

Sept
2011

cheeseman 

CHAT

Winner
Ski Area
Service Award

2007, 2008
& 2010



FROM THE PRESIDENT

The end is near – only a few days remain in the 2011 season!

Looking back it's been a fantastic season and really a season of only two big snowfalls right at very strategic times that set us up for the entire season. For much of the early stages of the season Cheeseman had some of the best snow and coverage for locals to enjoy and that was reflected in the visitor numbers with people flocking to us during both weekdays and weekends. A recent report from CHILL also confirms how popular we have been this season and the result from Chill pass users and our payment which is due to be received shortly will be a record since our involvement with the Chill pass.

Patronage has begun to taper off as it normally does and we head further into spring – a shame really as the weather just gets better and better, the days are longer and the snow is true spring conditions. With the re-hash of school holidays for the Rugby World Cup we will not unfortunately be open when holidays kick off in a couple of weeks' time so we hope everyone has made the most of the season to date?

Saturday nights have remained popular and it's been great to see full to near full lodges in recent weekends and in particular the large number of non-members who have been staying with us.

Obviously with a good year brings some good income and yes this has been the case. We still remain reserved in our approach to expenditure and its very pleasing to note that we are completely debt free (apart from a structured loan for the Grader) and up to date with all regular creditors. A decision was made by Committee to repay all outstanding debentures once we had funds to do so and I'm pleased to report that we have now accomplished this goal recently and have extinguished all debenture loans from members to the Club – some of which date back quite a number of years. Its worth noting that many members once they were approached actually decided to donate all

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or part of their debenture to the Club and on behalf of the Committee I would like to thank those members for their very kind donations. Also we thank all members who loaned the Club money for one or more reasons and for being so patient waiting for the loan to be re-paid – I personally feel proud that we have finally been able to repay these outstanding commitments albeit rather later than may have originally been anticipated.

There are many other rumours floating around on how money should or can be spent and the Committee will be meeting in due course to prioritise jobs and how money is spent wisely.

After feedback from the Mid Season meeting the Tarn Tow Team have changed direction from the Rope Tow and are now moving ahead at pace with a Platter Tow plan. A complete Doppelmayr Platter tow minus towing units is available ex Ruapehu Alpine Lifts and has been inspected at National Park Village. Contact has been made with Doppelmayr to confirm the feasibility of installing this tow in Tarn and we are currently looking into freight prices to Christchurch before committing any further to this tow. A staged installation process is still envisaged and we still have some hurdles to cross yet but the small team are now back on the project and are focussed at moving forward with this exciting project and we will keep members up to date on progress via Chat and E-News. Why have we arrived at a platter tow over T bars or Chairlifts?

- Small and compact
- More simpler and cost effective installation
- Maintenance is more simple and parts lighter and easier to handle
- Parts are still readily available
- Platters are Surface tows which we have operational procedures in place for
- Will still handle the steep terrain

Events at Cheeseman have continued through September with us successfully running the Undie 500, Pirate Day and Gromfest most recently. Thanks to all involved and especially to Ana Haase who was instrumental in reviving the Undie 500 this year. Our thanks also to ThermaTech – sponsors of the Undie 500 and CHILL / Dynastar for running and sponsoring Gromfest.

With summer fast approaching so too is the workparty season and as in recent years workparty weekends will need to be managed around summer lodge bookings which are quietly trickling in along with a steady flow of enquiries. There will be plenty to do so keep an eye out for workparty notices in future editions of Chat and E-News. We will also be continuing to use the website over the summer to get the word out and keep members up to date with goings on in the Club scene.

A reminder that our AGM will now be held in March instead of December. Our next social gathering will be the end of season function on Wednesday 5th October at Filadelfios, 150 Colombo St, from 6pm onwards. This is our chance to thank the staff and volunteers for their efforts during the season and to have a final catch-up with many of the staff who are heading off either overseas or to other parts of New Zealand to take up their non winter jobs. We wish the staff well for the next few months a thank them for their hard work during the extremely busy 2011 season.

