

BLACKHAWK SKI CLUB NEWS

November 1999

Stan DuRose - Blackhawk's #1 Volunteer

Stan DuRose holds the record by far as Blackhawk's hardest working member. Every building you see and every slope you ski on has been the product of Stan's ceaseless energy. Stan was one of the original founders of the club in 1947 when it grew out of the University Student Hoofers club. He led the team that built the jumps in 1951 and later the rope tows for downhill skiing starting in 1962. He started snow making in 1962, and guess who has made the most snow over the years? Through Stan's guidance, Blackhawk was the first Nordic ski jumping facility in the world to use man-made snow. Through his efforts Blackhawk was the first successful plastic mat ski

jump in the western hemisphere back in 1968. Stan also was an original member of the Nordic jumping engineering team for the United States Skiing Association (USSA) which started in the 1950's. He helped Lake Placid design their ski jumps and convinced them to use man made snow. He resigned his post with USSA in 1980 after the Olympics so that he could



put more energy back into Blackhawk. For a real job, Stan spent two short duties of service in the Army Air Core (before there was an Air Force). But his longest employment was with the State Insurance

Commissioner's office where Stan was the Acting Commissioner for many years. When Governor Lucey finally appointed a new commissioner, the new appointee's first act was to hire back the man who

DuRose cont.

knew the office best, Stan. Though Stan had retired, he ended up serving the state for many more years. The time finally came in the late 1980's when the Insurance Commissioner allowed Stan to spend more time at Blackhawk. Stan has no children of his own, but make no mistake about it, every kid who puts on a pair of skis at Blackhawk is part of Stan's family. You can also catch Stan skiing in late winter when he tunes up before his annual trip to the Rockies. Stan married Loraine, whom he worked with in the Insurance Commissioner's office. They make their home on DuRose Terrace. Yes, it's named after the DuRose family. It actually was a rock quarry on the west side of Hoyt Park once operated by Stan's family. You will see Stan at Blackhawk on almost every morning. There is no shortage of things to be built and repairs to be made. But at 12:30 Stan takes a family break and heads home for lunch. So when you see Stan, you're looking at the vision of Blackhawk. By the way, when you see him out there in his coveralls just walk up to him and say, Thank You!



Snowmakers Needed

Wanted - some hearty souls that like dragging hoses around in the dark and white washing Blackhawk with snow. Its a lot of work, but if you like to see snow, check out our own storm. We often have rainbows or snow-bows under the lights. We need helpers for setting up and shutting down during which time most of the work is. required.

Stan usually starts during the day and shuts down at 10 p.m. He gets help around 5 when most snow bunnies get off of work, but he could use the hands on start up if you're available. We also will try to run through some nights, especially on weekends, so if your capable of partying all night, come try snowmaking. Contact Stan or Don Wylie at 833-2744 (home), 263-7458 (work) if you can help.



Come Out and Join the Team!

If anyone is interested in helping teach the First and Second Flight Classes this year, please contact Kathrine Polzin at 246-0541 or e-mail me at canis@chorus.net. You don't have to be a great skier yourself to teach (I'd never even had a lesson when I started teaching). Rumor has it we have a lot of kids this year, so we need some enthusiastic folks (adults or older kids) willing to spend a few Saturday mornings helping with lessons, the rope tow, shoveling, etc. I'd like to try and get together with those interested before the first weekend (December 4th) to review some basic lesson plans.

New Ski / Snowboard

Lesson Options

Several people have expressed interest in ski and snowboard lessons outside the realm of the First and Second Flight Classes. The biggest interest seems to be adult and older kids beginner lessons, private lessons, and snowboard lessons. If you are interested in any of these, please contact Kathrine Polzin at 246-0541 or e-mail canis@chorus.net by mid-December. It's been a gorgeous Fall, but now it's time for everyone to do the Snow Dance!!!!

Ski Jumping Update

Many improvements have been made to the 10 meter hill in anticipation of winter. Rollie Williamson has built a starting platform deck with railings. This will make getting into the track a lot easier along with waiting in line and getting up to the start. The take-off also has been shaped out of wood and placed further forward. Look for longer jumps this year. Thanks to Wade Catell for bringing in all the dirt and smoothing the rough terrain. It looks like a park with all the newly seeded grass. Jim MaHaffery and Stan are installing lights on the 10 meter jump. Shadows and spooky dark spots won't be there this winter. In addition, Stan and Rollie raised the take-off on the 30 meter hill. This will produce longer jumps and more air. Will, Nick, Catlin and Austin have been enjoying the air on the 30 during the summer. They will be jumping on some Saturdays in November. Anyone can try it!



Blackhawk Ski Club
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**First and Second Flight Start
Saturday Dec 4.
Sign Up Today!**

