



# RESPECT THE GRIND

*Building champions for life through ski racing*

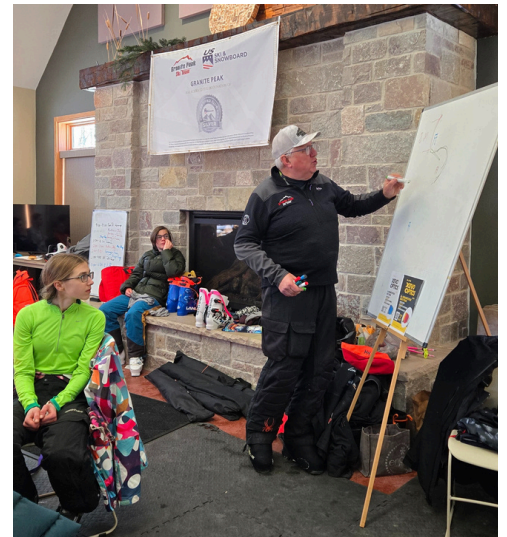
December 2025 | Edition 28



## KICKING OFF THE SEASON!

The past month brought fall camp in Colorado, two successful camps, return to regular practices, and a kickoff party to set the tone for the season!

Fifty-two athletes attended the Thanksgiving camp, despite the challenges Mother Nature handed us with limited terrain. While Exhibition wasn't available, Sundance provided a good surface to focus on drills and getting back into the correct movements.



The hill looked much different for our GS camp last weekend! Granite Peak made a ton of progress with snowmaking and Exhibition is in great shape! With sub-zero temps, all seventy-six athletes showed grit and determination as we spent three days focusing on mechanics, timing, and achieving an optimal line.

During our Kickoff Party, we enjoyed spending time together, announced our "A Team," and handed out the awards athletes earned at the end of last season.

This week, our FIS athletes are traveling to Searchmont, Ontario, to compete in the first FIS race of the season, and several travel team athletes will be competing at Sunburst this weekend. Good luck to them all!



# VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE TEAM RUN

*It's important that ALL families find a way to help this season!*

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## **SATURDAY MEAL SIGN UP**

Our home, travel, and FIS athletes appreciate having a warm meal in the Performance Center (PC) on Saturdays. Please consider signing up to bring a main course and/or dessert/drinks. There are appx 40 athletes on Saturdays.

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## **PC CLEANING DONATIONS & SIGN UP**

Our Performance Center is our home base – and it's important to keep it clean during the season! We need families to sign up for a shift to clean. Duties include sweeping and vacuuming floors, wiping tables, clearing counters, cleaning & restocking bathrooms.

*\*We also appreciate donations of cleaning supplies to use in the PC!*

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## **RACE DAY VOLUNTEERING**

Races require a significant number of volunteers. We appreciate volunteers at our home races, but it is especially important to sign up to volunteer when traveling for races. ALL families are expected to volunteer for at least one shift when traveling to a race.

There are many types of volunteer needs. Some require training/knowledge ahead of time, but many do not. Reach out to Michael Bautsch or Travis Marti with questions on volunteer responsibilities. They're happy to explain the roles & provide training.

- Hand timer (top & bottom)
  - Office/Registration help
  - Bib collector
  - Gate judge
  - Course crew
  - Starter
  - Assistant starter
  - Announcer
  - Start/Finish Ref
- 

## **VENUE VOLUNTEER NEEDS**

We need help with B-netting from time to time. Thank you to everyone who helped get it ready this winter. We'll likely need to do some maintenance during the season, and we'll need a lot of help tearing down at the end of the season. It's not difficult and can use all available hands.



# BUILDING CHAMPIONS FOR LIFE!

## *Alumni Spotlight: Jack Eder*

### ■ What years were you active with GPST?

I was a member of GPST in 2009 when I started to fall in love with ski racing at 9 years old. I began traveling to Michigan to train with Ron & RJ in 2012 when they were part of Team Norway. After several years, Ron and RJ ended up becoming coaches for GPST, so I rejoined and remained a member through graduation in 2018. Through Ron, RJ, and GPST, I've had the opportunity to compete in countless USSA & FIS level events on a national stage through the years. It's exciting to see how much GPST has grown and developed in the past 10 years with numerous training and racing opportunities athletes have across the country.

### ■ Did you ski race/compete after GPST?

While I continue my passion for skiing, I unfortunately did not race after my time with GPST. This is a large regret that I have and would have liked to pursue racing at the University of Wisconsin. However, I plan to become involved in coaching and the ski racing community again once my schooling is done and I return to Wausau.

### ■ Where are you now?

I graduated from UW-Madison in 2022 with my Bachelors of Science in Nursing. After that, I worked in Madison at the UW Hospital in the Cardiac Surgical ICU for 3 years where I gained experience in the critical care environment. Right now, I'm earning my DNAP (Doctorate of Nurse Anesthesia Practice) in South Dakota at Mount Marty University. Becoming a CRNA has been a dream of mine since high school, and something I'm thoroughly enjoying pursuing as I learn the art of anesthesia and pain management. Once I graduate in May of 2028, I plan to return to central Wisconsin to begin my practice as a CRNA where I can provide anesthesia for the greater Wausau area.