See you at Filadelfios on Wednesday 5th October.
Cheers
Cam

Events in October

Sat-Sun 1-2 October - final weekend of season
Sat evening - sunset skiing and BBQ on the deck

Wed 5 October - end of season function ,
Filadelfios, 150 Colombo St Beckenham

Snow Reports CSA Snowphone (03) 383-8888

Press 2 for Cheeseman conditions
Press 0 to return to main menu
Press # then 2 for bookings

Note: snow phone access to the Cheeseman snow report has been an issue in recent days. You can still get the report by either ringing the mountain (03 318 8794) or calling the snow phone, press #, 2 for Cheeseman and then 1 for snow report!

CAFE NEWS

Well the season of all seasons comes to an end. I have to say with my absence from the Hill it has seemed very short but we have seen fluctuations never experienced before. With that in mind we have made the most profit we have ever - at last count 19 September we had hit the \$44,000 mark, which is outstanding. We can thank the snow conditions at opposition fields, but its about time we had some luck. Firstly, thanks must go to Mariska and her amazing team, from Mirjam and Katrin in the Cafe (too scared to ring as they had rung out again), to the multi-tasking Andrea, (rentals, ticket and cafe) and to the strongest Pom we have had on the field, Hannah (you had to see the loads she took up the hill). Without their outstanding efforts we would not have managed, especially as they were so busy and we were doing 3 deliveries a week - who would have believed they sold out one day before the load arrived and then another order before the day had finished.

Thanks also go to the wonderful volunteers - again without their help weekends would have been horrendous. So well done all.

With the profits, before the committee get their hands on it, we would like to do some remodelling in the kitchen. Shift the freezer to the food storage area and have a new bench built in right to the frig. This will have shelves and containers and get things off the ground. We also need a glass washer - and have sourced one of these. This is a requirement of our liquor licence and we have been winging it for years. Also the slow cooker is packing a sad and the microwave could be on its last legs so these too may have to be replaced. All summer jobs.

As we have mentioned before, this is our last season. We of course will work with committee and anyone

who might like to take it over next year. Our dearest wish is that it continue to be run as a separate account to the main account. This makes it easier to see that profits are put to "specific" things rather than into the general account. The term deposit does not seem to get any bigger as it is dipped into when we get into trouble. This season we would hope that \$40,000 could be put on deposit either towards a new Snowline kitchen upgrade or towards the Tarn development.

We hope that there is someone out there who could take over - we have a wonder woman who may be interested in the roster but need someone who is semi-retired who can go and get the specials which is where the money is made. Think about it people - it is to your advantage.

So that's all from me and its all from him. Enjoy a rumble free summer, keep well and safe.

Rae and Van



The 12th Ski Area Service Award is open for voting online at present. Cheeseman has won the Small Ski Area Service Award for 3 of the last 4 years and is up for it again – so now's your chance to jump on line and cast your vote:

Awarded for excellence in service and safety offered to snow-users in New Zealand.

Your vote will determine the People's Choice 2011 SNOWCO SMALL SKI AREA SERVICE AWARD.

The voting form consists of 33 simple radio buttons covering ten different aspects of ski area information and operations. It should take about 5 minutes to complete.

Click on <http://snow.co.nz/serviceawards/>

Mains Electric Cable ReRouting Work Parties:

Plans are forming how to bury the mains electric cable between Montreal St and the carpark. Sean Moran, Neil Wech and Dean Johnston are in contact with authorities planning how to disconnect, cut and bury the cable where possible. This is a big task where the Club will need some serious help and a bit of muscle power. A digger or machine is intended to do the digging but labour is required to move the cable into the trench, fit anchors etc.

This task is planned for later October and early November and could take at least two consecutive weekends and part of the intervening week.

If you have any time to spare for a bit of physical work, please register your interest with Dean Johnston phone 942 5659 or dean-johnston@clear.net.nz

The intention is to avoid another cable failure like we suffered this winter. It was caused by the snow pack creeping down hill and pulling the cable joints apart where the cable is running across the slope below the Middle Hut site. We plan to anchor the cable directly up the fall line and bury where possible.

END OF 2011 SEASON FUNCTION

Wednesday 5 October

**Filadelfios Restaurant
150 Colombo St.
Beckenham**

(next to the Sydenham Police Station)

Time: From 6:00pm

Food available for purchase

For full menu check out their website

<http://www.filadelfios.co.nz/menu>

A great chance to catch up with your Cheeseman friends and to farewell the 2011 staff.

