



**Rochester Active Sports Club
2022 Annual Report**

2022 was a busy year for RASC, with continuing, strong club support for mountain biking, cross country skiing and road/gravel cycling; year-round trail maintenance and grooming; and active participation in the Rochester Mountain Bike Team (“RMBT”) and Rochester Nordic Ski Team (“RNST”) youth development programs. As of year-end, RASC had 629 registered members. We launched a number of new initiatives in 2022, including Gamehaven snowmaking and the Spring Brook Valley project, which involves development of flow mountain bike trails in partnership with the City. A new RASC website was launched — as well as new social media pages — aiming to provide existing members with the information they need, while welcoming new members and guests who want to learn more about cycling, cross country skiing and mountain biking in Rochester.

Since RASC was founded in 2000, the club has been a testament to the power of volunteerism. We estimate that thousands of hours of time are contributed each year by volunteers willing to help with trail maintenance and grooming; leading group road, gravel, mountain bike and fat tire rides; coaching RMBT, RNST and the elementary school cross country skiing program; and organizing up to date information on the website about group rides for road and gravel, maps of rides in the area, trail conditions and resources for club members. A big THANK YOU to all the wonderful RASC volunteers!!! No one has better demonstrated RASC volunteerism than Michael O’Connor, who helped found RASC in 2000 and served as its president from 2000 to 2022. Fortunately, Michael will remain very involved in RASC, serving on the board, coaching for RNST, and maintaining RNST’s inventory of 120 pairs of skis and poles that are offered to first year skiers to reduce the costs of getting into the sport. Thank you, Michael, for your incredible contributions to RASC!

Following are updates on RASC programs, new initiatives, and governance, as well as the 2022 RASC Financial Report. If you have any questions about RASC or this report — or if you are interested in getting more involved in supporting RASC activities — please send an email to info@rasc-mn.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Herbert'.

David Herbert
RASC President

2022 RASC Program Updates

Mountain Biking - 2022

- Built 2 new trails and Modified 3 trails at Gamehaven
- RASC Sponsored/Race Directed MN Mountain Bike Series race at Gamehaven in May 2022 – 383 riders, 48 of those being under 18 years old, + about 100 spectators.
- Held “Scout’s Guide to the Snowpocalypse” fat bike race/ride event with ~40 riders + spectators
- Maintained ~26 miles of trail between Eastwood and Gamehaven — for mountain bikes, hikers and trail runners.
- Maintained/groomed ~13 miles of trail over the winter months for fat bikes, trail runners, hikers, snowshoers and skiers.
- Liaised with Scouting to keep their property available to the public for additional trails
- Several small summer/winter group ride events and cookout style events to promote health and community.
- Regular Mon/Wed night rides in the winter for fat bikes with leaders, new rider friendly, no drop, well attended.
- Launched Northern Heights Park initiative: In progress at the City level for approval to build trails on unused park land to serve a quadrant of Rochester with no mountain bike trails.
- RCTC trails project was active in 2022 and continues; currently working with the City on it.
- Linked RASC to the Spring Brook Valley project (see Special Projects below).
- \$5000 Raised from Race Fees from Gamehaven MN Series Sept 24-25
- Capital equipment acquisitions: Mower \$2900; SnowDog Fat Tire bike groomer \$5722 (sponsored by the Steve Pieper Memorial Fund).

Road and Gravel Cycling - 2022

- Spring Kick-Off held in March.
- March thru September:
 - Monday organized road rides leaving Bamber School at 6:00pm
 - Wednesday organized road rides leaving Bicycle Sports at 6:00pm
 - Tuesday early morning fast ride leaving Bamber School 6:00am.
 - Thursday organized gravel rides leaving Franzones at 6:00pm
 - Saturday & Sunday misc. group rides and times posted on RASC site.
 - Maps and routes posted on RASC site.
 - September: Sunday organized gravel rides.
- October organized night rides.
- Total of 66 organized road rides with a peak attendance of 53.
- Total of 31 gravel rides with a peak attendance of 34.

Nordic Skiing Trail development & Maintenance - 2022

- 24 people involved in summer trail maintenance (including mowing of trails every 2 weeks) and winter grooming at Essex Park and Quarry Hill.

- Worked with Rochester Parks & Recreation to finalize plans for phase 1 of Gamehaven ski trails and snowmaking (see special projects below).
- Finalized design and layout of 12km of trails at Gamehaven Park, including 9km of natural snow trails and 3km planned for snowmaking, as well as posting signs for all trails.
- Coordinated Gamehaven Grooming plans with Parks & Recreation as they transitioned grooming from Eastwood.
- Linked trail maps for Essex, Quarry Hill, Gamehaven and Chester Woods into the new RASC website.
- Implemented new trail grooming reports system using the Discord Channel
- Acquired \$34,776 Polaris Track Vehicle for ski trail grooming, using \$8,694 of RASC capital and the balance covered by a Federal Recreational Trails grant.

