



# Seward Nordic News

The quarterly newsletter of the Seward Nordic  
Ski Club

2008-2009 WINTER Third Edition

## Announcements

It's almost time to return your rental skis! Please plan to return your skis on Tuesday, April 7 between 5 and 7 pm at the Seward Stash and Store (east side of the Seward Highway, between Metco and Spenard Builder's Supply). Ski Club volunteers will be there to exchange your skis for your rental deposit. If you cannot return your skis at that time, please email the club at [sewardnordicski@gmail.com](mailto:sewardnordicski@gmail.com) to make alternate arrangements.

## Upcoming Events

### **Saturday, April 4 – Community Ski Day at Divide Ski Area (formerly known as Mile 12)**

Mark your calendars for the final event of the winter ski season. There will be a community race and a bonfire. Details will be emailed out as the date gets closer.

**Tues. April 21** – Seward Winter Film Series, AVTEC Auditorium, 7pm. Details of this final installment in the winter series are still in the works. Watch your email for presentation details!

## Calendar

**March 29** - Ski to Sea Triathlon 5K Run/7K Bike/5K Ski, Homer

## News

**Divide Ski Area signs designed-** Local artist and wood craftsman Alan Heavirland donated his time to create some beautiful wooden signs for the Divide Ski Area trails. In the coming weeks, the board will be organizing a painting party for the signs, and they will go up this spring or summer. In addition to signs designating the trail names, there will be color-coordinated directional arrows to designate the direction of travel and to help skiers keep track of where they are. A covered wooden kiosk will also proudly display the ski area's name. We hope to have trail maps and other information posted at the kiosk. Thanks Alan for your time, dedication, and creativity!

**Junior Nordic Ski Program-** This year, ski instructor extraordinaire MaryLynn Barnwell launched the first season of the Seward Nordic Ski Club's Junior Nordic program. By adding a program for the junior skier, the Club is one step closer to the goal of fostering community skiing for all ages. The group of six kids met for four sessions of fun activities that boosted their skiing skills. Thank you MaryLynn for getting this much anticipated program off the ground!

**Triple Moonlight Ski-** After a successful moonlight ski along Kenai Lake in December, Sam Young returned to top his previous feat by organizing a three-night moonlight ski around the full moon in February. Each night, skiers and snowshoers made their way up the snow river basin to a spectacular

bonfire site overlooking a flowing, open river and moonlit peaks. Sam and his hearty crew were searching for the elusive white moose, and although none were spotted, many tracks were seen.

**Grants-** The BP Fabric of America Fund donated \$500 to the ski club this year, thanks to the repeat recommendation by Kenai resident Zachary Bell. The Club is very grateful to community members that encourage their employers to support our efforts. Thanks to Zachary and BP.

**Grooming-** The Bearcat snowmachine had repairs done with time and work space graciously donated by Stormchasers. Our grooming quality continues to improve every year. Our groomers put in countless hours on these trails, and they are the heroes of the skiing community in Seward. Herb Wottlin and Duane Chase have been handling Divide, with Tom Gillespie, Dennis Perry, and Ann Ghicadus grooming Bear Lake. Tom recently created a mini-kiosk at the entrance to the Bear Lake ski area to educate the public about the hard work that goes into maintaining our trails. Jason Aigeldinger has produced solid, consistent grooming out at Trail River, and we have received numerous reports of praise for his hard work.

Divide Ski Area skiers may have noticed the new section of trail connecting the hairpin on the west side of Paradise Loop with the hairpin on the South side of Madelyn's Meadow. The connector now allows two ways in and out of Madelyn's Meadow, which will increase the safety factor and make grooming the meadow easier. Directions will eventually be assigned to these through-ways and indicated on the maps and signage.

