ANCHORAGE: A fitting tribute to Ellen Toll
STATEWIDE: Epic tours across Southcentral, Interior
FAIRBANKS: Peterson brings Olympian energy to club work

ANCHORAGE: 2
Eagle River: 12
Fairbanks: 14
Girdwood: 15
Kachemak: 10
Mat-Su: 9
Statewide: 8

PHOTOS, CLOCKWISE FROM THE TOP LEFT: PHOTOS 1 AND 2 BY JAN BURON, ALASKA WINTER STARS (WWW.ALASKAWINTERSTARS.COM); PHOTOS 3, 4 AND 5 BY ERIC PACKER (WWW.DRIFTSTOCK.COM)
NSAA’s finances and its responsibility to sustainability

Message from the NSAA staff and board of directors

Talking about the perfect groom or pure joy from kids skiing is hands down more fun to write about and read than anything else. But what fuels NSAA is equally as important. The organization’s finances are the lifeblood and true indicator of what keeps us going.

We assure you, there is great focus by the NSAA Finance Committee on ensuring NSAA programs’ day-to-day needs are met while achieving a healthy posture financially for long-term sustainability. The recently published NSAA annual report from 2014-2015 (http://tinyurl.com/zatmxvd) prompted a few questions from our members that many others may have, too. We hope to address those here. Striking a balance of communicating the details without creating an enormously long report and boring our audience is a challenge.

So what exactly is “trail support” revenue? This includes trail pin sales and dog tags sold. When a Trail Meisr makes their donation, there is a small membership piece but most of it is categorized as trail support. There is another trail revenue that includes contracts with Anchorage School District (ASD) for grooming and Eagle River Parks and Recreation for year-round trail support and summer trail work that’s usually related to storm damage or other small special projects. Typically, this work is weather- and storm-dependent and difficult to predict.

Unpacking the grant fundraising revenues is helpful for clarifying the various projects and community partners that make our trails and programs better. Funders from 2014-2015 season included the State of Alaska for the jumping facility, trail work and grooming equipment; the Alaska Ski Educational Foundation for racing needs; the Rasmussen Foundation for IT support; and the NRA Foundation for biathlon requirements. Some of these expenses were capitalized and not expensed, but equally important.

Another income account that has many layers and details is restricted donations. This includes funding ends megalomaniac event or trail work/projects. The breakdown varies year to year. In FY15, much of this was from the Lekisch family for specific trail work on the Andrew Lekisch Trail at Kincaid Park. We consider these donations an investment in NSAA and a sign of your trust in the quality trail work that we provide.

The NSAA operating budget has consistently been $1.2 million the last few years, with revenues and expenses close to break even the last two years. Less snow brings less participation in events, less event revenue and ultimately fewer members and decreased trail support from users. Not hosting the traditional Tour of Anchorage two years in a row is also a huge hit for NSAA since this event’s net proceeds offset operational costs and the replacement of expensive grooming equipment. Over the long term, we strive to do better than breaking even. This has been very challenging the past two seasons.

Looking ahead, NSAA’s board has approved this current season’s budget and been forced to cut operational expenses to reach a break even point. Because of completion of the State of Alaska grant for equipment, jump facility upgrades and trail improvements, as well as the Lekisch project, NSAA will have less income from these sources. This leads to a leaner manpower budget and reduced trail maintenance budget for this upcoming season. With that said, NSAA’s projected revenues reflect a normal snow year, anticipating all events on schedule as planned, including the Tour of Anchorage. Your board and staff remain optimistic.

Long-term sustainability continues to be the goal financially. Reaching NSAA’s full potential in membership and trail support regardless of the weather is essential. NSAA’s members are resilient and enthusiastic about the upcoming season, especially when considering the impact NSAA continues to have around Southcentral Alaska.

Snowmaking capabilities at Kincaid Park allowed NSAA to hold many events that would have been cancelled in prior seasons. Did you know last year 14 of 15 scheduled ASD races were held last season? Or that 87 percent of the NSAA program and event participants were 18 and younger? How exciting is that! NSAA continues helping generations of young skiers find a love for skiing and outdoor activities and ultimately engaging thousands of Alaskans with healthy lifestyle opportunities.

As a board and staff, we have a fiscal responsibility to be accountable and transparent. NSAA has survived making ends meet, breaking close to even the last two years. Looking ahead, we are under a lean budget and continue to seek new ways of finding support. Today, funding sources are more limited and more competitive to get than ever before. Membership and trail support are vital to NSAA’s season and ultimately achieving long-term success. For over 50 years, NSAA has done amazing work for Alaskans with healthy lifestyle opportunities. MIDDLE SCHOOL RACING

Dave Blanchet

RACE CHAIRMAN

Tamra Kornfield, Program Manager

Amber Adams, Office Manager

OPERATIONS STAFF

Ben Powell, Director

Craig Norman

Brett Pauk

Peter Zug

Anna Biron

Matthew Pauli

Ricky Prince

C O M M I T T E E C H A I R S

Alaska Ski for Women

Jenny De Grappa

ANCHORAGE CUP RACING

Ryan Ann Neeseat! Mag and Bob Stein

BAC K C O U N T R Y T O U R S

Pat Phillips, Mary Varrik, Karlene Leeper, Ken DePalma

BIATHLON

Co-chairs: Catherine Knily and Marti Pausback

HIGH SCHOOL RACING

John Christopherson

HUTS

Call NSAA office for reservations

JUMPING

Karen Compton

Vivianne Murray

Mike Jokela, Coach

JUNIOR NORDIC

Eric Egeland, Chair

LANDS COMMITTEE

Gordon Wetzel

NSAA OFFICE HOURS

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday

BOARD MEETINGS

First Thursday of the month. 6:15 P.M. at BP Energy Center or NSAA Office. Open to all.

TRAILS

Mike Miller

TOUR OF ANCHORAGE

Paul Stone

NSAA OFFICE HOURS

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday

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**AROUND THE BOWL**

Continued from Page 2

Friday, November 4 from 6-8 p.m. and Saturday, November 5, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Gear sales run from 4-5:30 p.m. Be sure to find out how to sell your gear using FlashConsign, an online system, find details at www.anchoragenordicski.com/events/nsaa-ski-swap.

The season kick-off and annual celebration begin with an activities expo from 4-5:30 p.m. in the chalet. Food will be served at 5:30 p.m.; please bring a dish to share. The kick-off begins at 6 p.m. Be sure to check out the silent auction for some very cool and unique items. There will also be door prizes and awards.

