

Weasel News

Whistler Weasel Workers

Fall 2008

Dedicated to the promotion, co-ordination, and improvement of ski racing in B.C.

Message from the President

Pat O'Connell (Patman)



As the snow has begun to fall and the 2008/09 ski season is fast approaching, it's time for yet another Weasel News Letter, keeping all of you as up to date as possible.

In this issue I have some updates for this year's local events (the Pontiac GMC Junior National Championships and the IPC World Cup). We will be updating the Registration Process for 2010. Yes it's long and involved but don't get discouraged. Please don't jump ship and volunteer to park cars in Squamish. We need you! We will also provide a glimpse in the life of a volunteer during the games.

The Turkey Sale: A big thanks to those that assisted Peter Allen and Lockie Brown with this year's Weasel booth, at the Whistler Mountain Ski Club Turkey Sale. Peter and Lockie continue to do a great job promoting the Weasel Workers at this event year after year... Thank you.

Travel Teams: As you are reading this, our Men's & Women's World Cup Lake Louise Travel Team are on route to assist the Alberta Sled Dogs at the first FIS W/C Downhill of the season. Drive safely everyone. On November 28th our Chief of Gates, Murray Wood will arrive in Colorado to assist the Birds of Prey Talon Crew at the men's FIS W/C in Beaver Creek. Don Appelle and VANOC are still working with the Val D'Isere ROC as accommodations have become an issue. My future vision of the Whistler Weasel Workers is to expand our commitment to other World Cup, World Championship and Olympic venues around the world. After the 2010 games we need to increase the number of people and better support those of you with the desire to travel with skis and a shovel.

2010 Weasel House: I'm very pleased to announce the appointment of Patrick Maloney to the position of Chair and Manager for the 2010 Weasel House Committee. Patrick will oversee the Operations and Fundraising of this project. Patrick and Owen Carney are currently working with the Head of VANOC Security to confirm all the logistics and confirm its location. The Weasel House could be one of the most energizing accomplishments in our club's history. I encourage all of you to consider helping us with this project, as this Committee will require Fund raising experts, Food and Beverage managers, Weasel Ware/Swag Designs, etc... **The 2010 Weasel House Committee** is currently being put together. If you are interested, please contact Patrick Maloney or myself. We will need your help! We are going Big on this one, Lets all be a part of it!

Advisory Committee: This group, comprised of Owen Carney, Pat Taylor, Bob Miller and Dave Shefley has been set up to work with VANOC to address Volunteer issues. They continue to name additional individuals who directly work with VANOC. At this time the list is: Lockie Brown - Accommodations, Peter Allen -

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Transportation, Pat Taylor/Murray Wood – Registration, Natalie Pereman – Equipment, Ailsa Siemens – Radios. These folks have the information compiled by our Liaison Committee (needs and issues) and will continue to meet with VANOC. Thanks to these folks for stepping up to the plate and carrying the Weasel Message forward. If you encounter issues please let them know. VANOC has been very responsive.

Vancouver 2010 Pre-Games Volunteers: Many Weasels have volunteered to be Vancouver 2010 Pre-games volunteers. Thanks for your commitment and enthusiasm. It makes a difference and it's great to have a Weasel perspective on the Games.

Whistler Events for 2009 Weasel Working: The two local events on the schedule this year are the Pontiac GMC Junior National Championships and the IPC World Cup Finals. Neither of these events will be coordinated exclusively by the Weasels.

The Junior Nationals Feb.28th – Mar.4th are being hosted by the Whistler Mountain Ski Club, with Race Chair – Jim McGovern, Gary Taylor as Chief of Race, John Benbow as Chief of Course and Lynne Hume as Race Secretary. All work between the fences will be coordinated through the Weasel Workers. Sign up using the [Registration](#) page on the Weasel Workers Web site.

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) event Mar. 4th – Mar. 14th will be managed by the VANOC Alpine Sport Team. Rick Hume has accepted the position as the Course Consultant helping the Chief of Course Barry Peters from the Mt. Washington Marmot's. Rick would like to encourage all ladies track Section Chiefs, Crew Chiefs, and Course Workers alike to join the IPC crew and experience the new Franz's course again.

