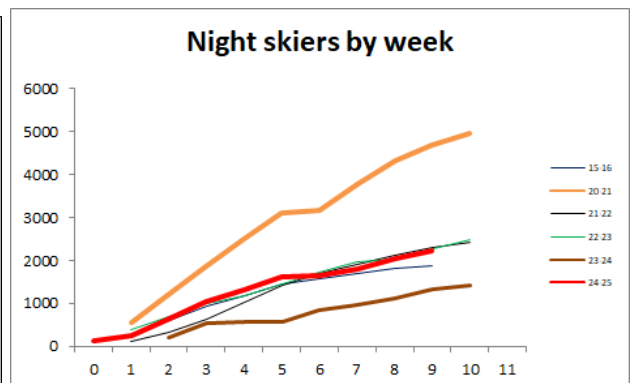
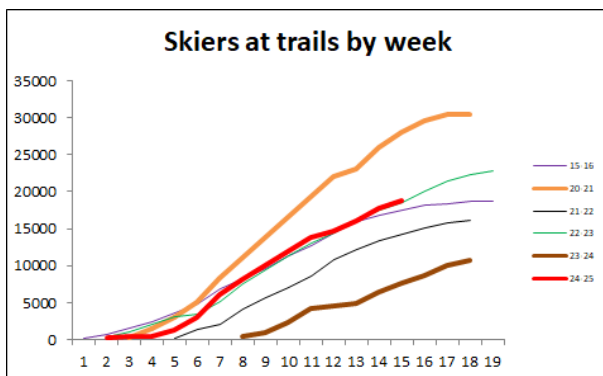
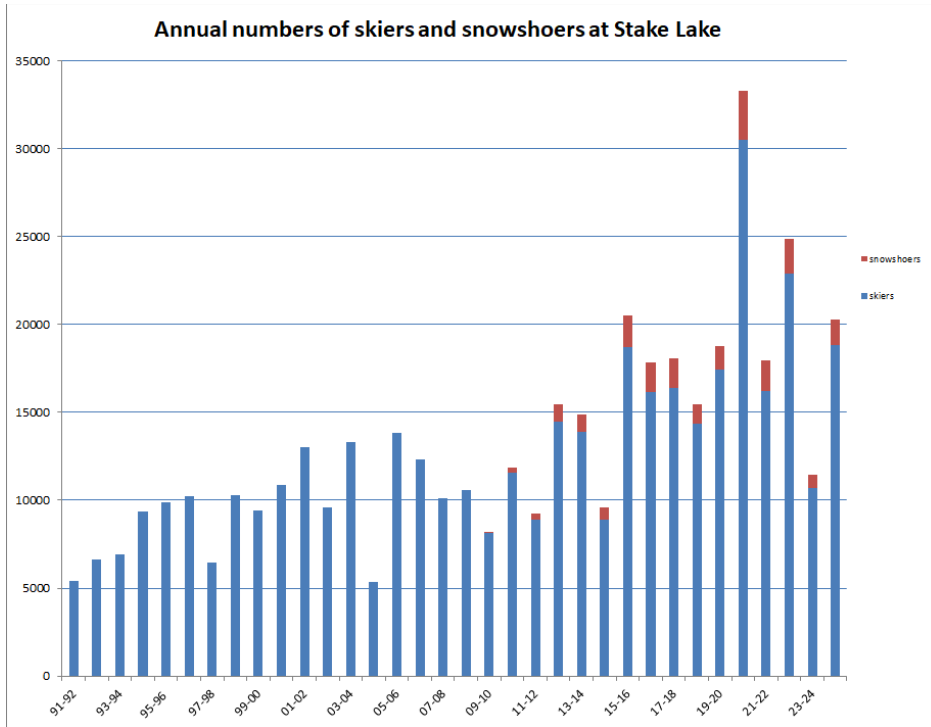


This report was prepared by GM Chelsea Francis and Trails Committee members Alan Vyse and Tim Cole.

Submitted March ^{3rd} 2025

Overlander Ski Club Trails Report 2024-2025

Our 34th year of operations brought us consistent, cold weather which allowed for some epic skiing despite the relatively low snowpack. From opening in November, temperatures remained below freezing until mid-February. Skiing was amazing and continues to be good despite the recent warm spell. The early snow encouraged season pass sales and we were very close to last season's total. This surprised us because in the past, season pass sales have been poor in the year following a short ski season. With the good snow, ski trail customers have been consistently streaming into the parking lot all season. We have surpassed 20,000 customers for the fourth time in our history and almost certainly we will see the third highest attendance by the end of the season.



We have long had a goal of preparing our trails for low snow winters and we have been following a detailed plan for smoothing and levelling the trail running surface. This year our volunteer crews again worked throughout the fall preparing the trails for another winter and over time their work has borne fruit. In discussions about trails with other clubs, their representatives are amazed that we can operate with so little snow.

Special operations included the pruning crew led by Tim and Klaus who pruned large trees on Ambush and some other problem areas to increase

snow fall on the trails and to reduce dripping off the branches during warm weather. For the off-piste trails, an ATV was rented, and the machine was used to drag a shallow plough, smoothing and conditioning the trail surface to great effect. And Chris B and Stew took their hand tools to remove many problem rocks from the main trails that had been plaguing our grooming operations when snow levels are low.

