

# LERT Newsletter

April 2022

## LERT Families (EMSC & SMBA),

April is here, along with the culmination of championship events and end of season races! The final Lights on Chute training session was a big hit with athletes sporting costumes, as T-Rex chased down a taco and banana in the GS courses on Chute, nearly catching them – only to fall and not be able to get back up! Our Big Mtn / Freestyle Team wraps up the season this weekend after a highly successful U12 event on Psychopath, along with our other programs attending the Aspen Finale, USASA Nationals in Copper, along with the GS Spectacular and always popular Loveland Derby!



## EMSC News

LERT and EMSC are proud to announce our recent Silver Level certification with USSA. This was a massive project, made possible through the huge efforts of staff including, Peter Troller, from the board of directors, to Eric Vogel, Kate Starrett and of course, Rachel Celesta who was the glue that helped our group push this across the line. USSA was extremely impressed with our coaching staff, athletes, board members, community and partnership with the mountain. Our next step is working toward the Gold Level of certification!

While April designates the closure of

## Freeride/Freestyle Team News

This season has been one for the books! The sheer passion and dedication these young athletes brought to the table has been inspiring! We have seen great progression among our young riders and it is beyond impressive. The road has not always been easy but our athletes are resilient and strong.

Congratulations to Bodie Fox who continues to reach lofty goals and stand on the podium, to Kaliyah Schimpf who stood atop the podium as the only female snowboard participant in the Breckenridge Big

## SMBA News

### Singletrack Stories: SMBA Season '22 is here!

The snow is starting to melt and it is time for new season of SMBA adventures!

March 21<sup>st</sup> marked the beginning of the spring session with the return of our annual Spring Break Moab Adventure Trip. This year we had 15 athletes join us for a week of camping in desert, exploring both classic and newly built trails in Moab, and lots of team building and camaraderie. And, of course, we topped off a week of epic rides tasty milkshakes and

the season, our alpine groups will continue to work on fundamentals through May Camps in Winter Park, the Mammoth Camp, and support over the summer. Look for additional information from our office as we put the final elements together with staffing and logistics. Planning discussions and projects are already underway for next season at Eldora, and we are excited to continue forward with the training projects and venue expansion to support our amazing athletes.

Upcoming events this April also include our annual Alumni and VIP Fundraising event at the Goodfellows room on Pearl Street, which will include an exclusive whiskey tasting, along with keynote speaker from the US Ski Team, athlete Storm Klomhaus, and additional special guests (Richard Rokos / former Head Coach with the CU Ski Team), to help share the vision for the future of EMSC both at Eldora and with alpine ski racing. Mark your calendars for April 14<sup>th</sup> for this exciting and important event!

In addition to the Alumni / Membership VIP event, we will once again be offering the Colorado Mountain School Avalanche Education training course for U16/FIS athletes in Rocky Mountain National Park. This valuable event provides unique opportunities in the field to obtain avalanche education, certification, and hands on experience within the area of snow science to further help athletes respect and understand the characteristics related to proper travel, skiing and decision making in the field with winter sports. There are several remaining spots open for participation, in which athletes will need to be prepared for a multi-day clinic using backcountry equipment, avalanche gear, and full days touring Rocky Mountain National Park while skiing intermediate to advanced terrain. Please contact the office if you are interested in this amazing opportunity.

Finally, it is important to reflect on the various aspects of success from the season, and further highlight the values and philosophy of EMSC. As demonstrated at the recent "Eldora Cup" event, where athletes from various programs and levels combined

Mountain, not only was this her very first competition but she competed alone and took a stand to represent female snowboarders in the world of big mountain freeriding, and finally to Sawyer Zeldner for making a strong come back after a gnarly fall on some massive terrain. We are proud of you all and all of our athletes!

I would like to give a huge thank you to all who joined us for the first ever U12 Big Mountain event at Eldora. This was a great opportunity for our young riders to experience what a freeride competition looks like and at their home mountain, making history! It was a true success and a big thanks goes out to Sam Bass and the Eldora Ski Patrol for having trust in us to host an event like this! We hope to bring this back next season on a bigger scale!

There really is only one way to end a successful season like this, with a bang! We will be ending our season on a high note at Eldora for retro weekend with a pizza party and awards for our well-deserved athletes! Please come out and help us celebrate in your favorite retro gear and

**PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO THANK YOUR COACHES FOR AN AMAZING SEASON. NONE OF THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT OUR INCREDIBLE COACHES!**



Lex Bennett - Freeride/Freestyle and Devo Program Director  
[lex@lertprograms.com](mailto:lex@lertprograms.com)

### Core

#### **FIS Update:**

In March, 2022, EMSC's Men's and

burgers at Milt's.