Register for IPC using the [pre-games](#) or [games-time](#) registration pages of the Vanoc Web site. (Register for the 2009 IPC WC when you sign up for the 2010 games). If you have trouble, please contact the Volunteer Information Centre at 1.866.925.8657 between Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 (PST).

The 2009 Whistler events will provide us one more dress rehearsal prior to the games. The men's team at the Pontiac GMC National Championships and the women's team at the IPC World Cup. I encourage you all to sign up accordingly. Please see the Alpine Report below for dates and registration information.

Let's go skiing!

Patrick (Patman) O'Connell

Weasel Executive

Alpine Chair: Owen Carney

President: Pat (Patman) O'Connell

Past President: Don Appelle

Vice President: Patrick Maloney

Executive Secretary: Maria Cecutti

Treasurer: Gerry Longson

Media: Scott Roberts

Executive Director: Cindy Burton

Executive Director: Richard Prokopanko

Executive Director: Boris Duff

Associates

Associate Director: Mr. Robert (Bob) Miller

Training Chair: Dave Shefley

Training Coordinator: Brad Keats

Communications/Publications: Tess Evans

Communications/Web Designer: Lockie Brown

Communications/Web Designer: Murray Wood

Alpine Report

Owen Carney



Now that the 2009 ROC's have been named and the 2010 positions continue to be filled, the Weasel Workers will have a small job jar for 2009. Our main focus will be the J1 Nationals. There is no budget for accommodation (beer tent is alive and well), so it is back to the how we use to put on races, bunking in with friends. The manpower budget for this event is 200 in total, which will see about 100 on the track and the balance in the support positions. The J1 Coordinators, Section Bosses, and Course Crew Chiefs have been selected from the 2010 Men's team. This will assist in building their teamwork and course experience. They should be recruiting their teams so those with the time and a local bed contact your crew chief or register on the Weaselworkers.com web site as soon as possible This is the primary Weasel event at home this year.

The VANOC IPC event following the J1's, are using Coordinators, Section Bosses, and Course Crew Chiefs from both the 2010 Women's team and 2010 Paralympics team. The VANOC IPC strategy is to build more experienced volunteers for 2010. For the 2009 IPC event they are planning on a one third experienced to train up two thirds new volunteers creating more volunteers that are required for 2010.

This year Weasel Workers can free ski more and take a rest. We have the experience of last year's World Cup test events and can take a well deserved break in 2009.

In summary this year's Whistler events are:

	Hosted by	Expected Volley Dates 2008/09	Where to Sign up
Pontiac GMC Cup Junior National Championships (SG, SC, GS, SL) Whistler Mountain – Dave Murray Track	Whistler Mountain Ski Club	Setup Feb 26/27 Race Days Feb 28th – March 4th	www.weaselworkers.com
IPC World Cup Finals – Whistler Mountain – Franz's Track	VANOC Event	Setup March 4 – 8 th Race Days March 9 th – 14 th	www.vancouver2010.com

Appointments for the key 2009 positions:

2009 Pontiac GMC Cup Junior National Championships

Dave Murray – Men's Track

Race Chair – Jim McGovern
Chief of Race – Gary Taylor
Chief of Course – John Benbow
Assistant Chief of Course – Doug Campbell

2009 IPC World Cup Finals

Franz's – Women's Track

Chief of Race – Markus Walser
Assistant Chief of Race – Peter Engstad
Chief of Course – Barry Peters

