

Snow Walkers Gazette

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Ski Trip Schedule (attached)

Message from the President

The snow gods seem displeased. No snow and still no snow. Not that I haven't tried. Christmas lights aren't up despite the mild temperatures, no new snow shovel for my wife even though the poor thing is completely worn out (the shovel not my wife). Procrastinated on putting snow tires on although one weekend while I was away my better half had new tires installed. What was I to say? "Ah dear, you shouldn't have done that. You see if the snow gods look down and



think that I'm not prepared for winter they will do the "white dump" thing but now you've gone and put tires on they won't make it snow because, well, you know, I'm ready for it. They're fickle, contrary beings these snow gods." She would just get this amazed and pained look on her face and I would feel like a fool...again. So I said, "Thank you, that was very thoughtful of you".

So what could I possibly do now to temp the snow gods to wreak havoc on my life. And then I had a brilliant idea. Why not tear the shingles off the roof? It was a job that should have been done this summer but I was much too busy procrastinating about other projects to pay attention to the one project that was necessary. So, on Remembrance Day weekend, the roof was exposed to elements. Not only that weekend but also the next, the roof was vulnerable, a massive invitation for disaster. And still...no snow. I've tried, really tried, folks, but nothing. I can hear them laughing now.

On behalf of all the executive I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year!

Parkland Ski Club General Meeting
Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2004
Kerry Wood Nature Center
Wolf Howl

Dates to Remember

- Wolf Howl on
Dec 14/04
- Crimson Lake Day
tour on Dec 12/04
- Ski Club Progressive
Ski Dinner on
Sunday, Jan 2/05
(see page 6)
- Fantastic Fondue
Foray at Bell Cabin
in Canmore (Register
with Marilyn S by Dec
22/04)
- Ski Lessons begin-
ning Jan 5/05
(register at the Rec.
Center in Dec./04



Parkland Ski Club Executive for 2004-2005

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Newsletter: Don Wales	343-2937	donmarie@telusplanet.net
Social: Carol Lindner/ Brian Davies	227-4409	bcdavies@telusplanet.net
Webmaster: Dick Pawloff	347-3658	dpawloff@telusplanet.net

Highwood Pass Ski Trip by Linda Cassidy

*“An invisible man marries
an invisible woman. The
kids were nothing to look
at either.”*

Prof. Lipstand

Saturday– Out of the condo at Harvey Heights at 7:30 am- yikes, but it took an hour of driving to arrive at our starting point beyond the Highwood Pass. We skied or more accurately skied (hiking with your skis) for 2 1/2 hours. After lunch we ditched our skis and hiked up to Mist Ridge. The snow cover was enough to cover the rocks, but not soften them. Cordula initiated her brand new, never skied on skis to the world of rocks. It was a sunny day with blue skies and at the top of the ridge the view was spectacular. Some of us walked the entire distance back while others (guess who?) put skis on and skied most of the way back. We returned to the vehicle by 4:30 for a long and hungry ride back to the condo. On hwy 40 we had to avoid several elk and later a sauntering moose. At the condos we had showers, ate appetizers and rehydrated through assorted beverages. We set off to a restaurant in Canmore for Chinese food, which was followed by tasty desserts and coffee back at the condo.

Sunday- We were out of the condo by 8:30(rather ambitious for Sunday morning, don't you think?) There is excitement, as we are going to where we know there is snow, Robertson Glacier. We started out by 10 from the parking lot on a overcast but mild day. Lunch was at 11:30 in the trees before the ascent began. Leave it any later and we would have to hunker down to avoid the wind off the glacier. We climbed and climbed, and the top of the col never seemed to get closer. The col is not our destination today and we do arbitrary turn around at 1:30. The return is much faster and we find that falling is the way to go with the wind, the flat lighting and the snow conditions, By 3:30 we are in our cars heading back to the city.

Trip Leaders: Brian and Claude Sam **Trip victims:** Cordula, Dick P, Dave R, Don W, Marie W, Barb C , Linda C and Sai-yeh the dog

Ski Club Courses & Tour Leader Course **Brian Davies**

Brian Davies says it is looking optimistic that we have enough candidates for a Tour Leader Certification program beginning this year with general courses and ending next year with a two weekend finale and Mountain Tour. . The lower limit to run the course is 5 and the upper manageable limit is 8 so sign up soon. The first year involves a series of courses listed below. Even if you are not interested in the Tour Leader Level I Certification you are still welcome to attend any of the courses usually at a cost of \$5.00/ night. The \$5.00 is due when you sign up for the course with Brian or any member of the executive. The courses **likely** offered this year are:

- **Telemarking Level I and II** **Level I** teaches you a technique for going downhill on cross country skis and is usually done at the Canyon Ski Hill. **Level II** continues at a resort in the mountains where a professional instructor will teach you to link multiple turns and go down progressively steep terrain with confidence
- **Repair and Maintenance of Ski Equipment** This course offers some tips for emergency repairing of skis and equipment in the backcountry and what to bring on tours as a repair kit
- **Map and Compass**, This course provides you with the basics needed to use a compass and read a topographical map
- **Global Positioning System** An introduction to the features and use of a GPS
- **Gob Positioning** How to spit without getting it on your skis or powder suit
- **Avalanche Transceiver Level I and II** Level I is usually done in one evening in town while Level II is often done in the mountains. This is a very valuable skill to practice and perfect each year no matter what your experience level is.
- **Emergency Snow Shelter, Winter Camping** The first course is usually run in town and reviews the basics of a variety of snow shelters. A quinzee may be built if there is enough snow. The second course , usually in the mountains, teaches you to build a snow shelter (usually a group snow cave) and give you an opportunity to sleep in it.
- **Peeing in your Powder Suit.** What to do when the zipper jams on your zoot suit.
- **Waxing and Climbing Skins** Preparing your skis and an introduction to some popular wax systems and how to buy and maintain climbing skins
- **Standard First Aid** Completed as a group or separately. Required for tour leaders.

Day Trips

Call Pam at 342-2206 if you have a day trip you want to lead

Dec 12, 2004	Crimson Lake	leader Don Wales	call 343-2937
Jan 16, 2005	Lacombe Golf Course	leader Barb Coulter	call 346-7096
Feb 6, 2005	Blackfoot Trails	leader Don Wales	call 346-7096
Feb. 13, 2005	River Bend Trails	leader Steve Davies	call 342-6473
Feb 21, 2005	Innisfail Trails	leader Brian and Carol	call 227-4409
March 6, 2005	Spruce View Trails	leader Patrick Gleason	call 227-1164



“ Two antennas meet on a roof, fall in love, and get married. The ceremony wasn’t much but the reception was excellent.”

Prof. Lipstand



The Remembrance Day Dash by Nod Selaw

So how do you lose 5 ski tourers on the first trip of the year with no snow ? Well it takes about 2 minutes but more about that later.

The annual “Dash” usually occurs on Nov. 11 when ever it falls and usually involves some complete idiots, a brutally early start, a ski (using the term loosely) and followed by an exhausting ride home. For the last few years we have centered out of lovely Shunda Creek Hostel with its comfortable common room and outdoor hot tub. This year we attracted a whole 13 skiers but that is an unlucky number, which is why we had to loose 5 to drop the attendance down to a luckier and more acceptable number of 8 Saturday we left the hostel early in search of the illusive white stuff (not cocaine you druggies!). Sally and her “girls” decided to do a little off-road quading when her car rolled over the edge of the parking lot and down an embankment. The Parkers Ridge is the highest point on the Banff/Jasper Parkway and generally has snow but not this year. It was a walk up to Wilcox Pass with only 3 diehards carrying their skis. Surprisingly, it was possible to link snow patches all the way up the Wilcox ridge with its spectacular view of the completely snow free Athabasca Glacier. Co-leader Dick Pawloff returned early with half the group. The trip leader “whose name will remain unspoken” skied two minutes down the trail and waited, and waited, and waited. Meanwhile Karen and Marie in a heated discussion over a variety of social

issues,,failed to notice the 18+ boot tracks in the up trail and decided to follow the hoof prints of a band of Bighorn sheep. The other three also engaged in discussion followed. Meanwhile “he whose name shall not be spoken” climbed back up to last seen position and notice 5 lost souls on the horizon heading in a less than desirable direction, probably never to be seen again. The leader recognizing his disgrace attempted to slash his wrists with the metal edges of his skis only to find he brought his edgeless skis. He wasn’t any more successful falling onto the pointy ends of his ski pole either The long and the short of it (Jane was the long and Marie was the short) the lost group were given direction back to the trailhead by that same friendly band of Bighorns. Back at Shunda we had the usual spectacular supper. Some chose to brave the hot tub or “primordial soup” as Frank calls it. Actually it is well maintained and very relaxing.

Sunday morning there was not much enthusiasm for a return drive to the BJ highway so a closer option was a pleasant climb up to the south peak of Mt Coliseum in overcast conditions. Skiking at its finest.

*“I went to buy some
camouflage trousers the
other day but I couldn’t
find any”*

Prof. Lipstand

Photos in this issue:

Page 1 The view from Scott Duncan Hut on the Wapta Traverse.

