

President Report, March 31, 2008

- 1) Operations concluded March 24 with a dwindling use of the club, despite good snow conditions. I am happy with the operation this year, - some highlights:
  - a. membership increased to 567 – we met our ambitious target set last summer
  - b. very strong growth in the skill development program. There were 70+ participants this year up from about 50 from the previous year. The program was superbly administered and taught, and it directly brought several families into the club.
  - c. Operations and staff were excellent, again. Keith hired and maintained good people and coordinated them well. Keith remains the club's greatest asset with his ability to balance many competing demands on his attention and time while being a far more effective club ambassador than I could ever imagine being.
  - d. Though we have these and many other highlights, this is also a time for all of us to reflect back on the year to document how we can run this club better and smoother. Last year, each of us wrote out our own "job description." I think we should all flesh these out with our gained experience and knowledge from this year, to remind ourselves, or to pass the knowledge on to future directors.
- 2) I have initiated a long term planning committee for the club to look at priorities over the next 5-6 years. One of the items I've put in front of this committee which should come before this executive as well is the concept of shifting this club from an Executive/Director run club to an Executive/Director oversight while the club tasks are coordinated and carried out by employees. There are too few director volunteers to do the work for an ever growing membership which for a large part is disinterested in the running of the club. This shift that I'm proposing will likely require that we increase user and membership fees to cover the increase in staff cost.
- 3) A member, Van Pratt, has taken on an enormous task and responsibility as our de-facto Information Technologist. Just by osmosis it seems, responsibilities that have anything to do with a computer have been moved to him and it has been excellent. Probably the biggest task he's had is installing the new weather station that was donated by Gar Hatton and Tom Evans, - this was no easy feat. Though it runs counter to the previous point I've made in this report I'd like to ask him and the executive to formalize his role in the club for the next year as a director, or more likely as a coordinator for anything that is IT related (email blasts, weather station, website, etc.).