## Sewardites Savor the Tour of Anchorage

by Duane Chase

Fourteen Sewardites participated in this year's Tour of Anchorage ski meet. Nine of these were in their mid-teens to mid-twenties (*New Wine*); four were in the 25-55 age range (*Seasoning Wine*); and two were in the 55-69 age group (*Old Wine*). Of those comprising *New Wine*, five did the 40K freestyle race with Mackenzie Barnwell leading the pack among the Sewardites consisting of Mark and Brett Chase, Austin Gillespie, Marion Glaser and, of course Mackenzie. The 25K was done by Pyper Dixon, Andy Cloward, Jolie Glaser and Amanda Olsen. Among our *Seasoning Wine* skiers was Marylynn Barnwell who finished 8th in her age group for the 40K, with Darin and Jennifer Bell 4th and 8th respectively in their age groups for the 25K. That leaves two *Old Winners*, Duane Chase and Dennis Perry, each of whom medaled in their respective age groups: Dennis was 3rd in the 25K classic ski and Duane took 2nd in the 25K freestyle.....all of which goes to show the old adage, "*New wine needs time, seasoning wine is fine, but old wine is PRIME, is as true as ever*"!

## Seward Seahawks Nordic News

It was a dramatic end to a successful ski season at the state championships in Fairbanks. The **Seward High School Nordic Ski Team** boys brought home the 3A state title for a third year, and the girl's team gave a strong performance that forecast a bright future for their team.

After several individual events, the boy's team edged runner-up Su Valley in a decisive relay finish. The boys team consisted of Brett Chase (71<sup>st</sup> place, combined time 1:04:32), Andrew Ferkinoff (76<sup>th</sup>, 1:05:30), Mike Zweifel (77<sup>th</sup>, 1:05:35), Austin Gillespie (100<sup>th</sup>, 1:10:57), and Joseph Nyholm (104<sup>th</sup>, 1:12:11). Brett came in fifth overall in the small schools Skimeister rankings for combined times.

The girl's team included Mackenzie Barnwell (41<sup>st</sup>, 50:44), Meghan O'Leary (69<sup>th</sup>, 54:19), Samantha Feemster (84<sup>th</sup>, 57:05), and Amanda Olsen (118<sup>th</sup>, 1:10:09). Sophomore Mackenzie Barnwell dazzled the coaches and spectators with a runner-up finish for the small schools Skimeister Award. Amanda Olsen held the team together by continuing to ski despite a badly bruised shoulder early in the events.



*Head Coach Dennis Perry, Assistant Coach Marion Glaser, and the Seward High School Nordic Ski Team*

**The Seward Middle School Team**, coached by Carlyn Nichols, also had a great year. They hosted a Valentine's Meet at The Divide Ski Area, and then went on to perform well at the Borough Ski Meet in Soldotna on February 21 and 22. Jack Broughton took 4<sup>th</sup> place in the classic and 10<sup>th</sup> in the skate race for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade boys. Maranda Clark finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade classic race. Captain Miles Knotek finished 20<sup>th</sup> overall for the 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade boys with Broughton right behind at 21<sup>st</sup>. First year skier Nathan Cisar, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, had his best races yet in both classic and skate races. Alex Ashford also showed great improvement with his times and technique. Great job Seahawks!

## Member Spotlight: MaryLynn Barnwell



We're happy to highlight MaryLynn this edition, and recognize her great contributions to the Ski Club this winter. She organized and instructed both a very popular adult skate ski series and also launched the first year of the Junior Nordic program. She says that her goal is "to help the Seward Ski Club grow by encouraging and helping others to learn to enjoy skiing especially on the groomed trails at Divide. I think skiing is a perfect, low impact cross-training sport and would like to encourage more people to get involved."

MaryLynn brings not only her infectious good nature to the club, but also her talent as a skier. She was a nordic racer in college, and qualified for Nationals individually. This was back before skate skiing had even started as a sport.

MaryLynn and her husband Bob came to Seward in 1999 after living in Dutch Harbor for 10 years. They were here only 2 years before leaving with their 3 daughters on an adventurous and enriching hiatus: teaching school in Venezuela for 3 years, and then living for a year on a sailboat in the Caribbean. We are glad they came back, teach at the elementary school here, and contribute so much to the Club!

