

Team Missoula Hosts 30th Montana Cup at Rossignol Ranch in Lolo

This year's Montana Cup hosted by Team Missoula in Lolo, MT started with a 200-meter flat section but was followed by a steep climb, large by cross country standards, about 150 feet tall. It allowed the race to spread out really rapidly. Runners would make 3 laps, creating a unique opportunity for following the race and tracking participants for the just-over-4-mile race.

Beyond the competitive nature of Montana Cup, participants loved the camaraderie and supportive nature of the event.

"It was my first-time racing MT Cup! I was inspired by the women in Missoula who have spoken so fondly of the event and decided to join," said Libby Covelli. "The race did not disappoint! Everyone was supportive and encouraging. I loved seeing the variety of ages and experience levels."

WOMEN'S RACE

With 2021's top two runners not returning this year, it wasn't clear who would come away with the win in the women's race. At the gun, a sea of yellow jerseys flew to the front of the pack and up the hill, creating a large front pack.

"It went out fast, too fast in my opinion" said runner up Anna Dalton of Bozeman. "I think that made the race split open sooner than it would have otherwise. On the second lap, Madison [Liechty] and I chatted briefly, we didn't know each other before the race, and then she went on to totally smoke me!"

Liechty would run on to win the race, followed by Dalton, Anna French and Jamie Brusa all of Bozeman. Only Missoula's Erin Forde was able to keep the Bozeman women from a perfect score as she secured fifth place. Bozeman came away with a low score of 16 followed by Missoula and Butte (71 to 77 respectively).

"Overall, in the race I was impressed by all the women around me who exhibited strong downhill running skills and a lot of great team tactics," said Dalton after the race.

In the master's race, Jessica Johnson of Kalispell took out an aggressive first 400. Trisha Drobeck of Missoula passed Johnson on the first climb and maintained the masters lead and victory for the second year in a row. Nicole Murray of Butte and Sue Huse of Missoula battled for third and fourth with Murray nabbing third by 7 seconds.

The Missoula Masters team scored a perfect score of 15 followed by Helena with 58 and Bozeman in 63 points. Butte, Great Falls and Kalispell did not field full teams.

MEN'S RACE

Coming off an impressive trail season and previous year's Montana Cup victor, Missoula's Adam Peterman was the favorite to win the 2022 edition. However, Collin Buck of Kalispell took the lead in the first lap and Peterman was never able to catch him. Buck won by 6 seconds. Buck and Peterman busted the race open on the first climb, leaving the chasers in their wake. This included Tony Clement of Bozeman, Peter Schommer of Helena, Nico Composto of Missoula, Cody Moore of Kalispell and Finneas Colecott of Missoula.

“The 2022 Montana Cup was another wild and gritty race,” Moore said after the race. “We brought a stacked team from Kalispell down to Missoula, hoping that this would be the year we could dethrone the reigning Missoula Men's team after a narrow second place finish in the Butte 2021 edition.”

However, Missoula once again proved its depth and dominance on the steep and technical course.

“The last lap was extremely difficult. I was crawling up the final uphill and had to work very hard not to throw up once the downhill started but I managed to hold it together. Cody [Moore] was right on my heels on the last lap and I had to give it everything I had to stay ahead of him,” Composto said after the race.

“Once I crossed the finish line I was excited to see Finneas cross the line in 7th and then Nick [Cornell] and Andy [Drobeck] right behind him. This secured a victory for Missoula.”

The Missoula men won with a low score of 32 followed by Kalispell edging out Bozeman by one point (51 to 52 respectively.)

In the master's race, Jason Delaney took the lead quickly and said he kept on the look out for a blue jersey (Michael Kaiser of Helena who would finish third). He should have been looking for maroon. At the line newly minted master Andy Drobeck out kicked Delaney besting him by half a second.

“Andy Drobeck is a sneaky old bugger with a surprisingly voracious kick!” Delaney said post-race. The Missoula Men took the team award handily with 21 points.

