



Whistler Weasel Workers

Newsletter

www.weaselworkers.com

November 2007

From the President By Pat O'Connell

In 1960, when Franz Wilhelmson formed the Garibaldi Lift Company, his dream was to host the 1968 winter Olympics. Although Whistler (Garibaldi Lift Company) didn't get to host the 1968 Games or the three later Games they bid for, Whistler will finally be a host venue for the 2010 Winter Olympics supported by you the World famous Whistler Weasel Workers.



To date the Race Organizing Committees for both the Pontiac GMC Canadian Championships and the TELUS World Cup Ski Race have received a great deal of support as nearly all our needed Section Chiefs and Crew Chiefs have confirmed their availability. Most Crew Chiefs have received the initial "Vol Web" training, and I hope this database is providing an efficient tool for managing and building your crews.

Accommodations: Traditionally we have looked after each other, found cabins and homes for folks to stay...I hope that type of support will continue. With the added number of volunteers joining us in Whistler this year, **we need** everyone's help towards providing a pillow for all. Saying that, please continue your traditional

hospitality towards others. And we will remain encouraged and supportive in finding every volunteer a place to stay while they work along side us as new Whistler Weasel Workers.

As a fellow course worker, I encourage every one to register on line at the new and always up-to-date Weasel web site www.weaselworkers.com and click on "register now". I encourage you to consider a Level I and/or Level II officials course to expand you knowledge and skill levels. As a Crew Chief and/or Section Chief our training coordinators will soon post a training schedule for both Alpina "A" and "B" safety systems.

Section Chiefs, Crew Chiefs and Coordinators, please note there is an important meeting for all of you December 15th 2007 @ 1500hrs in Whistlers VANOC office in Function Junction. Agenda to follow.

The World Cup race events returning to Whistler this season represent a major step toward Canada's goal of being a world-leading alpine ski-racing nation by 2010. I hope I speak for all Weasels in saying "We are very proud do be a part of this great effort".



Chief of Race Report By Bruce Holliday
National Championships Speed Events & Women's WC

Planning and preparations are well underway. As Chief of Race for the Nationals and for the Women's event, here's a brief recap of "my" season so far:



From The FIS meetings in Zurich, all the FIS people, specifically Gunther and Atle, spoke very highly of the preparations happening both on hill and in the planning for the upcoming races. They were impressed that we are as far along as we are, and are confident there will be successful racing in Whistler. The only comment was for assistance in helping keep the "big western front" off shore during the races to allow for dryer conditions.

The selection of section and crew chief's is pretty much complete, and Rick Hume and John Benbow – respective, women's and men's Chief's of Course – are completing initial contact with them. As well, the majority of the chief's have completed the introduction to the database with VANOC and are beginning to select their crews. This is also happening with timing, gates, slip, security, race office and other crews. People should be either contacted by now, or will soon be contacted. If you have not applied as of yet, please do so – www.weaselworkers.com "**Register Now**" – so you can be assigned to a crew.

Meetings are scheduled to happen for the various crews and sections in the near future. Timing, gates, security, slip, Crew Chiefs, Section Chiefs and ??? will all be having individual meetings dealing with their specific areas. With the large numbers involved, this allows for specifics to the section or crew to be discussed and formulated, with outcomes brought forward by the respective chief.

By December, everyone will be involved.

I truly thank everyone for their patience while this all comes together, and look forward to your participating, both at meetings and eventually on the hill.

Franz's Track Update By Rick Hume
Chief of Course

Site of the National Championships Speed Events & 2008 Women World Cup Speed Events

This summer the Franz's track (Women's Olympic Track) underwent an unbelievable transformation in a short period of time. Crews were unable to get an early start after the mountain closed due to the high snow pack last winter. When they did get going under the direction of our very own Rod McLeod, Venue Construction Manager they created a track the world is going to be in awe over. Having been present for several FIS Safety Inspections this summer and fall, the FIS Directors are all pleased with the work that has taken place. At the same time the course was carefully dissected into 14 sections for downhill and identified for terrain difficulty in each section. As the course length changes, the section chiefs are positioned in new shorter sections.



We now have underground timing wire with input and output ports at all starts and alternate start areas. The television cable (fiber optics) is also underground with access at all television camera locations. This September Alpina hired Alberta and local Safety Crew personnel and installed all "A" Net towers in record time. Also installed over the summer was snow making from top to bottom along with an expanded finish area.

Constructed and in place for this winter is a permanent downhill start on top of Wildcard. The track makes its way straight down this section now known as Ace, Duce, Joker Traverse and into Jimmy's Joker. You will then find yourself skiing over a tunnel that has been installed permanently on Hwy 86. The tunnel is massive and large enough to drive two cats through

side by side. The days of shoveling snow into the tunnel on Express are finally over. Once over the tunnel you make a hard right turn onto Varnet Road and then around a tree island into Rod's Route which will kick you out onto Mid Franz. From this section you then enter Frog Bank (named after the frogs they had to move) sending you to Treeline and then down Frondala to XY Junction (where the men's track meets the women's track) followed by Roy's Turn then Hot Air and finally the finish.

To support us this year on the track are 16 snow cats, 8 free cats and 8 winch cats. To bring this into perspective, Whistler Mountain's entire fleet is a total of 14 cats. Track preparation which is to get underway November 15th along with snow making will have regular grooming on the race tracks from now until January 31st with two daily grooming schedules: 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. As we move towards the Olympics the snow cat fleet will increase to the point where we are able to completely groom a speed event track after a moderate snowfall within 2 hours and be race ready.

View the gallery of photos from the 2007 summer installation of the A-Net towers on Franz's Run
www.weaselworkers.com/gallery/randy_jelly_jar.html

Brand New Weasels!

Patrick Maloney and Lockie Brown have recently welcomed new members to their families. Congratulations to Pat and Lockie. For more information and proud papa photos, check out <http://www.weaselworkers.com/TabPages/personals.html>

Early morning load at the Whistler Village Gondola



**Some of our Regulars have yet to register. Crews are filling up fast!
Please REGISTER NOW!**

www.weaselworkers.com - click on "register now"