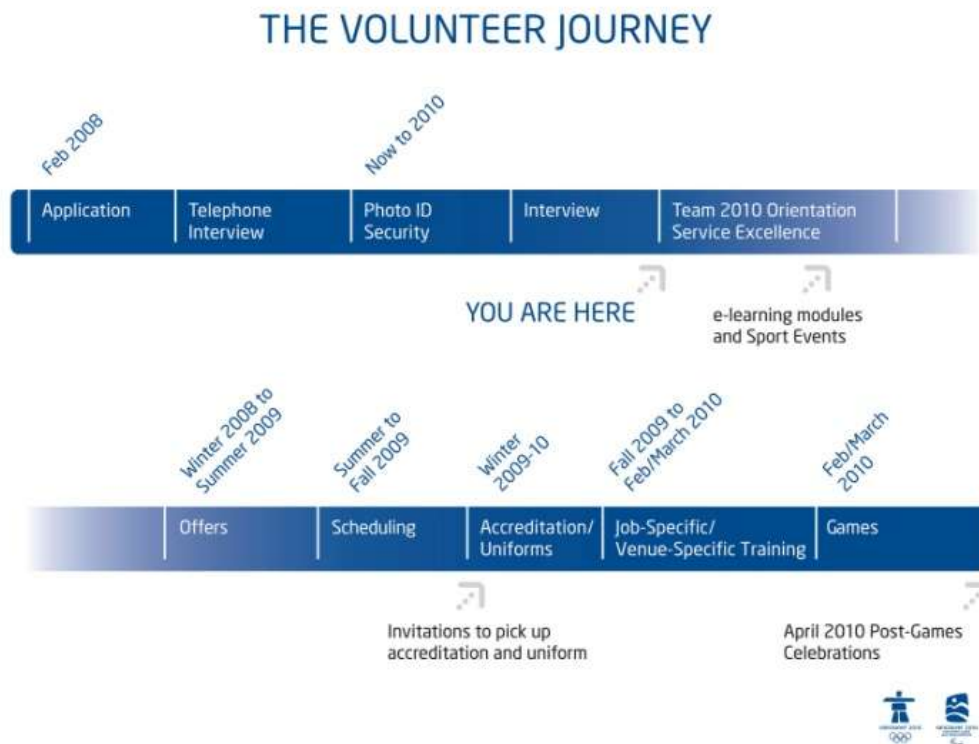
The Vancouver 2010 Registration Process

Murray Wood

By now, many of you have registered for the Vancouver 2010 Games. Some of you have received a telephone interview and have completed the Team 2010 Orientation and Service Excellence Training. Many more of you have not yet been contacted at all! If so, Don't Panic.

The Vancouver 2010 Workforce team is in the process of hiring 25,000+ volunteers for the games. The registration, hiring and training process is very thorough and it takes time to process this large amount of people. If you have not yet been called, don't worry you are on their list. VANOC has been concentrating on recruitment for other Pre-Games events and will focus on the 2009 IPC World Cup Final & Games time volunteers in the near future.

The following chart has an overview of the games volunteer process:



Application: The first step is to submit your application. If you have not already done so go to <http://vancouver2010.com> and click on 2010 Volunteer >>> which is located in the Useful Links section on the bottom left of the page.

When completing the registration don't forget to identify yourself as an Alpine Volunteer. To do this, the final page "Terms and Conditions" has a box in the lower right hand corner labeled "For office use only". Please enter ASNNSPT45 Again this will identify you as an Alpine volunteer and will put you on the fast track for Alpine registration

Telephone Interview: A very short telephone interview to get an overall idea of where you would like to volunteer.

Photo ID, Security Check, Interview, Team 2010 Orientation: This is a face to face session takes about 5 hours to complete. Most likely your session will be held in either Vancouver or Squamish. The first step is to complete a security information form which will be verified by the Team 2010 Security Team. You will then go a face to face group

interview and/or an individual interview. The session will conclude with the Team 2010 Orientation session. The purpose is to learn more about the games and to have the tools you need to deal with the various customer groups that you will encounter.

Job Offers: Once you complete the Orientation Session not much will happen until much later. Remember the Workforce Team is dealing with 25,000+ games time volunteers. **Games time** job offers will **start** going out late spring or early summer of 2009. **Sport Event** job offers for the 2009 IPC World Cup Finals will **start** going out late December 2008.