The week started off with a snowy departure from Boulder, but soon turned into sunny skies and warm temps as we reached our campsite in Moab. After a quick camp set up, we took a little spin and ended up on Slickrock trail for a quick evening lap. Once back to camp, we were treated with beautiful desert sunset views. Our first evening in Moab set the tone for a theme that would follow us for rest of the week: fun times on fun trails.

Each day was a new adventure filled with awesome trails and amazing views. Our first full day took us north to Klondike Bluffs where we rode by dino prints, enjoyed lunch stop views of Arches National Park, and finished the day with a fun cruise on Dino Flow and Little Salty trails. The next day we headed south to Amassa Back and enjoyed fun singletrack and views of Moab's amazing landscape from Hymassa trail, followed by hoot of a ride on Captain Ahab trail. Our last full day was spent on the classic Porcupine Rim trail. A quick climb to the Castle Valley overlook / lunch spot, was followed by an epic descent across the top of the canyon and onto the smile inducing Porcupine Rim singletrack. We finished the ride in town with milkshakes and burgers at Moab's famous Milt's Stop and Eat. Friday morning it was time to pack up and head home; but not before a quick sunrise lap on Slickrock trail. We left Moab with a full week of riding and a van full of stoke for mountain bike season. Stay tuned for more singletrack stories as the SMBA season progresses!

**More SMBA News! – Save the date  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bike Swap April 30<sup>th</sup> –  
Valmont Bike Park!**





to compete as a “team” in a fun race on chute, alpine skiing and snowboard is focused on developing the necessary skills to be successful in life. While the individual results from the given race from the season may not reflect the hard work, dedication and commitment placed into training, the perseverance to continue forward and strive for improvement are the lasting qualities that provide athletes with the foundation for resiliency and tenacity. Those who put in the time, work hard, support the staff and system, and “show up” will be rewarded with the satisfaction of success as they near the top of the pyramid.

Congratulations to our club “seniors”, who have been with our organization for ten years or more, working hard to be the best they can be. They are beautiful skiers, riders and athletes, and will graduate from our program knowing they gave 110%. Sticking with the program through challenging times, tough early morning training sessions starting in the dark, and long, difficult and often times less than rewarding race series, will provide the athletes with the character to be successful through college, future jobs and life. Kudos to this group for their HARD WORK, and NEVER giving up, despite a thousand opportunities to throw in the towel and quit. This group has what it takes to go the distance!

Matt Tomasko - Executive Director

## Jr Race

Parents, Athletes, and Coaches,

It’s hard to believe this season is coming to a close, but as the old saying goes time flies when you’re having FUN!!!

March was an outstanding month showcasing our progress during numerous events including:

### YSL Champs at Winter Park:

Incredibly proud and impressed with the efforts our athletes made on both the girls and boys sides. Saturday our team of girls placed 4th overall

Women’s FIS Teams competed in several FIS Colorado Ski Cup races in Keystone, Breckenridge, and Winter Park. All members of the FIS Teams continue to improve their international standings in GS and SL. Many of EMSC’s FIS athletes consistently made the “Flip 30” (Top 30 in Runs 1), and some have scored Top 5 & 10 final results. Heading into April, the EMSC’s FIS Men’s and Women’s Teams will travel to Aspen for the FIS Colorado Ski Cup’s Spring Series races and will then cap off the 2021-2022 race season with fun USSA SL races at the Loveland Derby. After a short break, the FIS Team will return to on-snow training with mini-camps at Winter Park. FIS Head Coach Booka Smith credits all the FIS athletes for continuing to plug away and work hard through the end of the season. Despite fatigue entering into the final April push, all of EMSC’s FIS athletes are progressing, getting faster, and having a lot of fun and laughs in the process.

#TeamworkMakesTheDreamwork!



### U16 Update:

The U16s have been crushing it at their championship races in Crested Butte and Breckenridge! We wrapped up lights on chute training on March 31st with tutus and costumes. The team has been showing awesome spirit and support for each other. You can always count on the girls and guys to be at the start cheering on their teammates. The team is looking forward to spring training camps in Winter Park and Mammoth!

