

Mid-March 2026 Newsletter

BVCCSC is grateful to be located on the unceded territory of the Wet'suwet'en Caribou once roamed on Hudson Bay Mountain, *widzih* (or *midzih*) means caribou in Witsuwit'en

FROM JAN, or GENERAL MANAGER:

We've had some incidents on the trails recently that could easily have ended in injury. The good news is that there are simple solutions to ensure that we avoid similar incidents in the future. In one case, two German Shepherd sized dogs were tethered together and running up the tracks, where an elderly skier was skiing downhill on their side of the trail. The owner was nearby but did not display an awareness that the leash between the dogs was about to trip a skier. **Easy Solution: don't tether dogs together & let them run loose on the trails.**

And how about this? We've had several reported cases of dogs running loose, trailing long, knotted ropes or leashes. In at least one incidence, a dog wrapped its rope around the legs of a skier, tripping them. **Easy Solution: do not let your dog run loose with a leash or rope attached.** We have mentioned this in previous years, but it still seems to happen. Please, let's keep the trails safe.



TRAIL CLOSURE:

On Saturday March 21st, the day of our loppet, the dog trails will be closed to dogs from 09:00 to 14:00. All people skiing with dogs are asked to have their dogs off the trails by 9 am to ensure a safe, fair, loppet for all participants. The race committee understands this may be an inconvenience. Should you have any concerns, you are encouraged to reach out to race@bvnordic.ca.



Hi Bulkley Valley,

We're performing work on our system that requires us to temporarily turn off your electricity service.

Location: HUDSON BAY MTN RD, SMITHERS

From: Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 09:30 AM (estimated)

To: Tuesday, March 17, 03:00 PM (estimated)

Reason: Pole Replacement

NORDIQ CANADA CLUB FUNDRAISER FOR SKILLS PLAYGROUND

BV Nordic members have until the end of March to get matching funds from Nordiq Canada for our ski playground/skills park! This is a great opportunity to support our club's ability to meet the needs of our youngest members, and there's a tax receipt involved.

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/nordiq-canada/p2p/Annual-Club-Fundraiser-26/page/bv-nordic-club-fundraiser-2026-ski-playground>



	Club	Total raised by club	Number of club donations
1	Black Jack	\$28,545	47
2	Bulkley Valley	\$9,850	15
3	Hollyburn	\$9,200	23
4	Castlegar	\$7,505	33
5	Nelson	\$6,100	13
6	Kimberley	\$5,580	32



37TH WETZIN'KWA LOPPET, SATURDAY MAR 21:

Races for all ages in skate & classic. This race is not just about who finishes first, it's a celebration of our club & sport! There are events for all skills, & fitness levels, from 1 km, 4 km, 9 km, 20 km, 40 km, to 60 km (40 km skiathlon too!). Not keen on racing? Dozens of volunteers are needed.

The race committee hopes that you will join us to celebrate what has been a fantastic season by pitching in to help. No experience is necessary, just punctuality and a willingness to follow directions. Lunch is provided for volunteers, and your name will be **entered into a draw for a free 2026/27 season pass**. Many people are required to ensure a safe & fun event. If you are able to help, please head to the volunteer sign-up sheet, there are lots of options. **If you hope to take part in the Loppet, there are several volunteer roles that allow you to both participate and contribute to the day.** Be sure to register at [zone4](#) by Tuesday, March 17.

Volunteers: [SIGN UP HERE](#) Sign up to race: [CLICK HERE FOR RACER REGISTRATION](#)

And a free lunch!

Tell them we have LOTS OF SNOW!

Smithers BC

Saturday Mar 21, 2026

37th Wetzin'kwa Loppet

Not just a race, it's a celebration of our club & sport!

Distances for all skills & fitness levels, from 1 km, 4 km, 9 km, 20 km, 40 km, to 60 km (40 km skiathlon too!), skate & classic. Delicious lunch included.

Not keen on racing? Many volunteers are needed. One lucky one wins a season pass!

Go to zone4 to register to race or volunteer!

Time to sign up for the Loppet on Saturday, March 21

Did you hear that? And the deadline to register is March 17, this TUESDAY!

LODGE LOST AND FOUND ITEMS:

Recognize anything? If so, lost items are in a bin that is located in the lodge, on the first floor, in the room on the right. Also please note this list of missing items:

1. Vauhti hot pink liquid tube of glide wax, taken from the cubby, contact events@bvnordic.ca
2. Red & black head lamp, reward offered, last seen in the lodge, contact events@bvnordic.ca
3. Black wallet, dropped on the trails, if found please call Evan, 778-533-0840
4. Necklace, lost in parking lot or trails, small chain & two charms, contact communications@bvnordic.ca



The bounty of the lost and found box, play I Spy with your loved ones!

