

BVCCSC is grateful to be located on the unceded territory of the Wet'suwet'en Nation. A recent phrase of the week at Walnut Park Elementary was *Alh'ka hiltus*, which means *Stronger Together!*

!!! !! Wetzin'kwa Loppet !! !!!



Wetzin'kwa Loppet, Saturday, Mar 15: We're hosting our annual race for all ages & technique persuasions. More info coming soon – check the [website](#). In the meantime, many volunteers are needed to ensure a fun day. Were you thinking about participating? No sweat, there's jobs to do before & after the race. Head to the [SIGN UP](#) sheet to see how you can help. What's in it for you? Other than the high that comes from being part of the wonderful community at the nordic centre? Well, we'll feed you a delicious lunch & snacks. Plus, volunteers will have the opportunity to win a free pass for next season. You read that right! A free season's pass!



Ski S'KOOL: Thus far it's been a KOOL one. Due to frigid temperatures over a week of sessions were postponed. Twenty-one classes registered this season, & the fires were stoked once sessions resumed with students, teachers & coaches raising the enthusiasm level several notches. Thank you to the Bulkley Valley Community Foundation for their generous grant to support elementary schools xc skiing in our Valley.



GRATITUDE:

Good News: Courtney Maricle has joined the BVCCSC Board of Directors! She's taking over tracking grants and sponsorships. Courtney skis extensively on the dog trails and many of her friends are also dog skiers so it will be useful to have another set of ears out there. Thank you, Courtney!



Courtney moved to Smithers two years ago and quickly fell in love with everything this beautiful community has to offer. From the incredible outdoor activities in the surrounding mountains, like cross-country skiing, biking, and hiking, to the strong sense of community, it's been an amazing place to call home. The passion people have for outdoor activities is inspiring, and she's excited to contribute to the Nordic Center, which provides such a fantastic winter experience.

More Good News: McBike's Jill & Peter Krause brought up their rental fleet and spent their BC Family Day sharing their love of skiing with people new to the sport. It was truly inspiring to see so many new skiers introduced to a Canadian winter pastime as they laughed and glided. Well over 120 people took advantage of this free opportunity. This is from Petra Kost (Smithers Community Services Association), who brought up many of the newcomers who experienced skiing for the first time thanks to the McBike BC Family Day opportunity, "thank you... to the BV Nordic team, especially Peter and Jill, for organizing/supporting this amazing event every year. Our newcomer clients and the whole ELMS team had so much fun and there were so many lively stories this week about people's first experience on skis. Thank you again for this great opportunity!"





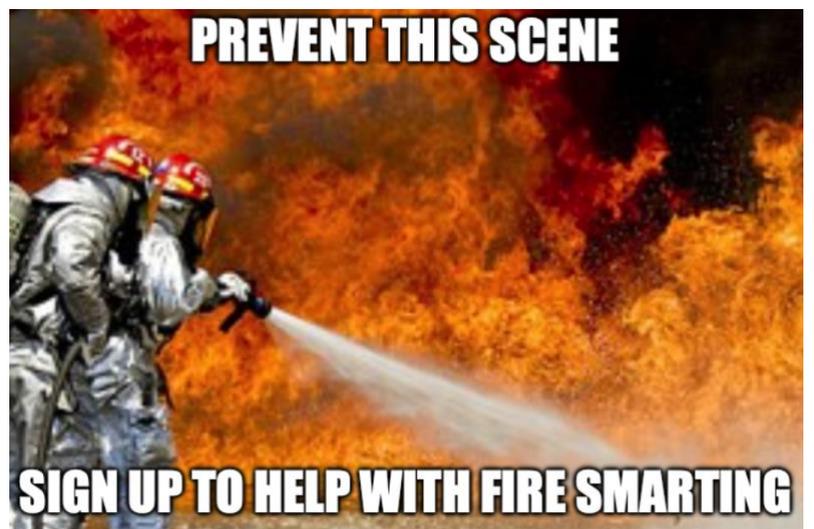
More Images from McBike's BC Family Day



More on Storage Shed FIRE SMARTING: Fundraiser webpage is LIVE! Click to donate, [Canada Helps fundraiser](#). And get this, Nordiq Canada provides tax receipts! Do this soon because Cross Country BC has amazing donors who are topping up the fundraising efforts of BC clubs by providing up to 50% in matching funds, but only to the first \$4000 raised by each club, so don't delay and donate away!



(my husband doesn't think many people will get this reference, prove him wrong?)



Upcoming Events (thx Andrea & Callie):

BV Biathlon Club, March 1/2: The club is participating in a series of shared regional biathlon events with Omineca, Nechako Nordics & Caledonia Ski Clubs. *Tour du North-2025* is a new event series that we hope to make an annual event. March 1 at 11am is the first event at our biathlon range. Then off to Burns Lake for an evening race, followed by Vanderhoof & Prince George on March 2nd. We are expecting it to be a fun event!

