

## History of the Western Interior Ski biathlon Association (WISA)

By Chuck Hugny

This history of WISA is dedicated to Mr. John Miles in thanks for the many hours he has given toward the betterment of the sport of biathlon and more importantly for the time and care he has given our Western Interior children. We all are better for knowing John and his name will always be associated with the good competition and fun spirit that WISA has become. Thanks John and God speed in all your new adventures.

The following pages cover 33 years of WISA competition from the first WISA in Kaltag in 1987 to the 2019 races hosted in White Mt. The original purpose of WISA was to provide ski biathletes with a yearly championship that was available to rural students in the region.

The stated goals of WISA are: 1) to promote Cross-country skiing and biathlon in schools for all grade levels as individual and team sports on two levels, recreational and competitive, 2) to promote regionalism (decentralization) in state sporting activities and 3) to help provide native and other rural student/athletes with a vehicle for attending college, via athletic scholarships. Prior to the formation of WISA the state athletic association (ASAA) had a rural ski championship but it was always held on the road have been awarded positions on the Arctic Winter Games team representing Alaska. This is a tribute to the fine athletes developed by WISA coaches.

WISA has been held in the villages of White Mt., Kaltag, Galena, Tanana, Nulato, Nenana/Fairbanks and Shagaluk. The need for a larger school to host this event excludes some of the smaller sites as the number of skiers to accommodate can be as high as 88 (Kaltag 1993 and White Mt. 1994).

There have been many coaches who have supported WISA through its many years. Although there are too many to mention there needs to be a focus on a few key individuals without who WISA would never have developed into the successful association that today servers our rural skiers. As a WISA director I would like

to personally thank the following coaches for their many years of service to WISA: John Miles, Rudy Howard, Eric Morris, Jack Adams. Coaches who were instrumental in the early years of WISA included: Van Mitchell, Bill Strutz, Josh Miller, Scott Risland and Howard Cloud as well as the above mentioned. Without their dedication to the sport and our students WISA would have never become a reality.

Due to the fire burning the White Mt. School many of the WISA records were lost. This history includes the most complete record that I know of. John Miles was able to fill the holes in our records and a few corrections have been made. Many of the results I had did not have summation sheets, just results so ski meisters needed to be refigured and sportsmanship trophies were unrecorded. As this is a dynamic document if new/old information comes to light please send it to Chuck Hugny HC 33 box 31540, ,Nenana Ak. 99760 or "mail to: [chugny@yahoo.com](mailto:chugny@yahoo.com) and I will add it to the document.

The first **WISA was held in 87 in Kaltag.** The date of the first WISA was April 2 –4 1987. The High school skied 7.5K and the Jr. High distance was 5K.

High school boys ski meister – Josh Gillespie (Koyuk)  
High school girl ski meister – Madeline Soloman (Kaltag)  
Jr. High boy ski meister – George Woods (Tanana)  
Jr. High girls ski meister – Marion Nickoli (Kaltag)

#### **Team winners**

High school boys – Aniak  
High school girls – Kaltag  
Jr. high boys – Tanana  
Jr. high girls - Tanana  
Sportsmanship – Kaltag

**White Mountain 1988 WISA**

High school boys ski meister – Josh Gillespei (Koyuk)  
High school girl ski meister- Helen Amaktoolik ( Golovin)  
Jr. high boy ski meister – Shannon Barker( McGrath)  
Jr. high girl ski meister – Marion Nickoli ( Kaltag)

**Team winners**

High school boys – Tanana  
High school girls – Tanana  
Jr. High boys – Elim  
Jr. High girls – Koyukuk  
Sportsmanship – Tanana

**Shagaluk1989 WISA**

High school boys ski meister – Charles Saccheus (Elim)  
High school girl ski meister- Bev. Lincoln (White Mt.)  
Jr. high boy ski meister – Eric Walker ( Holy Cross)  
Jr. high girl ski meister – Anna Nagaruk (Elim)

