

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING  
OF  
USSA MASTERS NATIONAL WORKING GROUP  
Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.  
Grand Summit Hotel  
Sunday River, Maine**

1. Introduction:

A. The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. and all present were asked to sign roll-call sheet.

B. Approval of March 2008 National Annual Working Group Minutes.

It was moved by Steve Slivinski and seconded by Marietta Frinell that the minutes of the 2008 National Annual Working Group Meeting be approved. Bill Skinner reviewed some of the items included in the Minutes, including the reversed second run running order. He explained this was successfully tested at Western Regionals. Bill also discussed they cannot find a site for a FIS race and lost the criterium for a FIS race in the USA. The criteria to host a FIS race includes a major sponsorship title and a way to control the race entries fee payment and field size. At this time, USSA is not pursuing FIS races for the U.S.

Slivinski then reads a letter by Keith McCauley, who was unable to come to Sunday River.

2. Working Group Members and others in attendance:

Bill Skinner, USSA Coordinator  
Steve Slivinski, Intermountain Division Chairman  
Marietta Frinell, Far West  
Dennis Welhelmsen, Northern  
Carolyn Phillips on behalf of Richard Zimmerman, for PNSA Division  
Knut Olberg, Pacific Northwest  
Nadine Price, V.P. New England for Eastern Division  
Jennifer Kaufman on behalf of Jim Roberts for Rocky Mtn. Division  
Steve Lindemer, Midwest Masters representing Central Division  
Ann Nordhoy, Masters FIS Representative

Others participants in attendance:

Jenny Badger, Intermountain Division serving as recording secretary  
Pepi Neubauer, Eastern Division  
Bob Sarchett, Intermountain Division  
Drury Cooper, Intermountain Division

3. Reports

A. Bill Skinner, USSA Alpine National Masters Manager

Bill advised that it is not North America's turn in the rotation to hold the IMC Criterium with Canada being the country, next in line. The U.S. is working on a possible bid when our turn comes up in the future.

Bill first reminded the group about the spring newsletter deadlines, and each division needs to send articles and photos for their respective sections. He also encouraged each division representative to start talking to their sites for 2009-2010 season behind the current season ends. Bill discussed the new format for the competition guide, which will like be online as a result of budget changes at USSA. The guide should be ready for athletes by September 1. He also mentioned that we hope to have competition posters next year, which were printed by Rossignol, if we can renew the sponsorship. He also suggested February 15, 2010 as the deadline for entries for 2010 Nationals.

Next, Bill reviewed last year's efforts to increase membership. Last year the Masters fall newsletter was sent to 3,000 NASTAR gold members over the age of 30 with a letter inviting them to join Masters. Membership numbers for the season as of March 1, 2009 were less than the same time last year despite efforts with NASTAR and ski shows. One exception are the membership numbers in the Intermountain division, which have placed a large emphasis on college recruiting the last year.

It was agreed that membership will continue to be a challenge.

Bill informed the group that 2010 Western Regionals will be held in Park City, Utah. They had 165 racers at the 2009 Regionals, and Park City is excited to host the races again.

He also informed the group of Sun Valley's bid for the 2010 Nationals. Representing Sun Valley, Steve Slivinski said Sun Valley wants our business, and they are offering some discounts on lodging. Room rates at various lodging options in Sun Valley are not only discounted but include a free lift ticket for each occupant. It was mentioned that Sun Valley is a big attraction for many racers, particular in the Far West and Central divisions. The group then discussed the format of the races if they are held at Sun Valley. The resort does not have a downhill site, so a super combined would be necessary to make it a 4-event Nationals. The possibility of finding another site to host the National downhill was suggested. Rocky and Far West divisions said they would investigate the

possibility in their areas. It was mentioned to add another day to the Aspen Speed Series for the National downhill.

The next item Bill addressed was temporary memberships. Last year 191 racers signed up for a temporary membership. The names of those racers have been distributed to the division leaders, who need to recruit those racers to buy full memberships. The current cost of a temporary membership is \$25 for two weekends of racing. It was proposed to raise the cost to \$35 for one weekend of racing, but the price was settled on \$25 for one weekend. Bill emphasized how important it is to get the waivers signed by racers buying temporary memberships.

## B. Division Chair Reports.

### Eastern

Nadine Price reported on the successful recruiting efforts at the Boston ski show. She also reported on membership participation. Eastern did not lose members this last year, but members participated in fewer racers. They did experience a boost in younger racers. Nadine updated the group on Eastern's efforts for the past season. They started a newsletter, online registration, and post-race surveys. They have also increased the number of parties and have encouraged more racers to become USSA officials.

### Far West

Marietta reported on the struggles Far West had this past season. Membership numbers were down. Both Alpine Meadows and Squaw Valley dropped their Masters teams. She asked the group for suggestions. Other efforts to help the Far West program have been an e-Newsletter and a party at every race. She also mentioned a new airline service into Mammoth Mountain that will hopefully attract more racers.

