



Skiing the Romantic Ducks



Founding of Regina Ski Club

Have you ever wondered how the ski club got started?

Searching through old issues of the LeaderPost indicates our club started as an informal group of young people who took the train to Lumsden to ski in the valley, probably starting in 1935. The first mention of a possible ski club was a story on October 30, 1935, which reported that:

“Jack Lapointe is interested in the formation of the (ski) club and points out that weekend trips to the Lumsden hills could be made at very little cost. Those interested are asked to get in touch with Jack at the Mac and Mac store.”

It appears that this initiative did not lead to immediate creation of a ski club, but that an informal group did begin to take ski outings to the Lumsden area. Their principal interest seemed to be ski jumping. I base this on a story on December 3, 1936 which said *“In the past two winters, a group of Regina young people journeyed to the valley town each Sunday for a day of sport, mainly ski jumping as a toboggan slide was not available”*.

That December 3 story also reported that the group had decided to *“widen the scope of their activities by forming a club, and it is possible a first trip to the hills may be made this Sunday.”* The LeaderPost reported that the party would *“leave Regina at 10:20 AM over CNR line, returning at the supper hour the same evening after an early six hours sport.”*



The decision to form a club may have been partly stimulated by a report in the same story that *“the Town of Lumsden and district were setting up a toboggan slide and ski jump on steep hills near the town, while a shack would be erected to serve as a dressing room and shelter”*.

Formation of the Club did proceed as on December 8, 1936 the LeaderPost reported the *“Regina Ski Club will hold a meeting in the Gordon block, 2180 12th Ave., on Thursday at 8:00 to decide upon their program for the coming season. The formation of a ladies section will also take place.”*

Following formation in December 1936 there are regular mentions of the Ski Club in the LeaderPost. On December 19 it was reported that 11 members made the trip to the club's ground near Lumsden, but found the snow too sticky for jumping.

Skiing was apparently less specialized than as they seem to have readily switched from jumping to cross country skiing. On December 28, 1936 the LeaderPost reports that *“Members of the Regina Ski Club who made the trip to Lumsden over the weekend added 14 miles to the club's log when they hiked on skis from Lumsden to Craven and back in the moonlight Saturday night. The hike was arranged when it was found that there was insufficient snow for ski jumping. After the long hike, the hardy club members, possibly to prove their great endurance, spent the rest of the evening dancing at Lumsden.”*

In the same story *“Melvyn Douglas, vice president, reports that the club now has its own clubhouse and that a little more snow will put both the ski jump and toboggan slide in perfect shape.”*

Its not clear if they had constructed a wooden ski jump, or just used a good spot on the hill and some mounded snow for a small jump. I expect the latter as building a ski jump would probably have been mentioned in the paper.

Besides skiing the club had regular meetings, held a fall wiener roast in 1938, the ladies section sponsored a candidate for carnival queen, with the other three competitors representing skating clubs, and the club held a season wind up banquet and dance. The club is first mentioned as taking part in provincial competitions in 1939, when 3 members competed at the Saskatchewan Ski Championships in Prince Albert and other members attended as spectators. None of our contestants placed. The provincial competitions were in cross country and ski jumping.

Ski jumping was not without its risks. On February 20 1937 the LeaderPost reported that the president of the Ski Club would be in the hospital for two weeks due to two chipped bones in his spine from a heavy spill during a club outing.

On the topic of spills, I also learned the club had a mascot, a little stuffed animal, which was a goat. Several stories mention that whoever took the best fall got to look after the goat for the next week! Some of the winners and their spills are described in the LeaderPost.

It seems the Club was mostly a young person’s club then, at least when members participating in events are listed, most of the women are named as Miss. It appears to have been a popular club with some ski events having more than 50 people taking the train to Lumsden for a day of skiing and wind-up banquets and dance events attended by more than 100 people.


The Club also stimulated the City to try to create a ski hill. On December 13 1968 the LeaderPost reported that *“Mayor AC Ellison has appointed himself to a difficult task.”*

“Saturday afternoon he will search the level plain in which Regina is situated for a suitable site for a ski run. He will go out with members of the Regina ski club on the search. There are no hills of respectable size in Regina or near the city for miles around. Hopes are held, however, that a suitable site along the banks of the Wascana in the vicinity of the Kinsman golf course will be found.”

