

Myrtleford Ski Club Downhill Race Report

July 9th 2016

The day broke with blue skies, sunshine, no wind and good snow conditions. Given the history of poor weather and snow conditions that we've experienced on our race day, members were entitled to ask "Are you sure that our race was scheduled for today"

Well it was and what a great day as 30 club members competed on the extended NASTAR course. Everyone was keen to make a start and after a course inspection at 1.00 the racing commenced around 1.30.

At last year's presentation it was noted that our junior members 'were coming' in terms of times and they were first on the course. Most racers completed two good clean runs with one notable exception being our 2015 A Grade Ladies champion, Laureen Barnard who was in such a fast ski mood on her first run that she left both her skis behind in the start hut, then, after a restart, proceeded to get close and personal with the ski netting at the side of the course. Thankfully, no injury sustained except maybe to her pride! To be fair to Laureen she did improve her time on her second run as did 20 other racers which was a fantastic effort by all.

A very competitive race followed with the first four overall times being within 1.2 seconds of each other, then a second group from 5th to 10th being separated by only 0.7 of a second. Special mention goes to Claire Shannon, who at the ripe old age of 5 years and 5 months old, competed in her first race AND cut her time by over 16 seconds in her second run.

In the final countdown we now see that most parents have had their times clobbered by one or more of their children. Only Brett Dobson and Andrew Robertson retain 'bragging rights' but both know the writing is on the wall.

At the start of this report mention was made that the 'kids are coming', well they've definitely arrived and the evidence is in the overall times. The three fastest times and 6 of the 10 fastest were all set by juniors or those just out of junior ranks.

We also saw a fantastic achievement by one individual-- our first Club Champion double with Adam Bullivant winning both the Junior and overall Club Champion awards. Great effort Adam and well done to everyone who competed!

Results were as follows:

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| Club Champion | Adam Bullivant | Hillbilly Men | Peter Shannon |
| A Grade Men | Andrew Robertson | Hillbilly Ladies | Jo Shannon |
| A Grade Ladies | Rachel Verlin | | |
| B Grade Men | Adam Bullivant | Junior Club Champion | Adam Bullivant |
| B Grade Ladies | No competitors | 16 & Under Boys | Darcy Cleeve |
| C Grade Men | Jason Cleeve | 16 & Under Girls | Tiahn Barnard |
| C Grade Ladies | Sarah Shannon | 14 & Under Boys | Jimmy Shannon |
| Veteran Men | Greg Phelan | 14 & Under Girls | Jessica Gehrig |
| Veteran Ladies | Heather Weston | 12 & Under | Jack Robertson |
| Open Novice | Ben Zwar | 10 & Under | Matthew Gehrig |
| Snowboard | Riley Cleeve | | |



The traditional race day dinner was also a great success. The catering was planned by Julie Roberts and Brett Dobson and they, together with the assistance Barb Summers and several others, had pre-dinner nibble platters organised and by 5.00 things were underway. A terrific home-made soup was next, followed by a great roast dinner and a variety of desserts. There was plenty of food and anyone at the lodge over the next few days had the option of soup, various cuts of cold roast and desserts. One great thing to see was, with the final preparation of the main meal (slicing roasts, etc) underway, Julie, Brett and Barb were seen just standing back as other members pitched in. One of the fantastic things about our membership is the way that this regularly happens without anyone needing to ask.

This year's theme was 'dress as a song title' and this proved to be a hit 😊 with most members getting into the spirit of the night. During the afternoon, members were asked to write down their song and 'Mr Music' Graeme managed to organise most of these and this really added to the evening. Some even performed their song, with Brett Dobson's blue singlet version of 'Working Class Man' and Jo Shannon's 'Cheerleader' being standout performances. The best dressed award went to our Two Rhinestone Cowgirls -- Sarah and Claire Shannon.