

# Snow Walkers Gazette

VOLUME 99, ISSUE 4

JANUARY, 2004

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## Message from the President

Happy New Year to you all. I wish you all health and happiness for the upcoming year. May your waxes work, your bindings stay attached to your skis, and your ski outfit match. January is the time to make all those resolutions that we can break two weeks later



My 2004 resolutions are:

- Ditch my purple powder suit and buy a pair of wool knickers.
- Avoid at all costs any Ski Club Trip with the words Spencer, Mike or Roadshow in it
- Aim for the spaces between the trees and stay out of tree holes.
- Pay attention to the Newsletter Editor's publication deadline.

Good skiing !

President Patrick

Thanks to  
**Dow Chemical**  
for  
photocopying this  
newsletter

## Parkland Ski Club General Meeting

Jan. 12, 2004

at 7:30

Kerry Wood Nature Center

Program: Heck if I Know



## Parkland Ski Club Officers for 2003-2004

President: Patrick Gleason	227-1164	pgleason@chinooksedge.ab.ca
Vice President: Mike Carley	346-2146	pcarley@telus.net
Treasurer: Claude Sam	342-2069	nsam@telusplanet.net
Secretary: Nicole Sam	342-2069	nsam@telusplanet.net
Mt. Tour Chair: Mike Spencer	346-2685	iluvused@telusplanet.net
Publicity: Karen Weisgerber	887-4028	klweisgerber@hotmail.com
Day Tours: Barb Coulter	346-7096	barlou1@telus.net
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

## Remembrance Day Dash by “Snorin” John Dickin

*“Health nuts are going to  
feel stupid someday, lying  
in hospitals dying of  
nothing.”  
Prof. Lipstand*

Of course I’m late doing this trip report! I was “volunteered” against my will. I am also lazy and put things off but that is another matter altogether. If anybody wants to share their feelings about this, TO BAD!



The November Dash was enjoyed by the Mike and Barb, Karen , Bob, Frank, Don and Marie, and myself. We arrived at the Shunda Creek hostel Friday night, and after settling in, we had an evening drink and snack in

the kitchen. Three hunters were staying in the hostel and after some of us made fun of them referring to deer as 5 by 4’s, and 6 by 7’s, the number of points on their antlers, they left next morning not to return. They were also asked if it was safe for skiers to be out skiing around Nordegg considering it was hunting season. They said not likely. (What else would be the answer after making light of their antler description methods? Duh!)

Saturday, we drove to the trailhead to Sunset Pass. Though there was a reasonable amount of snow in the Nordegg area, the trail head was pretty bare. Mike and Don carried their skis up to the pass while the rest of us hiked. The pass was beautiful and had plenty of snow to ski. It was less enjoyable walking, but nevertheless, not impassible. We only went about half way across the pass

(continued on page 5)

## Ski Course Update by Mike

The course below is scheduled to run. Please call Mike Carley at 346-2146 to register, or see me at the general meeting. Check the list below for courses that may be of interest to you and sign up soon so that the course is not cancelled due to lack of enrolment. Note that the cost is an unbelievably low \$5 per night. Please try to pre-pay if possible, as we do need to pay for the classroom use.



**Avalanche Transceivers Level 1 – Jan 19 at 7:30:** An evening reviewing the various transceivers that the club owns, as well as time to use them. We will spend about half our time inside and half outside, so dress warmly. Will cover the use of the new Tracker beacons!! Location – at the Carley house. Call 346-2146 for directions

There has been good interest in a GPS course; we will be scheduling a date for it shortly.

### January 2004 Course Offerings

Some courses offered include: , Telemarking Level I and II, , Mountain Weather, , 101 Ways to Break your Skis, Repair and Maintenance of Ski Equipment,, Map and Compass, Crevasse Self Rescue, Avalanche Transceiver Level I and II, Filing an Environmental Impact Statement for your Lifa Underwear ,Emergency Snow Shelter, , Global Positioning System, Locating your dropped GPS on the Columbia Icefields, Winter Camping, Standard First Aid and Sub-standard First Aid

*“Health is merely the  
slowest possible rate at  
which one can die”*

*Prof. Lipstand*

### Ski Trail Report as of Friday , January 2, 2004

- **Barrett Park.** Track set loop around the park is not too bad
- **Heritage Ranch** Mark and Dale have again done their magic with so little snow with good tracks around Great Chief Park , fair to good tracks along the river but very good all the way up to the Ranch buildings
- **River Bend** No classical track reported but presumably ski skate-able
- **College/Bower Trails.** No track setting as yet
- **Jarvis Bay** Still the best snow in the Red Deer vicinity. Tracks have been obliterated by walkers but it is still a fun ski. This is a beautiful set of trails through a lovely aspen forest.
- **Bearberry** Lots of snow fell in the area and great potential but the trails were a disaster. Phone them before you go to check the ski conditions because we got hosed for \$10.00 for abominable conditions. This area can be great but new owners are not paying attention to ski grooming details.



