

ALPINE MASTERS SERIES



News and Information
of the Alpine Masters

spring 2013

www.ussa.org

How Far They Came **For many Masters racing in Montana, this year was about overcoming adversity**

By Bill McCollom, SR Editor

Schedule a Masters ski racing event at Big Sky Resort, and they will come.

And with the 2013 Phillips 66 USSA Masters Championships on the calendar for March 18–23, 2013, they came in droves from all across the country. The numbers were impressive: 200 racers contributed to 630 race starts over four furious days of racing with national titles at stake.

With an average of 12 women's classes and 14 men's classes being contested each day, the event takes on the persona of a three-ring circus, but Big Sky was up to the task of ringmaster. Each race was marked by good coursesets, firm mid-winter snow conditions, and Swiss-like efficiency. And yes, by all accounts, the post-race awards parties were outstanding.

The event marked how far many Masters came in other realms, as well: recovering from injuries, battling mysterious illnesses, and then, at Big Sky, handling the unpredictable conditions. Nearly two feet of snow fell on Big Sky during the week, and blustery, cold winter weather made stripping down to a speed suit akin to skinny-dipping in the nearby Gallatin River. But teamwork prevailed as racers and race crews slipped the fresh snow off the courses and lugged parkas to the finish area.

One common theme seemed to emerge from so many of the racers competing for the 26 titles awarded each day, whether they finished first or last in their respective class: overcoming adversity. When competing as an adult in a sport as vigorous as ski racing, setbacks are inevitable. Whereas ski racing is often the cause, it can also be the motivating force for recovery. These are stories of unflinching commitment.

Day 1: Downhill PNSA Rules

Try telling the 100 racers attempting to get to sleep the evening before the downhill race that it doesn't really count, and you'll get a stern difference of opinion. The downhill may not count in the tally for the combined awards (SG, GS, SL), but it's still a national championship event and a

supreme test of nerves and skill. Whereas the Big Sky venue might be considered "Masters-friendly," there was nothing friendly about the conditions on race day.

Six inches of new snow coated the track, and snow squalls made racers feel as if they were behind a snowplow clearing the Interstate. The snow slowly subsided, however, and a massive group side-slipping effort kept the track clean. But what is spam for some may be caviar for others.

Led by men's race winner Luke Keenan, the Pacific Northwest contingent took full advantage of its familiarity with the conditions to take the first three overall spots in the men's race, and collect a total of eight class-medals. "In PNSA we run a lot of speed, and we race in these conditions all the time," said Keenan, class 2. "All the snow and flat light is just like racing at home."



Rocky Mountain's Broc Thompson, on his way to winning the overall title in SL.

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...and we
support them.

With the two Class 6 elder PNSA statesmen, Willy Scroggins and Bob Cravens, in second and third overall, no one was going to dispute Keenan's observation. "We're the target for our younger friends," said Scroggins, sporting a six-inch goatee. "We had to let one of them beat us or they might quit."

Also medaling among the men for

Continued on page 4

Racing for the Future

by Steve Slivinski,
Masters National Chairman



“What a Hoot!” Those were the words I used after a quick run down a fast downhill course at Big Sky. It was a terrific Nationals with cold, hard snow, and a great crew to run it. It takes numerous dedicated people to run a ski race, let alone a National Championship. One of those hard-working people that gets rarely noticed is that humble, soft-spoken person, the course setter. That talented fellow has to be a cross between Isaac Newton, Fred Astaire, and Michelangelo to create those wonderful trails that wind their way down the hill. In the spirit of Ernst Hemmingway, I contacted a noted Sun Valley poet to pay tribute to these sensitive souls. So as I bask in the springtime sun at the bottom of Warm Springs, I dedicate the following to that outstanding individual, the course setter.

