# SVSEF ANNUAL REPORT

# MISSION

To provide exceptional snowsport programs for the youth of the Wood River Valley, thereby enabling each participant to reach his/ her athletic potential, while developing strong personal character through good sportsmanship, strong values, and individual goals.

true with

MAIN FRIE

# VISION

To create the BEST Junior Snowsports Development Program in the nation.

# PHILOSOPHY

Strong Minds, Strong Bodies, Strong Futures

VALUES

Sportsmanship Citizenship Character Teamwork Creativity Passion Perseverance

### LETTER FROM THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Sam Adicoff

I have been involved with SVSEF since moving here in 2000 — first as a parent, then as a board member and now as interim executive director. It has truly been exciting to witness firsthand the programmatic improvements that have been made the growth in participation in SVSEF programs, and the incredibly strong community support we receive. Even though my kids are no longer in the program, I am as passionate as ever because every year I see how SVSEF prepares our



children for the opportunities and challenges in all facets of adult life. Look around this community and you will find intelligent, engaged, and community-minded SVSEF alumni helping to enhance the quality of life for everyone here in this beautiful place we call home.

With a record fundraising year, your generosity has allowed us to:

- Organize and expand the Alpine Learn to Ski and Race (LASAR) program at Rotarun in Hailey, introducing 66 children ages 6 – 11 to the sport of skiing
- Make improvements and upgrades to the SVSEF Air Barn at Community School, including a tow-in ramp (one of only a few in the country) and two new air bags
- Update our aging fleet of vans and snowmobiles
- Complete our remodel and upgrades of the Engl Training Center
- Purchase and install modulars at Croy Canyon and Lake Creek for our expanding cross country program
- Provide online sign-up and trip registration, allowing for convenience and improved member services

As we look to the future, with your financial assistance, we plan to:

- Ensure long-term financial viability of our organization every child who wants to participate in our program should have the opportunity to do so
- Expand our south valley LASAR alpine training opportunities and improve our south valley cross country venue
- Strengthen our commitment to and relationship with our community partners, including Sun Valley Company, Community School, Blaine County Recreation District, U.S. Forest Service, Galena Lodge, Blaine County School District and Rotarun
- Return as host of the U.S. Freestyle/Freeskiing Junior National Championships next season

As we conduct the search for and transition to a permanent executive director, I am challenging our staff to answer the question: What do we need to do to become the best junior snowsports program in the country? The answers to this question will guide our plans and actions for this next season and the years to come. I welcome your ideas and comments as we move forward into our next half-century. In closing, I thank our athletes, parents, staff and donors for making SVSEF a cornerstone institution of the Wood River Valley and one we all feel very proud to support and represent.

Sam Adicoff

### 2015–2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sam Adicoff, President Charlie Dunn, Vice President Kelly Allison, Secretary Jim DeWolfe, Treasurer Brick Blackburn Tom Griffith Nick Maricich Hank Minor Kipp Nelson Kathinka Tunney Rebecca Waycott Dave Wilson

# 2015–2016 ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Rob Clayton, Executive Director Zach Crist, Director of Development Mimi Crocker, Director of Finance and Administration Matt Leidecker, Academic Program Director Callan Miranda, Events Assistant Kelly Roberts, Director of Customer Relations Jody Zarkos, Director of Events and Communications

## 2016-2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Golf for Gold Baldy Hill Climb Wild West Game Dinner Thanksgiving Ski Camp Cross Country Winterstart Race Alumni Ski Day & Après Ski Party Cross Country IMD Jr. National Qualifier SV Freestyle/Freeskiing Spectacular Cross Country Town Sprints USASA Big Mountain West Series Laura Flood Memorial Race Monroe Cup Future Freestylers Cross Country Devo Triathlon U.S. Freestyle/Freeskiing Jr. Nationals Western Region Open FIS 2SL, 2G Janss Pro-Am Classic Hobson Memorial Olympic Day

August 16 September 24 November 12 November 19 – 23 December 11 December 21 January 21-22 January 26-29 February 2 February 2-5 February 10 – 12 February 25 - 26 March March 4 March 13 - 19 March 23 – 26 March 30 - April 1 April 2 June 26

Please refer to www.svsef.org to ensure dates have not changed.





### 2016 NATURE VALLEY U.S. ALPINE CHAMPIONSHIPS IN SUN VALLEY

Hosting the 2016 Nature Valley U.S. Alpine Championships here in Sun Valley for the first time since 1977 was a tremendous way to celebrate SVSEF's 50th anniversary.

SVSEF, Sun Valley Company and the entire Wood River Valley community came together to produce one of the best national championship



events the nation has seen in many, many years. To have this level of competition here at home, for our athletes to race against the country's best and for our younger athletes to connect with their heroes is priceless. It was an honor to serve as Chief of Race, and I could not be more proud of the work that Scotty McGrew and the entire SVSEF Alpine Team and community put forth to make this event such an overwhelming success.

### – Phil McNichol, SVSEF Alpine Technical Director and former head coach of the U.S. Alpine Ski Team





# OUR COACHES

#### ALPINE

Scott McGrew, Alpine Program Director Phil McNichol, Alpine Technical Director Dane Spencer, Alpine Gold Team Head Coach Neil Lande, Alpine Gold Team Technician Nate Schwing, FIS Men's Team Head Coach Brett Morris, FIS Coach, Ladies' Team Manager and Mental Conditioning and Performance Coach Will Brandenburg, USSA Team Head Coach lames Tautkus, IMD Team Head Coach Erika Rixon, North Series Team Head Coach Tor Jensen, MWC Team Head Coach Brian Caulkins, Alpine Devo Team and LASAR Team Head Coach **Riley Berman** Eltiena Campbell Bill Campbell Will Cannell Tyler Chandler Ben Chidlaw Susanne Connor Ryan Dean Jason Dorland leff Enos Isa Floden Charlotte Gourlay Brett Jacobson Doran Key Kirk Mason Ionna Mendes Skip Merrick Chase Millemann Matt Murphy Pat Revallier Carl Rixon Biche Rudigoz