MT CHEESEMAN GRAND FINALE WEEKEND

Join us for **Sunset Skiing and Riding** until late this Saturday 1 October as we celebrate and farewell a fantastic winter season at Mt Cheeseman.

Stay for a **BBQ dinner on the deck** and the lifts will run until late so you can watch the sunset from The Ridge, Mt Cockayne or the A-Frame deck.

This will be the last chance to ski THE BIG CHEESE until 2012 so come on up and make a weekend of it with our **50% SPECIAL off Saturday night Dinner Bed & Breakfast** for everyone who skis with us!

CHILLERS and Visitors DBB: \$48 adult, \$38 student, \$143 family

Members: \$33 adult, \$27 student, \$100 family

There's still heaps of snow in great condition - SEE YA SATURDAY!

PARTY LIKE A PIRATE

Pirate Day ~ Mt Cheeseman 18 September 2011

Ahoy there Matey! Thee Cap'n and crew partied like pirates!

Little nippers 'n ye scirvy dogs charted a course fer Mt Cheeseman Ski Area n' walked the plank, hunted for long lost treasure!

In Honour Of International Talk Like A Pirate Day, Sunday 18 September saw clubbies and staff dressed up and partying like pirates. A treasure hunt covering the whole ski field keep the older (and young at heart!) kids entertained. From Top Box to the Day Lodge kids had to decipher riddles and find all the clues hidden around the field before chasing down the Dread Pirate Steve to collect their bounty.



'Walking the plank' was a huge success with the wee kids lining up to be jabbed by a sword from the Pirate Captains as they walked the plank off the learners slope into the 'sea'. Some kids making spectacular, entertaining death scenes and all earning 'pieces of eight' a.k.a. crunchie bars for their efforts.



We finished the day with a left over booty scramble, chocolates and lollies of course, which had the kids ducking and diving for the last of the treasure to top off a fun filled day...Arrr!



Best dressed pirates awarded gold for their fantastic efforts: Ole Sealegs Adrian, One-Eyed Emma, Cap'n Luke, and Peg Legged Pete (Zephyryn)

WEEKEND 24-25 SEPTEMBER

Dynastar CHILL Gromfest and Glitz and Glamour Party.



Cheeseman club member Charles Osselton receives his Dynastar CHILL Gromfest prize from Stu Waddel and Victoria of CHILL.



Party night at snowliine - glitzy and glamorous "marketing@cheeseman" Sue in the foreground

OBITUARY - FRANK MATTHEWS

Pioneer Canterbury Winter Sports Club member Frank Matthews, died on August 22 2011 in his 92nd year. His daughter Paula Rogers has compiled this tribute, and to illustrate his involvement and contribution in an era so different from today, it incorporates the speech made by Frank celebrating his 80th birthday in 1999 at the Club's 70th Anniversary informal dinner at Forest Lodge.

“My introduction to the ski club was made one Thursday evening in the Gladstone Hotel in Durham St in 1952. This was a regular weekly meeting of club members who met there to plan the weekend work at the mountain, site of the ski club. The regular members at these meetings were; Ernie Rich, Snow Brooks, Hardy Rudkin, Blue Maher, Willy Meecham, Jim Taylor, Murray Parr, Courcy Hanafin and Nui Robbins.

I was welcomed into the group as I had an engineering works and trucks, I enjoyed their company and soon learned to drink to their equal which of course was not what I was used to.

Snow Brooks was a permanent boarder at the hotel so there was no restriction on closing time.(this was 6 o'clock closing). Ernie Rich had the only Land Rover, a Series one short wheelbase. This was the only vehicle to get to the Top Hut, via a bulldozer track through the bush. My first trip to the Club was made in Snow Brooks' truck carrying up the rope for the top ski tow.

To get the rope up the hill a gang of members met the trucks at the old car park(Texas Flat chain area) and each took a portion of the rope coil over his shoulder and set off up the track. There were about 12 men spread out through the track, each with about 60lbs of rope. Slowly winding their way through the old steep track up through the bush to the Middle Hut (old site). A rest there, then on around the shingle face to the Top Hut.

