

December 2020 Newsletter

### **Member Spotlight: Anna Hoffmann, Jumping\***

Blackhawk's own, Anna Hoffmann, will be representing the US in World Cup ski jumping competitions this winter helping USA Nordic earn spots for the 2022 Olympics.

With Covid the international schedule has been in flux, but recently Hoffmann was competing in Ramsau, Austria along with three other USA Nordic team members.

Hoffmann began ski jumping at the age of three along with her three older siblings on Blackhawk's smallest jumps. Losing patience watching everyone else jump, Hoffmann turned to her mom, stomped her foot and said, "My turn!!!" That was the start of a long journey in ski jumping.

Along with her siblings, Hoffmann started with weekly practices at Blackhawk on Tuesday and Thursday nights. On weekends she went along with the family to tournaments in Wis, Minn and Illinois (the Central Division). Hoffmann started competing and making lifelong friends she would travel and compete with still today.

Feeling the amazing sensation of "flying" motivated Hoffmann to continue developing her skills. In junior high she started traveling out of the Central Division and attended training camps and competitions in Steamboat and Park City with the Central Division Development team following in the footsteps of her sister Elyse and brother Joe. Hoffmann continued balancing traveling and competing and attending Madison Memorial High School until she graduated in 2018.

With determination, especially in times when competitions and skill development didn't always come easily, Hoffmann got her chance to attend Junior Nationals in 2016 in Salisbury, Conn and that year she won the event for the women. In 2017 she qualified and competed in her first Junior World competitions in Park City, Utah. In 2018 she again won Junior Nationals in Anchorage, Alaska.

Hoffmann kept up her hard work and earned spots at Junior Worlds in Kandersteg, Switzerland 2018; Lahti, Finland 2019 and Oberweisenthal, Germany in 2020.

In addition to training six days a week with the national team, Hoffmann is a junior at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. She is focusing her studies on sciences. In 2019 Hoffmann earned the US Olympic Committee's highest academic scholarship.

This winter Hoffmann will travel and compete on the World Cup circuit with the possibility of competing in Norway, Germany, Japan, Russia and China.

\*pictures and full story will be posted on our website soon!

### **Intro to Ski Jumping Classes are Available**

Does your young skier enjoy racing down hill's 1 and 2 searching out any bump jump they can find? Is your child looking for a new challenge or something different to do this winter? You may consider looking into our Introduction to Ski Jumping programs.

Skiers who can easily ski down Hill #2, usually ages five and older, are welcome to try ski jumping. Blackhawk offers an Introduction to Ski Jumping class on Tuesday evenings at 5:30, Saturday mornings at 10:15 and Sunday at 12:30. Beginning ski jumpers will learn the basics of ski jumping in their alpine equipment. When athletes are confident on the ski jumps coaches will help transition kids to jumping equipment that the program provides. New jumpers have a chance to participate in Blackhawk's home tournament on February 14th, 2021. As the young jumpers progress, they can choose to join the Blackhawk Ski Jumping Team. Helmets, buffs and a sense of adventure are the only requirements.

More information on the program can be found at <https://blackhawkskiclub.org/programs/ski-jumping>

Questions contact Girly Gessner at [jumping@blackhawkskiclub.org](mailto:jumping@blackhawkskiclub.org)

## **20 Years of Blackhawk – Coming Soon!**

Check your inbox for a history of our youth programs over the past 20 years. My how we've grown!

**Snowmaking update:** If you look at the subject headings of our snowmaking message on Team Snap, the list would say it all: Cancelled, too warm; Update, broken part; Snowmaking is on; Cancelled, too warm; Holiday Snowmaking (yes we are making a white Christmas after all!). Though we have invested in making our system more efficient and easier for volunteers to help manage, we still need to wait on cold, dry air to start making snow. When we finally had that over Thanksgiving, we started the system up. No sooner did we get going and the weather shifted. While we received a glorious surprise snow storm, our next run started with a broken pressure sensor which involved locating a part, a service call to recalibrate the system, and starting over again. Now it is nearly Christmas and we hope to have a solid 3 day run, something we have not been able to do yet this season! **If you are interested in helping make snow (and we could use YOU!) please contact [kurt.stein@blackhawkskiclub.org](mailto:kurt.stein@blackhawkskiclub.org). Volunteers choose their shift, even a couple hours of your time is very helpful for the club!**

**Snowplowing at Blackhawk:** We are also looking for volunteers to help plow snow and spread sand. If you are interested, contact [william.lorman@blackhawkskiclub.org](mailto:william.lorman@blackhawkskiclub.org).