**Team winners**

High school boys – Elim  
High school girls – Tanana  
Jr. High boys – Elim  
Jr. High girls – Elim  
Sportsmanship – Tanana

**Nulato 1990 WISA**

High school boys ski meister – Charles Morgan ( Ruby)  
High school girl ski meister- Anna Nagaruk (Elim)  
Jr. high boy ski meister – Dustin Gillespie (Koyuk)  
Jr. high girl ski meister – Kim Karvairlouk (Koyuk)

**Team winners**

High school boys – Ruby  
High school girls – Nulato  
Jr. High boys – Kokuk  
Jr. High girls – Kokuk

Sportsmanship – Andrew K. Demoski School (Nulato)

### **White Mt. 1991 WISA**

High school boys ski meister – John Ekada (Nulato)

High school girl ski meister- Abby Anasoguk (Koyuk)

Jr. high boy ski meister – Dustin Gillispie  
( Koyuk)

Jr. high girl ski meister – Kim Karvairlouk (Koyuk)

### **Team winners**

High school boys – Nulato

High school girls – Huslia

Jr. High boys – Koyuk

Jr. High girls – Koyuk

Sportsmanship – Nulato

### **Tanana 1992 WISA**

High school boys ski meister – Harvey Agloinga (Golovin)

High school girl ski meister- Jeneva Sam ( Huslia)

Jr. high boy ski meister – Nathan Nagaruk ( Elim)

Jr. high girl ski meister – Corinna Moore ( Tanana)

### **Team winners**

High school boys – Tanana

High school girls – Koyuk

Jr. High boys – Kaltag

Jr. High girls – Tanana

Sportsmanship – Berring Straits team

### **Kaltag 1993 WISA**

High school boys ski meister – Harvey Agloinga (Elim)

High school girl ski meister- Jeneva Sam ( Huslia)

Jr. high boy ski meister – Marvin Takak (Elim)

Jr. high girl ski meister – Anjoli Guthrie (Tanana)

**Team winners**

High school boys – Elim

High school girls – Huslia

Jr. High boys – Elim

Jr. High girls – Kaltag

Sportsmanship – Huslia

**White Mt. 1994 WISA**

High school boys ski meister – Carl Erhart (Tanana)

High school girl ski meister- Bess Greenan (Minto)

Jr. high boy ski meister – Aaron Marks( Allakaket)

Jr. high girl ski meister – Anjoli Guthrie (Tanana)

**Team winners**

High school boys – Tanana

High school girls – Minto

Jr. High boys – Tanana

Jr. High girls – Nulato

Sportsmanship – Allakaket

**Tanana 1995 WISA**

High school boys ski meister – Carl Erhart (Tanana)

High school girl ski meister- Anjoli Guthrie (Tanana)

Jr. high boy ski meister – James Ione (White Mt.)

Jr. high girl ski meister – Andrfea Durny (Nulato)

**Team winners**

High school boys – Elim

High school girls – Tanana

Jr. High boys – Tanana

Jr. High girls – Nulato

Sportsmanship – Galena

### **Kaltag 1996 WISA**

High school boys ski meister – Aaron Marks ( McGrath)

High school girl ski meister- Stephanie Marks (Tanana)

Jr. high boy ski meister – Arnold Marks (Tanana)

Jr. high girl ski meister – Trisha Gray (White Mt.)

#### **Team winners**

High school boys – Elim

High school girls – White Mt.

Jr. High boys – Tanana

Jr. High girls – White Mt.

Sportsmanship –

### **White Mt. 1997 WISA**

High school boys ski meister – Louie Carlo (Tanana)

High school girl ski meister- Stephanie Marks (Tanana)

Jr. high boy ski meister – Arnold Marks ( Tanana)

Jr. high girl ski meister – Trisha Gray ( White Mt.)

#### **Team winners**

High school boys – White Mt.

High school girls – No team

Jr. High boys – White Mt.

Jr. High girls – White Mt.