BC BIATHLON CHAMPIONSHIPS

We had more than 30 skiers participating at the BC Championships held at Whistler Olympic Park this past weekend. It all started with a training day on Thursday where athletes reviewed their racecourses on excellent mid-winter snow. You have to love it when there are two 700 m courses and two 2.5 km courses with different coloured signs in addition to several other distances and coloured signs! Well, that's partly what coaches are for: figuring out the right colour for the right distance for the right skiers.

Friday was the first of three BC Champs races, a distance skate race. Conditions were fast but our BV Nordic skis were faster thanks to excellent wax team support! Comments from the skiers were aligned with this and our team zoomed around those courses in no time flat. Sunday was classic sprints with a lot of excitement during the qualifiers in the morning and back-to-back heats in the afternoon.

Team relays on Sunday happened on many centimetres of new snow. The wax team was busy adjusting skis throughout the day, more kudos to them! All types of skis were used from hairies, skins, zeros, and waxables, to get our skiers to the finish line. The relays closed this year's BC Cup series for the 2025-2026 year, and BV Nordic skiers represented very well with podium finishes and metals to bring home. And then it was time to brave the Duffy Lake Road, one last drive home for the season,

-Submitted by Britt White, BV Biathlon

GRATEFULLY TO THE BULKLEY VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION:

The Bulkley Valley Cross country Ski Club (BVSCS) would like to graciously thank the Bulkley Valley Community Foundation (BVCF) for their support over the years (through grant funding) of the Ski S'kool program. Ski S'kool is an outreach program offered by the BVCCSC at the Bulkley Valley Nordic Centre. It is a partnership program with local elementary schools that brings roughly 500 individual students out on Nordic skis each year. Our goal is for all students in the Bulkley Valley to get the opportunity to cross country ski. The BVCCSC Ski S'Kool program has been running for ten years and has offered introductory lessons and equipment to thousands of elementary school students in the Bulkley Valley. The Ski S'kool program provides skis and boots for Kindergarten to Grade Four students to borrow at no additional cost. Currently, we have 54 sets of modern skis and boots for the Ski S'kool program. Thank you BVCF!



THANK YOU!



BULKLEY VALLEY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

GRATEFULLY TO KAL TIRE:

The Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club would like to send out a huge thank you to Kal-Tire and CCBC for their on-going generous support for cross country skiing in BC. With the grant money received from Kal-Tire, BVCCSC was able to purchase character signs for the ski playground. Ski playgrounds allow young skiers to gain balance, learn how to move on Nordic skis and most importantly, have fun, unstructured play! The support that Kal-Tire gives to local clubs reaches well beyond the equipment. It helps to support and strengthen programs, clubs, coaches and most importantly, gives athletes the tools and resources they need to grow in the sport. We are always grateful for Kal-Tire's ongoing support and commitment to cross country skiing in BC.

THANK YOU KAL TIRE!

2025/2026 Ski Season

Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club would like to give a huge thank you to Kal-Tire for their on-going & generous support of xc skiing.

With the grant money received from, we purchased character signs for our ski playground. Ski playgrounds allow young skiers to learn balance, how to move on skis & to have unstructured fun!

What Kal-Tire's gives to local clubs reaches beyond equipment. It strengthens programming & most importantly, gives athletes the tools they need to grow in the sport.

We are grateful for Kal-Tire's commitment to cross country skiing, without which our programming would not succeed, thank you.



BC WINTER GAMES

The BC winter games were hosted in Trail, with the XC skiing venue at Black Jack Cross-Country Ski Club, and it was well worth the trip! There were 1600 athletes in total, 106 were cross-country skiers and eight athletes qualified from Smithers. All the athletes for Nordic skiing were 2011 or 2012 birth years but in other sports there was different ages. All of the Nordic skiers competed in a classic interval start, skate sprint and a team relay (two boys and two girls per team). BV Nordic sent two coaches, Ryan Chapman and Adrienne Rosenberger they also stayed in the classroom with us and waxed skis. Local skiers were Brooke Hamhuis, Ava Bucher, Juliet Fleury-Allen, Finn Rosenberger, Ethan Rosenberger, Gabe Wimbush, and me, Ethan Chapman (BV Nordic Skier Teja Stevens competed for the Coastal Zone as well).

The cross-country skiing sprint course was 400 metres, which isn't very long, in other races we sometimes do up to 800 metres. The course wasn't super technical and only had one hill, but it was a fun course to ski. Lots of heats were really close with photo-finishes and being within a millisecond of each other.

The relay for each zone had two teams, with people who qualified faster got on the relay team, with two boys and two girls on each team. Each skier did a two-kilometre loop, and there were 13 teams in the event. The interval start was 3.3 km for the 2012 birth year skiers and 2 x 2.5 for the 2011 skiers. The conditions and grooming were great, but the sunny spots got a bit slushy. The relay was on a pretty warm day; some people were wearing shorts! One team raced in light up glasses and baggy jeans, and they even did pretty well!



