



Whaleback Nordic Ski Club

Grooming Handbook 2017/2018

EARLY SEASON – BASE PREPARATION & OPENING TRAILS

1. Concentrate on opening the FoxTrot so that members can start skiing.
2. Prepare the base on Raven’s Ridge and Snowy Owl while focusing on improving FT.
3. Once FoxTrot is in good condition, cut whips on Raven’s Ridge and Snowy Owl.
4. Open the first section of BeaverTail Flat to provide bypass route to inside trails.
5. Prepare the base on the Bunny Hop.
6. Groom Raven’s Ridge and Snowy Owl as soon as snow accumulation permits.
7. Prepare the base on Chickadee Hollow, Oliver’s Twist and Abbey Road.
8. The Rendez Vous and Braveheart will be given the lowest priority in early season.
9. BeaverTail Flat (east end) will be packed as soon as snow accumulation permits.
(due to wet conditions, the last half (eastern end) of BTF may have a delayed opening.
10. The BR250 will go into service, without the tiller, as soon as snow accumulation permits

Note: It should be noted that all trails cannot be brought up to a “good condition” standard simultaneously, and will therefore be opened in a sequential order. **Skiers should confine their skiing to the FoxTrot for the first few days of the ski season** and then proceed to other trails as they are opened up. Trails that are undergoing base preparation and whip-cutting may be skiable, but skiers should understand that it will take time to bring all trails up to an acceptable standard. Skiers should consider using their “rock skis” while trails are being prepared early in the season. Please show patience.



REGULAR SEASON - #1 FULL GROOMING - ALL TRAILS

At 8:00 a.m. Kenny will proceed in the following order:

1. Set-Track on Beaver Tail Flat with snowmobile groomer.
2. Groom all other trails with BR-250 in the following order: FoxTrot, Raven’s Ridge, Snowy Owl, Rendez Vous, down Deadly Descent, Chickadee Hollow to Pentagon intersection, Braveheart, Chickadee Hollow, Oliver’s Twist, up Hayes Hump, Abbey Road (reverse to Birches), out to chalet via Abbey Rd./Raven’s Ridge. Full grooming of all trails will be done 2 +/- times per week depending on snow conditions. In addition, the goal is to have all trails groomed for the weekend.
3. Skiers should note: Kenny will not finish grooming Upper Raven’s Ridge until 10:45 +/-

REGULAR SEASON - #2 GROOMING SELECTED LOOPS

Examples of selected routes are listed below:

1. BTFlat, FoxTrot, Raven's Ridge, Snowy Owl, Oliver's Twist, return via Hayes Hump
2. BTFlat, FoxTrot, Raven's Ridge, Braveheart, Oliver's Twist, return via Haynes Hump
3. BTFlat, FoxTrot, Raven's Ridge, Oliver's Twist, return via Saddleback out Raven's Ridge
4. FoxTrot, Raven's Ridge, Snowy Owl, Rendez Vous, Abbey Road, return via Rav's Ridge
5. FoxTrot, Raven's Ridge, Snowy Owl, Oliver's Twist, Chickadee, return via Raven's Ridge

Note: In #4 and #5 (above), if the classic track on Beaver Tail Flat is firm and in very good condition, the trail may not be re-groomed as grooming may compromise the quality of the track.

REGULAR SEASON - #3 MINIMUM GROOMING - HEAVY SNOWFALL

Examples of selected routes on a minimum grooming day are listed below:

1. Beaver Tail Flat, FoxTrot, Raven's Ridge and Snowy Owl
2. FoxTrot, Raven's Ridge, Abbey Road (via Cardiac Climb)
3. FoxTrot and Raven's Ridge ... then re-groom Raven's Ridge later in the morning
4. Grooming may be delayed if a heavy snowfall is in progress

REGULAR SEASON - #4 GROOMING FOR NIGHT SKIING

Kenny will re-groom the FoxTrot for the evening skiers at 4:00PM if there has been a significant snowfall after he finished his shift at 1:00PM.

LATE SEASON #5 - GROOMING FOR CLASSIC SKIERS

If the classic track on BTFlat is firm and in very good condition, discretion will be used as to whether or not, BTFlat will be re-groomed. Rationale: It impossible to set good quality classic tracks when there is a hard-packed, frozen base. In such conditions, the old, existing classic track is often much better quality than the track that would result if BTFlat were re-groomed.

If there is a fresh snowfall (more than 5 cm), BTF will be re-groomed. BTF will be periodically dragged with the steel drag to level the trail base. The second part of BTF (between first and second bridge) meanders through extremely wet, boggy terrain. For this reason, the second part of BTFlat may have a delayed opening at the beginning of the season. It should also be noted that this section of trail starts to erode late in the season and for this reason, it may not be a suitable choice of trails for classic skiers after the spring thaw.

Late in the season, when the base consists of hard-packed frozen snow, it is very difficult to set good quality classic tracks with the BR-250 and classic skiers are often forced to ski in very uneven, “bits and pieces”, set-track. For this reason, the BR-250 may avoid grooming one of the trails so that an existing good quality classic track can be preserved. Braveheart would be a logical choice to designate as a “classic priority” loop. By combining BTFlat and BH, classic skiers would be able to do a 9 km classic tour. While skaters would still be encouraged to ski BH, the grooming focus would be to preserve the existing track for classic skiers.

* Note: If the BR250 grooms for skating, there is no option to leave the old classic track in place.

Regular Season - # 6 GROOMING IN MILD TEMPERATURES

When temperature is above +1, with new snow conditions, grooming will be suspended.

Use the Grooming Protocol as a Guide

This Grooming Protocol is meant to be guide for all skiers. Cross country skiing is a dynamic outdoor sport that is pursued in an ever-changing environment. Conditions can be unpredictable and grooming plans may change depending on prevailing weather and snow conditions. Whaleback is extremely fortunate to have a very capable and diligent groomer operator. The executive of Whaleback Nordic asks all skiers to be patient and understanding. [Trail Conditions](#) are available at: www.whalebacknordic.com