

# BLACKHAWK SKI CLUB NEWS

December 1998

## First Annual Potluck a Success!

**T**he first annual members meeting, held on November 15, was a smashing success. Over 50 families came to eat, visit, hike, and hear about future plans for the club. The weather was perfect and the food was even better! Thanks to all of you who helped plan and carry out this event. We plan to make this an annual event in the fall to kick off the ski season.



PS. If you left a Nerf football or a picnic basket at the potluck, or if you are interested in using the Chalet for a party, please contact Patrick Remington at 238-3211 or



## New Pisten Bully Groomer Arrives

**F**or the first time in almost 10 years, the Club is acquiring a new snow cat. It is a used 1989 Pisten Bully 270D groomer. This 16 foot wide groomer is made in Germany and is considered the "Mercedes-Benz of snow cats", and rightly it should be with both a 6 cylinder engine and transmission made by Mercedes-Benz. It has a whopping top speed of 10 mph, is powered by a 275 turbo diesel and can turn on a dime. Along with the front blade, the rear flex tiller allows for perfect grooming on almost any snow surface.

Brand new, these units sell for close to \$250,000. Fortunately, the ski club paid considerably less due in part to few very generous donations through the Nordic Sports foundation and savings that the club had.



## **Jumping News**

If you've seen the dirt around the new tow by the 30 meter jump, you've probably wondered "how many trees were cut down?" The answer is around 65. Most were White Pine planted by the club about 50 years ago. Notice how tall the remaining ones are. The forest grew very fast on that slope and is thick with a variety of trees. The trees on the lower part of the hill are pine while the upper part have a wide variety of pine and hardwoods. Fragrant smelling cedar surround the 30 m jump tower. Next to it also are Catalpa trees which are known for their large leaves and beans in the spring. The bigger ques-



tion is "how many trees are left?" There are hundreds standing on the hill.

There is an old fire place that was totally buried in trees until it was brushed out.

The trees on that hillside have a variety close to the Universities Arboretum, and most appear to be naturally seeded. The tow path and 10 meter jump that we've built are mostly hidden under the tall trees. They will probably

become less visible every year as the tree canopies expand over them. Our new tow is near completion. The warm weather gave us some help. The motor stands ready along with a new power transformer behind it. All we need is a few more wheels and snow. Yes, we will be making snow down there in the woods - plenty of it. Coach Kip closed the 30 meter plastic after many long rides this fall by Nuppie and Austin. They improved a lot on the plastic this fall. When we get into snow, the less experienced jumpers will start on the new 10. Blackhawk's older jumper, Kyle Wylie, competed on the first snow competition of the year in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. They opened the first hill because of their altitude. But the meet had less than ideal conditions because the warm weather has hit the Rockies also. One had mud spots on the inrun because its built on the side of a mountain. Kyle managed to place 6th and 10th on the two hills. Not bad for national competition. His longest ride was 101 meters. Parents, don't just stand there this year - bring your down hill skis. Ride the tow and slide down the 10. Its made for down hill skis as well as jump skis. No more walking up the hill. If your wonder who built the jump and tow. It was built by a group of old Dad's and Jumpers. Wade Catel, a former jumper donated the money for the equipment and brought in a monstrous bull dozer to move the dirt. Wade's contribution has made a very big change in our jumping club. Lets enjoy it this year.

## **Cross Country Ski Trails Improve**

**S**everal members interested in cross country skiing worked over the summer to improve Blackhawk's cross country ski trails. We now have a trail that connects the West and East ski areas. This trail starts from the bottom of the beginner hill (Hill #1), heads downhill to the northwest corner of the property, follows the creek east to the northeast corner of the property, turns south around the pond, and heads up hill #6 along the east edge of the property. Once on the east side (where the tall ski jumps are located), there are several easy loops that run through the pines.

For the first time ever, the club will soon have a snowmobile to groom and maintain the cross country trails. This groomer has been donated by Mrs. Susan Remington, in memory of her husband, Frank Remington, a long-time



member club member and supporter of nordic sports. With this new equipment, and a little help from mother nature, we should have great trails for skiing through most of the winter.



Thanks to Jana Stewart for helping install a new lift pole on the bunny tow. About 2 lifts poles annually are replaced at the ski club.

## **Snow making starts with a bang**

**B**lackhawk snow making started with a bang Monday, December 7th, with the first cold temperatures of the month. Yes we started the system. We fortunately didn't waste our energy with the early November cold weather. The bang came from the pipeline. Our aluminum pipe is actually irrigation pipe and its not screwed together. No threads on this stuff. Its held together by posts and by clamps. Well our ground thawed out by the heat wave and a new post by the new tow rope wiggled a little and a pipe coupling down the line came apart. It sounded worse than it looked. Stan DuRose has seen this problem before so he put it back together. Don Wylie found a log and jammed it between a tree and the post. The white clouds over Blackhawk appeared again. Our snow storm will appear nightly as long as the temperatures remain around the December "normal."

**Blackhawk Ski Club**  
**2136 Van Hise Ave.**  
**Madison WI 53705**

What's inside:

Open House / Pot Luck Update  
Jumping Update  
Pisten Bully Update  
Snowmaking Update

etc...

For the latest in snow and skiing conditions call the West  
Chalet number 831-8460 and listen to the message or call up  
our website at [www.blackhawkskiarea.org](http://www.blackhawkskiarea.org)

Holiday Schedule

December 21- January 1 noon -5:00 p.m.

(exceptions - Xmas & new years eve noon - 3:00 p.m.)

No skiing on Xmas day!