Thank you to NSAA Annual Celebration donors: Alaska Mountaintreering and Hiking (AMH), Alaska , Association, Broken Tooth Brewery, Great Harvest Bread Company, Shoep Mountain Lodge, Skioo-G Street Fox and Trek Bicycle Store. Want to volunteer? Need more information? Call the NSAA office at 276-7609.

Support healthy lifestyles, Anchorage’s trails and NSAA with a membership

The Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage membership season is from October 1-September 30. If you use the Anchorage trails, please contribute today and join our family of trail supporters. We rely on generous support from trail users like you!

Benefits of membership:
1. Your donation ensures that NSAA can continue maintaining and grooming over 150 kilometers of trails, as well as make snow at Kincaid Park.
2. Your donation is 100 percent tax-deductible!
3. You’ll stay connected to the Nordic skiing community.
4. You’ll receive a decal to proudly display on your car, as well as additional small gifts to show your support of NSAA!
5. Trail memberships start at just $35.

Get your membership today at www.anchoragenordicski.com/membership or use the form in this issue of the Alaska nordic skier.

For information about gifts by bequest, planned gift, retirement assets, or use the form in this issue of the Alaska nordic skier.

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**Ski 4 Kids**

**Ski 4 Kids: March 4, 2017; volunteers needed**

Save the date! The wildly popular and powerful Alaska Ski for Women will be held February 5, 2017. Register and learn more at www.anchoragenordicski.com/events/alaska-ski-for-women.

Jenny De Grappa was recently named the Alaska Ski for Women director. Thank you for your support!

There are sponsorship opportunities available for organizations that want to be connected to such a powerful event. Become a sponsor for the Alaska Ski for Women, an event that sends all proceeds to organizations that help stop the cycle of domestic abuse against women and children. Contact the NSAA office 276-7609 to learn more.

The event also always needs volunteers. Want to help? Visit www.anchoragenordicski.com/volunteer.

**Ride, support the Ski Train to Curry, which arrives March 11**

Ski Train leaves the station on Saturday, March 11. It will sell out well before.

Tickets went on sale October 1 and 330 tickets are already gone! Join NSAA and buy your Ski Train tickets at anchoragenordicski.com/events/ski-train today!

Want your organization connected to a fun, family-friendly event with more than 700 happy skiers? Become a Ski Train sponsor! Contact the NSAA office 276-7609 to learn more.

Learn more about Ski Train and look for updates at anchoragenordicski.com/events/ski-train and on the Facebook event page!

**AMH Anchorage Cup kicks off with Women’s Ski Classic on Nov. 27**

While many competitive skiers race to win the annual AMH Anchorage Cup series races, these community ski races are fun for the whole family, too. In fact, the races are designed for skiers of all ages and levels, from recreational all the way to elite. Some courses are designed specifically for our youth skiers.

This season there will be seven races in the series; races begin at noon, sign up online anchoragenordicski.com/races/amh-anchorage-cup-series for a discount, or come

See AROUND THE BOWL. Page 7
NSAA scholarships awarded to exceptional Alaska student-athletes

Each season, the NSAA awards a handful of talented young student-skiers with scholarships. Funding for the NSAA Scholarship comes from the Sven Johannson Memorial Ski Race and the Elizabeth Tower Memorial Scholarship Fund.

This year $6,000 in scholarship funds were awarded to seven outstanding student athletes: Luke Cvancara (University of Alaska Anchorage) received $1,000 from the Dr. Elizabeth Tower Memorial Scholarship. Alice Michaelson (South High School) and David Cvancara (Family Partnership Charter School/Dimond High School) each received a $1,000 NSAA Scholarship. Julia Ditto (Polaris/Service High School), Karina Zyaititsky (West High School), Grant Klug (South High School) and Maksim Mayer (Stellar High School/West High School) each received a $750 NSAA Scholarship.

Have a student in mind for a future scholarship? The NSAA Scholarship application can be found online in February and will be due in March 2017. Learn more at www.anchorerondicski.com/races/asd-high-school-racing/nsaa-scholarships.

A fitting, and sitting, tribute to Ellen Toll

BY BEN SWIDERSKI

Last month, a group of volunteers helped install a memorial bench for Ellen Toll in Kincaid Park, at the Top of the Form on Margaux’s Loop, just past the biathlon range. The bench is in a beautiful location and I hope that lots of skiers, bikers, runners and walkers will stop and enjoy some peace and quiet there.

Ellen Toll was the longtime executive director of the NSAA’s Anchorage Junior Nordic League. I learned to cross-country ski in the Junior Nordic program and I have many good memories of those days. To honor Ellen’s contributions to AJNL and to Nordic skiing in Anchorage, I proposed installing the bench as an Eagle Scout project. I started planning the project about a year ago.

I worked closely with Ellen’s husband Dave, who selected the location and helped the whole way. After getting approvals from the Municipality of Anchorage, Boy Scouts, NSAA and its grommers, I ordered the bench and had it shipped from Maryland. In August, NSAA grommer Craig Norman helped get the installation started by using a CAT to clear the brush at the site. Then, a group of scouts spent an afternoon mixing and pouring concrete to lay the bench pad. Getting the materials to the site was a bit tricky, but it all worked out. In September, after the bench arrived, another group of scouts and Ellen’s friends helped install it and do the landscaping.

This would not have been possible without the generosity of Ellen’s friends and family, and many others who donated money to pay for the bench, supplies and shipping. I also appreciate all the help and support from NSAA and Boy Scout Troop 129. I learned a lot through this process and am happy that Ellen now has a special place and well-deserved recognition in Kincaid Park.

NSAA Operations: When uncertainty abounds, stay the course

BY BILL BRION

Here we are again with so much uncertainty ahead as we ask the same questions humanity has wrestled with for thousands of years: Will it snow this winter? Do I look ridiculous in Spandex? Maybe not thousands of years. Fortunately, the NSAA Operations crew gave up on Spandex back when Reagan was president. However, we do spend some time thinking about snow. It is an easy thing to start wringing one’s hands about. We’ve decided to try something different by taking the long view.

Weather cycles and winds blow. People change and move on. We adopted a policy long ago to prioritize sustainability. We do today that which we think secures tomorrow. We plan and budget and work tirelessly to stay the course and be good stewards of the resources that NSAA members have entrusted to us.

My dog just reminded me that tomorrow refuses to be secured. There are only a few things that can be known about the future. Searching and studying those things allow me to get back up and keep going.