On March 1st avoid *Range Loop*, *One Click Right*, & *Half Click Right*, you'll see signage & race markers. That said, this is a rare occasion to watch & cheer local biathletes. If you are new to the sport & curious, Come check it out!



Photo Credit: Callie Lancaster



BC Championships in Kelowna, Feb 28-Mar 2 – We anticipate healthy participation & their trails are super fun especially the rolling downhill. A highlight will be the team relay made up of three skiers; BVCCSC will enter several teams to showcase our Nordic spirit & skills against skiers from across BC, Alberta & the US.

Northern Cup in Burns Lake, Sun Feb 23 – We anticipate a smaller contingent there for this one day skate event, but it is an excellent opportunity for those looking for a low key, close to home event.



Spirit North, March 7: Expect 150 participants at BV Nordic from four regional First Nations for this event! Spirit North is a national charitable organization started by Beckie Scott, it uses land-based activities to improve the health & well-being of Indigenous youth, empowering them to become unstoppable in sport, school & life. Through the transformative power of sport, participants discover untold potential & build the confidence & courage needed to overcome the hardships Indigenous youth often face. Having a meaningful connection to the land is pivotal, & access to sport and land-based activity can improve physical, mental & community health!

This fantastic event **would appreciate helpers: Lunch & a good time will be provided!**

Volunteer opportunities include 8 am set up, welcoming kids when they arrive at 10 am, helping at the stations, helping with lunch, take down, or clean up. Contact Graham.Mclean@spiritnorthxc.ca if you can help.



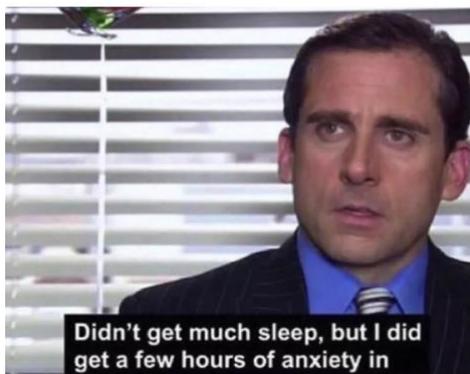
Northern Cup Vanderhoof, Mar 8 – We hope a contingent will attend this event, many of our skiers are at Nationals this weekend, but adult & wee racers should give racing a try at this low key, fun event. It will be perfect for those interested in getting their feet wet in the travel & competition side of the sport.

Wetzin'kwa Loppet Saturday, March 15 2025: see the top of the newsletter!

Nationals in Canmore, Mar 17-23 - A contingent of a dozen BV Nordic athletes are attending. The proximity & timing is helpful (March Break) make it a great opportunity for families and for younger (U14) athletes to get a taste of what the Nationals are all about by entering select events. This will also be the season's final testing ground for our Junior racers (U16 & older) who have worked so hard all season. Canmore courses are challenging (site of the 1988 Olympic skiing) but exciting with interesting features including the Wall & the sprint finish under the bridge. This year the team event will feature division (provinces) teams, our BVN skiers will be grouped along with fellow BC competitors, making for some exciting races!



Skiers on the night before a race



BV Nordic Exchange with Nakkertok-Experiences Canada, submitted by B. Wickham:

This winter Nakkertok Ski Club and BV Nordic did a cultural exchange funded by Experiences Canada. It was an incredible experience to be able to go across the country to meet new people and create new friendships.

The exchange started off with the Nakkertokers coming here for a week, & it was the perfect time because they were here for our snow camp, a fun training camp that we host every year with a bunch of clubs from northern BC. Skiers split up into groups from different clubs with different coaches, to learn new skills, that all led to a fun time trial that the Nakkertokers got to do too.

Next, BV Nordic skiers went to Ottawa, where we did everything from skiing at Nakkertok, skating the Rideau Canal, a scavenger hunt on Parliament Hill, to a senate tour. It was amazing to see the Canadian capital! I broke my leg (again), but despite that, everybody accommodated me. We even brought a sit ski so I could take part.

One of my many highlights was the *Coupe Skinouk*, an annual ski race held in Quebec. It was held on a soccer field, so it was flat but very windy. There was a skiathlon, where each skier skied 2 laps of 3.75 km, and in between the skier switched techniques from classic to skate and therefore also changed skis & poles. BV Skiers got some respectable results, but since I was not able to ski, I cheered a lot!

I find it really cool that Nakkertok does an exchange almost every year, for decades! I hope that Bulkley Valley Nordic follows along with that tradition. We did quite a bit of local fundraising but without Experiences Canada, we would not have been able to do this exchange!



