



# Kivitski

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SASKATOON NORDIC SKI CLUB

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

JANUARY 2018



## Saskatoon Nordic Ski Club

invites you to join us *in the forest* for our

### 16<sup>th</sup> Annual EB'S DAY

**Sunday, February 18, 2018**

*(Alternate bad weather date – February 25)*

**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 at **Eb's Trails**. Eb's Trails are 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 have been maintained and groomed exclusively by the Nordic Ski Club since 1977 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.

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 or

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



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

**President**  
Lane Zabolotney

**Past President**  
Dan Brisbin

**Vice-President**  
Gail Motsi

**Secretary**  
Kate Germin

**Treasurer**  
Gail Motsi

**Financial Secretary**  
Daryl Sexsmith

**Membership**  
Jeff Thorpe

**Youth Programs**  
Jan Sedgewick

**Eb's Trails**  
Randy Chapman

**Touring & Hiking**  
Sheryl Riis

**Instruction**  
Bruce Simms

**Loppet**  
vacant

**Competition**  
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 SNSC via the web!**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lane Zabolotney



As I write this, it's New Year's Day 2018 and the temperature is -25° (-39° with wind chill). My Weather Network app just buzzed at me to let me know there's an Extreme Cold Warning out for Saskatoon (what else is new?) and that it "feels like ice crystals". This is actually relatively warm compared to the last two weeks, as temperatures have consistently been below -40°. Needless to say, this is not ideal ski weather.

For those brave enough to face the cold however, our groomers have done a fantastic job with what little snow we have (which is more than last year, at least). Now that we're into January, we have a lot to look forward to with lessons, races, Provincials, and Eb's Day all on the horizon. Let's hope the weather cooperates!

Of note ...

## WINTERSHINES BLIZZARD TRIATHLON

8am Saturday February 4th: At the Clarence Downey Oval and Holiday Park Golf Course ski area. Cost \$15/ Person. For more information check [here](http://www.facebook.com/events/219544451813095/?ti=icl). Join our Facebook community here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/219544451813095/?ti=icl>

This mix of ice skating or snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and running can be done solo or as part of a relay. Family events and a youth and junior challenge event at shorter distances!  
Even a non-competitive citizen event at half the distance listed below.

ICE SKATE — 4km or SNOWSHOE — 1.5km  
SKI — 8km (classic or skate ski)  
3 RUN — 5km



# SASKATOON TO HOST PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Saskatoon Nordic Ski Club will host the 2018 Saskatchewan Provincial Cross Country Ski Championships on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Skiers from all across the province from Atoms (under 7) to Masters (under 100?) will challenge themselves and each other in two exciting race formats. Plans are to hold a distance race (1 to 10 kilometres depending on age category) at Blackstrap Provincial Park on Saturday then hold sprint races (250 to 1000 metres again depending on age) at Wildwood Golf Course. Thanks to the efforts of our volunteer groomers, we can almost always hold an event at Wildwood so if there is significant snowfall in the next couple of weeks the Saturday race will be relocated to Wildwood too.

Interested in participating? These races are open to all skiers at all levels who enjoy competitive skiing. In particular we hope to see many of our local Jack Rabbits come out to experience the fun of skiing fast. A Race Notice providing more information on the event and how to register will be posted on the Cross Country Saskatchewan website ([crosscountrysask.ca](http://crosscountrysask.ca)).

Interested in participating without lactic burn? Events like this can't be held without help from **volunteers**. If you're willing to help for one day or both, please contact Dan Brisbin at [danbrisbin@sasktel.net](mailto:danbrisbin@sasktel.net). We're grateful for anybody willing to help and friendly, seasoned volunteers will explain tasks to newcomers. It's a great way to learn about cross country ski racing (to prep for the 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games), watch friends and family compete, and to give back to your Club.

Dan Brisbin  
Chief of Competition  
2018 Saskatchewan Provincial Cross Country Ski  
Championships



Photos courtesy of  
Dan Brisbin



More Club Programs next page



## SASK-SKI-TOON (A Wintershines Event) by Gail Motsi

On Saturday, January 27th from 12 to 4 p.m., the Saskatoon Nordic Ski Club will be hosting an afternoon of cross-country skiing at the Wildwood Golf Course, 4050 8th Street East. The event is open to all- young and old, families, newcomers, and the blind and visually impaired.

Introductory lessons with equipment will be available for those who have never skied before. We have organized with Saskatoon Open Door Society and Global Gathering Place to bring groups of newcomers to try out the sport. If you know someone who is interested in trying out cross-country skiing for the first time for free, encourage them to come along.

The Saskatoon Blind and Visually Impaired Skiers will have an experienced guide on hand to help those who are blind or visually impaired.

Experienced skiers can join others on the trails, on the obstacle course and in the Clubhouse where hot drinks and snacks will be served.

Come and socialize and share your enthusiasm for this great winter sport.

Contact Gail Motsi, [gfmotsi@gmail.com](mailto:gfmotsi@gmail.com), if you need further information or want to volunteer for help with any of the activities (coaching, registering and equipping newbies, guiding the visually impaired, running the obstacle course, or hosting and preparing hot drinks.)

If it is too cold or conditions are not good, this event will be cancelled and a notice will be posted on our website. Check out the other Wintershines events at <http://nutrienwintershines.ca/>

## MORE FUNDS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE NATIONAL SPORT TRUST FUND

by Gail Motsi

Thank you to everyone who contributed to SNSC's four projects to improve trails, establish a new home and introduce cross country skiing to school children and others. Since October 2017, we have raised an additional \$1,050 through your donations to the National Sport Trust Fund (NSTF) and have a total of \$8,422 available to support these initiatives!