We’re just about ready to tackle whatever the future has in store. The snow machines are good to go and there is just a little bit of maintenance left to do on a few of the Pisten Bullys. The trails have either been mowed or are being mowed. The snowmaking system at Kincaid Park was “running when we parked it,” but we won’t be surprised if it needs a little attention when and if we need to push the big green button.

There have been some enhancements made to trails at Kincaid Park and other areas. These adjustments will improve grooming, and if it grooms well it skis well. We spent the summer doing our part to maintain trails that will be sustainable. I’ll bet you can guess where I’m going next. Yep, it doesn’t happen without people deciding that “free skiing” is really worth paying for. What we have as an organization is unique and special in its scope. It falls firmly in the category of “how things ought to be.” So, be a part, do your part and encourage others to do the same.

We’ll see you on the trails!
Denali tours return: Great skis in the shadow of the Great One

BY BOB SUTHERLAND AND PATTI PHILLIPS

Back by popular demand, NSAA’s Touring group is offering two ski trips into Denali National Park supported by dog sleds. These special tours offer mountain vistas, unparalleled scenic beauty and wonderful night skies backed by the best guides. Every day is a new scenic adventure as skiers travel with only a day pack and enjoy Denali National Park in the winter.

The first ski tour, from February 18-25, travels the road corridor starting from near the park entrance to Kantishna with a fly-out to Healy. After meeting the guides and learning about handling dogs and travel protocol, gear is loaded onto dog sleds near Savage River and then skiers depart to the Sanctuary River cabin with an easy 7-mile day. This begins a daily routine of arriving at a cabin, relaxing and picking a sleeping spot while guides Jamie and Chris prepare nutritious meals. At around 7 a.m., the guides prepare breakfast for the dogs and then begin cooking breakfast and round of hot coffee or tea at 8.

The longest day is 17 miles and the shortest is seven. There are two long days back-to-back: Toklat to Tooreford followed by the Dalle-Molleville cabin near Wonder Lake. Skiers spend two days at the Dalle-Molleville cabin to enjoy a break and the incredible scenery of the area.

Michelle Crowl, also shows her NSAA membership spotlight NXTA membership.

Monthly gifts fuel year-round trail work

Not a new concept when Matt Pauli pushed it two years ago to the NSAA board president: “You should have an option for members to give monthly. I’d give more each year if the amounts were broken down.”

Thanks to Matt, today donors have an option to be recurring supporters and can designate an amount to give each month. For over two years now, Matt and his wife, Rebecca, are invested in NSAA as monthly donors and contribute automatically. This way, supporting NSAA is not a single hit financially and it allows them to be invested in what NSAA does all year long.

Another NSAA monthly donor, Michelle Crowl, also shows her NSAA loyalty with recurring monthly donations. In fact, Michelle recently initiated an increase to her designated amount during her annual renewal, showing a new level of commitment to Anchorage trail support and NSAA.

Thank you, Michelle! Monthly giving to NSAA is easy and payment is secure. All transactions with NSAA meet Payment Card Industry compliance standards, so rest assured, credit card or debit card information is safely stored in NSAA’s system. The amount of the monthly donation is determined by the donor. This option allows donors to become Trailblazers and Trail Meisters, our highest giving levels, who might not otherwise do so with a single gift.

Close to 20 NSAA supporters currently give monthly and it’s our goal to triple this. NSAA considers our monthly givers incredibly dedicated and invested in what NSAA does all year long. As an appreciation, NSAA is giving a free ski lesson to all monthly supporters at the Trailblazer level or higher.

Support NSAA with monthly donations and join Michelle, Matt and Rebecca in helping keep NSAA continuing its grooming all season long. This is equally important during the off-season with trail work essential to sustaining Anchorage’s world-class trails. As a monthly contributor, NSAA considers you an invaluable trail partner who provides Nordic skiing programs that encourage healthy activities and lifestyles for all Alaskans. Join NSAA in keeping Anchorage trails groomed and our community active by going to www.anchorganordicski.com/member-

Proud to Support NSAA and Anchorage skiers!

Offering a large menu of salads, appetizers, grilled chicken, sandwiches, gardenburgers, sweet ice cream treats and more!

Call 248-3068 for orders to go or visit www.aktasteefreez.com.

Jewel Lake TASTE•FREEZ

Wear your NSAA Trail pin to Tastee Freez and save 10%!
A big season of biathlon begins

BY TOM GRENIER

With Eagle Eyes Biathlon classes for all ages full at the Kincaid Park range through December, anticipation is high in the biathlon community for good snow conditions to welcome the 2016-17 racing season.

The Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage Biathlon Committee is hosting a nine-race competition series during the 2016-17 ski season, culminating with a two-day state championship series scheduled for the Friday and Saturday of the Tour of Anchorage weekend in March.

Biathlon race season starts December 4 with an afternoon sprint race scheduled with a late start so that racers looking for more of a workout after the Anchorage Cup Team Sprint can cross the road to the biathlon range and race three more loops in a quick two shooting stage race. Other races in the series, scheduled throughout the winter, include relays, super sprints, mass start night sprints with relay rounds, a super sprint and other formats.

The biannual Alaska State Biathlon Championships open the evening of March 3 with a twilight sprint competition. The state championships conclude the following day with a short pursuit start race based off of the Friday night race results. The state championship biathlon races will leave skiers from out of town and locals alike tuned up for the Tour of Anchorage on Sunday, March 5. Eagle Eyes Biathlon will hold a spring break camp in March for all ages and skill levels. Warm spring weather is an excellent climate for learning biathlon. Contact an Eagle Eyes Biathlon coach through the NSAA webpage to be added to the mailing list for the Spring Camp and other training opportunities throughout the winter.

See you at the range! Learn more about NSAA's Biathlon programs at anchoragenordicski.com/biathlon.
Below is the complete schedule of NSAA Backcountry Tours for the 2016-2017 season. Based on prior low snow seasons, we may need to change the location of the ski tour and will let folks know on the web (www.anchoragenordicski.com/programs/back-country-tours/), by email and on the Tours hotline at (907) 248-6667, ext. 4. We look forward to skiing with you!

