



THE MAN BEHIND THE MAGIC: STEVE HELLER

Every successful race day, every ski swap, every perfectly timed run has one thing in common: *Steve Heller*.

While athletes are in the start gate and families line the finish area, Steve is behind the scenes - wiring, testing, calibrating, troubleshooting, and making sure everything works exactly as it should. Timing systems don't just appear on race day. They are built, maintained, upgraded, and carefully managed year-round. And for GPST, that work falls on Steve.

Race timing infrastructure is complex. It takes expertise and countless off-season hours to ensure everything runs flawlessly. Because of Steve's attention to detail, our races are known for being professionally run and dependable, managed from inside the Heller Haus.

His impact doesn't stop at the ski hill.

Steve is also the engine behind not one, but TWO area ski swaps, including our annual October swap. His point-of-sale system powers the entire operation. Without it, these fundraisers simply wouldn't be able to happen.

What makes Steve extraordinary isn't just his technical knowledge - it's his commitment. He gives his time, energy, and resources quietly and consistently, year after year, because he believes in this team and the athletes it serves.

GPST is nearing 40 years of building champions for life through ski racing. That legacy exists because of volunteers like Steve - people who show up, dig in, and make things happen.

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STEVE HELLER cont...

As we look to the future, Steve has offered to mentor others who want to learn the timing & infrastructure. It's not about stepping away; it's ensuring the knowledge & systems he's built continue to support GPST for years to come.

It is essential that we begin identifying and training the next group of leaders now, so the systems Steve has built remain strong for the next generation of GPST athletes. It will likely take 2-3 people to manage what Steve does.

Thank you, Steve, for being the steady force behind so much of what makes GPST exceptional!

You can learn "magic," too!

We need others to help with:

- ✓ Race timing systems
- ✓ Wiring & wireless setup
- ✓ Ski swap point-of-sale operations
- ✓ USSS race day compliance

Steve is ready to mentor and share his knowledge!

✗ No experience required – only curiosity and commitment

? Interested? Connect with Steve or email info@gpst.org

LOVELAND SPRING CAMP REGISTRATION OPEN

April 12th-16th

Loveland Ski Resort

\$900 (includes lift tickets + lodging)

All U12-U18 athletes are invited



Fast Fund February

5% extra discounted rate on Gift Card Fundraising
2/1/26 - 2/28/26



5% ~~10%~~ discount



15% ~~20%~~ discount

KWIK TRIP BONUS MONTH!



During February, we earn extra money on all Kwik Trip gift cards sold! Stock up now and support our athletes. No payment until delivery.

➔ **ORDER HERE.**

RACE RESULTS

TOP 10 FINISHES

Spirit Mountain, FIS SL

U18 SL (3 races)

- Gavin: 7th, 9th
- Alli: 11th, 12th
- Ellie: 20th
- Grace: 21st, 28th, 23rd



Lutsen, FIS GS

U18 GS (2 races)

- Alli: 1st, 3rd
- Ellie: 6th, 8th
- Grace: 7th, 7th
- Emma: 13th
- Brian: 18th, 19th



La Crosse - FIS/U16 SL

FIS SL (2 races)

- Alli: 1st, 1st
- Grace: 5th
- Emma: 6th, 11th
- Ellie: 9th
- Gavin: 8th

Scored SL (2 races)

- Alli: 1st U18
- Ellie: 5th U18
- Grace: 6th U18
- Kathryn: 4th, 5th U16



Granite Peak GS, U14/16

- Anton Bauer: 1st, 1st
- Anna Brill: 1st, 1st
- U14** • Emily Hostetler: 2nd, 3rd
- Sophia Schippers: 6th, 8th
- Finley Sharon: 10th

- Kathryn Floyd: 1st, 1st
- Kate Hostetler: 2nd, 2nd
- Aurora Hayek: 3rd, 3rd
- U16** • Stella Houlihan: 4th, 4th
- Ella Tieman: 5th, 5th
- Abigail Brill: 7th, 8th
- Timea Sicar: 9th
- Cyrus Laudenbach: 6th, 5th



Snowriver, U14-U18

U16 GS (2 races)

- Kathryn: 1st, 8th
- Ella T: 4th, 6th
- Kate H: 5th, 5th
- Aurora: 10th
- Abigail: 10th
- Cyrus: 9th

Super G

- Kathryn: 1st U16
- Kate H: 3rd U16
- Abby H: 4th U18
- Brian: 5th U18

U14 GS

- Emily H: 3rd

U18 GS (2 races)

- Abby H: 8th, 7th
- Brian: 6th

U16/U18 SL

- Kathryn: 2nd U16
- Abby: 7th U18



Upcoming Events

- **Feb 19-22:** U14/16 Central Champs
- **Mar 7:** Badger State Games
- **Mar 8:** Final Club Race/Cookout

ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT:

EMMA SIGAR

- U18/FIS -



1. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A PART OF GPST? FAVORITE GPST MEMORY?

