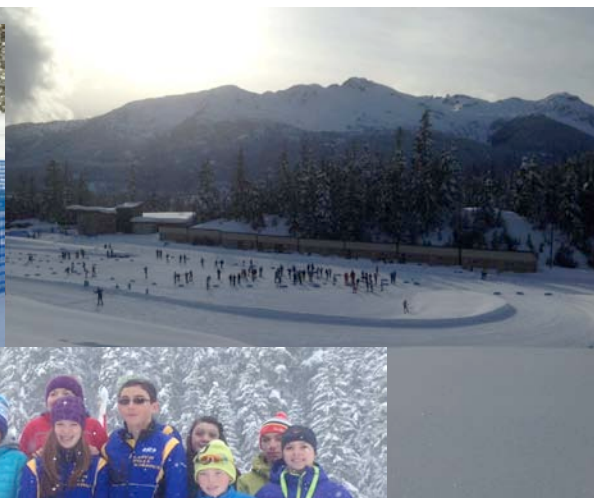
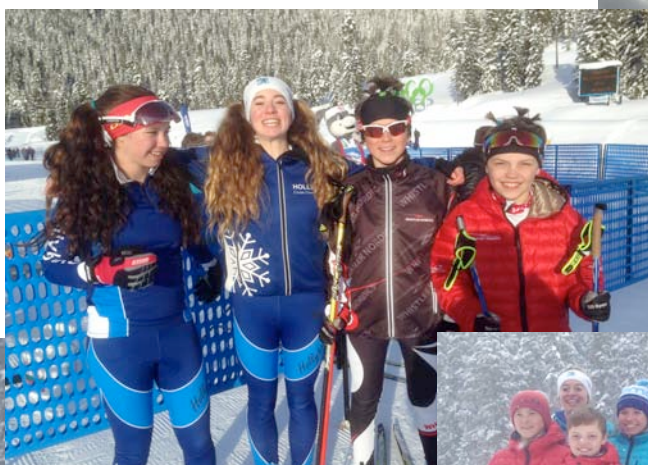


March 12, 2014

That's a wrap.....well almost!

Just when the season is winding down we get some of the best skiing conditions we've had all year. The racing is nearly done, at least for most of the team. A few hearty souls will be venturing out east to Newfoundland for the Haywood Nationals and a few will be entering the odd Loppet. It's been a weird season with such a prolonged start and a finish when it seems that the trail conditions are the best all year. It's a shame to be finishing so early but with so many young racers and the Nationals being so far away it just wasn't a realistic goal for the team at this stage. Regardless the Whistler Nordics have had a good year with many of the team achieving great success at the provincial level with a goal to build toward bringing a larger team to more of the provincial and regional competitions.



The BC Winter Games this past February provided a great opportunity for many of the younger racers to battle it out with their provincial foes up at Whistler Olympic Park over several days. The timing coincided with the start of the Olympic games so the large gathering of athletes was particularly exciting as the Olympic buzz definitely filtered down to the BC Games with lots of interest in the whole multi-sport gathering. It was a bit unique for the athletes to compete for their "zone" rather than their home club but it made for a great team experience something that can be often overlooked in XC Skiing.

Oh and we got new puffy coats too.... awesome! Thank you Whistler Blackcomb Foundation.



Our last race of the year, the BC Championships, took place in Kelowna. The event was lengthened this year to include two competitive races with the last race being a fun relay where everyone is encouraged to participate. Whistler Nordics once again brought a small but potent team of racers. Good results despite our relatively small size with approximately 60 % of the team finishing on the podium for the year end aggregate awards. I can't underestimate how significant that is for such a small club. No other club in BC has near that impact with such few racers and it's a great testament to the coaching and support from those who help assist with all our efforts.



We wish the best of luck to Lauren Doak the lone Whistler Nordic racer heading to Nationals this year and hope she can reproduce her podium performance from last year. The rest of us will continue to enjoy the stellar snow conditions and maybe get in a couple last loppet races before the season comes to a close. I wish to thank everyone for the ongoing support for our small club. We really do appreciate all the assistance and encouragement. The team will be going into their annual spring hibernation period but hope to be bigger, stronger and faster next year. I hope to see you all out on the trails while the snow lasts.

Have a great summer.