November 25 — 11th annual Turkey Day Shlake- Off, Hatcher Pass Gold Cord Mine, Talkeetna Mountains

Join us for this post-Thanksgiving skin-off ski and the first tour of the season. This tour is appropriate for beginner intermediate skiers who can travel about six miles round-trip on terrain with short climbs and downhill under various snow conditions. We will ski through Independence Mine and continue up the hill past Gold Cord Mine and beyond into the flatter upper bowl below Granite Peak and Friendship Pass, where we will have lunch. We will descend the hill and if conditions allow, cross the creek to find our way back to the trailhead. Meet at the Chugach State Park parking lot by 9 a.m.; carpool to the Independence Mine trailhead where we expect to arrive 10:15-10:30 a.m. A Chugach State Park pass is required for cars; a self-service fee station is located at the parking lot. Early snow conditions can be sketchy so call the tour hotline at 248-6667 ext. 4 for updates. Tour leader: Karleen Leeper, 440-0049.

December 9 — Friday Night Fun Ski or “Ski and Suds” – Location TBD

Come out for a social ski at 6:30 p.m. on a Friday night followed by a beer (or two)! This event harkens back to the olden days of the NSAA calendar of events and Tour of Team Sprint, Kincaid Park. Free Sprint, Kincaid Park.

Join us for a fun day telemarking, AT skiing or touring. This terrain is for beginner to intermediate skiers. If climbing Manitoba Mountain, you’ll need skins for your skis. You should also have avalanche gear (beacon, shovel, and probe) for the telemark/AT portion of skiing. If you’d like to kick and glide instead, there are touring options to beautiful Summit Lake (no skins required). Depart from the Chugach State Park headquarters parking lot (by the trail south of Potter Marsh). Because the weather is often variable, bring clothing for wind, cold and snow. Tour leader: Ken DePalmia, 204-1562.

February 18-20 — Sheep Mountain Lodge Enjoy two overnight stays at Sheep Mountain Lodge in group cabins. Ski on 24 kilometers of groomed non-motorized trails or beyond on miles of multi-use trails at Sheep Mountain on Saturday and Sunday. On Monday, ski out to Matanuska Glacier along Caribou Creek. Space is limited. A $100 deposit to hold a spot is required by January 15. Tour leaders: Patti Phillips, 240-3742, and Ken DePalmia, 440-1562.

February 18-25 — Denali National Park, Savage River to Kantishna. Back by popular demand! Join us on this unforgettable ski tour through Denali Park supported by dog teams. Ski 7 to 17 miles per day with only a day off, staying in historic Denali Patrol cabins while your gear is hauled by dog teams. Start at Mountain Vista near the Park Headquarters and end at Kantishna, where you will fly out to Healy. Great wholesome food, warm cabins, awesome guides! Expert amazing views of forested braided rivers, mountains, passes, the aurora and, of course, Denali. Contact us for more information: we have a slideshow, gear list and plenty of advice. Cost about $1,800 plus air charter out of Kantishna for about $350. Deposit of $900 required by January 1. Spot is limited. A $100 deposit to hold a spot is required by February 15. Tour leader: Karlene Leeper, 440-0049.

March 18 — Mystery AT/Tele-ski Location and details TBD.

March 25 — Skookum Gazer

This will be a kick-and-glide tour to Skookum Gazer. On a sunny day, you’ll enjoy incredible views of the glacier and because it’s spring, we have to worry about the warm instead of the cold. Depending on how far out we go, the ski is flat, but we will need to negotiate some snow bridge crossings. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Chugach State Park headquarters parking lot (the trail south of Potter Marsh). Tour leader: Patti Phillips, 240-3742.

FOTO BY ERIC PACKER

Scott Patterson and Tyler Kornfield bask and train in Anchorage’s early snow and awesome sun on Hillside.

The AL-AKSA Nordic skier

NSAA Backcountry Tours return with a season of adventure, exploration, snow and fun
In October, Cross Country Alaska inducted four members into the Alaska Cross Country Ski Hall of Fame.

The APU Nordic Ski Program was a similar thread woven through each inductee. Jim Galanes created the Gold 2002 program which led the way for the APU Nordic Ski Club to become a leading ski club in the United States. Galanes also coached 2016 inductee Olympic Nina Kemp pel throughout her career and worked with inductees Tay and Lowell Thomas Jr., who made an endowment gift to APU to refurbish the structure on Eagle Glacier now known as the Thomas Training Center.

Long before the idea of Gold 2002, APUNSC, the Thomas Training Center or even the current NANA Nordic & Sikkun programs, John Miles brought cross country skiing and biathlon to the western villages of Alaska. His genuine enthusiasm and playfulness helped create a love for skiing wherever he went. Miles worked closely with long-time APU coach and 2015 Hall of Fame inductee Jim Mahaffey to teach skiing, biathlon and conduct racing events. Many of Miles’ past skiers and close friends attended the ceremony, which filled the venue with energy that made for a very special evening.

Please visit the CCAK Awards page on the CCAK website (crosscountryalaska.org).

### ConocoPhillips Besh Cup Races arrive in December

Registration is now open at crosscountryalaska.org for the ConocoPhillips Besh Cup races. Opening weekend is December 17-18 at Kincaid Park in Anchorage. The Kenai Peninsula races will be held on the Tsalteshi Trails January 21-22. The finale weekend, where Team Alaska is named, will be held in Fairbanks February 4-5.

A USSA license is required to register.
- **Competitor Membership ($95)** is required for skiers (U16/U18/U20) to earn USSA points and to be considered for Team Alaska.
- **U14 Competitor Membership ($25)** is required for skiers in this age group to earn USSA points. CCAK recommends any U14 looking to attend Western Region Championships get the U14 Competitor Membership.
- **General Memberships ($15)** are required for all other skiers participating in the ConocoPhillips Besh Cup races.

### Western Region Championships

CCAK is in the process of putting together a plan to bring a group of skiers to the Western Region Championships. The dates of this race series is February 22-26 and will be held in Sun Valley, Idaho. If this trip is approved, it will be offered to the U14 age group and possibly the U16 age group.

### Service Ski Team Wax Clinic

**Saturday November 19 Noon-3pm**

Donations accepted to wax your downhill and Nordic skis.

Wax demo at 1pm Location: Service Balcony Loft

Loft is above gym - entrance at rear of school.

### Make tracks straight to a skier’s door

The Alaska Nordic Skier is mailed directly to 3,000 ski enthusiasts every month. When you advertise with us, you won’t have to break new trail to get your word out.

nordicskieradvertising@gmail.com
AROUND THE VALLEY

Preseason ritual

This is always an awkward time of year to write about skiing, especially when I am writing two-plus weeks prior to publication. Sure there are signs of the coming winter, but are we skiing at Independence Mine, Angel Valley or possibly Government Peak yet? My optimism suggests we are in store for a favorable winter, but I have been wrong once before, as it turned out I was mistaken. Nevertheless, it is not a time to be off-guard. I suggest you do what I do to prepare. First, you’ll need a medium sized area; your waxing area will do. Next, prepare your skis. Remove your storage wax (you did put storage wax on your skis last spring?) and do your typical preseason wax job. On the last coat, don’t scrape.

