

## Duluth Cross Country Ski Club

October 8, 2006

### Minutes

Present: Paul Bartlam, Sisto Santodonato, Morris Levy, Adam Sundberg, Brian Bich, Bryan French, Patti Harvieux

Meeting convened by Paul Bartlam at 6:36 p.m.

PB/PH - Motion to approve September minutes. Unanimous.

PB - Is DXC involved in this year's Snowflake Ski Swap? Discussion: unknown.

PB - DXC Board Meeting Dates through March - Dec. 12, January 7, February 3, March 4. The March 4 date may be changed to a week or two later.

Treasurer's Report (by BB for KB) - \$1959.95 in available funds. We recently sent \$1000 to Hidden Bay for the annual hat order. This Quarter, excluding the hats, DXC spent \$146. Lake Superior College is in communication with DXC regarding tax ID info.

Communication Report (by PH) - Many emails have been coming in - people are getting excited about the season. 19 online registrations, mostly new people.

PB - DB says we have about 40 registrations accounting for about 80 members so far.

PH - Reminder emails about season activities will go out next week. I'm working on a new calendar for the website. I've rearranged and simplified some of the formatting on the website.

PB - The Budgeteer offered us this web link package.

PH - Banff is just finalizing the information in their press release, so we'll be able to get that out soon.

BB - Thanks to PH for working so hard on everything. LSC would like a reciprocal link back to their website, and two separate designations, 'LSC' and 'LSC Online.'

### Education Report (none)

Events Report (none) PB - Let's talk about Banff. BF - I'll take care of tickets. PB - For retailers to be a designated ticket outlet, they must provide \$500 worth of raffle items. AS - Where did that amount come from? PH - Duluth Biathlon.

PH - AS, please ask W-Trek to send me their logo.

PB - Does anyone know where the second DXC banner is? I have one. BB - Possibly Doug or Anne.

PB - Who was the welcome letter for new members? BB - it's on the CD.

PB - We still have a box of Hammer Gel - what do we do with it? Bring it to the kick off, members can have one or two packets each.

PB - The new ski club jerseys won't have a pocket on this first batch, which arrives this week. Didn't we say \$70? Discussion. PB - Let's poll the board - pocket or no pocket? No resolution. Price to be \$60.

Membership Report (none) PB for DB - We have 40 applications for 80 members so far. What do we do about adult children? What does extended family mean? Discussion. We have established that family memberships get two cards. Do all family members get voting privileges? Unanswered.

Race Report (by ML/BB) ML - I don't have any info at this time about the Wednesday Night Time Trials.

BB - Do we have a physical timing device? BF - Here's a Reliable Racing catalog for you, which has examples of timing devices.

PB - Do you have a sign-up sheet/booth/plan for the Kick Off this weekend? ML - We'll need a list of what help is needed. BF/PH - We'll check our emails - such a list may exist. ML - For the Time Trials, we will only do the TT format - we won't have Mass Starts. Discussion.

PH - Is there a plan for the DXC Cup? A points system? ML - Not yet. Discussion of purpose of having points system - to encourage people to get out and ski.

ML - Is Spirit Mountain a sponsor for the Nordic Spirit race? BF - Right now, we're paying them, so I'd say no. PB - If they donate something of value, then it is certainly worth considering. PH - They already have their name on all the race announcements. PB - If Spirit Mt. asks, we'll address the issue at that time.

BB - The main NS sponsors will be upstairs in the Moosehead Chalet, in an area specifically set aside for sponsors. Gold and Silver sponsors will also be here, so they're getting a pretty good deal. This is on the uphill side of the lounge.

PH - Online race registration is through Active and Midwest Events. Both are up and running.

Sponsorship Report (by AS) - Kirk and Pauline at Continental sold their business. The new owners are under a lot of stress. Kirk is still aboard as a manager. New owners aren't sure of their relationship with the club. I'll be calling and talking to them again tomorrow. The manager of Play It Again has been out, but I'll be checking back with him.

AS - It doesn't sound like the vendors are going to have a huge 'expo' presence at the kick off.

PB - Membership cards were done Friday, so can be picked up. DB volunteered to stuff bags. PH offered to help.

