

NYSSRA NORDIC NEWSLETTER



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NYSSRA CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021 WERE A HUGE SUCCESS

A big thank you to NYSEF, and ORDA and for hosting the [2021 NYSSRA Championship](#).

Modifications were made for the ongoing Pandemic. Racers got to test out the new World Cup Biathlon course, including up to 3 loops of the new Ladies 5K and Interloopen course. Times ranged from about 13 minutes to over 30 minutes to complete their 5K laps. Competitors ranging from U14 to M10 found themselves up to the challenge. Over 100 athletes skied each day- making this a very popular NYSSRA Championship.

Saturday was classical: For the Girls 7.5K State Championship race: Sophia Kelting won Gold, Grace Mattern took silver, and Zophia Stefankovik earned Bronze. Seniors and masters skied the same course: SLU athletes owned the podium with Steph Nichols skiing the day's fastest laps, and Jordan Schuster and Gabrielle Wangler taking Silver and Bronze.

The U16 race ran concurrently, and the 3 top spots went to: Catherine Anzellotti, Emilia Jordan and Bella Wissler.

For the boys the 10K State Championship race: Andrew Scanio, Braden Bellizi and Lucas Jenkin took gold, silver and Bronze. Senior and Masters skied the same course. Tim Cunningham and Charlie Reinhart of SLU took overall gold and silver.

RNR's Jason Hettenbaugh took overall bronze. The U16 podium looked very familiar with Andrew Scanio, Braden Bellizi, and Miles Mattern occupying the top 3 spots.

On Sunday: The technique was skate, and the course remained challenging, and the Girls skied consistently. Sophia Kelting won Gold, Grace Mattern took silver, and Zophia Stefankovik earned Bronze. The U16 race ran concurrently, and the 3 top spots went to: Catherine Anzellotti, Emilia Jordan and Bella Wissler. Andrew Scanio Adrian Hayden and Miles Mattern were the fastest Scholastic racers on the 7.5K skate course. Ayden Ripp took overall gold, ahead of Scanio and Hayden. The U16 competition podium was made up of: Scanio, Mattern, and Bellizi in that order.

Seniors and Masters skied a 15KM course. Paul Allison skied a blistering pace – stopping the clock at 41:19 ahead of Beckett Ledger and Matt Bellizzi. The women (and 1 fast JR) joined the Men on the 15K course. Heidi Underwood took the top spot, followed by Ann Brennan (U18), and Deb Nordyke.

These results were eventually tabulated (taking far longer that it took to ski the course) and the results are up for this seasons [NYSSRA Points Series](#).

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The Wilkinson Cup was won by Andrew Scanio (395), and Maddi Ralyea (384). This result comes from the best percent back score from Champs and their 2 best races. Their name swill be engraved on the NYSSRA Nordic Wilkinson Cup perpetual trophy.

The NYSSRA points series was won By Jessica Northan (567-overall) and the top Male was Eric Seyse with 479 (in a squeaker with Scott Brown, Jim Miller and Brian Northan. Normally some nice Swag would be handed out around the podium while season long rivals share a handshake and a hug- But this year doing so could be more dangerous than skiing this course backwards. So Prizes will be shipped out to the winners by mail.

The Top team this year Was GHN-ADK Vauhti. Solid skiing from a steady crew of racers was essential as always. Saratoga took silver- demonstrating a very strong points per skier ratio, and Peru Nordic took third. Once again the big race was for third place with only 6 points between Rochester and Peru. NYSEF and St Lawrence flexed their muscles this weekend. When they come out they do very well. Thank you all for being a part of this season. There will be some Spring series racing on the calendar shortly. Safely enjoy the snow while it lasts and join your club for some spring racing.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 6 - Saratoga Mini Marathon - Saratoga Biathlon Center
- March 6 - Lake Placid BKSL Day
- We are hoping for more races so lets get some on the schedule!!!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

NYSSRA CHAMPIONSHIPS RECAP	1
ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT	2
BIATHLON CHAMPIONSHIPS AND SEASON RECAP	3
LAKE PLACID BKSL DAY	4



Eric Hamilton: NYSSRA Nordic Secretary and an inspiration to all.

I often think about the sport of Nordic skiing and what draws us to it every winter.

One of my inspirations over the years has been Eric Hamilton. Eric has been a part of the skiing scene for as long as I can remember and is at almost every race that is contested each year.

In addition Eric donates countless hours to NYSSRA Nordic every year as the acting secretary for our organization.

Eric races in the Masters 10 class, for those of us who know the age groups, this is the 70-75 age group and at age 75, Eric shows no sign of wanting to exit the race scene.

On Saturday and Sunday I watched Eric ski the competition trails at Mt. Van Hovenberg and was amazed at his upbeat and never quit attitude. These trails are not easy for a world cup racer and almost all involved in the races remarked on how tough they were.

I have to share Eric's words with you from an email he sent to many of us involved with the race organization. I hope he doesn't mind but to

me this is what our NYSSRA Masters racing is all about. In Eric's words:

"I love that course, befitting a championship event. As you can see from the results it took me a while each day to finish. I could not always keep my skis under me, but they met the challenge. I didn't expect that I would get as warm on Saturday, and waxed too cold. The last time up the mountain on Sunday took every calorie and every fiber to get this bag of bones over the top, and to skate the little breaking hills coming down, but I did it!"

