



The Snowpoke News



Christmas Dinner / Dance - December 9th

A big **Thank You** goes out to Miriam, Susan, Cheryl, Diane and all your helpers for organizing this event and decorating the clubhouse with the festive décor. The turkey and ham was delicious. A great meal was had by all, thanks everyone for bringing all the 'extras'! Thank you to Ron Cox for acquiring the tree from your 'secret' location. Next year we will remember to anchor it to the ceiling so there are no 'surprises' the next day!

There seemed to be a smaller crowd this year (about 45 attendees), however, the raffle and 50/50 draws were very successful. Thank you all for raffle, auction, and food bank donations. Thanks again this year to the Class Mates for supplying the 'Tunes' to get people 'movin' on the dance floor. *Merry Christmas to all!*



Photos: Bob Walker



More pictures on pages 7 and 8



President's Report *John Sullivan*

Let me begin by saying: On a personal note: Merry Christmas, Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year. On a club note: Have a great sledding season. Thanks to everyone for participating in making the Green Lake Snowmobile Club successful.

Looking back on early November, I thought we were off to the start of a great early season. Temperatures dipped, the bays started to freeze and a good snow base was established. Alas, it was only teasing us. The temperatures rose and the snow slowly disappeared. The forecast from now to Christmas is again looking promising. The temperatures are forecasted to drop and 20 – 30 cm. of snow is predicted.

If we can't sled we just switch to our other toys. I would like to thank Steve Gehl for organizing two quad rides; one to Olsen Butte and one to the store for lunch. Nine quads/side by sides and thirteen people participated in the latter. For some reason it took 40 kilometers to get there and only 17 to get back.



Photo: Bob Walker

We continue to move forward on our quest to bring gas to the clubhouse. Bringing a gas line to the clubhouse has been slowed by an archaeology study, funding, summer fires, government approval, and now winter. Our Archaeology Study has been accepted by the Archaeology Branch and we are currently in the process of amending our management plan on our lease.

I would like to thank Steve Gehl and the others who joined him in organizing the Clubhouse Renovation Committee. They have identified, prioritized and estimated the cost of needed clubhouse improvements. Our priority will be the natural gas line with other improvements made if and when funding becomes available. The committee met with Sally Watson and presented the needed improvements. The TNRD has a professional grant writer who will submit applications on our behalf seeking available funds. Thanks to Sally for her assistance.

I would like to thank Miriam Livingston, Cheryl Groves, Diane Sullivan and the others that helped organize and make the Christmas party possible. It was both a social and financial success. The food was fantastic. The Class Mates (Potters plus one) played familiar Christmas music followed by a session of good old rock and roll. Even I could be found on the dance floor.

I would like to thank Jack Keough ahead of time for organizing the New Years Eve Party. Music will be provided by Jack and his many musical friends. It will open at 9:00. Bring an appy or snack to share. This year we have a pay bar where drinks can be bought at very reasonable rates.

Ron Tonts has volunteered to again lead the Wednesday rides. Sunday rides' leader will rotate. Rides will begin as conditions allow.

Our trail system stays largely intact. Some of the trails near Crater Lake are currently blocked by downed trees. When passing through a fire zone stay alert for unstable and downed trees. Explore some of the new trails built during the fire. Have a good start to the season.

John Sullivan... President

W.A. Bill HINDE
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Executive Meeting	General Meeting
Wed. Jan 3, 2018 @ 7PM	Mon. Jan 8, 2018 @ 7PM
Wed. Jan 31 @ 7PM	Mon. Feb 5 @ 7PM
Wed. Feb 28 @ 7PM	AGM Mon. Mar 5 @ 7PM

GLSC Executive

President:	John Sullivan	250-456-2145
Vice President:	Jim Smith	250-456-7680
Secretary:	Diana Baker	250-320-6710
Treasurer:	Art Groves	250-456-2112
Directors:	Bob Bell	250-456-7722
	Miriam Livingston	250-456-7531
	Warren Lowe	250-456-7506
	Ken Alexander	250-456-7496
	Peter McKie	250-456-6806
Membership:	Kim Lowe	250-456-7506
Hall Rentals:	Cheryl Groves	250-456-2112
Newsletter:		
Editor:	Bob Walker	250-456-7566
	route66@telus.net	
Webmeister:	Larry Messaros	250-456-2129
	editor@greenlakesnowmobileclub.ca	

2017 - 2018 Calendar of Events



- Dec 31 **NYE Social** 9:00 PM to 1:00 AM
*Music by Jack Keough & Friends
Bring Snacks / Appies
A pay bar will be available to purchase drinks.*
- Jan 2018 **Pig Roast** *postponed
date TBD*
- Feb 12 **Snowarama**
- Feb 24 **Memorial Ride**
- Mar 5 **AGM** 7:00 pm

Clubhouse Rental

Full Washrooms Now Available !
\$50 per day for members
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NEW YEAR'S EVE SOCIAL

Sunday, December 31, 2017

Doors open at 9 pm.....music at 9:30 pm - 1:00 am

Snowmobile club members and guests.....
bring a friend!