Now grab your typical racing attire. While mine has collected quite a bit of dust the last few years, I recommend a full Lycra racing suit, preferable from a team you have long been absent from.

The next step is to grab a laptop, or if your space has a large screen television, even better. Log on to YouTube and pull up your favorite Olympic or World Cup footage. (May I recommend the Lillehammer 4x10 Men’s Relay.) Now layout a tarp or some means to protect your skis, suit up and grab your poles. Press play. You are now utilizing what I call, CVR, Cheap Virtual Reality.

Results of CVR vary from eagerness for winter to come, to a strong feeling of “What the heck am I doing?” Side effects include being caught by your significant other in your ill-fitting racing suit. Let it snow. Please.

~ By Hans Hill, MSSC President

GPRA Phase II Trails – Expand the Peak

The club is extremely excited about our next ambitious project and fundraising effort. This year we are working to plan, execute and fund the Phase II trails at Government Peak Recreation Area (GPRA), in what we are calling Expand The Peak. This project plans to create over 10 kilometers of new trails that will be geared more towards competition, with a bit more challenging flavor.

Regarding funding, the previous fundraising effort “Light the Susitna” generated nearly $50,000 above our goal amount and has been earmarked for trail expansion. This is an exciting start for the Expand the Peak project. Beyond that, the Club has received an anonymous matching donation of $50,000 towards this project, meaning each dollar that we receive in donation towards the project going forward, this anonymous donor will match. So please consider donating to the Expand the Peak project, or help spread the word and get your family and friends involved. The future is exciting for GPRA.

Annual Meeting kicks off the season

Once again, the MSSC’s Annual Membership Meeting was a solid success, with a solid attendance that generously took part in the silent auction and helped fund our high school scholarship. Our guest speaker was Lauren Fritz from APU Nordic Ski Club who gave a great talk on Fast and Female. And of course we had a number of great donors to our silent auction and door prizes, including Backcountry Bike and Ski and Skinny Raven.

As far as MSSC business goes, we will be welcoming a new board member, Jeff Kase. He will fill the spot left by our wonderful Icicle Double race director and Master’s coach, Darryl Farrens. Jeff has been Wasilla High School’s coach and also a Junior Nordic coach for a number of seasons. This year he will also be an assistant race director for the club’s sponsored races. We look forward to his contributions.

RACE TO THE OUTHOUSE #1 on November 5

So maybe your preseason has been going great and you are feeling a breakout season coming on. Or maybe you are more like me, still feeling like a spring chicken in a mid-aged body and need a reality check. No matter, the Race to the Outhouse #1 is the answer you are looking for. Our annual Archangel race series, where a race is held at the beginning and end of the season, allows a skier to get a true indicator of one’s progression (or possibly lack thereof …). So have those skis waxed and ready for November 5. In the event snow makes it further down, the race will be held at GPRA, sans outhouse … Our apology, only indoor plumbing.

Icicle Double on New Year’s Eve, New Year’s Day

The pinnacle race of the MSSC’s race program is the Icicle Double, which occurs New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day this season, the perfect way to celebrate the end of the year and the start of the new. Race distances include 30K, 15K, 10K and 5K. This is a fantastic race for setting a training milestone. Please log on to the club’s website www.matusuki.org for registration and more details.

Upcoming events

10:30 a.m. November 5 – Race to the Outhouse #1, Archangel Valley Road or GPRA
7 p.m. November 12 – Moonlight Ski, Independence Mine
7 p.m. December 10 – Moonlight Ski, GPRA
December 31 January 1 – Icicle Double, GPRA
Kachemak Nordic Ski Club 
Homer, Alaska

AROUND 
THE 
BAY

KNSC annual meeting/ potluck on November 5

What better way to kick off the season than with a party? This year’s annual meeting/potluck dinner will be held on Friday, November 5, begin-
ning at 6 p.m. at the Elks Club. As always, there will be a fantastic silent auction featuring clothing, equipment, art and much more, followed by a live devilishly delicious dessert auction. All auction items, edible or otherwise, are donated by Homer’s generous and talented Nordic ski community. Bring the family and enjoy food (bring a dish to share), music, door prizes and good company.

This is also an excellent time to re-
new your membership and sign up for Homer Women’s Nordic and Junior Nordics.

KNSC 2016/17 Board of 
Directors elections: Your 
choice to make a difference

The KNSC annual meeting isn’t just a party. It really is a meeting, dur-
ing which various folks will provide updates on everything from construc-
tion projects to the club’s finances—sort of a “State of the KNSC” pre-
sentation, except that this involves stuff you’re actually interested in and everyone keeps it mercifully short.

Perhaps the most important piece of business that takes place at the an-
nual meeting is the election of people to the board of directors. Each year, three KNSC board positions are open for election. Some current members opt to run again, some don’t. Either way, if you are interested in throwing your hat in the ring, contact any current board member. The board meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, September through May.

Administrative help 
is on the way

KNSC is pleased to announce the appointment of Annie Ridgely as the new administrative assistant, and Caleb Rauch as assistant to the adminis-
trative assistant/student intern. Annie and Caleb are longtime (Caleb maybe even lifetime) and active participants in KNSC activities, and they bring a lot of energy and enthusiasm to their new roles. Welcome aboard!

Volunteers: We need you!

Wile KNSC has some administra-
tive functions contracted out, the real backbone of the club is its many volunteers. Grooming, helping with races or events, coaching Junior Nordics, clearing trails—all of these things are done by volunteers. No matter how trite it sounds, it's the truth: without volunteers there would be no trails, let alone programs and events. We need you!

When you fill out your membership form, there is a section where you can indicate things that you might be able to help with. If you see something that appeals, please check it off. You aren’t committing yourself to anything spec-
cific, but it gives organizers a starting point when they go looking for help. Periodically throughout the season, you will also get emails asking for help with particular events. If you've never volunteered before (and most of you have), then trust me, you’ll be glad you did. It’s fun. Really. And it’s OK to give yourself a little pat on your own back, too.

You’re the reason we have a ski club, and you’re the ones who keep it vibrant and exciting.