Sportsmanship – White Mt. ( Rose Ann Titus)

### **White Mt. 1998 WISA**

High school boys ski meister – Arnold Marks (Tanana)

High school girl ski meister- Trisha Gray ( White Mt.)

Jr. high boy ski meister – Jay Adams ( White Mt.)

Jr. high girl ski meister – Ella Morris ( White Mt.)

#### **Team winners**

High school boys – White Mt.

High school girls – White Mt.

Jr. High boys – White Mt.

Jr. High girls – White Mt.

Sportsmanship – White Mt.

### **Tanana 1999 WISA**

High school boys ski meister – Arnold Marks (Tanana)

High school girl ski meister- Katie Morris ( White Mt.)

Jr. high boy ski meister – Jay Adams (White Mt.)

Jr. high girl ski meister – Dora Hughes ( Teller)

### **Team winners**

High school boys –White Mt.

High school girls –White Mt.

Jr. High boys – White Mt.

Jr. High girls – White Mt.

Sportsmanship – Shaktoolik

### **White Mt. 2000 WISA**

High school boys ski meister – Henry Titus (White Mt.)

High school girl ski meister- Jolene Arkell ( Kaltag)

Jr. high boy ski meister – Travis Gray ( White Mt.)

Jr. high girl ski meister – Vera Shoogukwruk (White Mt.)

### **Team winners**

High school boys – White Mt.

High school girls – no team

Jr. High boys – Koyuk

Jr. High girls – White Mt.

Sportsmanship –

### **Kaltag 2001 WISA**

High school boys ski meister – Jory Barnhill ( Galena)

High school girl ski meister- Janelle Williams ( Koyukuk)

Jr. high boy ski meister – Charles MacKinnon( Koyuk)

Jr. high girl ski meister – Kristie Ione ( White Mt.)

#### **Team winners**

High school boys – White Mt.

High school girls – No team

Jr. High boys – Nenana

Jr. High girls – White Mt.

Sportsmanship – Koyuk

### **White Mt. 2002 WISA**

High school boys ski meister – Jory Barnhill ( Galena)

High school girl ski meister- Janice Arkell ( Galena)

Jr. high boy ski meister – Jory Peterson ( Golovin)

Jr. high girl ski meister – Kristie Ione ( White Mt.)

#### **Team winners**

High school boys – White Mt.

High school girls – Nenana

Jr. High boys – Nenana

Jr. High girls – White Mt.

Sportsmanship – Galena

### **Galena 2003 WISA**

High school boys ski meister – Jay Adams (White Mt.)

High school girl ski meister- Jessica Brown ( White Mt.)

Jr. high boy ski meister – Hunter Gray ( WhiteMt. )

Jr. high girl ski meister – Alice Ione ( White Mt. )

#### **Team winners**

High school boys – White Mt.

High school girls – White Mt.

Jr. High boys – White Mt.

Jr. High girls – Golovin

Sportsmanship – Nenana



### **White Mt. 2004 WISA**

High school boys ski meister – Hunter Gray (White Mt.)

High school girl ski meister- Alice Ione (White Mt.)

Jr. high boy ski meister – Darrel Takak ( Golovin)

Jr. high girl ski meister – Sara Morris ( White Mt.)

#### **Team winners**

High school boys – Golovin

High school girls – Golovin

Jr. High boys – Koyuk

Jr. High girls – Tanana

Sportsmanship – Nome

### **Galena 2005 WISA**

High school boys ski meister – Tobin Hugny-Farr (Nenana)

High school girl ski meister- Hailey Scofield (Nome)

Jr. high boy ski meister – Jeff Bue ( Fairbanks)

Jr. high girl ski meister – Ruby Campbell ( Tanana)

#### **Team winners**

High school boys – Nenana

High school girls – Galena

Jr. High boys – Galena

Jr. High girls – Tanana

Sportsmanship – Koyukuk

### **Tanana 2006 WISA**

High school boys ski meister – Tobin Hugny-Farr (Nenana)

High school girl ski meister- Kallie Brown ( Galena)

Jr. high boy ski meister – Richard Sommer( Galena)

Jr. high girl ski meister – Nikki Fennimore ( Galena)

#### **Team winners**

High school boys – White Mt.