Rochester Mountain Bike Team - 2022

- 83 students, 29 volunteer coaches, 1 volunteer director, 2 other non-coach volunteers that worked on team committee/projects
- 12 Letter Winners, from Lourdes, Century, Mayo, John Marshall and Kasson Mantorville.
- 25-28 people involved in trail maintenance .
- RMBT participated in 2022 MN Cycling High School Race Series:
 - August 27-28 – Xcel Energy Mountain Bike Park, Shakopee, MN
 - September 17-18: Whitetail Ridge, River Falls, WI
 - September 24-25: Gamehaven Scout Camp, Rochester, MN
 - October 8-9: Whitetail Ridge (v2), River Falls, WI
 - October 15-16: Redhead Mountain Bike Park, Chisholm, MN
- Berne Pizza Fundraiser raised \$2000
- Donations for advertising space on trailer raised \$1800
- Capital equipment acquisitions: Bike rack \$260; Tent \$2000
- Acquisition of two bikes and 2-way radios, supported by the Steven Pieper Memorial Fund.

Rochester Nordic Ski Team – Nov 2021 to Mar 2022

(Note: this is data from last season, not the 2022/2023 season that is currently in progress)

- 146 students, 45 volunteer coaches, 2 administrators.
- Skiers from 19 different schools:
 - Byron (2), Connections Academy (1), Friedell (5), Home School (40), John Adams (2), Kellogg (10), Lincoln K-8 Choice (1), Minnesota Online HS (1), Pine Island (5), Century (23), John Marshall (6), Lourdes (5), Mayo (29), Schaefer Academy (3), St. Francis (2), St. John's (1), Stewartville (5), Willow Creek (1), Zumbrota Mazeppa (4)
- 26 Letter winners
- Practices held at Quarry Hill, Essex, Eastwood, Chester Woods
- Weekend Ski Camp Jan 6-8 canceled due to Covid concerns.
- RCTC Dome practices for early season dryland training were canceled due to pandemic restrictions.
- Fun Events: Tropics at Chester Woods, RNST Olympics
- Races:
 - Chippewa Valley Invite: Jan 18: 2km and 5km interval starts
 - Rochester Invite: Jan 27: 2km and 5km interval starts

- Essex Park Time Trial: Feb 8: 1.5km and 5.5km wave starts
- Wisconsin State Meet: Feb 12-13: 3.km and 6.5km Classic and Freestyle Races
- Active participation by RNST Skiers in: PreLoppet – Mpls, CXC Cup Races, Mora Vasaloppet, Pre-Birkie, Prince Haakon, Korteloppet, Birkebeiner
- Races canceled in Winona (Dec) and Red Wing (Jan) due to low snow conditions
- RNST team members, Natasha Sortland and Anna Peikert, qualified to attend U.S. Junior National Championships in March
- 24 people involved in summer trail maintenance and winter grooming at Essex Park and Quarry Hill.

New RASC 2022 Initiatives

- **Gamehaven Nordic Ski Trails and Snowmaking.**
 - RASC has partnered with Rochester Parks & Recreation (P&R) to support 12km of new cross country ski trails at Gamehaven Park, including 9km of natural snow trails and 3km planned for snowmaking.
 - RNST Coach Jim Bennett worked closely with P&R on the design of the new trails as well as posting signs for all trails.
 - RASC has committed to provide \$150,000 in funding toward snowmaking equipment (pumps, pump house, 2 snow guns, hose, PistenBully groomer).
 - All equipment was acquired and installed in 2022.
 - Testing on snowmaking pumps and snowguns is underway in Feb – Mar 2023.
 - RASC launched the “Gamehaven Campaign” to help generate funds to support RASC’s \$150,000 commitment, as well as to support capital equipment and operating costs for trail maintenance and grooming at Essex and Quarry Hill, and to provide funding for RNST Skier Financial Support.
- **Spring Brook Valley (SBV) – Mountain Bike Park**
 - SBV is an effort to claim and preserve a plot of land in SW Rochester historically known as “Spring Brook Valley” for use as a trail system rather than for commercial development.
 - SBV aims to be Rochester’s first flow trail. A flow trail is a trail built specifically for mountain bikes. The surface is wider and smoother than a typical track with an emphasis on predictability and using gravity to the rider’s advantage whenever possible. Beginner flow trails are very user friendly! Intermediate and advanced flow trails include “berms” (banked corners) “rollers” (large humps to roll up and over), jumps, and other wooden constructed features.
 - SBV has been spearheaded by Lindsey Bartolomai, who has joined the RASC board, and the project gathered steam through 2022, including garnering over 200 supportive mountain bikers and holding a public forum.
 - Efforts to raise significant funds to acquire the SBV land and build partnerships with the City to support SBV are underway.

- **New RASC Website and Social Media**

- Based on feedback from members, we decided to improve RASC’s website (rasc-mn.org) and Social Media (Facebook and Instagram) pages with a fresh new design and consistent language. In addition to better serving current RASC members, the goal was to provide a useful guide to Rochester natives or guests who might want to explore what’s available for road and gravel cycling, mountain biking, and cross country skiing in Rochester. Spearheaded by new board member Alec Tackmann, with input from board member Anna Sortland and avid mountain biker Travis Kolbo, the new site is working well and we are in the process of moving all membership services fully on to the new system following its use for registering RNST skiers in Nov. 2022.

