



February 2015

## LOVE YOUR SKI CLUB MONTH



Photo Credit: Paul Ferucci, Parent & Coach

**Welcome** Alyeska Ski Club families to our first monthly newsletter! With more snow on the ground and our athletes working hard, enthusiasm is building among our entire club. In this season of love, it's hard not to love this club!

We'll apologize now for the length of this first edition. We promise to keep it more concise as we roll the information out on a more routine basis.



## Love our Supporters

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the heroes and villains of the Girdwood valley that came out to support the ski club at our **annual dinner and auction** on January 24. Whether you donated an item to the auction, provided a sponsorship, bought a seat at a table, purchased a raffle ticket or raised your bidding number for the paddle call, your presence and participation will help us reach our goals for this club. We couldn't do without you, our supporters! Thank you!

## Love our Community

The **Love for Girdwood food drive** will continue the entire month of February. Please drop off your canned and dry goods in the bins on the main level of the RTC. Masters athlete Caroline Ahrens, began this food drive to support the local folks of Girdwood that make our weekend of fun possible. Thank you for your love and support of our Girdwood community!

## Love our Members

Long time member and Masters athlete, **Bob Eastaugh**, volunteers to photograph Junior and FIS ski races and training. The direct link to his ski racing galleries is <http://www.zenfolio.com/bobeastaughimagery/f780276392>. Photos are available for free viewing. They can also be purchased. 100% of the net proceeds of sales (specified print price less lab print fee and shipping charges) are donated to the GVSEF.

The Ski Racing Group contains subgroups by ski season; each ski season subgroup contains galleries for the specific ski races photographed. Navigate to the correct season and then to the appropriate gallery. Should you order prints, don't place the order until you are completely satisfied. You can also email Bob before placing an order if you have any questions.

**Photo of the Month submission** - We are also looking for great photos from our members to include in this newsletter every month. Mighty Mite parent and coach, Paul Ferucci, submitted the photo highlighted this month. Next month could be your photo! Please send your submissions to [lara.hildreth.asc@gmail.com](mailto:lara.hildreth.asc@gmail.com).

Mighty Mite parent and sales representative for the Lil'Skirt apparel line, **Mindy Rock**, expressed the following gratitude to the ski club: "I want to give a huge thank you to everyone who helped support the Alyeska Ski Club by purchasing a Lil'Skirt at the RTC earlier this season. During this difficult snow season for our coaches and athletes, the strength of our club shines through. My sales day in early January was not only my biggest day in volume but was the company's largest single day of sales. We raised much needed funds for the club and earned a few free items to place in the auction where they raised even more money. I am proud to be part of a group that no matter what is going on around us we are there to support each other and make sure the goals of ASC are accomplished. We are not only raising strong athletes, but we are building strong character! Thank you for being such a wonderful supportive group and thank you to all the volunteers who are working hard to make this season a great one!"

## Love our Race Training Center

We are very lucky as a club to have such a fabulous building as ground central for our programs. But it is always in need of extra tender love and care because of the high traffic. Please pay attention to the **cleaning schedules of your individual programs** and participate in emptying the garbage, vacuuming, and generally picking up discarded items. There are two lost and found boxes on the Tanaka Hill end of the main floor for forgotten or misplaced items. Also, please do not allow the younger athletes to play with

**dryland equipment** including the ever so fun exercise balls. That equipment is intended for our dryland program athletes and they depend on it for staying in great shape. And finally, please pick up and place **skis on the racks** during lunch and at the end of the day. It is very difficult for resort personnel and the public to maneuver around piles of skis left on the ground.

We are also lucky to have three **parking spots** available for purchase in front of the RTC. These spots are an important part of the club's annual income. Please be respectful of those that own those spots and do not park there at any time! The club lost \$6,000 in revenue for these parking spots during the auction because they have become more of a pain than a luxury for those that own them. These spots are clearly marked with signs on the side of the building and now with red cones. Thank you to resort employee, Ben Cosper, and his crew for monitoring our parking spots and helping to raise the value of these spots once more for the club.

## Love our History

Our club is nearly 50 years old! We are trying to identify and locate all past athletes in all Alyeska Ski Club programs back to Day One in the 1960s! We hope to create an **Alyeska Alumni Association** but we need everyone's help trying to create a complete working roster. Could you please do your best to recall all athletes you raced and/or trained with, and any information you have about where they are now and how we can reach them? And if you happen to have any old results, start lists or rosters tucked away, could you please copy them and send them to [larahildreth.asc@gmail.com](mailto:larahildreth.asc@gmail.com). If you are interested in helping us track down Alums, please let us know!



### Alyeska Ski Club Board of Directors

Greetings to all our Members and Athletes on a lovely February day!

First I want to thank all of our athletes and members for their concerted efforts in minimizing our impact to the resort on such limited skiable area this season. I realize that this difficult snow year has proven a challenge to all of our athletes, and to the resort, and speaking on behalf of your club I feel we have done a very good job to be respectful of the skiing public. Please keep up the good work!

As you know there are a lot of changes occurring in your club and all of them are positive. We had a great retreat of our club transition team with wonderful progress made on how our reorganized club should look and operate. This is a very big step and one that helps us advocate across all program offerings for our members and athletes. We've also had successful meetings regarding the Tanaka Hill master plan. I expect some great suggestions and opportunities for our club will come out of these working sessions.