I have been on the Granite Peak Ski Team for 6 years. One of my favorite memories I have while being on the team was going to Austria with Alli Marti for a camp. After dryland we decided to go swim in the cold river nearby with the sunset behind us.

2. WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PLACE YOU'VE EVER SKIED? WHAT IS ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?

One of my favorite places I have skied was in Chamonix, France. The whole experience felt so surreal. One ski resort that is on my bucket list would probably be to ski in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy.

3. WHAT GOAL ARE YOU WORKING ON THIS SEASON?

One goal I had coming into this ski season was to make the most out of what time I have left with all my seniors and making as many memories as possible. ❤️

4. WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU'VE EVER GOTTEN FROM A COACH OR ATHLETE?

The best advice I have received was to "find the positives in the negatives." This quote has stuck with me through all my ups and downs while racing.

5. WHEN YOU AREN'T SKIING, WHAT OTHER SPORT/HOBBY DO YOU LOVE?

When I'm not skiing, I LOVE to get Starbucks and hang out with Alli and the rest of the team!

6. WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE GOALS (SKIING OR OTHERWISE)?

My future goals for next ski season is to be able to complete more FIS runs!





THREE GPST ATHLETES EARN SCHOLARSHIPS

GPST athletes Ella Tieman and Kathryn Floyd (U16) were selected to receive the Shelley Glover Foundation scholarships. Shelley inspired those around her, was passionate about ski racing and helping others, and demonstrated perseverance in all she did. Ella and Kathryn were selected for demonstrating those same qualities.

GPST athlete Allison Marti (U18/FIS) was selected from 29 applicants to receive the 2026 Dan Nagy Alpine Growth Scholarship. She was chosen based on her positive attitude, zest for life, and passion that reflects the spirit and values of Dan Nagy. This scholarship is intended for post-high school education.



BADGER STATE GAMES: 3/7/26

The 37th annual Badger State Games event will take place at Granite Peak Ski Resort on **March 7, 2026**.

!! Deadline to register: March 6th
(or when 200 registrations is reached)

[REGISTER HERE](#)



CITIZENS DIVISION: This division is for people with limited or no racing experience. Any skier with good directional control can participate!

MASTERS DIVISION: This division is for racers who have participated in any type of organized race programs including USSA, WJARA, high school skiing, and gold/silver NASTAR winners.

SHARING THE GPST LOVE!

From Visiting Coach

Dear Ron & Team,

Thank you for taking the time to model your practices, discuss your program, and answer my questions. You are doing awesome things filled with intentionality, organization, and strong communication. I'm impressed with how the athletes articulate the things within their control on race day, how they keep notebooks, and how they know what works for them mentally & physically. It's a testament to all you have done behind the scenes to coach and

support them! I left feeling excited, inspired, and ready for the next steps. Your program is difficult to match but there are many ideas I can apply now.

Please accept a small donation as a "thank you." I hope to see you all winning on race days!

Emily Foster, Monona Grove HS

U12 Speed Camp

Emily told me she wished we were closer to GP so she could have Coach Brian as a permanent coach! This camp is great and the coaches are awesome!



Message from Emily's dad

From President Bautsch to GP

It's gratifying to get messages from visiting teams that compliment how they were treated here - from the customer service GPST & GP provides to the race venue.

We appreciate everything the Granite Peak team does for us. We are the ones on the hill working with coaches & athletes who have paid to come and enjoy what the GP team has created. I'm always telling them that it's the hard work of those behind the scenes that allows me to give them the final pieces of their experience.

THANK YOU ALL for your hard work! It truly makes representing GP a pleasure!

YOU ROCK



GPST IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

OUR ATHLETES HAVE BEEN UP TO BIG THINGS – AND PEOPLE ARE TALKING!

It was a big month for our older GPST athletes! 15 of our team members represented their high schools at the Wisconsin High School State Alpine Championships in La Crosse – and several claimed top 5 spots!

