



# Kivitski

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SASKATOON NORDIC SKI CLUB  
[www.saskatoonnordicski.ca](http://www.saskatoonnordicski.ca)

January 2015



## Early Trails at Eb`s by Kate Gamin

Inside find info re:

Saskatoon Classic Loppet – February 1, 2015

Eb`s Day – February 15, 2015

Web address:  
**www.saskatoonnordicski.ca**  
Box 2062, Saskatoon, SK  
S7K 3S7

**President**

Dan Beveridge  
president@saskatoonnordicski.ca

**Past President**

Dan Brisbin

**Vice-President**

Dorothy Quayle

**Secretary**

Kate Germin  
secretary@saskatoonnordicski.ca

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Heather Dawn Bernhard  
Randy Chapman

**Touring & Hiking**

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Bruce Simms

**Equipment Manager**

Rob Klenz

**Member Awareness**

vacant

**Blind and Visually Impaired**

Joanne Ferguson

**Newsletter Editor**

Renate Bishopp 343-0156  
hisrib@shaw.ca

Contact via the web!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dan Beveridge



It's great to finally get on the trails, and reconnect with other crazy skiers. We are a strange breed. We do laps around a flat course, leaning into a howling wind that hits our faces and blows in the tracks; many of us love it, and come back for more the next day. But we recognize that this experience isn't for everybody. It's not even for every cross-country skier: typical Wildwood conditions would intimidate skiers from around the world. Just based on climate and terrain, it's not easy to fall in love with skiing in Saskatoon. Based on civic support for skiing, I can't think of a Canadian winter city that does less. To be clear, I don't blame our City administration: rapid growth gives them enough of a challenge. It's up to us to grow the sport, and that's why I got involved in the Club. We might be a prickly bunch who doesn't always get along, but we're all united by a common cause. We love skiing, we want to share our passion, and believe that the skiing experience in Saskatoon can and should be better.

We face a lot of challenges though. The simple privilege of going for a ski depends on a lot of people doing a lot of work. Unlike most other sports clubs, we are responsible not just for our own programming, but equipment and trails too (50 km at Eb's alone!). Since I became president

last winter, our executive has gone through over 100 business items. Almost all of those items dealt with continuity; i.e. as an executive, we are just trying to maintain existing levels of service. We haven't had capacity left for improvement. Many clubs facing the same challenges have abandoned trying to operate purely through volunteers, and have paid groomers, coaches, and/or executive directors.

We haven't. We depend entirely on volunteers because that is what our budget allows. About a third of you committed to help the Club out in some way this season. I'm proud to be part of a community that volunteers so willingly, and we run our Club without mandating parental involvement, bingo, or any of myriad unpleasant responsibilities that come with other sports. We also need people who are willing to coordinate all those volunteers and programs, and our Club runs on a core group of 30 people who are more like staff in terms of the hours they put in. Many of this core group are feeling burnt or maxed out, and we can't depend on them indefinitely.

Both survival and working towards Vision 2020 involves lots of changes. Just thinking about paid staff means also thinking about revenue generation, fundraising, and community engagement. No one of us knows what the Club will look like in five years, but I hope that the collective discussions and engagement that take us there will be enjoyable and supportive.

I'd love to hear from you. If you are allergic to meetings, send me an email, or come for a ski. I far prefer doing club business while skiing.



Of note ...

## DONATE FOR A RACE CLOCK AND GET A CHARITABLE TAX RECEIPT!

The number of events our Club holds warrants purchasing a race clock - for the benefit of the competition program and for the Club as a whole. The Executive has approved the expenditure and is requesting donations to offset the cost, which is estimated at \$3,200 (including a stand and carrying case).

Find the donor form on the Donate page on [www.saskatoonnordicski.ca/donate](http://www.saskatoonnordicski.ca/donate). **Be sure to select the X-C Ski Facility (SK:13:007) project.**

Among the competitive events we hold are roller ski races in the early fall, "Hiper Challenge" on snow in the late fall, followed by the well-known "Grapefruit Cup" series every Tuesday evening over the winter. During the winter months we host two SaskCup provincial events as well as one major Loppet.

Event timing is always a challenge, relying on the steady but frozen hands of volunteer timers to see the stopwatch. Benefits would

be a large visible display, and the clock's countdown feature enables competitors warming up to know exactly when their start will occur. A race clock also comes with the options to enable more automatic time recording.

The Club and the skiing community thank you for your donation. Your support will help make x-c skiing a better experience in and around Saskatoon!

