

BOARD MEETING MINUTES 1/15/07

In attendance: Julius Dalzell, Trudy Hussmann, Lou Klump, Rita McCormick, Pam Rigor, Ted Scheinman, Al Stickel.

Membership report: 307 total memberships (219 single and 88 family); 24 new members. Membership total is up 24 from the previous month's report. However, 16 members had not renewed for two months since their renewal date and were sent a reminder. Please remember to renew if you want to keep enjoying the club's benefits!

Treasurer's report: Club's total balance as of January statements was \$35,543.00; \$31,543.00 in checking and \$4,000.00 in savings.

Day tours: The novice tour program is going well. Kathy Burns had 18 people on a novice tour on Jan. 14. Some people are finding the tours online or in the local media, which have posted them several times. Nevertheless, there's a recurring complaint that we don't have enough "easy" tours. We need to get more people to lead tours that are somewhere between novice and intermediate to advanced. Even if this is not your preferred level of skiing, there's a special satisfaction in bringing less experienced people along, helping them improve their skills and get excited about Nordic skiing. Plus, it can be very relaxing.

Rita and Kathy would like a day tour coordinator to line up non-skiing tours April through September. These could be hikes, bike tours, kayaking or ? The position would involve actively recruiting people to lead off-season tours.

Overnight tours: The Black Butte, Methow Valley, and Yellowstone tours were well-attended and successful. Most other tours were full as of this meeting, including Glacier. However, the Crater Lake tour still had lots of openings, as did all but the first Odell Lake tours. The John Craig tour still had space, and as of February 5, Ted Scheinman still had room for one to three people on the Norway tour.

The board discussed whether we should have an official tour cancellation policy. There's a trend of people signing up later for tours than in the past. This often puts the overnight tour coordinator in a bind when deposits are due and not enough people have signed up yet. It's a tricky issue, because we don't want to lose a lot of money on tours that don't go, but we also don't want to hurt our reputation by enforcing rigid rules. The board decided to continue evaluating the issue from year to year by looking at actual losses and gains (small profits on some tours), and whether they generally balance out. Everyone agreed that we don't want to cancel tours if we are just one or two people short. The tours coordinator may use his/her discretion up to a certain level of loss, and beyond that, take the issue to the board. For now, we'll continue to handle it on a case-by case basis.

Programs: Lined up for the next few months are Mt. St. Helens (February); Alaska by Steve Levy (March); Nepal and Tibet (April); and skiing the Canadian Rockies (May). We need a new programs coordinator beyond that!

Nordic issues: Not available.

Publicity: The week of January 29, *Willamette Week* published three of our events—a ski tour that weekend, Ted’s Norway show at REI, and the Mt. St. Helens program. We are planning to participate in the annual Winterfest Feb. 17-18 at Old Man Pass in the Wind River area. Pam was hoping to get a couple of people to lead easy 2-hour tours. Also, we will be hosting an “apres ski party” at the Mt. Hood Cultural Center and Museum (Government Camp) on Saturday, March 10, from 2-5 p.m. Rita McCormick is organizing the event. Anyone is welcome; there will be snacks, and a winery will offer tasting.

The board keeps thinking of new ways to promote the club –e.g., the Meet in Portland site. Julius mentioned a “flash news” service that automatically feeds press releases to the media. It costs \$125 a year to join—could be well worth the price. These ideas will be discussed in more depth at a board retreat planned for early April (probably at the Mazama Lodge).

Ski Clinic: Pam was getting a good turnout for the Ski Clinic. The in-town clinic was on January 24 and the free snow sessions were scheduled for the first two weekends in February. Julius, Ann Truax, and Mike Dianich volunteered to help teach.

Shelters committee: Not available.

Web site: Not available.

Next meeting: February 26 at Pam Rigor’s. Arrive at 6:30 for potluck, 7:00 for meeting.

Note: Any ONC member is welcome to attend a board meeting. It’s a great way to get an insider view of club operations and what it would be like to be on the board. While we continue to search for a new president, our most urgent needs are for a program chair, a treasurer, and an Oregon representative on the membership committee.