

FRIENDS OF WEST KOTENAY PARKS SOCIETY
KOKANEE SKI WEEK

Preamble

The Friends of West Kootenay Parks were awarded the responsibility of administering the ski week to help BC Parks meet local concerns about access to the Kokanee Glacier Cabin. At the time, when it was apparent that the ACC would be managing the cabin and the reservation system, there were fears that local access to the winter ski weeks would be swamped by the large membership of the ACC. In order to meet this concern, BC Parks and the ACC worked out an agreement whereby the Friends, the KMC and Selkirk College would have reserved weeks that would ensure local access. When we took this on, we also realized that the ski week could be a way of attracting members, which it has done. Administering the ski week is not part of our normal business, it's something we do to benefit local skiers and help BC Parks meet their commitment to the local ski community. It's not mentioned in our constitution as one of our purposes and is kept entirely separate from our financial statements and our banking.

Background Information

1. Due to its longstanding relationship with BC Parks in the West Kootenay and its commitment to assist BC Parks to provide local access, the FWKP receives a yearly preferential ski week at the Kokanee Glacier Cabin. This privilege has value as backcountry skiers who are not FWKP or KMC members and want to obtain a ski week must enter a lottery and the probability of obtaining that week depends on how many other groups enter the lottery for that week. This privilege, in part, has attracted members to the FWKP. The FWKP coordinator simply informs the Lodge operator (currently the Alpine Club of Canada) which week is wanted and sends in the required deposit before the booking deadline.
2. Since the privilege has value, it must be used. If it is never used, it will be lost.
3. The FWKP ski week coordinator is an unpaid position, which requires some effort, but does not entail any financial risk.

Time Frame

1. The ski week season typically runs from just before Christmas to early May the following year. All weeks are available to the FWKP except one of the December weeks and the preferential ski week of the KMC. The latter club has no priority over the FWKP and it is customary for both clubs to inform each other what week they want so there is no conflict over this matter.
2. The ACC's requires the two preferential weeks be booked by a mid to late March deadline in the year before the ski week occurs. The actual deadline is set each year, but usually there is not much time between its announcement and the date by which the deposit must be received by the ACC.
3. The ACC requires the balance of the amount due to the ACC three months before the ski week date.

Constraints

1. All ski week participants must be members of the FWKP in the year of application **and** in the year of the week they attend.
2. The ski week coordinator job is unpaid and requires some work, and some minor expense. It should have some benefits (see Rule 2). The position of coordinator will be selected/confirmed at the AGM.
3. Only paid up members will receive notification of the ski week so it is important to respond to the Membership Notice that is sent out early in January as soon as possible.

Rules

1. The selection of the ski week is the Coordinator's choice with input from the membership. The Coordinator will liaise with the KMC to ensure there is no conflict.
2. The Coordinator is allowed two places on the ski week. The Coordinator does not need to fill either. If the coordinator chooses not to fill one or both spaces, the spaces become part of the available pool.
3. In mid-February, the Coordinator will notify the FWKP Secretary of :
 - a) the ski week dates,
 - b) *the deposit required,
 - c) the number of places available,
 - d) the ACC deadline, if known, and
 - d) the address to which the deposit cheques will be sent, once the selection process is complete.

* The deposit must be at least 30% of the expected amount. At this level, if the participant does not provide the balance by the set deadline, the Coordinator can easily sell the place to anyone at the cost of the balance owing (i.e. the remaining 70%) if necessary.

4. The FWKP Secretary will send this information by email to all current FWKP members. Those who want a place must email the Coordinator with their intent to attend.
5. If, after 2 weeks (end of February), there are insufficient people to fill the places available, the Coordinator will notify the KMC or any other likely source of participants and fill the ski week by the order of arrival of deposit cheques from these sources.
6. If the ski week is not filled 2 weeks prior to the ACC deadline, those who have already signed up have the option to pay the shortfall to reserve the week. It will then be the responsibility of those participants to ensure the week is filled or the balance owing is paid when due.
7. If after all this, the ski week is not filled by the ACC deadline, the Coordinator will return all cheques to their owners and inform the ACC that the FWKP will not be taking a Kokanee ski week for that year.

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8. *In the event of an overbooking*, the selection process will be as follows:

Definitions

For the purposes of establishing criteria for selecting the participants of an overbooked week, the following definitions apply:

“West Kootenays” - the boundaries of the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) and the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (RDKB).

“Qualified Member” - a member in good standing for 24 consecutive months or more and a resident of the West Kootenays.

The selection criteria will apply in the order shown:

- a. Qualified Members who had applied and not been selected for the prior year ski week will receive priority.
- b. Members in Good Standing for 24 months or more and reside in the West Kootenays will be the next priority.
- c. If at this point, there are still **more than 15 applicants**, there will be a lottery from all Qualified Members, the coordinator's space(s) excepted. For the purposes of the lottery process, a couples application is counted as 1 application and if their application is chosen, 2 spaces are allocated. If only one space is left, they have the options of retaining the selected space and their name goes on the waiting list in a priority position or refusing the selected space
- d. If at this point there are **fewer than 15 applicants**, applicants who have been Members in Good Standing for 24 months or less (including members who have joined in the year of application) will be ranked by the date of membership. The “oldest” members will receive priority.
- e. When the selection process using points a, b and d above has filled 15 places, a waiting list will established, priority based on length of membership.

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8. With the ski week filled, the Coordinator will send off the deposit cheques to the ACC by guaranteed mail service to arrive before the ACC deadline (the end of March), notify the participants of this action, and set a new deadline for the receipt of the outstanding balance cheques. This will be at least one month earlier than the ACC "Three months before" deadline (see "Timeframe #3).

9. The Coordinator will collect the outstanding balance cheques by the FWKP deadline and send these off to the ACC. If any deposit cheques are missing by the deadline, the individuals involved will be advised that their place will be offered for the balanced owed, first to those on the wait list and then to anyone else interested.

10. If anyone wants to drop out at any time, they must offer their place to those on the ordered wait list and in the order of that list. These transactions are between these individuals and do not involve the Coordinator except to inform him/her as to who is now in the traded position.

11. The Coordinator will act as the conduit for information between the ACC and the ski week participants.