



Whistler Weasel Workers Newsletter January 2008

www.weaselworkers.com

From the Alpine Chair & Executive President

Hello Fellow Weasel Workers,

Yahoo! The 2008 Canadian Alpine Nationals and World Cup are just about here. After much talking and planning we finally get to go out in the snow and get on the track. To those who are new, Welcome! Fasten your seatbelts, you're in for a really great experience as a race volunteer and you will be proud to be called a Weasel Worker.

Volunteer Welcome Party: As a gesture of appreciation the Whistler Mountain Ski Club (WMSC) has invited all National Championship Volunteers to a Party in your honour, Friday Feb. 1st from 5pm – 7pm at the WMSC cabin. Come have some snacks and a beer, register, receive your accreditation and enjoy the evening.

All of us are looking forward to putting on some high quality race events. After a 10 year hiatus it's great to host a World Cup event and the new Women's downhill track will be very exciting. Those of us who are returning are looking forward to catching up with old friends.

In many respects this year's events are much the same as always. The job jars are full with tracks to put in, fences to build, and start/ finish areas to construct. During the race there will be courses to maintain, timing systems to manage, gates to judge and public to steer away from the line. In short, the things we like to do. Oh, there will be an on-hill soup tent with refreshments and a chance to warm up during break time. Don't forget the Beer Tent, a Weasel Worker tradition, where you can grab a couple of cool ones and swap stories at the end

of the day.

Please keep in mind that there are some differences with this year's events and they will be a bit of a "roller coaster ride":

- There is more work to do. Surprise! We have two courses: The Men's and the Women's. Each will have their own set of Coordinators, Section Chiefs and Crew Chiefs. We are conducting three series of races: The Canadian Alpine Championships, The Junior World Championship Qualifications and the World Cup. Each event has its own Race Organizing Committee and procedures. For example, there will be separate orientation and safety meetings for each event. Check with your crew chief for the most up to date information.
- As there are more of us, procedures must be a little more formal than we are used to. Nothing that we can't deal with but please bear with us as there are a lot of eyes on these events. As the airlines say "We appreciate your patience".

One last thing, Whistler Weather can be unpredictable. As the locals say, if you don't like the weather, wait a minute and it will change. Come prepared!

Again, welcome and see you on course!

Owen Carney & Pat (Patman) O'Connell
Alpine Chair & Executive President



Jan 19 – Whistler Mountain - Crew Chief Training Day

Fifty to 60 Crew and Section Chiefs gathered at the Joker Traverse on the new Ladies Downhill course on Saturday for almost three hours of training and practice in proper set-up of the brand new Alpina B-Nets and the new Kitzbuehel-style slip skirting. Ingo Hopfgartner, Alpina's representative, demonstrated the set-up and told us how the systems are designed to work. The session was very informative. Clearly, Ingo has a lot of knowledge and it was great to hear directly from the manufacturer. The new gear will be great to work with. There are a number of efficiencies in play, most noticeable being the relative light weight of the slip-skirting. [Training Manuals found at: <http://www.weaselworkers.com/TabPages/training.html>](http://www.weaselworkers.com/TabPages/training.html)

One of the highlights of the day was getting together with so many of our fellow Weasels, including volunteers from afar, who made a special trip to Whistler for

this event. Being on the snow and actually laying hands on nets was a great tonic and is much better than sitting in meetings!
The new Women's track (on which the Canadians will be run) is amazing. There is lots of snow which Rod MacLeod and his grooming crew have been continually working to harden the track getting it into great shape for ski racing. Free-skiing on the Ladies track, right now is fast, exciting and could not be better! Some of the A-Nets are hung and the dark blue Olympic colour makes them almost invisible against a background of trees. After lots of snowfall, the weather has turned cold and clear. Things are looking very good. Let's hope this lasts! There is no question, we're going to have a great event and have a good time working with wonderful people.

A Plea from your Weasel Webmaster!

As you ready yourself for your 2008 stint on Whistler's downhill courses, please don't forget your (digital) camera and, once you are here, please don't forget to use it. Help us record our race events, to provide a lasting record for all Weasels and their friends and families to enjoy. Help us tell the world what it is we do and how well we do it.

Be creative. Share your talents as a photographer. Your efforts will be appreciated! Send you photos to editor@weaselworkers.com!

Lockie Brown



New Tunnel under the Women's Track!

Just a Reminder

The Weasel Beer Tent will be in full swing from 4:00 PM Feb 2 throughout the events. Please familiar yourself with the [operation of the beer tent:](http://www.weaselworkers.com/SidePages/Beer_Tent.html)
http://www.weaselworkers.com/SidePages/Beer_Tent.html

The Daily Weasel Newsletter (during Setup, Training and Race days) will be

available online through weaselworkers.com. Encourage your friends and family to review, as they can stay informed from afar.