Ode to a Course Setter

O scurfy beast, o foul scoundrel, yon course is set like the scourge of a black-hearted maze.
It wanders to and fro, first up the hill then down, till I'm skiing in a haze.
What addled plan has your warped and pitiless mind engaged in
What nefarious route have you dreamed up for Nancy, Steve, and Keith.
The devil's brew you have partaken in makes what seems go down go up
and what goes left go right.
Repent now before you have to run your own twisted trail of pestilence
and become afoul of what your own black hand has crafted.
That twisted route you set has brought forth a torrent of victims' wrath
that melts snow, and caused even harden ski patrolmen to blush.
Who set yon devil's path?
May a cauldron of red klister engulf your skis for your demented misdeeds.
Somewhere the sun shines, somewhere birds sing, and somewhere cheery children play,
but not today
for as I sit in the snow with goggles askew,
that evil troll of a course setter has sent me into the land of DSQ.

As always keep those ski tips pointed downhill,
and have a great summer, because fall is just around the corner.



PNSA's Knut Olberg

Masters Membership News

by Bill Skinner, USSA Masters Manager



2013 has been a great season. Sure, some areas were snow-sketchy early, but most Masters races came off in style. We had a great four-event Nationals at Big Sky, MT. What a mix! A/B group spent one day skiing superb powder in the morning and running a hard fast SG track in the afternoon on the classic Big Horn speed venue.

Our membership held fairly stable this year. We implemented some of the suggestions our Masters Working Group made last spring. Many thanks to Bill McCollom, Ryan Fuller, Nadine Price, Thunder Jalili and Lisa Densmore. See our chairman reviews on this project. We held our National Comm. meeting at Big Sky, reviewed our year, and feel positive going into the 2014 season.

Masters will be making their every five-year-or-so Eastern pilgrimage for the 2014 Phillips 66 Nationals. Four events at Okemo, VT, March 17-22, DH/SG/GS/SL. Okemo has very Masters-friendly venues and are very excited to host the biggest event on our calendar.

In the West, our major event will be at Park City, UT for a four-event FIS Masters Cup SG/SG/SL/SL. The SGs will count for National Speed Series points. PC always attracts a large European turn out.

Have a great summer, and I look forward to seeing you on the hill.

Major events 2014

Feb. 6-9
Phillips 66 FIS Masters Cup
Park City, UT SG/SG/SL/SL
Mar. 17-22
Phillips 66 Masters National Championships
Okemo, VT DH/SG/GS/SL



Kristina Koznick teaches potential Masters at "Give it a try" clinic at Buck Hill in January.

GS and Speed Skis—Where Do We Go?

A note by Bill Skinner:

Top GS and Speed skis next year will be considerably less shaped than what we used in past. This is an FIS rule which does not apply to Masters, where sizes and shape are recommended, but not mandatory. Masters may use the skis that work the best for them. We have skied less-shaped skis in past, and with the advance in ski design we found friendlier equipment. Now on the FIS level there have been the controversial ski changes; we won't go into the reasoning.

For Masters, the feeling is we do not want to go back to the past, but still want the top levels of construction that go into World Cup-caliber equipment. (They hold and are stable on hard snow at speed.)

Where do we find them?

Fisher last year stepped up with a 25-meter versus 35-meter 188. They produced a limited number and sold them. Atomic

and Head have similar plans for next year. Don Sears, PC Masters coach, and I have both skied this ski and found it a friendly GS ski that held on ice. The question is: in the future will more shaped GS skis be made with top level construction?

Next problem: where do we go for SG and DH skis that turn, for us aged champions? Should we stock up on last year's skis for the future? I have.

Article by Chris Smith, Fischer Promotions & Product Development

The Fischer World Cup Masters GS ski is designed around the needs of Masters ski racers. With the new FIS rules coming into affect for the 2013–14 season, Fischer saw a gap in ski radius for the Masters market. The

new ski rule changes for World Cup, Europa Cup, Nor Am, and all FIS skiers are changing to 30 meters for women, 188cm, 183cm and 35 meters for men, 195cm and 190cm. Fischer will no longer be producing 23- and 27-meter GS skis. Fischer started looking into what radius would work best for the Masters segment and started testing with Austrian Masters; we determined that 25-meter radius would fit the needs of a Masters skier best. With most course conditions, gate offset and distance, skill level, 25-meter skis are a perfect combination.

Knowing that Masters are still looking for the same construction as World Cup race skis, we make the 25-meter ski the same way, with a sandwich sidewall wood core, double titanium, equal shovel. The

World Cup Masters GS ski comes in two sizes, 183 and 188.

