



MT. WASHINGTON  
SKI CLUB

YOUR MWSC NEWSLETTER / FEBRUARY 2025

# MOUNTAIN MOMENTS

## LATEST NEWS

### Newsletter Highlights

Wow! So much has happened since the last newsletter!

In this edition:

- Race Recaps - U14, U16 and Club Race #1
- Sponsor Highlight - Quality Foods and OK Tire
- Athlete in Focus - Fia Graaten
- Important Banquet Information - [Save the Date of March 29th](#)

### U14 Teck Coast Zone Race Recap

The U14 Teck Coast Zone Race, hosted by the Mt. Washington Ski Club (MWSC) on January 18-19, 2025, was an incredible weekend of racing! With 131 athletes from six clubs—Grouse-Tyee, Whistler Mountain Ski Club, Cypress, Seymour, Hemlock, and MWSC—coming together, the energy on the hill was electric. Over two action-packed days, racers charged down the Whiskey Jack run in giant slalom (GS) and slalom (SL), delivering thrilling performances. Thanks to MWSC's dedicated

volunteers and the support of Mount Washington Alpine Resort, conditions were prime, making for a smooth, well-run event.

MWSC athletes shined on home turf! Della Childs dominated the podium, finishing 2nd in GS and 1st in SL, while Jasper Dingle earned a 3rd place podium spot in GS. Savannah LeFevre raced her way into the top ten in both GS and SL, and Calvin Winnett secured a top ten finish in GS. Congratulations to all MWSC athletes for a successful opening race of the season.

Beyond the competition, the weekend was about camaraderie and community, with families and friends cheering on the next generation of alpine racers. A huge thank you to all volunteers, coaches, and resort staff for making this event such a success! MWSC is already gearing up for more exciting races ahead, continuing to fuel the passion for ski racing in these talented young athletes.

Check out the full [Race Recap](#) published by BC Alpine.

## **U16 / U19 Apex Ski Race Recap: January 16–20, 2025**

Under cold, sunny skies and stunning conditions, our U16 & U19 athletes showcased their grit, determination, and skills during the Apex Teck Open last week! Coaches John Trimmer and Clinton Wood couldn't be more proud of the effort and progress demonstrated by every member of the team—what a way to kick off the season!

A massive shoutout to **Elizabeth Childs**! Elizabeth generously volunteered her time to chaperone the trip, driving back and forth with athletes and gear in the new MWSC pick-up truck, ensuring everything ran smoothly and that our athletes had the support they needed off the slopes. Elizabeth, your enthusiasm, dedication, and embodiment of the MWSC spirit of volunteerism inspire us all. You exemplify what makes our club so special—thank you!

### **Race Highlights from Apex:**

- Women's SL: Tessa Bell and Piper Graaten secured top 15 finishes, with Piper rising to 9th and Danica Williams placing 22nd on Friday.

ON Friday.

- Women's GS: Piper sparkled with a 5th place finish on Sunday, while Tessa and Danica secured spots in the top 20. Sofia Bertuccio, Sam Henneberry, and Hazel Schmidt displayed perseverance, strong skiing, and exceptional sportspersonship on the firm slopes that have earned the nickname "ScrapEx" for a reason—way to go!
- Men's GS: West Dingle consistently secured top 30s both days, while Martin Winnett claimed an impressive 11th place finish on Friday.
- Men's SL: Martin shone with a 13th place finish on Sunday, Mercer Benham held steady in the top 30 both days, and Charlie Yule and West also snagged top 30 finishes on Sunday. Solid performances all around!

The away events centre around a ski race, but they are so much more—they build character, resilience, and executive function (managing homework, tuning, meals, dishes, sleep...). These experiences also forge deep bonds between our athletes. The friendships formed will last long beyond the glow of a great race performance or the shadow of a tough day on the hill.

What's Next? Our U16 and U19 athletes are headed to Whistler in early February for a Speed (Super G) Camp as they prepare for their next race on February 20-23, also in Whistler. The energy and momentum are building—stay tuned for more news from the team!

BC Alpine Teck Open Race recap [here](#).

## Club Race #1 Race Recap



All club athletes (aged 6-16) had the opportunity to participate in our first club race of the year on Saturday February 1st. The event included a timed Kombi race, a dual slalom, speiss challenge and a timed skate race. Ask your child if they were able

to do 12 spieß exercises in a row, and check their time (using their bib number) on [live-timing.com](https://www.live-timing.com). Course set up and timing teams used this race as an opportunity to support new club members to learn the ropes and we are building robust teams in every area so that our club can successfully offer these kinds of events. Thanks to **Ryan Williams** who was the lead on the event and to all the volunteers and coaches who made the day a great success!

## Athlete in Focus



*Fia hard charging her first year in U14!*

Congratulations to this month's Athlete in Focus, **Fia Graaten!**

Fia was five years old when she joined the club which is no longer allowed but things were different back then during those bad snow years when the club had 30

members...

First-year U14 athlete Fia Graaten has been part of the Mt. Washington ski community since she was just two years old and officially joined the MWSC in 2017. What she enjoys most about being in the ski club are the friends she's made, the challenge of trying new things, and the exciting opportunities to travel to other ski mountains across B.C.

