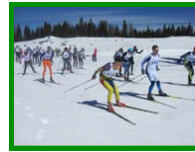


**DOG COMMENTS  
UPDATE  
PAGE 2**



**GMN LOPPET REPORT  
PAGE 3**



**MESA MELTDOWN  
RECAP  
PAGE 4**



**YOUTH PROGRAMS  
PAGE 6**



## Message from the President

### SO OTHERS MAY SKI...

BY DAVE KNUTSON

As we close out this fabulous season, I'm thinking of all the work that our volunteers and partners do so that "others may ski!"

Your Board Members are the first ones who come to mind. Each brings a special expertise as they dedicate their time behind the scenes. Our new treasurer, Terri Stright, puts in hours each week with payroll, reports, taxes, and the regulatory requirements for our 501(c)(3). Callie West sets a high bar for our Adult Programs, Lessons, and Tours. Tom Eia has over 25 years of service on our Board and is our stalwart race director! Winslow Robertson ensures that our trails are top-notch, and was key to the purchase of the new Pisten Bully. Christina Stark leads our kids' program, and, with



Finally, hats off to a key supporter at the Grand Valley Office of the USFS, Mike Brown. For over a decade, Mike (pictured below) has kept the facilities at our trailheads shoveled and stocked and has worked to widen the trails. Say hello when you see the USFS truck.



Annie Murphy's help, is moving Gliders and our Junior Race Team to the next levels.

Another volunteer deserves special recognition: Bob Major. Bob has been at every single Hut crew day for six seasons. He also has manned the race registration tables. What a trooper!

As I close out my three-year term, I want to thank all donors, businesses, sponsors, and volunteers. We couldn't pull it off without the solid backing of the Jean Thomas Lambert Foundation, REI, the Delta County Commissioners and others. Next season, Clint Roberts, one of our most popular instructors with extensive Nordic experience, will take the reigns as GMNC President.

I've found my service to be personally enriching and hope more members step up so that "others may ski." Thanks for a great season and dive in with us next winter!

CO HWY 65  
Resurfacing Project  
March 27th- mid-  
September, 2017.



[Read more here.](#)

SPECIAL THANKS  
to Delta County  
for continued support  
and a \$3000 grant in 2017  
for grooming and  
maintenance.

## USFS Dog Comments Update

**BY BILL EDWARDS**  
**DISTRICT RANGER, FOREST SERVICE**  
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forest  
Grand Valley Ranger District

On January 20<sup>th</sup>, the Forest Service posted signs at the primary Nordic trailheads on the Grand Mesa requesting public input about whether dogs should be allowed on all, some, or none of the Nordic Trails on the Grand Mesa.

Currently, dogs are allowed on all trails on the Grand Mesa National Forest year round. Dogs are required to be on a leash in developed recreation sites (including developed trailheads), and must be under control (this can be voice control) when on the trails. The purpose of the public input period was to help the Forest Service gauge the sentiment of the diverse users of Nordic trails on the Grand Mesa.



The public input period ended March 20<sup>th</sup>. To date, over 100 comments have been received. While the full spectrum of viewpoints was expressed regarding dogs on trail systems, the comments also resonated the passions that people feel for recreating on the National Forest, and public trail systems in particular.

We are reviewing the comments in detail, and I will decide whether a formal proposal to restrict dog use will be developed and evaluated through a public environmental analysis process.

# Grand Mesa Loppet Report

BY KYLE STONE

Five degrees was the temperature when Tom Ela and I arrived at the Skyway trailhead to begin setting up for the 3rd Annual GMN Loppet race and five degrees was the temperature when we headed home at 3:00 pm.

It was one of those days on the Grand Mesa that make all the others seem just a little warmer and brighter. We were a little spoiled this year with great weather and when winter returned a few days prior to race day, I knew it would be an epic race for those brave souls that ventured into the winter wonderland.



Our volunteers were Adam Byerly, Jeff Friedman, Charles Johnson, Jodi Peterson, Lori Stone, and of course, Tom Ela!

Collectively, we awarded over \$1000 in prizes from our sponsors, so please be sure to support them when the opportunity arises.

Thanks to everyone who supported and raced the 3rd Annual GMN Loppet and for helping generate funding to support our wonderful trail systems on the Grand Mesa!

For more information or questions, feel free to contact Kyle Stone (970) 488-0057 or email [kbstone13@me.com](mailto:kbstone13@me.com).

[Click here to view a photo gallery from the Loppet.](#)

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Grand Mesa Nordic Loppet - Sponsors!  
21K/42K Freestyle Nordic Ski Race

## MESA MELTDOWN RESULTS

BY TOM ELA

SKYWAY, MARCH 11, 2017

The 2016-2017 Grand Mesa Nordic Race Series wrapped up in glorious fashion with the sun-bathed Mesa Meltdown races. Thirty-three racers tackled the tough 20K course which had plenty of hills and a bonus kilometer. Everyone stayed on course this year and enjoyed Skyway's impeccable grooming and terrain.