2022 RASC Governance

- **Board of Directors**

- The RASC Board of Directors approved three new RASC board members in 2022: Lindsey Bartolomai, Michael Holmes, and Alec Tackmann. Long-time RASC board member, and significant RASC volunteer, Kristin Sorenson stepped out of her board role in 2022. Thank you, Kristin, for your many contributions over many years!
- RASC Directors have been selected to represent RASC’s important member interest areas, with many directors involved in all three areas (road/gravel cycling, mountain biking, nordic skiing), and also to provide important skill sets and experience.
- RASC Directors serve 3-year board terms.
- As of the end of 2022, the RASC Board has 16 Directors: Lindsey Bartolomai, James Bennett, Carolyn Franzone, Dave Greymont, David Herbert (Chair), Scott Hogen, Michael Holmes, Jon (Joey) Keillor, Michael O’Connor, Jackson Raygor, Joel Raygor, Anna Sortland, Alec Tackmann, Henry Walker, Robb Welch, and Andrew Wood.

- **New President**

- In July, 2022, the RASC Board of Directors approved the appointment of David Herbert as President to succeed Michael O’Connor, who asked to step down from the President role he had held since RASC was launched in 2000. David Herbert also assumed the role of Board Chair.
- Michael O’Connor will continue as RASC Board Member and with the title of Past President.

- **Finance Committee**

- In November, 2022, a RASC Finance Committee was established to provide a sounding board for significant new expenditures and to provide additional support to the RASC Treasurer.

- The members of the RASC Finance Committee are the officers of RASC: David Herbert (president), Michael O'Connor (past president), and David Greymont (treasurer), plus board members, Michael Holmes, James Bennett and Scott Hogen. Michael Holmes was named Chair of the Finance Committee.
- Key duties of the RASC Finance Committee include review of the overall RASC annual budget, review of the annual budgets for RMBT and RNST, and review/approval of any significant new capital or expense items not included in approved budgets.

2022 RASC Financial Report

ROCHESTER ACTIVE SPORTS CLUB	
2022 OPERATING ACTUALS	
INCOME	
GENERAL RASC DONATIONS	\$ 11,292
General Donations Unrestricted	\$ 5,732
General Donations Restricted	\$ 5,560
TOTAL EVENT INCOME	\$ 6,425
RMBT Mountain Bike Race	\$ 5,630
Tour de Essex XC Ski Race	\$ 795
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDRAISERS, FUND DRIVES, and GRANTS	\$ 26,720
Gamehaven Fund Drive: Park & Rec Snowmaking	\$ 15,050
Gamehaven Fund Drive: Nordic Skiing Trail Development	\$ 1,270
Steve Pieper Memorial Fund Grant	\$ 10,400
ROCHESTER ACTIVE SPORTS CLUB MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$ 5,340
ROCHESTER MOUNTAIN BIKE TEAM (RMBT) INCOME	\$ 12,377
RMBT Membership	\$ 7,635
RMBT General Support	\$ 2,542
RMBT Fundraisers	\$ 2,200
ROCHESTER NORDIC SKI TEAM INCOME	\$ 16,600
RNST Membership	\$ 11,000
RNST Donations/Fundraisers	\$ 2,800
RNST Ski & Pole Rental	\$ 2,400
RNST Team Apparel	\$ 400
OTHER INCOME	\$ 1,770
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 80,524
EXPENSES	
PROJECT/RESTRICTED EXPENSE	\$ 18,395
Annual Gamehaven Snowmaking Pledge Expense to Rochester Park & Rec.	\$ 15,000
Gamehaven Cross County and Mtn. Bike Trail Project Expense	\$ 2,275
Gamehaven Fund Drive: Nordic Skiing Trail Development	\$ 1,120
RASC EXPENSES	\$ 17,450
General Club Expenses (e.g., postage, web costs)	\$ 3,900
Insurance and Licenses	\$ 4,850
Polaris Ranger Payment	\$ 8,700
ROCHESTER MOUNTAIN BIKE TEAM (inc. equipment expenses)	\$ 24,825
RMBT Expense: General	\$ 9,375
RMBT Expense: Trail, General, and Capital Equipment repair/replace	\$ 5,500
Steve Pieper Memorial Fund Grant (equipment and capital expense)	\$ 9,950
ROCHESTER NORDIC SKI TEAM EXPENSES (inc. equipment expenses)	\$ 15,735
RNST Expense: General	\$ 5,500
RNST Expense: RCTC Dome rental	\$ 160
RNST Expense: Public School Expenses	\$ 1,075
RNST: Team Apparel Expense	\$ 2,500
RNST Expense: Trail, General, and Capital Equipment repair/replace	\$ 6,500
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	\$ 1,700
EVENT EXPENSE	\$ 2,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 80,105