2022 Summary

- 30th Montana Cup Cross Country Championship took place Saturday, October 29, 2022 at the scenic Rossignol Ranch in Lolo. The race was hosted by Run Wild Missoula and Runners Edge, with Trisha Drobeck and Anders Brooker acting as Race Director & MC.
- The women raced first at 12:00, followed by the men at 1:00.
- 230 participants (104 women, 126 men), with 6 of 7 regions represented by at least one runner.
- Good racing conditions, with temps in the ~50F range, no precip, and little wind.
- Challenging 4.14 mile course, consisting of 3 clockwise loops with a major climb near the start of each loop, followed by a plummeting descent down a narrow canyon.
- Missoula showed up in force, winning 3 of the 4 cups (women's masters, men's open, men's masters). Bozeman won the women's open division with an almost perfect score of 16 points.
- Missoula runner and Race Director Trisha Drobeck was inducted into the Montana Cup Hall of Fame (5 All Montana Cup finishes out of 6 appearances, 1 individual title, 2 masters titles, scoring member of 3 women's open championship teams).
- Full results available here:

<https://competitivetiming.com/montana-cup-results/#unique-id-2022>

- More information available here:

www.montanacup.com

- According to the usual rotation schedule, the 2023 Montana Cup is set to take place in the Helena region. See you next year!

Team Results

Women's Open

- 1) Bozeman, 16 points
- 2) Missoula, 71 points
- 3) Butte, 77 points
- 4) Kalispell, 82 points
- 5) Great Falls, 142 points
- 6) Helena, 162 points

Women's Masters

- 1) Missoula, 15 points
- 2) Helena, 58 points
- 3) Bozeman, 63 points
- Butte, Incomplete
- Great Falls, Incomplete
- Kalispell, Incomplete

Men's Open

- 1) Missoula, 32 points
- 2) Kalispell, 51 points
- 3) Bozeman, 52 points
- 4) Helena, 98 points
- 5) Butte, 159 points
- 6) Great Falls, 171 points

Men's Masters

- 1) Missoula, 21 points
- 2) Helena, 35 points
- 3) Great Falls, 85 points
- Bozeman, Incomplete
- Butte, Incomplete
- Kalispell, Incomplete

Individual Awards

All Montana Cup – Women's Open

- 1) Madison Liechty, Bozeman
- 2) Anna Dalton, Bozeman
- 3) Anna French, Bozeman
- 4) Jamie Brusa, Bozeman
- 5) Erin Forde, Missoula
- 6) Katrina Ivancic, Bozeman

7) Eireann Rhine, Butte

All Montana Cup – Women's Masters

- 1) Trisha Drobeck, Missoula*
- 2) Jessica Johnson, Kalispell
- 3) Nicole Murray, Butte
- 4) Sue Huse, Missoula
- 5) Elizabeth Paddock, Missoula
- 6) Elizabeth Metcalf, Missoula
- 7) Alyson Zellner, Great Falls

*Montana Cup Hall of Fame, Class of 2023.

All Montana Cup – Women's Junior

- 1) Morgan Delaney, Kalispell
- 2) Kaitlyn Skinner, Missoula
- 3) Lily Macfarlane, Bozeman
- 4) Eden Maxwell, Missoula
- 5) Jamison Molloy, Missoula
- 6) Ashtyn Wagner, Kalispell
- 7) Anni Kendrick, Missoula

All Montana Cup – Men's Open

- 1) Collin Buck, Kalispell
- 2) Adam Peterman, Missoula
- 3) Tony Clement, Bozeman
- 4) Peter Schommer, Helena
- 5) Nicolas Composto, Missoula
- 6) Cody Moore, Kalispell
- 7) Finneas Colescott, Missoula

All Montana Cup – Men's Masters

- 1) Andy Drobeck, Missoula
- 2) Jason Delaney, Kalispell
- 3) Michael Kaiser, Helena
- 4) Seth Swanson, Missoula
- 5) Aaron Derry, Missoula
- 6) Michael Laforest, Missoula
- 7) Jesse Zentz, Helena

All Montana Cup – Men's Junior

- 1) Finneas Colescott, Missoula
- 2) Wilson Derry, Missoula
- 3) Jan Lauenstein, Missoula
- 4) Nico Petrini, Missoula
- 5) Ridley Key, Missoula
- 6) Eli Highness, Helena
- 7) Odin Berryman, Missoula