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MARCH 2019

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

Congratulations to all the
athletes representing
Alyeska Ski Club in
competitions in Alaska and
the Lower 48!

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Alyeska Ski Club Board of Directors would like to congratulate all of our athletes that have participated in events and races over the past month. We have had athletes competing in IFSA, USSS and FIS events. Many of these events were key qualifiers to selections for outside regional and divisional competitions. We are very proud of all of our athletes that competed, and would like to congratulate those that were selected to represent the Alyeska Ski Club at these outside competitions.

We would also like to give a big thank you to our ASC coaches. We are extremely lucky to have this exceptionally talented coaching staff. Our coaches work countless hours both on and off the snow to provide quality training opportunities and mentorship to our athletes. While not every athlete gets a position at the top of the podium, or may not finish a specific race or event, we need to keep the long term game in mind and be proud of the accomplishments they have made and the life skills they are learning. Congratulations again to our athletes, and good luck in the many competitions that ASC members will be attending in the upcoming two months.

DEVOS



Devos athletes have been busy improving their all mountain skiing skills. Coaches have enjoyed skiing with their groups designated by Alaska Mountain Ranges and Glaciers. A few athletes who participated in both Devos/Mighty Mites have moved into the Juniors' Program at mid-year showing great skills and competitive drive. Devos are working on plans for their end-of-season party on March 30th and are looking for donated small items for athlete prizes.

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

MIGHTY MITES



Mighty Mites have been developing great skills while free skiing in ability Animal Groups all over the mountain. Animal Groups have also enjoyed training in both SL and GS courses on Tanaka to improve their ski skills and learn about racing. Mighty Mites will hold their first pointed GS Race of the season on March 3rd and their second pointed SL Race on March 24. The U10 Junior's will join these races with independent awards. Mighty Mites will host the Alyeska Ski Patrol Avalanche Rescue Dog Program demonstrations for the Alyeska Ski Club snow cave "burial" auction winners on March 31st. This is a great opportunity to assist the Ski Patrol in avalanche dog training activities and teach the kids how the rescue dogs train and work on the mountain.

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

MASTERS



Masters celebrates Chipmunks! Racers competing in their first ever Alyeska Masters races this season are Colleen Miller, Katie Weathers, Dan Weathers, Dana Griffin and Fiona Peichel. The second slalom race of the season was held February 23, 2019. The fastest racer down two runs was Erik Ostberg with a 1:14.83, followed closely by Zach Burris with a 1:15.36. **Congratulations** to Katie Weathers who chicked her husband Dan by almost 1 second. Masters will be working on GS and SL skills over the next two weekends and the next Masters race is a GS on March 16th and a SL on March 17th. If you are interested in becoming our next Chipmunk be at the RTC by 10:15am to try Masters for a day and ask for Carl, Rob or Marty!

FREERIDE



Tryouts for the Alyeska Freeride Team will be March 23rd and 24th. Tryouts will take place on either Saturday or Sunday for the full-time U14+ team and only Saturday for the U12 development team. We will only be taking a select number of new athletes for next year, and will only be choosing skiers who have the fundamentals necessary to be competitive freeride skiers. Please email freeskiing.headcoach@gmail.com to RSVP your athlete for tryouts. Only athletes chosen from tryouts will be able to register for the program.

The Alyeska Freeride Team is in the thick of its competitive season. **Congratulations** to athlete Clara Lantz took 2nd place and the Spirit Bird award at Fernie Regionals and U12 athlete Henry Lantz took 6th. From there we had a crew of 6 athletes representing Alyeska at Kicking Horse Nationals. The crew laid down some super strong skiing, with AFT veteran and friend Leif Mumma taking 3rd place and Henry Lantz taking home another 6th place. Last weekend we had 12 athletes competed at Crystal Nationals, with strong results from our 12-14 year old ladies. Brenna

Gessner took 4th place, followed by Lauren Johnson in 6th and Quinzee Elsborg in 7th. In just over a week we head to Crystal Regional followed by Whistler National with 20 athletes. ***Congratulations!***

JUNIORS U10



Coaches Kjersti, Zach and HL have been skiing hard this last month with their U10 athletes. They are still working on key fundamentals; outside ski pressure, athletic stance, upper/lower body separation and pole planting. And of course, getting lots of miles doing runs on North Face and

any awesome jump or cliff they can find. Reilly is back with the group again and she is catching up really fast after being out with an injury for over a month. **Also, welcome to new U10 member, Claire Greene!** Racing-wise the girls swept the podium again at the last YSL race, Jessica took first, Elizabeth second and Alexandra third at Hillberg. Shawn took his second YSL race win of the season too. **Good job to everybody!** Katie Rowekamp traveled to Sun Valley with the U12 group and took a 1st and 2nd in the U10 field there. She was fourth overall the first day behind three U12 athletes. **Go Katie!** The U10 group is heading to Arctic Valley on Saturday March 2 for another YSL race. Spring break is coming up fast and we are looking forward to lots of days on the hill.