## A Tribute to the Beauty Creek Ski Trip by Susan Taylor

Bobby was our fearless guide,  
Protecting we skiers from many a snow slide.  
We coped with the cold,  
In our "real" hostel abode,  
Not a temper did rise, nor a person collide.

Many a critter we saw in the wild,  
Flying squirrels, white tail deer and ptarmigan trying to hide.  
Big moose tracks on the trail,  
Mountain sheep we did hail,  
Poboktan Creek's beauty was great, none denied.

The telemark turns were few on this trip,  
But the music did ring, and the wine we did sip.  
Boundary Lake was quite stable,  
So Mike assured the fearful,  
But once across, from our skis, built up ice we did chip.

The crew was a small one, strong and fit, no one lame,  
Judy's back at it, Frank's here once again.  
Karen, Barb and Susan were raring to go,  
Carol, Brian and Tima all loved the snow.  
And thanks for the great trip, we're all glad we came.

*"All of us could take a  
lesson from the weather.  
It pays no attention to  
criticism."*

*Prof. Lipstand*

## Egypt Lake Christmas Blow-out by Ekim Rust-nutts

Alas, all was not well in the land of Mordor...I mean Red Deer, when we learned that 25% of our group had suddenly and inexplicably come down with some unknown disease. First it was Action Woman which was struck down by this insidious curse and became... as the dwarf known as Forgetful (aka Donnie Wails) would later say, "not a very nice person when she's sick". Next and even more unbelievable was Arnie Swartsnigers young Austrian niece Cordula succumbing to the same deadly flusyness. So the eight companions of the Ring... I mean the turkey, are now six. It was to be Xmas at Egypt Lake hut.

Arriving at Castle Mountain we were quite surprised to find that Tony the house parent was now calling himself Susan and had completed one of those TV Plastic surgery makeovers. Quite and improvement it was!! But alas it was Gollum playing the trickster, fooling us again as later in the evening the real Tony arrived. But enough of the lord of the Rings. On with the report.

Trip leader, Forgetful, herded the rest of the dwarves out the door and to the Sunshine Parking lot by 9:00. Only to discover that he had forgotten the Tur-

## Remembrance Day Dash Continued.....

before turning around and going back to a good spot to have lunch.

Sunday, we skied Snow Creek. It lived up to its name. Reasonably good trail and snow for the beginning of the year except for the steeper sections – a real boulder-scape. Most of us picked our way along the edge where Mike went straight down the middle. The trail was all in the trees, at least until next year. The area was marked for logging.

### Highlights

**Saturday night total eclipse of the moon.** I was rudely woken up when someone pointed this out on the way home from Sunset pass.

**The thirty or so U of A outdoor club members that were there Saturday Night.** I am ashamed by the behavior of the other male members or our group around these younger hostellers of the opposite sex. I am sure the regular trips to check out the progress of the moon eclipse were just an excuse to check out the action in the hot tub.

**Karen being caught with her pant zipper down.** At the start of the Snow Creek trip, Karen's zipper down the outside of her pant leg had split. Mike's (cheap thrill) solution was to zip it all the way down then back up. It unzipped great but would not zip up easily, or so Mike said. Eventually it was fixed.

**Great food Saturday Night prepared and served by everyone** Great Trip, Great Company and Great Food. We should stay at Shunda more often. In closing, I would like to bring up one unfortunate thing. Some people, who shall remain nameless, said that there was a lot of snoring in our room. Whenever I was awake, I didn't hear a thing. Vicious Rumors like this can be very hurtful. I hope those involved think about their actions and check their behavior for the next trip.