No Host bar
All drinks \$3.00

Wine
cocktails
Beer

**Bring appy's
for snacks**



Live Music

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Dancing.....have fun with
your friends, neighbours
and club members!

Club Rides ...Sundays / Wednesdays- 10:30 am

Sunday and Wednesday Club Rides

Weather permitting, riders are to be at the Clubhouse by 10:30 a.m. Bring a lunch as the ride may not include a stop at a local eatery. If temperature is colder than **-15C**, the ride will be cancelled.

Sunday Rides : Leader TBD

contact Peter @ 456-6808 or Art @ 456-2112

Wednesday Rides : Ron Tonts @ 456-6042

Note: Riders must autograph the sign-up sheet prior to each ride!

For Sale!



Do you have a snowmobile for sale?

Send details to the editor to have it listed in future newsletters. Include a picture if possible.

Note ! Due to mild weather, the lake ice is still quite thin ! As measured by SGLVFD on December 16, there is only 4 inches of ice on the south side of the lake. 6 inches is considered minimum safe thickness for snowmobiling. Be careful out there!




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Club Trail Maps

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Quad Ride - December 12th

Great day for a ride on the 'wheeled snowmobiles'. No dust or mud, snow or rain — just sunshine! Seems like the ATV's are going to get more use this winter than the sleds. Hope the snow comes soon.

9 Quads / 13 Riders today, with Steve Gehl as our awesome leader! We rode on a few 'new' trails - firebreaks created during the summer's firefighting operations. It was interesting to witness some firebreaks that were successful in stopping the fires' progression and some that were not so successful. It all depended on that darn wind, I guess! Returned to 70 Mile on the Old Cariboo Road in time for lunch at the store. Soup / sandwiches enjoyed by all.
.....Bob Walker....

Photo: Bob Walker



Photos: Steve Gehl



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Membership 2017 - 2018

Did you know that your Green Lake Snowmobile Club membership expired on October 31st, 2017?

We appreciate your past support of the club and would like to encourage you to renew your membership each year.

Current paid membership stands at 87 (as of December 17)

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me or any of the directors listed in this newsletter.
Thank-you!



Kim Lowe
250-456-7506

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Christmas Party Photos - continued



Down the hill to Pressy Lake !

Thanks again to Steve Gehl for leading several quad adventures this Fall !



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**SNOWMOBILERS ARE
VERY WELCOME!**

(By snowmobile approx. 5 min. from Green Lake)



Trail Report - December 2017

A few months ago, Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) retained the services of an independent contractor (DWB Consulting Services Ltd.) to conduct a post-wildfire assessment of the Green Lake Snowmobile Trails and the 70 Mile – Green Lake Snowmobile Trail (“the trail network”).

In their preliminary report, DWB has recommended the closure of six trails / sections, as these trails have been most severely impacted by the wildfire this summer, are degraded, and present potential hazards and difficulty for seasonal use. Keep in mind that it is just a preliminary report, and we expect to get more details from DWB once they have completed their final report.

RSTBC have decided to follow the recommendations of DWB, and these six trails / sections will remain closed until further notice. (As you will recall, the entire trail network was closed during the summer due to the fire situation.) The trails have never officially re-opened because RSTBC wanted to ensure that a full assessment was completed before re-opening any trails for public use. That being said, RSTBC recognized that people have probably been using the trails anyways, and may not have been aware of the closure because of the lack of adequate signage or other communication. The six closures are:

- Sawdust Trail (Pressy Lake Bypass Trail #9) from 10U 0633622.70/5694079.74 and south to Dudley Kill Trail #8 at 10U 635160.45/5693268.79.
- Dudley Kill Trail # 8 from its Junction with 321 Rd at 10U 0635392.74/5693545.02 to approximately 10U 0632609.61/5691733.59 and north to 10U 0630252.30/5691587.60
- Crater Lake Trail from its Junction with Dudley Kill Trail #8 at 10 U 0632453.84/5691366.92 to its junction with N. Bonaparte Road at 10U 0632513.07/5690735.54.
- Pressy Lake Trail along its entire length from its junction on 321 Road (10U 0635404.33/5693545.04) to Pressy Lake Recreation Site (REC2514)
- The Rayfield River Trail from 10U 634303.70/5687300.12 to 10U 0631999.70/5686192.24
- The Jeep Lake Bypass from 10U 629451.35/5687800.67 to 10U 0632163.84/5688002.43

RSTBC has ordered “TRAIL CLOSED” signs to post at the entrances to the affected trails, as well as some “CAUTION USE TRAILS AT OWN RISK” signs that we can post throughout the trail network on the trails that RSTBC intends to reopen. The proofs for each of these signs are shown below. Our preference is to get all of the signs up first before RSTBC reopens any of the trails, so it is clear to trail users which trails are closed, and to inform them of the possible hazards. RSTBC has asked the club to assist with the installation of the signage. As soon as the signs are available, we will get a work party together and help get the trails back open as soon as possible.