High school girls – Galena

Jr. High boys – Galena

Jr. High girls – Galena

Sportsmanship –Nenana

### **White Mt. 2007 WISA**

High school boys ski meister – Colin Campbell (Tanana)

High school girls ski meister - Nikki Fennimore (Galena)

Jr. high boys ski meister - Emerson Conger (Nome)

Jr. high girls ski meister - Sierra Corsetti ( Unalakleet)

#### **Team winners**

High school boys – Tanana

High school girls – Galena

Jr. High boys - Nome

Jr. High girls - White Mt.

Sportsmanship – Nome

### **White Mt. 2008 WISA**

High school boys ski meister – Emerson Conger (Nome)

High school girls ski meister – Nikki Fennimore (Galena)

Jr. high boys ski meister - Shyler Johnson ( Unalakleet)

Jr. high girls ski meister - Jenna Buchanan (Galena)

#### **Team winners**

High school boys – Tanana

High school girls – Galena

Jr. High boys – Galena

Jr. High girls – Unalakleet

Sportsmanship – Galena

### **Nenana – Birch Hill Fairbanks, 2009 WISA**

High school boys ski meister – Emerson Conger (Nome)

High school girls ski meister – Jenna Buchanan (Galena)

Jr. high boys ski meister - Asa Bergamschi

Jr. high girls ski meister - Season Haugan

#### **Team winners**

High school boys – Nome

High school girls – Galena

Jr. High boys - Unalakleet

Jr. High girls - Unalakleet

Sportsmanship – Nome

### **Tanana 2010 WISA**

High school boys ski meister – Emerson Conger (Nome)

High school girls ski meister – Sierra Corsetti (IDEA) Unk.

Jr. high boys ski meister – Corey Ningeulook (Shishmeraf)

Jr. high girls ski meister - Aly Daniels (Unalakleet)

#### **Team winners**

High school boys – Nome

High school girls – Nome

Jr. High boys - Shishmeraf

Jr. High girls - Unalakleet

Sportsmanship – Unalakleet

### **White Mt. 2011 WISA**

High school boys ski meister – Emerson Conger (Nome)

High school girls ski meister – Rosa Schmidt (Nome)

Jr. high boys ski meister – Kaleb Korta (Galena)

Jr. high girls ski meister - Aly Daniels (Unalakleet)

#### **Team winners**

High school boys – Nome

High school girls – Nome

Jr. High boys – White Mt.

Jr. High girls - Unalakleet

Sportsmanship –Galena

### **Galena 2012 WISA**

High school boys ski meister – Asa Bergamaschi (White Mt.)

High school girls ski meister – Caity Tozier (Nome)

Jr. high boys ski meister – Kaleb Korta (Galena)

Jr. high girls ski meister – Carolyn Sam(Galena)

#### **Team winners**

High school boys – White Mt.

High school girls – Nome

Jr. High boys – Galena

Jr. High girls - Galena

Sportsmanship –Teller

### **White Mt. 2013 WISA**

High school boys ski meister – Kaleb Korta (Galena)

High school girls ski meister – Alyseka Daniels (Unalakleet)

Jr. high boys ski meister – Sikulik Johnson ( Unalakleet)

Jr. high girls ski meister – Sarah Brown ( Galena)

#### **Team winners**

High school boys – Galena

High school girls – Unalakleet

Jr. High boys – Galena

Jr. High girls - Galena

Sportsmanship –St. Michael

### **Nenana – Birch Hill Fairbanks, 2014 WISA**

High school boys ski meister – Kaleb Korta (Galena)

High school girls ski meister –Rosa Schmidt (Nome)

Jr. high boys ski meister – Jacob Moos (Galena)