Donor Form on page 7

## YOUTH PROGRAM BY JAN SEDGEWICK

Just a few words to let you all know about the youngest members of our Club.

We have over 160 individual children from age 3 thru to early teens registered in our Skills Development program. Registration this year was quite complex with the establishment of a "pending more coaches list", our version of a waiting list. This was to ensure reasonable class size with well-matched skill levels. The amazing result was that 13 new coaches joined the existing ones, to bring our number up to 24 certified coaches. Don't let this number make you think

we don't need more. We still had to turn many kids away.

All lessons are being held at Kinsmen Park this season. Some changes in the schedule have reduced the overcrowding issues in the shelter. Kristen and Tara have taken on the coordinating of the snacks and servers. Alison & Geoff Meinert and Whit Pointon are working with our most advanced skiers and are hoping that many will become the core of Saskatoon's Junior HiPer racers. One of our Level 1 coaches, Lauren Dyck, will be representing Saskatchewan, along with Shannon Butler, at Western Canadian Championships, The Canada

Winter Games, and Nationals. Both girls are graduates of the Jackrabbit program.

We have scheduled 12 lessons for this season, knowing that we may have to cancel a few due to extreme weather. We are grateful to Cliff Speer and his fellow groomers, Brian Anderson, Greg Hain and Rob Howse, who look after our trails and allow us to have the fun we have. You are all encouraged to come to Kinsmen on Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm to 8pm or Sundays from 3:00pm to 4:30 pm. I guarantee you will feel the energy and zeal of these amazing little skiers.

## MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Please wear your member cards. Wearing your card is an easy way to bring awareness of the club to other skiers who think the trails groom themselves.

While you are registering your family membership, please list all skiers. Looking at our membership list, a lot of us taking out family memberships only register the one

or two most active skiers, even when the spouse/parents get out skiing too. You're part of the Club whether you ski once a season, or once a day! Whether your family has two or twenty members, the cost of a family membership is still \$70. Registering all skiers in your family is more accurate, and it also helps us access more funding.

## EB'S TRAILS NEWS By Randy Chapman

We groomed all the trails January 2. Snow cover under the evergreens is still quite thin. Overall, the track went in well, but a few bare spots still show and it is a bit twiggy in places. For anyone who hasn't been out, the skiing has been quite wonderful all season, despite the minimal snow cover. Our wonderland is intact.



### THE FIRST EB'S DAY

By Heather Bernhard

was on February 1, 2003 with approximately 48 skiers enjoying the trails, refreshments and camaraderie. Refreshments were provided at both huts that year and then moved to the South hut only. Registration peaked at 133 on February 16, 2014.

The past 12 years, Mother Nature was on our side and provided good weather at Eb's, and of course, the groomed ski trails were, as usual, great. Highway conditions were a wee bit troublesome a few times, but once you arrived at Eb's, it proved to be absolutely worth it. Hope to see you at Eb's Trails, Sunday, February 15, 2015

A snowmobile had run the night before over half of Hawk Hideaway, all of Big Spruce and east down the fence line on Beaverlodge to the south parking lot. Twice during the last few weeks a truck has driven into the south shelter, leaving deep ruts. We groomed and tracked the south rut, but left the other. It is now safe to ski down the hill by the shelter.

Members of the Regina Ski Club plan to bus to our trails January 24.

Remember that Eb's Day is set for February 15, with the 22nd as backup if bad weather forces postponement.

There is discussion at the executive level on equipment storage issues. One option mentioned is the purchase of a forty foot container for Eb's, with our current 20 footer coming to the city for use here. Currently, we store the mower in the boat house for the winter and the groomer in my garage for the summer. We are likely to give up our space in the boat house to the Canoe Club.



### Saskatoon Nordic Ski Club

*invites you to*

## EB'S TRAILS DAY

**Sunday, February 15, 2015**

*(Alternate bad weather date – February 22)*

If the event is cancelled due to bad weather, it will be posted on the Nordic Website – so be sure to check for updates before heading out to the trail. Visit: [www.saskatoonnordicski.ca](http://www.saskatoonnordicski.ca)

**10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Join the Saskatoon Nordic Ski Club for a day in the fresh air, fun and great skiing. Just ten (10) minutes north of Duck Lake on the west side of Highway 11, *Skier Signs* direct you to either of the two parking lots.

The 13 trails provide a variety of distances and skill levels. Trails are maintained and groomed exclusively by the Nordic Ski Club and are well marked. Maps are available.

Never skied the Nordic Ski Club Trails? This would be a great day to give them a try. Stop by the *South hut* for a wiener roast, hot chocolate, etc. compliments of the Ski Club. Come and enjoy a day with other skiers.