*“An unbreakable toy is  
useful for breaking other  
toys”*

*Prof. Lip stand*

## Day Tour Schedule by Barb Coulter

If you are interested in leading a tour please contact **Barb at 346-7096** or e-mail [barlou1@telus.net](mailto:barlou1@telus.net). If you are interested in going on a tour, please call the tour leader for details; not Barb. Here is the preliminary schedule:

- Feb 8 Bearberry Ski Trails Call Don Wales at 343-2937
- Feb 15 Innisfail Call Brian Davies at 227-4409
- Feb. 29 Raven/ Kevisville Trails Call Patrick Gleason at 227-1164
- March 7 Destination TBA Barb Coulter phone 346-7096
- March 14 Sylvan Lake Ski Skate Call Bob J. at 346-8775
- March 28 Pine Lake Ski Skate Call Bob J. at 346-8775



## Bored of the Rings yet ?....more from Egypt Lakes

key for tonight's sumptuous Xmas celebration dinner at the hostel, twice. Even after sneezy had reminded him. So Forgetful had the privilege of driving back to the Hostel while the rest of us raced ahead to try and get to the Hut early and get the pick of the choice sleeping platforms. Unfortunately Forgetful was able to make it to the Hostel on 2 wheels, pick up the door stop turkey and race up the trail quick enough to catch us before the first avalanche slope. Man he's fast, but then we had to break trail all the way too! Snow conditions are excellent with roughly 3 feet of snow and no apparent buried layers and a nice fluffy top layer. The route down to the Hut from Healy pass was by memory so we only had to do a couple extra miles following Don thru the trees before we stumbled onto the trail. Arriving at the Hut we were pleasantly surprised to find a nice pile of chopped wood and kin-



The author on a good day

dling. Snow White went to work and turned it into a roaring fire without even using all of the 5 gallons (oh sorry, I keep forgetting you metric types don't have a clue what a gallon is, That'd be a million milliliters or so) of regular unleaded fuel that was left in the snowmobile Don was driving.

*"Never argue with an idiot. They drag you down to their level then beat you with experience"*  
Prof. Lipstand

Dinner of course was fantastic. Starting with a shrimp ring and sauce. Then cheese balls a la crackers. Main Course was forgotten turkey, with Mashed Potatoes, Fresh Cranberries (especially good for the prostate with all the old geezers along), Veggie salad and another one that had bean a salad, and dressing. Absolutely wonderful! All topped off by 2 different cheesecakes supplied by Arnies niece (and carried by Brian, son of Claude Sam). And as if that wasn't enough all washed down by ....You guessed it!! Baby Duck! Brian, Son of Sam, helped us settle it all down with instant coffee and Baileys. Now all this feasting took until almost eight o'clock and we had no dishes to wash, so what to do.....?

Just then we heard the tiny pawing of hooves on the roof thru the 3 feet of snow and down the chimney came OLD St Nick. At least he hadn't forgotten the Red hat, wig and beard Ah yes the annual gift exchange was about to begin. Gifts varied from a real nice Farside calendar (I know they are all repeats, but who can remember anything that dumb) to a beginners pervert kit complete with the pant legs, instructions for wearing, and string to keep them in place (trench coat not supplied). Oh I forgot to mention there was a couple of guests arrived and as is



Mt. Daly on the Wapta Traverse

keeping with the friendliness of our club we let them open the beginners pervert kit. (Ask Gassy, aka ekim to see the video). And of course in the middle of the range of gifts was a wonderfully orgasmic keychain. Ekim got to take it home so you know it's going to show up again this year!!

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## Egypt Lake Pack of Lies (continued)

As is the same with every trip with Forgetful and Sneezzy along the Nightly contest of the most trips to the can in the middle of the night was held. Sneezzy won hands down, so to speak with a grand total of 4. Nicely done Sneezzy. Another newer contest we played this year was, Who can go the weekend without getting crippling blisters. This years winner was an upstart Dwarf by the name of Doc (aka da prez pat, or should I say the precipitously principally purple prez Pat).

The ski out proved to be everything we expected. Steep, Fast and twisty. It's really nice to do this trip with no rocks or roots exposed and a nice soft landing area beside the trail.

Dinner was fine dining in Banff at Melissa's Missteak. And I have to say that it looked like a few people had worked up a healthy appetite. Snow White definitely won that contest.

**What a great trip to end 2003 with and an even finer bunch of Dwarves etc to do it with.**

## Powder Suits Revisited by Prof. Lipstand

Great progress has been made over the last few years weaning members of the PARKLAND SKI Club from their dependency on climbing skins through the Lipstand 12 Step "Skins to Wax" Program.

Less successful is the push to pry club members out of their powder suits which by the way, may not be a pretty sight.

