

# Weasel News

**Whistler Weasel Workers**

**Summer 2008**

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

## Message from the President

**Pat O'Connell (Patman)**

Welcome. Now that it's finally arrived we hope you are having a great summer. While you have been sunning and funning there has been a lot of exciting things happening on the Alpine Ski Race front. Just the size of this edition of the Weasel News is an indication of the amount of activity. It's time to get everyone up to date!

Enjoy the issue and as always if you have any questions or concerns please let us know. We look forward to seeing you on one of the race courses.

## Advisory Committee Report

**Owen Carney**

A small committee has been struck to work with VANOC to address issues with respect to the Alpine Volunteers. The committee consists of **Owen Carney – Chair, Bob Miller, Dave Shefley, Pat Taylor**, the mandate is:

- Appoint qualified & experienced volunteers to work/meet with VANOC Functions to ensure Alpine Volunteer needs and issues are met.
- Follow-up with Appointees to track progress on the planning to ensure volunteer issues are being worked out
- Regularly communicate to volunteers on the planning activities; ensure the communication is consistent and clear to all volunteers
- Resolve any issues or problems with appropriate VANOC official
- Anticipate Volunteer needs during the event and work with VANOC to ensure their needs are met

As the Chair, I am working with the Executive Planning Group for the 2009 IPC races. We meet monthly. A couple of appointments have been made to work with VANOC, one for the planning of Volunteer Tents for 2010 to which John Benbow and Rick Hume were appointed and have met. As well we have appointed Pat Taylor and Murray Wood to work with Workforce to understand the recruitment/scheduling process, they have yet to meet but plan to soon.

A volunteer "needs" review has been compiled from survey results, crew chiefs' input and other volunteers' thoughts of the various functions that affect the Volunteer Experience. This has been put together so that when people are appointed to a VANOC team they will have as much perspective as possible to use in the planning stages.

Please be patient with the volunteer application process. They have thousands of applicants and limited resources to getting them recruited. VANOC needs to recruit for several other test events prior to the IPC. Currently there is no particular order to when you will receive your "phone screen" which is the first step in the

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process. A small number of our volunteers have been called while many including myself have yet to be called. After the phone call there will be face to face interviews where roles, skills and experience are assessed. As Pat and Murray learn more about the process, they will advise our group and we will communicate it.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of us if you have any issues or concerns you wish to be addressed or clarified.

## Rod's Course Update

**Rod Macleod**



We have now inspected both the Mens, Ladies and the Training course on Ptarmigan as the snow has finally melted. We have been pleasantly surprised by how well the ditching and seeding that was done last fall has held up, all runs are in good shape. The only area needing work is around the Ladies tunnel and we need to get in there anyway and do the few improvements that FIS asked for out of the events this winter.

CME will be starting there on July 14<sup>th</sup>.

The snowmaking also had a few things not finished last fall as we got chased out by weather. A few more hydrants are being installed on the Weasel and Fallaway to help with the snowmaking, but also aid the watering program.

Jeff Wilson (Jelly) is working full time now and has been organizing the storage containers and we will be placing some more on the hill this summer. He has also been doing maintenance on the A net towers, marking the timing pedestals and continuing to cleanup bits and pieces found on the hill.

The Finish area continues to have work done in preparation for the Games with more ducting for power and communication lines going in, including a line down to the Creekside base. As well there will be some grading and improvements to make the Paralympics

work better in March of 2009.

Enjoy the summer, all, Rod

## REPORT FROM PETER BOSINGER



Hello to all Weasel Workers!

I'm sure most of you are all enjoying the summer weather we are finally experiencing, which includes golfing, biking, water sports and not too many thoughts about alpine skiing.

I would first like to thank all of you again for your commitment and tireless efforts in making all ski racing events in this country a success. The 2008 FIS Alpine World Cup races in Whistler were a great accomplishment and impressed the eyes of the Alpine Skiing world, including all the attending National Ski Teams and the FIS. This would not have happened without the hundreds of hours spent preparing and maintaining the race courses by all of you.

VANOC has been busy preparing for the next two seasons, and to better assist VANOC in understanding the needs of volunteers there has been a volunteer committee formed to act as a resource and partner working alongside VANOC. Together we are working on plans for the IPC (International Paralympic Committee) World Cup Finals which will be held March 9 to 14. The Whistler Mountain Ski Club will also be hosting the Pontiac GMC Junior National Championships, which will be another opportunity to prepare your team for 2010.

I look forward to seeing all of you on the race tracks again this winter, but until then make sure you take advantage of the summer season.