Scheduling, Accreditation/Uniforms, Venue Specific/Job Specific Training: These activities will start later in 2009 and will continue to games time. Much more training to come! More details as we get closer to games time

The Games: What we've all been waiting for

Post Games Celebration: An event for volunteers will be held in April 2010.

As you can see it is a very thorough process and it is very well thought out. You may be interested to know that the process and courseware needed International Olympic Committee (IOC) and International Paralympic Committee (IPC) approval before VANOC could proceed.

Please let me know if you encounter anomalies during your interviews. We will see what we can do to resolve the issues. To date VANOC'S Alpine Sport team have been very helpful and have been very responsive. Unfortunately, we can't do much about the timing of your phone or face to face interviews. On that topic, please be patient as the airlines would say.

One last thing. Please be respectful to the people contacting you by phone or in the recruitment centers. For the most part they are volunteers much like us and they are doing their best to get everyone in the right job. Right now the interviews and training are more from a Human Relations point of view and are not Alpine specific. This is not the time to show off your Alpine expertise. Most Workforce Volunteers know little about Alpine specific jobs. If you push too far you might end up in that special bucket reserved for the latrine cleaning crew. You wouldn't want that.

Murray Wood

Day in the Life of a 2010 Alpine Olympic Volunteer

Murray Wood & Elizabeth Urbach

Now that the Chiefs of Race and Chiefs of Course have been named, much more detailed planning has started for the Alpine Events. The purpose of this article is to give you an idea of what will happen during a typical day at the 2010 course. For those of us who have previously gone through the "alpine experience" much will be the same as in previous years although there are some differences.

To those who are new to the Alpine Volunteer scene, Welcome! We are glad to have you aboard. To start, we must come clean on one item. Alpine Volunteering involves long hours. Sorry! For many of us 8:00 to 5:00 is a short day and we had a good chuckle when these hours were mentioned during the interview process. Wish you volunteered for another sport? Hopefully not. Alpine Volunteering is a great experience and when it's over you will be keen to do it again.

Alpine Volunteers will arrive at Creekside via the WAVE (Bus) by 6:00 in the morning and will first go through security. If this is your second shift you have left your skis' and tools in the volunteer lockers and just have your boots and new gear for the day.

Once you pass through security you head over to volunteer check-in at the CanSki building. You will be scanned in to ensure that you are scheduled to work and will then head off to the lockers to gather your gear before heading to your team briefing. The location for team briefings will be announced later. Unfortunately, team briefings will not take place in Dusty's during the Games.

After a briefing from your Crew Chief over a quick breakfast you grab a bagged lunch. At 7:00 or earlier your crew will head up the gondola to prepare the race course for course inspection.

During inspection the racers and coaches slip the course to determine the best race line. Course Crews await instructions for any changes or repairs to the course. Some will have time to grab refreshments at the warming tent. All Course Crews will be in place, at the side of the course, by 9:20, half an hour prior, to

the race. Meanwhile, down in the finish area spectators are loading into the stand and the anticipation builds.

At 9:50, the first forerunners will test the track to make sure it's suitable for the racers. At 10:00 the broadcast cameras are fired up and the race goes live to the world. Crews are in place to quickly make any repairs to the course. Be Careful! Only venture out onto the track if you are asked to and only if it is completely safe to do so.

At 12:00 the race finishes. It went like clockwork due to all of the hard work that countless volunteers have put in to prepare the racecourses. Volunteers grab a hot cup of coffee or a bowl of soup from the warming tent on the mountain.

After the race, Chiefs of Course and Coordinators will determine what work is needed to make the race course ready for the next day. Course Crews will return to the track, at 1:00, to carry out the work. Usually there is a lot to do and the "Job Jar" is full. Your Crew Chief will let you know what's required.

At 5:00 after a day on the mountain ends the volunteers head down the mountain and leave their gear in the lockers and check out. As they head out of the venue they find the Weasel House and share stories of the day they get ready to go again the next day. Don't stay too long as morning comes early!

Yes it's a long day but it's a lot of fun. You will have a ringside seat to one of the most exciting events of the Games. You will meet some great people and will make many new friends. I can't wait. See you there!