BB - I'd recommend not stuffing bags, but giving members an empty bag and all their stuff as they pick it up. PH - That's a great idea.

Trails Report (by SS) - I haven't been able to attend the past couple of months of trails meetings.

PB - Does DXC have a plan for what we want at Lester? PH - We need to have a proposal to present to the city. BF - In that proposal, we need to anticipate their concerns (like vandalism) and provide solutions. SS - The city is impressed with the progress and influence of the club. PB (?) - It would be powerful if we could get 50 club members at an upcoming trails meeting to express our desire for a warming building at Lester, which is one of the most popular and most-used ski trails in the state. Discussion.

#### New Business

BF - Motion to change the mission of DXC from "The Duluth Cross Country Ski Club (DXC) is dedicated to educating the community about cross country skiing" to "The purpose of the Duluth Cross Country Ski Club (DXC) is to promote health, fitness and fun through cross country skiing by providing quality activities and educational opportunities to the community," and that our byline would be "Promoting health, fitness and fun through cross country skiing." ML/BB - I want time to think about this. PH - If we change our mission, we should do it now, so we can have everything ready to go by this weekend's kick off. PB - I think this is great - it matches our values, and encapsulates what we do. BB - I would really like Anne, Kate, Kirsten and Dee to be here to be part of this discussion. Motion tabled. Discussion via email; vote at next board meeting.

ML - There are many locations at which we conduct our activities, but Spirit Mt. will probably be our main place. Snowflake's future always seems unclear. SS - George has said this will be the final year of Snowflake operating in its current format. ML - Right, so I think we need to insure that Spirit Mt. receives a lot of encouragement to have their Nordic facilities improved. We need to speak with a single, consistent voice. BB - One problem is figuring out how to get Magney Snively groomed to Spirit Mt. via the connector. How does DXC help with that? ML - If people from Magney Snively ski over to Spirit Mt., it must be Spirit Mt.'s responsibility to have staff to check for valid passes. SS - George said that Snowflake would most likely go from its current management system to a co-op model, starting 2007-2008. ML - I think that's a great idea. PH - There used to be a 'Snowflake Ski Club.' I wonder if that was a co-op - does anyone know? No one knows. AS - George said this year, people would either pay the stated price for membership, and if they cannot, then they can pay whatever they feel they can afford. PH - that doesn't seem like a very good business model. SS - I hope not to spend so much time grooming there this year. PB - What is Dave Johnson's role at Snowflake? SS - That's a good question - I don't know. ML - Years ago, Dave was under the impression from George that he would someday inherit Snowflake, although judging from his work on trails at Marshall, that doesn't

seem likely. ML - Can the Marshall trails be used by the general public? Unknown. PB - So basically, we need to have a plan in place if something happens with Snowflake. PH - Snowflake works so well as a venue because of the chalet. Other skiers and high school teams have said that if Spirit Mt. had a proper chalet, they would train there in a heartbeat. ML - We would need to make sure the grooming at Spirit Mt. is as good as it has been at Snowflake. SS - It's easy to train groomers, but you don't want too many people grooming, because things can get inconsistent, then. BB - Who should be the primary communication person on issues like this? Just one? Several people? ML - We need several people who can represent the club at lots of different events. BB - So for now, it's okay to keep it loose.

PB - I've heard that Ski Hut is interested in having some sort of official involvement with the Time Trials. Discussion.

BB - Who is dropping off race sponsor packets to Midnight Sun and Ski Hut? AS - Me - you just need to send me the info, either on paper or electronically.

BB - What do we tell people other money is going to with regard to club initiatives? It's important to balance both ends of town. PB - We need to get a bunch of club members together and go down, as a group, to one of the trails meetings, and make it clear to the city how important it is to have a building for skiers, even a modest one, at Lester. SS - I'll get you information on what we need to do beforehand.

ML - Does anyone have the Nordic Spirit list of volunteer placement? BF/PH will check.

PB - When do we start setting up for the Kick Off? 10:00 a.m. per KS.

BF - Our membership year ends September 30, which leaves people without a card for 2-3 weeks in October. I propose we move our membership year to start on November 1. Discussion; tabled.

Meeting adjourned by Paul Bartlam at approximately 7:41 p.m.