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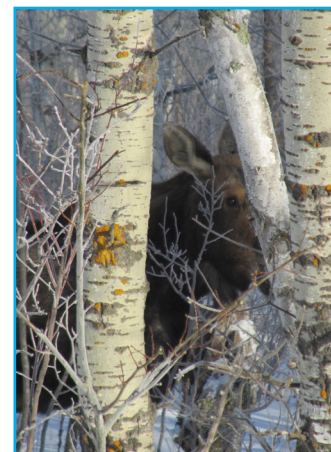
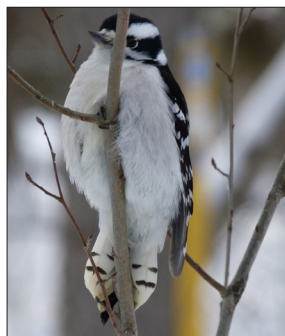
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SASKATOON NORDIC SKI CLUB

www.saskatoonnordicski.ca

January 2022



Richard Koch doing what he loved to do at Wildwood!



SASKATOON NORDIC SKI CLUB PERSONNEL

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Newsletter Editor
Renate Bishopp 343-0156
hisrib@shaw.ca

Contact SNSC via the web!
www.saskatoonnordicski.ca
Box 2062, Saskatoon, SK
S7K 3S7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gail Motsi



We are in the midst of winter, and boy, has it been cold! The cold weather has affected youth programs and Ski At School but hopefully with warmer weather, we can get back on track and out on the trails. The good news is that we have had a lot of snowfall so the trails should be in great shape. The City of Saskatoon has agreed to groom at Kinsmen Park and the Club is grooming all of Holiday Park. In addition, we continue to groom at Wildwood Golf Course in the city and Ebs Trails outside of the City.

The Executive has decided to cancel the Loppet planned for January 23rd due to human resource constraints for planning and implementation. We will focus our resources on the Provincial Cup to be held on February 5th and 6th. Please refer to Cross Country Saskatchewan's Calendar ([Calendar — Cross Country Saskatchewan](#)) for information about other loppets to be held around the province, subject to any additional COVID restrictions.

Thank you to those who volunteered to assist with updating our website. We will be building a new website in the spring when the ski season is over. See you on the trails.

Paid Ad by Wildernook.com

 **SASK SPORT**

KIVILSKI

SKI-AT-SCHOOL by Jan Sedgewick

Well – after a year off due to COVID, Ski At School is making a hesitant return.

- The first hurdle was finding instructors. They came.
- Then there was the location. The Gordie Howe Complex opened to us late in November and presented some issues that could not be dealt with this season so we had to re-focus and move back to Wildwood. A tense week! Just before Christmas we got the rental agreement worked out and we had a location.
- Participants were needed. This year we decided to allot proportional spaces to each School Division. Both divisions decided to host a registration “lottery”. Interested classrooms entered the lottery and then the lucky ones were chosen to get a space. In only two days all 94 spaces were filled. This happened three days before the Christmas break. We scramble to get those first week classrooms oriented and ready to come but

the Instruction team rose to the occasion.

- Then the weather got cold...
- Then Omicron did what they expected it would.
- The first week was cancelled due to extreme weather. It gave us time to re-evaluate how we could safely operate.

The team and their combined care and wisdom worked it out. Again. Temperatures moderated (at least that’s how it looks as I write this) and we started on Jan 10th.

It will be a “wait and see” season but we will introduce as many students in Grades 4, 5 or 6 to what we have all come to love.

If you are skiing at the Wildwood Ski Trails during the weekdays look for us and come by and encourage the kids and instructors.

ADULT INSTRUCTION UPDATE by Bruce Simms – brucesimms@sasktel.net

Lack of snow for a training grid and then very cold temps pushed back the adult instruction schedule. The Dec 7 and Jan 4 learn to classic courses are finally getting underway this Tues. The learn to skate course is wrapping up this Mon instead of Dec 20. Skate students seemed pleased with their progress. The Dec 13 learn to classic course is back on this week. The start of the xcountry downhill skills course is delayed one week to Jan 15 because of the cold.

The good news is that we now have lots of snow and a break in the weather. There are still a few spots in the Jan

25 learn to classic courses and there’s good availability for the intermediate classic course. The downhill skills course filled very quickly. I may consider a second downhill skills course after the first one has completed. Intermediate Skate is full, with the first class to go Feb 1.