Coming off of a successful and extremely fun auction and event I want to say thanks again to all the volunteers that made it happen. As always the Alyeska Resort staff outdid themselves on a great meal and awesome venue for our big event.

There are a lot of opportunities for you to get involved with your club. We have many committees working on various projects that need more volunteer help and we have many other needs as a club that rely on volunteer help. Let us help show you how to be involved with your Alyeska Ski Club.

Thanks again and see you on the hill!

Shane Langland  
President  
Alyeska Ski Club



## Glacier Valley Ski Education Foundation

Greetings Athletes and Parents,

This season is proving to be the most extraordinary winter in almost 5 decades of living in Alaska. We have had some slim years for snow in the past, but nothing like we are experiencing this year.

Thank you all for the perseverance and the dedication to make the best of what we have! Thank you to Aaron, Ari, Kate, Alex, Terry, and all staff for being nimble enough to offer on snow training and dryland opportunities both in Anchorage and in Girdwood.

With the middle of February fast approaching, we have a lot going on and in many different directions. For the **Junior Racing** program, the Alyeska Cup starts this Friday, we wish all competitors the best of luck. For some of you, this will be your first "big" race series. It's race time, this is where all of those drills, dryland and your on hill dedication will pay off - so don't hold back!

A small group of four **Freeskiing athletes** left last night along with their coach Alex Else to compete in IFSA competitions. A fifth athlete will head out next week to join the others in Taos, New Mexico. Best of luck to these guys!

For ALL athletes that are of FIS/IFSA/USSA age and are traveling Outside, remember that you represent the Alyeska Ski Club and Alaska as well as yourselves while racing in competitions in other states. Please be great ambassadors on behalf of all of us.

**Devos** is continuing to provide excellent all-mountain skiing on Saturdays. The program is ~150 participants strong and keeps their coaching staff very busy. A couple of our Devos athletes have also joined the **Nordic Team** with Coach Kate Fitzgerald. The Nordic team has been skiing on Wednesdays and one Sunday per month. The program currently enjoys 10 athletes despite the difficult snow year. We expect this number to grow. They too have a race this Sunday at Kincaid - Go Nordy's! Ski Fast!

As you know, we would not be able to exist and provide the programs and organization that we do without our volunteers. We are always looking for more volunteers to help put on races - in every capacity. So please sign up online through **Smartsheet** as a volunteer for future races when registering your athlete. This is new this year and we are excited to see it used! If you don't get a chance to sign up online, always feel free to come upstairs and let Terry know how you can help out. The more parents that we can train to do different things, the better off we are as a Club AND for our future to offer big races for the western region as well.

Good luck and race fast!

Sincerely,

Alex von Wichman  
President  
GVSEF

## Mighty Mite Corner

Hello to all Mighty Mite Families! 2015 is going great despite the lack of snow, which allows us to spend more time on the fundamentals of balance, edging, stance, pole plants and body position. Coaches are reporting most kids are progressing well and skiing FAST! We continue to talk to the kids about safety on the hill, and have hit our mid-season stride, with good fitness/conditioning and gate training the last few weekends which will continue through the rest of the season. Looking forward to a great slalom race on February 22nd on the Tanaka hill, and then we will switch focus to GS for the next race. Have fun out there, ski fast and in control, and look forward to seeing all of you on Sundays!

Cheers,

Head Coach Lumpy

### February 13 - 18, 2015 Alyeska Cup Races



Alyeska Cup AKA Alaska State Alpine Championships sponsored by AFOC begins Friday with a Slalom Race on Race Trail. Our total field size is the biggest we've had in many many years, over 115 total athletes participating plus UAA. It is shaping up to be an exciting 6-days of racing!

### February 24 - 28, 2015 Seawolf Invitational and RMISA Regionals



The club is co-hosting this exciting FISU college racing series with UAA. Come out and watch

### February 14, 2015 USSA National Club Day



Saturday, February 14th we will announce a special meeting place to assemble as one club and show the strength of our membership. Parents and athletes from all programs - Mighty Mites, Masters, Juniors, Freeski, Devos, Nordic - are welcome to participate.

This is the 2nd Annual National Club Day. Last year was quite a sight with a Top-to Bottom parade.

### April 4, 2015 AKSkimeister





racing series with UAA. Come out and watch some of the best skiers in the nation on our own home turf. Please also consider signing up for a volunteer opportunity. We need many hands for this mid-week racing series. A volunteer sign-up matrix will be posted upstairs in the RTC. Come sign-up!



The annual AKSkimeister is a fundraising event for **Challenge Alaska** and **Glacier Valley Ski Education Foundation**. Both organizations aim to provide affordable skiing and riding opportunities to the Youth of South-Central Alaska and skiers with adaptive lifestyles. The goal of the Skimeister is to bring the outdoor ski and bike communities together to celebrate three winter sports and in the process raise funds to support two non-profits. Skiers from Nordic, Alpine and Bike backgrounds come together to celebrate this end-of-the-season send-off and challenge friends to compete.

In 2015, Skimeister participants are encouraged to find a Business Team Sponsor. Business contributions include Team Entry Fee for 3 participants and bragging rights for the Best Team Performance.

Online registration is now open. Visit <http://AKskimeister.com> for details.

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