Pete Bosinger

VANOC Alpine Skiing Sport Manager

# Alpine Report

Owen Carney



The 2008/2009 Race Season will be busy for the Alpine Volunteers. We have many events to increase our Alpine Experience including:

	Hosted by	Expected Volley Dates 2008/09	Where to Sign up
FIS Alpine World Cup - Lake Louise	Alpine Canada	Men's Races Nov 29th and 30th Women's Dec 5,6, & 7th	<a href="http://www.winterstartworldcup.com">www.winterstartworldcup.com</a>
FIS Alpine World Championships – Val d'Isere	Experience required	Training Starts Jan 26th – Course Work Jan 31 – Feb 15th	Don Appelle <a href="mailto:christine&amp;don@telus.net">christine&amp;don@telus.net</a>
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	<a href="http://www.weaselworkers.com">www.weaselworkers.com</a>
IPC World Cup Finals – Whistler Mountain – Franz's Track	VANOC Event	Setup March 3 – 8th – Race Days March 9th	<a href="http://www.vancouver2010.com">www.vancouver2010.com</a>

## Appointments for the key 2009/2010 Chief positions:

<p><b>2009 Pontiac GMC Cup Junior National Championships</b>  <b>Dave Murray – Men's Track</b>            Chief of Race – Darrell MacLachlan            Assistant Chief of Race – Gary Taylor            Technical Assistant Chief of Race – Mike Irwin            Chief of Course – John Benbow            Assistant Chief of Course – Mike Kirker            Technical Assistant Chief of Course – Doug Campbell</p>	<p><b>2009 IPC World Cup Finals</b>  <b>Franz's – Women's Track</b>            Chief of Race – Markus Walser            Assistant Chief of Race – Peter Engstad            Chief of Course - TBD</p>
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<p><b>2010 Olympic Winter Games</b>  <b>Dave Murray – Men's Track</b>            Chief of Race – Darrell MacLachlan            Assistant Chief of Race – Gary Taylor            Technical Assistant Chief of Race – Mike Irwin            Chief of Course – John Benbow            Assistant Chief of Course – Mike Kirker            Technical Assistant Chief of Course – Doug Campbell</p>	<p><b>2010 Olympic Winter Games</b>  <b>Franz's – Women's Track</b>            Chief of Race – Bruce Holliday            Assistant Chief of Race – Jim Brewington            Chief of Course – Rick Hume            Assistant Chief of Course – Craig Smith            Technical Assistant Chief of Course – Andy Wolffe</p>
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## Other Key Appointments

There will be a Beer Tent/Weasel House at the 2009 FIS and IPC races (similar to last year). For 2010 there are no official Hospitality Tents for volunteers at Olympic venues. Don't panic! We will host our own Weasel House. For these upcoming events Les Norman is back and will be chairing the committee. Welcome back Les! It's great to have your experience to help us through this one.

A big "Thank You!!" goes to Lockie Brown who has done an outstanding job on the Beer Tent/Weasel House while Les has been "on vacation". Great job Lockie and we really appreciate the amount of effort you have put into this important task.

I hope all this information is helpful to your planning for next year, I hope you all have a great summer short as it is (only starting mid July), and see you soon.

Owen Carney



## Sad News



We have lost one of our longtime Weasel friends. In early July, Brew unexpectedly passed away.

We will certainly miss him as no trip to the finish or equipment area was complete without acknowledging Brew. I'm sure that we will feel his presence there for many years to come.

Our condolences go to Peggy and Bruce Littlejohn. "Brew was like a child to them" and it was difficult to see him go so suddenly.

## AGM and Golf Tournament

The 2008 Annual Weasel Golf Tournament, Barbecue and Annual General Meeting were held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> this year. Congratulations go to the winners of the golf tournament. Thanks go to Maria Cecutti for organizing the event and to Doug Wylie, Jim Cook and Diane Nelson for arranging the prizes. Following the barbecue our AGM was held, again, in record time (6 minutes). A big welcome goes to our new executive members (Patrick Maloney – Vice President, and Richard Prokopanko – Executive Director).

### 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

## Weasels do Grouse Again!



About 20 people joined us on July 22<sup>nd</sup> Grouse Mountain event. Keep your calendars open as a second Beer & Burgers event is scheduled for Aug 26<sup>th</sup> on Grouse Mountain. Again, the program involves two options for getting to the site. You can either ride the Grouse Mountain Sky Ride or you can hike the Grouse Grind.

This time plans are in place to have a barbecue at the conclusion of the event.

Everyone is welcome! You don't have to hike to attend this social event, You don't have to be a Weasel, You don't even have to know a Weasel or know what a Weasel is. You just have to be there.

### **Schedule:**

Hikers - 6:30PM meet at Grouse Grind trail head. It's located in the parking lot near the bottom of the Sky Ride.

Non Hikers - 7:30PM meet on top of Sky Ride (more details about meeting place to be released later).

### **Cost:**

Non Hikers will need to purchase a round trip Sky Ride pass.

Hikers will need to pay a small fee (approx \$5) to descend the mountain after the event.