Once the signs are installed, RSTBC intend to reopen the trail network, except for those six trails / sections that were identified in the DWB report.

RSTBC is also looking to explore the potential for using some of the fire guards as new trails, which will involve some conversations with the fire rehabilitation staff. If there are certain guards, like the one that connects the McIntosh to Jim Lake, please let us know and we can look at these options with RSTBC.



Peter McKie
Director
GLSC



2017 BCSF: What has the BCSF been working on?

Donegal Wilson, BCSF Executive Director

Ottawa

Federal Lobby Strategy for Groomer refurbishment and replacement

We are working with our Provincial counterparts across Canada through the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organization (CCSO) on a program to upgrade the groomer fleet across Canada. We have a request in to be included in the next Federal Budget and we are requesting 40 Million dollars over 5 years. It is anticipated that this will purchase 55 new groomers each year and refurbish an additional 30. From the BC perspective we have fought hard to have refurbishment included in the program as it is being proposed as a matching dollar program. Which means the club would still need to have the other half. With new groomers being so expensive we see an opportunity to buy solid used equipment and refurbish them to meet our needs.

If you believe in this program we need clubs to engage with their local MP and request support in the Federal Budget. We can provide you with a letter and background for the meeting.

Federal Lobby Strategy for National Trails Coalition (NTC) Funding

We are also working with the CCSO and our other partners on the NTC file to secure 60 million dollars over six years for trail infrastructure in Canada. We have had two successful programs previously that has had many positive results for clubs in BC. Again, it is matching dollar grants which means the club has to come up with the other half of the funding. We have pushed hard for this to be a multiyear funding programs so that our clubs have the opportunity to get new trails approved and funding partners secured. The last two times, with tight timelines given, it was clubs that had money in the bank and trails already in their agreements that got done.

If you believe in this program we need clubs to engage with their local MP and request support in the Federal Budget. We can provide you with a letter and background for the meeting.

Victoria

Caribou meetings and the new Section 11 Agreement

I sent out an update this week on the Section 11 Agreement and hope that you share it with your members. We need as many eyes on this draft to ensure that objectives are being targeted and based on science. I continue to sit on several conference calls a month, actively participate on the Provincial Caribou Progress Board, and work to build relationships with other stakeholders and partners. We are setting up meetings with MLA's and MP's to ensure they know the economic impact that snowmobiling and tourism has to the Province of BC.

ORV Trail Fund

As part of the ORV Registration there was a trail fund setup. Once ICBC was paid back for computer upgrades the trail fund would start accumulating \$8.00 per registration to the fund. In the original plan it would take 5 years to achieve ICBC payback...it was achieved in two. So the BCSF and our summer motorized partners have been working to ensure that the fund gets setup. We have had help from MLA Donna Barnett to put pressure on Government to follow through on their commitment. Right now there seems to be some pointing back and forth between governments and some questionable math surrounding how much should be in the fund. We believe it to be over \$500,000. Government publicly stated in the house there is \$ 181,000 to be transferred and staff are telling us \$400,000. So we are working to clarify this math and

pressure to get the transfer from ICBC general funds to the trail fund and to ensure those transfers occur on-going.

We have also been working with Recreation Sites & Trails BC who will be the stewards of the fund to ensure that policy reflects that dollars must be used for motorized trails and that the BCSF becomes a decision maker on how the funds get distributed.

Club

Western Canada Snowmobile Shows

The BCSF in Partnership with Destination BC and the following snowmobile clubs/communities attended some or all of the Western Canada Snowmobile Shows to promote riding opportunities in BC :

Eagle Valley Snowmobile Club, VARDA, Revelstoke Snowmobile Club, Tourism Golden, Lumby Mabel/Lake Snowmobile Club, Coquihalla Snowmobile Club, Kamloops Snowmobile Association and Hunters Range Snowmobile Association.

This was a project intended to provide the opportunity for us to work together to attract snowmobile tourism to BC and build the brand Let's Ride BC. The initiative in its first year was moderately successful and we anticipate adding new communities and partners for next season. If you are interested in participating please contact Crystal at the office and watch your inboxes in March as we book this early.

