

Nickel Plate Cross Country Ski Club was formed in 1989 by a group of Nordic ski enthusiasts who saw the potential for a world class cross country ski facility in the mountains west of Penticton, BC. The original signors to the Club constitution were Steve and Carolyn Buzikievich, Graham and Gail McNeil, Larry Reiswig, Jerome Jang and Frank Cunsolo. These people had a vision for this area and, along with many other volunteers such as Buck Pacholzuk, Ernie Winstanley, Edgar Scherzinger and Dick Reimer to name but a few, they established the Club, negotiated with the Provincial Government for a Special Use Permit, constructed the original facilities and cleared many kilometers of trails. Since that time, Nickel Plate Nordic Centre has become an integral part of winter activity for people residing in the South Okanagan and Similkameen areas of British Columbia as well as for visitors from all parts of Canada, the United States and even countries as far away as England, Sweden, South Africa and Thailand. Each season we are fortunate to host more than 27,000 skier visits.

The Club has now developed 56 kilometers of groomed ski trails, and more than 16 kilometers of marked snowshoe trails. This 4,000 square foot day lodge, our modern washrooms, a fuel storage shed and an equipment storage shed were all constructed using volunteer labour. Annual facility maintenance and trail development is also carried out by volunteers so it is quite obvious that we have the founding members and our dedicated volunteers to thank for the continued success of Nickel Plate.

The Club constitution reads:

“The purpose of the Club is to operate a charitable institution, without profit to its’ members, for the purposes of promoting and encouraging cross country skiing as a way of life among its’ members, developing cross country ski programs, trails, facilities and events for its’ members and the general public as well as training leaders, coaches, officials, skiers and others in the elements of cross country skiing.”

I think the Club has succeeded in its’ purpose and it is a success story our founding members can be proud of. Their hard work and dedication did indeed make Nickel Plate Nordic Centre the world class facility they dreamed off. Please join me in thanking all of our dedicated volunteers for their efforts.