OVERALL WINNERS

- 1st – Alli Marti
- 3rd – Grace Kallio
- 3rd – Gavin Hristov

SLALOM

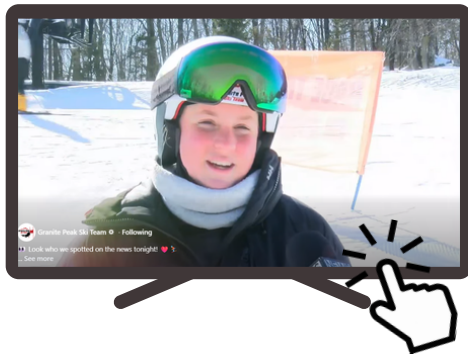
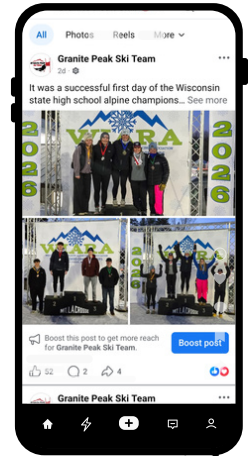
- 1st – Alli Marti
- 2nd – Gavin Hristov

GIANT SLALOM

- 1st – Alli Marti
- 2nd – Grace Kallio
- 4th – Ellie McNamar
- 4th – Gavin Hristov
- 5th – Mason Hurda

SUPER G

- 1st – Alli Marti
- 2nd – Grace Kallio
- 3rd – Gavin Hristov
- 4th – Mason Hurda



FEATURED ON WAOW NEWS LINE 9

Dylan Eckhart stopped by the hill to chat with Coach Ron, GPST President Michael Bautsch, and athletes Kathryn Floyd and Alli Marti. The resulting story showcases the dedication of our athletes, the excellence of our training space, and the success of our program!



FOUR ATHLETES EARN A SPOT AT U18 NATIONALS!

For the first time ever, FOUR Granite Peak Ski Team athletes have earned a spot at U18 Nationals, held in New Hampshire March 2nd-8th. Only 60 athletes from the whole country are invited to compete.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Alli Marti, Grace Kallio, Ellie McNamar, and Gavin Hristov! What an incredible accomplishment! ❤️





ABOVE THE LINE SHOUTOUT

This month's shoutout goes to Sally Sann - Adult League Athlete

Sally Sann has volunteered to step in and clean the GPST Performance Center every Monday this season! **Thank you, Sally!** This helps ensure the space stays clean for our athletes - and that it's ready for the monthly meetings that The Friends of Rib Mountain hold in the space.



ARE YOU AN ALUMNI?

We'd love to hear where you are now!

Reach out to info@gpst.org. We'll feature you in a future newsletter!

PERFORMANCE CENTER CLEANING SIGN-UP

We appreciate Sally volunteering to clean the Performance Center weekly, but there is plenty of work to share! Please consider signing up for a cleaning slot - or donate cleaning supplies.

SIGN UP →



TUNING: ARE YOUR ATHLETE'S SKIS READY??



Before your athlete hits the slopes for championship season, take time to make sure their skis are ready and set up correctly. This is essential for keeping them safe on the hill and setting them up for success!

Pre-race Check

- ✓ DIN Settings (binding release setting)
- ✓ Binding Forward Pressure
- ✓ Pull Second Edge (Sidewall) Material
- ✓ Sharpen Edges
- ✓ Wax - Pierce Skate & Ski posts recommendations on FB before region races 👍

If you aren't sure about binding settings, or to have your athlete's edges checked, reach out to a GPST coach.





SPONSOR SHOUTOUT *Thank you!*

We appreciate our partnership with Comfort Inn & Suites, Weston! As a team sponsor, athletes & families attending GPST events and trainings are able to book at a special rate of \$89/night (+tax).

For reservations: Book online or call the hotel (715-355-9955) and ask for the Granite Peak Ski Team special rate.

As with all our sponsors, please consider patronizing local businesses who support our team.

DONATION THANK YOU!

THANK YOU to the businesses & families who donated to support our medals & prizes for our club races!

- ♥ **Culvers** (Liz Moens): Gift Cards
- ♥ **Quast Consulting & Testing** (Kassi Heil): Donation for medals
- ♥ **Schippers Kipp Family**: GPST swag gift certificates
- ♥ **Bautsch Family**: GPST swag gift certificates



OUR CALENDAR



BOOKMARK our team calendar so you can always find our upcoming practices, camps, races, and events. Practice plans are posted for each practice so athletes know what to expect and what gear to bring.



GPST APPAREL STORE!

Wear your GPST gear with pride!

- Hats
- T-Shirts/Polos
- Jackets/Vests
- Joggers/Sweatpants
- and more!

SHOP HERE!

Thank you, Fully Promoted of Wausau, for the sponsorship!