Check out the Fischer Masters GS skis at your local Fischer retailer or Jans/Rennstall.



The Intermountain Masters

Launching Masters Racing Into a New Era

Steve Slivinski
National Chairman
The future is now.

Back in 2012 at the Nationals in Park City, your National Committee set up a working group to look into the future of USSA Masters racing, and come up with initiatives to grow our sport. The group consisted of Lisa Densmore, Thunder Jalili, Nadine Price, and Ryan Fuller, headed by Bill McCollum.

This year, at the National committee meeting in Big Sky, they provided us an initial progress report. The first area addressed was marketing and promotion. Posters with the 2013 Masters schedule were distributed to all of the divisions. They were in turn used at ski shows, sports shops, and ski areas. The committee was inclined to describe them as a good promotional tool, but in some cases hard to distribute. The brochure templates that USSA provided, on the other hand, were easier to customize for each division and distribute to multiple lo-

cations. It was felt the brochures dramatically help with increasing the exposure of Masters racing opportunities in each division.

Temporary USSA memberships availability was increased this year, and USSA provided divisions with a number of complimentary temps. This initiative by USSA enhanced the exposure of Masters racing to new racers, and has the potential to increase full-time membership in the future. However it will take time to determine the effectiveness.

The last proposal was to develop introductory "Give it a try" race clinics to beer leaguers, NASTAR sliders, and town series racers, and give them a look at Masters level ski racing. One was held back east at Wachusett Mountain on January 25, and the other in Central division at Buck Hill on December 8. Both were an unqualified success, with more clinics planned for next season.

The National Committee has tasked

the working group to continue refining these initiatives and other creative ideas to enhance USSA Masters racing. On behalf of the National Committee and Masters racers nationwide, I want to thank the committee, Bill Skinner and USSA for their tireless efforts on behalf of Masters ski racing. To sum up, I want to quote chairman Bill McCollum who said, "We need to recognize the need to continue to be creative in marketing each race through special awards, age-handicap scoring, different seeding schemes, social gatherings, giveaways, and promotions. We can no longer take for granted that racers will show up simply because a race is on the schedule. Our awards and social committees need to be aggressive with drawings and raffles. And our divisions need to be proactive in this hyper-information age with social media, Facebook, websites, and e-mail to inform and promote our sport." The future is in our hands, so let's grab ahold and ski as fast as we can.

How Far They Came Continued from Page 1

PNSA were Jim Doudna, third in Class 8; Dave Kornish, third in Class 7; and Andrew Vetterlein and Chris Maxwell, who took gold and silver in their Class 5.

In the women's race, it was hardly a surprise that Rocky Class 4 speedster Jennifer Kaufman would win the overall title. She showed her experience by tucking the entire first pitch and posting a time that would put her in the medals for most of the men's classes. "I was comfortable with the conditions and just tried to ski it clean," said Kaufman. "I'm satisfied in that it was a good clean run."

Central's Class 5 Kristin Grebe posted the second fastest women's time, despite this being her first downhill and despite a few fresh stitches in her shin from a fall in training. Dasha Kudulova, an accomplished Intermountain Class 5 speed skier, picked up the bronze.

Day 2: Super G Old Age and Treachery Will Overcome Youth and Skill

Treachery might not have been involved in Willy Scroggins win in the men's SG, but in this case, old age certainly trumped youth. With his trademark goatee flapping in the wind, Class 6 Scroggins bested Class 3 Mihai Filimon from the Far West by a scant 0.06 seconds to take the win. Intermountain Class 6 compatriot, Rich "Slabby" Slabinski claimed the bronze.

As was the case with the downhill, fresh snow blanketed the course and snow flurries obscured vision, but aggressive course maintenance action by the race crews led to a rollicking ride down the Bighorn racing trail. Class 9 winner Pepi Neubauer said, "This was a great set. It was flowing with fallaways, banked turns, and plenty of speed."

For Scroggins, this race meant more than just a gold medal; it was a celebration of his full recovery from a near-fatal car accident two years ago. "Oh yeah, I nearly died," said Scroggins with a chuckle. "I broke my ribs, ankle, femur, along with a few other things, and spent 10 days in the hospital with a brain injury. I'm glad to say that at this point I'm pretty functional, and when I'm racing I don't feel a thing, except for being out of breath."