**Ski & Winter Gear Swap on November 5**

Barter, trade, sell or give away your winter-fun equipment, including skis, snowboards, boots, and clothing. The swap/sale begins at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 9, at the Homer High School Commons. Event sponsors ask that please no early birds or private business sales. Nevertheless, you will want to be there right at 5:30. The best deals happen quickly.

Participants are responsible for displaying, pricing and removing their unsold items. There is no charge to sell or swap but donations are ac-
cepted to benefit local youth ski pro-
grams. The Homer High School ski team will also be there and will want your skis for a small fee. All donations go the the HHS Ski Team Boosters to support team travel and supplies. This event is sponsored by the City of Homer Parks and Recreation. Call Mike Ilig at 216-6909 for more infor-
mation.

**Junior Nordics — Another good reason to attend the Ski Swap**

Junior Nordics doesn’t begin until January, but it’s not too early to sign up and to rent equipment. Visit our table at the November Ski Swap to register and pick up gear. Rental skis and boots are available – just $25 for the whole season!

Junior Nordic is a non-competitive, learn-to-ski program for youth, Kin-
gerdergarten through sixth grade. We emphasize fun on skis while working on balance, agility and the fundamen-
tals of technique. Participants must be KNSC members and at least 5 years old. Five Saturdays of fun begin January 28 and run through Febru-
ary.

**Homer Women’s Nordic**

Homer Women’s Nordic (HWN)

held their kick-off party on October 11 and have been going strong since. Whether you’re a new or experienced skier, this is a great way to enhance your skills. HWN promotes women’s Nordic by providing technique instruction, coordinating training programs for competitive and recre-
ational female skiers, and by provid-
ing opportunities for ski instructor certification and ski coach develop-
ment. All of this is done in a safe, fun and supportive environment.

HWN participants must be KNSC members and are encouraged to reg-
ister for both KNSC and HWN online. Just follow the links from the KNSC website: www.kachemaknordicski-
club.org.

**KNSC 2016-2017 events calendar**

**ongoing**

October 17 — Homer Women’s Nordic. MWF noon-1:30 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m.-noon. Kick-off upstairs at Alice’s, Oct. 11 7 p.m. Wear your favorite ski hat! For details, visit HomewomensNordic.com.

January 28-February 25 — Junior Nordic Program. Saturdays 1:20-3:00 p.m. First session on January 28 at Lookout Mountain ski trails. Oter locations TBA.

**November**

November 5 — Annual Meeting, Dinner and Auction. 6 p.m. at Homer Elk’s Lodge

November 9 — Ski and Winter Gear Swap #1, 5:30 p.m. at Homer High School Commons. Find great gear, sell your gear, get your skis waxed, and register and pick up skis for Junior Nordic.

November 12 — Equipment Committee Meeting. Time and place TBD. Agenda will include a review of board policy, inventory and location of equipment, review of basic pre-
season maintenance, choosing an Equipment Committee Chair, and equipment needs for 2016-2017 season. Keep an eye on the KNSC website for details.

December

December 10 — Groomers Clinic and Refresher. 10 a.m.-noon at Lookout Mountain Maintenance Building. This is an important review/ refresher for all KNSC groomers and an opportunity for those interested in becoming a gromme to sign up and learn the basics. Questions? Keep an eye on the KNSC website for details.

January 14 — Ski Winter Gear Swap #2. 5:30 p.m. at Homer High School Commons. January 20 — Friday Night Lights; Sunset Trails, full moon is Monday the 23rd January 28 — Junior Nordic Program. Saturdays January 28-February 25th. 1:20-3:00pm. First session on January 28 at Lookout Mountain Recreation Area. Other locations TBA.

**February**

February 3-4 — Homer High School Invite. Lookout Mountain Recreation Area

February 4, 11, 18, and 25 — Junior Nordic Program 1:20-3:00 p.m. locations TBA

February 5 — Ski/Walk/Run for Women. Lookout Mountain State Recreation Area

February 9 — Backcountry Film Festival. 7 p.m. at Homer Theatre. Details TBA

February 12 — Wine & Cheese/Wooden Ski Tour. Noon-4 p.m. Location TBD

February 24 — Friday Night Lights. Sunset Trails. Full moon is earlier in the week.

**March**

March 11 — KNSC Nordic Ski Marathon. Saturday Ski Meeting (line). Details to follow at KNSC website. TBA — See to Ski TBD based on coordinator interest.
On the trail at Mt. Bachelor in December 2015.

Fall camp: Fun, fitness on Oregon snow in December

BY FRITZ CREEK SKIER

My wife and I are skiers and we like to improve, so when we learned that it is not really very expensive to travel to Oregon and get world-class on-snow ski instruction at Fall Camp in the beginning of December, we signed up. Yep, reliable snow at the beginning of December itself seemed reason enough to go! The program is run by XC Oregon and I highly recommend it.

I switched to an earlier flight as soon as Mt. Bachelor looked skiable. I’m cheap but the change fee was worth the two extra days of skiing. Priorities, I suppose. In a normal season (whatever that is these days) they are skiing by Thanksgiving.

Near Bend, there are two cross-country ski areas. One is at lower elevation and maintained by a local ski club and is basically free (donations appreciated and given); the other is at Mt. Bachelor Resort, but costly by Homer standards (which is basically free). I skied a couple of days at the club ski area, which gets less snow, but they seemed to be more intent on grooming as many trails as possible with minimal snow cover than at Mt. Bachelor. When you reliably get 10 feet of snow and a full six-month season, spending extra time grooming on two or three feet at the beginning of December must seem not worth the extra effort. Mt. Bachelor’s full trail system was not open until after we left, although if snow depth was like that in Homer, we would have felt that we had an abundance to groom.

I found out the hard way that renting a car is required in Bend, because no matter what the website says, bus transport to Mt. Bachelor really doesn’t get underway until the Christmas break. I stood outside at the bus stop with my skis for quite a while before calling the bus company and receiving the bad news. Then I waited some more, after I called the car rental agency, which, after getting lost, came to pick me up and give me a car. I called that agency because Google Maps indicated that they were within walking distance of the bus stop. They had moved completely across town. Maybe you are better at making these sorts of arrangements.

We stayed in a vacation rental downtown with my brother and his wife, who live in Portland, so we got a family visit in, as well. Neither of them were at the camp, although she does some cross-country. They were there mainly to visit and eat at restaurants with us, although one night, we did force them to eat some Kenai reds we caught dipnetting. Afterwards, they gave us a pair of fish-bone tweezers. It was really a great gift and another reason that made the trip worthwhile. I now use them all the time. How civilized and accomplished we become with a little contact with the outside world!

