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A Newsletter?

By Doug Ames

Greetings, Tyler Ski Club! It's that time of the year again. Time to oil the teak, get your ski shined up, and grab a stick of Juicy Fruit.™ Of course, for many of us, we were already thinking along these lines in March. But with the late winter snow flurries, I'm sure that I'm not the only one who is a little late getting things ready for the ski season.

I know what you're thinking. A newsletter? I must admit, I had planned on sending out some periodic email updates. But it is amazing the templates I never knew existed in the old word processor. As a result, the few items of note I planned for periodic updates quickly became a bit more formalized. We are hoping to put out maybe three or four per year mostly during the ski season. As for how often, all I can say is that if you feel compelled to ask when the next newsletter will be ready, think of doing so as a way of asking for an official title with the ski club. As

Spring Kickoff Meeting 2010

By Todd Coates and Doug Ames

Good times were had. Much barbeque was consumed. Children ran about with occasional supervision. This can only mean one thing. Yet another successful Tyler Ski Club Spring meeting is in the books.

Once everyone was too stuffed to move, we got down to business. A central point of our discussions concerned maintenance of the club's two ski courses. This maintenance began last fall when a group of members made some adjustments to both courses to be sure they were within regulation (or pretty close).

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far as I can tell, the reason I am sitting here today writing this newsletter is because I asked a few too many questions over the years.

With that, I invite each of you to enjoy this first edition of *Shortlines*. Rest assured, we are making this up as we go. So if anyone has some news they want to spread to the rest of the club or wants to write a guest article, let us know. In the coming months, we are hoping to greatly increase the communication avenues available among our members.



Ski Course Maintenance

But there is still work to be done. The Lake Tyler course needs to have its orange buoys replaced (along with at least one boat guide) and have the length of the buoy lines adjusted since it is currently approximately six inches underwater. We further discussed the need to replace the barrels supporting the sign at the entrance to the ski cove, as well as the four barrels that once marked the boundary to the cove. Finally, we also discussed replacing the orange buoys on the Lake Bellwood course.

Spring Meeting continued on page 2

“The vote was nearly unanimous with only Doug and Todd voting against themselves in their respective elections.”

Spring Meeting continued from page 1.

In other business, we voted that dues would remain the same—\$50 for an individual membership; \$75 for a family membership. Dues may be paid by *check* made out to the *Tyler Ski Club* and mailed to the address on this newsletter.

A roster was circulated. If you did not update your information, you may email your current contact information to us at tylerskiclub@yahoo.com.

We also marked the end of an era with the retirement of our President Michael Driggs and our Secretary/Treasurer(s) Andy and Jane Hoover. I know we all appreciate their hard work these last several years.

We next elected new officers—Doug Ames was elected president; Todd Coates was elected secretary/treasurer. The vote was nearly unanimous with only Doug and Todd voting against themselves in their respective elections. In all seriousness, we intend to work hard to carry on the tradition of this club. We are open to input from our members concerning how we might improve things and welcome you all to contact us with any ideas you may have.

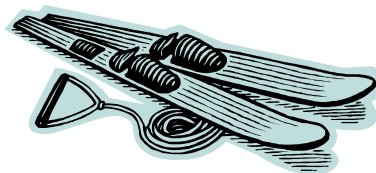
To-Do List

By Doug Ames

All work and no play make Jack a dull boy. But all play and no work make a course without buoys and a lopsided sign. We have a bit of work cut out for us. Many thanks to those of you who got together last fall to make adjustments to the courses on Lakes Bellwood and Tyler. That has decreased the number of tasks we now face to only a handful.

Since the spring meeting, Todd and I have ordered buoys, bungee, and magnets. In spite of the predictions of rain that never came, we managed to get out to Lake Tyler to replace the turn buoys and gates on the course. Unfortunately, there is some missing substructure underlying one of the gate buoys on either end of the course. So replacing the course anchors for those buoys is a project with which we are still faced. Any volunteer help is always appreciated, but in this case, given our lack of equipment and experience, it is a necessity. I dropped off the remaining replacement buoy with Jim Gathright. Many thanks to Jim for agreeing to replace the turn buoys and gates at the Lake Bellwood course.

Finally, we will be replacing the two barrels that support the sign at the entrance to the cove on the Lake Tyler site and reinstalling the two barrels that once flanked that sign on each side. This project will require a good many helping hands. Hopefully, we can undertake this project and the missing gate anchors at the same time. The barrel replacement and anchor replacement are the last major projects of which we are currently aware. We are hopeful that completing these soon will keep the Tyler course looking nice and keep people informed about our rights to that cove for some time to come.



City of Tyler-Water Utility

By Doug Ames

I spoke with Greg Morgan in late April to reintroduce myself to him and make sure that we had all of our ducks in a row with regard to our contracts with the City. During our conversation, Greg told me that it was his recollection that we would not have to have the City Council vote on our Lake Bellwood contract renewal every year as we have done in the past. Rather, the arrangement would only need to be brought before the City Council every five years. He noted, however, that, unlike our agreement pertaining to the Lake Tyler site, we had to renew our agreement concerning Bellwood annually.