I think this, like more recent efforts to get a ski hill in Regina, failed, though I have not finished going through the LeaderPost so there may be further stories on the search for a ski hill.



Dale Hjertaas

Best Nordic Ski – Regina Ski Club – Best Nordic Ski Great Escapes 



Regina Ski Club 2023 -2024 Recreational Bus Trips



-The Second Trip -

CANMORE, ALBERTA, JANUARY 25 – 29

This bus was full of enthusiastic members who enjoyed all they were looking forward to. Although warmer temperatures were this trip's norm, all adjusted and adapted well.



Socializing was of prime importance once again.
A busy three, and for some, three and almost half days of alpine and or nordic skiing!
Members enjoyed The Canmore Nordic Centre, Banff, Peter Lougheed Provincial Park,



Sunshine, Nakiska and other alpine venues!

Great camaraderie was also enjoyed at The Rocky Mountain Ski Lodge social room supplemented with great entertainment from club members Friday night featuring- Guy Hughes, Kit Kelly, Cindy Friesen, Robert Davies, Tamela Friesen and icon Don Waite.

Last year was a big hit. This year almost all on board were at this event!
The Canmore Club Legion Dinner was Saturday Night.
Now a catered event at this staple club tradition.





-The Third Trip-

Gronlid/Wapiti was “bounced” to DUCK MOUNTAIN PROVINCIAL PARK.

Registration was down, however spirits were up!

Weather was a concerning challenge with accomplished satisfaction in the end.



Fortunately, snow the day before dusted the groomed trails.
Kudos to the members who participated, especially our newbies!
All with Positive Attitudes, resulting in Positive Results.





In addition, it was a preview for all attending and those interested in The Traditional Duck Mountain Loppet, February 24th, see below.



-Trip #4-

THEN THERE'S PICKLE BALL...

Talk about “bouncing”, this is the third decided and confirmed destination for this trip.

KENOSEE, MOOSE MOUNTAIN PROVINCIAL PARK

Saturday, February 17

WE'RE BACK

What a way to start your long weekend!

And it's only, just over a two hour bus ride.

This park has been a winter oasis for skiers this season!

Always so diverse with confidence in mind from the novice to expert.

With more snow this past week and more to come, a tempting trip to take in!

The park offers over 55 km of superb trails

of cross-country skiing, including skate skiing and snowshoeing.

These trails are part of the Little Kenosee Trail System.


Don't overlook this trip as our unique bus trip season winds down.



-Trip #5-

“THE TRADITION CONTINUES”



The Duck Mountain Lake Loppet, February 24 



43rd Annual Duck Mountain Loppet

Saturday, February 24, 2024
Madge Lake, DMPP

Register Online: www.zone4.ca

Event Details

Details at www.Zone4.ca

Check in at Golf Course 8:30–11:00 am

Fee includes:

- = Draw Prizes
- = Snacks at each of the 5 shelters
- = Hot Meal to finish off the day.

More information at:
www.duckmountainnordicclub.ca or

Choose your own Adventure

Classic (C) Ski

Skate (S) Ski

3 km for kids and beginners (C/S)


5 km (C/S)

10 km (C/S)

15 km (C/S)

20 km (C/S)

25 km (C only) ****Challenging****



Loppets are a challenge.

Challenges are to reach a goal, often to yourself!

Please consider signing up, to not only support The Duck Mountain Ski Club, but also support another one of Saskatchewan's treasured communities.

All the best efforts are being put in place to make this loppet another success!

Oh Yes, they are also a lot of fun!



Register by February 16 for Discount Pricing and to guarantee a seat on the trip.

A guaranteed loppet refund will be issued if it is cancelled.

-Trip #6-

“Members Are Anxious About This One!”

Tentatively Eb's Trails and Prince Albert National Park, March 2 – 4

Hopefully we'll be able to end our bus trip ski season with great anticipation!

Register by February 26 for Discount Pricing and to guarantee a seat on the bus!.

Also book your room at the Hawood Inn.

ALL TRIP DETAILS AT
REGINASKICLUB.CA

Stay informed and promote our club to family and friends.

Website

reginaskiclub.ca

Also Facebook Accounts:

Regina Ski Club

Regina Ski Club Fun on The Trails


Kim Smith

Bus Tours Director

reginaskiclub.ca



Canadian Ski Patrol Day - March 2, 2024

The Canadian Ski Patrol is turning the tables. This time we are asking you to help us? 