It is a long walk in a normal situation, but being first trip up the track and not knowing how long it would take plus the rope and our pack with weekend supplies, it seemed to go on for ever. I was about 33 years of age so was very fit, but glad to get there.

Blue Maher was in charge of the operation and he was a hard boss on the younger members trying to shirk. Later when I had my own skis and was trying to get a feel for them, I was skiing at the back of Top Hut and going past the log drop, Betty Maher poked her head of the door and gave me instructions to keep my feet together. I never did get really proficient in skiing. I enjoyed the mountains and the working parties for the excuse to get away from town at the weekends and enjoy congenial company and partying up in the evenings.

I soon bought a Land Rover and then later a Series two with a hard top. I spent nearly every second weekend in the summer and every weekend in the winter at Cheeseman working (mostly on the generators).

The family started going up when my eldest daughter June was 12 years old and all the children grew up first skating then progressing to skiing, when they were old enough to walk from Long Spur. We all loved the mountains and the company. We made some life long friends and have shared many good times together. I have my grandchildren skiing at Cheeseman and soon four generations who will grow to love the mountains and skiing.

I thank Cheeseman and our friends for all the wonderful years we had at the ski club and am pleased to share old memories.”

Frank Matthews.

In the summer of 2009 my sister June drove Dad up to Snowline Lodge and to the A frame. He recalled many good times and work he did at the Club. The metal staircase in Snowline still remains as a lasting reminder of his welding skills. He was particularly happy to hear that the skating pond had been revamped this winter, as he remembered the Willis, Rich and Nicol families skating in the moonlight.

His great grandchildren are now skiing at the club and enjoying his past labours.

My sisters, June, Wendy, Gaynor and myself are appreciative of our father instilling in us a love of the mountains by taking us to Cheeseman.

Paula Rogers.

Y-Fronts & Knickers on Show in the Snow

ThermaTech Undie 500 ~ Mt Cheeseman 17 September 2011

Anyone can take off their clothes and climb on a surfboard in the summer sun, but it takes a particular type of fun/thrill seeker to take off their clothes and speed down a mountain in the crisp winter air. That's right...following a few years hiatus the Mt Cheeseman Undie 500 is back! With ThermaTech proudly 'covering' the event, this saw Cheeseman's friendly and fun atmosphere at its best.

This glorious event put a cap on quite the spectacular season. The beginning of winter saw huge snowfall in the area, and the field recently hosted the highly successful Secondary, Primary and Intermediate Race days.

Originally run as part of the Christchurch Winter Festival in the 90's, with the help of a fantastic sponsor – ThermaTech, we have put the Undie 500 back on the winter fun calendar, kicking it into play with a generous prize pool of over \$2,500. (Fun trivia...we discovered from the awesome wealth of information that is '75 years on Cockayne' that ThermaTech sponsored the original event as well!)

Fresh powder dusted the field and the sun came out for the 50 brave racers who stripped to their 'undies' for a mass start on the slopes. Running to their skis or snowboard they negotiated a giant slalom course, snowball 'target shooting', the ThermaTech jump into the learners, and crawled through the snow under a nett racing to the finish line party.

Ranging between 7 and 67 years, everywhere you looked racers and spectators had smiles on their faces and everyone who entered received a prize...from fabulous ThermaTech down jackets for best 'undressed' to ThermaTech clothing, merino socks and TwinNeedle custom made packs.

Miss Undie 500: Mariska Hesselink

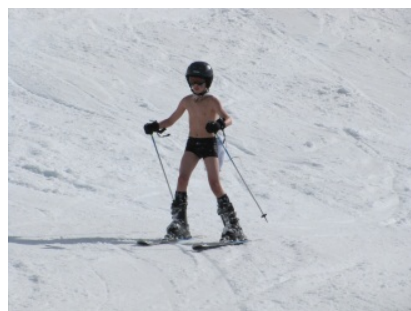
Mr Undie 500: Roly Chisholm

Fastest Man: Dan Lewis

Fastest Woman: Catherine Kircher

Fastest Boy: Connor van Dalsum

Fastest Girl: Bridget Dowding



CLUB CONTACTS 2011

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