

MINUTES OF MEETING
OF
USSA MASTERS NATIONAL WORKING GROUP
HELD MARCH 23, 2004
ASPEN, COLORADO

The annual meeting of the USSA Masters National Working Group was held on Tuesday, March 23, 2004, at the Inn at Aspen, Buttermilk Room, Aspen, Colorado. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. An attendance sheet was distributed. A list of attendees is attached hereto and incorporated herein. Bill Skinner, USSA Masters Coordinator, opened the meeting, welcomed all of the divisional representatives and attendees, distributed meeting packets (a copy of which is attached hereto) and reviewed the contents thereof. Bill announced that in the absence of Keith Thompson's, the current chairman of the Masters National Working Group, Ned Dolan had filled in as acting chairman, and that he had agreed to serve as Chairman of the meeting.

1. Approval of March 2003 Masters National Working Group Minutes:

Upon motion made (Pete Donoghy/Eastern) and seconded (Steve Slivinski/Intermountain), the Minutes of the March 2003 meeting held in Park City, Utah during the Masters National Championships, were unanimously approved.

2. Additions to Agenda:

- (a) Bob Tengdin/Central presented a proposal regarding speed events; and
- (b) BobTatge/Rocky Mtn. presented a proposal regarding handling of cancelled downhills in the future.

3. National Chairman: Bill announced that Keith Thompson was stepping down as National Masters Chairman. Steve Slivinski/Intermountain nominated Ned Dolan to serve as the new National Masters Chairman, and the nomination was seconded by Willie Schmidt/PNSA). There being no other nominations from the floor, upon calling for the vote, Ned Dolan was unanimously elected as the new Chairman.

4. Report of USSA Coordinator:

- a. USSA Masters membership numbers are holding.
- b. Controversy regarding application of original 3/1/04 proposed draft FIS and USSA Equipment Regulations for 2004/2005 has been revised so that for USSA masters sanctioned races, masters would be excluded from adhering to minimums/maximums proposed. This revision illustrated USSA sensitivity to the recreational aspect of masters racing in the U.S.A. However, FIS rules for equipment will apply to

those events listed as FIS events, i.e., the masters FIS international events. Additional discussion on the subject of FIS masters races and rules would be covered later on the agenda under New Business.

- c. Although membership fees were raised this past year, masters memberships did not seem to be affected significantly, as with the previous raise several years ago.

5. Temporary Membership Licenses. Bill directed the representatives to the information sheet regarding temporary licenses and their proper completion and problems resulting from incomplete forms prepared by the USSA membership department. He noted that it is very important that the forms be completed in their entirety, and that insurance information must be provided. After due discussion, it was the consensus that all divisions, with the exception of Central, wanted to continue to offer temporary memberships because they were a marketing tool for attracting new members, in that they provided a prospective member the opportunity of partaking in masters' races and hopefully deciding to join as a full member. Bill noted that Far West had the best record for completion of temporary membership forms. Gayle DeMattei, the supervising coordinator for the Far West program, described the process that she follows to insure that all forms are properly completed and promptly transmitted to USSA with the appropriate fees. All divisions pledged to be more responsible in reviewing the forms and transmitting them to USSA.

Bill stated that by September 1, 2004, each division would need to provide the name of a coordinator who would be responsible for processing temporary memberships and that Sarah Bergstrom would contact the respective coordinators regarding completion of the forms for the coming season. Bill emphasized that in order to continue offering temporary memberships, the applications and monies must be quickly transmitted to USSA so that in the event a "temporary member" should decide to join, the fees paid for the temporary membership can be tracked and applied to a full membership. Bill reminded all divisions that in order to compete in a Regional or National event, competitors must be full members and that temporary memberships would not be offered for those events.