A reminder that use of the indoor facilities at Gordie Howe requires masks. Private or semi-private ski lessons with one of the adult instructors is an option if group lessons don’t work for you. See the SNSC website for full adult instruction details.

Enjoy your skiing.
Bruce

YOUTH PROGRAM by Jana Hambleton

Our bunnyrabbit, jackrabbit and youth learn to ski classes had a successful start up in the first week of December at the Gordie Howe Sports facility in Holiday Park. There was just enough snow in early December for the trail groomers to work their magic and we were able to start the season with skis on! The weather unfortunately made a quick change and we had to cancel many lessons due to the cold snap! We are excited to see the upcoming forecast for warmer weather so we can get back into lesson fun!

Registration is now closed and lessons are full. We currently have limited coaches for our Sunday program. If anyone is able to help out with coaching, especially with level 1 or 2,

we could use more help and would make another group in this category. Please email youth@saskatoonnordicski.ca if you are interested in helping out!

As always a big thank you goes out to the coaches who give their time to run these lessons and the trail groomers that volunteer their time to give us such amazing trails to ski on!

If you have any questions regarding our youth programs please do not hesitate to email me!

Jana Hambleton
youth@saskatoonnordicski.ca

SUNDAY SKI TOURS–Winter 2022 by Sheryl Riis, Touring Co-ordinator 306-382-9462



Happy New Year!

Fluctuating weather and the pandemic have not kept many people from enjoying Eb's Trails. The parking lots have been full and the groomed trails have been excellent! Thank-you to everyone who is maintaining the trails, washrooms, huts, wood supply.... You are amazing!

A lot of people have been realizing what so many of us already knew. Eb's Trails are a treasure for cross-country skiing, only an hour from Saskatoon. We still do not have any organized ski tours, or carpooling, but members are encouraged to connect, on our Google Group: <https://groups.io/g/SNSCTouring>

Arriving at about 11 a.m. on a Sunday, at the Eb's Trails parking lots may give you options to buddy-up with other skiers... at a distance, for safety and companionship.

Please do not use the huts, and help keep the bathrooms clean. Volunteers are graciously maintaining them, and keeping us supplied with toilet paper. There is a fire pit, and our volunteer-created, winter supply of wood, at the south hut.

Downhill skiers have the right-of-way. Please step off the trail, say hi from a distance, preferably with a big smile, and then turn to face the forest to let them pass. Carry a mask, in case you need to help someone along the trail.

Have fun connecting, for skiing in the city, at Eb's Trails, or other ski trips!

Wishing you a safe and healthy 2022!!!

Sheryl Riis

EB'S TRAILS REPORT by Kate Germin

Hi skiers and snowshoers,

we have another fantastic snowfall season! The severely cold weather kept us off the trails. We have had some equipment failures to the groomers but they are being rectified. Now that the weather is a bit milder we hope that both the snowshoe and the ski trails will get lots of use. Have fun out there!

Due to the ongoing Covid pandemic we will not be holding Eb's Day for this second year in a row. Let's hope that we can get back to it in subsequent years.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE by Ivan English

First off, thank you to all the groomers who have put many hours into trails since the fall. Without the efforts of the groomers and volunteers at Wildwood, Holiday Park/Gordie Howe Sports Complex, and at Eb's trails we would not be able to enjoy the great snow we have received to date.

We hope many of you have had a chance to tour or use the new K+S shared facility at the Gordie Howe Sports Complex and adjoining Holiday Park ski trails. Unfortunately the end of December and early January have brought some pretty frigid temperatures and several cancelled sessions. So far our Jackrabbit and Youth Hiper programs have had opportunity to use the facility with the Youth Hiper group

accessing the warm up space to do some body weight and core workouts on nights too cold to ski. The adult instruction groups have used the lit area for instruction, and with weather permitting will be able to host most of the remaining lessons.

If any SNSC group or program (that has not already done so) is looking to use the facility for upcoming dates, please contact Ivan at english_ivan@hotmail.com.

Thanks to all members as we move forwards with using our new facility while navigating another year of the pandemic. In February we hope to host the Provincial Championships at the new facility so stay tuned!

