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FEBRUARY 2019

**Welcome to the Alyeska
Ski Club E-News**

Our club continues to grow and currently has 620 athletes... Check out what's going on with our skiers!

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Alyeska Ski Club has presented a three-phased, multi-year proposal to Alyeska Resort for Tanaka Hill improvements. The club is currently in the beginning stages of negotiations to help improve the overall training venue, provide an earlier and more consistent snow surface, allow utilization of the venue for later use in the spring, and provide more reliable uphill transportation of skiers. With the resort transition in ownership we have delayed our efforts a bit to allow Alyeska Resort to make an efficient transition prior to dealing with our proposal. The Board is continuing discussions with John Byrne in regards to ASC's plans and are preparing for a meeting with the Pomeroy Group when they are available.

The board is also starting to evaluate the addition of an "older" kids non-competitive free skiing program. This program will focus on keeping those athletes that wish to ski recreationally past the age of 13 in our club. We have just started this effort with hopes that we can offer something next year based on interest in the program. We have just started this effort with hopes that we can offer something next year based on interest in the program.



Devos currently has 18 different ability groups and over 200 athletes. Athletes have been busy exploring trails all over the mountain and gaining great experience to transition into the Freeskiing Program should they so desire. They work hard to implement the Devos Motto: **"Freeskiing, Fun, Friendship."**

If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities please contact Denise Robinson at dbrownrobinson@gmail.com.

MIGHTY MITES



Mighty Mites currently has 5 different ability groups for 7-9 year olds and 4 ability groups for 10-13 year olds. Approximately 190 Mighty Mite skiers are implementing the **"Love to Ski and Learn to Ski Race"** motto.

Athletes completed their first race of the season which was a Slalom and GS combo course. Athletes have now been moved into their Animal ability groups (based on race results and coach recommendations.)

Mighty Mites is looking for Race Banner sponsorships. If interested, please contact Tim Alderson at Tjalderson@mac.com.

MASTERS



Masters currently has 54 registered skiers. Anyone is welcome to race, you just have to sign up and get on the start list! Masters has held two races so far this season, a GS just last weekend and a SL under the lights on Race Trail earlier in January. **Welcome** to the U80 class, Bob Eastaugh and welcome to our youngest racer at age 18, Adam Ostberg! Paul Sholton put together the two fastest runs, having scored the coveted Bib 1 start position with his support of Masters. **Congratulations** to everyone who braved the icy course and survived!

FREERIDE



Freeride athletes have been busy ripping it up at Alyeska and at Outside comps. Most recently, four athletes (Miles, Carter, Chance, and Sparky) competed at Snowbird Nationals. Snowbird ended up getting stormed-in so our athletes enjoyed waist deep powder. Unfortunately finals day was cancelled, but the crew had a ton of fun. One of our 12-14 girls, Brenna Gessner competed in her second comp of the season at Red Mountain Nationals, after coming off of a 3rd place finish at Whistler Regionals earlier in January. Red Mountain also got stormed-in pretty good over the weekend, leading to some great skiing but low visibility for the competition. The second annual Alyeska Freeride Classic sponsored in part by Chugach Powder Guides was held January 25-27. The event grew to 68 competitors with 3 out of state competitors. The competition was held on South Face in full view of a huge spectator crowd that came out to watch some great skiing! Next stop on the schedule is Kicking Horse National the second weekend of February, with a small but elite crew of shredders looking to take home some podiums for the Alyeska Freeride Team (AFT).

Links to Jennifer Aist's photos from the Alyeska Freeride Classic and KTUU coverage can be found on the home page of <https://alyeskaskiclub.com/>.

JUNIORS U10



The U10 program has been off to a great start this year with 14 athletes. They trained hard over the Christmas break and had their first race last weekend with the Mighty Mites. They are working on fundamentals and athletic stance when technical training. They are putting in lots of miles on the mountain and exploring as much terrain as possible. Reilly is still out with a knee injury and her group is looking forward to having her back soon. **Go U10s!**

JUNIORS U12



The U12 group currently has 25 little rippers, 13 boys and 12 girls. Like all of the groups, training space was the early season battle. The half-pipe became a notorious training site and we persevered.

The Coca Cola Classic was a great series for the U12 boys and girls. They mixed it up with the U14's and several U12 boys and girls made it on the podium. U12's are training hard for the upcoming Alyeska Cup and also making plans for an upcoming trip to Sun Valley for the Monroe Cup the third week of February. Coaches and skiers are keeping their fingers crossed for the U12/U14 State Championships in Juneau scheduled for the end of March.

JUNIORS U14



Good luck to the 30 U14 athletes who will be heading to Schweitzer for two Super G races and one GS race the week of February 18th. U14 athletes are working toward qualifying for Western Regions in Big Sky or Tri Divisionals in Jackson Hole. **Congratulations** to Coen Niclai and Ava Schweiger on their Coca Cola Cup title! If you didn't get a chance to listen to Coach Bucky on Outdoor Explorer, you can link to that interview from the ASC homepage <https://alyeskaskiclub.com/>.

JUNIORS Pre-FIS



Several U16 skiers represented ASC at Crystal Mountain. Crystal Mountain races provided tough conditions with a very steep Slalom course, however we had some good results with a few podiums! **Congratulations!**

Alyeska Resort has been providing U16/U19 athletes who are attending out of state speed events with some early morning speed training on the Upper Bowl. **Good luck** to invited athletes: Georgia Lantz, Hannah Kragt, Ava Liles, Thomas Hartman, Connor Gries and Joey Stahla who will be heading to the Western Region Speed Camp in Big Sky February 1-5. A second group of U16 athletes will be attending the Lone Mountain Speed Series February 5-9. Those kids will have a quick turn around, and back to AK for the Alyeska Cup.

JUNIORS U16/U19 USSA





The U16/U19 USSA group currently has 19 athletes and have been training with an average of 12-15 athletes per day. U19 FIS athletes recently returned from racing at Lake Louise and Spirit Mountain and two U16 USSA athletes are heading to the Big Sky Speed Series (SG.) Many will be competing in the Alyeska Cup the week of February 11.

JUNIORS U16/U19 FIS



The lack of snow at Alyeska at the start of the season didn't hinder the FIS program with multiple training camps and race opportunities occurring November thru January. ASC's FIS skiers have been on the go!

Athletes completed a successful preseason training camp in Nakiska in November. Following Nakiska, FIS athletes raced a FIS tech series in Sun Peak, with a highlight finish from Hunter Eid placing 14th overall (1st U18.) **Congratulations!** Wrapping up a month of traveling, two kids raced in the Norquay FIS SL series. Several kids headed back to Nakiska for a Christmas camp for quality SL and GS training. In addition to the team projects, we had two athletes compete in the Big Sky FIS Tech Elite Series January 7-10, with one of these athletes then going on to Colorado to compete in the Aspen FIS Speed Series January 18-21. Concurrently, a group traveled to races in Lake Louise where the ASC athletes had success with several top 15 finishes. **Congrats** to Colin Horrigan who started LAST and finished 11th in the slalom. Our FIS kids continue to keep up the pace with attendance at races in multiple different locations - Minnesota, Schweitzer, Kimberly and Snow King.

To see Jennifer Aist's photos of the Coca Cola races please visit [our website](#).
Bob Eastaugh's photos can be found at <https://bobeastaughimagery.zenfolio.com/f31707655>.

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