6. Nationals 2005 – Bid from Big Sky, Montana

Bill announced that he had received a 4-event National's bid from Big Sky, Montana for March 27-April 2, 2004. A copy of the proposed schedule of events was distributed to the representatives. A discussion was held concerning holding the Nationals that late, but it was noted that it is difficult to try to schedule this series earlier because of spring breaks and earlier times being prime time at many of the major resorts that would be equipped to host our National Championships (i.e. sufficient lodging, banquet facilities, timing equipment, hill space, etc.). It was also noted by several of the representatives that some of the divisional race schedules run through February and early March and it would be difficult to get good attendance if the Nationals were to be moved into February. It was agreed the site committee would continue to try to find areas that

would be willing to host the series as early as March 15th. Bill also responded to a question concerning having a later deadline for entries into the divisional chairman, which is currently set at January 31 each year, advising that the entries are finally transmitted to the hosting area on or about February 15, which gives the area only 6 weeks lead time in knowing how many competitors are expected at the event for ordering t-shirts, arranging banquet facilities, lodging, etc., and it is unrealistic to allow less time for the areas.

Nationals – 2006 – discussion of the possibility of the races being held at Sunday River, approximately March 15.

7. Masters FIS Criterium 2005 – Sun Valley, ID, April 5-9, 2005

These races are scheduled to follow the series at Big Sky, allowing for a couple of days of travel and rest between the two series. It was noted that the opportunity to compete in 7 races over a 10 day period was available, and that those traveling from the East or Alaska for instance, would be able to participate in both series without having to spend the money to travel twice to the Intermountain/Northern region. But of course, as is often the case, some racers will choose one or the other series to attend.

8. Western Regional Championships – Mammoth Mountain Feb. 4-5-6, 2005

Mammoth has bid to host the Western Regionals, and may also offer 1 or two downhill races preceding the series, which races would be part of the Molecule Speed series.

9. Eastern Regional Championships – Unconfirmed as yet.

The Easterns have not yet been finalized, but may possibly held at Sugarbush Feb. 21-22-23. This will be confirmed shortly.

10. Divisional Reports

Eastern/New England - Pete Donaghy: Good snow, really cold weather. Had 54 temporary memberships of which five became full members. Encouraging trend in that 3-4 ski areas have asked to run masters races. Overall it was a good year.

Eastern/New York – Pepi Neubauer: Still fighting the competition with the various beer leagues. Lake Placid and West Mountain have shown interest in holding masters events again. Reliable will be sponsoring the West Mountain race. Don Rasmussen will be the new chairman for next year taking over from Mark Sertel.

Northern/Percy Amble: Best races are the ones held jointly with other divisions. Will continue to work with other divisions to hold joint races. Northern will have a new chairman for next season, who is very enthusiastic and will be working on increasing membership with younger members. Lookout Mountain is a new area for

training. Expect membership to increase because of the hosting of the National Championships at Big Sky.

Pacific Northwest/Willie Schmidt & Knut Olberg: Very good snow, membership has increased a bit. New area, Mission Ridge, will be running races. Have had quite a few temporary memberships from beer league participants. Enthusiasm has been growing. Have a very full race schedule causing some conflicts with other division big events, i.e. Skoch Cup at Sun Valley. PNSA finals will be held at Bachelor following Nationals at Aspen. Current Chairman, Paul Shimchick, is doing a good job. Bill Skinner thanked PNSA and specifically Howie Dickerman, for his quick response regarding the equipment issue. Also doing on-line registration using Active.com. Each racer pays the additional fee for convenience of registering online. Has been working well.

Alaska/Gary Randall: Has been a good year. Alaska runs its masters program a bit differently than other divisions. Many races are run as a ski club race. Masters also run with the juniors. Eight scheduled races this past season with good participation.

Central/Jack Thune: Steve Lindemer injured and unable to attend Nationals. Continuing to try to build numbers. Central is spread into three regions and it is difficult to get all of the members from all 3 regions together. Have been attempting to hold a race in a central location as a qualifier for Nationals. Was a very short season this year. There is a "Ski Challenge" which runs for 7 weeks which draws over 1600 competitors. Will be trying to draw new members from this group of racers.

Rocky Mtn./Bob Tatge: Can register for Rocky races on line. Rocky has been sponsoring the fee charged to register on line to encourage racers to use the service. Five or 6 areas have training facilities. Need to work on processing temporary memberships. Will coordinate with Rocky office. The season has been a good year with good participation.