Orlie Sather Pat Savaria Adele Savaria Sarah Schwing John Shay Brian Simcoe Steve Smart Claudia Stern Justin Stevenson Hunter Storey Lauren Street Rob Webb Galen Webster

#### CROSS COUNTRY

**Rick Kapala**, Cross Country Program Director **Kelley Sinnott**, Asst. Program Director, Head Prep Team Coach, Asst. Devo Team Coach Colin Rodgers, Gold Team Head Coach Tom Smith, Post Grad Head Coach Ashley Knox, Comp Team Head Coach Dave Bingham, Devo Team Head Coach **Bob** Coplin Brooke Hovey Mia James Travis Jones Rob Landis Laurie Leman Paddy McIlvov Kristen Monahan Lexie Praggastis Julia Seyferth Michael Sinnott David Vanderpool

#### FREESTYLE/FREESKIING

Andy Ware, Freestyle and Freeskiing Program Director Jennifer Diehl, Asst. Program Director

Penelope Murray, Freestyle Technical Director and Coach **Reed Snyderman**, Freeskiing Head Coach Joey Cordeau, Freestyle Head Coach Alden Carter Tina Cole **Collin Collins** Iamie Collins Shane Cordeau Christine Cordeau Hanna Curran **Conor Davis** Brandon Doan **Cameron Fraser** Caroline Hobbs **Justine Kaiser** Chance Larkin Kelly Longe Philip Macaulay Tanner Marcouiller Ben Parker Cord Roth Ben Schumacher Michael Sheehan Kathleen Sheehan Mike Smit Wyatt Wilson Josh Zuck

#### SNOWBOARDING

#### Andy Ware,

Snowboarding Program Director

#### **Rick Millett.**

Snowboarding Head Coach Heather Black Jon French Andy Gilbert JaNessa Gilbert Jim Slanetz Cory Smith

# 2015 IN REVIEW

# FREESTYLE & FREESKIING

By Andy Ware, Program Director Freestyle, Freeskiing, Snowboarding



Last season began with a true game changer. We launched a campaign to build an indoor tow-in ski ramp and air bag. Within three months, we went from conceptual drawings to a tangible training feature. Exclusive to SVSEF athletes, this new feature made our aerial training facility, the Air Barn, a full-scale progression center for all SVSEF athletes. There is no other ramp like it anywhere in the country. Our athletes can now safely train inverted aerial maneuvers indoors, year-round. This entire project was made possible

by the faith and generosity of SVSEF parents, athletes and friends. It has had an immediate impact on our athletes, and their efforts and results this past season are a direct result of its use.

What an incredible season! This past season was the 25th year of the freestyle team. The program began in 1991 with just six athletes; 25 years later we have grown to over 130 athletes! Freestyle & Freeskiing is growing up and in the 2015–16 season, many, many milestones were set. Having so many young and excited athletes led to an opportunity for Jennifer Diehl as co-program director, assisting with the 60+ athletes of the Prep and Prep Entry teams. Jennifer's professionalism brought structure and organization to our program, ready to meet the energy brought by the athletes. The largest enrollment to date led to our biggest season ever, and athletes excelled on every team, in every category and at every level.

SVSEF coaches and athletes spent the summer and fall months training hard at the Air Barn and traveled halfway around the world in search of snow. We held camps at Mt. Hood, New Zealand and Canada, helping athletes prepare for the biggest competitive season ever offered in Sun Valley. A terrific early season snowpack kept our momentum going; thanks to the tremendous commitment and effort of the Sun Valley Company, our athletes were able to get on freestyle and freeskiing venues early and often. The halfpipe was open mid-January and the terrain parks provided multiple features, allowing for a tremendous amount of progression throughout the season. Our mogul course efforts have become better and more efficient every season, and this year our courses (yes, plural) were the best we have ever produced. Once again, with such incredible venues, our home freestyle and freeskiing events brought some of the largest fields of competitors in the country. We held three separate divisional events in three weeks: the Sun Valley Freestyle Spectacular, the Sun Valley Freeskiing Spectacular and a USASA Big Mountain West Freeskiing & Snowboarding Competition. All of these were just a run up to the BIG one - the USSA Freestyle & Freeskiing Junior National Championships.