*Thank you **all** for a fantastic championship weekend! To the volunteers who organized and made sure the weekend happened among all the public health concerns. Thanks for the challenging ski orienteering course I used as a warmup on Saturday. Thanks for the respected, fellow ski coach who planted a seed by saying, "Eric, you'll love this course. You'll do fine." Thanks to the crew who re-imagined the five k women's loop and included all the little terrain changes that keep me*

on my limited technical skills and provide variety to the course.

Thanks for the volunteer ski patrol at the top of the reservoir on my second lap yesterday as two fast skiers passed me on the inside. He said something like, "Looking strong, all three of you!" And thanks to my fellow competitor moments later who said, "head up," as we approached the crest of the trail.

Thanks to the timing crew who waited patiently for the last finisher ...both days. Thanks for a rest day Monday. I might go for a nice neighborhood walk when it starts to snow. No hills! "

Well done Eric and all who raced the 2021 NYSSRA Championships!!!



THE NYS BIATHLON SEASON HAS BEEN HEATING UP!



Since the last update there have been four races in four separate venues across the state which included two BRAND NEW facilities! On the weekend of February 20 and 21 Syracuse Biathlon and Polar Bear Biathlon of Old Forge hosted the Syracuse/Polar Bear Challenge Weekend. Saturday's race was the inaugural race at Osceola Ski and Sport on the Tug Hill in Osceola presented by Syracuse Biathlon. What a great place to ski! For those of you who haven't ventured that far west, the new trails and brand new restaurant and bar are definitely worth the trip! The snow was fast and the racing was furious on Saturday with racers facing cold temperatures, steep hills, and bright morning sunshine. Doug Diehl of Saratoga Biathlon took the overall best time of the day with Brian Burr (SBC) and Gary Bracett (SBC) nipping at his heels. Caroline Martin and Dawson Dunn took top honors in the youth classes. Heading into day two Doug Diehl had a 1:13 lead for the Pursuit leg of the challenge at McAuley Mountain in Old Forge. Polar Bear Biathlon lived up to expectations by providing an excellent venue with pristine trails and FRIGID conditions (my car said -3 as I pulled

in...). Never-the-less excellent racing was to be had, and as hard as Brian and Gary chased, they couldn't make up the lead Doug Diehl had made on day one. Doug Diehl reigned supreme as the over-all two-day Syracuse/Polar Bear Biathlon Sprint Challenge champion!

Racing continued on February 27th and 28th with the christening of the new biathlon range at Mt. Van Hoevenberg and the NYS Biathlon Championships at Saratoga Biathlon. World Cup snow conditions and a state of the art range system greeted racers on Saturday, and everyone was excited to get on the new range and see how they fared. A "brisk and variable wind" (AKA Hurricane out of the North) made for a difficult shooting day. However, cagey veteran Duncan Douglas (NYSEF) managed to tame Old Man Winter and come out ahead with a 7 of 10 shooting score. He also outskied the competition to take the top overall men's place with Lina Farra taking the top Women's prize. Abigail Van Dorn (NYSEF) and Andrew Scanio (NYSEF) claimed the top step in the youth divisions.

The NYS Biathlon Championships took place Sunday with a uniquely COVID format. Because of the changing morning and afternoon temperature and snow conditions, while the race was the same format and distance, CO-champions were crowned for each class for 2021! In the morning race Duncan Douglas (NYSEF) set the fastest pace for the men while Bella Wissler (NYSEF) did the

same for the women. In the afternoon race Steve Halasz (SBC) eked out a win against Christian Otto (unattached) and Katrin Schreiner (SBC) took the top step for the women.

In this crazy COVID year, NYS Biathlon with the help of all the organizers, volunteers, athletes, and supporters has had a fantastic season! With some luck and continued favorable snowy conditions we'll be able to have one more race back at Osceola Ski and Sport in Osceola, NY on March 20th! If you haven't yet been to a biathlon, or are





Nyssra Nordic

NYSSRA-Nordic, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt public charity organization under the Internal Revenue Code. A contribution beyond membership fees paid is fully tax-deductible under Section 170 of the Code. NYSSRA-Nordic works in conjunction with state and national governing bodies to support the development of Nordic Skisport in New York State. NYSSRA currently supports programs and races for the Nordic disciplines of Biathlon, Cross Country Skiing and Ski Orienteering.

LAKE PLACID BKSL DAY MARCH 6TH

Welcome to the Lake Placid BKL day!

This year we will have a fun-focused race starting in the morning followed by a Ski-Orienteering event in the afternoon.

Our team has put together some great adventure skis for Sunday that can be done as a family and range from Easy to Advanced and can be done on groomed trails or in the backcountry.

As with all races and events this year we are under a strict Covid protocol. We ask that everyone wear a mask at all times and socially distance unless actively racing.

There will be no spectators allowed on course with the exception of a parent that needs to ski the lollipop race with their athlete.

We ask that all parents and coaches please register for free in order to fill out the Covid Prescreen and symptom check that will be sent out once registration is closed. This is all in an effort to keep everyone as safe as

possible during this event.

All athletes must complete the prescreen and symptom check in order to race.

Schedule:

10:00-Grades 7&8 4k Skate

10:30-Grades 5&6 3k Skate

11:00-Grades 3&4 2k Skate

11:30-Grades 1&2 1K Skate

