

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING  
OF  
USSA MASTERS NATIONAL WORKING GROUP  
Monday, March 21, 2011  
Copper Station  
Copper Mountain, Colorado**

1. Introduction:

A. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM.

B. Approval of March 2010 National Annual Working Group Minutes.

It was moved by Gary Randall and seconded by Graham Smith that the Minutes of the 2010 National Annual Working Group Meeting be approved.

2. Working Group Members and others in attendance:

Bill Skinner, USSA Coordinator  
Steve Slivinski, National Chairman  
Mike Braun, Far West (voting)  
Graham Smith, Rocky Mountain (voting)  
Nancy Auseklis, Intermountain (voting)  
Dennis Wilhelmsen, Northern (voting)  
Carolyn Phillips, Pacific Northwest (voting)  
Gary Randall, Alaska (voting)  
Jim Thoman, Eastern-New York  
Fred Dieffenbach, Eastern-New England (voting)  
Ryan Fuller, Central (voting)

Others participants in attendance:

Lisa Densmore, Eastern  
Deb Lewis, Far West  
Barb Brumbaugh, Eastern-New York  
Dave Kornish, PNSA  
Doug Briggs (online registration)

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 6<sup>th</sup>.

The competition guide will not be mailed, but will be available online again this year. 350 hard copies will be available for members who request them. July 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for divisional input. August 15 is the deadline for division race schedules to be submitted, and September 7<sup>th</sup> the guide will be available online.

Bill reviewed the procedures for temporary memberships, and reminded us that the \$25 is good towards a permanent membership. He advised that the divisions get the temporary membership paperwork in immediately so new members can access their information online if they wish to upgrade to full membership. Central Division has used the temporary membership feature the most of all divisions, sometimes paying the temp fee in order to get more entries in a race. They have had some success with members upgrading to full membership at a later date. Eastern does their temporary membership registrations online before the event. They have a link for competitors to go to site to print out form and have it all signed before the race.

Bill reviewed our USAA insurance coverage details. He stressed the importance of this member benefit, and suggested we use it as a promotional tool to help grow memberships. The committee continued to discuss details of our insurance coverage. Laurie Hamble is our contact at USSA for insurance questions. It is important to immediately send in the TD Report, First Report of Injury Form, copy of the running order, and any paperwork for temporary license. Be sure the sanction agreements have been filled out, and the site has signed the paperwork. The insurance covers TDs, officials and spectators as an excess accident medical insurance benefit.

The committee reviewed the Masters Survey that was done last spring. It was broken down into three parts: Current members, Temporary Members, and Non-Members. The results were very interesting, and need to be studied in more detail by each division.

Next season's race schedule calendar was discussed. Vail has submitted a bid to hold the Western Regionals February 2 – 5, 2012. The target dates for the National Championships are the third and fourth week in March. Park City, Utah has submitted a bid to hold the Nationals March 19 – 23, 2012. They are willing to hold all the C/D events on Payday, as well as the A/B Super G and Super Combined. The A/B GS and Slalom would be on CB run at Eagle race arena. It was suggested that Ski Cooper hold the National DH again with a target date of March 10 – 11<sup>th</sup>. There was some discussion on trying to avoid a conflict with Nastar Nationals as there was this year. We concurred that we may have very little say in this matter, since Nastar often takes precedence. Mammoth Mountain has put in a bid to FIS Masters to hold the World Criterium March 28 – 31<sup>st</sup>.

B. Ski Hall of Fame Report from Lisa Densmore:

Lisa Densmore and Bill McCollum from the Eastern Division are on the Nominating Committee for the Ski Hall of Fame. She stated that masters racers are under-represented in the Hall. She explained what the process is for submitting names to the committee. The criteria is someone who has contributed to masters racing in the

U.S. by results, or work, etc. The three categories are: US Ski Team, General and Old Timers (pioneers of the sport.) Masters would fall under General. She stressed the importance including supporting letters of recommendation. After someone's name is accepted for nomination, that name stays "in the hat" for 5 years. The Committee selected Bob Bernard as our choice for nomination.

### C. Division Chair Reports.

#### Eastern

Fred Dieffenbach reported that online registration went well this season. Eastern used a new scoring system. Their race entries were down somewhat this year, and they lost some races due to weather, including the GS at the Eastern Regionals. They had about 150 entries in the Regionals, but some of their other races were down to 70 – 75 entries. The ski areas want bigger numbers in order to continue to hold races.

Jim Thoman 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 picked up some new racers from the New Jersey area A.S.R.A. league as well as some Canadians who came down to race. They average from 30 – 70 racers – more for GS than SL

#### Far West

Mike Braun reported on Far West where they scheduled 36 races, losing 8 of them to weather. They had some success running 3 races in two days – a 2 run race in the morning, and then in the afternoon the 1<sup>st</sup> run of the 2<sup>nd</sup> race, to be continued on Sunday. With 3 more runs. Squaw ran 2 slalom races in one day. Their membership is down, however, and they feel that is due to the economy. Online registration has been very popular with 90% registering online for the last race.