Destination BC

Our funding application for next season was submitted on November 30, 2017. We are looking towards expansion of joint marketing opportunities for clubs at the Western Canada Snowmobile shows and further positioning of the brand Let's Ride BC. There is a planned refresh of the www.letsridebc.co website, content creation, social media and print advertising, and a better trip planner. There is also a joint project with some community tourism associations/clubs in the mountain riding areas to create a micro-site dedicated to mountain riding, content creation and print and social media.

Finally, there is a project being proposed for the North Okanagan that will include some filming and content creation specifically for that area. If we are successful in our application we will see some strong growth and new partnerships created that benefits all clubs in the Province. A large focus of this application has been working with communities for the financial support and expertise to execute a large marketing plan while allowing the clubs to do what they do best. Plan events and make great trails!

Provincial Membership Plan

The BCSF continues to work closely with the PMP Committee and the consultant chosen to complete the plan. The project is moving along and the committee has and will continue to send out updates as we move forward. From the BCSF perspective we continue to spend a lot of time educating clubs and directors on the PMP, how we got here, and the \$1,700 invoice.

Clubs that missed the meeting in Valemount or have had a new team elected are continually being brought up to date. There is a couple requests for data (groomer info and financial data) out and if the BCSF does not receive this data voluntarily we will have to hire someone to follow up. The success or failure of this project largely lies with having real numbers to work with in the plan and therefore we will work diligently towards getting the data for **all clubs**. We are asking if you have not done so already to please get these done as soon as possible and save us the expense of hiring someone to follow up.

BC Snowmobile Economic Impact Study

We applied and received a \$4,000 USD grant from the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA) to complete this study. We also tried to apply to Destination BC for funding to complete this project but were denied. We continue to look for funding opportunities to complete this much-needed study. With so much uncertainty with land use we believe it is an essential tool that is imperative to back us

up. Our Provincial partners across Canada have used their studies to successfully block many proposed changes or closures that could impact their clubs.

Clubs had committed 4% per day pass towards this project, plus the hiring of a biologist, and some lobbying. Since then we have had most clubs opt out of providing the funding and most recently a request that we take it to quote and do an individual funding request to each club on a project by project basis. As we go through this process we continue to be losing ground. If the BCSF knew the money was coming we could have had each of these things underway months ago. Now we are in a position where we will have to do each project in an individual funding ask and clubs will pick and choose what they want to support. Effectively ensuring the BCSF will have no certainty of funding available to do projects until the season is over and likely not having enough funds to complete.

This has effectively removed these items from this year's work plan beyond going to quote unless we can find a grant. We will go through with the RFP and continue to seek funding but do not have the energy in the office to do individual funding requests and sell each project to the clubs. The PMP project is eight months in and still does not have all the funding in the door and consumes time with us having to bring new people up to speed on a regular basis.

The 4% per day pass was to provide budget certainty to the Federation for these projects and remove the burden from members having to carry the entire costs of the Federation. The 4% was discussed and we thought committed in Valemount. It was not intended to be restricted to a specific project but allow the BCSF Board to achieve many projects that it needs to get done including the Economic Impact Study. So we are asking clubs to reconsider their decision on this and allow the Federation to move forward.

Amin

Insurance Review

The BCSF did a Request for Proposal on our Club Liability Insurance Program over the summer. We had two companies respond...Capri Insurance and Oasis Insurance. Through the review it was determined that product cost was very similar and that there was some wordings of concern in the Oasis Policy. It was decided as the prices were similar and that we had a long-standing relationship with our current provider that we would remain with Capri Insurance. The Board also decided that it is a necessary exercise to go through and therefore that the BCSF Insurance products would be tendered and reviewed at least every three years. This was implemented into policy to ensure that it continues ongoing.

Member cards and mailing

We have mailed out 3,000 cards so far and are receiving some back with bad addresses. We also have about 100 cards that we have not been able to send out because there is no address at all associated with the member. The ones without addresses are manual data entry being done by the club and many of the returned mail is from paper sold memberships as well. We will be mailing these cards to each club for them to get new addresses, update Silkstart and forward on the card to the member.

Phone Calls and emails:

As part of the original Silkstart setup we had put the BCSF phone #'s and contact emails on each club's website. This was so that we could assist your members during implementation of the new system and while we trained up new admins for each club. All clubs now have an admin in place and able to assist members, so it is time for the clubs to update their contact info so their members contact the club directly. Many of the calls and emails we receive relate to trail conditions or staging questions that we cannot answer. We then have to look up contact information and redirect the member to the club. We are still here for support and as backup but now believe that we do not need to be the primary point of contact for your club.