

Duluth XC Ski Club Minutes
Sunday, September 11, 2005
6:30 p.m.
Dunn Bros., London Road

Meeting began at 6:36 p.m.

Board members present: Eric Chandler, Brian Bich, Bryan French, Patti Harvieux, Sisto Santodonato, Paul Bartlam, Doug Olsen, Eric Viken, Anne Fluekiger.

Board members absent: Dee Bartlam, Sandy Beck

Visitors: Chad Salmela, Cory Salmela

1. August minutes approved (Bich/Chandler) unanimously.

2. Committee Reports

A. Administration

- i. All present board members were interested in continuing in their current DXC role throughout the coming season.
- ii. Welcome to new board member Anne Fluekiger as Social Director!

B. Communication

- i. Next newsletter due out 10/10. Patti is expecting: a letter from the prez. (French), kickoff info (P. Bartlam), Mystery Trail Piece (S. Engebretson), etc. If you have an item for the newsletter, please get it to Patti, ASAP!
- ii. Website has 1696 hits to date. Many people have sent emails via the website asking for info about the Kickoff.

C. Finance

- i. Balance of \$480, which is down, but we recently spent \$1,100 on hats (membership schwag), so as members renew and join, this will raise the balance again.
- ii. We will have additional insurance costs this year, due to increased membership levels (we told insurance company we expected 100 members last season and ended up with approximately 180 members).
- iii. Schmo will check on renewal dates for our club's sponsoring dues for SkinnySki and the MN Nordic Ski Assn.
- iv. Dunn Brothers Coffee announced a very generous \$1000 gift to be dedicated to the legacy of cross country skiing in Duluth. Bryan F. will send a thank you letter to Scott of Dunn Brothers.

D. Membership

- i. 16 members have rejoined or joined, for a total of 42 members this year. One brand new member.
- ii. People have been choosing a mix of the Lycra hat, the Jytte hat or both. It looks like a sure bet that we'll need to order more hats. Jytte has a 2-week turnaround to knit more hats. Dee Bartlam is contacting Hidden Bay to find out where they are with the Lycra hat order and report to the board.
- iii. Brian and Patti created a poster with a pouch to hold membership applications for us all to distribute around town. Brian will contact us individually to get those out.
- iv. Membership cards - With the increase of additional sponsors, we will not, as was done on last year's card, list the specific deal that our sponsors are offering. Instead, we will only list the sponsor and will direct members to our website for more details. Bryan F. will send the updated card to Brian B. on CD. Bich will bring to PaperHog for printing.

E. Outings

- i. A lot of planning for the Kickoff occurred.
 - a. Date is Oct. 22, from 11am to 2 pm. We considered the fact that this was MEA weekend, but decided this was still the best date.
 - b. Need people to take a lead in the following areas:
 1. Pre-event advertising/announcements
 2. Schwag
 3. Making Signs for that day
 4. Nordic Chili Cook Off - Doug Olsen
 4. Events that day
 5. Clean Up

Other people volunteered for some of the above, but I did not get their names. Contact Paul Bartlam to volunteer for a specific thing.

c. We plan to invite local retailers to set up booths at the Kickoff.

d. DXC Board members will solicit for race volunteers and input regarding skills development from club members during the Kickoff.

ii. Regular season outings format will change a bit, since last year's didn't work well. Some things for this year may include a moonlight ski, possibly with luminaries; an 'exchange' with the After Hours Ski Club of Brule, WI; and a goal of 2 club road trips this year.

F. Races

- i. Time Trials will be Wednesdays, from Dec. 7 through March 8.
 - a. The time trial format is easier for the timer, but occasional mass starts will occur, as interest is shown.
- ii. Nordic Spirit Race.
 - a. Date of February 18 approved (Chandler/Olsen). Unanimous. This is one week before the Birkebeiner. Eric V. will contact Bruce w/ SkinnySki to include this date (and time trial dates) on that race calendar.
 - b. Distances to be determined. Either keep 6k/13k or go to 12k/25k. Longer race will require more effort and collaboration with Spirit Mt., and possibly routing part of the trail through Magney and starting/ending at the Spirit Mountain's Moose Chalet, but the longer distance may be more popular for people preparing for the Birkie and may draw some elite skiers looking for a tune-up race.
- iii. Early Season Race at Spirit Mountain - unless things really fell into place, we agreed to hold off on this for now - we're just too busy at this point. Possibly consider for next year.