Like trail maintenance, building maintenance is a constant preoccupation. Brian and Stew rebuilt the deck on our day lodge which turned out beautifully. And in the machine shed, Luc replaced the old mezzanine with a smaller but more accessible structure which allows more machine parking options.

When the first snow fell in early November, Tim and a crew headed out to roll and pack what came down. This meant that we were able to open the trails for two days at the end of the month. Full opening was delayed until a more snow fell in early December. The early preparation served us very well as that base has held despite the January drought.

It has been a tough year for equipment with all the snowmobiles and snowcats requiring servicing and repairs.

During April 2024, Prinoth [Bison manufacturer] made available a hydraulic control valve modification aimed at improving the track setting pan function. The upgrade was performed at Stake Lake by the Prinoth western zone field service technician. Unfortunately, the ski trails were closed and testing of the modification was not possible due to a lack of snow.

So it wasn't until mid-December 2024 that the Bison could be used again and a major hydraulic failure occurred the first time the cat was used. This failure was immediately taken in hand by Prinoth, but after several unsuccessful attempts to rectify the problem in our service shop, in late January it was

decided to truck the machine to Prinoth's service center in Calgary, where more diverse repair facilities are available.

Whilst there, the hydraulic control problems were resolved with the installation of a new control valve block. Changes were made to the engine speed control system and the tiller lift control. In addition, a welding recall repair was completed on the machine's frame in four locations. The Bison was returned to Stake Lake in mid February and has been working normally since then.

As you might imagine, moving a piece of equipment like the Bison is no small task and requires much in the way of planning and execution. The transportation and repairs all went very smoothly and even though the machine warranty has expired, it was all carried out at no cost to the ski club, for which we are extremely grateful.

We are also so lucky to have Chris Jones as our head of equipment maintenance for the past 33 years. Chris, with the help of Peter and Klaus Voss, has kept our machinery running fabulously and responded quickly to all machine failures throughout the season, and we are so grateful to have them as such wonderful volunteers.

We had a big year of being in the media. We were featured on the radio three different times throughout the season. We were featured in Castanet and local news outlet articles, and groomer Tim and Luc did an awesome piece with Shelley Joyce for CBC which aired on radio and television in Vancouver.

We started the season with our usual waxing clinic that hosted 50 eager learners and was very well received.

Yes Coach Clay rolled out a new dryland training program this fall that hosted our young ski athletes and taught them to roller ski and prepared their fitness

for a successful ski season ahead. Coach Clay was a great support to the Ski league season and we appreciate that very much,

This year we hosted a full Masters Program. This consisted of several weekend and one day clinics, and many skills sessions hosted on evenings and weekends. Comments from participants below:

The masters class weekend was a great success for me overall, a great experience !

As a self-taught beginner I could ski around the lake and down some hills but knew I had lots to learn.

Laura was our instructor, she started off with the basics and then at the end used her iPad to film and show us how we could all improve our technique and become more efficient.

I also attended 2 Wednesday evening and 1 Saturday session with Dana who was great and offered a different perspective which helped.

I was able to practice with my fellow classmates afterwards.

I would highly recommend the class to anyone getting into skiing. My technique has improved and I am enjoying it even more every ski ! Looking forward to the next season already -Kody

Highlights:

- The planning meeting on November 14th at the Tournament Capital Centre gave interested members a chance to give input and show our support for masters programming

- Starting the weekend after New Years was perfect - an excellent early start giving us lots of skills to work on throughout the season

- While I was part of the first weekend clinic, I understand that there was another session the following weekend to accommodate those on a waitlist

- *Subsequent weekend and evening sessions allowed those who had missed the weekend clinics to also receive coaching as well as allowing clinic participants to continue their development*
- *The coaches were experienced, knowledgeable, patient and welcoming*
- *There was programming available to all levels and both disciplines*
- *The pricing was appropriate - signalling value but also affordable*
- *The masters program achieved social connection between adult skiers building a stronger Overlander Ski Club community*

We have so much to be grateful for - an amazing network of trails, great staff, and incredibly dedicated volunteers!

- *Christina*

Our club got to host our Loppet again this year thanks to Klaus Mey taking the reins! It was a crispy day at -15 but we had an awesome turn out and everyone very much enjoyed the day. It took over 100 volunteer hours to pull off the event! We also hosted our long ski day challenge with Whitehorse Nordic, which was a blast as usual.

1300 children from the local school districts went through the Ski Skool program this year. We had such wonderful feedback about our ski skool this season, and we are grateful to Naomi D, Jocelyn and Naomi M for their wonderful coaching and talent in working with youth!

We are thankful for our exceptional Staff, led by our GM Chelsea, our assistant manager Kate and their wonderful team of JD, Michael, Maya, Megan, Tracy and Trevor.

We are also grateful for our dedicated Trails Committee who put in countless hours behind the scenes to keep buildings, trails and various equipment maintained and working. Tim Cole, Alan Vyse, Chris Jones, Stew Stankiewicz, Luc Guilherme, Thomas Bennett and Klaus Mey.

We are grateful for an awesome ski season enjoyed by so many! The consistent cold temperatures really allowed our groomers to make some magic with the low snowpack. With many new programs, many new faces and many epic ski days for all. We are very grateful for the continuing support of our amazing members, who without your enthusiasm for this sport and our community, none of this would be possible or worthwhile.