***Favorite Ski Trail:*** The Iditarod Trail

***Favorite Trail Food:*** chocolate

***Favorite Post-Ski Drink:*** water!

## Kids Love to Ski in Seward!

by Mike Marshall

Seward is known to have great snow for skiing and this year Seward Nordic Ski Club (SNSC) has taken advantage. Tom Gillespie, Duane Chase and Herb Wottlin are grooming up a storm this year. Trails such as Mile Twelve (The Divide) trails, Bear Lake and even the high school track have been groomed to perfection.

Seward Elementary teacher and Running club coach MaryLynn Barnwell has put together a Junior Nordic Ski program for kids that have no experience skiing. “It has helped me a lot with my technique,” says 6<sup>th</sup> grade skate skier Dylan Gillespie. Each kid has been loaned brand new gear purchased by the SNSC including ski boots, skis and poles. Every Sunday a group of six or seven kids come out to the Mile Twelve ski trails to learn to skate ski. “It was really fun to learn how to skate ski,” says skate clinic student Thomas Zweifel. In addition to this group, the Elementary School also has about 20 kids skiing after school three days a week for the month of March, coached by Mr. Fraad and Ms. Esposito.



*MaryLynn and Isabelle Barnwell and the Junior Nordic Ski Program participants at Divide Ski Area*

Besides the cross- country skiing talent in Seward, we also have some aerial talent being expressed on the hill in the back of Mile Twelve known as “Dan’s Drop.” Austin Gillespie, Piper Dixon, Nick Broughton, Josh Eavis and Ryan O’Leary pull such tricks as 180’s, 360’s, front flips and back flips. “I like Mile Twelve because it is very easy to access,” said skier Josh Eavis. It would be very cool to have a competition to see who could pull the best tricks. “I think we would get a lot of participants,” quoted Eavis.

Even though kids from 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are allowed to be in the skate skiing clinic, much younger kids such as Bjorn and Annika Nilsson have shown their stuff classical skiing all over Mile Twelve hill. “Going down the hills is my favorite part,” Bjorn Nilsson, (7 years old) says. “I want to ski when I am in high school,” says Annika Nilsson (5 years old).

We have plenty of skiers coming up from elementary and preschool to carry on our cross-country ski tradition in Seward.

*-Reported by Michael Marshall, Grade 6, Seward Elementary School*

## Seward Nordic Ski Club Board of Directors

### Officers

President	Duane Chase
Vice Pres.	Tom Gillespie
Secretary	Jennifer Jeffrey Bell
Treasurer	Julie Robinson

### Board Members

Bob Barnwell – Website  
MaryLynn Barnwell – Instruction, Junior Nordic  
Darin Bell - Website  
Ann Ghicadus- Equipment storage, fundraising  
Jenn Haugh- Website  
Carlyn Nichols – Ski Rental Program  
Dennis Perry- High School Ski Coach  
Ray Robinson – Membership, Newsletter  
Herb Wottlin - Grooming

## Trail Meisters '08-'09

Jennifer and Darin Bell  
Debra Burdick and Joe Hinton  
Hal Cavitt  
Duane and Karen Chase  
Laura Cluberton  
Deborah and Jerry Dixon  
Lana and Fred Esposito  
Rebekka and Terry Federer  
Mark Luttrell and Ann Ghicadus  
Shelley Hall  
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## Thank you to our business sponsors '08-'09



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Seward Chamber of Commerce  
Kayaker's Cove  
Sunny Cove Sea Kayaking  
Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking  
World Cup  
BP Fabric of America Fund

Any businesses interested in sponsoring the Ski Club, contact [sewardnordicski@gmail.com](mailto:sewardnordicski@gmail.com). Thank you for your interest!

### Mission Statement

The Seward Nordic Ski Club is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and supporting Nordic skiing for all ages, developing and maintaining a network of groomed trails, and sponsoring community ski activities and educational opportunities.

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<http://sewardnordicskiclub.org>