Looking ahead, Fia is eagerly anticipating the upcoming U14 Provincial Race, which will be held right here at our stunning mountain next Spring. In the meantime, she's been putting in the work, training hard each weekend, and is thrilled to have the extra support of her friends at Ski Tak Hut this season.

Off the slopes, Fia stays active during the off-season with soccer, volleyball, mountain biking, and multi-day hiking adventures. Fia, we love having you a part of the MWSC!

**SPONSORSHIP**

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## Thank You To All Our Sponsors!

We have another great list of sponsors this year, including many who are not club members. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with them as they contribute greatly to the success of the club. Please support them where you can; in many cases it's an easy switch for all club family members to change buying habits in order to support our sponsors. Full list here: <https://www.mwsc.ca/sponsors>

### Sponsor Highlight



*Proudly displaying the QF tent in the start area of the U14 Teck Coast Zone Race*

#### Quality Foods:

An Island Original!  
We'd like to thank **Quality Foods** for their Platinum sponsorship which makes our hot lunch program and

social run, and for the awesome race start tent!. QF's roots go back to 1982 in Qualicum Beach and today QF has 14 locations on the island to serve you.

QF has earned many regional, provincial and national Awards of Merit as an active member of the Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers. This is a testament to the team and entrepreneurial spirit which has been so important to our success to date.

Having introduced the first preferred shopper program in the Canadian grocery industry in 1991, to offering Western Canada's first full online shopping service in 1997, QF continues a tradition of putting our customers first. [www.qualityfoods.com](http://www.qualityfoods.com)

## New Sponsor Highlight



We'd like to thank a new sponsor: **OK Tire & Service** in Courtenay.

Chris and Kathy are local owners and have graciously offered to sponsor the club. OK Tire is more than tires, they are a one stop shop

for all your vehicle servicing needs. Please support them and let them know you are with the ski club and they'll be happy to assist you.

## CLUB SPOTLIGHT

### Save the Date for our Annual Banquet - Saturday March 29th

The Board and banquet organizing committee are working closely with Mount Washington Alpine Resort to plan our annual banquet. Please save the date! The banquet is key fundraising event for our club. We are hoping to raise matching funds for the \$27,000 Capital Project Grant that we received from the Province of BC through Community Gaming. We will be holding a silent auction at the event. We are asking all members to consider what they could donate to make the silent auction a big success (and a fun event for the kids!). Please email questions or information about what you can donate to **Tasha Page** at ([tasha.page@ymail.com](mailto:tasha.page@ymail.com)).

We are also looking for 2-3 more volunteers to help plan the event. There are opportunities for volunteers to create a photo slideshow, or plan activities for the kids. Please contact Tasha to get involved.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

All the season's events for each program are summarized [here](#).

### Highlights include:

**Feb 15 - 17:** Family Day Weekend (weekend off - no ski club this weekend)

**March 1:** Club Race #2

**March 21 - 22:** Nancy Greene Festival @ Sun Peaks

**March 29:** Save the Date! Club Banquet

**April 4 - 6:** Coast Zone Finals @ Mount Washington (U12-U19)

**April 12 - 13:** Last Weekend of Club Programs

**April 19 - 22:** Speed Camp @ Mount Washington (2nd year U10 - U19)



## DID YOU KNOW?

**Hot Lunch** - Hot tips! Our hot lunch program is regularly selling 40+ lunches a day, which is all fundraising revenue for the club. Did you know that you can order hot lunch for days that you may be on the mountain, but not registered for training? Adults are welcome to have hot lunch too! If you forget to order, it is possible to get lunch if supplies are available (we try to make extra), and then pay for 'an extra lunch' on another date. Try to remember to order by Monday for each weekend. Menu items are listed here: <https://www.mwsc.ca/hotlunch> **Kelsey Rix** ([kelseyrix@hotmail.com](mailto:kelseyrix@hotmail.com)) is our hot lunch coordinator and can be reached for questions volunteers and parents may have about hot lunch.



**Cabin Etiquette** - The club cabin is getting very heavy use Friday - Sunday. Please do your part to keep it clean, stocked and organized.

Friday athletes, it is your responsibility to ensure the cabin stays clean on Fridays. On the weekends we usually have a cabin monitor to help, but many hands make light work. Cleaning instructions and contact information for the Cabin Lead, **Nicole Martin**, are posted in the cabin should you see any issues that need to be attended to (such as low stock of toilet paper!). Thanks all for your help in maintaining our shared space.

## RECENT KUDOS

**Aaron Childs** has officially earned the title of Chief of BBQ. He donated, built and staffed a second BBQ and fed us for two socials in a row! Thank you Aaron!

Thanks so much to **Anastasia Scherders** who created our 24-25 coaches poster which is posted in the cabin at the entrance. Get to know your coach and our whole MWSC coaching team.

Our media exposure really took off last month as club member (and newsletter editor!) **Kristina Stowe** helped us connect with Pace Group Communications who circulated our press release about hosting the U14 Teck Coast Zone race. The release was picked up by several local news outlets and even included one early morning TV spot on Global BC. Thanks so much Kristina and Pace Group Communications!



## CONNECT WITH US

Find us on Facebook, Instagram or contact us directly.