Scroggins is a stay-at-home dad in the Portland area and heads up to Mount Hood Meadows for skiing and training whenever time permits. His two boys are

ski racers working their way through the ranks, which require his attention, and in the summer he coaches at Mt. Hood with his brothers. This was Scroggins's third time racing speed at Big Sky, and the experience helped.

"I know the hill and I'm comfortable



Gaet Demattei, Far West, trumps adversity with victory.



Alphonse Sevigny, East, a Masters legend.



Margaret Vaughn, East.

with it," said Scroggins. "It ran like I anticipated; it was like 'game on' after the right footer. I had so much fun that I'm still thinking about it."

Beating Slabby is always a motive for Scroggins, as is trouncing all the younger racers. But Scroggins hasn't lost sight of the big picture. "Thinking back to two years ago lying in my hospital bed, I can't believe how far I've come," said Scroggins. "Just to be able to compete is satisfying, but I never expected to be at the top of my game."

In the women's overall standings for SG, Dana Alexandrescu (Class 3) from Intermountain continued her dominance of speed with a resounding win. Newly anointed Northern Class 6 racer Lisa Densmore took the silver, while Intermountain's Chris Katzenberger marked her return to ski racing with a third in the overall and a win in her Class 5.

Day 3: C/D GS From Sick Bed to Sick Win

One would need an adding machine to calculate how many class titles Lisa Densmore has accumulated during the course of her career, but winning the overall women's GS title after entering Class 6 could be considered one of the highlights.

"I haven't won the overall at the Nationals in over a decade," said Densmore, who now skis out of Red Lodge, Mont., after growing up in and racing out of the East. This win was also especially meaningful as she finished second in the entire C/D field, only yielding to the men's race winner, Pepi Neubauer.

In Densmore's case, maybe having low expectations was the key to her success. "I really didn't expect much because there was a six-week block this winter when I was so sick that I was totally dysfunctional," said Densmore. "It was some

sort of auto immune disease that affected my joints. I woke up on Christmas Eve, and I was essentially crippled."

Eventually, doctors were able to identify her ailment, and Densmore eased back into her skiing routines, racing at Schweitzer Mountain, WA, at the end of February. But still, she felt compromised.

"On the morning of the GS I finally felt like I was loose and athletic," said Densmore. "After my first run, I didn't even stop to check my time. It was good enough to know that I skied well."

Dana Alexandrescu nipped Densmore in the second run, but could not overcome her first-run deficit and had to settle for second overall. Jennifer Kaufman added to her medal count by collecting the Class 4 win and third place overall. Other women in the intensely contested hunt for the overall were Class 4 Alaskan Rada Khadjinova, who placed fourth, and Chris

Katzenberger, who rode a fast second run to capture fifth overall.

Neubauer trounced the men's Group D (60-plus) field as veteran Class 8 racers Victor Roy (Intermountain) and Bob Andree (East), pulled down second and third overall, respectively.

Day 3: A/B Slalom Joint Ventures

Racers were bundled up in the face of temperatures hovering around zero, but the snow was of that western variety — that is, grippy, but doesn't rut-up or break down into spleen-rupturing chatter marks. Combined with two good sets, it was SL nirvana.

As the A/B Group racers moved from oldest to youngest in the first run, Class 7 aces Bob Skinner and Mark George set blistering paces, and were soon joined atop the leader board by "Slabby" from the ranks of Class 6.

But when the Class 5s hit the course, perennial SL medalist Tim Hill took the lead by two seconds. Hill's lead was short-lived, however, because Rocky Mountain racer Broc Thompson soon blew the doors off the field by more than a second and a half.

Thompson cruised home on his second run to easily claim the class win and the overall title, leaving classmate Hill in second. Class 4 racer Ara Papazian was fastest in his class, but a distant third overall.

Those familiar with Thompson have made the following observations: it's hard to believe that Thompson is old enough to buy adult beverages, much less compete in Class 5; secondly, it's even harder to believe that anyone could win in this competitive field by such a large margin; thirdly, it's a stretch of the imagination to think that Thompson is skiing on a artificial hip that's only two years old.