## **Wildlife sightings around BH: Jill Stevenson**

Our ski club, located in the Black Earth Creek watershed, is in close proximity to undeveloped land containing diverse habitats. These hardwood and pine forests, restored prairie, grass and farmlands and freshwater wetlands on our land and our neighbor's, are home to a surprising number of wildlife species. Summer and Fall sightings of mallard ducks, migratory songbirds, painted turtles, young deer, otters, muskrats and the occasional beaver have given way to consistent sightings of other species.

Nordic skiers are often joined by great horned owl calls as they begin practice on the west side nordic trails. On a blustery Winter Solstice day this year, a bald eagle hovered over Hill 2 only to be replaced by a red tailed hawk soaring on the wind currents. It is not uncommon at night for Blackhawk skiers on the East side of the club to marvel at Pope Farm Park coyotes who appear to be communicating with those on or near our property. And tracks in new snow! Look for small mammal and deer tracks and you will quickly learn of their habits at Blackhawk. While our ski club provides great year-round recreational opportunities for our families, it has always been a refuge for wildlife who co-exist with us and depend on our stewardship of this land. Report your wildlife sightings to Jill Stevenson to have them included in our next newsletter ([jillstevenson@blackhawkskiclub.org](mailto:jillstevenson@blackhawkskiclub.org)).

Family Nordic Ski lesson: Jan 16

Interested in learning to cross country (aka nordic) ski? Families and individuals are invited to a nordic ski clinic from 3-5 on Saturday, January 16. Kids skis are available for the clinic and adults may bring their own or rent from REI for the day. We will show you how to use the gear, the basics of balance, kick and glide, and how to get up when you fall! All COVID safety measures will be in place. Please register here <https://blackhawkskiclub.org/>. Registration is free but consider making a donation to our Nordic Kids program! Contact [xkids@blackhawkskiclub.org](mailto:xkids@blackhawkskiclub.org) with questions.

### **Biathlon race: Jan 16-17**

Blackhawk's Youth and Adult Biathlon program are teaming up with the United States Biathlon Association (USBA) to host a two-day event with races for youth and adults including sprints, longer distance races and relays! This will be the first time Blackhawk has hosted a USBA Regional event and we are excited to welcome biathletes from the Midwest to participate. The results from these races will help to determine the US Youth National Team that will be traveling to Europe for races later this season. COVID protocols will be in place and all participants and spectators. Participants will hold event memberships at Blackhawk and for USBA.

### **Nordic Kids Story Trail**

Coming soon!! A skiing story trail beginning near the Nordic Kids gear trailer. The young and young-at-heart can follow the pages of Owl Moon by Jane Yolen as they explore Blackhawk's nordic ski trails. Blackhawk is a great place to go owling and the beautifully-rendered illustrations of this story remind us in these strange times of "The kind of hope that flies on silent wings under a shining Owl Moon." Happy New Year!

### **Unlimited Access Members: Alpine Open Ski Sign Up Guidelines:**

We know everyone is excited to get on the snow, please follow these guidelines when signing up for spots. Sign ups open on Thursday for the following week. A new link will be sent to your inbox each week. If you are not receiving these emails, please let us know!

- There is **no limit on the number of days** members can sign up for, however there is a **maximum of 2 hours per day**.
- **Register youth members only.** Parents, Individual and Add-a-Grandparents may accompany youth or ski on their own without a separate sign up.
- **No guests or day passes are available**, we are a member only hill.
- [Trail conditions](#) are up-to-date. Open skiing and snowboarding hours are listed on the [website](#).

### **COVID safety:**

As a reminder, the Chalets will remain closed. Please change into your gear in your vehicle and plan to store all personal items there.

Please stay home if you are sick or quarantined or in isolation. Stay physically distant from anyone outside your immediate family (including in the tow line). Wear a mask where physical distancing cannot be maintained. Avoid gatherings when possible. You can take the [self health assessment](#) and review the club's Covid-19 Precautions at <https://blackhawkskiclub.org/>

### **Thank you!**

To all our members who volunteer their time, ingenuity, and care to keep our club running. A special thank you to Kurt Stein, our club manager, who has worked tirelessly to overcome obstacles and get us onto the snow! And to Jeremy Witek who stayed on past the trail build to help with welding and numerous other skid-steer tasks during November. We appreciate all that you do and look forward to a safe, fun season ahead.

Board of Directors