

NOVEMBER, 2012



Bulkley Backcountry Ski Society Season Kick-Off Newsletter

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Notes from El Presidente' *by Leanne Helkenberg*

SNOW!! It's happening, right now as I type this "article". It's time to get those skis, dust them off, give them a good wax and slide them down the hill, preferably with your feet attached to them!

I just wanted to send a big thanks to everyone that helped with Leigh's BC Social this year. It was a great event with lots of great videos of local people in local places. I also wanted to thank the BBSS executive for all their hard work over the last year and all that they do to keep this club going, Thumbs Up to you!!

For those of you that weren't at the BC Social, I made an announcement regarding Ashman Ridge. Ashman Ridge is approximately 44km from Smithers and has some great skiing! Currently the BBSS is working with the BC Government and local stakeholders on securing a tenure for a cabin and outhouse location...we are hoping that if all goes well that this should come on line in 2013...we'll keep you updated!!

Another big announcement is that the BBSS has received a very generous grant from the Federal Government through the Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund. We have received \$68,000 that will go toward Trail Maintenance, Road Maintenance and Cabin Maintenance at the Hankin Evelyn Backcountry Recreation Area. Thanks to Ian Sharpe and the Funding Committee that put together this application! We look forward to seeing you out on the slopes; things are shaping up to be a fantastic ski year!!

100+ people got their winter stoke on at Leigh's 6th Annual Backcountry Ski Social *by Ben Heemsker*

Thanks to Leigh for organizing another successful ski social that saw over a hundred people in attendance and a great Inaugural Backcountry Skiing Video Competition while raising \$600 to support BBSS activities. The night saw great presentations about a Lillooet Icefield Traverse (Brian Hall), an update on Bulkley Backcountry Ski Society activities (Leanne Helkenberg), the Canadian Avalanche Rescue Dog Association (Bree Korobanik), and Pushing Your Limits and Understanding Risk (Sean Fraser, Hyland Backcountry Safety).

This Years Winners (2012):

Best Ski Video – Telkwa Ski Crew is the Raddest! (Greg Winters)

Winner of Broken Ski Award (Humour) - Larson Luge (Mark Rossman)

Rest of 2012 Entries:

Starr Creek (Dylan Smith), Backcountry Skiing: The true story (Will Mackenzie), Ski Baby Ski (Kym Putnam), Cloud 10 (Will Mackenzie), Elliot Glades (Aaron Trowbridge)

Get Ready For Next Year! A big thank you to the people who stepped up by entering the inaugural year and helping us get our stoke on for the ski season. Start collecting your vid for your chance of getting your name engraved on the trophies and picking up the grand prizes for 2013.

This years video entries can be viewed on the BBSS website www.bbss.ca/video

Thank you to this years Sponsors!

Valhalla Pure Smithers (www.valhallasmithers.com), Hyland Backcountry Safety (www.hylandbackcountry.ca), Skeena Cat Skiing (www.skeenacatskiing.ca), Hudson Bay Mountain (www.hudsonbaymountain.com), Aspen Riverhouse Lounge (www.aspeninnsmithers.com)

Have a great backcountry Ski Season and remember to start recording some vid for next year's competition.

Don't forget to check out the avalanche bulletins before heading into the backcountry, www.avalanche.ca/cac/bulletins/latest/northwest-inland

Calling all backcountry ski enthusiasts... Save the date January 19th, 2013...

Dawn 2 Dusk is presenting the Backcountry Film Festival at Hudsonbay Lodge.

The only film festival that strictly focuses on backcountry skiing/snowboarding, lifestyle, environment and non-motorized recreation. Come drink beer and eat nachos while watching an incredible 90 minutes of the best grassroots film project backcountry has to offer!

After the movie, SHRED KELLY hosts an after party and will play LONG into the night!

Most of all, there will be a silent auction where you can bid on incredible prizes from local sponsors and ALL PROCEEDS go to the NorthWest Division of CARDA (The Canadian Avalanche Rescue Dog Association)!

Pump yourself up by checking out the Shred Kelly website www.shredkelly.com/music/

Oktoberfest Revisited *By Lothar Schaefer*

Thanks to all who came out to our 4th annual Oktoberfest party. The turnout was great, with over a hundred happy revellers enjoying an awesome selection of food, Plan B beers, and of course the requisite oompa music. This year we took the musical experience up a notch, with Dave McTavish, Taylor Poffenroth, and Ken White providing a mix of dance beats to add to the more traditional Bavarian sounds. The energy and enthusiasm was amazing, which was reflected in the fact that we went through 160 liters of keg beer well before 10PM (not sure if this was cause or effect of said enthusiasm). Our exuberance unfortunately led to some noise complaints, which in turn led to several visits from the RCMP who demanded that we shut things down. In spite of that damper, a fair number of happy folks carried on around the campfire til 3 AM and it was obvious a good time was had by all. Many many thanks to all the people who helped out in various ways, including bringing food, serving beer and collecting donations, the musicians, help in the kitchen and clean-up, Debbie for organizing and paying for the taxi service which got everyone home safe and sound, and especially to all who donated so generously to raise approximately \$1200 for the BBSS to further a number of projects to enhance backcountry skiing in the valley!