### Central

Steve Lindemer reported that the ski show in Minneapolis was a big success with a new marketing approach the fun surrounding the races (parties, raffles, etc.). He also reported on other efforts the past season to increase memberships. Each current member was challenged to bring one new racer into the program. They've also tried to increase recruiting at popular league races. Central's goal is to have 80 racers at every race in 4 years. In addition, Central re-delegated many officials within the division.

### Rocky

Jennifer Kaufmann reported that Rocky also had a successful result from the ski show in Denver. Reporting on Rocky's efforts for the past season. They have made a big effort to go green and paperless, including offering their eNewsletter only online. Rocky also outsourced coaches to come to Masters races on weekends to be available to racers for inspection and other race day questions. This was a big success and very popular and helpful for new racers. She also reported that membership numbers were down this last year, but they did see an increase in younger racers. They predict the Team league will likely go belly up, and they hope to absorb many of these racers in Masters.

### Northern

Dennis Wilhelmsen reported Northern division's recruiting efforts, which include new training opportunities. They are working on an early season training camp at Apex. They also are encouraging racers to bring their children (adult and young) to the races. One challenge Northern faces is helping racers find deals on equipment. Lastly, the joint races with other divisions did have a positive increase on increasing numbers a races.

### Pacific Northwest

Knut Olberg reported that their membership numbers are down. In addition, Dick Zimmerman will be stepping down as division chairman, and Ann Ozuna has agreed to takeover. One challenge Pacific faces is participation in ski areas in outlying areas. Seventy percent of Pacific Northwest's racers come from the Seattle area. In Seattle's local league races, 800 racers participate a week. Masters train next to the city league, and Pacific would like to host night slalom races, but it's very difficult to compete against the city league. Lastly, they did administer an end-of-the-season survey and had a high response rate. They hope Ann will help promote Masters to participate in racers in these outlying areas.

This lead to a discussion about scheduling races around the racers. Bill said that Intermountain schedules more races in the Salt Lake City area because there are more racers there than Sun Valley. Central mentioned that they cutting races in next year's schedule but making each race a bigger overall event. Far West mentioned they will have two races at Mammoth and two races at Squaw Valley with the hope that the bigger resorts will draw bigger numbers. Steve Slivinski reported on Sun Valley's efforts to attract racers. Last year they offered cash prizes to Skoch Cup winners, which brought about 20 new young racers to the event. They plan on offering cash again for next year's races. Nadine then mentioned that a recent survey stated that racers wanted less races. Eastern reduced their races from 27 to 20 races a season. They then promoted the fewer races with a party, raffles, as well as a 50/50 raffle to help raise extra cash for the post-race activities.

### FIS

Anne Nordhay reported that the 2010 Criterium will be in Haslital, Switzerland and passed out brochures promoting the event. She also passed out information on the World Winter Masters Games in Slovenia the last week in January in 2010. She mentioned that Canada is supposedly going to hold four FIS races next season. In addition, she informed the group that the 2011 Criterium will be in Andora, Spain.

### C. Proposal

#### (1) Online Registration Software

Jennifer Kaufman proposed a webinar for all the divisions to introduce a new software for online registration. The Rocky Mountain division has made extra efforts to go paperless, and this new software that allows racers to register for races online has lowered administrative work by 70%. Jennifer passed out a handout with more information.

(2) Program to Develop More TDs

Nadine Price from Eastern is interested in a program to train board members and Master racers to become USSA Officials. Bill said he will investigate what changes are needed to train Masters to become officials.

D. Voting Issues:

(1) Proposed New Tie-Breaker Rule

Marietta made the motion to accept Deb's recommendation.

FIS Liaison, Ann Nordhoy	YES
Central, Steve Lindemer	YES
East, Nadine Price	YES
Far West, Marietta Frinell	YES
Northern, Dennis Welhelmsen	YES
PNSA, Knut Olberg	YES
Rocky, Jennifer Kaufman	YES

The motion passed 7 to 0.

For Regional and Spyder National Team scoring.

Ties will be broken by best single result, then second best result, then third best result and finally by race points, using the lowest total race points if the tied competitors finished the same races in the combined event otherwise by best (lowest) points result.

(2) Masters Memberships to USSA Coaches Under 39

Bob Sarchett proposed an idea to allow USSA coaches under 39 to compete in masters event except for Regional and National Championships. Many in the group did not think that it will make a difference in membership but the group is in support of the idea. There was no vote but the group unanimously agreed to extend this courtesy to USSA coaches. Subject to USSA approval.

(3) Temporary License Price Change

USSA proposed a change in value for temporary licenses from \$25 good for two weekends to \$25 good for one weekend of racing. Accepted by committee.

(4) Masters Membership Fee Increase

It was accepted by the group USSA's proposal to raise Masters membership fees from \$100 to \$110.

(5) Vote for National Committee Chairman

Keith McCauley, who has been the Masters National Committee Chairman for the last 2 years, offered to stepping down if a member was interested taking on the position. Keith Thompson recommended Steve Slivinski for the open position. Steve accepted. Marietta officially nominated Steve, and Steve L. seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed by the entire group.

There being no further business to discuss, Steve Slivinski adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Jenny Badger  
Acting Recording Secretary

Attest:

---

Keith McCauley  
Alpine Masters National Chairman