



Brainerd Nordic Ski Club

Lumberjack Jotter

March 2008

Join us for the annual Brainerd Nordic Ski Club potluck social dinner!

The BNSC annual potluck social dinner will be held Monday, April 7th at the Northland Arboretum beginning at 5:30 p.m.

A short board meeting will also take place followed by a general election of officers and board members for next year.

If your last name begins with A-I, please bring a salad; J-P, please bring a hotdish; Q-Z please bring snacks or dessert.

The Club will provide a roast turkey and beverages.



We look forward to seeing you there!

Pequot youth ski lessons complete successful run

The Brainerd Nordic Ski Club and Pequot Lakes Community Education offered cross country ski lessons for kids at Eagle View Elementary School from January through March. Nineteen first through fifth graders participated in the classes, which were taught by Deanne (Meyer) Trottier. The ski club owns the equipment which was used by the participants. Trails were groomed by the ski club through the Eagle View Nature Center. With the good ski conditions and weather, we were able to offer classes for longer into March. The kids were eager learners and showed much improvement by the end of the class. Thank you to John Taylor and Bill Meyer for your work that helped make the kids ski classes a success.

Nisswa biathlon club offers summer training

In April the Nisswa Northwest Biathlon Club will hold an organizational meeting for those interested in training on a year around basis. While oriented to Junior level skiers and biathletes, any skier is welcome to join in. Costs for a skier will be \$25 per year and for a Biathlete will vary but normally, including an annual lease on a rifle, do not exceed \$175. This obviously doesn't include ammo, trips and camps. But we do have a number of high quality rollerskis both classical and skate available for use at no extra cost.

The participant is required to provide ski boots [NNN], ski poles both classical and skate with summer road tips, gloves and a helmet. Knee and elbow pads are encouraged for the first few roller ski ventures. A bike will be needed for the bike training—either a road bike or mountain bike will suffice.



Those who come more often will improve the most. Training during the summer months usually entails being on roller skis 3 times a week, biking and weight training once or twice and competition periodically through the summer and fall with most training in the mornings. The early part of the summer we normally meet at the Arboretum parking lot. For the shooters, we will try to shoot at least twice a week all summer mostly in Nisswa.

You will also be provided with a detailed annual training plan tailored to your age, experience, and goals. Past participants have gone on to USSA Junior Olympics in the US or Biathlon Jr World Championships in Europe as well as numerous top 20 finishes in the state high school meet. The normal group size is around 6–8 including the coach. Participation in this group will also provide you with coaching at most USSA and Biathlon events in the Fall and Winter.

If this is of interest to you, please contact Bill Meyer, wmeyer@nisswa.net or 218 963 4762 for more information and a date for the organization meeting.

On the Web

News
Trail information
Grooming reports,
Weather updates

www.brainerdnordicskiclub.com

Ski tips, waxes & things

by Bill Meyer

Looking back at a great year for skiing

Another winter nearly gone. But being in mid March and looking back at 102 days of skiing on only three snowfalls of more than 2 inches in the Brainerd area isn't all bad! And even with temperatures in the high 40s today, who knows what the next few weeks will bring to us. Next week is the US and North American Biathlon Championships at Mt Itasca in Coleraine, but they have a foot or more of manmade snow for a base plus they scalped off a few more local snowfalls than our area did. Of course Madison, Wis., has had a new record for the snowfalls this winter. Ohio is digging out, again ... Oh well. We skied.

Then we have had the luxury of contracted grooming this year. When we had snow in early December, two days later all three of our ski areas were nicely groomed. And stayed that way through the past weekend. Nice. Thanks to John Taylor, Chad O'Brien and the Stumvolls, Brian and Rory, things got done. If anyone has an idea for more income next year for the club, things could even be nicer. Our DNR grant in aid is doled out to us an hour at a time, and with the high cost of fuel and good help, money is being lost on every hour we groom. Fortunately, we are able to make it up with help from the school district to cover the cost of grooming for the ski teams, but who knows where that will go next year.

*Being in mid March
and looking back at
102 days of skiing in
the Brainerd area isn't
all bad.*

On a more pleasant note, we continue to have success in the Biathlon and USSA skiing arenas. Jenna Ruzich will be competing as a Girl at Nationals next week in Biathlon. Shooting around 50 percent her first year, Jenna finished a 10 km mass start race on the Nationals course at Mt Itasca last weekend. She did really well. She also did a 16 km

classical race at Rainbow the week before along with some of the USSA skiers and did the high school division at Telemark during the JOQ races over there. Jenna is a 9th grader who also ended up 4th on the Varsity squad in BRD this year. She's starting to ski pretty well.