# OUR ATHLETES CAN NOW SAFELY TRAIN INVERTED AERIAL MANEUVERS INDOORS, YEAR-ROUND.

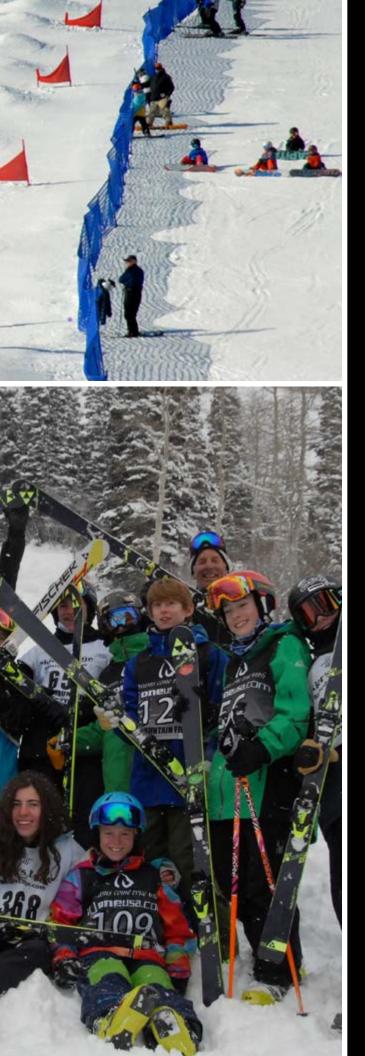


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# 2016 USSA FREESTYLE & FREESKIING JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The success we have had hosting our divisional events over the past several years led us to aspire for something bigger. Why not go for the biggest freestyle and freeskiing event of them all? With the help of Sun Valley Company and two local Gold-level sponsors, Atkinsons' Markets and Sun Valley Sotheby's International Realty, SVSEF took on the opportunity to host the 2016 USSA Freestyle & Freeskiing Junior National Championships. We rallied support from our community, worked together and invited the best freestyle and freeskiing juniors in the country to Sun Valley for a week full of intense competitions and incredible social events. A total of 316 athletes, 27 of them from our own team, took on the challenging venues and even more challenging weather conditions throughout the week. It was truly a community-wide effort and the support we received from everyone was incredible. A very special thank you to Julie LaFleur, Lisa Griffith, Jennifer Diehl and Penelope Murray for their organization and assistance before, during and after the events. Dembergh Brown Custom Builders, Sturtevants of Sun Valley, Beyond Coastal, Centerlyne Web & Graphic Design, Chums, Coal Headwear, Avex, Clif Bar, Honey Stinger, Outdoor Tech, Scott USA, EZup Tents, Press Print Shop, Wiseguy Pizza, Community School and the USSA all stepped up to help make the Junior Nationals a huge success.

# FREESTYLE

By Jennifer Diehl, Assistant Program Director Freestyle, Freeskiing Prep and Prep Entry

Wow, what a season! We had so many moments of greatness when everything we were working on came together and the kids really soared. One of our athletes who had trouble keeping his skis together at the beginning of the season quickly progressed to land his first 360. Another athlete, who was at first terrified of moguls and jumps,



tackled the mogul course like a pro at our Future Freestylers event, landing both jumps with ease and placing her on the podium. The best thing that happened continuously all season was the camaraderie and high spirits amongst our team and coaches. Parents were supportive; kids showed up on time, ready to improve; and we all enjoyed skiing the glorious powder that was granted to us this winter!

# SNOWBOARDING

By Andy Gilbert, Snowboard Progression Beta Team Coach



Another year complete, another national champion, another Sun Valley snowboarder capturing international attention. The SVSEF Snowboard Team continues to ride strongly at every level of competition. Can you say dynasty? It is kind of like that. The snowboard program has a rich history of athletes growing up in the Wood River Valley and rising to the top of the competitive snowboarding

world: Claire Cetera, Aprilia Hägglöf, Wyatt Caldwell, Jeremy Black, Graham Watanabe, Kaitlyn Farrington. Who's next? Chase Josey, and the ranks are deep behind him.

There is no secret recipe. It's just coaches and athletes taking full advantage of the incredible terrain and unparalleled training opportunities that are available right here in the valley. Our community is unique and the possibilities are limitless. There is no better place to grow up riding than on Baldy and Dollar Mountains.

We were all excited to have Rick Millett join the coaching staff this year and lead our high school travel team athletes on a season-long journey to the USASA National Championships. Rick had some big shoes to fill after former head coach, Nate Farrell, headed off to grad school. We were fortunate to find a suitable replacement for Nate in Rick. His enthusiasm and motivation fueled the athletes every day, all season long. Rick's energy combined with the wisdom, experience and knowledge of our six other coaches helped lead 12 athletes to the USASA National Championships. JaNessa Gilbert, Jim Slanetz and Cory Smith have our youngest riders (Devo, ages 7–9) shredding everywhere on Baldy. Andy Gilbert and Heather Black (alumna) are keeping pace with the next level of athletes (Progression Alpha/Beta, ages 10-13) and Jon French helped our junior high and high school athletes move up to the travel team.

With the help of Sun Valley Company's new Park & Pipe Manager Nate Sheehan, the halfpipe, boardercross and terrain park venues were the best our riders have enjoyed in years. Nate and his crew kept things fresh and creative all season long, allowing athletes to continue to progress month after month. The variety of features and constant maintenance makes Dollar Mountain one of the best snowboarding hills anywhere in the country. This year, the USASA Big Mountain West Freeskiing & Snowboarding competition provided hundreds of athletes with four epic days of boardercross/skiercross, halfpipe and slopestyle contests. It is the highlight event for the riders every season.

As a result of everyone's hard work, effort and passion for riding, we had 12 athletes qualify for National Championships. SVSEF athletes had seven top-10 finishes. Zoe Bacca captured the national title in boardercross for Breaker Girls (12–13 age class). Gold Team athlete Chase Josey also had an incredible season riding for the U.S. Snowboard Halfpipe Team. Chase made the podium twice this season, with



OUR COMMUNITY IS UNIQUE AND THE POSSIBILITIES ARE LIMITLESS.

**TELET** 

A/G





a silver medal in the World Cup Grand Prix at Mammoth Mountain and in his best effort to date, a bronze medal at the Oslo X Games. Chase continues to make his way to the top of the list among the best riders in the world. Our community is what keeps our snowboard program strong. The support of the SVSEF administration staff, board of directors, coaches, parents, athletes and friends is instrumental to the success of our athletes. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the success of the foundation over the past 50 years. It is truly an incredible experience for all of us and I am grateful to be part of it.

#### **PROGRESSION TEAMS**

We started this program to give younger kids a chance to ride with a more focused training plan, and also to work toward competing and traveling. We had a group that has been together as a unit for a few years, and we moved a big group up to join them. I wasn't sure how the merge would play out, but what I saw were teammates who welcomed the new riders and new riders who worked hard to emulate those who had been there before. I saw very few issues this season, and a group that really loves snowboarding. That's the key; you gotta love it! It also helps to have a peer group like this to work with, which provides that stoke every day and pushes you. Our most successful teams all had a dynamic like this, and it is going to be fun to continue to watch!

#### THANK YOU

Andy Ware, the D-Team staff (Cory, Jim and JaNessa), Jon French and Heather Black, Jody, Mimi and the whole SVSEF office staff, my wife JaNessa, and all of the parents; thank you so much for your support and efforts this season.