G. Skills Development

- i. Doug will be soliciting input from members as to what Skills Development needs exist at the Kickoff.

H. Social - no report.

I. Sponsorship - no report.

J. Trails

- i. Next City Trails Meeting is this Wednesday - Sisto will attend and report.
- ii. Snowmaking at Spirit Mt.
 - a. ??? will contact Mike Weispfennig to see if he is planning any snowmaking on his end. Apparently, the massive generator required to power a snowmaker can be rented for approximately \$2000 per week, not including fuel. This is a cost that is difficult for the club to reconcile. Other options include blowing snow up the hill and pushing it around the campground loop. It is unknown how difficult this is. Also considered a 1k loop at Chester Bowl, starting in the soccer field. I can't remember who was following up with the Chester idea.
- iii. Comprehensive Plan
 - a. Eric V. is on the Duluth City Comprehensive Plan Committee and recommends DXC make a proposal, if we are interested, indicating our long-term goals as related to city planning. This could include a length-of-the-city trail; possibly a multi-use trail that follows (somehow) Skyline Parkway. This committee meets monthly and invites groups to speak. Eric V. recommends that sooner action is more likely to bring positive results and that better-constructed, more in-depth proposals make it easier for the planning committee to accept these proposals.
 - b. Eric V. will email DXC board with dates and specifics of next meeting.
 - c. Of note, when French, Olsen and Santodonato met with Renee at Spirit Mt., she also mentioned fitting future plans into the Comprehensive Plan.

3. Old Business

- A. Five year plan (Olsen) - Still in progress.

4. New Business

A. Banff Mountain Film Festival

- i. George Coriander, former coach of the Duluth Biathlon Club, has accepted a new position in Maine, and since no one seems interested in taking over the program, the Duluth Biathlon Club is basically folding.
- ii. Cory and Chad Salmela were leaders of the Duluth Biathlon Club, and with their new store, do not have time to dedicate to the Club. They will maintain its 501(c)3 status, but will otherwise end the club.
- iii. The Biathlon Club has sponsored the Banff Mountain Film Festival for the past four years and would now like to turn this event over to DXC. This is a 2-night event, which earns about \$4,500 per showing, plus proceeds from the raffle. In the past, this money has paid about 1/3 of a Biathlon coach's salary (the remainder coming from registration fees).
- iv. DXC is not expected to use the proceeds to hire a biathlon coach, as the Biathlon Club did, but Cory and Chad said they would like to see the proceeds from the Film Festival go towards the development of Youth Skiing, with the ultimate goal of having a summer junior skier training program. Long term desire could include an Olympic Sport Club or similar. They stated that this was not a stipulation, but their strong desire.
- iv. There is a lot of planning that will need to occur for this year's film festival:
 - a. Dates for this year's film festival are set - November 12 and 13 (Sun/Mon).
 - b. Marketing - creating posters, getting information into area calendars, sending out press releases, etc.
 - b. Sponsors/Schwag - Best results came from simply asking for donations.
 - c. Tickets - Cory and Chad said that one stipulation they did have was that Midnight Sun be the sole Ticket Outlet and have space for a booth on the night of the show. Otherwise, in years past, the Biathlon Club required \$500 in donations for the raffle to be a Ticket Outlet.
 - d. It may be possible, eventually, to add a matinee - need to insure Banff Mt. reps are available.

- B. Youth SummerSki Program - Cory and Chad Salmela encouraged DXC to create or enable some way for kids in the 10-14 age group to be able to take advantage of summer training, which would get them out 2-3 times per week, doing rollerskiing and other ski-specific activities.
- C. We re-committed to the privacy of our members' email addresses.
- D. We had a discussion about Midnight Sun calling us a "Partner Club" on their website, and if we felt that created the impression that we were a club under their auspices. We decided it did not, but agreed that it was important to be alert in maintaining a separation between our sponsors and ourselves.
- E. DXC Master Skier Program - Doug Olsen is considering a 'DXC Master Skier' program. Not competitive, but more of an 'Ambassador of Skiing,' per the Team Ski Hut model. This group could also have a ski suit/jacket/vest. Perhaps the garment is not limited only to this group of people. It was stressed that this would not be a competition-based program or group.
- F. Snowflake Ski Swap will be on November 12. DXC will be there to recruit and help as needed.
- G. The board will meet again September 20 (at Brian Bich's, who will provide directions) to plan the Kickoff and the Banff Mountain Film Festival

Meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.