

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING
OF
USSA MASTERS NATIONAL WORKING GROUP
Sunday, March 28, 2010
Sun Valley Inn
Sun Valley, Idaho**

1. Introduction:

A. The meeting was called to order at 3:30PM.

B. Approval of March 2009 National Annual Working Group Minutes.

It was moved by Steve Slivinski and seconded by Keith Thompson that the Minutes of the 2009 National Annual Working Group Meeting be approved. Bill Skinner reviewed some of the items included in Minutes, including the new tiebreak rule for Regional Championships, which was used successfully at the Eastern Regionals.

2. Working Group Members and others in attendance:

Bill Skinner, USSA Coordinator
Steve Slivinski, National Chairman
Marietta Frinell, Far West
Jennifer Kaufman, Rocky Mountain
Amy Lanzel, Intermountain
Rick Murphy, Northern
Knut Olberg standing in for Ann Ozuna, Pacific Northwest
Gary Randall, Alaska
Bob Dieffenbach, Eastern-New England
Keith Thompson, standing in for Keith McCauley, (past chair)

Others participants in attendance:

Nancy Auseklis, Intermountain, serving as recording secretary
Mark Miviss, Far West
Bob Sarchett, Intermountain
Meri Stratton, Intermountain
Carolyn Phillips, Pacific Northwest
Pepi Neubauer, Eastern-New York

3. Reports

A. Bill Skinner, USSA Alpine National Masters Manager

Bill informed us that hard copies of the Master's Newsletter will be mailed to all members in the Spring and the Fall. The deadline for photos, divisional standings and

reports, Speed Series and Nationals results is April 6th. He hopes to have the details for National and Regional Championships for 2011 included.

The competition guide will not be mailed, but will be available online again this year. July 15th is the deadline for divisional input. The members expressed concern that we are no longer receiving a hard copy of the guide, nor are we receiving Ski Racing magazine in paper form. There has been some dissatisfaction among members that our dues have gone up, but our amenities have been reduced.

National entry procedures will remain as before, with racers sending their entries to their divisional chairmen after printing copies of entry cards from online site.

The selection committee for choosing site for 2011 Nationals is Pepi Neubauer, Bob Sarchett and Reese Palermo. After reviewing the bids from Steamboat Springs, Winter Park and Copper Mountain the committee suggested we choose Copper Mountain. Copper will offer a four-event format, including a Super Combined. Also, they are willing to hold the races during our requested time period of March 22 through 26, which is Tuesday through Saturday. This schedule is better for younger racers who are unable to take an entire week off from work. It was mentioned that Copper Mountain may need to re-homologate some of the race runs, including Rosie's. Bill asked Esther and Rocky Mtn. Division to check out the details at Copper. Keith Thompson moved to accept the bid from Copper Mountain to hold the 2011 National Championships. Gary Randall seconded the motion. Motion passed.

There was some discussion on having the National Downhill at Ski Cooper in Colorado. Jenny Kaufman said it is a "masters friendly" downhill, and is close to Copper. It was suggested that the DH races be on the Saturday and Sunday before the Nationals, including training on Saturday, and race on Sunday.

Mammoth Mountain has been selected to host the Western Regional Championships to be held February 3 – 6, 2011. It would be a four race event, including Super Combined, Super G, Giant Slalom and Slalom.

Bill reviewed our membership numbers which have dropped 9% from last year. A discussion followed about what to do about this, and what might have caused the drop in membership. Some mention was made about the fact that our dues have increased, but our benefits have been reduced. (No paper copy of handbook, no hard copy of Ski Racing Magazine.) There were mixed feelings about whether knowing that a large percentage of our masters membership dollars go towards the US Ski Team will help increase membership or cause resentment that it doesn't all go towards the Masters programs. Bill said that an email survey will be sent to all Masters, as well as the 400 people who did not renew. Then he can look at each division to see what can be done to increase membership.

B. Division Chair Reports.

Eastern

Fred Dieffenbach reported on Eastern's efforts to recruit more members. At the beginning of the season they partnered with the Doug Lewis downhill camp by adding a masters race. Eastern is trying to emphasize the social aspect of racing, and is trying to get more sponsors for after-race parties. This year was a transition year, since Gary Colwell retired after 20 years of running New England Masters. There were problems with the transition, including results, scoring errors, etc. But these are being resolved, and the new administrator is turning things around. There was a good turnout for the Eastern Regionals, and they are planning on counting the Regional results for the Sise Cup.

Pepi Neubauer reported on Eastern-New York. They had good numbers this year by running 2 races in a day (a slalom and a GS, with 2 runs each). They focused on parties, and gained people from the Beer League because they liked the Masters parties. They averaged 60 racers per weekend.