JUNIORS U12



U12's had a great Alyeska Cup. Most of the smiles came from running Super G. Training is planned out through the rest of the season with the goal of having a successful U12/14 State championship in Juneau at the end of March. Coaches Lex, Chase and Morgan L traveled with 16 athletes to Sun Valley, Idaho for the North Series Monroe cup. Alaska athletes represented well and even earned some spots on the podium. Ava Murphy earned a 2nd place in the GS and 4th in the slalom. One of the highlights was getting to meet former Alyeska Ski Club racers and former Olympians Tommy Moe and Megan Gerety who were with their two daughters at the races.

JUNIORS U14



Congratulations to Alyeska Cup winners Ava Schweiger and Ben Neuberger & Finnigan Donley (the boys tied!). Coaches Audrey, Bucky and Morgan took over 20 athletes to the PNSA U14 Qualifier Races in Schweitzer, Idaho for two Super G races and one GS race where the ASC skiers competed with over 90 female and over 90 male U14 skiers. The team from Alaska ALL represented ASC well, and special congrats to three athletes who earned podium spots. Abby Kragt got a 1st, 3rd and 4th place. Finnigan Donley earned a 1st, 2nd and 4th place. Daniel Ferucci earned a 4th and a 5th place. Most noteworthy was that the the host hotel, ski club and other hosts commented on the outstanding behavior and sportsmanship of this group of ASC skiers. **Nice job guys!** Congratulations to the ASC kids who will be traveling to Big Sky, Montana in March for Western Regions: Ava Schweiger, Abby Kragt, Finnigan Donley, Daniel Ferucci and Ben Neuberger. Another congrats to the Tri-Divisional team who will be traveling to Jackson Hole, Wyoming in March: Alyssa Gries, Avery Collins, Annika Langland, Lucy Lukes, Lili Boshell, Sophie Rogers, Ali Adkins, Taryn Miller, Ava Austerman, Brook Lentfer, Eden Johnsen, Coen

Niclai, George Von Wichman, Ryder Deschamps, Charlie Folds, Gabe Sullivan, Jack Wrigley and Carson Hand.

JUNIORS Pre-FIS





Alyeska Cup was our final qualifer for Western Regions and Tri-Divisionals. Western Region Team: Ava Liles, Hannah Kragt, Georgia Lantz, Kintla Penn, Megan Gamez, Thomas Hartman, Connor Gries, Gunner Bergstedt, Max Johnsen, Joe Stahla. Tri-Divisional Team: Chloe Austerman, Sydney Wilson, Brenna Flannery, September Sell, Jimmy Horrigan, James Reinbold, Kartsten Hymas, and Billy Reinbold. **Congratulations!**

During Alyeska Cup U16 athletes endured some intense and stressful moments because everyone was contending for a slot for Western Regions. **Congrats** to Alyeska Cup and State Champ winner Ava Liles! Coaches and athletes were glad to have two quality training weeks of going back to fundamentals without focusing on race performances. Intensity will now ramp back up in training and focus. For the next two weeks they will be building up performance and determination so that when they reach their competition series they will be prepared and ready to give it their all!

JUNIORS U16/U19 USSA



The U19/U16 USSA group has been active over the past few weeks with the 2019 season moving right along through our Alyeska Cup races as well as last week's FIS-U race series. Out of the 19 U19/U16 USSA athletes, 16 of them competed during the Alyeska Cup. **Congrats** to GS State Champ, Conner Lane! The very next week, six of the eleven USSA/FIS U19 athletes competed against a strong NCAA college crowd. Both race series were a fantastic way to see where individuals stand as a Divisional and as a Pre-college athlete. Our next stop this season will be the upcoming (lower 48) Western Region competition. Following the Alyeska Cup both Kintla Penn and Joe Stahla made the U16 Western Region team. Representing our U19s at Western Regions will be Kevin Leach and Eli Seaver. Coach Steve Mashburn will be traveling with the U19 group, assisting FIS coach Kieffer Christiansen, at both the Western Regions at Alpine Meadows and the following FIS Tech Series at North Star. The group is staying strong and training as much as the mountain will allow. Sometimes this means a lot of SL training but we take all opportunities to race, ski or train exclusively on race skis. *This group is having fun and is all smiles!*





February was a busy month for the FIS athletes. Early in the month Colin, Eli, Kennedy and Mary went to a slalom race series (3 SL) at Spirit Mountain in Minnesota. This was a great race because a few of the FIS kids got their first FIS points and witnessed some excellent slalom skiers in the U19 age class. At the same time Tanner, Hunter and Francesca went to speed races in both Kimberly, BC and Schweitzer, Idaho where they competed in two downhill and 3 Super-G races. This was a great opportunity! Tanner and Francesca got their first speed points. Shortly following those races was the Alyeska Cup and FIS-U. **Congrats** to Alyeska Cup winner Tanner Sticka and SL and SG State Champ Hunter Eid. The FIS-U Seawolf Invitational was great exposure to the caliber of athletes some of our seniors will be skiing against in the near future. Although not all of our athletes performed to their highest potential, the athletes still benefited from skiing against high level FIS and college level skiers. **Congrats** to the following kids who will be competing at U19 Western Region Championships in Alpine Meadows: Randi Von Wichman, Kenndy Kane, Francesca Bergstedt, Mary Grace Stahla, Hunter Eid, Kevin Leach, Colin Horrigan and Eli Seaver.

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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