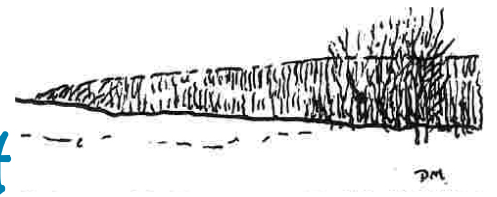




Bittersweet

CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB



NEWSLETTER • AUTUMN 2017

OUR 25TH YEAR!

TRAILS REPORT

Compared with last year, when the tornado brought down so many large trees, this year the job of clearing and mowing the trails was relatively easy. Glen McMaster spent two days mowing and cutting stumps. Greg Mayberry and family spent a whole day clipping North Star with his brush saw, and has done a wonderful job. As far as clipping is concerned, most trails are in good shape, though The Crossover Trail, The Farm Trail, and Bittersweet Bank are trails that need work. Ted Harvey and his Charleswood Ski Club crew are planning a day here to clip, and they always do a fine job. Thanks are extended to all those who have helped prepare the trails for the season ahead.

FUND RAISING

We are always looking for ways to help defray the costs of running a XC Ski operation. At a recent meeting of the Board, it was decided to offer toques for sale. These warm toques are a quality product, and come in a one size fits all. They are bright red in colour, and they feature our beautiful Bittersweet crest on the front. The toques will be available at the Nordic Centre this winter.

Buy one and help celebrate the 25th anniversary of Bittersweet Ski Club!

CALEB'S WAY

Our newest trail, Caleb's Way, on the Deleurme property, has now been completed and promises a very pleasant ski experience. The trail includes the old Sumac Run, which was formerly part of the Cottonwood System. Skiers should prepare themselves for the bump at the very bottom of that run!

Caleb's Way trail begins at the fence by the Nordic Centre. It loops west and returns to the Centre, with a distance of 2.1 km.





TRAIL SIGNS

There are now attractive trail maps mounted on bright red posts at almost all trail intersections, 39 in all! Each map is numbered, and each post has a number, so if you find the number on the map which matches the number on the post, then it is easy to locate yourself while skiing.

These maps mean that we will no longer need to provide paper maps.

Thanks to Scott Smart, Hartley Woodward, Ardythe McMaster, Glen McMaster, and the McPlayter family for their efforts designing, assembling and installing these trail maps!

MEMBERSHIP FEES & REGISTRATION

The 2017-18 membership fees will remain unchanged this season:

Single membership \$40

Family membership \$75

The registration procedure, however has changed. All XC Ski Clubs in Manitoba are now using the website zone4.ca. Simply search Bittersweet Ski Club and fill out the form. You may pay on line using a credit card, or leave your cheque with any Board member, or at the Nordic Centre.

Anyone having difficulty navigating the website may contact **Pam May** at pampeteach@gmail.com or at 204-871-0286.

MANITOBA HUTTERITE 5K/10K RUN AT BITTERSWEET

This year we mapped out both 5km and 10 km for the annual XC run of the Manitoba Hutterite Schools run. Both routes began and ended at the Nordic Centre. Schools from across southern Manitoba, and one from the USA, came to compete. An impressive 440 runners were registered, and the buses jammed the parking lot to overflowing.

This is the second year that Baker Colony and Bittersweet have cooperated to host this event. We hope we can repeat next year.

TRAILS REPORT

Bittersweet has developed a new map for its trail system. It uses the Avenza Maps app and a georeferenced PDF file (Bittersweet Trails Map). The Avenza Maps app uses your phone's (or tablet's) built-in GPS to precisely track your location with a moving blue dot in real time. It does not require cellular service or internet access to function. The app also provides a number of other features, including the ability to zoom in or out, record your track distance and time, drop and label placemarks, attach photos, and more.