BV Nordic with Nakkertok athletes in Ottawa and the Gatineau Park 😊
More info on the trip found here:
<https://experiencescanada.ca/a-ski-exchange-adventure>

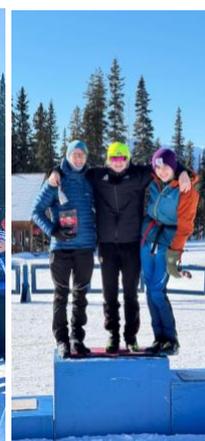
BV NORDIC RACING SEASON SO FAR (from Coach Andrea)

Westerns in Kimberley, Jan 31-Feb 2 - seven athletes experienced great conditions, lots of fresh snow, challenging courses with an exciting extended downhill, lots of learning for everyone!

Chris Dahlie Open and Northern Cup, Smithers Race, Feb 8/9 - Cold temperatures were no match for warm hearts on this weekend of spectacular weather and super fun racing, with participation right across the board, from rabbits to masters, and an impressive hundred racers taking part. Great energy was shown during the team spirit and especially from the athletes going for it in the distance races. Visiting clubs in attendance included Snow Valley Nordic Ski Club (Terrace), Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Club (Houston), Omineca Ski Club

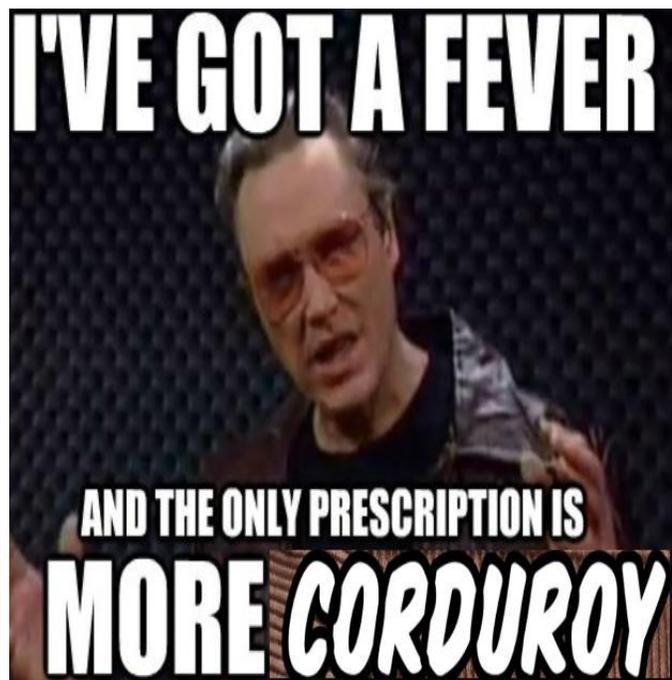
(Burns Lake), Nechako Nordics Cross Country Ski Club (Vanderhoof), Mackenzie Nordic Ski Club (Mackenzie) & Cariboo Ski Touring Club (Quesnel). It was a fantastic nordic community effort with help from many volunteers. Kudos to coaches and our wax team for all their hard work. Full results at <https://zone4.ca/event/2025/RVqlpj/>

BC Cup #2 in PG, Feb 15-16 - Track Attack, Junior, a few Rabbits, & a group of keen parents entered the events; we had just shy of 50 racers participating. Saturday's classic mass start was followed by a skate interval start. Skiers enjoyed challenging courses with an enthusiastic BV Nordic presence.



About the Grooming: BV Nordic Communication channels often field questions about the *wheres* and *whys* of grooming. Lucky for you, all our answers are in one place; fill your boots and learn about the secret love language of our track setting and corduroy making volunteers, veritable wizards:

<https://bvnordic.ca/trails-and-facilities/grooming-faq/>



Previous Trivia Answer: Last month we asked which ski club name was NOT true. The answer is Smithers Snow Stormers. The real clubs were: Tyhee Mountain Club, Silver King International Ski Club, and Every Man and His Dog Ski Club. Check out more club history <https://www.bvnordic.ca/about-our-club/club-history/>

BVCCSC Legacy of Community and Remembrance: Our club’s development had many phases, with the lodge being one of them. The construction of our current lodge marked a new chapter in the growth of the Bulkley Valley Nordic Ski Club, one made possible by generosity but also rooted in tragedy.

In 1994, the Buchfink family, who shared a deep love for skiing & the outdoors, was tragically lost in a helicopter crash. Honouring their memory, relatives of the family donated estate funds to help complete the new lodge. The next time you warm up in our beautiful lodge, visit the upstairs display case. Buchfink family photos remind us that their spirit lives on in every skier, volunteer, & family that enjoys the trails. Photos submitted by Irene Ronalds, by way of Tenley Dahlie ☺



Walls going up on the Buchfink Lodge



Builders, L to R: Brant Dahlie, Cor Vandermaal, Des Moran, Larry Lutz, Bruce Maclean, Dave Bustard, Dennis Courtliff, Jerry Pinkerton

New Trivia Question: Linda Buchfink's sister commissioned Deb Chatfield to make something special for the lodge in memory of the family, what was made? **Submit answers to communications@bvnordic.ca**

Canine Skier Interview:

Benji Wickham interviews Cova Luxmoore

Benji: Introduce yourself, tell the club a bit about you.