Jr. high girls ski meister – Kiana Korta ( Galena)

#### **Team winners**

High school boys – Galena

High school girls – Unalakleet

Jr. High boys – Galena

Jr. High girls - Galena

Sportsmanship –Unalakleet

### **White Mountain, 2015 WISA**

High school boys ski meister – Jacob Moos (Galena)

High school girls ski meister –Bianca Trowbridge (Nome)

Jr. high boys ski meister – Daniel Kapp (Galena)

Jr. high girls ski meister – Mallory Conger ( Nome)

#### **Team winners**

High school boys – White Mt.

High school girls – Nome

Jr. High boys – Galena

Jr. High girls - Nome

Sportsmanship –Unalakleet

## **Galena, 2016**

High school boys ski meister – Jacob Moos (Galena)

High school girls ski meister – Bianca Trowbridge (Nome)

Jr. High boys ski meister – Danile Kapp (Galena)

Jr. High girls ski meister – Mallory Conger (Nome)

### **Team winners**

High school boys – Nome

High school girls – Nome

Jr. high boys - Galena

Jr. high girls - Nome

Sportsmanship – Teller

## **White Mountain 2017**

High school boys ski meister – Ben Cross (Nome)

High school girls ski meister – Mallory Conger (Nome)

Jr. High boys ski meister – Tobin Hobbs (Nome)

Jr. High girls ski meister – Clara Hanson (Nome)

### **Team winners**

High school boys – Nome

High school girls – Nome

Jr. high boys - Galena

Jr. high girls - Galena

Sportsmanship – Nome

## **Nenana/ Birch Hill 2018**

High school boys ski meister – Tobin Hobbs (Nome)

High school girls ski meister – Mallory Conger (Nome)

Jr. High boys ski meister – Joe Riddle(Nome)

Jr. High girls ski meister – Clara Hanson (Nome)

### **Team winners**

High school boys – Nome

High school girls – Nome

Jr. high boys - Galena

Jr. high girls - Nome

Sportsmanship – Nenana

## **White Mountain 2019**

High school boys ski meister – Tobin Hobbs (Nome)

High school girls ski meister – Mallory Conger (Nome)

Jr. High boys ski meister – Johnny Soderstrom (UNK)

Jr. High girls ski meister – Autumn Nanouk (UNK)

### **Team winners**

High school boys – Galena

High school girls – Nome

Jr. high boys - Unalakleet

Jr. high girls - Unalakleet

Sportsmanship – Nenana

## **Multiple Ski Meister award winners**

### **Boys**

Emerson Conger- 5 (Nome)

Arnold Marks – 4 (Tanana)

Kaleb Korta – 4 (Galena)

Jay Adams – 3 (White Mt.)

Jacob Moos -3(Galena)

Tobin Hobbs – 3 (Nome)

Carl Erhart - 2 (Tanana)

Jory Barnhill – 2 (Galena)

Josh Gillespie – 2 (Koyuk)

Hunter Gray- 2 (White Mt.)

Tobin Hugny-Farr – 2 (Nenana)

Aaron Marks – 2 (McGrath)

Asa Bergamaschi –2 (White Mt)

Daniel Kapp- 2 (Galena)

Harvey Agloniga – 2 (Elim)

### **Girls**

Mallory Conger -5 (Nome)

Nikki Fennimore – 3 (Galena)

Anjoli Guthrie – 3 (Tanana)

Aly Daniels – 3 (Unalakleet)

Trish Gray – 3 (White Mt.)

Alice Ione – 2 (White Mt.)

Kristie Ione – 2 (WhiteMt.)