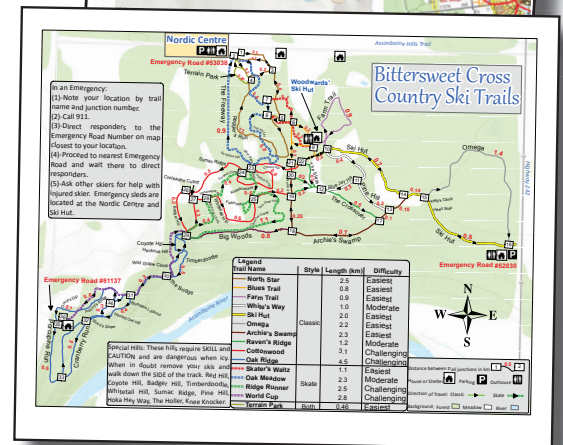
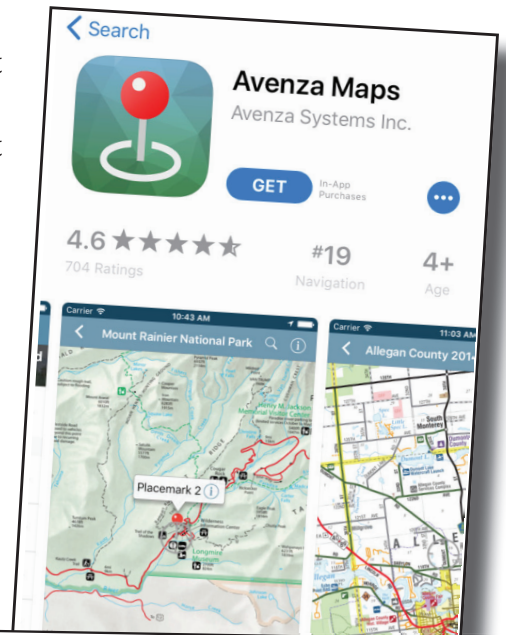
To use the Avenza map:

- Install the free Avenza Maps app from Google Play (Android), the App Store (iOS), or the Windows Store.
- Download the Bittersweet Trails Map (2.8 MB PDF) from here.

https://www.ccsam.ca/wheretoski/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/BittersweetTrailsMap_Avenza_Version4.pdf

(The map can also be printed or viewed without using the Avenza Maps app.)

- Open the Avenza Maps app, configure Settings from the menu, and import/copy the downloaded Bittersweet Trails Map into the app. Tap the map to begin using it.



Info and support:

- avenzamaps.com
- avenza.com/pdf-maps
- Contact Kevin.Miller@mts.net if you have questions or comments.

The updated map has been printed on aluminum and mounted at all trail junctions. There are also large versions in the Nordic Centre and the Ski Hut.

ANNUAL BITTERSWEET FAMILY FUN DAY FEBRUARY 18

Please mark your calendars, Sunday, February 18.
(on the Louis Riel Long Weekend)
for our annual Bittersweet Family Fun Day.
More details will be circulated in the New Year.

DEER HUNTING SEASON

The Firearms / Muzzle loading season this year starts October 23, and closes November 26. During this period, there will be hunters using most of the ski trails. To avoid conflict with landowners, and to ensure the safety of everyone, all of the Bittersweet trails crossing private lands will be closed during the hunting season.

The Conservation Department has asked us to warn our members that anyone on Crown lands should wear blaze orange caps and jackets during the hunting season.

Please note that if sufficient snow accumulates during the hunting season, we may have to begin packing our trail base, just to prepare for grooming situations later in the winter. However, this would not be an invitation to ski. Please be safe! Stay out of the woods until hunting season is over.

NORDIC CENTRE & SKI HUT

As soon as the hunting season ends, and the Ski Season officially opens on November 27, the gates at the Nordic Centre will be open and left open for the remainder of the season. The Nordic Centre will be open daily, and on weekend afternoons, coffee and cookies will be available.

Skiers are asked to be sure to return to the Nordic Centre well before dark each day. We do not want to have to go out searching for skiers whose cars are still in the parking lot after dark. Night skiing can be dangerous.

Reminder: Overnight camping in the Ski Hut or at the Nordic Centre is not permitted.

Have a great ski season!



Hutterian Brethren
Signs & Design

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JACKRABBITS

Our thanks go to Pam May, who has founded and coordinated the Jackrabbits and their activities for a number of years. She has done a marvellous job! But unfortunately, she is unable to run the program this year.

Thanks again, Pam! We all know, as do you, that Jackrabbits are the future of XC skiing in Manitoba.

LOOKING FOR A JACKRABBITS COORDINATOR

The Bittersweet Ski Club is looking for a person to organize our Jackrabbits program on Saturday mornings in the coming season. Parents are willing to help with the coaching, but we need someone to head the group. Someone needs to step up and volunteer for this important job.

Job Description: (*from Pam May*)

1. Organize registration
2. Confirm which parents are willing to coach, making sure that there enough adults willing to help
3. Print out a snack list, and have people sign up. This is optional.
4. Be sure there is water each week for hot chocolate, if serving it.
5. Be ready for once weekly ski sessions, Saturday mornings only.
6. Arrange for the Ski Room at the rink to be open Saturday mornings, for people to pick up skis.
7. Arrange with Karla at Heartland Rec for skis to accommodate the few skiers coming from Portage. Perhaps a rental system. Entire clubs cannot rent for the season, however, as schools use the equipment during the week.

If there are no volunteers, then there will be no Jackrabbits program this year.

Anyone who is interested, or who may have questions, should call Pam May at 204-871-0286.

Pam encourages parents to continue to borrow skis and to take their kids skiing!