Hannah McAllister, a junior this year, got heavily involved in training for skiing this past summer and stuck with the program the rest of the year. She finished 20th in the Midwest USSA J1 Girls category, coming close to the JO team going to US Nationals. That involved skiing three JOQ races where she was up against the best of MN and WI. She did well and moved from 83rd a year ago at state to 25th this year, 16th in the skate race portion. She dropped back a bit in the classical, but that is coming. Watching her ski the other day, when she has been able to focus on good skiing, she has moved up already in both skate and classical.

Over in Duluth, Raleigh Goessling won just about everything in sight—including one of the US Team Trials races for the Youth and Junior World Championships. He found the European Biathlon scene was a whole lot tougher than in the US—but did well. He was racing up a year for those races—he is 16 and the Youth class is 17 and 18.

(continued on page 4)

Ski tips, waxes & things *(continued)*

(from page 3)

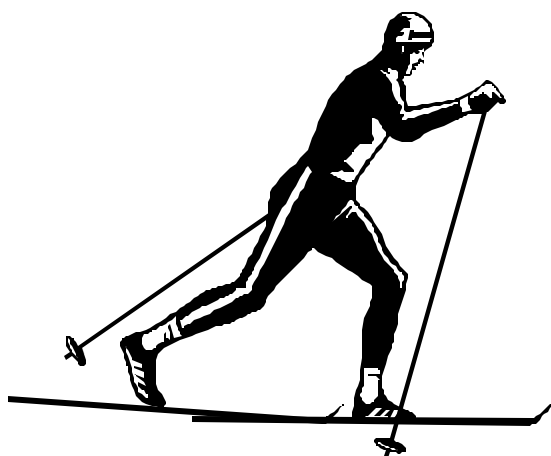
So half the field, the best from 35 countries, was two years older than he is. He was 10th at the state meet as a sophomore. Erik Reynolds and Geoff Parsons also did well. Both did some of the Trials races and made the state meet. Erik also was 33rd in the Korteloppet at the Birkie—in 1:11. That was skating and he is still a better classicaler than skater—he is 14 years old.

Wynn Roberts continues to excel in Biathlon, he made his 3^d Worlds team this year and in the beginning of the year was ranked 5th male overall in the US. Got passed up in mid season, but went back to Europe and was top US Jr Male again. We will see how he fares next week. On Saturday he was experimenting with his course speed and its effect on his shooting. In a local field, he missed 7, some due to a zero inappropriate for the pace he was skiing, but he still shot well—nice groups and finished a several minutes ahead of the field -- about 5 ¾ min ahead.

It is also interesting that some of the kids I worked with through the year are currently competing at the Junior Olympics (JO's) in Anchorage, Alaska, and that 6 or 7 from Alaska are over in Yellowknife, NWT doing the Arctic Winter Games. This is series of native oriented events for teams from countries with territory north of the Arctic Circle. The kids are doing either snowshoe or ski biathlon -- already have a few bronze, silver or gold Ulus. I think they even come sharpened -- semicircular skinning or chopping knives.

So we have some talent coming up through the ranks. The challenge is to provide competitions that are appropriate and in themselves challenging, to expose them to better coaching and training opportunities, and to provide an avenue for them to stay in the sport. Sometimes that is the most challenging aspect. About like finding grooming money.

Enjoy



To find out how the skiing is across Minnesota, including snow depths & trail conditions, check out the Department of Natural Resources Web site at

www.dnr.state.mn.us/snow_depth/index.html

Board of Directors meeting minutes -- March 3, 2008

Board Members Present: Dan, Roger, Ray, Nadine, Jean, Bill, Mark and Chad .

Guest: John Taylor

Facilitator: Chad Turcotte

Meeting Location: Northwest Bread and Bagel

- 1) Minutes from February 4th Meeting – Bill move, Ray 2nd
- 2) Treasurers Report – Ray moved and Nadine 2nd...all in favor.

Lumberjack Jaunt cleared \$944.55. Expenses include grooming and 2 pairs of skis. Legal fee was paid to the state of MN to change the address for the club to a street address.

Grooming Bill: The club has approximately 2 -3 weeks of grooming left for billing purposes. The club is approximately \$1500 behind already. Every hour groomed with John's sled it costs the club \$4 while with the club's sled it costs approximately \$2-3. The majority of the grooming has been done with the sleds this year which has increased the costs compared to the proposed budget. This year repairs on the clubs sleds are approximately \$4200.