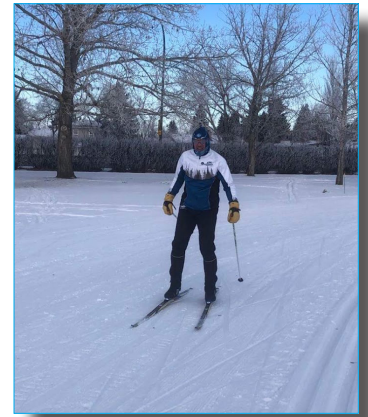
Appreciation of a Groomer's Dedication by Kate Germin

Richard Koch has been grooming for the SNSC at Wildwood Ski Trails for nine plus years. Richard has decided to retire from grooming our Wildwood trail, leaving it to the groomers that he has been recruiting to maintain his high level of trail maintenance. He feels that if he keeps his foot in the door, even a little bit, he will not be able to set it aside like he knows it is time to do. He plans to focus on skiing those trails!!!

Richard started helping the groomers at Wildwood after he retired from his life occupation. He worked with the other groomers for the first couple years then, as the SNSC's grooming duties took those groomers to other areas of the city, he took over as the Wildwood lead groomer. At first the learning curve was very steep. He was always willing to listen, ask questions and learn from other more experienced groomers. For the first few years there was very little extra help. Often Richard would be packing, shoveling or track setting well into the evenings, on weekends and on holidays. It was not unusual to see Richard out on the grooming machines on Christmas Eve. Of late, he reports that the body just can't handle it anymore. Gone are the days of high energy when he would spend several hours on the snow machine, grooming, then slip into ski gear and spend several joyful hours skiing the tracks he just set. Now after 8 hours on the grooming machine there is nothing left to enjoy his own ski.

Richard has been instrumental in designing the ski routes at Wildwood, trying to give skiers variety and challenges

while respecting the needs and care of the golf course. He has developed a liaison with golf course greens keepers over the years. We are very appreciative for their input as to where we can best run ski trails and where they appreciate that we do not run them.



Richard has always been very appreciative of all the positive comments and smiling faces of the skiers. He has learned so much and has made many lasting friendships. Thank you Richard!

Writing this little piece thanking Richard, as we welcome new groomers to the Wildwood site of our ski club, does not diminish our awareness of the long time grooming devotion of so many other SNSC groomers over the years. We are thankful for every single one of you! As our club further expands into our new "home" at the Gordie Howe Sports Complex area and continues to maintain Eb's Trails, we ask that if you are interested in joining the grooming ranks of our club you jot a note to info@saskatoonnordicski.ca. Many hands make light work!

BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED SKIERS REPORT by Stanley Windels

Hello, and happy new year, from the blind skiers:

We await warmer weather to try and find our ski legs again. Our plan is to do most of our skiing at the Wildwood Golf course, with one or two forays to the Nordic Ski Club's new facility at Holiday Park. Our usual time of meeting is Saturdays at 9:45 AM., with skiing starting at 10 AM.

We look forward to having 2 training sessions with Jeff Whiting and Lorelei Ehman at Wildwood Golf course on January 22 and February 5, weather and schedules permitting.

New skiers and guides are always welcome. If anybody is interested, please contact Joanne Ferguson By email at joanne.ferguson@sasktel.net.

The Blind Skiers wish to thank Saskatoon Coop for their financial support.



Stan

Listing of Loppets still running as of January 15, 2022

- Western Canadian Championships – Red Deer
Fri., January 28, 2022, 10 :00 a.m. – 3 a.m., Sunday, January 30, 2022 11:00 a.m.
- Prince Albert Kistahpinanihk Classic Loppet
Sunday, January 30, 2022. 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Visit panordicskiclub.ca for more information or search PA Nordic Kistahpinanihk on Zone 4 to register
- Polar Bluff Loppet – Llyodminster
Saturday, February 5, 2022, 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Cheesecake Classic Loppet – Elmhurst
Sunday, February 6, 2022, 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Valentine’s Day Loppet – Humboldt
Saturday, February 12, 2022, 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Sask Cup #7 & 8 – Provincials – Saskatoon
Saturday, February 12, 2022, 10:30 a.m. – Sunday , February 13, 2022, 2 p.m.
- Duck Mountain Loppet
Saturday, February 26, 2022, 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Northwest Loppet Weekend, Buffalo Narrows
Saturday, March 12, 2022, 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Northwest Loppet Weekend – Ile a la Crosse
Sunday, March 13, 2022, 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

