



RA Ski Club

Club de ski du RA

March 2011



www.raski.ca

Friends to be with and ski with

SNOWPHONE : 613-736-6235

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

When: Wednesday April 13th, 7:00 PM

Where: Courtside A, RA Centre (East end of the building)

Mark April 13th on your calendar! It's our RA Ski Club's Annual General Meeting (AGM.) Your executive worked hard to set up this year's program. The best way you can thank them is by coming out to our AGM.

- See photo highlights of our activities over the past year.
- Let us know what you liked this year.
- Let us know what you didn't like, and how we can improve.
- Hear the reports from each of the executive portfolios.
- Elect the executive for next year.

All portfolios are up for election. However, some executive members are retiring, so we will need people to fill the following positions:

- Weeklong chair
- Downhill weekend chair
- Downhill day chair
- Cross-country co-chair

Volunteer and help us run our programs next year! Send nominations to: secretary_2009@raski.ca.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Despite the small amount of snow in the area and the mild weather, we were still able to enjoy our sport! Our weekend trip to Val David had a record number of skiers, both cross-country and downhill, and it was greatly enjoyed by all. The weekend trip to Mont Sainte-Anne & Le Massif was also well attended. Our weeklong trip to Val Gardena, Italy was a great holiday as well as a ski trip because of the lovely scenery, the great food at the hotel, and the added bonus of a stopover in Venice. Our bus trip to St-Sauveur was also a success in spite of the cold, as people had a chance to get their legs in shape for Val Gardena. The mid-week meet 'n' skis were very well attended this year, and some extra outings were added by popular demand. Again on all our outings and trips we had the pleasure of meeting some new members, and hope to see them back next year and yet another group of new ones. Let's keep RASki skiing!

In closing, I'd like to thank our recreation supervisor Nancy Kirkwood, Sharron Malott, Isabelle da Silva and everyone at the RA for their valuable help with registration, making posters, photocopies, newsletters and providing space and equipment for Trip Info night and at the Ottawa Ski Show. Thanks also to those who volunteered to help at the Ski Show and Trip Info night. It wouldn't be possible to make our club known to a larger group of people without you. Also thanks to those who volunteered to lead skiing, biking and hiking outings and an especially BIG THANK YOU to the members of the executive who worked many hours to put the program together.

But I cannot forget to thank all of you for participating; you really make it all happen!



Doris Dallaire, RA Ski Chair

Doris Dallaire, chair_2009@raski.ca

END-OF-SEASON DH/XC POT-LUCK DINNER

When: Saturday April 9th, 6:00 PM

Where: Kanata (Small community centre at 100 Pine Hill)

Come join in a celebration of the ski year just past and of the summer to come. We'll be celebrating with a potluck dinner. Bring a dish to share, and your own beverages. Guests are welcome.

YOU MUST LET US KNOW YOU ARE ATTENDING.

Contact Louise and Jane at social_2009@raski.ca **BY APRIL 8th** and let us know if you are coming and what category of food you'll be bringing (i.e. appetizer, main course, salad, dessert).

DIRECTIONS to 100 Pine Hill for the potluck: Take Queensway west to Eagleson Exit. Turn left onto Eagleson and go south, past Hazeldean Mall, a fire hall, a funeral home, (stay in the left hand lane), a gas bar then a Tim Horton's. Right after that turn left onto Stonehaven. Go past one set of lights and two stop signs. At the third stop sign, turn left onto Pine Hill. The Community Centre is on Pine Hill on your left after you pass three streets to your left, and has a small parking lot but you can also park on the street without problems.

PHOTOS AND TRIP REPORTS

Photos and trip reports from most of our outings are on the RA Ski web site, www.raski.ca.

Trip Reports

On the sidebar on the left, click on "Trip Reports", then on either "Cross-Country" or "Downhill".

Photos

For photos, on the left sidebar, click on "Photos", then on the appropriate album ("Cross-country", "Downhill", or "Biking Hiking and Skating".) Click on "Slide Show" to cycle through all the photos in a larger format. Click on "Show Info" to see the titles for the photos.

We also put "RA Ski Photos of the Week" on our home page raski.ca

Thanks to our RA Ski photographers for providing us with some great pictures of our weeklong, weekend and day trips.