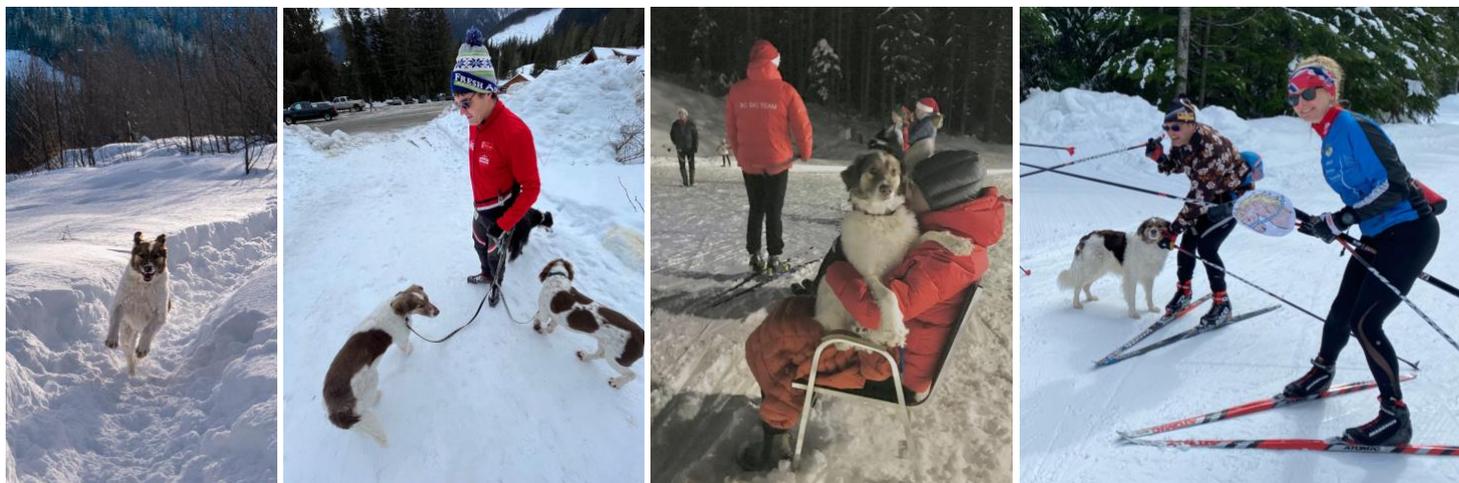
Cova: My name is Cova, I'm 11 years old & I love skiing on the trails with literally anybody. We've always just skied the main dog loop but I've wondered where those unknown trails lead, why can I never go on them? Maybe they're cat trails instead of dog trails? Maybe there's a big bad wolf patrolling them? sadly, I have no idea.

Benji: What's the worst thing your human has done on the ski trails?

Cova: Well, when we were on the dog trails (it happens every time) I was strategically looking for a spot to lay my dookie down, & they disrupted my process! When I finally picked a spot to poop, and it was on *my* territory too, they picked it up & moved it! Can you believe that? That's equivalent of me jumping onto the table & eating their food, yeah, we love doing it, but they hate it when we do it. Either way this behaviour is utterly disgraceful.

Benji: What's your worst ski pole, ski, and/or leash, entanglement experience?

Cova: Once my people & I were going for a routine afternoon ski, but this time my people had the audacity to bring this "guest" dog with us. So naturally the two of us started to play, then my owner & I got tangled up during this precious play time. Since my human was also carrying poles, skis and our leashes, well, it was beyond their competencies. They tried to split us up, but they ended up falling over and getting completely tangled. This was another example of more disgraceful activity from my people, and they had the nerve to blame us.



Benji: What's your take on dog booties?

Cova: Whenever my people put dog booties on me prior to our routine ski, they give me the *ick* for the first five minutes or so, but then I realize that I'm a fashion icon whenever I have them on! When I see other dogs on the trails, I always try to show them off. My idea for the perfect dog bootie would be having great hot flames on the side so when I was galloping through the snow looking majestic, I will be able to go even faster than I already do. Now, whenever my people and I are going for a ski, I try to make them put the booties on me so I can look down on the lower class of dogs, you know, the ones without booties.

Please send your candid canine interviews to: communications@bvnordic.ca

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Annual Sponsors provide financial support to the Club.



**Here's
How.**



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