Paleo Peak

Photo by Aaron Trowbridge

Paranormal Activity

By James Fisher

While on a routine research mission Paranormal Skis discovered two pieces of sophisticated alien technology. Bright green in color, the machines are extremely advanced and clearly made to the highest standards. The only indication of their potential origin is the strange markings on their sides. **Wintersteiger**

Deeply curious, we asked an expert to identify what we had found. After carefully scrutinizing our pictures this was his explanation.

“What you have is two pieces of highly advanced equipment made for the manufacturing, maintenance and repair of snowboards, alpine and xc skis. The first machine is an inline belt and stone grinder and is used for major base repairs, flattening convex or concave bases, reviving worn or oxidized bases and base structuring. The base grinder is equipped with a pressure compensation system (auto-feed) which is a roller that applies even pressure across the top of the ski or board during grinding, providing exceptionally flat, consistent bases and a uniform base structure. The drive speed, structure, pressure and all other important working parameters can be adjusted and the grinding stone and sanding belt are independently controlled providing the smoothest possible operation during the grinding process. The stone’s structure pattern can also be implemented and re-produced as often as required. With the touch of a button the diamond dresser applies the desired structure to the grindstone which is then imparted into the base during grinding.

The second machine is an edge grinder. This highly precise piece of equipment can be set to the finest grinding angles providing exacting base and side edge bevels for superior edge hold and turning performance. The unit can also give even heavily damaged edges a perfectly finished grind. “

He agreed that the machines represented a highly sophisticated alien* technology and that if put to good use this precision equipment would be very valuable to skiers and snowboarders across the region. (*German)

Now with a full understanding of our new find, our primary objective will be to use this technology to provide the highest quality base finish and edges on every pair of Paranormal Skis. The equipment is of course also great for tuning and repairs. We are hoping to have everything up and running before Christmas. Visit paranormalskis.ca for more information or to setup an appointment.



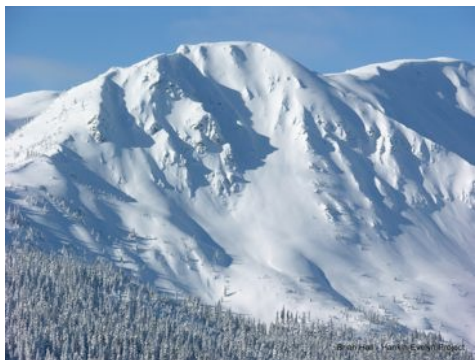
Hankin News *By Brian Hall*

Hankin is ready. Beacon checkers repaired and reinstalled, a new beacon checker installed on the Elliot side, firewood replenished at Hankin Hut, Fire Lookout ready for overnight use (by donation - be generous and \$'s can be dropped at Valhalla or the Stork Nest Inn), lots of brushing completed, hole in access road repaired and the Schippers family on board again for snow removal. We still need a couple of folks to join the Hankin Tribe at U-Brew. Beer starts at \$70, wine and cider a bit more. It's a great way to donate to Hankin and get some Christmas cheer/beer in return. There is 45cm of snow at Hankin Hut.

Some facets near ground and at higher elevations overlying slabs are coming out on this weakness. **Bring on the Snow. And remember it's a whole new season with a new snowpack building. Use good judgement and travel safely.**

Just a reminder to be prepared to shovel a parking spot for your vehicle if you cannot make it all the way to the official parking lot. Our lovely snow plow crew will be **plowing the road on December 5th** – the road will be ready to go by noon that day.

Women's Days on Hankin are being planned as you read this... keep watching for details!



Morning Bowl



Roger showing the fixed heel crew how to shred

Hankin Getting International Acclaim!

Hankin Backcountry Ski Area has recently been getting international acclaim in some big name publications. Check them out and feel some pride in our backyard!

The Globe and Mail – November 16, 2012

(PDF can be found on our BBSS Website, www.bbss.ca/docs/Skiing_off_the_grid_in_BC-The_Globe_and_Mail.pdf)

Off Piste Magazine – October 2012

(Digital Article can be found on our BBSS website, www.bbss.ca/docs/offpistemag_hankin.pdf)
Check out Off Piste for more great articles about backcountry skiing at www.offpistemag.com

**"HOUNDING THE POW,
SINCE 2009"**

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**Bulkley Backcountry
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