"I was reduced to just side-slipping only two years ago," said Thompson, who coaches Masters programs at Eldora and Echo Mountains in Colorado. The new joint has given him a new lease on life on skis, however, as he now trains with the University of Colorado Ski Team at Eldora, and travels the Rocky Mountain Masters circuit. Rumors abound that Thompson still can go toe to toe with many of the collegians, despite a ski racing background that only includes high school racing at his hometown of Duluth, Minn. "But I did ski every day after school, and I raced my senior year in college," said Thompson. "It's amazing to think of where I was then and where I was just two years ago. I've come a long way."

Day 4: C/D Slalom Battle of the Aged

With so much of the focus on the younger, faster men and women in the field, sometimes the fights for national titles among the older classes don't receive the attention they deserve. Take the Class 12 (80 to 84) men, for example, which included seven racers, all of whom are competitive and legends on the Masters circuit. Alphonse Sevigny from the East had won the DH and SG in this class, but Far West's Gaet Demattei finished right on his heels in both races. In the first



Bob Skinner, recipient of some damn good days.

run of SL, Demattei finally took the lead by just over a second with Bob Tengdin, a Central SL ace, in second, and Sevigny in third. With the top five running in reverse order for the second run, Demattei watched from the start as Sevigny made an uncharacteristic error, hooking a tip. Tengdin was up next and put down a blazing run, but Demattei kept his cool and skied just fast enough to take the win by 0.25 seconds over Tengdin. With Sevigny out of the race, Harry Baxter from Intermountain Class 12 moved up to take the bronze.

The past two years have not been easy on Demattei, and he credits his pursuit of ski racing as the primary motivation for his recovery. "I ruptured my Achilles tendon last season," said Demattei, who lives in Squaw Valley and didn't even start Masters racing until he was in his 70s. "It's taken me about a year to get back up to speed, but it still bothers me. I went to a camp at Copper this fall with Pierre Jeangirard, and that's when things started to get better."

But things didn't get better for long. Shortly thereafter, Demattei's wife passed away after a short illness. "It was difficult and took me out of racing for most of the year...but I had my immediate family, and then there's always this family," said Demattei,

gesturing toward the mass of Masters ski racers collected at the awards' banquet.

"It's a beautiful sport with the mountains and snow, and it's always been a family affair for me. After all, a family that skis together stays together."

In an extremely well skied and competitive women's SL race, Dana Alexandrescu decided that enough was enough and hammered her second run to move from third to first in the overall. Skiing as aggressively as ever, despite minimal training time, Chris Katzenberger hung on to second, leaving Jennifer Kaufman a few tenths in arrears in third place.

Day 4: A/B GS Tight Racing

Under cold, but sunny conditions with near-perfect snow, Broc Thompson showed that he's more than just a one-trick pony by taking a hard-fought win in the overall of the A/B GS. After the first run, only 0.55 seconds separated the first four racers: Thompson, Mihai Filimon, Tim Hill, and Toby Chapman from Northern Division.

Course-setter and head of the Big Sky race department, Jeremy Ueland, set a wide open second run, using the rolling terrain and width of the hill to maximum advantage. Hill and Filimon tied for the fastest second run times, but Thompson hung on for the overall win. Filimon edged out Hill by only 0.12-seconds for the silver. Perhaps slowed by crashing through a GS panel after a blind knoll, Chapman just missed a spot on the podium by a scant 0.56. After all was said and done, less than one-second separated the top four.

"These Nationals have been good to me," said Class 7 winner Bob Skinner, who also swept his class in the SG, SL, and GS races. "It's the first time that I've won all three events. It's my first year in this class, and I'm glad to leave the 6s behind, but it doesn't get any easier in the 7s."

Skinner could have been speaking on behalf of all the racers competing at these National Championships when he added: "Jeremy Ueland and the race department really came through this week. This series wasn't easy, given all the snow we've had, but they put on some top-quality races. You stop to think about all the efforts of the race crew, all the volunteers and officials...yeah, this was a good one."