### CROSS COUNTRY By Rick Kapala, Cross Country Program Director



As coaches, we are often asked what is the MOST important factor in determining the success of the program. To be honest, that is a tough one to answer. So many things go into having a great season. First, it really helps if we have good snow, and it never hurts to have a lot of high-performing athletes. However, what

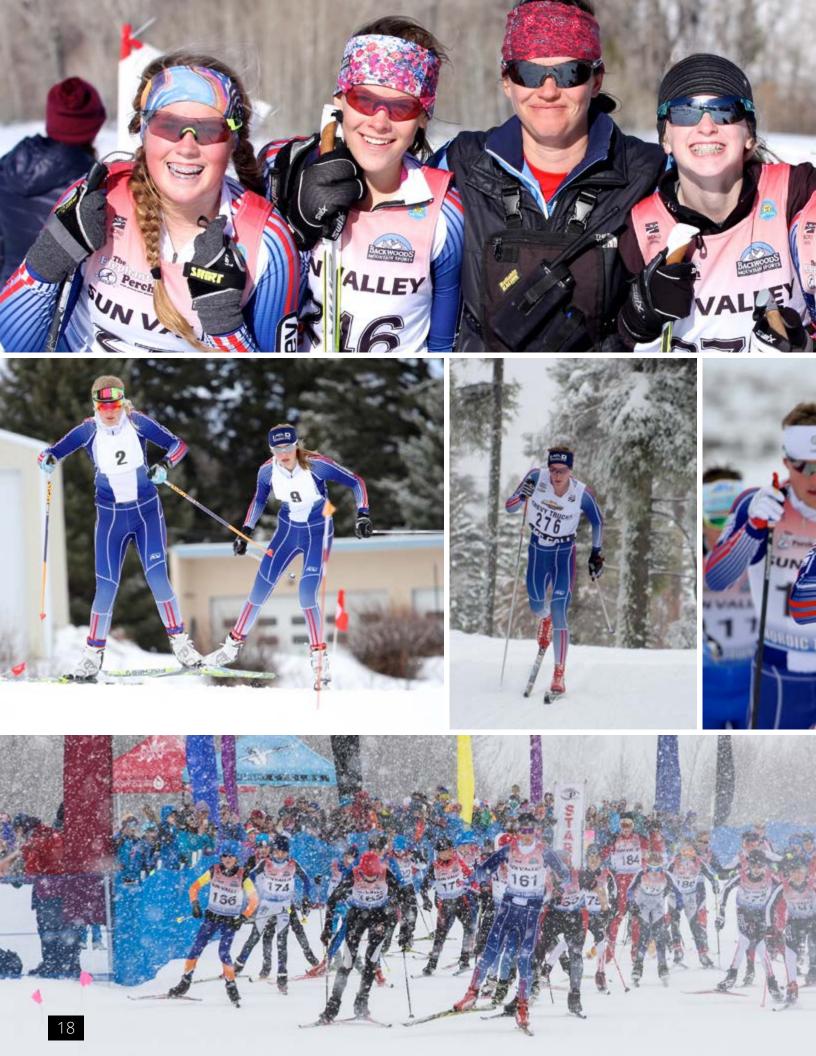
really makes a great team and a successful season is much more basic than that. We are best when we are able to transcend our perceived limitations and when our skiers of every age and ability coalesce to a point where everyone is simultaneously striving and demonstrating a shared spirit of commitment and enthusiasm.

On any given weekend we can win races and lose races, but what is MOST important is how we each stay true to the process of giving our best effort — regardless of results. This year we had some top results, but the real measure of our success was taken at every dryland and on-snow session when many, many young athletes chose to push more, to encourage more and to risk more. When we are able to stay in that space as a team, we always have a strong season.

Every year, our Cross Country Development Team, led by Dave Bingham and his cast of Devo coaches, sets the tone that feeds the fire for years to come. Whether it's team workouts where the kids are thrashing through the forest under the guise of Lewis and Clark Day or backcountry skiing out from a remote yurt or teaching kids how to hammer uphill, the Devo Team is full throttle with fun and fearlessness. The lessons of youth sport are taught every day; show up, engage, try hard and have fun. The Devo Team has its share of young guys and girls skiing fast, but at this age it is really about learning to love the sport of skiing. With the team at 70 athletes, we see a strong foundation for the program. The Prep Team, which provides cross country ski programming for middle school-aged skiers, has been our most successful program over the last several years, in large part due to effort and leadership of head coach Kelley Sinnott and her staff: Julia Seyferth, Travis Jones and Rob Landis. The Prep Team has almost doubled in size over the past six years, and we think that's because we have found the right balance of challenge and team spirit.

THE LESSONS OF YOUTH SPORT ARE TAUGHT EVERY DAY. SHOW UP. ENGAGE. TRY HARD. HAVE FUN.







Cross country skiing is a little different than other snow sports in that we can take athletes without prior ski experience and give them enough instruction so that they engage and subsequently develop into high-level skiers. The key, of course, is that we try to maintain an environment where team members are invested in a culture of training and trying. When we do those things well, the results always follow. This year, Prep Team skiers demonstrated exceptional team success and depth. Led by Logan Smith, our U14 team placed five girls in the top 10 for the U14 season rankings. Joining Logan were Anja Jensen (2), Sascha Leidecker (4), Eva Grover (7) and Luci Ludwig (8). Not to be outdone, U14 boy Cash Dart also had a great season of top results, earning second place in the Intermountain Division U14 rankings. In addition, the Cross Country Prep and Devo Teams combined efforts to earn Top Team honors at the Intermountain Youth Championships.

