



SHARING THE MAGIC OF CROSS COUNTRY SKIING SINCE 1927

Omineca Spirit

November 2017

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Snow is in the Air...

November is here and so is a skiff of snow – got those rock skis cleaned up yet?

At OSC we are gearing up for our 91st season of skiing fun in the Lakes District. To start off the season we celebrated our 90th birthday with a catered dinner and dance on November 4th.

By the time you read this there will have already been two organized workbees getting outdoor chores done around the ski trails and lodge area. The tractor has been busy mowing the trails followed by brush-cutters clearing the edges. Want to go out on your own? Talk to Sean Broadworth for an assignment...

Our annual **Open House** will be held on the last Saturday of **November (the 25th) from 11-3**. The lodge will be full of people signing up for the upcoming ski season, looking for used equipment at the **Ski Swap** or just meeting up with friends over a hot bowl of soup. Come on out!!



Celebrate 90 years!

It was October 1927 when a group of local timber cruisers and trappers got together and formed the Omineca Ski Club. So we had a great birthday party on November 4th. Music and dancing thanks to The Barkers. Stories and pictures thanks to Bob Saul and Jack Brown. Good food and great fun was had by all in attendance! It wouldn't have happened without the great organization by Karen Broadworth.



Membership 2017/18

Zone4 went live in early October so now is the time to sign up your new membership and get out on the trails as soon as the snow hits! Our dues have not changed for 3 years making cross country skiing and snowshoeing a very affordable winter activity. Here is the link to our page:

<https://zone4.ca/register.asp?id=16249&lan=1&cartlevel=1>

We have consolidated our membership form so that you sign up for everything at once – membership, ski lessons and biathlon. If you sign up before the early deadline of midnight December 1st you not only save on your membership but you may win some great prizes – and the club may be eligible for some too.

Early Deadline Fees:

Family: \$195
 Adult (19-59): \$91
 Youth (9-18): \$61
 Child (under 9): \$41
 Senior (60+): \$81
 + \$19 per person CCBC/CCC fees
 Snowshoe only: \$60

Grooming the Trails

In November 2016 we updated our grooming protocol in order to provide some guidelines to our great crew of volunteers who man the groomers – whether it be by snowmobile, Pisten Bulli or the Bombi. Weather has always been the final deciding factor in grooming decisions and we all know how challenging the recent winters have been. The season starts with the snowmobile and roller and the Bombi doesn't come out of the garage until a good base is set – that may be January depending on snowfalls.

The protocol lists all of the trails by priority. Normally, the groomer will go out and do the full trail system using a well-defined pattern that has been developed for maximum efficiency. The trail priority system is only used when there is limited time available or a scheduled or special event is happening. It takes approximately 8-10 hours to do the full circuit including all the trails in our recreational area (6 hrs) plus the Cedar-Spud-dog trail loop (3 hrs).

This fall there has been expansion of two trails. The dog trail has been lengthened by about 1.5 km and now goes farther down Home Run and loops over to Aidan's Cutoff (Summit Loop). Please be aware that there will be dogs in some places this year where you haven't seen them before.

There was also a new connection made from the Reid Roundabout east to the Larch Road (Upper Spud system).



TRAIL DIRECTOR

Sean Broadworth heads up the trail directorship and his main chore during the winter is to schedule groomers and provide training for new machine operators. He can be reached at 250-692-6746 (cell) or at work 250-692-3443 (days)



We run the Skills Development Program sponsored by Cross Country BC (CCBC) for

children aged 4-12. The program is broken down into three separate groups – Bunnyrabbits (aged 4-5), Jackrabbits (aged 6-9) and Track Attack (aged 10-12). SDP is held most every Sunday afternoons from 2-4 pm starting on January 7th, 2018. Track Attack will also meet Tuesday afternoons for additional training sessions.

We have certified coaches working with each age group. These coaches go through special training and they can progress at their own speed. OSC pays for the coaches to go to training sessions if they are held out of town or we organize to have a training session on site if we have enough people to warrant it. The number of qualified coaches limits the number of children we can accommodate in our program – so if you are willing to help we are willing to train you!! Currently we have four coaches in training for the L2T (Learning to Train) level, one coach has completed the FUNDamentals level and one coach has completed the Active Start level. **We can always use your help!**

Tot Fun Camp

For those kids too young for SDP (under 4) there will be opportunity for a parent supervised play time on skis. It will happen at the same time on Sundays as the regular SDP lessons but there will not be a coach available. No registration is required.

SDP DIRECTOR

Nellie Davis is at the helm of the SDP program. If you need more information on enrolling your children or if you are interested in coaching she can be reached at 250-692-5717 (evenings).

Skills Development Program (SDP)

Sign up your kids for their lessons when you sign up for your club membership – it's all on the same form. Need skis? If you want to buy, consider the ski swap that will be held at the Open House on November 25th. Or you can rent skis for the season from our rental room. See the article later in this newsletter for more info on rental skis.



Fat Biking at OSC

Fat biking is a relatively new sport with keen participants in the Lakes District. There has

been some use on our trails in the past and therefore it has raised a few concerns for the executive on behalf of our club members. The biggest issue is the matter of insurance. All of our skiers are covered by insurance that is paid through their membership fees (annual or day use) but it only covers specific activities – and fat biking is not one of them. We have been researching the idea of getting some insurance coverage but we have not been successful yet. This means that we have to deny access on our groomed trails to fat bikers. This issue is now at the forefront of many cross country ski trail systems throughout BC.

We are exploring the co-existence of the two sports on the same trail system or whether separate designated trails are required. We hope that our members will become more informed about fat biking and then bring forward their ideas to our Annual General Meeting in the spring. We will continue to poll all users of our trails for their input.

