

March 2021 Newsletter

And just as soon as it began, winter is over. A huge THANK YOU to everyone who made this season possible: our Club Manager, Kurt Stein, for snowmaking, grooming and all the logistics involved; our Ski Patrol, for keeping us safe on the slopes; our instructors and coaches across all of our programs for teaching our kids a life-long love of outdoor winter sports; our many volunteers across all programs (especially SNOWMAKERS!) and to all of you, for joining Blackhawk during this challenging year and trusting us to make it a safe, enjoyable experience for everyone! We look forward to re-capping the season with you all at our annual meeting on April 19 at 7:00pm! Stay tuned for link and directions.

--Blackhawk Board of Directors

Congratulations, Estella Hassrick, for your performance at Junior Nationals!



3rd - U16 Women

2nd - Women's Team Comp

4th - Women's Team Sprint (2 person team - each does three 1.5k sprints)

Ski Jumping Season Re-Cap

The ski jumping season was a great success this winter. We had well over 50 kids enrolled in either our Intro to Ski Jumping classes and our Blackhawk Team Ski Jumping program. Kids enjoyed practicing on our brand new 8 and 18 meter jumps as well as our 30 meter jump. Jumpers used the skills they learned in class to compete at Blackhawk's 78th annual ski jumping tournament. We had 77 jumpers competing on our three jumps from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois and Michigan. Congratulations to all the Blackhawk jumpers who earned medals.

The season officially came to an end last weekend where Estella Hassrick competed at Junior Nationals in Steamboat Springs Colorado. Estella received a bronze medal in the U16 individual competition and silver in the team jumping competition. Congratulations Estella!

Spring Ski Jumping registration open now! Dryland, Intro to Ski Jumping and Summer Ski Jumping Team begin soon. Click on the link for more info and to register. <https://blackhawkskiclub.org/programs/ski-jumping>

--Christine Gessner, Ski Jumping Program Director

More Winter Season Recaps Coming in April!

Summer Memberships open April 1

Blackhawk Ski Club has a long history of program development beginning with ski jumping in the 1940's and most recently the growth of mountain biking in the past 25 years. Membership fees of all levels are our main funding resource and they are used to help all sports at the Club develop and maintain trails and equipment, support youth programming, and cover the costs of land management for winter and summer sports on a planet experiencing a changing climate. In 2019, we increased fees for Limited and Unlimited memberships.

This year our summer membership fees will be increasing. This is due in part to the overall increase in costs to maintain trails across the club. Heavy rains are as damaging to bike trails as are low-snow years to jumping, alpine skiing, and cross-country skiing. Our new fee structure also makes our membership levels more equitable with each other.

Our new summer fees are \$90/family and \$45/individual. We continue to offer a \$25 Student Summer Membership. At the same time, we do not want membership or program costs to prevent anyone from participating due to financial hardship. Therefore, scholarships can be requested during the registration process.

--Blackhawk Board of Directors

Vehicle Tags Coming Summer 2021

Vehicle tags will be required to park on Blackhawk property beginning Summer 2021. Members may pick up their tags at Blackhawk (watch your email for date/times) or they may be mailed to you by sending us a self-addressed stamped envelope to PO Box 628094, Middleton, WI 53562. Information on obtaining and displaying a tag will be included in your membership confirmation.

--Membership Committee

Mountain Biking update

We are waiting anxiously for the trails to dry up and be ready to ride. Please be patient and wait for an update or check www.madcitydirt.com for trail conditions.

Summer programs update:

- Youth Lessons: We're planning our 9th season with two sessions in the summer of 2021. See: <https://www.blackhawkskiclub.org/programs/youth-mountain-bike-lessons> for more information
- Race Team: The NICA race team will continue in the summer of 2021, under the leadership of Dirk Horne. More details to follow at: <https://www.blackhawkskiclub.org/programs/mountain-bike-race-team>
- Ninja Camps: We're planning our third annual partnership with Ninja and offering three summer bike camps in June and August, and October. More details to follow.
- Trail Building and Maintenance: We are planning to maintain and improve our existing trails, through a contract with Jeremy Witek and help from volunteers.

New this Summer: Become a Bike Ambassador!

What is a "Bike Ambassador?" A Bike Ambassador is someone who comes to the Club at a regular time each week, to interact with members, answer questions, promote safe riding, and simply be the face of the club. We are looking to

recruit 25-30 Ambassadors this summer for this pilot program. More information coming soon, but if you're interested in becoming an ambassador, please contact Pat Remington (plremington@gmail.com).

--Patrick Remington, Mountain Bike Trails Program Director

Birkie at Blackhawk and Beyond!

Many of our members completed a Birkie, Korte, Prince Haaken or Barne this year right here in Madison! Top place finishers include Danny Sonnenntag (1st on Friday's classic Birkie race) and Dietrich Mattison (6th place in Saturday's Kortelopet skate race). Congratulations to all the finishers, wherever they skied and thanks to our snowmakers and groomers at Blackhawk for giving us such a great place to train!



R-L: Coach Alyssa with her husband (Birkie Classic at Blue Mound) and daughter (Unofficial Barne at BH); Audie and Mark Berggren (Kortelopet at OO) and Am Grunewald-Mattison, Ryan Mattison and Rob Grunewald on the Birkie Classic Trail.

--Amy Grunewald-Mattison, Nordic Kids Program Director