our trail system the best in the state!

Tentative plans are to meet at the McCauslin Brook Golf Course at 9:00 a.m. Saturday October 3, 11, & 17. Call Terry to confirm plans.





Minutes of the April 18, 2009 Annual Meeting

The Lakewood Cross Country Ski Club annual meeting was called to order Saturday, April 18 at 2:30 p.m.

The minutes were approved as presented and were passed around the room for perusal. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Tim Klima, seconded by Jody Korch, and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's report: Club president Fred Axelrod presented the balance sheet. As of April 10, it shows total assets and total liabilities and equity in the amount of \$34,687.10.

Fred also presented and profit and loss budget vs. actual statement which shows total income of \$10,609.50. The total income budget projection was \$12,350. Club members had several questions for club treasurer Lea Peot regarding the groomer replacement fund, and a CD which is labeled for an equipment fund.

Mike Rocolle, a Lakewood area mountain biker, wants gas money for mowing the Lakewood ski trail in the summertime. The club will budget money to reimburse him for gas.

Trails report: Lloyd Lundwall reported that rocks need to be removed from trail. Machinery will be needed to remove the rocks. The club will budget \$1,000 for trail work.

Fred reported that some items such as the former groomer were taken off the club's insurance policy, and the Skandic was added.

Paul Romenesko says a new air compressor is needed. Lakewood Motorsport will do routine maintenance on the Skandic this fall.

A \$358 expense was incurred for groomer training during a trip to the ABR ski trails for two of our groomers in Ironwood in January.

Tim proposed we reopen a small parking area along Sullivan Springs Road.

To fund trail work, \$2,000 was added to the proposed budget. Tim Klima made a motion to approve the budget with a \$2,000 expense earmarked for trail maintenance. The motion was approved unanimously.

Darrell Richards, assistant district ranger for the U.S. Forest Service in Lakewood and Laona, attended the meeting to discuss the club's Forest Service permit.

Darrell questioned club officials about the donation tubes at trailheads. He said he can't find any Forest Service rules whether the club can or cannot accept donations, so it will be allowed in the permit.

Fred told Darrell that there is a precedent on the issue. Valley Spur near Munising, Mich., has a fee structure included in its operating plan.

Darrell said it would be easier for the Forest Service to audit a fee structure than a donation tube.

"If you guys are resting easy, I guess we'll rest easy with it, too," Darrell said.

Tim said the club would like the Forest Service permit dated for the 2009-10 ski season. Darrell said he would prefer a 10-year permit for the club.

Darrell reported that the Forest Service needs to somehow find a trail to connect the Nicolet ATV Trail with ATV trails in Langlade and Marinette counties. He suggested the possibility of having a trail crossing or using one of the existing Lakewood ski trails. More than likely, the Forest Service will probably be looking at several east/west crossings, he said.

The Forest Service has received pressure from ATV enthusiasts to hook up with Langlade and Marinette County trails. They're looking for loop systems.

Fred told Darrell not to look for the ski club to support ATV use on ski trails. Tim said that hiking and biking are compatible uses for the ski trail. A mountain bikers use the ski trail on a regular basis, Fred said.

Fred said the Forest Service lists the Lakewood ski trail as a biking trail on its website.

Once you start signing and promoting a trail, you increase the need for maintenance, Darrell said.

Darrell reported that he will try to get the permit together by August. He may have to draw up an application but said he will try and avoid any fees.

An application becomes complicated if the club proposes to do anything different from existing use.

There has been discussion of constructing a shelter/groomer storage building at the Old 32 parking lot. It would have to meet Forest Service standards and would require another special use permit, but could be done, Richards said. An archeological review would also be needed.

Darrell said a building used as a warming shack would fly better with the Forest Service than a building used to store a groomer. The Service would rather see groomers stored on private land, he said.

Fred said he doesn't know if the club is ready for a building.

Fred has received positive feedback about the trail work on the north end of the ski trail near County Trunk F.

Club members want to revive an old parking lot at the ski trail along Sullivan Springs Road. If it requires bulldozer work and isn't used for parking now, a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental assessment would be required. That road is now plowed consistently, Tim said. Fred said it would be nice to reactivate the parking lot this year.

Lloyd will talk to Marshall Excavating of Lakewood about bulldozer work at Sullivan Springs.

Lloyd reported that there's no gate on the ski trail near the McCauslin Brook Golf Course hangars, despite the addition of homes in the vicinity. Somebody operated an ATV on that portion of the ski trail all last summer, Tim said.

Club members thanked Richards for his time.

Unbeknownst to Fred, Lakewood Super Valu has a green bag donation program. When shoppers bring in their own bag, Super Valu donates a small amount of money to a green cause. Lakewood Super Valu gave Johanna Axelrod a check to the Club in the amount of \$170 for the green cause.

A Thank you letter will be sent to Erin Seeber at Super Valu.

