

2021 Annual General Membership Meeting
7:00 – 8:30 PM, Thursday, December 16, 2021
Via ZOOM

- Welcome and Introductions: Board members: Stan Bradshaw, Laura Cunningham, Cliff Sheets, Robert Ray, Larry Dolan, Tom Flowers. (Not present: Luke Osborne)
- Members/attendees: Friedrich Drees, Bill Cook, Joel Harris, James Defoe, Bob Richards, Jeanette Euland, Chapin Storrar, John Andrews, Clint Fredrickson, John Fitzgerald, Fran Penner-Ray
- Key Volunteers (not present): Dave Dalthorp (Golf Course grooming and coordination; Mark Hall (trail maintenance), Don Harris (equipment maintenance); Peter Behrends (Youth program- rentals and instruction).
- Brief Zoom Ground Rules: Mute, raise hand to provide questions or comments.
- Amendments to the agenda: No additions proposed.
- HIGHLIGHTS of 2020-2021 Season (and off-season)
 - MacPass—good season (pandemic a factor again this year, increased numbers?).
 - User figures (Stan)— 5,835 user days Not quite as good as 2020, 3rd best year in last 12.
 - Grooming (Larry) Challenges; low snowpack early on, had cold and windy sections etc. Positives: later season, but equipment problems; Don was great working on equipment in spring, summer, fall. Had paid groomer and 10 or so volunteers. Pisten bully grooming support from snow mobile club twice. Expect help again this year.
 - Off-season Trail Maintenance (Stan): New wind break on upper microwave; This fall's effort. Late August snow fence (Hermes got grant from BCBS). Then October had several workdays (250 hours of volunteer labor)
 - Update on equipment shed progress (Laura): Luke, Laura and Cliff have worked on planning an equipment shed at the pass. Access and trail improvements would be part of the effort. Grant funding has also been a fair amount of work. RTP grant will require Forest Service approval before the grant application. [Cliff] Equipment currently stored outside and takes a lot of weather "abuse". [RTP grant is state grant but comes from federal funding. FS approval is a work in progress. RAC grant of \$31,500 approved for this year – trail improvement grant]. Cliff modified RAC grant to be able to improve access for site improvements. Possible to get moving on equipment shed this or next summer.
 - Website (Friedrich): We can now accept payments via the web. Friedrich built the foundation but needs someone to "put on the makeup". Limited to using WordPress but need help with design/layout.

- Golf Course (Stan)—short season for 2020-2021. 12 days of grooming on golf course, overseen by Dave. All we need is snow for this season.
- Youth Program (Stan/Chapin): Run by Pete Behrends. 70 pairs of skis rented this year, maybe 65 last year. No lessons last year. 5 Days of lessons this year. Should be another good year for the program.
- Blackfoot Brewery Community Night fund raising (Robert): Pandemic has changed Brewery's community support. Decided to cancel event and go with new club website online donation system, list serve emails and requests. Online membership response has been good.
- Website (Friedrich): Online payment is now available for memberships and donations.
- Total Volunteer time last year (Stan): 1,038 hours. Remarkable volunteer support by club members.
- Plans for 2021-2022 Season
 - MacPass (Larry): Paid Groomer—Ethan Ragan is excellent but only working for LCNSC through mid-January. Larry has a couple of possible other paid groomers once Ethan resigns.
 - Volunteer crew – big volunteer effort. Started off this year with very low snow conditions. Gradually getting snow and opening trails. No grooming on Meadows yet (last trail to get adequate coverage). Have rolled all the other trails. Have ginsued Microwave and Haul several times. Have a sign-up calendar for volunteer groomers on “Slack” web platform.
 - Possible repeat of a member survey (Stan): Luke has previously developed survey, and it has been suggested that we repeat a membership survey to get feedback from general membership on direction of club, ideas.
- Possible club cook-out at old cabin shelter (Larry); Have missed the opportunity for membership interaction. Outdoor cookout was suggested for more social interaction. In years past this happened towards the end of the season. Maybe late January/February. Could sled out supplies. It would be great to have general membership involved.
- Pisten Bully (Larry): We plan to get Pisten Bully out this year, especially if we get snow and wind. Luke Osborne will coordinate with snowmobile club. We will send out notice as it's important to keep skiers off the trails when operating, due to the size of the equipment.
- Youth Program (Chapin): Lessons started on 8 of Jan and next 5 weekends (22, 29, Feb 5 & 12). Prefer golf course but will do on the pass if golf course has inadequate snow. Hot cocoa and marshmallows the most popular part of the program.
- MacDonald Pass parking lot plowing (Stan/Robert): Previously the owner of Frontier Town has been plowing parking lot as needed. In June decided would no longer plow the lot. MDT not willing to take on plowing lot. Head of area MDT maintenance met with Stan. Contract snow plowers around town not viable. The club purchased a plow and truck. MDT will lease space in a bay in the MDT facility just below the parking lot. Stan has contacted Hall Excavation to help move snow piles, perhaps \$500 per event. Robert summarized the status of the plowing effort. Insurance requires limited number of plow drivers, need to figure out system for volunteers knowing when to plow.

- Summary of finances (Cliff):
 - Grants: We have gotten RTP grants for grooming in the past, and RAC grant for trail work. Reimbursed for equipment hours for grooming at \$20/hr. Club was awarded a new 3-year grant for \$22,800 for grooming at the pass under the new Montana Trail Stewardship Grant Program.
 - Budget for last fiscal year (9/30/21). Expenses of approximately \$20,000 came very close to what we projected. Income (membership dues and donations) was much better than we expected. The net effect was an addition to our bank account of \$6,000.
 - This year projections: income \$42,675. Projected expenses \$54,375, net decrease of \$11,700. MacPass snow plowing expenses projected to be \$4,000. Longer-term concerns for our financial status. Cliff acknowledged significant Hydrosolutions and Helena Outdoor Club donations to the Club.
- Election of Board officers
 - President and Vice-president “slate” for this year’s election:
 - President—Laura
 - V.P.—Stan
 - Robert moved to elect Laura president, Stan vice-president for two-year terms, Cliff seconded. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously by membership.
- Discussion, action on proposed bylaw amendments (Stan). Previously sent out amended bylaws on Club email list server. Trying to clean up bylaws and reflect better practices. Older bylaws outdated with current activities and checks and balances. [Chapin]: Membership approval of larger purchases? Maybe at least let membership know. [Cliff]: Incumbent on treasurer to ensure that Board reviews budget every meeting. Checks and balances. [Chapin]: Membership should be informed of new equipment, major repairs, etc. [Cliff]: President should provide that communication.
 - Cliff moved to approve bylaws as proposed, Laura seconded. [Joel]: Why shouldn’t Board have approval for larger expenses, as proposed by president? [Cliff]: Sometimes things come up, with short turn-around needs. Laura stated that the President and Board does a big effort to ensuring Board participation/discussion regarding equipment and other significant expenses.
 - Question on the motion called. Motion carried with one “nay”.
- Member Input—Comments, concerns, questions. [Chapin]: “Thanks” to the Board for all their work. [Clint]: New member, discovered club on google, really appreciate the skiing. [James]: “Thanks.”

Adjourned at 8:50 pm