



Fernie Nordic Society News



March 2024 News

The 2023/2024 ski season is coming to an end, but there are still plenty of events and skiing left in March. The warm weather has again forced the closure of the Golf Course trails and they will not be reopening now. The trails at the Elk Valley Nordic Centre are still groomed regularly, but they are soft in the afternoon. Mike DeJong explains that grooming remains a challenge with the variable snow and weather conditions, but says the crew is busy making sure the trails are in good shape for the upcoming Flying Viking Challenge.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events.

SDP Make up lessons

- Tuesday, March 19 at 4:30 p.m.
- Thursday, March 21 at 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday, March 23 at 10:30 a.m. **10 a.m. for Track Attack*

Full Moon Ski

The next full moon is on March 24 and March 25

Flying Viking Challenge

March 24 at the Elk Valley Nordic Centre

Community Fun race a great success



The Fernie Nordic Society held its 10th Annual Community Fun Races at the Nordic Centre on Saturday February 24. Forty-five skiers hit the trails with spectators and volunteers cheering them on.

Along with the races, volunteers had set up a playground area near the warming hut to offer fun challenges to younger skiers. Older skiers, teens, and adults chose either the 3 km or 7.5 km course to ski or race with their friends. The staging area was busy with skiers, spectators and volunteers enjoying some hot chocolate, crepes, and other goodies. Cookie medals and prizes were awarded to the participants.

The Fernie Nordic Society thanks everyone involved in the event. We also thank our sponsors who provided prizes and supplies. Our sponsors included: Le Bon Pain, Island Lake Lodge, Fernie Brewing Company, Mugshots, Fernie Starbucks, Giv'Er Shirt Works, Vogue Theatre, City of Fernie and Fernie Chiropractic Inc. We also want to thank Alex with Fernie Wilderness Adventures for taking all the photos and to the Fernie Nordic Racers for hosting the SDP Ski Playground.

Athletes invited to international competition



What a season for the Fernie cross-country ski race team! Young and old alike showed great determination, perseverance, and team spirit in the various regional and provincial races they took part in this year which included Kootenay Cups, BC Winter Games, AB Cups, BC Cups and BC Champs.

Following the season's three BC Cup weekends (six races in total), held in Prince George, Whistler and Salmon Arm, Ella Fuller, U16 girls (2009), placed second in the province, Louison Dubief finished first in U18 girls and Wes Robinson-Shaw, first in the U20 men's category. Following this final weekend of provincial racing in Salmon Arm, Louison and Wes have been invited to B-Tour: International Spring Series at Jackson Hole, Wyoming and Sun Valley, Idaho, in early April. At this event, they will be competing for the first time against athletes from other

countries including Europe and North America.

"I'm super excited to get the opportunity to go on a ski trip with other athletes from BC, happy to race with new competitors from North America and Europe and get to see how races go in the US. I am excited to see if the competition is different and get to race in new places. I am looking forward to this trip," said Louison Dubief.

Wes Shaw is also excited about the event and said, "I'm happy and excited to go, I'm looking forward to race in another country and in bigger races!"

Coach Johnny added, "I am happy and proud to have two athletes getting the opportunity to go on this ski trip and get to race at a higher level."

In the meantime, Ella, Louison and Wes are currently in Nakkertok, Gatineau, Quebec, for the Canadian National Cross-Country Ski Championships. So, the season isn't over yet for these three Fernie athletes, and we wish them every success and enjoyment in the various races that lie ahead. You can check results at <https://zone4.ca/event/2024/plkLW8/>.

If you would like to contribute to the B-Tour event in Jackson Hole and Sun Valley to support our two young athletes Louison Dubief and Wes Robinson-Shaw to this great opportunity, you can donate to Fernie Nordic Society, specifying "B-Tour Jackson Hole/Sun Valley". Donations can be made via e-transfer to info@fernienordic.com.

Alice Dubief

Skill Development Program Wraps Up

It's been an incredible season with all kinds of weather, from frigid cold temps to tropical rain and these kids, their families and our coaches have braved it all.