**Meltdown racers launch from the start with eventual winner Zach Heuscher in the foreground.**

Zach Heuscher and Justin Fosha were skiing close after 6K, but when next spotted at 13K, Zach had opened a gap. Zach held on for the win, finishing about a minute ahead of Justin.

Similarly, Gretta Fosha came through 6K with a small gap on Sara Ballantyne. Both maintained the rest of the way, with Gretta winning by 43 seconds. There were lots of other good battles and it was fun watching everyone compete.

Congrats to all of you old timers out there, as over a third of the field were 60+ including two really spry 70+ racers, Danny Pierce and Greg Feinsinger. Keep it up! [View full results here.](#)

The standings for the season-long Race Series were finalized by the Meltdown. Our winners, HELEN CARLSON and RUSS BOLLIG, showed



**Helen Carlson heads out for another fine finish that sealed her 2016-2017 Race Series win. Best hat award goes to Brad Burritt in the picture behind her.**

endurance, speed and persistence to emerge at the top of the heap. Great job!

As always, it's volunteers who make it happen. Boundless thanks go to Danielle Burritt and Bob Major, who stepped up again, and also to my excellent timing crew of DJ Nephew and Scott Vig.

Likewise, thanks to our sponsors who provide nice prizes and excellent energy. This race was fueled by 4 Points Balanced Energy Bars and the handy and tasty Justin's Nut Butters.



**Gapped from the start but committed to have some fun and enjoy a great course, stalwarts Angela Johnson and Corey Hinman head out for a vigorous 20K.**

*Thanks for a great season!*

# GRAND MESA NORDIC RACE SERIES 2016-17

BY TOM ELA

After a season of hard racing, the cream has risen to the top. With a combination of perseverance and speed, Helen Carlsen and Russ Bollig garnered the most points to emerge as Series winners. Each took home a great day pack donated by REI and a commemorative rock.

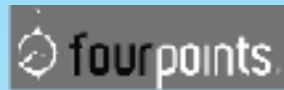
Special congrats to Helen, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Ken Pill and Chuck Bodie, who were the only ones to complete all 5 races.



Helen Carlsen gets her Series win loot from Race Director Tom Ela.

[View full Series results here.](#)

## THANKS TO OUR SERIES SPONSORS



**Last Day of Grooming!  
Sunday, April 2nd**

**\*\*\*Please check the [GMNC website](#) for latest conditions.**

## Gliders Race Day & Kids' Ski Festival

BY CHRISTINA STARK

Almost 30 children turned out for games, races and an obstacle course for the younger children on Gliders Race Day/Kids' Ski Festival. Thanks to all of our volunteers! We couldn't have put on such a great event without their help.



This year, we had 35 children participate in the Gliders and Little Gliders lesson series that spanned the season with one lesson/month. We received a lot of help from parent and other volunteer coaches. Thank you to **Annie Murphy** for all of the work she put into organizing the Gliders program.



## Youth Race Series

BY CHRISTINA STARK

Our first-ever Youth Race Series coincided with the regular adult series and included both classic and freestyle races as well as a noncompetitive obstacle course.

Fifteen children participated in at least one of the races. Races had to compete in 3 races to be eligible to win the series for their age group.

Congratulations to our Race Series winners!

(U= under)

U 12 Kate Rizzo

U 10 Lira Kirkegaard

U 8 Anika Linstid

U 6 Megan Linstid

## OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

[Fruita Community Center](#)

[Grand Valley Climbing](#)

[Mouse's Chocolates](#)

[Glacier Ice Arena](#)

[Palisade Gran Fondo](#)

[Bananas Fun Park](#)

We are grateful for a grant from the [National Nordic Foundation](#) to purchase ribbons, medals and obstacle course equipment.

Please send feedback to Christina at [gmnjrt@gmail.com](mailto:gmnjrt@gmail.com) to help make next year's race series even better!



# GMNC Thanks Our Business Supporters

## Business Partner (\$500)



## Business Champion (\$1000+)





## Grand Mesa Nordic Council

### Join or Renew Today!

**Stay up-to-date with the information that matters to you most!**

**SUBSCRIBE FOR UPDATES**

If you would like to receive e-mail notifications when GMNC posts new grooming or community trail condition reports, news, volunteer opportunities, etc., click [HERE](#) and enter your e-mail address.

Grand Mesa Nordic Council (GMNC) is a member-supported, nonprofit organization of people who love to participate in Nordic sports on the Grand Mesa in Western Colorado. GMNC is funded by membership fees, donations, business sponsors, fundraising events, and grants. Monies are used for trail grooming; staff; equipment purchases and maintenance; trail maps and signs; maintenance of the Skyway warming hut; and outreach including youth and adult programs and races. Please click [here](#) and join or renew today!