Article by Bill McCollom,
reprinted courtesy Ski Racing magazine
Photographs by Marshall Tate/BigSkyPhotos.com

Division News



Central

Ryan Fuller, chair
midwestmasters.org

Midwest Masters had a good season this year. We set lofty goals for ourselves, and hit on

most and missed some others. Our membership and participation, as a whole, was flat. We are not particularly upset by this, as we are seeing peer organizations see decreases, as well. Financially, we went about 7% over budget but have reserves with which to offset this overage. We intend to reel in expenses next year without considerable increases to membership costs.

The season started off strong, with an adult SL clinic hosted by Midwest Masters and coached by local legend Kristina Koznick. The camp was a great success and resulted in positive publicity as well as new faces getting involved. We hope to once again hold a celebrity camp next fall! More on that this summer.

We are in our 4th season using SkiRaceReg and continue to be very happy with the system. For 2013, we implemented a custom temporary membership pricing structure that allows racers to register online for a daily, 7-day weekend, weekly, or monthly memberships. All may be utilized several times during the season. These were a very popular recruiting tool.

CENTRAL TROPHY WINNERS

Each season, Midwest Masters awards three trophies to our membership. Each trophy is awarded to a male and female member. Congratulations to our winners for 2013!

Ironman trophy — awarded to the members who attend the most races. Winners: Meghann Condit and Mike Wenner (John McElligott lost in tiebreaker)

Cyr Cup — Our winners are Andrea Wojahn and Scott Malmsten.

Slalom Cup — The winners are Lilla Gidlow and Mike Wenner

PERFORMANCE VERSUS OUR SEASON GOALS

Last fall, we posted our goals for this sea-

son in our newsletter. As promised, here is our performance against these goals

We believe in publishing these numbers to our Membership so the Midwest Masters board is held accountable! We'll have refined Goals for 2014 noted in the fall newsletter.

YEAR-END METRICS

Midwest Masters tracks very specific numbers year to year to help us understand where we are headed. This information is available to anyone who requests; it is a part of our annual report sent to USSA. See it at program.director@midwestmasters.org.

Membership Summary

- We have apparently—at least for the time

Central Division Metric (includes temps)	End 2012	Goal 2013	Actual 2013	Goal % Change	Percent Change
Distinct Members: how many members we have	146	163	146	12%	0%
Utilization: how often our members race with us; starts per member	6.8	8.2	6.5	20%	-4%
Attrition Reduction: % of members we lose from season 1 to season 2	28%	15%	22%	n/a	n/a

being—stemmed the tide of lost members.

- Our promotions in Classes 1–4 worked well, as we saw a huge increase in participation with women (42.1%) and men (32.6%).
- Temp licenses remain very popular; of our 146 members that raced with us, 77, or 53%, utilized a Temp license in some manner.
- Our overall Goals for Distinct Members, Utilization, and Attrition Reduction were a bit aggressive. We did make some progress in the right direction, and will use this experience to tweak these goals for 2014.

Bright Spots

- Attrition has dropped dramatically. Although our membership is flat and we are still losing members, the rate at which we are gaining members has risen and could offset losses completely if the trend continues. We have more new faces than we have ever had after a single season.
- Our average age has dropped for the first time since measuring it 7 years ago.
- Although we haven't closed our financial books yet, we expect to see the average cost per race for our members to stay the same or drop from the approximate \$15 mark.
- Our contact list continues to grow, and our outreach is stronger than ever due to

aggressive Internet marketing. We intend to continue using these channels to keep our program in front of our customers.

LOOKING FORWARD

Overall, it was a mildly successful season. We have a lot of momentum and plan to keep it going. The major areas of focus are:

Recruitment

We intend to continue to focus heavily on marketing and member recruitment, with local exposure (brochures, awards, newsletters, etc in public places), visiting with college racers, use of social networking, special marketing efforts (targeting local NASTAR members and 18 year old USSA Junior racers and their parents), and

promoting women racers and younger membership in general.

Bigger Events

We'll go back to the basics and hold fewer, but larger, events. Our championship races this season have ignited more excitement at

the grass-roots level within our division and we plan to capitalize on this next season as we work with partner organizations such as MACC (Michigan Alpine Competition Council), CMSC (Chicago Metropolitan Ski Council), and Ski Challenge. We will continue to focus on our members during these events with more awards and recognition of new members and great performances.

