



Club Questionnaire: Ethan Allen Biathlon Club

Q: Share some Club highlights from this past season.... for example: Best or most well attended events; fun practice sessions/drills; social events/Club building activities, etc).

A: We were unable to host any large races this past winter however our "Thursday Night Races" continue to be a big hit with competitor numbers often reaching 50 or more! We also host a fall series of rollerski time trials which are open to those proficient on rollerskis. These are meant to help prepare athletes for the upcoming competition season.

Q: Highlight a story (or two) of Club participants who improved the most, and/or were able to participate in high level competition this past season.

A: EABC had one athlete, Virginia Cobb, compete at the YJWCHs, and one athlete, Grace Castonguay, competed at the IBU Cup and World Cup level this past season. We also had two athletes, Kate Carlson and Brooke Greenberg compete in the Liatoppen Festival as well as five athletes, Taylor Carlson, Theo Castonguay, Virginia Cobb, Evelyn Hudrlik, and Paige Fieldhouse, compete at the YJWCH Team Trials.

Q: Share one secret to your success as a club, or something you consider to be Best Practice.

A: Having a coach, Sarah Lehto, with 25 years of experience coaching at all levels from the World Cup to domestic racing is a huge advantage for the development of our young biathletes. We're also a successful club because of the parent and community volunteers who continuously step up to help with organization and race support.

Q: Share either some history related to your club, or some plans or excitement for where your club is headed.

A: The EABC started in the mid nineties as one of the original USBA Regional Centers Of Excellence. With the blessing of the VT National Guard, we have been able to utilize the world class venue at Camp Ethan Allen Training Site, allowing numerous biathletes over the years to train to reach their goals. This venue is scheduled to undergo a major upgrade with an improved

stadium area, lodge building, wax building and a remake of the trails wider and with new pavement.

Q: How does your club attract new members/XC skiers?

A: We have a close relationship with the Mansfield Nordic ski club and train at the same venue. This exposure helps generate interest in kids that want to give it a try. There are also often family connections with younger siblings wanting to follow their older brother or sister. Our main recruiting is done through our athletes who encourage others to try biathlon.

Q: Has your club had success finding grant funding? If yes, what grants?

A: No success here. Failed attempt with the NRA.

Q: Share if your club has done any fundraising or community-related events. If so, how did it go and what did it take to organize?

A: As mentioned above the club hosts a series of "Thursday Night Races" both during the winter and summer. These races are open to beginners and experienced biathletes and often have huge turnouts with competitors coming from NH, MA, NY, Canada as well as all parts of VT. We also run clinics for HS Nordic teams to pique interest in the sport.

Q: How/where does your club purchase ammunition? Any good connections you can share?

A: We buy ammo from the Federal when it is available through their reduced price grant program and from a local source when it isn't.

Q: Is there any aspect that you are in need of guidance on, or you feel you could learn from another Club?

A: Fundraising and sponsorship are missing pieces of our club. It would be interesting to know how other clubs have addressed this.