

BLACKHAWK SKI CLUB NEWS

April 1999

The 1998-99 Season Was A Great Success

The Club set a goal at the fall meeting of increasing the membership to 100 families. With all of your help, spreading the word to friends, family, and coworkers, we have reached and surpassed that goal! With the increase in membership, we will be able to improve the quality of the clubs facilities, including better snow making equipment and better downhill and cross country grooming equipment. We are no where near our the maximum number of family members (about 160), so keep spreading the word!



New Fireplace

Thanks to the to the efforts of Dan Osborn and Jeff Prey, a new fireplace was built this winter in the west chalet. Dan Osborn, of Osborn Brick was kind enough to donate the bricks and labor, thanks again Dan!



New Membership Passes

Over the course of the next year, all membership passes will be replaced. The new pass will not have a photo, so trying to find photos for passes will be a thing of the past. The new passes will be numbered, and each year a renewal sticker will be issued. The Board felt that it would be easier to sell memberships if the photos were eliminated, that way memberships can be sold "on the spot" instead of the process we have now.

Jumping News

Blackhawk skiers in bigger tournaments - Nupie Schnitzler competed in her first Junior Olympics in Anchorage Alaska (7-13 March). This is the national junior tournament that was held on a 60 meter hill. Next year she will probably be joined by Austin Ragotzkie who conquered the 65 meter hill at Steamboat Springs, CO while on vacation.

Kyle Wylie was selected for the Junior World Team that competed in Salsaaden Austria in February. He placed 41st which was the 2nd highest U.S. skier. Kyle also competed in the Continental Cup series at Westby, WI, Iron Mountain, MI and Ishpeming, MI (near Marquette, MI) against 40 Europeans. His highest finish was 36th at Iron Mountain which was the 3rd highest U.S. place. Kyle has been rarely seen at Blackhawk the last two years because he has been going to high school in Lake Placid New York so that he could train on the Olympic Ski jumps. He also won the Eastern USA Junior Ski Jumping Championship this year at Salisbury Connecticut. Kyle will graduate from the National Sports Academy in May. He wants to challenge Kip Koepelke's 56 meter record at Blackhawk next year.

Plastic Jumping - We will hold a few sessions on the 30 meter plastic this spring starting with an end-of-winter or beginning-of-spring party. We have a ramp which we will put half way down the landing for those that don't jump the 30 from the tower.

Two other clubs have smaller plastic hills. Norge, near Chicago has a 10 m plastic hill and St. Paul has a 20 m hill. We will have some joint club activities with these clubs too.

Contact Kip Koepelke, Don Wylie, or Dave Norby for the schedule of plastic events.

The addition of a new rope tow and new 10 meter jump next to the 25m plastic jump proved to be a smashing success. Jumpers helped out with the First Flight program this winter and on one occasion we had 25 kids jumping the new little jump! They had a ball going up and down with the new tow.

The jumping club hired the services of Kip Koepelke for the winter months to coach the junior jumpers. Kip who is now attending Whitewater was a recent member of the US jumping team and won our tournament on the 50m jump, he can "walk the talk"! We look forward to having him back next year.

We sent 10 jumpers to the Badger State Games this year and brought home many trophies in addition to the great memories.

The jumping program was brought to a new level this year and the future has not looked this bright for many years. The jumpers are excited, come and try it next year!



Winter Carnival Fun



Biking News

It's that time of year when skis are being put back into the dark realms of the basement and bikes are being dusted off. With warmer weather on the horizon, it is natural to think about off-road biking. We ask that you respect the conditions of the trails and wait until the snow melt has dried before taking your two wheeled steed onto Blackhawk trails. Spend a few more weeks on the road getting those muscles into shape before heading to Blackhawk. Also a reminder that we do not have permission to ride on neighboring properties (Round's or Erdman's) so please respect the fences and boundaries. If you do not know where Blackhawk property begins and ends, please consult the maps in either chalet.

As in past years Blackhawk will be host to an off-road time trial series with WORBA. These run from May through August on Wednesday evenings beginning at 6 pm. These are an enjoyable way to meet other riders and to introduce yourself to competitive riding. All levels of ability are welcome although we do cap the numbers at 50 riders per event so come and register early. More information on the exact dates will follow as the race calendar becomes available. Blackhawk will also be host to the Second Annual Mad City Melee Mountain Bike race on Sunday, August 29. Look for entry flyers at local bike stores by mid April. This is a step up from the competition at the time trials although many of last year's winners were frequent time trial participants. For more information on both of these events stay tuned to our Web site www.blackhawkskiarea.org or contact Paul Manley at Paul@blackhawkskiarea.org or at 238-2615.

