

Cross Country Yukon Newsletter November 2026

As the snow starts arriving, we are excited to be back on our cross country skis. We want to extend a huge thank you to all of our athletes and coaches for a wonderful start to the year with our dryland training programs. The annual Runathon, our Halloween event, and this year's grass skiing race hosted by Whitehorse Nordic were just a few of the fun highlights that shaped our transition into winter.

To officially kick off the season together, we invite you to join us on Saturday, December 5th at the Grey Mountain Room for the **Cross Country Yukon Ski Celebration!** This fundraising event features live music, delicious hors d'oeuvres, and an inspiring keynote address by Tracey Bilsky. The evening will also be a celebration as we induct former squad athletes and Olympians Dahria Beatty, Emily Nishikawa, and Knute Johnsgaard into the Yukon Sports Hall of Fame! Tickets are $50, and all proceeds directly support the Yukon's next generation of nordic ski racers. Space is limited, so secure your tickets on Eventbrite before they sell out!

Update on Early-Season Snowmaking

Many of our skiers might be wondering what the plan is for stadium snowmaking as we head into the early winter weeks. As we plan for long-term financial sustainability, we have made the decision to pause our early-season snowmaking program. While we wait for more natural snow to arrive, our coaching staff has designed alternative training plans to fully support athlete development.

Inside this Issue

Dive into the sections below to gain insights on valuable tools, resources, and training for our athletes, coaches, and community ski clubs across the territory. Plus, get a sneak peek at upcoming races and events you won't want to miss!

NORDIC PULSE APP!

Last winter, through a Tourism Yukon grant, we were able to partner with Nordic Pulse and Yukon ski clubs that have adopted this real-time app featuring grooming updates, weather, trail reports, and club news.

- Participating Yukon Clubs: Whitehorse Nordic Centre, St. Elias Ski Club, and the Dawson Ski Club.
- More clubs will be joining this winter!
- We encourage skiers to download the app to check trail conditions and stay informed before heading out on the trails this coming winter.

STAY UPDATED

https://crosscountryyukon.com

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Community & Athlete Resources





We are committed to supporting our ski community both on and off the snow. Check out these essential tools, community programs, and online hubs to set you up for success this winter.

- Improved **"Resources for Squad Skiers"** Webpage: Our CCY website has a newly updated section packed with tips and guides on equipment, clothing, training, waxing, race prep, and fundraising for travel—with nutrition and more topics coming soon! Have an idea for a new topic? Let us know!

- Upcoming **Coaching Courses** (November): CCY is hosting two all-day coaching courses this November that feature a valuable mix of indoor and outdoor learning. Reach out to Jen at ccyassistant@gmail.com with any questions.
  - Learn to Train (L2T) On-Snow Course: Saturday, November 21st.
  - Community Coaching Course: Sunday, November 22nd.

- New "**Wax Buddies"** Friday Sessions: Wanting to brush up on your ski waxing technique? Come down to the wax room on Fridays before practices or races from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM to chat with our designated Wax Buddies. An experienced volunteer will be hanging around to offer advice, guidance, and help you get your glide and kick working perfectly. Interested in volunteering as a Wax Buddy? Reach out to join the team! ccyeventsandtech@gmail.com

- Our Best Resource—Each Other: Our community's greatest asset is our experienced athletes and families. Don't hesitate to ask around on squad days for tips, tricks, and friendly advice from those who have been hitting the Yukon trails for years!



SQUAD FAMILY - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our program's greatest strength, other than our phenomenal coaches, is our family volunteers! Ideally, we would love to see one or more parents or guardians per family regularly involved as a coach, race official, or event volunteer. Most tasks require no prior experience. Jump in early to learn the ropes and become part of the next generation of squad family volunteers!

- Coaching & Practice Support: To explore coaching or volunteering directly during practices, connect with Jen at ccyassistant@gmail.com

- Race Officials: To volunteer as a race official, connect with our Race Committee at ccyeventsandtech@gmail.com

- General Race Volunteers: To get started helping out on race days, sign up directly at the Whitehorse Nordic Centre volunteer page.



2026-27 Cross Country Race Calendar



Get your race gear and calendars ready! Below is the compiled schedule for cross country events across the territory for the upcoming season. Please note that the race calendar on the CCY website is frequently updated and that most race dates have back up dates if the event gets cancelled due to cold weather.

Cross Country Yukon Events: The Yukon Championship will take place over two days this year! (Jan 30–31, 2027)

Whitehorse Nordic Ski Society Events: Boreal Cup races and marquee events feature the Chasing the Light Classic Sprints (Dec 12, 2026), Holiday Hero (Dec 23, 2026), Don Sumanik Memorial Race (Jan 9, 2027), Yukon Ski Marathon (Mar 13, 2027), and the Pierre Harvey Cup (Mar 17, 2027).

Community Events: The Marsh Lake Loppet (Mar 6, 2027) and the Buckwheat International Ski Classic (Mar 20, 2027).

On the Road to the Canada Winter Games & Beyond!
Our squad athletes have an action-packed winter ahead of them. In addition to local trials and events our blue squad athletes will be traveling to compete across Canada this season.

This year we are also thrilled to support our hard-working Yukon athletes as they train and prepare to represent Team Yukon on the national stage at the **2027 Canada Winter Games** in Quebec City, February 27 - March 5.

The dedication from our Yukon athletes inspires our entire ski community, and we are incredibly proud to support them on every step of this journey through their training and at their races!

On behalf of the CCY Board of Directors, we wish our community clubs, coaches and athletes all the best for the upcoming season. As we watch the snow accumulate, we can't wait to get back onto our skis and we look forward to seeing you all out on the trails!

FUNDRAISING

Support Our Athletes!
Cross Country Yukon Ski Celebration (Dec 5th, 6:30pm): Join us for our winter fundraiser at the Grey Mountain Room! Tickets are $50, with all proceeds directly supporting athlete development. Get your tickets on Eventbrite.

Yukon World Cup Fund Merchandise Collection



Help support high. performance athletes Sasha Masson and Sonjaa Schmidt as they represent the Yukon on the world stage! This year they are giving back to their Yukon ski community—40% of their profits will go toward Cross Country Yukon athlete development to support the next generation of Yukon skiers.
https://yukonworldcupfund.net/
or purchase directly at Whitehorse Nordic and Icycle Sports.

Green Squad Popcorn Fundraiser
Green Squad athletes have partnered with Klondike Kettle Corn to raise money for their upcoming out-of-territory race in Revelstoke, BC! If you are interested in purchasing a box ($50/box; includes a variety of 6 bags), please contact Jackie at ccysquadrep@gmail.com Deadline for orders is November 26th.