Administrative costs: Groomers are completing the DNR grant timesheet paperwork on their own time...proposed 1 hour per week for administrative. Trip rate for groomers to haul the clubs sleds to the shop to get them fixed.

BHS was billed for grooming on 3/3/08 for \$1950. – Arboretum 25 times, French 15 and Forest View 3 times.

Lights: Bill will call and have lights turned off at the arboretum.

Possibility of seeking donation from the Jaycees for grooming next season to help offset the loss from the high school was discussed. More volunteer hours needs to be considered in the future.

3) Equipment Report/Status

Purchase of a new sled for next year was discussed.

Bill moved to have the grooming committee to order a SWT Ski Doo at \$10,000 plus or minus \$500. Dan 2nd and all in favor, motion passed.

4) Trails and Grooming

Continuation of grooming and plans

any overall grooming issues/concerns – Shallow track needs to be set during low/marginal snow conditions. 1/2" shallower track is desired. John will make contact and get back to the grooming committee regarding the acquisition of the shallower track.

Possibility of making Forest View trails classical only in the future was discussed.

5) Newsletter articles should be submitted as soon as possible; by 03/15/08.

6) Potluck – April 7th 5:30 pm at the Arboretum. If arboretum is unavailable then location will be Northwest Bread and Bagel for pizza party.

7) Bill moved to adjourn, Ray 2nd and all in favor.

Adjourned at 1953 hours.

Board of Directors meeting minutes -- Feb. 4, 2008

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jean and Bill Meyer, Kent , Dan and Chad

FACILITATOR: Chad Turcotte

MEETING LOCATION: Boardwalk Bread'n Bagel Restaurant

NEXT MEETING: March 3rd

AGENDA

PRIOR MEETING MINUTES: The board approved the minutes from the January meeting. Chad 1st Bill 2nd passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Kent 1st, Dan 2nd, motion passed

Bill made a motion to sell old powder maker roller Morrie Duval for \$50. Chad 2nd. Motion passed.

EQUIPMENT STATUS: Equipment repairs has increased...itemized on the financial report. Equipment that has been fixed at 4 Seasons has been holding up. New Skandic (est. \$8750) was discussed and trade in older sled; will be discussed at March meeting.

ARBORETUM: John T. advised that security stated that Dale was going to plow the road where snow was shoveled starting the 5th.

Light show location – wrong placement for road and displays was discussed. Metal stakes along trails – safety issue. Arb status regarding letting us back on the roads when light show is completed. BNSC needs to get on agenda for next Arboretum meeting.

Future trail placement was discussed. Re-route entrance area, field to lighted trail as well as route of lighted trail for cars.

TRAILS COMMITTEE: The stumps on Big Ben (8-10) need to be cut off as well as 1 tree that has fallen over. Work party on North Star is also needed to shovel snow to make 1 classical track to open the trail up again.

Feb 7th at 1000 hours: work party to remove stumps and tree.

Feb 11th and/or 12th at 0900 hours: at the Arb for shoveling on North Star. Please respond to Chad Turcotte by email or phone if available.

LUMBERJACK CLASSIC: Lumberjack budget was discussed; Lumberjack was another success. Board discussed moving the race to one weekend prior so it is same weekend as the Governors Cup. If the date for the Lumberjack is moved it should be moved for BNSC reasons and not as a partnership with the Governors Cup. Independent polls were taken regarding the laps at this year's race. The overall response was that people wanted the old course without all of the laps. Some of the comments were that the course got too soft.

Lighted trail 180 degree turn was discussed regarding moving it to a hillcrest. Comments were also made requesting North Star being used for the race course.

Articles: The Jotter could always use more articles so please get them in!!! Feb 15th.

NEXT MEETING: March 3rd at the Boardwalk Bread'n Bagel Restaurant. Eat at 6, meeting starts at 6:30 PM.

Adjourn: Bill moved to adjourn, Dan 2nd. 0755 hours

Respectfully submitted,

Chad Turcotte, President

2007 BNSC Board members

Dan Crusier, Jeff DeVaney, Josh Duda, Barb Flynn-McColgan, Ray Griffin, Nicole Kellerman, Roger Landers, Pat Lanin, Bill Meyer, Jean Meyer, Kent Montgomery, Mary Claire Ryan, Mark Stadem, Al Steiff, Chad Turcotte, Nadine Wittkopp



Become a member of the Brainerd Nordic Ski Club!

2007-08 Membership

Individual \$15

Family \$35

Club Sponsor \$75

High School Student \$3

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please send membership and payments to:

Brainerd Nordic Ski Club

PO Box 927

Brainerd, MN 56401