FRIDAY SKI DAY

We are introducing a new drop in event on Fridays for skiers to join others on the trails. The **lodge will be open from noon to 7:30 pm** so come out for a ski and then join friends in the lodge for snacks and a hot drink. Or lunch and a snowshoe?

Bring a Friend Fridays: Members can bring a friend to ski for only \$5 (day pass and ski rentals included)

A fun group event will be run each Friday at 5 pm

Meet the Trails will happen at 5:30 pm based on interest – how about trying a new trail each week? Contact Karen Broadworth for more info. Cell phone 250-692-0295



Get the kids out for some fun after school. Bring your headlamps for trying out trails in the dark or stick to the lit track. Join a group for a moonlight ski when the full moon rises...

RENTAL EQUIPMENT

We are fortunate to have a good inventory of equipment available for skiers or snowshoers to rent by the day or the full winter season. For the skiers we have boots, skis and poles. For the snowshoer we have shoes and poles.

If you want to rent for the **season**, the equipment must remain on club property but you will be assigned a numbered set that will be your priority to use. **The cost is \$40 for children, \$60 for adults and \$150 for the family.**

Day rentals are also available at \$5 for children, \$15 for adults and \$25 for a family. There is a discount for those participating in adult lessons.

Snowshoes rent out at \$5 per day but they are free for parents helping in the SDP program.

Everything is kept in a locked room in the Wax Cabin. Please contact Harriet Larsen at 250-695-6433 for more information.

BC Punch Pass

OSC has joined in a provincial initiative called the BC Punch Pass. What is it? By purchasing a pass (when you sign up for your annual OSC membership) you can explore skiing at other participating clubs for a discounted price. OSC gets 1/2 of every purchase price.



Try 'Explore More' for a ski at seven different clubs (\$49). Or 'Double the Fun' for two skis at seven different clubs (\$89). Or the best deal of all is 'Nordic Nirvana' where you get to ski twice at all participating clubs (23 in total) and a free Swix Gunde toque for just \$199.

Social Events and Race Schedule

Social Calendar

November 4, 2017	90 th Birthday Bash
November 25, 2017	Open House 11 am to 5 pm
January 7, 2018	SDP starts
January 21, 2018	World Snow Day
February 9-10, 2018	Ladies Weekend
February 14, 2018	Valentine Ski
March 4, 2018	Lakes Loppet and Family Marathon
March 11, 2018	Biathlon AMAZING Relay
March 17, 2018	St Patrick's Day Poker Ski
March 18, 2018	SDP Wrap Up

Race Calendar

December 30, 2017	Teck Northern Cup #1 Prince George
December 31, 2017	Teck Northern Cup #2 Smithers
January 6-7, 2018	Teck BC Cup #1 Callaghan Valley
January 20, 2018	Teck Northern Cup #3 Vanderhoof
January 28, 2018	Teck Northern Cup #4 Omineca Ski Club
January 26-28, 2018	Biathlon BC Cup #1 Prince George
February 3-4, 2018	Teck BC Cup #2 Prince George
February 9-11, 2018	Biathlon BC Cup #2 Whistler
February 16-18, 2018	Biathlon BC Cup #3 Omineca Ski Club
February 16-18, 2018	Teck BC Championships Kelowna
February 22-25, 2018	BC Winter Games Kamloops
March 2-4, 2018	Biathlon BC Championships Telemark Ski Club (Kelowna)
March 3-4, 2018	Teck BC Midget Championship Revelstoke
March 20-25, 2018	Biathlon National Championship

SOCIAL DIRECTOR

Karen Broadworth is the Social Director at the club. She is always looking for volunteers to help out with activities – and she is open to all your ideas. You can contact her at 250-692-7475 (evenings).

RACE DIRECTOR

Alison Patch is the Race Director. We are hosting two race events this year – the Teck Northern Cup on January 28th and the Biathlon BC Cup on the weekend of February 16-18th. We are always grateful to our volunteers in helping us host these events – if you can help in any way please either indicate it on your membership application or send us an email at: info@ominecaskiclub.ca



Your Executive At Work

- We are actively recruiting for at least two more to join our executive – a Vice President and a Member at Large. Don't be shy!
- We meet the first Monday of each month starting at 7 pm – please let us know of any issues we should be discussing.
- We have formed four committees and membership is not limited to those on the executive – please feel free to join any one of them – EVENTS, RACE, POLICY and GRANTS
- We will be publishing a list of all the decisions that have been made by the executive in the past three years on our website. We will keep the list up to date.
- Need to know who to contact? Find our current executive on the website at:
<http://ominecaskiclub.ca/our-club/club-executive-2014-2015/>

Omineca Spirit

Website:

www.ominecaskiclub.ca

email:

info@ominecaskiclub.ca

Box 1008

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Burns Lake, BC

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THE IDEA CARD

Got a suggestion? Want to applause something that happened at the club? A criticism?

Fill out "THE IDEA CARD" and drop it in the green bin in the Wax Cabin. All submissions will be kept confidential by the executive but we will answer every one of them. You can get a personal answer if you supply us with your name and email address. All submissions will be published on the website with our answers.

You can always contact us directly by using the 'Contact Us' form on the website (at the bottom of every page) or by using our email:

info@ominecaskiclub.ca

YOU CAN WIN!

Everybody who pays their annual membership dues before December 1st will be eligible to win one of three prizes – a BC Punch Pass (value \$49), a seasonal rental of a locker in the wax cabin (value \$100) or a one day rental of the Jean Paulson Lodge (value \$250).