Membership report: Donations in the collection tubes are down, a sign of the economy. The 2008-09 membership report: 2007 — 83 family memberships, 52 individual, \$5,265 in membership dues, \$2,050 additional donations, \$7,315 total
2008 — 90 family memberships, 48 individuals, \$5,485 membership dues, \$1,775 additional donations, \$7,440 total
2009 — 84 family memberships, 49 individuals, \$5,250 membership dues, \$1,525 additional donations, \$6,775 total

Fred's report on donation tube collections:

2003-04 — \$616

2004-05 — \$713

2005-06 — \$3,882

2006-07 — \$180

2007-08 — \$1,089

2008-09 — \$1,203

Business membership decreased by six business ad-

vertisers. We made \$2140 from business adds
Community relations: Not many local residents are members. Fred would like to promote free ski lessons in an effort to generate interest.

Fred will meet with the Oconto County Forestry Committee to express how happy the club is that the county annually mows the ski trails.

Equipment report: Lloyd reported that the Skandic was used for 249 miles, mostly early in the season, this past winter. The Skandic used 64 gallons of gas and received a new battery.

The Pisten Bully was operated for 92.7 hours and used 278 gallons of diesel this winter. The entire Lakewood trail was groomed 10 times. The front of the trail was groomed three times.

No work was required on the Pisten Bully.

The club spent \$715 on fuel for the season. The club will give the remaining \$228 in fuel to the golf club and will deduct that amount from the golf course's \$1,200 fee to rent hangar space for groomer storage rent.

Paul Romenesko will coordinate maintenance work on the groomers this summer.

Ski social: Shirley Bubolz will organize the annual ski social again in 2010. Club members discussed the possibility of holding unscheduled monthly socials.

Fred will write a membership survey to gauge interest in a shelter/storage building.

Election of officers: Lloyd made a motion to accept the slate of officers as presented. They include: Fred Axelrod, president; Sandy Moore, first vice president, membership; Lea Peot, treasurer; Jody Korch, secretary; Terry Van Hoof, vice president, trails; Shirley Bubolz, vice president, special events; Paul Romenesko, maintenance; Lloyd Lundwall, vice president, grooming; Johanna Axelrod, business membership; Steven Spelbring, Web site management; Bill Moore & Dale Keller, members at large
The motion was seconded by Tim and was approved unanimously.

Next club meeting will be held Oct. 3 at a site to be announced. Trail work days for 2009 will be held on Oct. 3, Oct. 10 and Oct. 17.

A motion to adjourn was made by Paul, seconded by Tim, and approved unanimously at 4:42 p.m.

Please support our business members!

Bay Care Clinic, Green Bay
Bohm Builders, Shawano
Coldwell Banker Bartels Real Estate, Lakewood
Woodland Trail Winery, Lakewood
Heaven's Up North Campground, Lakewood
Timberwood Bank, Wabeno
Amy's at Woodhaven, Lakewood
Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Cent., WhiteLake
Crystal Bell B&B, Wabeno
Citizens Bank, Townsend
Health Reach Rehabilitation Services, Lakewood
In Competition Sports, Green Bay
Nicolet Studio, Lakewood
Lakewood Ski & Sport, Lakewood
Lakewood Super Valu, Lakewood
Laux Chiropractic, Bonduel
McCauslin Brook Country Club, Lakewood
Best Western Lakewood Lodge, Lakewood
Pintsch's Hardware, Inc., Townsend
Rawhide Bar & Grill, Mountain
Laona State Bank, Lakewood
William N. Leege, S.C., Oconto
Marshall Excavating, Lakewood
Nicolet Plastics, Mountain
The Pie Shoppe, Lakewood
Quality Painting, Neenah
ine Therapy Center, DePere
Timberline Restaurant, Lakewood
Wagner Gas, Gillett
Northern Lights Casino, Wabeno
Spur of the Moment Ranch, Mountain
Mountain Bear Restaurant, Mountain
Gem Heating, Lakewood
Northern Perks Coffee Shop, Lakewood
Dr. Mike Coppersmith, Lakewood

Message from the President...

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Meanwhile, there is plenty to do to maintain the trail system we have. Woody encroachment on the sides of our trail is literally slapping classical skiers in the face. In addition, it is putting serious wear and tear on our Pisten-Bully groomer. The solution to this is simple. We need more help during the three weekends in October when we work on the trail. If you can't show up then, there is work to be done on the trail this summer or during the week

A group of mountain bikers meets most Tuesday evenings at the Super Valu in Lakewood to bike various woods trails in Lakewood including the ski trail. One of the bikers, Mike Rocole, has offered to mow the ski trail this summer in order to make it more biker friendly. A likely additional benefit is that this will help reduce or eliminate the stubble that sticks through the snow in early season or thin snow. This should improve skiing in addition to providing better mountain bike opportunities this summer.

Fred Axelrod
President



Lakewood Cross Country Ski Club
P.O. Box 91
Lakewood, WI 54138

Watch your mail for your membership renewal letter.

Your membership and donations help support the continued maintenance of our wonderful ski trail system. We can't control the snow, but we can continue to contribute and volunteer our time to secure the future of the Lakewood Cross Country Ski trails.

Thank-you for your support.

Think Snow!