

Lakewood Cross Country Ski Club

Lakewood Cross Country Ski Club
P.O. Box 91
Lakewood, WI 54138



Fall Trail Clean Up—Volunteers Needed! Sat. Oct. 1,8,15



Fall Meeting Scheduled:
Saturday, October 8
2:00
McCauslin Brook Country Club

Every fall a small group of volunteers head out to the ski trails to begin the process of cleaning up our trails in preparation for the ski season. Fallen trees, branches, and brush are cut up and removed on every kilometer of our extensive trail system to enable our grooming team to safely groom our trails and insure a pleasant ski experience for you. This is an important job and volunteers are needed. We will more than likely be working all three of the weekends listed above, so feel free to join us for a few hours of outdoor work that will truly make a difference when the snow starts to fall! As a bonus, these work weekends usually correspond with the peak of the fall color so you'll have an opportunity to enjoy our trails during another beautiful season. The more volunteers we have, the faster the job will be accomplished — we have over 40K of trails to check and clear. Call Terry Van Hoof (920) 727-9956, VP of Trails and sign up to work one or all of these weekends. Plan on meeting at the McCauslin Brook Golf Course at 9:00 a.m. Saturday October 1, 8 and 15.

Message from the President...

Dear Lakewood Skiers:

During summer and fall months, while your mind is furthest from skiing, there are some issues regarding the ski club to consider. At our spring meeting the club decided to negotiate a lease with McCauslin Brook Golf Course for storage of the grooming equipment, and other club owned equipment, in one of McCauslin Brook Golf Course's pole buildings. This will cost the club more money than we spent previously. However, we have no other good options for storage. Having a single, convenient, secure storage location will be an improvement. The drawback is that we will have to budget more money for this.

Frequently I receive suggested improvements the club should make on the trail. For instance, it was suggested at the last meeting that we mow the trail more frequently during the summer in order to eliminate "stubble" that sticks through the snow during early ski season. This would also have an additional benefit of improving mountain bike opportunities during the no snow period. This would cost the club money. We can either get by with what we have (not make improvements), or find a way to make more money. There was discussion at the spring meeting, and informally afterwards, that perhaps we need to get this money, either from our members, and/or from others who use the trail.

As I see it we have three choices:

1. We could leave things as they are now. After paying for the groomer storage we could get by for some time, probably as long as our groomers hold out (perhaps another 15 years). However, if we have a breakdown of either of the groomers we would have to dip into our savings (approximately \$15000). This would delay or eliminate future grooming equipment purchases. Also we would be hard pressed to add to our grooming replacement fund. With newer, more versatile, faster, more economical, grooming equipment coming on the market all the time we would be missing the boat if we failed to keep abreast.
2. We could raise our annual dues. Some people tell me that \$25 for a single membership is too low. This might be a hardship on some members, or might discourage some who are considering joining the club.
3. We could more aggressively pursue donations. This would allow members to donate as they are able. It was through donations in the early 90's that the Club came up with a substantial down payment on our Pisten Bully (which is now paid off). Those who would like to donate more but couldn't afford to would always have the option of volunteering in one way or another to serve the ski club. If we chose to go this way, we need to "sound the call" to all members of our need. *(continued on back page)*

(cont) Message from the President...

A factor which may lead the club in this direction is that after applying two years ago for 501 (c) (3) tax exempt status, we were finally approved by the IRS, and we are now tax exempt. This was done with the help of ski club members Tom Fredricks and Tim Rasman. There are several good implications of this.

- ☐ Now you can donate to the ski club directly and deduct the amount from your income taxes as a charitable contribution. Before, we were able to do this through the Helen Swain Memorial Fund. This fund was set up through Oconto County Forestry Department as a means for tax deductible donations by club members. However, it was controlled by the County and cumbersome to work with.
- ☐ Vehicle mileage for ski trail or club work can be deducted from your taxes, as well as other expenses incurred for ski club activities.
- ☐ Stocks or other equities can be donated to the club thereby exempting the sale from capital gains tax.

Going to the membership for more money in any form is not something I would do lightly. This topic will be considered at our fall meeting (scheduled for 2:00 Saturday October 8) If you have thoughts on raising more money either come to the meeting or let me know what direction you think the club should go.

Fred Axelrod

President – Lakewood XC Ski Club

Minutes of April 30, 2005 Annual Meeting

The meeting was called to order Saturday, April 30 at 3 p.m. at McCauslin Brook Country Club.

Minutes were read by club secretary Jody Korch. A motion by Tim Klima was seconded by Paul Romenesko and was approved unanimously.

Treasurers report: Lea Peot reported that the club earned \$800 in donations in the last fiscal year. Currently, the club's checking account has a balance of \$14,641. A 90-day certificate of deposit in the amount of \$5,000, plus interest, will expire soon.

Lee Splitter billed the club \$490 to plow the Old 32 parking lot last winter. The fee is based on how many inches of snow falls.

The club pays a fee of \$100 per month to the golf course for groomer storage during the winter. A groomer or equipment replacement fund has been set up by using about one-third of the club's profits. Club president Fred Axelrod said the fund shouldn't be discretionary and should be used for emergencies only. Lloyd Lundwall said the club has been fortunate to not have any major expenses on its piston bully groomer.

Peot was instructed to find the best deal on a CD. A motion to establish a maintenance capital improvement fund in the amount of \$5,000 and that all interest generated stays in that account. A motion by Klima to roll money over from the current CD into another CD was seconded by Bill Moore and approved unanimously.