CROSS-COUNTRY NEWS

After a slow start to the ski season, a couple of big snowfalls in February and early March allowed for some memorable trips in Gatineau Park. Unfortunately, the freaky March weather, consisting of snow followed by rain, wreaked havoc on the later part of the schedule.



XC skiers at King Mountain, 20 March

The Norwegian Embassy did not put on Norway Day this year; instead one of the season's largest groups enjoyed near-perfect conditions on a trip to Lusk cabin. People on the moonlight ski experienced a 10 minute snow squall, accompanied by thunder and lightning. The trip to Mount Pakenham turned into a shopping trip to downtown Pakenham due to poor conditions. The popularity of the weekday trips seems to have increased in step with the number of them. Demsis' grooming and reporting of trail conditions were again inconsistent.

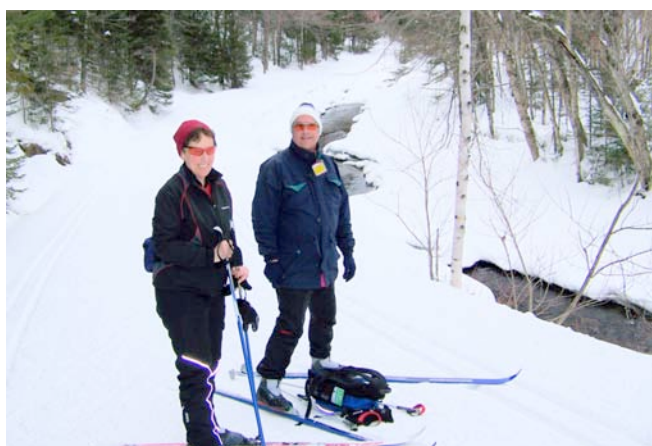
The weekend combined trip was again very well attended, with a record 44 cross-country and downhill skiers attending. People arrived in Val David on Friday night wondering if they were going to have to spend the weekend hot tubing instead of skiing, as Parc regional Dufresne had been closed due to lack of snow. Luckily, a few trails opened on Saturday and an overnight snowfall allowed for good skiing on Sunday. Although the ski conditions were not ideal, the food at Auberge du Vieux Foyer was up to its usual high standards, the hot tub was soothing.

Borden Hum, waxing technician extraordinaire, presented the annual November waxing clinic in front of 18 attendees.

Seven XC skiers went on the three-day weekend trip to Mont Sainte-Anne. Although there was rain the day we arrived, ski conditions were fairly good thanks to the grooming.

Your feedback on any aspect of the x-country program is welcome. E-mail your comments to xc_2009@raski.ca.

And last but not least, a big thank you to the people who led trips this year. Without you the XC program would not exist.



XC skiing at Mont Sainte-Anne

Cheryl Nakamura & Jean-François Mélançon, XC Co-Chairs, xc_2009@raski.ca

[Editor: Cheryl is retiring after three years of co-chairing our XC program. Thanks, Cheryl for all your hard work!]

SOCIAL

HIKES

Meeting point (unless posted otherwise):

Supreme Court Building (east side) on Wellington at 9:45 AM for a 10:00 AM car pool departure.

- **Sat. April 2:** Urban hike in old Ottawa east along the Rideau River nature trail and some interesting residential streets. We'll stop at the Green Door restaurant along the way for some refreshment. **Meet at the parking lot in Brantwood Park at 10:30.** Turn east on Clegg Street off Main St. and go to the end. The park is straight ahead, by the river.
- **Sun. April 17:** Pine Road to Healy cabin
- **Sun. May 1:** King Mountain followed by entertainment and refreshments at the Black Sheep Inn in Wakefield. **Note late start:** meet at the Supreme Court Building at 10:45 AM for an 11:00 AM car pool departure. As part of the Prairie Scene, Matt Epp, Carrie Catherine and JP Hoe are playing at 4 PM at the Black Sheep Inn. After our hike, some of us are planning to go to the show. If you wish to join us, please contact the Black Sheep Inn to reserve a ticket. They are \$10 each. Also e-mail us at social_2009@raski.ca so we can save a spot at a table.
- **Sat. May 14:** Meech Lake to Western cabin

CYCLING

Note that we are leisurely cyclists, and are not training for the 2012 Olympics.