Greg took this opportunity to talk about Lake Bellwood and what the future might bring. As he explained, the City has expected that the land around Lake Bellwood will be further developed and that access by road to the lake will be increased. In fact, according to Greg, in 2008, interested parties were seeking to develop the land around Bellwood, which included plans to improve lake access by extending Earl Campbell Drive. However, due to the downturn in the economy, those plans have been “put on hold.”

I discussed with Greg my experience of skiing at Bellwood over the last several years. I explained to him that boat traffic by our club members had always appeared very light and spread out due to our small number of members and varying schedules. He acknowledged that our use was not excessive, but stated that if and when greater access to Bellwood led to a substantial increase in traffic on the lake, he anticipated that the City would seek to impose “no wake” status on the entirety of the lake.

I iterated to Greg how much we appreciated the City’s permitting us to use Lake Bellwood. He stated that he

saw no reason our arrangement should not continue given the current state of access to and light traffic on Lake Bellwood. At this point, I do not think there is much more we can do other than to be very mindful and respectful of the rules concerning our use of Lake Bellwood under our agreement with the City and to be observant concerning any development taking place around Bellwood.

Our updated permission letter regarding our use of Lake Bellwood is attached to the newsletter.

Goals for 2010

By Doug Ames

Goals? That’s easy. Get around six buoys. Survive the ski season. Avoid any major mechanical work on the boat. For me, these goals are lofty. But the goals I want to address here concern how we as club members communicate.

From the get-go, I should note that one change we do not want to make is the price of dues. One of the most wonderful things about the Tyler Ski Club is the bang for the buck value we offer our members. Frankly, I don’t know of any club that does things as leanly as we have done them. That’s something we think is worth preserving.

However, we are going to try to make some changes, most of which will cost the club nothing, and which I believe will (1) allow our members to more easily get in touch with one another, (2) allow every member the opportunity to be in the loop concerning the latest club goings on, and (3) allow every member to be more likely to find a second or third when that member wants to go skiing.

Goals for 2010 continued on page 4

Goals for 2010 continued from page 3

New Communication Outlets—Facebook & Twitter

Let me start off by saying that I am not “on Facebook” and have, until now, happily left the “tweets” to the birds. When asked, “Are you on Facebook,” I have often retorted, “No, I’m holding out for an antisocial network.” But I recognize that (1) I am in the minority these days and (2) by not using these communication outlets, our club is not doing everything it can to reach out to not only our current members, but to make our existence known to prospective members. With that in mind, I invite our members to look out for updates on our Facebook page (I’m still learning the extent of what I can do in that medium) and, if you have a Twitter account, please subscribe to the Tyler Ski Club’s feed for the most up to date club announcements.

“Let me start off by saying that I am not ‘on Facebook’ and have, until now, happily left the ‘tweets’ to the birds.”

Club Web Site—TylerSkiClub.com

Finally, I’m happy to announce that we have a web page. I hosted a small page for the club a few years ago, but let the domain lapse for the parent site. Since we did not vote on expenditures for domain names and hosting, I decided to personally assume the minimal cost of registering our domain for the first year and leave it to the membership to decide if the cost (\$7.50 this year) is worth renewing in the future. Amy has generously agreed to allow us to piggyback our site onto her law firm’s web hosting account. As a result, we will not incur any cost in the launch and initial operation of the site in 2010. Please be patient. I am not a webmaster by trade and am having to relearn what I barely understood a couple of years ago. The site will undoubtedly be simplistic. Nonetheless, I am confident, it will prove useful. Please visit our new home on the web at www.TylerSkiClub.com.

Announcements

Club Discount

Ski N Sports of Tyler is offering ski club members a **10% discount** on certain water ski gear. Contact Shannon for more details.



Club T-Shirts

Heidi McKellar expressed an interest in designing a Tyler Ski Club T-shirt. If you are interested in purchasing a t-shirt, get in touch with Heidi.

Ski School

One or more of us are heading to DFW Ski School on **June 25** for a day. If you are interested in joining us, there may be a couple of extra spots available. Contact Alan at www.dfwski.com for availability.

Dallas-Ft. Worth WaterSki & Wakeboard School

New Member

Welcome to our newest member, Jason Healey!

More Face Time

By Doug Ames

Last year, we had two meetings—our usual spring meeting and an end of season meeting at the Hoover’s boat dock. Since then, I’ve heard several people tell me how good it was to get together as a club more than once per year. Our current goal is to again have an additional meeting in the fall. We’re also interested in having a mid to late summer social with good food, good times, and a lot of good ski sets in between. We are still ironing out the details on this one, especially since people’s schedules tend to fill up quickly during the summer months. But keep an eye out for an announcement soon that the Tyler Ski Club is throwing a party.

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.TylerSkiClub.com

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