We will be offering the following make-up lessons:

- Tuesday, March 19 at 4:30 p.m.
- Thursday, March 21 at 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday, March 23 at 10:30 a.m. **10 a.m. for Track Attack**



Lastly, we encourage all our SDP kids and families to join us on Sunday, March 24th at the Elk Valley Nordic Centre for our Flying Viking Challenge event which will offer a Ski Playground hosted by the Fernie Nordic Racers. We hope to see you all there to wrap up another awesome season of lessons with our great coaches.

Thank you to everyone for an awesome 2024 season.

Alisha Rella

The Fernie Nordic Society presents:

THE FERNIE FLYING VIKING (AND MINI-VIKINGS TOO) CHALLENGE

Sunday March 24, 2024



**OUR UNIQUE RACE
CONNECTS TWO NORDIC
SKI AREAS BY A CHAIR LIFT**

PRIZES FOR BEST COSTUME
SKATE OR CLASSIC - 25 KM OR 50 KM
MINI CHALLENGE FOR SMALL VIKINGS

STARTS AT THE ELK VALLEY NORDIC CENTRE
\$25 members / \$40 non-members (includes chair lift ticket)
Free: mini challenge (16 and under), no chair lift
www.fernienordic.com/vikingchallenge



Join us March 24 for a community favourite, the Fernie Flying Viking (and Mini-Vikings too) Challenge. New this year will be a Ski Playground for our Skills Development Program participants and families. The playground is being hosted by our very own Fernie Nordic Racers to wrap up another great season. Wearing a costume is encouraged as it adds to the fun. All details can be found on our website at <https://www.fernienordic.com/vikingchallenge/>.

Our volunteers made the Community Fun Race event a huge success. If you'd like to volunteer for this race, please click on the Sign Up Button





Fundraiser for ski equipment

A big part of offering Nordic ski lessons to children and youth in our community includes access to gear. Our main objective is to offer a program that is accessible for all young families by keeping costs low.

One way the Fernie Nordic Society is able to follow through on this initiative is to offer ski rentals at a reduced fee for our Skill Development Program (SDP) participants. Our current rental fleet is about 10 years old and is starting to show its age. Ski technology has changed over the last 10 years transitioning from fish scales to skin skis.

We'd love to not only update our fleet to keep rentals available for our programming, getting more kids on skis, but also update our ski technology as well; including the addition of skate skis, which will help kids progress through the various skill levels and styles of Nordic skiing offered. As we transition to a newer fleet of skis, we will offer our current equipment for low to no cost to the community so that we can increase access to equipment for kids outside of our core programs.



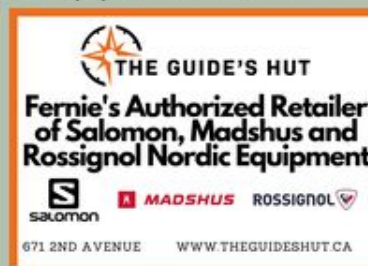
The future of Nordic skiing starts with the next generation. Please consider paying it forward to future years by donating to support the purchase of new Nordic equipment packages.

[➤ Donate](#) A tax receipt will be issued for your donation.

Nordic Equipment donated by local business

The Guide's Hut has donated about \$3,000 worth of junior Nordic ski equipment to the Fernie Nordic Society's children and youth programming rental fleet. During February, the Guide's Hut donated a portion of all Nordic sales to the junior ski program and then topped their initial \$2,100 donation with another \$700 donation.

The Fernie Nordic Society is thankful for the Guide's Hut generosity and encourages the community to visit the store to check out their extensive inventory. The team there can usually have skis set up and ready to go on the same day.





If you haven't got your stickers yet, you can pick them up at the Nordic Centre Hut from a hut Ambassador when they are on duty. Ambassadors will be on duty 1 pm - 4 pm every Friday and from 10 am - 4pm on Saturday and Sunday.

If you have not renewed your 2023-2024 club membership, now is the time. Visit our registration page at <https://zone4.ca/register.asp?id=32471>

The current club membership stands at 907 members.

Laurie Beml
Membership Director



Members enjoy a 10% discount on all Nordic equipment when they show their membership card.



Mugshots Bistro
Members enjoy 25% off any drink when you buy something to eat.



Members enjoy 10% off any purchase when they show their membership card.