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was unanimously approved. Peot reported that the club's groomer cellphone is hopelessly outdated. The cost to maintain it is \$24 per month. Lundwall says the cellphone is no longer used. A motion by Sandy Moore to end cellphone service was seconded by Klima and approved unanimously.

Membership report:

Sandy Moore reported that the club membership is holding steady. Peot reported that \$4,000 was budgeted last year for membership dues, and the club received \$4,734, not including extra donations. Club membership has rebounded from the bad snow years. Moore said about three-fourths of the club members want membership tags. They will be mailed out again this year.

Equipment and grooming report:

Lloyd Lundwall said groomers put 316 miles on the Skandic last winter and about 190 the previous winter. The club bought 100 gallons of gas for its tank and used 88 gallons. A new battery was installed in the Skandic. Last winter, the piston bully was used 10 times and was run for 69 hours. The average time needed to groom the entire trail with the piston bully is 7 1/2 hours. Dick Langer said the club is approaching the time at which it will have some issues with the piston bully groomer, which has been operated for 1,160 hours in its 12-year history. Lundwall and Langer will take a trip to the ABR ski trails near Ironwood, Mich., to see their equipment and get ideas. They will see what's available and come back with recommendations. An amount of \$300 per person will be budgeted for groomer training. The club offers special thanks to Langer, Lundwall, Dave Steffens, Tim and Tony Klima, Dale Keller and Romenesko for their efforts on March 19 in preparing the groomers for summer storage. A motion to accept the equipment and grooming report was made by Klima and was unanimously approved.

Business Membership Report:

Dick and Celeste Hein will make a new trail map next year.

Other Business:

The club hasn't had a chairperson for its **hole-in-one events** for three years. In 2004, the club earned \$1,300 from the hole-in-one events. Hole-in-one events are held Saturday and Sunday on the weekends of Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day, and Monday is left open in case of rain.

Shirley Bubolz reported that positive feedback was received from the **Feb. 5 ski social event**. Donations minus expenses totaled \$60. Shirley agreed to do it again next year. A Motion to hold the social again this year and have Shirley Bubolz serve as chairperson was made by Sandy Moore and seconded by Tim Klima. It was approved unanimously. The **club website** hasn't changed since March 2004. Kevin Clancy, who previously ran it, is too busy. Other ski club members are willing to run the site if they are shown how.

New building proposal: The golf course is offering the rental of a small hanger at an annual cost of \$6,000. They may be willing to split it in half and rent for \$3,000. Axelrod has checked on the availability and price of storage space elsewhere. The club currently stores the piston bully, Skandic, tools, signs and other miscellaneous items in a hangar. A motion was made by Romenesko to have Axelrod negotiate with the golf course for renting half of the hangar space at a negotiated price. Langer seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Axelrod asked whether to pursue the possibility of constructing a combination warming hut/equipment storage building. He talked to the U.S. Forest Service, which expressed no opposition to it. Brian Fish, the Wisconsin-Green Bay cross country coach, and club member Tim Raseman would be willing to discuss building options. Issues include opening/closing, cleaning, maintenance, heating, etc. They will seek input from club members.

Old business:

Axelrod reported that the club's **501(C)(3) tax exempt status** application was granted by the Internal Revenue Service. The club now officially has tax-exempt status, so any expenses and donations to the club are tax-deductible. The new 501C3 status will be mentioned on club newsletters, maps and the website.

Election of officers was held for the 2005-106 fiscal year. Officers include: Axelrod, president; Peot, treasurer; Korch, secretary; Sandy Moore, membership chair, Lundwall, equipment and grooming chair; business and solicitation, Dick and Celeste Hein.

A motion to approve the officers was made by Langer, seconded by Tim Klima and was approved unanimously.

2005-06 budget:

Peot anticipates income of about \$13,000 from business map ads, \$3,000 from business maps, \$4,000 from membership, \$1,000 for donations, \$1,000 from tubes, and \$1,200 from hole-in-one events. Projected expenses for the year are about the same as projected income.

Klima made a proposal to mow the club trails three times per year. The Oconto County Forestry Department cuts the trails once in October. Klima says the only way to eliminate stubble problems on the trails is to mow in June and August.

Axelrod will inquire about the cost of having Oconto County mow twice more per year to eliminate woody material. The U.S. Forest Service promotes the Lakewood trail as a hiking and biking trail.

A motion to adjourn was made by Bill Moore, seconded by Shirley, and approved at 5:20 p.m.

Your Membership is Important!

Your membership in the Lakewood Cross Country Ski Club is more important than ever! We had a wonderful ski season last year but low snow fall in previous winters reduced the number of members who renewed their support for the club.

We sincerely hope that we have a wonderful, snow filled winter again this year, but there is nothing we can do to guarantee that. We can guarantee that WHEN the snow does fall, our team of volunteer groomers will be ready to attack the trails and prepare them for your skiing fun! We can also guarantee that our many wonderful volunteers will continue to raise money for the club, organize a great ski race and conduct all of the "business" necessary to keep this club floating while we are waiting for snow!

Soooo... please, do your part — renew your membership early — don't wait for the first snowfall or the first time you hit the ski trails in Lakewood. Membership dollars are one of the constants we count on when we plan our club budget. Your membership is important and it is appreciated!

**Watch your mail for your
membership renewal letter.**