#### Rocky

Graham Smith reported that Rocky had good turnouts at most races, with only the SG and DH at Aspen having a small field. They would like to have some Super Combined races to mimic Nationals. Rocky also uses Facebook masters "blog" to communicate about upcoming races. For fund-raising, Rocky has instituted race sponsorships at \$300 per race. They have already lined up 5 racers who want to sponsor races next year. The money is used to pay for parties, race venues and to keep the General Fund solvent. The sponsor is acknowledged at awards. Rocky is a 501c entity, and the money collected is used only for racing and the cost of venues.

#### Northern

Dennis Wilhelmsen reported that Toby Chapman will be the new chairman for Northern next year. The joint races held with Intermountain and PNSA were popular. Northern's numbers are down, mostly because of injuries.

#### Pacific Northwest

Carolyn Phillips reported that their numbers have remained steady. She wrote a letter to all the USSCA colleges in the northwest, inviting them to our masters races. She sent letters to all the previous year temp members, inviting them to join with a full membership. Some of last year's temporary members upgraded to full membership this year. 49 Degrees

North held 3 super Gs one weekend, and that field has been growing. Alpental is the only area that is capable of holding 2 races in one day.

### Intermountain

Steve Slivinski reported that the online registration has been a plus for both racers and organizers. Intermountain had good snow, great races. Numbers were up and down depending on the weekend.

### Alaska

Gary Randall reported that this season was good for racing because it was cold and clear with little new snow. New this year is a web page where they post results and video after every race. They have a loyal sponsor, the Odem Corp., who gives \$5,000 every year for equipment and prizes. Membership is up. Alaska has a fall sign-up party where everyone has to bring someone new.

### Central

Ryan Fuller said that Central membership is up. They rely on temporary memberships to recruit new members from the recreation leagues and beer leagues. The Chicago Metropolitan Ski Council and Ski Challenge have over 2500 members, so they are trying to draw from those groups. They are also talking to colleges to try and get new younger members. Using online registration resulted in more entries. They partnered with the Chicago Met Ski Council for one race, paying the temp license fee for new racers out of Central funds.

## D. Agenda Items

### (1) National Seed List

Discussion was held on how much work it would take to develop a National Seed List. Central is already using F.I.S. points within division. Doug Briggs was questioned on how hard it would be to do this nationally. By using the Split Second timing system, data can be collected using USSA numbers. Temp license might be a problem. The first step would be for each division to start sending all results to USSA. Nancy Auseklis brought up the problem of using points from the Nationals as a benchmark when racers are often on four different courses. When a racer moves to a from A to B group for example, their points are no longer accurate. It was decided that it is not worth the time or money to develop a National Seed List.

### (2) Online Registration for National and Regional Championships

The committee questioned Doug Briggs as to whether he could write his program to enable racers to enter National and Regional Championships online. He said he could set a deadline for closing of entries, and some sort of fee for cancellations beyond a certain date. To do this we would need to do away with Divisional quotas, and racers would be accepted on a first come first served basis.

Gary Randall moved, and Ryan Fuller seconded that we drop the divisional quotas for National Championships, and that online registration be used. Motion passed 8-0.

VOTE:

Intermountain	YES
Rocky Mtn	YES
Eastern	YES
Central	YES
Far West	YES
PNSA	YES
Northern	YES
Alaska	YES

### (3) Scoring for Spyder National Team

Jim Thoman moved, and Gary Randall seconded that beginning in 2012 the points earned for Spyder National Team should include the Super Combined (if held) as well as the SG, GS and Slalom. Motion passed 8-0.

VOTE:

Intermountain	YES
Rocky Mtn	YES
Eastern	YES
Central	YES
Far West	YES
PNSA	YES
Northern	YES
Alaska	YES

### (4) Scoring for Divisions Cup

Carolyn Phillips moved, and Dennis Wilhelmsen seconded that beginning in 2012 the results used for the Divisions Cup should include the Super Combined (if held) as well as the SG, GS and Slalom. Motion passed 8-0.

VOTE:

Intermountain	YES
Rocky Mtn	YES
Eastern	YES
Central	YES
Far West	YES
PNSA	YES
Northern	YES
Alaska	YES

(5) FIS Representative for Masters

Ann Nordhoy sent a letter saying she wants to resign as our FIS Representative. Bob Dart is our official FIS member who votes at meetings, etc., Bob Davis will be asked if he would like to fill this non-voting volunteer position.

There being no further business to discuss, Steve Slivinski adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Nancy Auseklis  
Acting Recording Secretary

Attest:

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Steve Slivinski  
Alpine Masters National Chairman