For more info:

**Randy** [chapr@sasktel.net](mailto:chapr@sasktel.net) (306) 242-7520 or

**Heather** [heatbern@sasktel.net](mailto:heatbern@sasktel.net) (306) 242-1928



## TRAILS UPDATES By Dan Beveridge

We are going to try out skiing at the Willows this year. The Willows warmly invited us to ski there the past three years, and apparently they asked us to groom 20 years ago too. Robin Butler and Kevin Robinson made sure that we finally made the move this season. A 7.5 km classic trail now follows the cart track. Ken English is also starting to groom the perimeter trail. Thanks to them for making this happen.

We are splitting our grooming equipment between Kinsmen and the Willows, so grooming won't be quite as fast.

### **Kinsmen**

❖ Ivan English shovelled in some bicycle bumps at Kinsmen. They sound fun for the kids, and dangerous for the adults. Thanks to Cliff Speer and his fellow groomers, Brian Anderson, Greg Hain and Rob Howse.

### **Wildwood**

❖ We will open up the Wildwood clubhouse for potentially a few Saturday afternoons, or Wednesday evenings. This is dependent on volunteers willing to take a shift. We'll time this with group skis. Thanks to Rick Koch who is doing a great job

grooming Wildwood this season. We will post City groomed trail updates from Holiday Park, Meeweasin, Al Anderson, Forest Park and Silverspring on our trail conditions page, so that you can find out the conditions at all the trails in one place.

The Park widened the trails at Blackstrap this fall. It could provide a quality of skating trail that we're not used to seeing in Saskatchewan. Thanks to Gordon Locke, who has been a great cross-country ski supporter, and Robin, who has redesigned the areas around the trailhead, and improved accessibility around the bigger hills for different levels of skier.

Our facilities committee has analyzed our needs, and how we can meet them at dozens of prospective sites. We continue to look for a future home.

### **Group skiing**

❖ We're going to have a few group skis this winter. There's a big demand for social skiing, workout buddies, and a sense of community; group skis are one way of meeting this demand. It works great at Eb's, so we'll try them in Saskatoon for

those who just want a quick ski on Saturday afternoon or Wednesday evening. I've talked to Nils Lokken who is a wealth of skiing knowledge, and can lead a fast workout. Ivan English will also come when he's able. It just happens that the two people I've talked to about this since our last executive meeting are two of our province's top skiers, but the group skis are not just for fast skiers. They're for all Club members. I have found that most issues the Club faces require at least 10 conversations to resolve; there isn't enough meeting time to deal with them, and this is further complicated by many of us not liking meetings at all. So if you want to ski and talk about storage containers and volunteer coordinators, come out. In between my slower conversational pace and Nils' faster training pace, there should be a good range for lots of people. These sessions won't be organized programming; it will be up to us as a club to shape how they look. We'll open the Wildwood clubhouse when we have our skis there, pending volunteers willing to host (the minimum responsibility is just sitting inside the clubhouse). Watch our facebook page for info.

## SUNDAY TOURS 2015 – Update By Sheryl Riis



Surprise – it's Sheryl!

December 7th, 2014, about 15 smiling skiers enjoyed a lovely day of skiing up at Eb's Trails. We met for carpooling at 9:54 a.m. at our new spot just across from the Lawson Civic Centre, in the Lawson Heights Mall parking lot. Once at Eb's Trails, a fire was made in the North hut and then we headed out to ski. I chose to ski up to the bench on Jorgen's Trail to eat lunch in the sunshine. I returned to a toasty hut for afternoon snack, before heading back to Saskatoon. A perfect day!

It's January 4th, 2015 and I just got back from another delightful day at Eb's Trails. It was -35 C and -48 C with the wind-chill when we left Saskatoon. Only two of us seemed to be brave enough to meet at 9:45 a.m. The roads were clear, the sky was blue with brilliant sunshine... and the parking lot of the North hut was empty.

We built a lovely fire, thanks to the volunteers who cut and chopped wood, made excellent fire starters from milk cartons, and provided



matches. May I add that the hut and bathrooms were impeccable, too!

We then headed out on Jorgen's Trail. It was a winter wonderland with no wind in the forest. The snow was crisp and the trail beautifully track-set. Thanks again to our hard-working volunteers who were out just two days ago making sure our 52 km of trails were ready.

We headed home happy and refreshed! Two perfect sun dogs in the sky topped off another perfect day at Eb's!!!

