

## **RA SKI-MAIL APRIL 1, 2025**

Editor-in-Chief: Glen Campbell, publicity-2020{at}raski.ca

Publisher: G. S. Campbell

Sports Editor: G. Campbell

Coffee Boy: Mr. Campbell

RA Activities Editor: Bob Cavan

Business Editor: Louise Lefebvre

Technology Editor: Sue O'Connor

### **SAT. APRIL 20 - RA SKI CLUB PICKLEBALL NIGHT**

WHEN: Saturday April 20, 7 p.m.

MEET: RA Pickleball courts (where curling used to be)

COST: \$10 per person

Pickleball is all the rage, and is the fastest-growing sport in the world. What is pickleball? Think ping-pong with a larger paddle, a larger ball, and played on a smaller court than a tennis court. It's so popular, that when the RA started a pickleball club, there were 300 members and a waiting list of 400.

The RA Ski Club has rented one of the courts for an evening. Pickleball is so easy anyone can pick it up in 15 minutes. We RA skiers found pickleball too easy, so we are making it more challenging. We will split into two teams, one side wearing snowshoes, and the other side with cross-country skis. We tried playing with downhill skis, but that doesn't work, as there's not enough mobility with the heels locked down.

### **SAT. JULY 5 - KAYAKING AT THE THOUSAND ISLANDS**

MEET: 10 a.m. at 1000 Islands Kayaking, 110 Kate St. Gananoque.

Bring your own kayak or you can rent one from them.

We will kayak the Thousand Islands for the day. We will split up into small groups to do an official count of the Thousand Islands, to make sure Donald Trump and the Americans haven't stolen any.

Dinner after in Gananoque.

### **CAMP FORTUNE BECOMES SNOWBOARD ONLY**

Camp Fortune announced today that starting next year, Camp Fortune will become the only snowboard-only ski hill in North America.

Camp Fortune Manager and snowboarder Mergatroid McGillicutty says, "Alpine skiing is a passing fad, and is dying out. Snowboarding is cool. Alpine skiers are dangerous, often skiing out of control. I think that all of us snowboarders have been run over by an alpine skier at one time or another. Making Camp Fortune a snowboard-only ski hill makes things safer for everyone."

The new policy will go into effect for the 2025-2026 ski season.

## **RA TO HAVE INDOOR XC SKIING**

The RA has announced plans to create Canada's first indoor cross-country ski venue. The "Ski-Dome " will be part of the RA's initiative to provide all-season training facilities for area athletes. The sports dome will be equipped with artificial snowmaking equipment and a terrain park to give skiers a variety of flat and hilly conditions.

The facility will meet FIS competition standards and plans are already underway to host international events. The RA's new Ski-Dome Manager, Sven Sweden, is delighted that Ottawa will have a world-class venue for skiers to use year-round saying "Ski season will never be done in the Dome"

## **OAKLEY DEVELOPS REVOLUTIONARY SKI GOGGLES**

Apple has teamed up with sports eyewear company Oakley to produce a revolutionary goggle that features a heads-up display that lets you set your best line while monitoring snow and wind conditions. Available for sale in fall 2025 they will be known as Skii-ppers.

## **INVESTMENT CORNER**

IKON is going public with an Initial Public Offering called "Ski Futures" - where you can invest now, but still have to wait in a 45-minute lift line to know your returns.

## **NEW - SKI HILL CHARGING STATIONS**

Next year, you will start to see ski hills with a new, on-hill service for skiers: charging stations for battery heated socks, mitts, and boots. Using wireless technology, skiers can sit on special seats on chairlifts that will charge batteries while riding up the hill. The seats will fully charge batteries in five chairlift trips or less according to the manufacturer. The seats will be colored red to easily identify the specially equipped charging stations. Look for "If your battery's dead, sit on red" signs at your local ski hill.

## **TEST YOUR SKI KNOWLEDGE**

For the first person to answer all the questions correctly, we will whisk you away by snowmobile to your own private ski area for the day. If you are the lucky winner, don't forget to bring crampons, an avalanche probe, a headlamp, a satellite phone, and 50 feet of rope.

1. Which Canadian ski hill has a triple black diamond run?
  - a) Pakenham
  - b) Mont Ste-Marie
  - c) Le Massif, Que.
  - d) Camp Fortune
  
2. Which is the most southern ski hill in Canada?
  - a) Camp Fortune
  - b) Pakenham
  - c) Calabogie
  - e) Boler Mountain, London Ontario

3. Lucile Wheeler won Canada's first Olympic medal in skiing, a bronze medal in the downhill event at the 1956 Winter Olympics in Cortina, Italy. In what year did she win the Canadian Junior ski championship at age 12?

- a) 1776
- b) 1867
- c) 1947
- d) 2015

4. Who was the first person to cross-country ski?

Answers in our next Ski-Mail.

## **RA SKI Q&A CORNER**

The RA Ski club reached into its mailbag to answer some ski-related questions from our members.

1. Q: I'm 5 foot 10 and 180 pounds. How long should my downhill skis be?

A: This is an easy question to answer. The RA ski club downhill program runs a weeklong trip, a weekend trip, as well as 5 day-bus trips Mont Tremblant. We have a mid-week meet'n'ski, where once a week we carpool to a different local ski hill. Also, there are our very popular Fortune Fridays, where we meet up at Camp Fortune every week.

2. Q: I really enjoyed this year's weekend trip to Chamonix & Courmayeur. Can we go there again next year and do Verbier as well?

A: Excellent question. The RA Ski Club has frequently gone to Europe, and our European trips have always been popular. In the past we've skied in France, Austria, Switzerland and Andorra, but we've also gone to a number of ski hills in Western Canada. For three years we also ran summer ski trips to Chile.

3. Q: For cross-country skiing, am I better off with longer skis or shorter ones?

A: The RA Ski Club has an extensive cross-country program, and we go out every week, alternating Saturday and Sunday, with the occasional mid-week outing. Most of our outings are in the Greenbelt, Ottawa, or Gatineau Park, but several times we ski elsewhere, such as Nakkertok or Montebello.

## **SPORTS CORNER**

Canadian women surprised everyone in the World Cup downhill ski races in Åre Sweden on March 8-9. Here are the final results for the Canadians:

- Women's Giant Slalom: Valerie Grenier 1:54.24
- Women's Slalom: Amelia Smart 1:44.56

Congratulations to our Canadian women! We're proud of you!

## **SEE PREVIOUS APRIL FOOLS SKI-MAILS**

To see all our previous RA Ski Club's April-Fools Day Ski-Mails, from 2015 to 2024:

- Go to [www.raski.ca](http://www.raski.ca)
- On the menu at the top, click on "OTHER"
- Click on "April Fools".

## **TO SUBSCRIBE TO SKI-MAIL**

Send an empty e-mail to [RASkiClub+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:RASkiClub+subscribe@groups.io) using the e-mail address you want to subscribe from.

## **TO UNSUBSCRIBE FROM SKI-MAIL**

Send an empty e-mail to [RASkiClub+unsubscribe@groups.io](mailto:RASkiClub+unsubscribe@groups.io) using the e-mail address you want to unsubscribe from.