

**Annual Meeting of the Rochester Active Sports Club (RASC)
November 16, 2008**

Officers Present: Michael O'Connor, Henry Walker, Bruce Walk, Jeff Robertson, Dave Greymont, Sue Anderson, Tony Haines, Mike Aeling

The meeting began at 1:00 pm in the conference room of Edina Realty with approximately 50 members present.

Free Drawing – courtesy of Bicycle Sports. Just prior to the meeting, Bob Gritman told everyone that there was a free drawing from Bicycle Sports for some prizes - these included a heart rate monitor, sunglasses and a free body geometry fitting for biking. Results of the drawing will be announced later.

Nordic Skiing

Bruce Walk gave an update on grooming work done last year and presented the latest on developments on the Essex Park trail. In the 2007/2008 ski season, 817 miles of trail were groomed. A total of 215 hours of grooming were put in by 7 volunteers. We had 104 good days of skiing !! Trail conditions are and will continue to be posted on the web site – these include updates from Eastwood, Chester woods and Oxbow Park.

Essex Park: Essex Park has ~6.5-7 km of trails. This year RASC graded leveled and reseeded ~ 3-4 km. Some sections are still a little rough and will require additional work next year. We anticipate that it will take another 2 more years to finish trail work in Essex Park. RASC has purchased a new snowmobile (4-stroke engine that will be less noisy than current unit) and new grooming equipment that will be delivered in the next 2 weeks. We will not be grooming Schmidt Park this year, as grooming efforts will instead be concentrated on Essex Park.

The city has granted us permission to use the small red barn in the park as a warming hut. The barn has lighting and a small furnace. The city will cover the costs of lighting, heating and will supply a porta-potty for the ski season. RASC will be given keys to the barn. We have yet to determine how we will manage the warming area.

Eastwood: Henry Walker gave an update on developments in Eastwood. Kyle Herring is currently working on widening the east lighted loop. The trees removed will be chipped and spread on the upgraded trail. The new trail will accommodate both skate and classic tracks (old trail was only wide enough for classic skiing). RASC will be contributing ~\$700-\$800 to cover some of the costs of this trail work.

Quarry Hill: The city had originally planned to install new sewage pipes in Quarry Hill this winter. This would have destroyed much of the eastern trail. That work has now been postponed until next Spring. The hope is that the sewage work will be completed and the trail restored by fall 2009. Once club efforts on Essex Park wind down we plan to move our resources back to Quarry Hill and add an additional 2 km to the existing trail.

Rochester Nordic Ski Team: The RNST is expected to grow to 110 skiers for the 2008/2009 ski season. RASC recently purchased additional skis and poles and now has 43 pairs of skis and matching poles. Currently 21 RASC members have signed up as coaches. The program is run through Community Education, but all the work is done by club members. Full details of the program are on the RNST web page.

Mountain Biking

Carley State Park: Jeff Robertson gave an update on plans to develop a mountain bike system in Carley State Park. This would be done in conjunction with the DNR. A group met in October and walked the park. The DNR is interested in partnering with RASC to expand the use of the park to include mountain biking. The park is ~200 acres and could easily support several miles of trail. There are lots of areas with good potential for trail development. The park has a shed that may possibly be used to store equipment. We will use RASC volunteer labor, however there may be an opportunity to seek grant funds for part of the trail development. We would like to start work in June 2009.

Eastwood / Hawthorne Hills: We need a trail steward for each area. This person would monitor the trail and schedule trail work sessions.

Other Potential MTB trails: Indian Heights City Park - This is a 40 acre park inside the city that has some potential for a trail system. Tom Ryan (Park superintendent) has indicated that he would support establishing MTB trails in a new park that is still in the planning stage. This will be a large park on the Root River with acquisition of DNR property adjacent to the Fritz property. This may become an official park in 2010. Chester Woods park was discussed, however all recent discussions with Tom Ryan indicate that it is unlikely that mountain biking will be allowed in this park in the foreseeable future. Dave Hallaway suggested that RASC members send letters to the county commissioners requesting mountain biking in the park. Further discussion on this topic indicated that members believe that if we do a good job on the development of trails in Carley and are good stewards of the park, we will be in a stronger position to go back and request mountain bike trails in Chester Woods.

MTB Time Trials: Charly Tri updated the group on the revised format for MTB time trials in Eastwood. The current format is a group ride of the trail followed by a 1-2 lap race of the same trail. This made for a more social event. Participation is ~5-10 / event. Charly indicated that there is currently 4.5 miles of trail in Eastwood. Work needs to be done to map the revised trail and to put up signage.

Road Biking

Rumble Strips: Olmsted county has a new "safety plan" to install rumble strips on the hard shoulders of all new county roads. Many of these have shoulders that are only 4' in width and the creation of these rumble strips forces cyclists to ride on the traffic side of the hard shoulder. There was lengthy discussion of rumble strips, their impact on biking in Olmsted Co. and what can be done to mitigate this development. Several RASC members will be attending an Olmsted Co safety meeting on November 19th to present the cyclists perspective on this development. We also plan to create a separate page on the web site as a repository for information on rumble strips and to present updates on developments.

Currently the county has put a hold on the installation of additional rumble strips until we have had a discussion on this topic.