Not surprisingly, Comp Team members (U16, U18 and U20) put together another season where we saw both new and experienced skiers posting personal bests throughout the season. The Comp Team has benefited from the performance of the Prep program as more and more often we see skiers advancing to the Comp Team who are already stoked on the life of training and racing. The Comp Team staff of Ashley Knox, Rick Kapala, Kristen Monahan, Tom Smith, Dave Vanderpool and Mike Sinnott spent 11 months helping our skiers prepare for a race season which challenged skiers to dig deep into their reserves of fitness and focus. Training started in early May with team members logging many kilometers, intervals, strength reps and technique sessions. It's not unusual to see long trains of team members roller skiing through the valley in their bright shirts or to encounter them high on a mountain summit many miles from the nearest trailhead. All of this effort resulted in a very good year on the race trails. The Comp Team qualified 14 skiers to the U.S. Junior National Championships where Peter Wolter, Johnny Hagen- buch, Leo Lukens, Ben Brunelle and Anna Gibson all posted top-10 ef- forts. Additionally, Peter Wolter was selected to represent the U.S. and SVSEF at the International Scandinavian Series where he posted top-15 results against the best U18 juniors in the world. A sign of the strength in the program was also the quality and depth shown in our U16 girls program, where Sun Valley placed 10 skiers in the top 19 for Intermountain U16 season rankings. Earning IMD wins this year were Luk Platil (4), Lily Brunelle, Anna Gibson (2), Johnny Hagenbuch (4), Peter Wolter; earning IMD podiums were Ella Wolter, Sophia Mazzoni (2), Annika Landis (3), Leo Lukens (2), Ben Brunelle and Carter Ros.

Our Gold Team, led by head coach Colin Rodgers, charged throughout the season posting numerous top-10 results at U.S. Super Tour races. The team was led by first-year team member Deedra Irwin who posted her best-ever results during the season including winning the American Birkie 55k Classic! In addition, several SVSEF Nordic Team alumni posted best- ever results at NCAA Cross Country Ski Championships, with Sloan Storey (University of Utah) earning her first ever NCAA podium and Jesse Knori (Colorado) posting her first top-ten and NCAA All-American result. Also qualifying for NCAA Championships this year were Nordic Team alumni Annie Pokorny (Middlebury College), Kelsey Dickinson (St. Scholastica, Minnesota) and Cole Morgan (Vermont). In addition, SVSEF alum and U.S. Paralympic Team member Jake Adicoff competed internationally at World Cup Races where he earned top-ten placings.

### ALPINE By Scott McGrew, Alpine Program Director



The 2015-16 season was defined by creativity, heritage, passion and an unflappable resolve to take chances for the sake of delivering an incredible and relevant experience for our alpine community. A constant theme for the alpine staff this past year was to translate the rich and timeless values that define our history into a progressive mindset intent on mapping the

future of winter sport and youth athletics within our community. As the steward of such a beloved and iconic team within SVSEF, my personal mission was to honor all of our members, both past and present, with a keen sense of respect for the power this experience can have. The power to shape and influence the lives of those involved. There is no greater privilege than to have been surrounded by inspired men and women dedicated to serving the mission and cultivating champions, in every sense of the word. At the dawn of its 50th year, I'm proud to report that the SVSEF Alpine Team was able to orchestrate an experience both worthy of our rich history and indicative of the bright future to come. We had a phenomenal year; one I will remember as challenging, rewarding, innovative and ground-breaking.

The list of athletic success and accomplishments was lengthy, including the crowning of national champions at the U19 and U16 levels, a regional overall U14 champion, and men and women divisional champions at the U12 level. This type of depth across ages and genders for our small community provides a glimpse into the magic at work within the program; however, this is only a part of the story. The real success, in my estimation, was the work that was happening out of the spotlight; the work being done on a daily basis by the staff and athletes at every level. The countless early morning workouts by the FIS crew, the passionate USSA staff and athletes, the first time travelers on the IMD team and the incredible horsepower of the younger groups all culminated into a crescendo of positive engagement.

As we look back over the year, there were some programmatic accomplishments that require mention. An exciting new development for the SVSEF alpine group was incorporating the LASAR (Learn Alpine Skiing and Racing) program into our lineup of offerings. We were able to connect with 70 young athletes at Rotarun ski area in Hailey to deliver an incredibly affordable and high quality experience. If you ever needed an opportunity to

# CREATIVITY, HERITAGE, PASSION AND AN UNFLAPPABLE RESOLVE TO TAKE CHANCES







put a smile on your face, a trip down to Rotarun on Wednesday and Friday nights was just what the doctor ordered. The smiles of mountain kids sliding on snow as they navigated their way through obstacles and challenges was a sight to behold; an exceptional representation and reminder of the positive impact sport has on the lives of children. We are excited to continue and build on these programs to bring this sport within reach of more kids within our Wood River Valley community. Along with the help of Phil McNichol, our Alpine Technical Director, we were also able to create and implement the Sun Valley Athlete Teaching System into our programs. The Athlete Teaching System is a curriculum-based approach to formalizing the progression of our training plans, as well as a platform for giving coaches better tools to evaluate their programming. The ATS has proven instrumental in giving coaches a deeper ability to both design and deliver more impactful lessons on a daily basis.

This past season we graduated 11 athletes from our alpine team. This was our largest graduating class to date, with nine of the 11 going on to pursue postsecondary athletics at the collegiate level or regional elite level. It is exciting to see our graduates continue to engage winter sport past their high school years and this will serve them well as new opportunities arise from it. I'm confident that all of our graduating seniors this past year will go on to great things. They have cultivated the tools to aspire and achieve great things and we are proud to send them into the next chapter of their lives.

This past season culminated with our community, in partnership with the Sun Valley Company, hosting the U.S. Alpine Championships. The event was an incredible success and highlighted the rich history and passion our community has for alpine racing. The energy in the finish arena, the quality of the venues, and stoke amongst our nation's top athletes and coaches was genuine and inspiring. It was an incredible way for us to punctuate the 2015-16 season and highlights the great things to come.