I hope everyone has a chance to get to Eb's Trails to enjoy the peaceful beauty. It's always warmer in the



Sheryl Riis on a frosty day – and the flowers are still in bloom!?

forest. I started out with my heavy-duty mitts but soon warmed up and reverted back to my usual warm day gloves. I also always take a thermos of hot water and one of hot chocolate.

❖ Please continue to meet to carpool at 9:45 a.m. every Sunday during the ski season across from the Lawson Civic Centre, in the Lawson Heights Mall parking lot, by the park.

Hope to see you on the trails soon... especially for Eb's Day, February 15th!

Sheryl Riis ,

Touring Coordinator

## BLIND SKIERS NEWS By Joanne Ferguson

### Blind/Low Vision Ski Group Enjoy Annual December Ski Event



The Blind/Low Vision Skiers planned to meet every Saturday morning starting December 13, with the exception of December 27 when we take a break over the holidays. We meet at 9:45 in the parking lot at Wildwood Golf Course and ski from 10:00 to 11:00, and then go to the golf clubhouse afterwards until 12 noon for coffee and socializing.

The Blind/Low Vision Ski Group had their annual December ski event on December 6 at the Kuntz acreage near Grandora, SK. Skiers and guides enjoyed nice weather, double - tracked trails, and natural terrain festooned with hoarfrost as they exercised muscles forgotten since last ski season. Members gathered for a potluck lunch and good company afterwards.

Anyone interested in joining us either as a skier or a volunteer guide is warmly invited to come out to see what we are all about. **We are currently recruiting for new members and guides of all ages. The Blind Skiers gratefully acknowledge the support of the Saskatoon Co-op in fundraising.**

**For more information, please contact:**

**Monique Lalonde - Email:**

**[m.lalonde@shaw.ca](mailto:m.lalonde@shaw.ca) or**

**Joanne Ferguson - Email: [joanne.ferguson@sasktel.net](mailto:joanne.ferguson@sasktel.net)**





Canadian Council of Provincial & Territorial Sport Federations Inc.  
National Sport Trust Fund – Saskatchewan Chapter  
1870 Lorne Street, Regina, SK S4P 2L7

### DONOR FORM

I am voluntarily and unconditionally donating the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the National Sport Trust Fund administered by the Canadian Council of Provincial & Territorial Sport Federations Inc. (CCP&TSF), to benefit the development of amateur sport in Canada on a nation-wide basis. I understand that the CCP&TSF can direct my donation to an amateur sport cause of their choice; however my preference is that my gift be used to support the following cause:

Saskatoon Nordic Ski: \_\_\_\_\_

Consistent with the income tax interpretations of “qualifying donations”, this contribution is made voluntarily without any conditions and **no benefit will accrue to me (or related parties) as a result of my donation.** I confirm that this donation does not or will not reduce any obligation, directly or indirectly that I (or related parties) have for “non qualifying” expenses such as membership, training, or program registration fees, travel expenses or other like expenses that I would normally be required to pay to the recipient sport organization or any related or affiliated body. **I also understand that civil penalties can be imposed against me for the misrepresentations of tax matters.** Based on these facts, I understand that an official receipt for tax purposes will be issued.

NAME OF DONOR: \_\_\_\_\_  
(first name) (initial) (surname)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ PROVINCE: \_\_\_\_\_ PCODE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of donor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donation date

**\*\*Please make cheques payable to the National Sport Trust Fund.**

**Receipts will be mailed in January. If you would prefer to receive your receipt at the time of you donation, please check here. \_\_\_\_\_**

# The First Annual Saskatoon Classic Loppet

Sunday Feb 1, 2015, 11am mass start  
The Willows Golf and Country Club, Saskatoon

distances: 7.5km, 15km, 30km  
or 1km Distance Challenge  
all ages and abilities welcome

**Prize  
draw!**

fees: by Jan 25 \$40  
by Jan 29 \$55  
1km Distance Challenge \$15  
registration includes hot meal and loppet certificate

register: [www.zone4.ca](http://www.zone4.ca) (search Saskatoon Classic Loppet)

bib pickup: Sat Jan 31, 10-6 pm at Eb's Source for Adventure -1640 Saskatchewan Ave



[www.saskatoonnordicski.ca](http://www.saskatoonnordicski.ca)

organized by the Saskatoon Nordic Ski Club and  
Eb's Source for Adventure

Questions? email [saskatoon.loppet@gmail.com](mailto:saskatoon.loppet@gmail.com) or  
call Eb's at 306-652-0385



[www.ebsadventure.com](http://www.ebsadventure.com)