

Melrude Winter Frolic 2018

The Melrude Community Club was born in June of 1937. At that time, it was called the Melrude Study Club. Among the many projects that this club proposed to sponsor were plans for a Community Winter Frolic. Over the years the Melrude Study Club was renamed the Melrude Civic Club. In 1950, it was voted to rename this club the Melrude Community Club, and this remains the name today. Historical records show that on February 19, 1956, the first Winter Frolic was held on Young Lake at the home of Robert Rohlf. In 1959, George and Kay Johnson offered the Community Club a 300 foot lot by the public access on Lake Dinham to be used for picnics, swimming, and the Winter Frolic. The Frolic has been held at this location ever since!

Beth Caples remembers coming to the Winter Frolic as a little girl with her father. At that time, the hill had a sharp curve in it which was later straightened as the road was changed. She also remembers all of the old snowmobiles that people drove to the Frolic lined up on display.

A toboggan was the raffle prize for the early Winter Frolics. In 1963, the prize was changed to 5 sleds. Later, cash prizes of \$100, \$50, and five \$10 awards were added to the sled prizes. Today, we continue the money raffle tradition and offer 10 sleds as prizes.

On February 23, 1958, the temperature soared to a record 57 degrees and the sliding hill turned to mud. Some people remember that a table was set up at the top of the hill and poker was played. The Frolic of 1969 was the only one that was ever cancelled. There was so much snow that the sliding area of the hill was very narrow and there was no place for parking. More recently, the Frolic of 2016 was so cold that the ketchup and buns froze! It was a warm day for the 2017 Frolic. This made sliding a bit sticky. The long walk up the hill caused such perspiration that coats, hats, and mittens were soon discarded.

Whatever the weather, there is always the traditional brats, hotdogs, buns, coffee, and hot chocolate to look forward to. Arlette Krog remembers that in the early frolics the sausages were cooked on a grate over a wood fire, not a propane fueled grill like today. Coffee and other foods were kept warm over a fire also. There are still some blackened pots in the Melrude Town Hall from those times!

The 2018 Frolic, held on February 10, was a wonderful day. The temperature was in the upper teens and the day was bright and sunny with no wind. The hill was groomed exceptionally well by Lee Voigt. Young and old all enjoyed sliding down the hill on an array of sleds and saucers. There was even a vintage Flexible Flyer sled with steel runners that one adult brought because he had used it as a kid. Lee also had a roaring fire going so that people could warm up. Arlette Krog grilled the hotdogs and brats to perfection. Deborah Feth sold the raffle tickets and made sure that all children age 12 and under were signed up for the sled raffle. The 5 gallon bucket was packed full with over 500 raffle tickets that were sold this year! Jen McRae and Jen Carlson monitored the sliding hill for safety. Happy shrieks and squeals of laughter were heard throughout the Frolic. The Ellsburg Volunteer Fire Department brought their Rescue 8, Rescue 3, side-by-side, snowmobile, ATV, and Rescue Sled so that they could respond in case of an emergency. Children and adults enjoy this display of equipment as well as the fire safety brochures, kid's activity books, and candy. Most of all, everyone looks forward to the tradition of trudging up the hill, racing down the hill, and coming together as a community and socializing during the annual Winter Frolic!

Pictures from the Melrude Winter Frolic 2018



Arrlette manning the grill



Deb at the drink and raffle table



EVFD at the ready!

