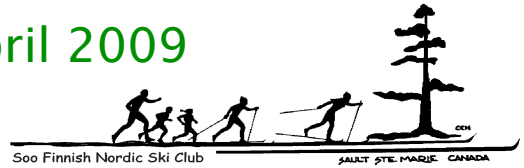


# CLUB NEWS

April 2009



## Year-end Summary

**Soo Finnish Nordic Ski Club** had a very successful year. Beginning with club activities, here is a summary of the highlights:

- We had a bumper crop of Jackrabbits. Enrolment was up 35% over last year, with 135 Jackrabbits. On a related note, during the Ontario Midget Championships, the group photo of our Jackrabbits, posted in the Kin Centre, drew a steady stream of members from other clubs who invariably would stand slack-jawed expressing their amazement that our Jackrabbit program is really that big!
- Beginning in mid-December, the Senior Race Team attended 4 Ontario Cup races (Dunroon, North Bay, Gatineau, and Thunder Bay). Our skiers raced so well that by season's end **Andrew Barbeau** and **Catherine Mallinger** qualified for the Ontario Development Team, and **Jack Carlyle** made the Ontario Team.
- For the Junior Race Team, the highlight of the year was the Ontario Midget Championships, hosted by our club at the end of February. Over 100 of Ontario's best Nordic athletes aged 13 and under participated at this event. From our club, **Liam Ortiz** earned a silver medal and **Audrey Steele** a bronze in the classic event. **Josiah Reinke** and **Erika Mihell** won awards for best technique in their category, with **Liam** receiving a special mention. "During the lead up time and at the weekend event, many volunteers from our club gave of their valuable time. Our club hosted an exceptional event and banquet that people will talk about for some time and I am proud to say that the countless volunteers are the reason this club prospers in many ways. I am so proud to be part of this volunteer group and would like you to become involved." **Kevin Hogan** Chief of Competition
- Club members took part in a variety of activities, beginning in September with the Trail Trot, and including two Lantern Skis, Family Day, the Mabel Lake Tour, the Pasta Supper, Ladies and Lamps, and Fun Day. Our events coordinator, **Jennifer McFarling**, would like to thank the numerous volunteers who helped her this year to put on so many awesome events. "One hour or many hours - it all adds up to enabling the club to exist."

On the operations side, there were a number of significant events and milestones:

- The widening of the Red Pine trail by club volunteers, enabling grooming by the Pisten Bully and skating. This trail quickly turned into almost everybody's favourite.
- The Pisten Bully groomer, bought in 06/07 for \$184,000, was paid off by mid-March of this year.
- At the beginning of this year, the club retired its Skandic 500 snowmobile and replaced it with a new Yamaha 2009 VK Pro snowmobile.
- Total revenue numbers are up 13% compared to last year. The number of people skiing at Hiawatha Highlands has increased steadily since the club took over operations in 2006/2007.

All this growth is great, but we are now starting to out-grow the Kin Centre! To put things in perspective, although we have 135 children enrolled in our Jackrabbit program, there is only enough room to seat 64 people in the Kin Centre. Therefore, the club is currently proceeding towards the construction of a new 4,000sf day lodge to be erected on club property where the tennis courts are currently situated. We have applied for Federal Economic Stimulus funding of \$600,000. There will be a council meeting on April 8th, to discuss all of the applications.

-Jim Mihell, VP Programs

**Let's celebrate our fabulous Ski Season at the  
Annual Awards Banquet  
Saturday April 4 - Algoma's Water Tower Inn  
5-6 PM Jackrabbit booklet/distance badge pickup  
6 PM Dinner  
Tickets free for children in ski programs  
Get tickets this weekend up at Hiawatha  
or call Laurie @ 541-9700**

## Don't forget to submit your Kilometre Count

Wed. April 1st is the deadline for submitting your kilometre count. Submit your totals to Marg at 253-6883 or [f.meinke@shaw.ca](mailto:f.meinke@shaw.ca). Prizes and gift certificates will be awarded at the Awards Banquet on Saturday in the following categories:

- Everyone who submits their kilometres will be eligible for a number of draw prizes.
- From the top 3 families, one family will receive a family club membership for next year.
- From the top 3 female skiers, one will receive a \$50 towards a trail pass for next year.
- From the top 3 male skiers, one will receive a \$50 towards a trail pass for next year.

## Race Team @ Nationals

2009 Haywood Ski Nationals, Dunroon, Ontario

When ski racers think of Nationals they think of the five-days of racing and having the chance to watch some of Canada's best athletes compete. Unfortunately, the long week of racing is also a realization that the ski season is coming to a close. This competition was a good opportunity to reflect on the great season we all had and realize that we couldn't have done it without **Trish** and **Lawrence** and the Soo Finnish club.

This year Trish and Lawrence made training all about the **Pain Bank**, so Nationals was our last chance to deposit some blood, sweat and tears. The Soo Finnish Nordic skiers who raced at the National Championship included **Hilary Mallinger, Catherine Mallinger, Francis Mallinger, Andrew Barbeau, Spencer Hogan, Jack Carlyle** and two of our alumni **Erin Mallinger** and **Matthew Cuddy**. The team competed in Interval Skate, Interval Classic, Sprint Classic, and Mass Start Skate. Everyone on the Soo Finnish team raced exceptionally well in every race!

The experience of Nationals can be overwhelming. With 600 of the best skiers in Canada, including the national team, there is no shortage of excellence. Watching world cup athletes such as Stephan Kuhn, Sean Crooks, Brent McMurtry, and Philip Widmer was truly a unique experience.

On behalf of all the racers, a big thanks to **Mr. Barbeau**. His waxing this season has been nothing short of outstanding. If it weren't for his very early morning testing, and keeping up under the stress of constantly changing snow conditions we wouldn't have been able to compete as well as we did. Also a special thanks to the **Mallingers** and the **Barbeaus** for providing rides, bananas, bagels and giving their time that made the week possible for us.

-Jack Carlyle

Note from Editors: Jack Carlyle was in fact the winningest racer this season on the Soo Finnish team. Congratulations Jack!

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Wednesday May 6th  
Bawating Library, 7pm**

- All members welcome
  - Make some decisions
  - Elect some executive members
- It's your club - be a part of it!!**