Intermountain/Steve Slivinski: This past season has been one considered as "on the road again" with many areas hosting masters races again, i.e. Deer Valley, Jackson Hole and Snowbasin. Both Jackson Hole and Snowbasin both started masters training programs.

Far West/Don Smith: Season finale is April 9-11. Have attracted a lot of new 20 year old guys to the program. Gayle DeMattei will continue to be supervising coordinator for races. Additional contacts are Debbie Lewis and Heidi Littenberg.

11. Old Business/Bill Skinner:

- a. Handbook – it was the unanimous consensus that we want to continue producing a hard copy handbook. Bill emphasized the

importance of meeting the deadline for submission of information. Deadline is in June 2004.

- b. Spring Newsletter – Report from each division will be due in April. Fall newsletter as usual next year. Will be sending out a mid-year newsletter next year instead of sending the Fall newsletter to the Nastar mailing list.

12. New Business:

- a. FIS Regulations: Bob Bernard stated that we have been attempting to get a change at the FIS level for masters regarding ski lengths. Impossible progress. A general discussion was held concerning the effect of enforcement of the longer lengths at the Sun Valley Criterium races next year. Bob Tengdin will be attending the FIS meeting in Miami this spring and will continue the attempt to have the FIS regulations waived for masters. Will come up with a proposal for, for instance, using the “children” FIS rules for masters. Harald Herbert represents the Masters in FIS. Bob noted that a written proposal must be submitted at the Miami meeting.
- b. Lowering Age Limit for Masters to 18 years old: Far West/Don Smith requested that masters consider lowering the age limit in order to gain more membership as that racers who leave the high school programs have no where to go until they reach 21 years old. It was noted by Don that the Far West scholarship recipients are invited to forerun Far West’s races, and are invited to attend the parties following the races, and that there have been no problems supervising the under 21 year old racers regarding alcohol.

It was moved (Don Smith) and seconded (Steve Slivinski) that age for membership as a masters be lowered to age 18, contingent upon the approval of USSA. The motion was unanimously approved.

- c. Downhill Race Cancellation: It was moved (Bob Tatge) and seconded (Jack Thune) that in the event that a scheduled downhill competition is cancelled and not rescheduled, the last training run after the first training run shall be counted and scored as the competition, and that flagged or interfered with competitors shall be permitted provisional reruns. This motion was brought because of the cancellation of the National Downhill because of the unfavorable weather and snow conditions on the day of the race. After a general discussion, the motion was withdrawn. It was the consensus that a revision to the current statement in the handbook

would include a statement regarding this type of situation, and that the phrase that such a situation would be upon “jury decision.”

As time had run out to complete all of the items on the agenda, it was moved (Pete Donaghy) and seconded that the meeting be recessed to be reconvened on another day during the holding of the National Championships (scheduled for Wednesday, March 24, 2004 at 4:00 p.m.). The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m., to be reconvened on Wednesday, March 24, 2004 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Rosie Moschel, Acting Secretary

Attest:

Ned Dolan, Chairman

ROSTER OF ATTENDEES:

USSA Coordinator: Bill Skinner
Acting Chairman: Ned Dolan
Acting Secretary: Rosie Moschel

Divisional Representatives:

Alaska: Gary Randall
Central: Jack Thune
Eastern: Pete Donaghy (New England) and Pepi Neubauer (New York)
Far West: Don Smith
Intermountain: Steve Slivinski
Northern: Percy Amble
Pacific Northwest: Willie Schmidt
Rocky Mountain: Bob Tatge

Site Selection Committee: Pepi Neubauer and Bob Sarchett

Other Attendees:

Ken Williams/Northern
Gayle DeMattei/Far West Race Coordinator Supervisor
Gaet DeMattei/Far West
D.J.Tengdin/Rocky Mtn.
Rauli Karjalainen/Intermountain
Bob Bernard/Far West
Knut Olberg/Pacific Northwest
Wayne Henderson/Alaska
Bob Dreyer/Intermountain
Deb Lewis/Far West