Far West

Marietta reported on Far West changes that have been popular. Squaw Mountain held a 2-day race with 3 runs per day, and it drew a big field. Eddie Mozen's scholarship program for promising junior racers was very successful this year. The Far West masters raised enough money to fund 43 racers for \$300 to \$1,800 apiece. All money collected goes to the scholarship program. Also, Far West has joined up for the Concussion Awareness Program where racers take a baseline test, which gives the doctors something to check after a head injury. Marietta mentioned that when they enclosed the membership renewal form in the newsletter they didn't get much response. She said they discovered they need to make a separate mailing with a bill.

Rocky

Jennifer Kaufmann reported that Rocky had a good year. The League racing series folded, and so Masters picked up some new racers from that group. There was a new board, strong sponsorship support, and good financials. However, the Denver financial scene affected the racer numbers. This year Rocky offered a \$5 special to any racer 25 and under – any run, any race. She mentioned that some US Ski Team members joined the masters for a weekend by purchasing a temporary license.

Northern

Rick Murphy reported on Northern division's continuing difficulty in getting enough racers. The numbers are down, ages up, hard to replace people. Distances are large between areas. Because there are so few racers, areas don't want to put on races. For this reason, the masters often joined the junior races. New next year will be a masters training program at Whitefish Mountain. Bridger Bowl has a good program, so Rick is optimistic for next year.

Pacific Northwest

Knut Olberg reported that this was a good year for races. PNSA had less snow than usual, so conditions were better for racing. They had high quality races, mostly put on by local clubs. Only Snoqualamie and Mt. Bachelor were put on by the ski areas. Their problem is still that the Seattle racers are the only ones who will travel. He is frustrated that they

don't get larger numbers from the outlying areas. Crystal Mountain and Alpental have masters training programs. 39 Degrees North held 3 super G's and the race was very popular. Schweitzer has a good program, but few racers travel. Knut acknowledged the excellent job that Carolyn Phillips does with processing temporary licenses. He also mentioned that PNSA had gained new memberships by using online promotions.

Intermountain

Amy Lanzel reported on Intermountain's emphasis on obtaining commercial sponsorships for races. She has people who have re-committed for next year, including Larry H. Miller auto dealership. This year some races were sponsored by businesses owned by masters racers. The goal is to increase membership, get more new racers, increase the social events. Some ideas include town series night races, and a partnership with the airline races. She wants to try new things, using more advertising to get the word out, and trying to make the events even better. Bill pointed out that Intermountain has a larger percentage of women racers than other divisions.

Alaska

Gary Randall reported that this season was difficult to hold races because of all the snow. They tried to promote racer participation by warning that they need more racers in order to keep Alaska Division alive. It's cheaper than gas to drive to distant divisions. As a result, Alaska doubled their membership. They had 8 races this year with 30 to 50 people per race. Alaska division pays \$3500 per year to Alyeska to run their races, including timing, etc. They have a good relationship with the area. Some races are held with the juniors, and some masters enter or forerun the junior races.

C. Agenda Items

(1) Online Registration Software

Steve Slivinski reported that Intermountain and Far West are still trying to implement online registration, with help from Deb Lewis. There are still some technical issues that need to be solved. Rocky Mountain already has online registration, and Eastern would like to have it. The system used in Rocky Mountain will be tested at the Summer Fun Nationals.

(2) 501c Status for Masters

Amy Lanzel asked other divisions if they have attained 501c status. Rocky Mountain has, and Intermountain is considering it. Steve Slivinski said that the Sun Valley Ski Club has found that people are more willing to donate if the organization is 501c. Rocky is not sure whether it has helped with fund raising or not. Consensus seems to be that it is a mixed bag.

(3) Coaching License to be accepted for Masters racers without regard to age.

Bill Skinner commented that we need to sell more Masters licenses, not reduce numbers. It was mentioned that anyone ages 18 to 21 can purchase a student license, but cannot purchase a Master license. This led to the following vote:

D. Voting Issues:

(1) That any racer ages 18 to 21 be allowed to purchase a Master race license and be eligible to race as a Class I (18 – 29) in Regional and National Championships. Motion made by Gary Randall and seconded by Fred Dieffenbach. Motion passed 7-0.

Intermountain, Amy Lanzel	YES
Alaska, Gary Randall	YES
Eastern, Fred Dieffenbach	YES
Far West, Marietta Frinell	YES
Northern, Rick Murphy	YES
PNSA, Knut Olberg	YES
Rocky, Jennifer Kaufman	YES

(2) Running Orders at National and Regional Championships

Motion was made by Gary Randall that the running order for second run of Masters Regional or National Championships be as follows: Within each class the top 5 finishers in the first run will run in reverse order, with the rest of the class running in order of finish. Motion seconded by Keith Thompson. Motion passed 4 – 3.

Intermountain, Amy Lanzel	YES
Alaska, Gary Randall	YES
Eastern, Fred Dieffenbach	NO
Far West, Marietta Frinell	NO
Northern, Rick Murphy	NO
PNSA, Knut Olberg	YES
Rocky, Jennifer Kaufman	YES

There being no further business to discuss, Steve Slivinski adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Auseklis
Acting Recording Secretary

Attest:

Steve Slivinski
Alpine Masters National Chairman