Page 2 A lone skier pulks toward the Olive Nicolas Col with Vulture Col in background

Page 6 Helen Lake with Mt Hector in the background

- Dick is requesting photos for the Web site of all the trips we do this year. Scan them and send to dpawloff@telusplanet.net or drop off photos with him at the meeting for scanning. Include a caption and the first names only of the club members in the photo.

Ski Shorts



For Sale

- **Asnes Backcountry Skis**– metal edges, 190 cm, cable bindings, used once. Call Dianne R. @343-3377
-
- **Salomon Boots**, Ladies size 5, boots have plastic ankle attachment for ski skating or without it can be used for classical. Asking \$100.00 call Linda @ 342-2862
-
- **Winter Tires** for safe winter driving. 4 Bridgestone Blizzaks with rims 185/75R14. Tires good for 2 more winters according to Kal Tire Asking \$230.00 Call Linda @342-2862
- **For sale** One deer caressed Toyota bumper, hood ,headlight, fender, and driver side door (sorry to hear about that)

Announcements

- **Alberta 55 Plus Winter Games** Ruby Meunier is looking for chronologically challenged cross country ski racers to enter the Zone #4 **Alberta 55 Plus Winter Games Zone Tryouts** on **Jan 11, 2005** starting at 10:00 am at Heritage Ranch There is no charge and lunch will be available. Final date for registration is **Jan 8/05** and to register call Ruby at (403) 343-1058. All entering must have a 2005 A.S.C.S.A membership card at a cost of \$15.00. Age groups are 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, and 70+ for men and ladies. Skiing is Classical and the date of the **Alberta Seniors Winter Games** is **Feb. 23-25/05** in Edmonton. Skiing distances are 5 km, 12.5km and a relay. Cost to participant for the 3 days of competition which includes accommodation, meals, opening and closing ceremonies and transportation is \$80.00.
- **Ski Lessons** The ski club will again be offering ski lessons for club members and the general public beginning at 6:30– 8: 00pm at the Great Chief Park Football Field Four lessons are offered at a cost of \$35.00. to cover the cost of the stadium lights , heated change rooms, and ski waxes. Lessons begin on Tuesday, Jan 11, and run on Thur. Jan. 13, Tuesday, Jan. 18. and Thursday Jan 20, . Call **Pam Ralston** at **342– 2206** for more information. Registration is at the Recreation Center and application forms will hopefully be available at the next ski meeting. Learn efficient classical style skiing with a brief introduction to ski skating, some basic downhill and uphill techniques, and waxing.



*“A dyslexic man walks
into a bra”*

Prof. Lipstand

PARKLAND CROSS
COUNTRY SKI CLUB

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*The mission of the
Parkland Ski Club is to
impeach the Club's
Purple President Pat for
botching the snow order
this year opps! I mean to
enjoy, enhance, facilitate,
and promote cross country
skiing.*

Ski Shorts (Continued)

- Not much improvement in Prof. Lipstand's quotes
- **Wolf Howl** What is a Wolf Howl. After the Dec. 13 meeting we gather at the Old Woodlea Ski Hill across from Lindsay Thurber High School with skis or any type of sliding contraption. There will be a warming fire and Carol and Brian will have hot drinks and goodies. Dress for the weather and pray for snow.
- Contact Brian Davies to register for tour leaders only **Avalanche Certification Weekend** on Saturday and Sunday, January 15 and 16, 2005. This is impor-



tant. Call Brian soon to register by calling 227-4409

- **New Year Ski, Social, and Progressive Dinner**

On **Sunday January 2 /05** beginning at 2:00 pm at the Rotary Park parking lot we will ski along the creek and through Barrett Park to Marie's House for appetizers, then on to Pam and Don's place for main course followed by a ski through Barrett, Coronation and along the river to Dick and Connie Pawloff's for desserts and coffee. This is a **pot-luck supper** so when you phone to confirm your attendance you can tell us what you are bringing.

This event is also an opportunity to make a donation to a fund set up for Barb Spencer to help her and Mike to purchase a state of the art skiing prosthesis for when she recovers. A box to donate will be at each of the houses and there is potential to send a donation in the form of a cheque to Don Wales at 4301- 46 Ave. T4N 3M7 A receipt will be sent by return mail to confirm it was received. You definitely do not have to donate to attend the ski and progressive dinner and all donations will remain anonymous. Call Don @ 343-2937 for details and to find out what to bring. Hope to see you there. You can come for all or part of the activity and meal. Rides will be available to return you to your car.

Visit our web
site @
[www.parklandxc
skiclub.ab.ca](http://www.parklandxc
skiclub.ab.ca)