Last but not least, if you are interested in the concept of off-road bicycling for you or your family but do not know where to begin, I would be happy to organize an introductory meeting covering such issues as bike selection, bike maintenance, where to ride, tire choices for different terrain's, bike handling skills, or any other related topic that you might think is interesting. Just contact me and if the interest is there I will get something together.

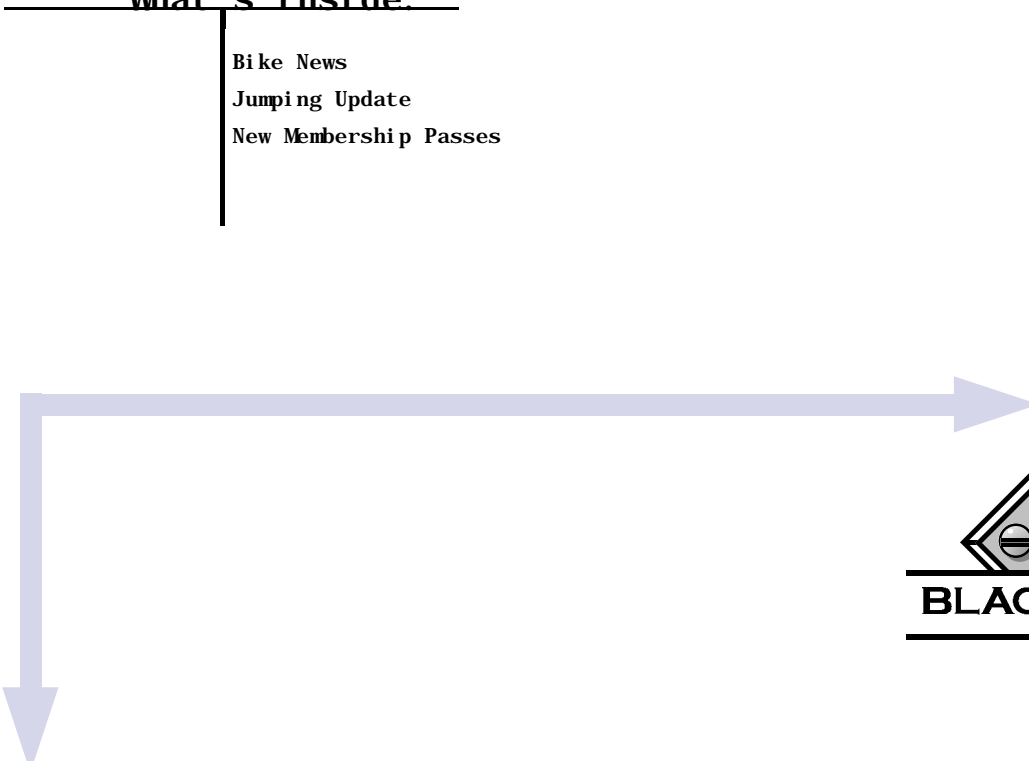
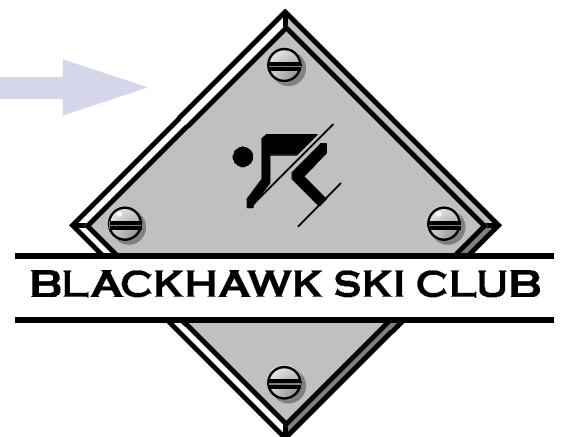
Congratulations to the following Blackhawk Ski Patrol members who completed their National Ski Patrol training in February: Karl Knauf, Doug Meier, Jim Slattery and Michael Wilson. We would also like to thank the trainers, Samantha Pegelow and Bob Glover for their long hours getting our new patrollers ready. Great job everyone!



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Thanks to all the members for a great 1998-99 ski season. It is because of your efforts that the ski season started in mid Dec. and lasted all the way through mid March!

Only 8 months 'til we ski again!