We signed up for three days of Camp. It’s flexible; you can sign up for any amount of time, although they do a three-day rotation over the 10-day period (December 1-11 this year). The routine was to get up early, eat, drive to the resort, get instructed, eat lunch, get more instruction, ski some more on our own, drive back, eat dinner, go to an evening program on training, waxing, or watching race videos, sleep, repeat. Yeah we were tired, but what a great way to energize the beginning of the season!

Fall Camp is for relatively experienced skiers and we found ourselves among skiers with similar abilities. The instructor-to-skier ratio is decent – there were usually 6-8 of us skiers in a group. Several instructors rotate through the sessions, so you get varied input from different coaches.

J.D. Downing, the coordinator, is a fantastic coach. We were very impressed with his ability to watch a line of skiers go by, then give each skier individualized tips for improvement that focused on the highest priority. There is also plenty of video analysis, which taught me not only to begin to see how other skiers do things I needed to work on, but what good, and not-so-good, skiing looks like in other skiers. With a bit more of this type of camp, I might actually feel confident giving tips to those who ask for them. Only to those who ask for them. Really. I’m trying.

I saw J.D. later in the season, in Canmore, Alberta, at the final World Cup races and thanked him: I felt I had improved more with that three-day camp than I had with any other instruction. He asked if I was signed up for Spring Camp, and I replied, only partly joking: “I don’t need to. Because of you, I am now totally proficient!” If only! Really, if you want to improve, three days at Fall Camp will give you the most reward for the shortest time I can think of. (Spring Camp is in late May-early June!).

Visit www.xc-oregon.org for more information.
Where are they now: Kenny Brewer

Looking back on the five years since high school graduation in 2011, it feels as if time has both stood still and gone by in the blink of an eye.

Immediately out of high school I contacted the head coach of cross-country running and skiing at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and was offered a walk-on position with both teams. I consider myself a late bloomer and used what is called my redshirt year as a freshman in order to bridge the gap to my faster and older teammates. To my despair, that November I broke my clavicle while trying to save my precious Swix stars during a Fairbanks town series sprint race. Needless to say, while I was not forced to purchase new poles, money was lost during that endeavor. I spent the next months on a recumbent bike trying to minimize fitness loss and keep my dream of representing Alaska at Junior Nationals alive.

My injury prevented me from skiing in the first two Besh Cups, but by the time the third and forth races rolled around at Lookout Mountain in Homer my collarbone was very nearly healed. It was a no fall situation for me and for those of you who have skied these trails, you know how difficult that can be. Fortunately, I stayed upright and performed well enough to make qualifying possible in Fairbanks at the final two Besh Cups races when I was completely healed. This was my only Junior Nationals trip and it was a blast representing Alaska in Soldier Hollow, Utah.

I spent the next three years traveling with the UAF cross-country running team and diligently ski training. It wasn’t until my junior year that I was able to earn a spot for a couple of the skiing trips and that exposure was crucial. Just witnessing the level of competition on the collegiate circuit made me realize how much harder I would have to work if I really wanted to be competitive. I spent the rest of that year and summer training thinking about another shot at the travel team. I started my year with my best running season yet and this boosted my confidence leading into the ski season.

I traveled to Houghton, Michigan, to test myself at Se-Minster and for those of you who have skied these trails, you know how difficult that can be. Fortunately, I stayed upright and performed well enough to make qualifying possible in Fairbanks at the final two Besh Cups races when I was completely healed. This was my only Junior Nationals trip and it was a blast representing Alaska in Soldier Hollow, Utah.

I continued to remain affiliated with Chugiak, coaching the running and ski teams here as well as the local year-round club program, Alaska Nordic Racing. Where I receive my dietetic internship will determine my next chapter in life, and I will not be disappointed if it keeps me here, where I can continue skiing in this amazing community.

During this time, I have shifted my focus to running, competing in some of Anchorage’s and Fairbanks’ amazing races. I was able to enter the Equinox Marathon in Fairbanks while I was there coaching FXC and have raced in Crow Pass and Mt. Marathon, as well.

I continue to love being active and competitive and have found great joy in coaching our next generation of athletes. I continue to remain affiliated with Chugiak, coaching the running and ski teams here as well as the local year-round club program, Alaska Nordic Racing. Where I receive my dietetic internship will determine my next chapter in life, and I will not be disappointed if it keeps me here, where I can continue skiing in this amazing community.
Calling Chugiak
Eagle River
Masters skiers
of all levels

BY KATI REHM

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are now ready to do a snow dance! Eagle River Masters with Alaska Nordic Racing is coming up soon.

We are excited to begin our preseason training on November 8. Preseason training includes: bicycling, ski walking, hill bounding, roller skiing (yes, even beginners), and having fun while getting in shape.

The regular winter season begins December 8. All classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday nights, from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Chugiak Beach Lake Trails.

Ready to join us? If you register before October 31, we will knock 10% off your registration price. Just write “early registration” on your registration sheet before you mail it in with payment. For more information e-mail Kathleen. Rehm@gmail.com or visit the ANR website at alaskanordicracing.org/masters.html.

ERJN Kick-Off

Beach Lake Chalet

Time: 1:00-3:00

Ski & Pole Rental: 1-2:00
ERJN Sign Up: 1-2:00
Mandatory Parent Meeting: 2-3:00
Fun Kid Games (Ages 8-12): 2-3:00

Late Registration will be 12/4 at 7:00 after the skiers leave chalet for lessons. There is an additional $20 per family charge...

Find the Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage on twitter at: twitter.com/nordicskiiclub

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Ski Fest celebrates NSCF, UAF Ski Team

BY ERIC TROYER

Celebrate the new ski season at Ski Fest on Saturday, November 12, with the Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks and the Alaska Nanooks, the cross country ski team of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Ski Fest is a joint event that celebrates the ski club, the Nanooks, and cross country skiing in Fairbanks.