- **Sat. May 28:** Bate Island to Shirley's Bay. Depart 10:00 AM (from Bate Island, Champlain Bridge)
- **Sat. June 11:** RA Centre to Aviation Museum with a visit to the museum. Departure time (from RA west wing) 10:00 AM
- **Sun. June 26:** Parc Moussette to Aylmer. Departure time (from Parc Moussette) 10:00 AM
- **Sat. July 9:** RA Centre to Lac Leamy. Departure time (from RA west wing) 10:00 AM
- **Sun. Aug. 21:** Petrie Island. Departure time (from Parking Lot 25 on Bearbrooke Road in Blackburn Hamlet) 10:00 AM

Watch for some Remote-Start bike rides still in the planning stages. These rides, whereby we car-pool to a location outside Ottawa, are always popular. For example, we are planning a ride in the Merrickville area sometime in September.

OUTDOOR SUMMER THEATRE

In July, join us for some outdoor theatre with the Company of Fools in Strathcona Park. This year, the Fools will be presenting "Antony and Cleopatra". Details to follow.

In August, we will watch Odyssey's "Theatre Under the Stars" in Strathcona Park. Check the Snowphone and website for details.

GOLFING

- **Thur. June 16:** Raceway Golf Course. Check our web site and SnowPhone in June for more details.

AND MORE

And finally.....keep checking our web site, SnowPhone and Ski-Mail for updates and for news of more upcoming social events such as more hikes, rides, orchestra in the park, and a possible baseball game at the Ottawa Stadium.

Louise Cameron & Jane Rau, Social Co-Chairs
social_2009@raski.ca

DOWNHILL NEWS

The downhill program was marginally successful this season. Unfortunately, the weather was not kind to us and most snowfalls (at least in March) were immediately followed by copious quantities of rain. This being said, many of our members indicated that when they got out between rain events the skiing conditions were great, and local ski hill operators did a marvellous job keep us skiing.

Our mid-week meet 'n' skis were well attended. Early in the season we had to cancel the first two due to lack of snow, but as the season got rolling there were usually 6-8 people attending most events. Fifteen people enjoyed perfect ski conditions at our meet 'n' ski to Calabogie in January. We did move some mid-week meet 'n' skis due to weather, and changed location a couple of times to take advantage of special \$10 days and a \$1 day at Mont St Marie. By popular demand we added another three weeks of meet 'n' skis at the end of the season.



Meet 'n' Ski at Calabogie, 7 January

We tried to cater some of our meet 'n' skis to the working folk, by scheduling one trip in the evening and one on a Sunday. Only the trip leader and one other member showed up for the Sunday event. The second event, which was to be held in mid-March to take advantage of the Edelweiss Jam night, was cancelled. This was in part due to the lack of interest shown for the first event and the fact that Edelweiss decided not to have Jam nights this year. I recommended for next year that the meet 'n' skis be held ONLY mid-week.

Two Sunday bus trips to the Laurentians were scheduled this year, the first went to Mont St-Sauveur. Twenty people enjoyed skiing that day, even in temperatures of -29 before wind chill. A number of us went for dinner back in Ottawa after this trip. Unfortunately this trip was run at a loss to the club. We calculate most bus trips to break even at 25 people.

The second trip was scheduled to go to Mont Tremblant / Mont Blanc and cross-country at Domaine St.-Bernard. Unfortunately only 10 people signed up and we had to cancel the trip. The weather in the city was horrible preceding this trip, which would explain the lack of enthusiasm. However, a couple of members went on their own to Mont Tremblant the same day, and they reported excellent conditions. This should emphasize the fact that what occurs in the city IS NOT necessarily an indication of the ski conditions.

The direction that the Downhill Program will go and what will be offered next season will be raised at the Annual General Meeting April 13th. We urge you all to attend to raise any concerns you may have or suggestions for next year's program.

Chris Hutton, Downhill chair, downhill_2009@raski.ca

[Editor: Chris is retiring after three years on the executive. Thanks for the excellent job you did, Chris!]

