

Happy Winter!

We are well into our season and a great deal is going on every week. Regular sessions are continuing with new members joining almost every week, from youth to adult! This speaks toward the quality of our RRNSBC programming as well as our great coaches!

Speaking of coaches, the board wishes to announce the selection of Elise Paetkau as Lead Coach, a new position for our club. In past years, much of the work of organizing the programs, camps, etc... has been shared by the many volunteers, coaches and other. The club is very thankful for all of those very significant contributions. This collaboration will certainly continue but the board determined that it was the right time to formalize a leadership position with this work. Elise will make a wonderful Lead Coach, as the position and the club itself continues to grow.

RRNSBC also wishes to welcome Mhari Anthony, athlete representative to the board. Mhari will serve as conduit between athletes and the board. Athletes, please get to know Mhari and share with her any ideas and / or concerns. She will share these at board meetings and will assist in creating solutions.

There is much going on within the club. Here are a number of updates for the membership:

Sprint Provincials Scheduled for mid-January, the temperatures were not cooperative. (All events under the CCSAM umbrella must adhere to national safety guidelines.) A new date has not been established as of yet as other canceled races are in the process of firming –up their rain dates. The Sprint Championships will be held later in the season and notification will be given well in advance.

The High Performance Program continues to develop as athletes recently participated in two qualifying races this past weekend, one in Pinawa and one at Birch Ski Area. Participants are vying

for an invitation to the Eastern Canadian Championships later this month.

Race / Junior Race Team Club Trip preparations are underway.

Coaches are currently determining exact dates and location – stay tuned!

The Annual Jackrabbit Jamboree is scheduled for Saturday, February 6th, at Windsor Park! This is a wonderful event that sees Jack Rabbit skiers from around the province participate in a fun-filled day of games and activities. Those of you familiar with this event know how much your kids love it, from a hotdog lunch with friends to scavenger hunts to the Mascot Challenge!

For new families to the sport, you won't want to miss this!

Registration is on Zone 4. See Kenton Frith with any questions.

We are also looking for volunteers for the event, both on skis and off.

MEC Wednesday Night Race Series continues. We have already had as many races in the first part of 2016 as we did all of 2015! (very challenging temperatures in 2015) If you have not already done so, please contact Ron Pelletier for instructions on getting registered.

The Falcon Combined, slated for January 30th and 31st, is ready to go! This is an excellent weekend for athletes in both sports, Nordic and Biathlon. (Some of our athletes participate in both while others choose to specialize in one or the other.) The Nordic race on Saturday is a MB. Cup Race. After the race, there is an 'exploring biathlon' session in the afternoon. Sunday will see a Biathlon Mb. Cup Race. Please see the event notice on our website for more details.

Western Canadian Biathlon Championships are being held at Falcon Lake, February 26th – 28th. RRNSBC was awarded this prestigious event after the club submitted a very solid bid to host. Athletes from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Northwest Territories and the Yukon are expected to compete against Manitoba's best. Extensive renovations have been done to the trails at Falcon Lake thanks in part to the countless hours of volunteer work by RRNSBC and BAM members. The planning committee is being headed by Lorraine

Mitchell. Volunteer coordinator is Jamie Giasson and he will find you! Please consider volunteering for the weekend, regardless of your daughter's / son's discipline as we are poised to show off our great competition areas, our organizational expertise and our warm hospitality! This event will require in excess of ninety volunteers so we are counting on the support of the RRNSBC and BAM communities as a whole. Contact Jamie at jgiasson@shaw.ca to get involved.

The board of the Red River Nordic Ski and Biathlon Club wishes to thank all of the volunteers who have worked selflessly in making such positive things happen for our club! Without these efforts, events would not take place and we (adults and kids alike) would spend winter months huddled in our basements playing video games – yuck!