The event is free and starts at 1 p.m. Food will be served in the Birch Hill Cross Country Ski Center. Soup and bread are provided. Attendees are asked to bring a dessert to share. Inside the ski center, people can also learn all about what the ski club has to offer, including Junior Nordics, Adult Lessons, FXC, races, ski tours and trail grooming. The Nanooks will also be selling retired UAF ski gear and accepting new and renewing memberships for the UAF Ski Team Booster Club. Outside, people can ski on their own or with members of the ski team. The Nanooks will play ski games with kids and giving free lessons to adults. After the activities wind up outside, at about 3 p.m., the event will move indoors where the 2016-17 ‘Nooks will be introduced and ties wind up outside, at about 3 p.m., the event will move indoors where the 2016-17 ‘Nooks will be introduced and

Club’s Tour organizers looking for trip leaders

BY ERIC TROYER

Do you have a favorite trail that you would like to share with other cross-country skiers? If so, the NSCF Touring Program wants your help. Touring program organizers Mike Schmoker, Cam Leonard and Eric Troyer will be leading some tours themselves, but they are looking for other club members to lead a tour or two. You need no special training to lead a ski, though knowing

Members of a NSCF ski tour pause near the top of Ester Dome in 2016.
Popular FXC program gains a van with help of donations, grant

BY ERIC TROYER
FXC is on a roll.
FXC (Fairbanks Cross Country), the junior race-training program of the NSCF, will soon have a van and equipment trailer thanks to donations and a grant from a variety of generous donors.

As of this writing, the van hasn’t been delivered yet, but it should be in use soon. When it is delivered, we will make sure to include a picture in the Nordic Skier. The van is needed to help effectively run the growing and active FXC program. The van and trailer will be used for big trips, such as to ski races and training camps in other parts of the state, but it will also be used for shorter trips in and around Fairbanks. One reason the program has been so successful is that it exposes kids to a wide variety of experiences, such as skiing, running and hiking in the Chena River State Recreation Area, Denali National Park and Preserve and the Alaska Range.

Club president Bruce Jamieson said that while the board understood the need and was supportive of FXC acquiring the van, the board did not want the van to drain resources from other club programs.

Together, the van and trailer cost more than $90,000, but almost all the money came from parent donations and a grant from the Rasmuson Foundation. The club used some money from its Special Projects Fund, which is funded from surplus program income, much of which came from FXC.

The van will have operating costs, including insurance, fuel and maintenance. To help pay for this, the van will display sponsor logos. Other operating costs not covered by van sponsorships will be paid for within the FXC budget but are not a new expense for the program. For several years FXC head coach Pete Leonard has been using a van he purchased on his own. He has been reimbursed for its use, though not its initial cost.

The NSCF’s Skier Development Oversight Committee, which oversees FXC, has long felt that the club, not coach Leonard, should be providing the van for the program. However, figuring out a way to finance the project without draining other club programs proved difficult. That was finally solved with a large donation from an FXC family and the generous grant from the Rasmuson Foundation.
Local Olympic skier takes on sponsorship coordinator duties for NSCF

**BY ERIC TROYER**

The Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks (NSCF) recently hired Aelin Alle
good to fill a new position of sponsor
ship coordinator.

The NSCF Board of Directors has discussed the need for a sponsorship coordinator for a while and finally decided it was time to hire one. Over the years the club has grown, creating more opportunities for sponsors and a greater need to find partners in the community to help get more people out skiing.

The board decided Aelin was a great fit for the job. Aelin headed up sponsorship for the successful 2013 Junior Cross Country Skiing Nationals held at Birch Hill Rec
area. Aelin, who skied for West Valley High School, is probably best known as an Olympic skier. She competed in the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympic Games. She was also the 2003 North American sprint champion and competed in the 2003 World Championships in Italy.

“I enjoy building relationships and I love skiing, so I’m excited for the opportunity to build corporate relationships in support of our great sport,” Aelin said. “As a young ski racer in Fairbanks, I would not have been given the chances I had without an incredible ski club filled with dedicated volunteers and supporters. I believe our trail system, trail grooming and organization rank among the finest in the world. We are very blessed to live in an active and supportive community.”

Two club programs—Competition and FXC—have been working with sponsors for a variety of events for years. That has required coordination between the programs. The ski club board would also like to seek sponsors for club events, such as Ski Fest, and other club programs, especially Trails, which grows and otherwise takes care of trails at Birch Hill Recreation Area.

Having several people seek out and work with sponsors has the potential to cause confusion, possibly leaving sponsors unsatisfied and unwilling to continue their sponsorship. The board recognized that and decided one person was needed to coordinate how the club deals with sponsors. The board also recognized that such a job was too great for a volunteer.

The board hired Aelin earlier this year and she has been hard at work getting to know current sponsors.

“In working with existing sponsors, I want to learn what the club is doing well and what we can do to enhance the sponsors’ experience and visibility,” Aelin said.

She has also been spending time identifying existing events, programs and club needs that are suited for sponsorship, including the upcoming Distance Nationals.

NSCF programs rely on your support

**BY ERIC TROYER**

The Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks wants to get people out cross-country skiing and it has several programs that help make that happen. Two of these programs rely on your generosity. Please consider donating to one or both.

**Trail Grooming Fund**

People can ski for free at Birch Hill Recreation Area, but taking care of the trails isn’t free. That’s why we rely on your generosity.

The NSCF grooms the trails at Birch Hill, not the Fairbanks Borough. All trail grooming is paid for by the NSCF, and our grooming program relies mostly on donations. Our grooming crew is one of the best in the nation, but they need our help. When you sign up for NSCF membership, please remember to make a donation to the Trail Fund.

If you have already signed up and forgot to make a donation, it’s not too late. Go to nscfairbanks.org and click on “Trail Donation” under the Join dropdown menu. You can also feed the Iron Ranger, the large iron pole in front of the red Birch Hill Cross Country Ski Center, by putting in cash or checks. If you pay with a check, make it out to “NSCFairbanks—Trail Fund.”

**Friends of FXC**

FXC (Fairbanks Cross Country), the club’s junior race training program, helps more than 100 young athletes learn important life skills through cross-country skiing. These athletes learn many things, including goal setting, confidence building and how to live healthy lives. They learn to understand and appreciate what can be accomplished with dedication and long-term focus.

FXC athletes also represent the club in races across the state and nation. They take that representation seriously and have done us proud, competing hard and behaving responsibly. The more we can support them, the easier it is for them to concentrate on doing the best they can.

To make FXC accessible to a wide variety of families, tuition rates are kept as low as possible. However, this means tuition covers only a part of the cost of the program. The rest comes from fundraising. Friends of FXC is a large part of that effort. Almost all the proceeds of Friends of FXC go directly to program support. If you would like to become a member of Friends of FXC, please contact Lisa Druckenmiller (friendsoffxc@gmail.com; 479-3545).