Clara Hanson – 2 (Nome)

Stephanie Marks – 2 (Tanana)

Marion Nicholi – 2 (Kaltag)

Anna Naguiruk – 2 (Elim)

Jeneva Sam – 2 (Huslia)

Jenna Buchanan – 2 (Galena)

Bianca Trowbridge - 2 ( Nome)

Rosa Schmidt – 2 (Nome)

Sierra Corsetti – 2 (IDEA)

## High school team championship

<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
White Mt. – 10	Nome – 8
Nome – 6	Galena – 5
Elim – 5	White Mt. – 4
Tanana – 4	Tanana - 3
Galena - 3	Huslia - 3
Golovin – 1	Unalakleet - 2
Nenana – 1	Nenana - 1
Aniak – 1	Golovin – 1
Ruby - 1	Kaltag - 1
Nulato – 1	Koyuk – 1
	Nulato – 1

## Jr. High school champions

<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Galena – 10	White Mt. – 8
White Mt. – 5	Galena – 5
Koyuk _ 4	Unalakleet –5
Elim – 4	Tanana - 4
Tanana – 3	Nome -3
Nenana – 2	Koyuk - 2
Unalakleet -2	Kaltag - 2
Shishmeraf -1	Nulato – 1
Kaltag – 1	Golovin – 1
Nome - 1	Koyukuk – 1
	Elim - 1

## **WISA Sportsmanship leaders**

Galena 4

Nome 4

Nenana 4

Unalakleet 3

White Mt. 2

Nulato 2

Tanana 2

Teller 2

Huslia 1

Allakaket 1

Koyukuk 1

Koyuk 1

Shaktooluk 1

Kaltag 1

St. Michael 1

### **Sharp shooter awards**

**(No misses on the range.)** High school with no gun rests.

#### **2009 Sharp shooters**

Jr. High Boy- Ben Currier (UNK)

#### **2010 Sharp shooters**

High School Boy – Dominic Richardson (St. Michael)

#### **2011 Sharp shooters**

High School Girl – Miranda Murphy (Nome)

Jr. High Boy- Jacob Moos (Galena), Sikulik Johnson & Kadyr Erickson (UNK)



Jr. High Girls–Amanda Homekingkeo (Koyuk)

**2012 Sharp shooters**

High School Boy – Asa Bergamaschi (White Mt.)

Jr. High Boy– Jacob Moos (Galena) & Sigfred Brown (White Mt.)

Jr. High Girls– Kameron Reitan (Galena), Anika Mudge (Nenana)  
& Amanda Homekingkeo (Koyuk)

**2013 Sharp shooters**

Jr. High Boy – Jacob Moos (Galena)

Jr. High Girls – Shayna Warnke-Green( Nome) & Jennifer Hanson (White Mt.)

**2014 Sharp shooters**

Jr. High Boy – Jacob Moos (Galena)

**2015 Sharp shooters**

High School Boy – Wilson Hoogendorn (Nome)

Jr. High Boy – Percy Agloinga (White Mt.)

Jr. High Girls – Mallory Conger (Nome) and Breanna McLain (Galena)

**2016 Sharp shooters**

jr. high boys – David Gomez (Manley) & Cashious Bergman (Galena)

jr. high girls – Maya Kralik (Nome)

**2017 Sharp Shooters**

jr. high boys – Carter Commack (UNK), Cashious Bergman (Gal), Tristan Hobbs (Nome)

jr. high girls – Sable Scotton (Gal), Zoey Brown (Nen)

**2018 Sharp Shooters**

jr. high boys – Caedon Merriner (Gal)

Jr. high girls – Virginia Nassuk (KKA)

**2018 Sharp Shooters**

Jr. high boys – Ethan Hawkins (UNK)

Jr. high girls – Shaina Hobbs (Nome)

## **The “Cloud” cup (founders trophy)**

This trophy is awarded to the small team (5 or less racers but at least 2 skiers) that has the greatest point total of their two fastest skiers across divisions. The points are figured as in team competition but are restricted to small teams from the same school. This change was made in 2016. The award is to allow small teams to compete as a team.

2014 winner – Galena

2015 winner – Nome

2016 winner – Koyuk

2017 winner – White Mountain

2018 winner – Nenana

2019 winner - Koyuk