The town of Trail was very dedicated to the Games, and it seemed like they had put a lot of work into making it fun. There were banners all over town, we had busses driving us around, and they even closed all the schools so that we could sleep in them. The athletes ate their meals in the arena; it was pretty amazing that they could feed that many people. The opening ceremonies were broadcast on live TV, the mayor of Trail came and spoke, the BC Winter Games chairperson spoke, and there were dance performers. Trail also hosted a carnival with games and snacks for the athletes from all the different sports.

I got to watch wheelchair basketball and freestyle skiing too. The wheelchair basketball players were very talented, playing basketball and moving quickly in wheelchairs. We got to try their wheelchairs, and they were super fun and fast! The alpine skiers were also very good, doing cool tricks and being very fast going through gates, I saw some freestyle skiers do cork 720's and backflips. It was pretty insane. The games were super fun & I look forward to some of my younger teammates getting to go in two years. -Submitted by Ethan Chapman

BIATHLON UPDATE:

The Bulkley Valley Biathlon Club has quietly been growing our membership for the past few years. Our Master's program is now in its 5th year and many of the returning athletes have been there since the start. We also have a youth biathlon program that is in its third year, also with many returning athletes!

The biathlon club has been doing some really fun things! On January 9th and 10th, six individuals participated in a community coaching workshop where they learned to use the club's four new *Ecoaim* rifles. *Ecoaim* rifles are electronic rifles that use infrared beams to simulate live fire allowing for safe, indoor or outdoor target practice in a 10 metre range. Led by Avery Levesque, a development manager with Biathlon BC, the community coaching workshop was a success! On Saturday the 10th, the Ecoaims were set up in the staging area at the BV Nordic Centre where the coaches led a practice for the youth biathlon program and also guided curious onlookers who had never tried biathlon before.

The 2026 Womxn's clinic was held on January 25th and approximately 12 Womxn participated in the afternoon biathlon portion. The Ecoaims were utilized again as they are a great way to learn the concept of biathlon without handling a firearm right away.



Photo Credits: Britt White, Pat Dumais BC Winter Games

For six weeks from January 17-February 21, we hosted an intro to biathlon for 12 kids. Each week, using our *Ecoaim* rifles, kids age 8-13 learned a new foundational skill and then practised it by playing fun games. The program was a great success, we had lots of fun, and hopefully we got some kids interested in wanting to join next year!

McBike held their annual Welcome Day on February 15th and again we were able to set up our *Ecoaim* range in the staging area. About 40 people who had never tried biathlon before were able to give it a try!

At the end of February, two of our athletes, Adelle Dumais and Kohen Sanborn, as well as one athlete from Burns Lake, John Broadworth, represented Zone 7 in the BC Winter Games in Trail/Rossland. These three athletes did an incredible job of conquering a steep course, all with smiles on their faces at the end. We are very proud of the hard work they put into their three races! A special shoutout to coaches Callie Lancaster and Sean Broadworth, as well as chaperone Pat Dumais for supporting these kids through it all.

Thanks to everyone who was curious about biathlon and participated in the above events; it has been so amazing to be able to share this unique sport with so many of you!

-Submitted by Britt White

Trivia Question: Globally, what was the most well attended Loppet in 2025? Send responses to communications@bvnordic.ca. Those of you who are new to our trivia contest, it runs all season with winners entered in a draw for a gift certificate to one of our local business sponsors.

Answer to previous trivia: Nazgoul the dog became a viral sensation after wandering onto the women's sprint qualifier at the 2026 Winter Olympics in Tesero, Italy.

NEW TRAILS UPDATE:

Work continues on three new trails identified in our trail plan. We had a cultural heritage assessment completed on the proposed Top Dog, Pine Creek connector, and Competition trails, and have submitted our proposed trails to the Office of the Wet'suwet'en. At our request, the Wetzin'kwa Community Forest has done reconnaissance work on how to remove timber from the proposed trails around Top Dog. They are now working on a plan that would involve some partial cutting along the trail, removal of some of the remaining dead pine, and harvesting small clearcuts near the trails. These trails are still in the planning stage, and we need to get authorization from the province, but we are making progress. Thanks to Roger McMillan, Ray Hollenberg, and Garnet Patton for supporting the planning to date. If anyone has questions about these plans, please contact Trails@bvnordic.ca.

SKI NATIONALS TEASER:

There will be a full summary of how our courageous race team performed at the Canadian Ski Nationals in Quebec, but in the meantime, here are some photographic tidbits!



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Annual Sponsors provide financial support to the Club.



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Planting Seeds for Tomorrow



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**Here's
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Partners

These partners provide a wide range of support to the club including management of the trails, logistical support, and funding.



Recreation Sites
and Trails BC