As you know, the Canadian Ski Patrol (CSP) is a volunteer driven organization. We are looking for snowboarders, alpine and cross-country skiers interested in joining our patrols, and we would like to solicit your assistance in helping us get the word out. To give potential members a look at what the Ski Patrol does, we are holding Ski With the Patrol Days at all the ski areas served by the Canadian Ski Patrol on SATURDAY, MARCH 2.

Our Request

Our ask to you is to please share information about our upcoming Ski With the Patrol Day with your members, customers, and followers through your communication channels. (ie: website, social media, email, etc.). If you can share this information with your members the week of February 12, that will allow them enough time to register and for us to communicate with them before the event.

We've tried to make it easy for you to spread the word by including links to the recruiting pages on our website and Facebook. Simply place the following links in your messaging.



For more information, visit our:
website at www.sask.skipatrol.ca
Facebook event page at www.facebook.com/cspparkland/events

The Event

At Ski With the Patrol Day, we will pull back the curtain to show what goes on during a typical patroller's day. We'll show some of our equipment, provide a glimpse at some of our procedures, outline the training requirements, and explain how to become a member of this national organization.

Ski With the Patrol Day events are being held at the following ski areas:

Asessippi Ski Area & Resort – Inglis, MB
Duck Mountain Ski Area – Kamsack, SK
Mission Ridge Winter Park – Fort Qu'Appelle, SK
Mount Joy Snow Resort – Lloydminster, AB
Table Mountain Ski Area – North Battleford, SK
Wapiti Valley Ski and Board Resort – Gronlid, SK
White Butte Trails (Cross Country Patrol) – White City, SK

Candidates are asked to register in advance by emailing joinus.sask@skipatrol.ca

Our Organization

The 4,500 volunteer members of the CSP promote safety of the slopes as well as provide first aid and rescue services to skiers and snowboarders in need – FREE OF CHARGE. Members must be 18 years of age or older, and ski or snowboard at an intermediate or better level. All other training will be provided by the Patrol.

We appreciate any help you are able to provide us in getting the word out. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please reach out to our event manager, John Humbert, at john.humbert@skipatrol.ca

Thank you.

Gord Joorisity

Ski With the Patrol Day - Communications Coordinator
Canadian Ski Patrol – Saskatchewan Division





Regina Alpine Adaptive Ski Program



March 2nd Saturday Moonlight Movies (new owners Golden Mile theatre) 7 pm- 9 pm

Maybe some or many gather after for a beverage visit in the Rack ...

Zone 4 link to purchase tickets

<https://zone4.ca/register.asp?id=34528>



Ski Tips - Featuring “How Not to Make Sitzmarks” 

Stopping with a Snowplow:



Balance on skate skis:



Skiing in slush:



Skiing in storms and blizzards:



Annual General Meeting

The Ski Club's AGM will be held on April 28th at the Cathedral Village Neighbourhood centre at 2:00 PM. Please plan to attend.

The meeting will create an opportunity to visit with friends as a wrap up to the ski season and the business meeting is an essential part of the club's annual cycle.

Business will include a review of finances, a report on the year's activities and election of the Board.

The nominations committee is currently looking for someone to serve as president and someone to serve as secretary. Linda Lyster and I have concluded that after 11 years its time for change at the top. If you or someone you know might be interested in this position, please call Dale Hjertaas at 306 529 3234. I also note that while our Treasurer and Webmaster have agreed to stand for re-election, both have noted a desire to retire soon. So, think about whether you could serve the club as webmaster or Treasurer. Don't hesitate to volunteer.

At this meeting we will also consider a number of amendments to our Bylaws. We need to make changes to get into compliance with the NonProfit Corporations Act and other changes are being proposed for general improvement of the society. Amendments are currently being drafted and will be circulated to members before the meeting.

Dale Hjertaas, President



Contributors:

Dale Hjertaas: Founding of Regina Ski Club

Dorothy Josephson: Best Nordic Ski – Regina Ski Club – Best Nordic Ski Great Escapes

Kim Smith: Recreational Bus Trips Writeup and Pictures

Leona Spruyt: Canmore Pictures

Gord Joorisity: Canadian Ski Patrol Day

Brent Rosbrook: Adaptive Ski Program: Full Circle Movie Fund Raiser

Karen Hardy: Ski Tips on “How NOT to Make Sitzmarks”

Dale Hjertaas: Annual General Meeting