Recyclers: Dave Hallaway is looking for a rider to take over running the weekend rides as he may not be available for many of these in 2009. There was discussion on how to increase the number of younger riders in the club – can we create a similar group to the high school ski program? No clear plan was formulated, however bringing young riders out onto the road raises a number of safety concerns and development of a youth program may be better in areas such as mountain biking where such a program could be better managed.

Randonneur Rides: Mike Aeling gave an update on plans for 2009. Between RASC and a similar group in Apple Valley, 200km, 300km, 600km rides are planned for 2009, along with a 1000 km ride. Full descriptions along with a cue sheet for each ride will be posted on the RASC web site.

Bike Trails: Michael O'Connor gave an update on several bike trails under development. These are paved trails (similar to Douglas trail). Plans are to complete a trail between CR11 and Chester Woods by fall 2009. This would be part of the larger plan for the Whitewater State Park loop that would connect Rochester to Eyota, Dover, Plainview, St Charles and Elba. There are also ongoing meetings on the development of part of the Stagecoach Trail between Mantorville and the Douglas trail. State funding has been already allocated for several parts of these trail developments.

Kayaking

Full moon paddles will continue in 2009. Tony is also planning a kayak trip to the Apostle Islands for summer 2009. Will check to see if instructors can be brought into teach rolls and rescue techniques during the winter.

Membership

Sue Anderson gave an update on current membership. Current membership is 324 which includes 119 individual memberships, 81 family memberships (incorporating 201 people), and 4 student memberships. With 120 ACNST memberships anticipated for the year, the projected 2008 RASC membership is around 444. (This compares with 425 members last year at this time, some of which were also included in the eventual 99 member enrollment for ACNST.) RASC also maintains 4 honorary memberships. Sue will be stepping down from this position this year. With the introduction of on-line memberships, most applications are now done on-line with only the occasional mailed in registration. The goal is to switch everyone over to the membership system on the new web site. This will also allow us to discard the current e-mail system and make it easier to handle membership issues. There is a small fee for using the on-line system (~\$2).

Finances

Dave Greymont presented the financial report. Overall RASC is now doing fewer events and income is being generated from fund raisers and membership dues. As of 11/15/2008, RASC had a balance of \$10,176 and assets of value \$42,583. A brief summary of the finances is given below and a more breakdown of the club finances are available on the RASC web (under section on RASC Info – Annual Meeting 2008). Areas

where we have experienced significant increase in costs include insurance costs to cover general club liability, club directors, trail work etc. Consequently Dave proposed an increase in membership fees by \$5 / year for each membership category. This would increase a single membership from \$15 to \$20 and a family membership from \$20 to \$25. Student membership would remain at \$5. A showing of hands supported an increase in membership dues with some discussion of the amount of increase. The board of director agreed after the meeting that the \$5 increase should include the on-line fee charges, so that the additional cost for on-line registration is only ~\$3.

Account Balances - As of 11/15/2008

Account	11/15/2008 Balance	2007
Bank Accounts		
TOTAL Bank Accounts	\$10,176.58	\$16,739.22
Liability Accounts		
Essex Park Donations - use of funds	(\$1,500.00)	n/a
Quarry Hill Donations - Use of Fund	(\$1,809.82)	(\$3,021.02)
RAF - Use of Funds	\$0.00	(\$3,600.00)
RAF Essex - Use of Funds	(\$485.93)	n/a
Steeplechase RAcE - use of funds	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL Liability Accounts	(\$3,795.75)	(\$6,621.02)
Total Uncommitted Funds	\$6,380.83	\$10,118.20
Asset Accounts		
RASC Property	\$42,582.52	\$30,172.55

RASC Events

We have reduced the number of events that the club runs or participates in. In 2008 Mario Minnelli ran the road TT Championships and we also participated in the Treadman event in conjunction with Rochester track club. In 2009 Bill Nevela will take over running of the Treadman event. We will continue the RASC TT Championships for both road and mountain biking.

Club Officers

Current (2008) Club Officers are as follows:

- President: Michael O'Connor
- Financial Officer: Dave Greymont
- Membership: Sue Anderson, Tony Haines
- Secretary: vacant

Webmaster: Michael O'Connor

Board of Directors - Henry Walker (Nordic), Bruce Walk (trails), Jeff Robertson (MTB), Dave Hallaway (Recyclers), Tony Haimes (Kayaking), Mike Aeling (Randonneur).

2009 Club Officers are as follows:

President: Michael O'Connor

Financial Officer: Dave Greymont

Membership: Tony Haimes

Secretary: vacant

Webmaster: Michael O'Connor

Board of Directors - Henry Walker (Nordic), Bruce Walk (trails), Jeff Robertson (MTB), Dave Hallaway (Recyclers), Tony Haimes (Kayaking), Mike Aeling (Randonneur).

Other Business

Charlie Quigg brought to people's attention the proposed plans for development of CR 104 / 60th Avenue. The plan is that this will be a 4-lane highway West Circle Drive, equivalent to the current East Circle Drive. There will be a public hearing on this new road development on Tuesday November 18th at the community Presbyterian Church at 3705 55th Street NW, from 5-7 pm. Charlie recommended that RASC members attend to provide input for biking along this important new road project.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Submitted by Michael O'Connor.