DH/XC TRIP TO MONT SAINTE-ANNE

Forty two skiers (34 downhill and 8 cross-country) left the RA at 1:30 p.m. by bus on Friday February 18th for three days of skiing in the Mont Ste.-Anne/Le Massif area. We hit construction on the way to Montreal which detained us, and then met rush-hour traffic in Montreal because of the delay. We arrived at the Chateau Mont Ste.-Anne around 8:30.

The hotel rooms were well equipped and roomy. The hotel had a restaurant and a bar where we could get food. There were two outside hot tubs and an indoor swimming pool and hot tub. Cross-country skied Park Mont Sainte-Anne and the downhillers skied Mont Sainte-Anne Saturday and Monday, and Le Massif Sunday. Some of the runs were icy Saturday, but those who persevered found runs that were not icy and retired to the outdoor hot tub to meet the others. The skiing was good Sunday and Monday.



Skiing at Mont Sainte-Anne

On Saturday after skiing, some of us went into Quebec City for dinner, and a few of us hitched a ride with them to a local restaurant - the St. Bernard. We liked the food there so much that we got the bus driver to take us there again the next night.



RA skiers at Le Massif

We left Chateau Mont Saint-Anne at 4 PM Monday, stopped for a quick dinner en-route, and arrived at the RA around 10 PM.



Arlene Buck, Weekend Chair

[Editor: Arlene is retiring from the RA Ski executive after having organized our downhill weekend trips for five years. Thanks, Arlene for all your efforts and for the excellent job you did!]
Arlene Buck, DH Weekend Chair, dhweekend_2009@raski.ca

WEEKLONG TO VAL GARDENA, ITALY

The Val Gardena trip was a success from all points of view. Registration was strong with 38 registering, although unfortunately, one person withdrew for medical reasons.

Participants were unanimous in agreement that they enjoyed the trip. Skiing was good in spectacular settings, with sun and mild temperatures every day. Although there had been little snow in the last month, conditions were generally good, for both downhill and cross country, especially early in the day. Two good areas were accessible by gondolas a short walk from our hotel, and the hotel also provided shuttle service for those who wished. There was bus service to several nearby towns where our lift tickets were valid. Weekdays there was little traffic in the areas near the town of Ortisei.

Both Hotel Hell and Hotel Maria provided good accommodations and fine food. All group members were happy with the comfort and services at their hotel. Carla Hell, manager of Hotel Hell, was particularly helpful in resolving a few minor glitches which occurred.



Skiing at Val Gardena, Italy

As was expected, the overnight trip to Ortisei was exhausting. The return trip was much more pleasant than the outbound trip. We left the hotels around 9:45 am and arrived at our Venice airport hotel about 2:00 pm, so most took advantage of the free afternoon and evening to visit the old city of Venice for a walking tour and dinner. The morning flight Sunday enabled us to leave at a reasonable time and do the trip in a single day. Several of the group members have been kind enough to pass on their thanks for a great experience.



Cross-country skiing at Val Gardena

Since I intend to leave this position at the end of the current term, please allow me to extend my thanks to the many people who have participated in the weeklong trips during my tenure. You have universally been cooperative to work with during the registration process and great company on the trips. I also extend my thanks to Sharron Malott and Nancy Kirkwood of the RA Centre for their hard work in dealing with our travel agents and preparing registration materials, and to the other members of the executive for the advice and assistance in making good decisions while the trips were being planned.



Bill Buck, Weeklong Chair

[Editor's note: Bill is retiring from the RA Ski executive after four years running our weeklong program, preceded by a year as downhill chair. We sincerely thank Bill for the excellent job he did organizing our weeklong trips to Sun Peaks, Banff, Switzerland and Italy.]

Bill Buck, Weeklong Chair, weeklong_2009@raski.ca

PUT YOURSELF ON OUR SKI-MAIL LIST

Keep up to date with our weekly Ski-Mail e-mail. Learn about late-breaking events, like hikes or bike trips. But... you have to put yourself on the list. It's easy! Go to our web site www.raski.ca, and click on "e-Mail list"

OTHER WAYS TO KEEP UP-TO DATE:

- Call the SNOWPHONE at 613-736-6235
- Check out our web site www.raski.ca
- Send an e-mail to currentevents@raski.ca for a one-time bounce-back e-mail of upcoming events.



Snowshoeing at Rideau Tennis Club, 10 February



XC ski to Lusk Lake, 6 March