### ARE YOU AN ALUMNI?

*We'd love to hear where you are now!*

Reach out to [info@gpst.org](mailto:info@gpst.org). We'll feature you in a future newsletter!

# BUILDING CHAMPIONS FOR LIFE! cont...

## ■ What is your favorite memory from your time with GPST?

There's not just one memory that sticks out in my mind as a "favorite." The countless memories that I have with other athletes and coaches during the early mornings, cross country caravans, and cold training sessions conglomerate to form an experience that I look back on fondly. I was lucky enough to compete in the sport I love with some of my closest friends and created relationships that last a lifetime.

## ■ What lessons or habits from ski racing stuck with you in your adult life?

Ski racing required me to develop an understanding of delayed gratification and how to handle setbacks. It taught me how to push through barriers, and how to navigate uncomfortable situations. The most important lesson I was taught was one of integrity when I disqualified myself from the Wisconsin High School State Championship,



ultimately forgoing an overall state title. Skiing required me to spend an enormous amount of time missing school to attend races; this forced me to become an effective communicator with teachers while also showing me how to manage my time efficiently. All of these lessons and life skills have translated directly into each aspect of my life, allowing me to succeed despite the challenges I've faced.

## ■ What's your favorite place you've ever skied?

I've been lucky enough to ski in many different parts of the country. One place that stands out to me was Steamboat Springs for the U-16 Rocky Central Championships. This was an incredible venue to race at, but also supplied us with a significant amount of "champagne powder" the week we were racing, leading to some of the best freeskiing I've experienced.

## ■ Who was your favorite teammate, coach, or training partner?

Sheridan Westphal was the athlete I trained and raced with the most for nearly 10 years. I've spent so many days competing, training, traveling, and pursuing racing with Sheridan, all of which I enjoyed. Ron Lawrence was also at the cornerstone of my racing career as he was someone I trained with and looked to for guidance since I was 10 years old. While his expansive knowledge in the sport of ski racing was key to my success as an athlete, the life lessons and character traits he instilled in me have led to my success as a person.

# BUILDING CHAMPIONS FOR LIFE! cont...

## ■ Our motto is "Building champions for life through ski racing." What does that mean to you?

I recall hearing this motto as an athlete and not grasping the significance of it. As I've grown and look back, I can see how true this is. Ski racing was a sport I devoted much of my life to, both in and out of season, for more than 10 years. It developed the strong work ethic I have today through the challenges it forced me to overcome. The attributes athletes must develop to be successful in ski racing directly parallel those that are required to succeed in life.

## ■ What advice would you give to current athletes?

I could ramble for hours about advice for current GPST athletes, but to keep this concise, I would say embrace the process. We chose an incredibly difficult sport where we willingly freeze in spandex suits, but please remember to enjoy the friends and experiences that you're making. Also, take time to thank your parents and those who are facilitating your racing. The sport requires such a large commitment from everyone involved and wouldn't be possible without parents and coaches. Racing fast is important, but the journey along the way is invaluable and one that should be cherished. Work hard, but remember to laugh and have fun, as that's the whole point!



## SPECIAL LODGING RATE

The Comfort Inn & Suites Weston is offering a special rate of \$89/night (+tax) for athletes & families attending GPST events and training.

Reservations: [Book online](#) or call the hotel (715-355-9955) and ask for the Granite Peak Ski Team special rate.

## KWIK TRIP CARDS



We love Kwik Trip! The funds we raise through these sales really add up! If you buy gas, groceries, or wash your car, order cards today! [ORDER HERE.](#)

## GPST APPAREL STORE!

Stock up on GPST gear now available in our team store!

- Hats
- T-Shirts/Polos
- Jackets/Vests
- Joggers/Sweatpants
- and more!



Thank you to Fully Promoted of Wausau for their sponsorship! ❤️

[SHOP HERE!](#)



## Positive feedback received ❤️



Michael/Ron/Granite Peak operations,

On behalf of the Four Lakes Ski Team, I want to extend a sincere thank-you to you and the entire Granite Peak crew for your hospitality and support this weekend.

Everything – from the lane coordination to lift tickets – ran smoothly thanks to your team’s organization and communication. We truly appreciate the extra effort that went into helping us plan and execute a seamless race camp.

Our racers came away with new skills and confidence, and our coaches benefited greatly from the chance to work alongside Ron Lawrence and his coaching staff. It was an excellent early-season experience for everyone involved.

Please pass along our gratitude to the rest of the Granite Peak staff – we look forward to training together again in the future.

Jay Benton  
Four Lakes Ski Team

## B-NET SUCCESS!

Thank you to everyone who helped deploy, extract, and RE-deploy the arena with b-net. We had team athletes, parents, board members, high school coaches, high school athletes, adult league athletes, and more! The b-netting benefits EVERYONE who races down Exhibition. It truly is a village-effort. ❤️

If you have never been part of the process, please consider helping next time. We can train easily. The more hands, the quicker we can get it done!



ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT:

# DELILAH KING

- U12 -



## 1. WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SKI RUN AT GP?

Exhibition!

## 2. WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PLACE YOU'VE EVER SKIED? WHAT IS ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?

Lutsen is my favorite. Vail is on my bucket list.

## 3. WHAT GOAL ARE YOU WORKING ON THIS SEASON?

To get faster!

## 4. WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU'VE EVER GOTTEN FROM A COACH OR ATHLETE?

Keep your legs and skis close together.

## 5. WHEN YOU AREN'T SKIING, WHAT OTHER SPORT/HOBBY DO YOU LOVE?

Swimming!

## 6. WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE GOALS (SKIING OR OTHERWISE)?

To get second place in a race this year.  
And to become an Olympic skier!



*Kathryn and Sarah Floyd*

## ABOVE THE LINE SHOUTOUT

Kathryn & her mom (Sarah) consistently go above and beyond to support the team! ❤️

Kathryn is notorious for ending the weekend by staying around after other athletes leave the Performance Center to straighten up chairs, sweep floors, and make sure our space is kept neat and clean. (Parents: PLEASE remind your athletes to clean up their area before they leave the PC!).

Sarah Floyd has always been a fantastic resource for GPST. She's there to help in any way needed. She recently spent her weekend getting everything ready for the Development program to begin - putting together teams and organizing bibs to hand out at their first practice. She has taken on administrative duties for the whole Development program and we appreciate her!

# REMINDER: NON-PROFIT STATUS MEANS TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR YOUR BUSINESS!



**DID YOU KNOW?**

Granite Peak Ski Team is a not-for-profit organization 501c.3.

Your donations are tax deductible!

GPST is a not-for-profit organization 501c.3. Our funding comes from athlete tuition, corporate sponsors, donations, and grants. Because we are a non-profit, your donations are tax deductible! 👍

With the aid of businesses and individuals who share our passion for “Building Champions in Life through Ski Racing,” we are able to continue in our mission, working with more than 100 area youth.

For more info about a donation (or sponsorship), email [info@gpst.org](mailto:info@gpst.org). Thanks for your support! ❤️

## MIDWEST MASTERS @ GRANITE PEAK

Registration is OPEN for Region 2 Championships at Granite Peak!

- Friday, Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>: Two SG races
- Saturday, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>: Two SL races
- Sunday, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>: Two GS races

Banquet and HQ location: [Fairfield by Marriott](#).

- Room blocks: Jan 8 – Jan 11, 2026
- 1 King bed: \$119/night (+ tax)
- 2 Queen beds: \$150/night (+ tax)
- Room block available until Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>
- To book: call 715-241-8400 or [book online](#).



ALSO: Happy hour & SG awards will take place at the Velveteen Plum on Friday evening. Address: 1520 Elm St., Wausau

# SPONSOR SHOUTOUT *thank you!*

ENT & Allergy Associates is a Silver Sponsor of Granite Peak Ski Team. They are "North Central Wisconsin's most experienced and respected provider of ear, nose and throat, allergy/asthma, hearing and hearing aid services." They have been serving our communities for more than 55 years, and have been supporting GPST for several years as well.



As with all our sponsors, please consider patronizing local businesses who support our team!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 26-27 Granite Peak Flight School

Dec 27-30 Mont Ripley GS Camp/Race

Jan 7 Adult League begins!

Jan 9-11 Mid West Masters Race

Jan 31-Feb 1 Granite Peak GS Spectacular

Feb 13 Friday Night Duals

Mar 7 Badger State Games


Mar 8 Final Club Race/Cookout

Mar 28-29 Skills & Thrills Camp

## OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Photos and videos from this season will be shared via the **GPST Google Drive**. Check it out to find photos & videos of your racer! 👍





#GPST 2025/2026

# RACE SCHEDULE

Home Team Races @ GP		Racer Development Races	
Sun. 1/4	<b>Giant Slalom</b>	Sun. 1/4	<b>Giant Slalom</b>
Sun. 1/25	Giant Slalom	Sun. 1/25	<b>Giant Slalom</b>
Fri. 2/13	<b>Duals</b>	Fri. 2/13	Duals
Sun. 3/1	Giant Slalom	Sun. 3/1	<b>Giant Slalom</b>
Sat. 3/7	<b>Badger State</b>	Sat. 3/7	Badger State
Sun. 3/8	Final - Kombi	Sun. 3/8	<b>Final - Kombi</b>
3/14-3/15	<b>Brule Finale</b>		

*\*Bold races count toward the Granite Peak Cup*      *\*Bold races count toward the Racer Development Cup*

← December 2025 →

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
						6

## GPST CALENDAR

Our GPST calendar is online and includes upcoming events, times, and detailed practice plans so your athlete always knows what to expect!