These multi-colored zoot suits worn by some of the less enlightened members of the ski club are beginning to disintegrate due to high levels of ozone and ultraviolet radiation. This may be a good thing . Rumor has it that these skiers are buck naked under these suits. Who knows what will tumble out if one of the over 20 or so zippers on these suits fails. Several club members, notable Brian Sam and the Carley Brothers have attempted to wean themselves off this dependency by going to the farmer john look and it is hoped in time they will revert back to the staple of cross country skiing... the wool knicker. Or better still the natty miracle fiber grey pant and yellow fleece sported by Bobby Johnstone who has, of late, been on the fashion cutting edge . Bobby the way, is recovering nicely from the lacerations he received while on the cutting edge. Unfortunately, in what is being viewed as a giant step backwards our precipitously principled pulchritudinous president Patrick has been seen on at least two trips this year purposefully pandering to a preposterous purple powder-suit Is this grounds for impeachment ?



Pulked and Powder-suited  
pansies pose

*"My reality cheque*

*bounced"*

*Prof. Lipstand*

# Red Deer Loppet by Race Organizer Bob Johnstone

Saturday Feb. 7, 2004 River Bend Recreation Area

## PARKLAND CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB

P.O. Box 21014,  
R.P.O. Bower Place,  
Red Deer, T4N 2M1

Phone: 343-2937  
e-mail: donmarie@telusplanet.net

*The mission of the  
Parkland Ski Club is to,  
in the absence of snow ,  
to take up another  
sport....oops!...I mean to  
enjoy, enhance, facilitate,  
and promote cross country  
skiing.*

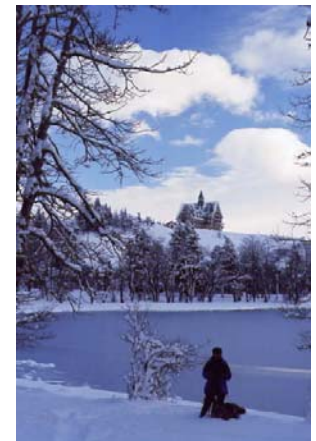
Cross country skiing is enjoyed in many ways and this community event organized by the club provides a loppet experience for those individuals and families to enjoy. It is said that loppet means a coming together. It is a race for every one with the emphasis on having fun. There are those who want to win their category, those who have no intention of winning but want to challenge themselves and those who want to go out and have a nice tour. So loppeters can choose to ski at what ever speed they desire. If one is not in good physical shape simply choose to ski at a slower pace, there will be others that you can chat with. Our event is free technique meaning that you can choose to skate ski or classic track ski. Most choose skating as this is fastest. The distances are 3& 5 km for jackrabbits, 5,10,20, and 30 km for adults, lots of distance to choose from.

For those of you not entering the loppet, you can still play a part by being a volunteer. There are many positions to help out such as registrations, timing, course controllers [those out on the trails marking each skier's bib number and cheering them on], assisting results calculations, start/finish area preparation, and refreshments provision. We will have a concession selling delicious chilli with bun, sweets, and coffee. All volunteers can have coffee, orange drink through the day and chilli with bun any time. We hope to have four students from RDC help out in some key positions to give them some experience. One help out in the morning, afternoon or preferably both. The loppet ends mid afternoon. Those not able to help out on Loppet day could help before, make some chilli, or cookies. Chilli costs will be reimbursed. A sign up sheet will be passed around at the club meeting and all others not there will be phoned. Volunteers have their own separate draw for prizes. Any questions call Bob Johnstone 346 8775.

## Mountain Tours

Our most excellent tour Chairperson Mike suggests you sign up soon for tours in the New Year as they are filling up fast. For a more extensive list of tours click on the mountain tour button on the Ski Club Web Site.

- **Banff Boundary Condo Fantastic Fondue Foray-** (Jan 16- 17, 04) contact Marilyn Strilchuk at 347- 8494 At last count this trip was approaching capacity. (beginner and open trip for \$20.00/ night)
- **Spencer Road Show** (Jan 30-31, 04) contact trip leader Barb Spencer at 346-2685 This trip is also filling up due to the morbid curiosity as to what Mike will do to us next. (open for \$18.00/ night)
- **Sask. Glacier Toe** (Feb 6-7,04) contact Carol Lindner at 227-4409 (open at \$18.00/ night)
- **Little Yoho Valley- Stanley Mitchel Hut** (Feb 13-16) contact Brian Sam at (403) 2869396 (advanced trip at a cost of \$19.50 / night)
- **Banff Hostel/ Goat Creek Trip** ( Feb 20-21, 04) contact Marilyn Strilchuk at 347-8494 (Beginner trip at a cost of \$25.50 / night)
- 



**Check our  
web site  
at  
www.parklan  
dxcskiclub.ab  
.ca**