All the best and THANK YOU to everyone who supports our foundation and believes in our mission. We could not do it without you,

Scotty

### LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND EVENTS Jody Zarkos

All our beginnings and endings are rooted in a story. Many things compose the narrative: triumph and tragedy, hope and hurt, redemption and reverence. There are lessons to be learned, challenges to overcome, friendships and memories to be made, and it is all part of the process of becoming who we are meant to be.

Over the past 50 years, the Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation has helped Wood River Valley youth discover and embody their best selves. Character is revealed through hard work, heart is built through overcoming obstacles, pride in oneself is gained through learning, and love is found through acceptance of self and others.

Heady stuff for a youth sports organization, but I believe SVSEF is much more than that. We are truly a foundation on which young lives are constructed and ensuing futures are brilliant with possibilities. For a half-century SVSEF has been committed to aiding each child in reaching his or her personal potential — both on and off the snow. This is a hallmark of our organization from which we have never wavered.

We are indebted to all who have supported this aim along the way. Our parents, volunteers, supporters, staff and coaches are steadfast in their commitment to SVSEF and our athletes, and at no time was this more evident than the 2015-16 season. Through the generosity of our community and beyond, our 39th annual Wild West Game Dinner and 19th annual Janss Pro-Am Classic raised record sums for SVSEF, and — in my humble estimation — everyone had a pretty fine time while bolstering the financial underpinnings of our organization.

SVSEF would not be marking a half-century of service to the youth of the Wood River Valley without you. Your commitment — whether an athlete, alumnus, parent, coach, donor or volunteer— is valued and appreciated. It is what has brought us here to this present day and will proudly carry us far into the future, where there is no ending — just a continuation of a wonderful story.

Kind regards, Jody Zarkos















This past season we celebrated our 50th year with some incredible milestones! Our athletes performed at a level of excellence we haven't seen in years. Podium results at X Games, U.S. Junior National Championships and USASA National Championships indicate that our athletes are among the best in the nation and that SVSEF continues its 50-year tradition as one of the premier ski and snowboard

clubs in the country. Most importantly, SVSEF's record 585 participants is a testament to the strength of our community engagement. The largest youth program in the valley, SVSEF is responsible for an estimated \$10 million flowing annually into the local economy from our programs, camps and events. SVSEF is a major economic driver in the Wood River Valley, offering a unique experiential education that promotes a healthy way of life and further encourages young families to call this valley home.

Internally, our financials are more organized than ever before. Generous donors contributed a record amount in 2014-15 and our capital raise in 2015-16 was better yet. This has allowed SVSEF to make significant programmatic improvements, including hiring more experienced coaches, acquiring better equipment and developing sophisticated facilities. All of these changes help our student-athletes achieve the highest standards of athletic achievement, reinforcing our mission of enabling each participant to reach his or her athletic potential.

For those of you who have graciously supported SVSEF, we thank you for instilling youth and vitality into our mountain culture. And to our future supporters, we would like to remind you that our program not only serves local youth with invaluable programming that prepares them for healthy and successful lives, but it also invigorates the socioeconomic health of our entire valley. Your tax-deductible contributions to SVSEF help sustain the lifeblood of our community.

Thank you for supporting SVSEF. Zach Crist





# SUPPORT SVSEF

#### HOW CAN I DONATE?

Donations to SVSEF may be made at any time of year and are tax deductible. Your donation can be made to the Annual Fund or specifically designated to any one of our programs.

Gifts are accepted via check, money order, cash, or credit card. You may send your donation to SVSEF at PO Box 203, Sun Valley, ID 83353. To make a donation over the phone, please call our office at (208) 726-4129. To make a donation on our website, please visit: www.svsef.org and click the "Donate Now" button.

#### HOW DOES SVSEF USE MY DONATION?

Annual Fund donations help support SVSEF's general operating costs. These include program equipment and administrative support, facility expenses, vehicle maintenance, insurance (auto, liability, property and Workman's Compensation), utilities and administrative costs. Our other primary fundraisers are the annual Wild West Game Dinner and the Bill Janss Pro-Am Classic, which support our financial aid program.

#### CAN I DONATE TO A SPECIFIC PROGRAM?

Yes. You may designate your donation towards one of our specific programs: Alpine, Cross Country, Freestyle, Freeskiing or Snowboarding. You may also donate to any of our Gold Team programs, our Financial Aid Fund or SVSEF Endowment.

For more information about the many ways in which you can support SVSEF please call our office at (208) 726-4129.

### LETTER FROM THE ACADEMIC DIRECTOR Matt Leidecker



As a SVSEF alumnus, I understand the difficulty of juggling both skiing and academic commitments. There is no way to avoid the conflicting schedules of winter ski racing with a typical academic calendar.

The Academic Program within SVSEF was created to help student-athletes, their families, AND the local school systems understand and manage the extreme time demands made on competitive winter athletes.

The Academic Director of SVSEF works with the public and private school systems in the Wood River Valley to develop academic programs that work with SVSEF-specific training and travel schedules. To my knowledge, SVSEF is the only independent sports program in the valley that has a dedicated staff member to address academic issues.

I took over the position from John Cole in 2007-08. After nine years, I will be leaving SVSEF for a teaching position with The Sage School. Over this time, it has been an honor to be involved with an incredible youth organization with such robust and well-established roots in the valley. As a whole, the SVSEF team is incredibly motived. It has been rewarding to work with coaches, athletes and parents in an attempt to help navigate the skiing/academic landscape. It has also been a great opportunity for me to develop my own interpersonal and teaching skills, something I look forward to applying as a faculty member at The Sage School.

Looking forward, SVSEF is in a great position to continue its excellent academic support. On all fronts, opportunities abound. The planned Community School boarding facility has great potential to benefit athletes at all schools. Our close relationship with the public schools has allowed us to experiment with alternate training schedules, a new blended course at WRMS, and to continue to improve the necessary monitoring component. The Sage School has always been open to working with SVSEF athletes, and I hope to continue to work with Sara Berman (another SVSEF alum) on SVSEF accommodations in my new position.

