



News from the Fernie Nordic Society



December News

The snow is finally here and the Nordic Centre trails are groomed. All trails are open, including the trails at the golf course.

Make sure to check our facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FernieNordicSociety/> or our instagram page at <https://www.instagram.com/fernienordicsociety/> for up to date information on the trails.

We have alot happening during the next month. This coming Saturday through Monday (December 18-20) it's full moon skiing from 6 pm to 8 pm. Along with the moonlight we also hope to have a fire pit up and running. Also, starting December 18th the Kids loop will be lit every Saturday between 6 and 8 pm.

The Skills Development Program (SDP) starts up the first week of January. Sessions will run Saturday morning at 10:30 and Tuesday at 4:30 pm. Since parking is limited, we suggest you avoid these time slots if you are not involved in those sessions.

A Dedicated Volunteer

We had to confess to Rick that we did not know what the Director of Operations' responsibilities were. Rick explained this many faceted role and we are in awe of the complexity of the position and the volunteer hours that are required to fulfill the duties; all for the benefit of those of us who love to XC ski and enjoy the Nordic Centre trails.



Rick retired from the Federal government in 2014 where he held positions as a Meteorologist and Environmental Compliance Specialist. Growing up in

Manitoba, he is a born outdoor enthusiast and so Fernie is the perfect place to indulge his love of downhill skiing, Nordic skiing, mountain and fat tire biking, fishing, and everything else outdoors. By confession he is a jack of all trades.

Rick was introduced to the club seven years ago and because of his past volunteer experience building trails in Manitoba and with the Moose Mountain Trails Society in Bragg Creek, he gravitated to the volunteer position of trail maintenance with the Fernie Nordic Society. The original Nordic Centre trails were designed and built under the supervision of a Nordic trails design professional but the responsibility of ongoing maintenance has fallen to Rick and his team of club members. This means culvert installation to improve drainage (60 culverts in total), annual brushing and of course grooming in the winter. On average it takes one hour to groom the trails with the snowcat and three hours with the snowmobiles. Recently the Board of Directors hired a full time groomer who will groom from 6 to 8 am., seven days a week. This grooming will be supplemented by our two volunteer snowcat groomers and 11 other volunteer snowmobile groomers.

In addition to the job of maintaining the trails, Rick's responsibilities entail overseeing the maintenance of equipment and ensuring we have an adequate supply of fuel for the snowcat and snowmobiles. All this requires a tremendous amount of coordination and work, and Rick's stated goal is to progress to a point where volunteers will provide support to fully paid groomers and maintenance personnel.

Rick has been a dedicated volunteer all his adult life. In addition to his Nordic Society volunteer responsibilities, Rick volunteers his time to maintain the trails in Montane and Ridgemont.

While doing this interview a gust of wind suddenly knocked down two very large fir trees near the Nordic Centre stadium area. Rick happened to have all his chainsaw equipment in his truck and without hesitation he donned his equipment saying "Great, more firewood for the warming hut". Now that is a dedicated volunteer!

Race Team News



At the end of November the Fernie Nordic Racers headed to Panorama for a snow camp. The group enjoyed skiing the plateau at the top of the ski resort, along with participating in drills, games and some back country skiing. The group felt it was a fun few days and racer Cameron Etue summarized the weekend saying "It was a lot of fun and very well planned and put together. I loved being on top of the mountain with the beautiful scenery and the awesome coaches. I learned a lot of new stuff and I spend a lot of time with friends." He also added "It was great to spend time with other people outside and be able to ski as there is no snow in Fernie. I really liked it." They all thank the Toby Creek Nordic club for organizing the event.

Read the full story at <https://www.fernienordic.com/2021/12/ski-camp-at-panorama/>

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Mellow Mountain Rangers

On our Friday November 26 hike the Mellow Mountain Rangers (MMR) were all given a beautiful walking stick made by Allan Wiess (Rick's father from Manitoba). After each participant was equipped with a stick they went up Red Sonja/Phat Bastard through mud, slush and deep snow! However the all the effort was worth It as everyone was rewarded with a gorgeous view of our little town!



Now that skiing has begun, every Friday from 1 pm to 2:30 pm the MMR group will meet for a fun afternoon of skiing. This Friday, December 17th, we will meet at the golf course for an easy ski. Check our website for more up to date changes or contact micheline_fns@icloud.com.

Photo by Matthieu Corriveau



**THUNDER
BEAR
NORDIC**

Members receive 20% off waxing services and 10% off Swix Wax products when you show your membership card. To schedule our skis in for a wax, message Jeff Williams at thunderbearnordic@gmail.com



SNOW VALLEY LODGING
WHERE ADVENTURE AWAKENS

Members and racers who present their membership at check-in receive a 15% discount on rooms. The hotel offers a variety of room options with complimentary laundry, dog friendly options, hot tub and wifi.

Christmas Gift Ideas

If you are looking for Christmas gift ideas the Fernie Nordic Society has a few suggestions:

- Adult or Family Membership (\$110/\$240)
- Adult or Family day passes (\$15/\$25)
- FNS Neck Warmers (\$15)
- FNS Crest (\$10)

Please contact Micheline at micheline_fns@cloud.com to purchase any of these items.

Fundraiser with Fernie Cardlock

During the month of January Fernie Cardlock will give the Fernie Nordic Society 4 cents for each litre of fuel that is purchased with a debit card. Fernie Cardlock is located at 1592 - 9th Ave. (across from the Credit Union). Spread the word among all your friends!



Thank you Section

A big thank you to Snow Valley Lodging for their generous donation to our Nordic Race team.

This month we also thank Allan Weiss for the beautiful walking sticks he gave to the Mellow Mountain Rangers on their last hike.



Membership News

Now that the snow has been covering our trails and our groomers have been hard at work, more people are realizing it's time to purchase their membership. So far, we have 853 members. Of that number 121 are new this year.

Remember, the last chance to pick up your membership card or sticker are Monday December 20th at Mugshots or Freshies on Thursday December 23rd from 12:00 to 1:30 pm.



Mugshots Bistro

Present your FNS membership and receive 25% of any drink when you buy something to eat.

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