

## January 2021 Blackhawk Newsletter



Our January Spotlight, Alice House, leading out the pack. See full article below!

### **West Chalet Donor Recognition**

While we are not able to enjoy it this winter, the West Chalet at Blackhawk Ski Club is complete and a favorite part of the experience at Blackhawk. The chalet is used frequently throughout all seasons and would not have been possible without many generous donations from many of our members. While it's long overdue, we wanted to let you know we are working on a recognition wall for everyone who donated at the \$250 level and above to the West Chalet Campaign. If you donated to the campaign but haven't received an email from us, please email us at [board@blackhawkskiclub.org](mailto:board@blackhawkskiclub.org).

### **Hugh Jas Fat Bike Series 2021**

The series continues this year in a new format. Check out all the details <https://hughjass.bike/#home-race>.

### **Blackhawk Hosts USBA Regional Biathlon**

A huge thank you to Mark Torresani and all who helped make possible the first regional biathlon race to be held at Blackhawk! This competition spanned 2 days and had over 50 participants from middle school through veterans skiing and shooting over various distances. A biathlon combines the disciplines of Nordic skiing and target shooting where the more targets you hit, the shorter your race! Each miss requires racers to complete a 100meter penalty loop before continuing on the course. Shooting technique is both prone (laying on the ground) and standing. The challenge is to ski fast and shoot straight – not easy when your heart is racing! The next race at Blackhawk is March 7 which includes a novice race. Interested in learning more? Contact [biathlon@blackhawkskiclub.org](mailto:biathlon@blackhawkskiclub.org).

## **Volunteering at Blackhawk – it isn't all about making snow!**

New to Blackhawk and want to get involved? Been at Blackhawk for years and ready to get more involved? This spring we are seeking several members to serve on administrative committees that have short term tasks. Committees include at least one board member who communicates activity to the board monthly. Most work can be completed remotely, so if you aren't able to get to Blackhawk, many of these positions will still work for you. Please contact us at [board@blackhawkskiclub.org](mailto:board@blackhawkskiclub.org) to hear more about the committees and how to get started.

**Board Members:** This spring we are seeking two people to serve on our 12-person Board of Directors each for a 3-year term. Our outgoing Board Members served or chaired the Communications Committee and the Web Design Committee. If you have interest in either of these areas and are considering a Board position, this may be your opportunity to volunteer in a new capacity at the club.

**Capital Campaign Committee:** We are looking for solutions to our limited water supply for snowmaking. Ever wonder why the snow guns aren't on while the temps seem just right? Our snowmaking is limited by the amount of water in our pond. It takes time to refill the pond (it is spring fed). While considering all options, our long-term solution is a high capacity well which requires a substantial financial commitment. This committee will design a capital campaign to raise funds for the well to keep our skiing possible.

**Communications Committee:** This committee develops newsletters, works with signage, keeps an eye on our social media outlets, helps with registration communication and much more! While this is a standing committee, many of its projects are short term.

**Web Design Committee:** There are a number of ways we could improve our website and this spring/summer is the time to tackle them. This committee is a new sub-committee of Communications with the short-term goal of updating the website by August 2021.

**Membership Committee:** The short-term goal of the committee is to implement a membership check system for Blackhawk by the use of cards, vehicle stickers, member checks or a combination of these.

**Mountain Bike Trails:** Find out about short term needs and long term trail maintenance opportunities. Contact [pat.remington@blackhawkskiclub.org](mailto:pat.remington@blackhawkskiclub.org).

Other opportunities to serve in non-committee roles include joining the gardening group, mowing and summer maintenance projects. Email [kurt.stein@blackhawkskiclub.org](mailto:kurt.stein@blackhawkskiclub.org) for more information.

## **Trail Notices**

Walking at Blackhawk during the winter is discouraged because almost all of our property is dedicated to groomed trails – alpine skiing and boarding, Nordic skiing and winter fat bike riding. The grooming process is time intensive. Our weather is tenuous.

When we get warmer weather, any foot print or dirt that is brought onto the groomed trails (of any kind) create impressions that melt quickly. This means the trail is damaged with every foot print. **Please do not walk on groomed trails of any kind if at all possible.** Snowshoeing is available on bike trails (and welcomed – it actually helps the grooming process for winter fat bike trails!). Walking on roads with caution is okay, as is up/down switchbacks. You may also walk along the far west side of the property either through the woods (there is a trail there that goes north/south, not the bike trail) or between the woods and the Nordic ski trail next to the woods. This does not allow for a walking loop at this time, but you can walk down and back up. **Please keep pets leashed and on roads/parking areas only during the winter.**

### Forum Discussions

**We do have a forums page where you can post questions, swap gear, etc. Check out the Forums section on our website. You can find it under [Notices](#).**

### Blackhawk Member Spotlight: Alice House



Alice House is the reason the House family came to the sport of cross-country skiing. She was 8 when she put on her first pair of skis and hasn't really taken them off since (yes, the ski team skis during the summer, on wheels!). On the Blackhawk Nordic Ski Team, she earned the team's Most Valuable Female Skier award four straight seasons

(2017-2020). Her positive attitude is infectious and she led the team not only in skiing, but in keeping spirits high, even when temperatures and energy dipped low. She not only skied at BH during the winters, but made our club her primary off season training ground, running up hill 6 more times than most go down. While the pandemic was just taking hold of our lives, Alice was skiing fast through early 2020. As a member of the 2019-20 Great Lakes Region Junior National Team, House placed 13th in the classic and recorded the second-fastest sprint qualifying time among U20 women's skiers. She took second place in the Wisconsin Nordic Ski League state championships and ranked fourth in the Great Lakes Region U20 division. Alice, a member of the 2018-19 Midwest Region Junior National Team, placed 17th in the 5K skate and 21st in the 10K classic at that season's Junior Nationals in Alaska. She also served as captain of the cross-country running team at James Madison Memorial High School. Now Alice is on the University of New Hampshire Nordic Ski team. During her break from college in December and early January, Alice came back to Blackhawk to coach the middle and high school teams. We are excited to see where her college skiing career will take her but even more proud of the person she has become and that our ski club was a part of that!