For me, the most rewarding part of my job was working with individual students and helping them keep their head above water during the busy competitive season. I am hopeful the new academic director will continue to be a valued asset to SVSEF programs. I want to thank the dedicated staff at SVSEF as well as athletes and parents for a rewarding nine years.

Sincerely,

Matt Leidecker Academic Director



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# 2015-16 SENIORS



#### BEN BRUNELLE

School: Wood River High School College: UC Berkeley, Fall 2016 Scholarships: Ketchum/Sun Valley Rotary, Power Engineers Dependent STEM, Friedman Foundation, KTVB Academic All Star Award & John Kalik True North Scholarship

Shout Out: Thanks for all the support everyone.



#### **RANSOM BLEYER**

**School:** Wood River High School **College:** University of Colorado Boulder, Engineering/minor in Business

**Quote**: "So we actually have to ski around those gates?" Griffin Curtis

**Shout Out:** Wow, four years have certainly gone by fast. I just want to say thank you to the coaches and team for always being there for me and thank you to BJ and TC for motivating me to take my second run of slalom even though I was running DFL with a fever of 101. It's been fun my friends, really fun.



#### LUKE BRECHEEN

School: Community School College: University of Vermont Scholarship: Trustee's Scholarship Quote: "Once you replace negative thoughts with positive ones, you'll start having positive results." Willie Nelson

**Shout Out:** I'd like to give a shout out to my family, specifically my mom for diving into this adventure with me.



#### GRIFFIN CURTIS

School: Community School College: Clarkson University Scholarship: Financial Aid Quote: "If everything seems under control, you aren't going fast enough." Mario Andretti

**Shout Out:** Shout out to my mom and dad, for literally everything.



#### **KRISTIAN DEWOLFE**

School: Community School College: Rocky Mountain College Scholarship: Dean's Academic Scholership & Athletic Scholarship

**Shout Out:** A special thanks to my family for making all my years on SVSEF happen and of course to all the coaches and teammates for being one of a kind.



#### JAY FITZGERALD

School: Community School College: Gonzaga University Scholarship: Merit Scholarship Award Shout Out: I would like to thank my family and friends for making all my years on SVSEF such a great experience.



#### DUNCAN FULLER School: The Sage School College: Post graduate year skiing for SVSEF



#### DANNY GRAVES

**School:** Wood River High School **College:** Post graduate year skiing for the Bend Endurance Academy

**Quote:** "If you don't do it this year, you will be one year older when you do." Warren Miller

**Shout Out:** Thanks to my parents and coaches for making the dream 100% real. Good luck to all my fellow teammates on the next chapter of their lives. Train hard, play harder!



#### ELI JENSEN

**School:** Boise High School **College:** I am taking a gap year to pursue skiing on the SVSEF Post Grad Team, before going to college.

**Quote:** *"Winning isn't everything, but wanting to win is."* Vince Lombardi

**Shout Out:** Thank you to my parents for giving me all of the support over the years, along with Rick Kapala for giving me the unique opportunity of being a part of the team.

#### HUNTER KERN

**School:** Community School **College:** Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) **Scholarship:** Merit of \$6,000 a year, \$24,000 for 4 years

#### SARAH KOPE

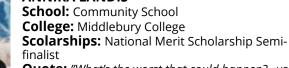


**College:** University of Utah **Scholarship:** U of U Freshman Academic Achievement

**Quote:** "In every walk with nature one receives for more than they seek." John Muir

**Shout Out:** Thanks to Reed, Conor and Collin for an incredible season and for helping make my passion for skiing grow.

#### ANNIKA LANDIS



**Quote:** "What's the worst that could happen?...you get a good workout." Unknown

**Shout Out:** First, I want to thank my mom and dad. There is nothing I can say that would even come close to expressing how thankful I am for your dedication to my journey as a ski racer. I don't know any other way to thank you other than to say I love you both so much. Secondly, it is amazing how lucky this team is to have so many amazing coaches and I love that I always know I can count on you for anything. I really can't explain just how much each one of you, Kelley, Dave, K-Money, Tommy Boy, Mikey, David, Rick, and Ashley, has influenced me as a skier but more importantly as a person. Throughout my years on the team I have deeply valued your honesty, telling me to train harder, ski faster and have fun. And finally, I also want to give a shout out to all my teammates. You guys are the best and I will miss each one of you. Keep living the dream!



#### LEO LUKENS

School: Community School College: Bates College Quote: "There was nowhere to go but everywhere, so just keep on rolling under the stars." Jack Kerouac Shout Out: I would like to give Ashley Knox a

shout out for being the sweetest person I know, and I would like to give Rick Kapala a shout out for being the best fishing buddy and ski coach I could ever ask for.



#### **RUBY MARDEN**

School: Community School

College: I have chosen to defer from St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY, while given the option of guaranteed transfer acceptance at Cornell University sophomore year if I choose to do so. However, my plans thus far are to take a post graduate year so I can keep ripping up the slopes

out east while ski racing for St. Lawrence University. Scholarships: Sesquicentennial Scholarship Award at St. Lawrence University

**Quote:** "Do a loony-goony dance 'cross the kitchen floor. Put something silly in the world that ain't been there before." Shel Silverstein **Shout Out:** Huge shout out and thanks to my amazing family who have still been living in Utah these past couple years!! Mom, Dad, and Pearl, you all know how much you mean to me. And thank you to all my coaches, teachers, and friends who have helped me so much and made this valley feel like home, I am filled with love and gratitude.



#### YURI MCCLURE

School: Wood River High School **College:** Skiing for SVSEF, differed to Plymouth state, New Hampshire 2017

**Quote:** *"You've just got to get in the starting gate"* and throw down whatever you've got." Ted Ligety **Shout Out:** Thanks to all my great coaches

throughout the year and anyone who has supported me. Special thanks to my family for supporting me with my dreams and goals no matter what it takes.