If you have not donated, you can do so at any time by going on-line to the NSTF website (<http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/NSTF.php>), specifying which one of our projects you wish your donation to go towards; or by downloading the donor form on our website under "Donate". A charitable tax receipt will be issued for any donation over \$20.

## FACILITIES COMMITTEE by Kate Germin

We continue to move forward with the plans for a skiing home at the Gordie Howe Management Area. We are working with the Friends of the Bowl as fundraising comes into full swing. There are a few hurdles to overcome, as the planning group for the whole site, works to meet the needs of each of the sporting groups involved.

As more snow comes, we encourage our members to try out the skiing at Holiday Park, since trails have been modified from previous years. To meet the skiing joys of a wide range of skiers, we continue to work with the City of Saskatoon on planning more kms of trails with varied levels of skiing challenges throughout the area for the future.

### Randy's Rhino Reno Musings

We will ski that muddy roughness  
In part it supports our toughness  
And glide those shallow slopes with speed  
No matter who chooses to lead  
As we wait for the cold soft snow  
Hoping it comes with little blow  
And temps up where it's nice to groom;  
Out comes the Rhino with vroom, vroom  
Validating our life to be  
Working with the S.N.S.C.  
Provide people a track to ski,  
Experience a place so free,  
Saskatchewan our favourite  
So let the members savour it.

Happy New Year!!!

**\*Please connect on the Nordic Ski Club Touring Yahoo Group for trail updates, carpooling and possible activities. Members connect to meet, for hiking and cross-country skiing, during the week and on weekends.**

**\*Sunday Carpooling to Eb's Trails – meet at 9:45 a.m. across from the Lawson Civic Centre, in the Lawson Heights Mall parking lot, by the park (usually, we leave Eb's about 3 p.m.)**

The fall started out so promising! I got out cross-country skiing possibly at my earliest date ever. Then the melting came. Even -30 C does not deter me. All I ask for is lots of beautiful, fluffy snow!

On December 27th, I thought that I would just like a short walk, out of town, in the -30 C weather. I chose Beaver Creek, just south of the city, as my destination.

I arrived to find the gate locked! The signage said that they should be open. I drove around a bit, looking for other options and then, sadly drove back to the city. I have

subsequently found out that, due to budget cuts, Beaver Creek Conservation Area is now closed during Christmas week, and on **all** weekends.

The Beaver Creek experience made me appreciate Eb's Trails even more! We are so very blessed to have people volunteering countless hours, so that we can have 52 km of trails, through beautiful forest, only an hour from Saskatoon. Whether we walk, snowshoe, or ski the trails, they are there for us 24-7 to enjoy!

Hopefully, we'll now have lots of beautiful snow!!!



Good times  
at Eb's in  
previous  
years



Photos courtesy of Cliff Speer

## BLIND AND VISION IMPAIRED SKIERS Conrad Lange, Public Relations

The Blind and Low Vision skiers and their guides had the first ski on the Wildwood Golf Course on November 11, 2017. Everyone enjoyed skiing in the freshly-groomed tracks.

We had our second chance to ski on December 9 at the Ski & Potluck Lunch at the George and Loretta Kuntz acreage. It was an excellent day for skiing: -7 degrees and sunny, with hardly any breeze. George had packed the trail twice with his Ski-Doo before setting the tracks. Some members walked on the road by the acreage. I have included pictures taken at this event.

When the weather is cold, George starts his wood burning stove in his cabin early in the morning before any ski or walk. We appreciate stepping into their warm cabin to have our lunch, supplied by the members and efficiently organized by Loretta.

We had a short meeting after lunch. Two visually-impaired skiers



Harmon and Monique vanBergen.

and one guide plan to attend the annual Ski for Light competition February 5 to 10, 2018, at Vernon B.C.

Our ski club reported another successful year of fundraising through Co-op gift cards purchased by ski club members & friends. We thank the Co-op for this program which helps support us financially.

Our scheduled Saturday morning walks have been disappointing compared to all past years. As was previously reported, October 21<sup>st</sup> we met at the Saskatoon Civic Conservatory, only to find it closed. We still walked along the Meewasin Trail in the rain, but had to drive elsewhere for coffee. The following week we decided to walk along the south part of the trail. This also proved unsatisfactory due to the lack of free parking convenient

to any nearby restaurants. Our tentative plan when walks resume in spring is to go to Gabriel Dumont Park. Due to the holidays, as well as the cold weather, no walks or skiing took place since our Christmas get-together.

On January 20, we have arranged to have diagonal stride lessons taught by Jeff Whiting of SNSC to visually impaired skiers and guides at any level of ability. They will be held at the Wildwood Golf Course at 10:00 a.m. We are combining this event with the club's Family Pizza Day following the lessons.

We welcome new blind and visually-impaired people who are interested in cross country skiing. Our ski club ski meets at the Wildwood Golf Course on Saturday mornings at 9:45 a.m. We usually ski for an hour, followed by coffee or tea inside the clubhouse, which is heated and has washrooms.

Anyone wanting further information about our club can e-mail Joanne, [joanneferguson@sasktel.net](mailto:joanneferguson@sasktel.net), or Paul, [paul.millette@sasktel.net](mailto:paul.millette@sasktel.net).



Ron Walsh and Guide



**THANK YOU TO THE  
SASKATOON CO-OP!!!**