Barbecue (Burger and Beverage) will cost about \$10.

### **Registration:**

So that we order the appropriate amount of food and beverages please register on the Weasel Web Site at <http://www.weaselworkers.com> Click on "Weasel Summer - Fun in Sun" which is on the left hand column. Then scroll to the bottom of the page for the registration form.

More details to be released later. Many thanks to Don Appelle, Missy Burkholder and Carleigh Whitman for setting these events up.

## A Brand New Weasel

Congratulations to Tess and Dave Evans on the birth of Sam Benjamin Evans. Sam checked in at 10:40AM on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

As you can see by the picture below Tess reports that all are fine and arrived home from the hospital on Sunday. June 29<sup>th</sup>.



Again congratulations to the Evans family: Dave, Tess, William and Sam. Now has anyone recruited him for the 2030 crew yet?

## Have you signed up yet?

If you are planning on volunteering for the 2010 games or for the 2009 Pre Games events you must register. If you haven't the time is NOW! Phone screening has already started and face to face interviews will start in the middle of August 2008. You must be registered to be considered. No exceptions. Again everyone must do this. We would really like to see all of you return but you must register to make this happen.

If you have not already done so please go to <http://www.weaselworkers.com> and click on "sign up now for 2010" link. This will take you to the 2010 Volunteer registration site.

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.

During the application process you can also register for the Pre-Olympic events. This includes the IPC World Cup scheduled for March 2009.

## Construction Continues

For those of you who have not been in Whistler recently, much progress has been made on the Peak 2 Peak Gondola. One of the towers was finished June 15 and is crowned with the Swiss flag and the tree, which is a tradition of the Doppelmayr installation crew. The two towers are now in place at each end of the lift and crews are installing the lift cable



To check out the current state of the lift terminal construction go to the Whistler Conditions page of the Weasel Web site and click on Peak 2 Peak. ([http://weaselworkers.com/SidePages/Whistler\\_conditions.html](http://weaselworkers.com/SidePages/Whistler_conditions.html)).

Thanks to Brian Humphrey for providing the photo.

## Currie Chapman appointed to the WMSC Program Director

During June, the Whistler Mountain Ski Club announced that Currie Chapman has been appointed as the new Program Director for the Club.

Currie brings an enormous amount of experience and expertise to the club. He was a member of the Canadian Alpine Ski Team (CAST) for 5 years. He was Head Coach for the CAST Women's program from 1978 to 1988. Currie was named 1986 Coach of the Year by the Federal Government. In 1998 he published book on ski coaching philosophy and how to motivate athletes to become the best. In 2005, Currie was inducted into the Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame.

Those of you who worked on the 2007 Canadians may have Currie as he was on the ROC. We understand that Currie will start full time on August 1<sup>st</sup> and that he will relocate to Whistler.

Welcome Currie! We look forward to working with you and the club.

## From the Web Master

### Web Site Updates

Our Web Master, Lockie Brown, has been hard at work updating the web site. Lockie has made many changes. Many new photos have been recently added to the Weasel Web site, including a set of aerial shots of Franz's (Ladies Olympic) downhill!

Again the website is at <http://www.weaselworkers.com>  
Check it out!

### Photos and Anecdotes Needed

Lockie needs your help to continue updating the web site.

He is looking for photos from your "Weasel Days" and anecdotes of unusual experiences last February or cases of when someone did something out of the ordinary that made a real difference. Please send your input to [editor@weaselworkers.com](mailto:editor@weaselworkers.com)

### Please Link to Us

If you own or control a company Web site, please consider including a link to us. It helps us raise our search engine rankings. Some suggestions are:

- "Your Company" supports the ski racing activities of the [Whistler Weasel Workers](#).
- Or just, [Whistler Weasel Workers](#) placed on your Links page.

If you place our link on your Web site let us know. We will gladly place a reciprocal link to you on the WWW Links page.

For the technical types the HTML for the link is:

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<a href=http://www.weaselworkers.com>Whistler  
Weasel Workers</a>
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## Weasels beyond 2010

With much of the focus on the 2010 Winter Games some have asked questions about the Weasel legacy after the Olympic games are finished. It's felt that as an organization we can gain some leverage from the 2010 Olympics to help create an enduring human, and cultural legacy for alpine ski racing.

After 2010, one of the goals is to find partners that will support the recruitment and retention of our volunteer base. This effort is important to ensure that the Whistler alpine ski racing culture endures.

The challenge will be to open and expand our communications with potential funding partners that will assist the Weasels in fostering volunteerism within the alpine ski racing community.

We will need to reach out to our traditional supporters and develop new ones. Any ideas and input would be much appreciated.

Many thanks to Cindy Burton and John Rae of the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMoW) who have been working on this strategy.

Patrick Maloney