#### MAX POLITO

School: Community School **College:** Middlebury College

**Quote:** "How you do anything is how you do every*thing."* Unknown

Shout Out: Jessie Diggins; true Nordic inspiration!



#### **CHARLES (TREY) POTTER**

School: The Sage School **College:** Sierra Nevada College Scholarship: Merit Scholarship for Sierra Nevada

**Quote:** *"Eventually you get to this point where you"* understand what you want to do and get across and

sound like it." Kendrick Lamar **Shout Out:** I want to thank my mom and dad of supporting my love of skiing and my friends who I've met along the way who have pushed me to be the skier I am today.



#### **CARTER ROS**

School: Wood River High School **College:** SVSEF Cross Country Post Grad Team **Quote:** "How you climb a mountain is more important than reaching the top." Yvon Chouinard Shout Out: Thank you to my friends, family and coaches. I couldn't have done it without you.



#### EMILY SIEGEL

School: Community School

College: St. Lawrence University (skiing on cross country team)

Scholarships: University Scholarship and Presidential Achievement Award

**Quote:** "Never let a stumble in the road be the end of the journey." Unknown

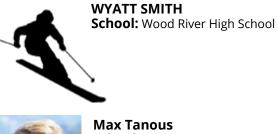
Shout Out: To my coaches Rick, Ashley, Tom, Kristin, Rob, Kelly, Patty and Dave. To my parents Julie and Neil. To my mini me, Riley.



#### WILL SNYDER

School: Community School **College:** Williams College (deferring for one year to ski race)

**Shout Out:** Nate and Pat for always helping and pushing me to reach for my potential as a ski racer and making it super fun along the way!



#### **Max Tanous**

School: Community School

Quote: "May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the clouds." Ed Abbey

Shout Out: Thank you to all of the cross country ski team coaches for helping me grow as a skier and a person. You all enriched my life and made my years on the team unforgettable.



#### **JACOB TRUXAL**

School: Wood River High School College: South Dakota School of Mines & Technology

**Scholarships:** South Dakota School of Mines & Technology (SDSM&T) Freshman Scholarship, Sun Valley/Ketchum Rotary Scholarship and St.

**Charles Memorial Scholarship** 

**Quote:** "A river cuts through the rock, not because of its power, but *because of its persistence.*" Unknown

Shout Out: Thanks to all the dedicated coaches I've had throughout the years!



#### LONI UNSER

School: Wood River High School **College:** University of Colorado Boulder **Quote:** *"To give anything less than your best, is to* sacrifice the gift." Steve Prefontaine **Shout Out:** Mom and Dad, thank you for your

endless support, I love you guys. Coaches, you guys are some of the most inspirational people I've met. It was an honor to have you as my coaches. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Teammates, you all are an amazing family, thanks for all the adventures. Love you all.

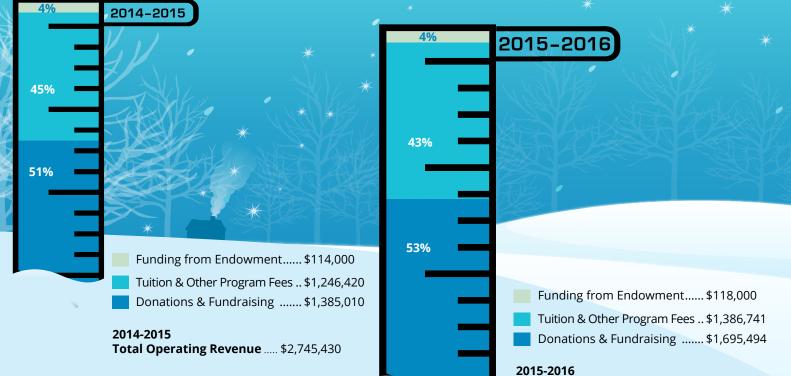


#### **River Vorse**

School: Wood River High School **College:** University of Colorado Boulder I will be pursuing my passion and love of Nordic skiing. I will ski for the local club team in hopes of skiing on to the C.U. Boulder team.

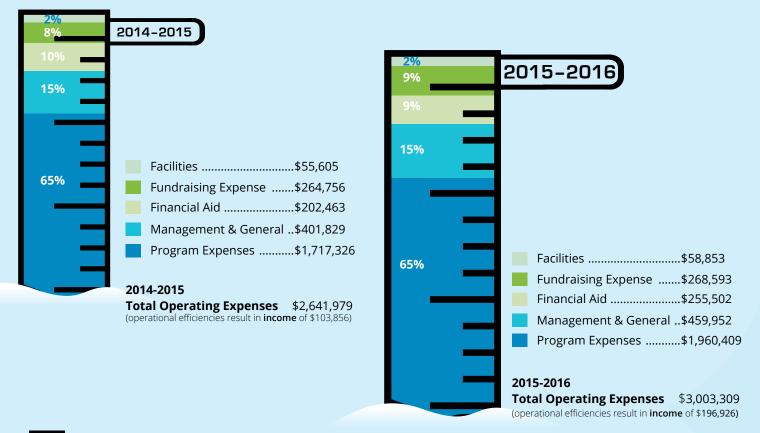
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Total Operating Revenue ..... \$3,200,235

# OPERATING EXPENSES



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Thank you for

ski \*eam.

helping out with my

tuition so I\* can \* stay on\*

THANK YOU.

SVSEF

Thank you so much for this great opportunity. I really appreciate this chance to be on the Preestyle team. I am going to do my Very best this year. I'm locking forward to this ski season, working with my great coaches and reaching my goals. I feel this is something I am good at and am excited to see where it takes me. I love the group of friends I have on the team and the coaches. I appreciate all the support I get. Thank you again,

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