



Greetings,

We hope this letter finds all of you in good health and ready for some skiing or snowshoeing. Thank you all for your past support, as without it we could not provide the skiing and snowshoeing opportunity in this area that we all can enjoy.

Last season was a good snow year with trail packing starting at the end of November and grooming in the middle of December. Warm weather hit around the end of February so we had to stop grooming a few weeks early. As it was, we groomed 18 days for the season. A huge thanks to Tom Bennet, Rod Obermiller, Steve Baribaeu and Matt Davis for their help with the grooming. I know I've said it before, but it is a lot of work to wrestle those monster snowmobiles around with a heavy implement attached, especially when you get stuck. Another thing I should mention; as per our agreement with the Forest Service, groomers get \$15.00 (\$20.00 this year) a day for their hard work. All of them donate their allowance back to the club. Thanks guys!

The chili feed was a success again with a great turnout. Linda made the chili and I made cinnamon rolls for something different. The hot dog roast was enjoyed by a few of us on a glorious spring day. This year the Chili Feed will be held on January 30<sup>th</sup> and the Hot Dog Roast on February 20<sup>th</sup>.

We had a trail work day at Sibley this fall and did some cleanup of the trails and dug out several of the side hill areas on the main trail along Prune Creek to flatten the trail. With the packing we have done this year I can tell it has really made a difference. It would be nice if we could keep gnawing away at some of the side hill areas in the future as it really makes the trail flatter and easier to groom. I am also re-working the groomer I built a couple years ago to better blade the snow and flatten the trails. I hope to have it on the mountain for a trial run in a couple weeks.

We didn't have any major mechanical problems with any of the equipment in the past season but there is still a lot of maintenance work and minor repairs to be done to keep stuff operating. The last thing I want to do is to bring something off the mountain mid season for repair.

The Forest Service is going forward with the Johnson Creek Vegetation Management Project. The plans are to include some new loops for the Cutler Trails. It is still a year or two out on getting started but at least we should get some new trails for that area.

We had our fall meeting last month. We had an election of 6 officer and board positions. All positions were voted for retention with the exception of Treasurer. Dale Jacobson has been the club Treasurer since 2001 and he felt it was time for a change. Pete Mohseni was voted in as our new Treasurer. Thanks Dale for your service to the club for the past 8 years. We also decided to set up

a.org or .com website as our free Yahoo site has been discontinued. Tenley Spear has been managing our web site for years and she transferred it over to a free Google site: <http://sites.google.com/site/blackmtnnordic/> She does a great job with this and has not charged us for her work. It will be a while before we get the new website up and going but I'll let you know when we are on line. We are changing our mailing address to P.O. Box 593.

The club operates under a volunteer agreement with the Forest Service that reimburses us for fuel and oil for the snowmobiles, a mileage allowance for one vehicle per day of travel and \$20.00 a day per person for grooming. All costs for the equipment, maintenance, repair and grant matches are supported by the club and its generous supporters. The club currently owns and maintains (just major items) four trailers, four snowmobiles and five grooming implements. Your past and future support allows us to provide the two trail systems that we all enjoy. Attached is a membership renewal form; if you wish to receive weekly and trail updates please include your current email address.

Thank you,  
Happy Trails and Happy Holidays  
Curt Schwamb