Heather Williams – SMBA Program Director  
[heather@lertprograms.com](mailto:heather@lertprograms.com)

## Beyond the Slopes– Let us Celebrate our Coaches!

This month we would like to honor Vitek Linhart – Freeride/Freestyle Head Ski Coach



This month we are honoring Vitek Linhart. He is truly the heart and soul of this program. He has been coaching with the LERT programs for 6 years and has 16 years of experience teaching/ coaching on the snow.

Originally from Czech Budweis in the Czech Republic, Vit has extensive educational experience with a Master Degree in Sports and Physical Education from the Charles University in Prague. His certifications include IFSA L200, USASA L200, Avy 1, PSIA L100, PSIA Freestyle L100, APUL Ski C, APUL Snowboard C.

Vit believes in doing what he loves and feels it helps him to stay young. He enjoys teaching and seeing others achieve their goals, not just in skiing but personal goals as well. This is a great reward. Vit enjoys sharing his knowledge while gaining insight from others and offering different perspectives. He wants to share new skills and his passions with others. His future goals include becoming a better educator and someday a backcountry guide.

***“Believe in yourself and your teammates! Love, confidence, commitment and compassion is a key to everything. We all have good***

and Sunday our boys team placed 3rd overall. Combined for the Champs Weekend, EMSC placed 3rd as a program in the Rocky YSL Division!!

**Home Series Events 3/22-3/24:** 3 days of Skills and racing for all our Jr Race athletes with a MASSIVE Thanks to Steamboat Sticker Co. for providing awards for our Top 3 in each age class and Stickers for all to put on everything and anything!! Proud to see the progress of all our athletes during this home series!!

**First Annual Eldora Cup:** A smashing success as we brought athletes from across all EMSC Race programs together for this Legacy Event and our winners were

**PTeam Pterodactyl:**

- Levi Hart- U12 Core
- Ruby Clark- U14 Core
- Petra Schmidt- U14 Core
- Lilian Groenendaal- U16 Core
- Jude Cummins- U12 Core
- Cal Purshouse- Jr Race
- Olivia McGinn- Jr Race
- Chloe Clauson- Jr Race
- Didrik Greene- Jr Race
- Anna Owen- Jr Race
- Roan Lehtinen- Jr Race
- Laurel Reems- Jr Race

**April's Tip for All:** Don't neglect your skis!!! Get them tuned one last time and have your shop storage wax them for the summer!! That way they are ready for use or sale next season.

Cheers,  
Eric Vogel  
EMSC Jr Race Director  
[eric@lertprograms.com](mailto:eric@lertprograms.com)



**Communication / Admin News / Membership**

**Volunteer Opportunities:**

It takes LOTS of volunteers for us to host these events; your help is greatly appreciated! Your athlete does not need to be a part of the age group or event for you to volunteer; in fact, we need the help of parents across all our programs to make these competitions a success.

**Emails are tied into our registration so if you elect to "opt out" then you will no longer receive updates on behalf of LERT programming.**

**Send inquiries to:**

[info@lertprograms.com](mailto:info@lertprograms.com)

**Please follow us on Instagram!**  
[@lertprograms](https://www.instagram.com/lertprograms)

**Please follow us on Facebook!**  
[@LERTprograms1975](https://www.facebook.com/LERTprograms1975)



**and bad days so let's support each other and have some fun!"**

**-Vit Linhart**

Submit your LERT Monthly win here:  
[info@lertprograms.com](mailto:info@lertprograms.com)

**Check out our team stores!**

We have a NEW team store in SquadLocker! We will be adding new items regularly and are excited to have so many amazing products branded for our organization!



We also have team jackets and other items available in our SYNC store!  
USE PASSWORD: eldora21

**[SHOP HERE!](#)**

**Do you have outgrown gear?**

Join our Facebook Marketplace Group - [LERT Gear Exchange](#) to buy, sell, and trade ski, snowboard, and bike equipment within our community.

**Give Back!**

Check to see if your organization matches your charitable donations, as we know for Google employees they will match your donation to EMSC at 100% (so if you work for Google - don't forget to match!) And if you've already donated, you can still request a match for prior donations.

Please also remember to connect your King Soopers account to our organization to continue the support! 5% of all your purchases go back to the club.



We also have the reloadable \$5 Safeway card. Purchase a Safeway card from EMSC for \$5 that has \$5 loaded on it and then reload as needed. 5% of all your purchases go back to the club!



A **HUGE** thanks to all our sponsors new and old! We couldn't do it without your continued support and generous donation!

If you know a potential sponsor or would like to become one, please reach out to:

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