Social Activities

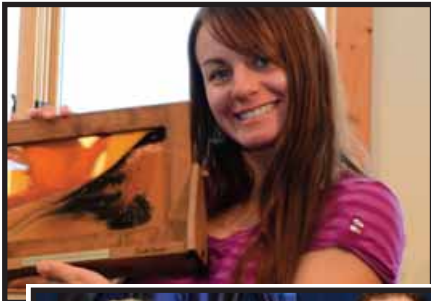
This year, we held more organized awards ceremonies and we intend to expand on the social aspects of our races next year.

Training Opportunities

By partnering with more Junior USSA clubs or by upgrading our club membership to allow for Midwest Masters to run their own training program, we can expand the available training opportunities available to members in the Twin Cities area.

Thanks to all of our loyal members for another successful season! We hope you are finding that Midwest Masters is improving every year. Keep your eyes open for the Midwest Masters Fast Times Newsletter over the summer for updates on our plans for next season!

Molecule F National Speed Series



2013 National Speed Series champions Dan Alexandrescu, Rauli Karjalainen, and Luke Keenan.

Keenan, Alexandrescu, Karjalainen are the top speedsters in the 2013 Masters National Speed Series. The Series just completed its 9th year of gathering speed specialists for a season-long series of the best SG and DH venues in the country. It became a repeat performance for Keenan and Karjalainen. For the third year in row, they have traveled and dominated the men's races. Luke Keenan also claimed the national downhill championship overall. Jennifer Kaufman had the title almost won but a slip up in the DH allowed Dana Alexandrescu to come from behind. This makes it two years in a row Don Johnson has been runner up in Group A/B. Graham Smith and Robert Craven were newcomers to the top three overall this season.

The cherished Molecule custom belt buckles were handed out to class winners at the final SG at the Big Sky Nationals. With continued sponsor support the Series should continue into 2014.

Overall Molecule F Trophy standings

A/B – MEN (AGE 18–59)

1	Luke Keenan (M01, PN)	182
2	Don Johnson (M06, IM)	116
3	Robert Cravens (M06, PN)	103

C – ALL WOMEN

1	Dana Alexandrescu (W03, IM)	75
2	Lisa Densmore (W06, NO)	70
3	Jennifer Kaufman (W04, RM)	65
3	Lisa Marien (W02, EA)	65

D – MEN (AGE 60–90)

1	Rauli Karjalainen (M09, IM)	193
2	Graham Smith (M09, RM)	153
3	Wiebe Gortmaker (M09, EA)	77

Complete results at

<http://ussamasters.org/2013/nss>

2013 Spyder Masters National Team



Class	Women Competitor
14	
13	
12	Virginia Reed (IM, 1-1-1)
11	
10	Anna Droege (IM, 1-1-2)
9	Ann Ozuna (PN, 1-x-x)
8	Pamela Sheeler (PN, 1-1-1)
7	Deborah Lewis (FW, 1-1-1)
6	Lisa Densmore (N, 1-1-1)
5	Chris Katzenberger (IM, 1-1-1)
4	Rada Khadjinova (AK, 2-2-3)
3	Dana Alexandrescu (IM, 1-1-1)
2	Melissa Dettmer (PN, 1-x-1)
1	Lauren Macmath (RM, 1-1-1)

Men Competitor
John Droege (IM, x-1-x)
John Duffy Dodge (EA, 1-1-1)
Gaetano Demattei (FW, 2-2-1)
Rich Robertwon (PN, 1-2-2)
Keith Thompson (IM, 2-1-4)
Pepi Neubauer (EA, 1-1-1)
Victor Roy (IM, 1-1-1)
Robert Skinner (IM, 1-1-1)
Richard Slabinski (IM, 2-2-1)
Broc Thompson (RM, 1-1-1)
Toby Chapman (N, 1-1-2)
Mihai Filimon (FW, 1-1-1)
Luke Keenan (PN, 1-1-4)
Beau Buehler (CN, 4-1-3)

2013 Skier's Edge National Championships Big Sky, Montana

The 2014 Spyder National Masters team is selected from the top finisher in each age bracket at the 2013 national championships at Big Sky MT, based on total world cup points in the SG-GS-SL combined events.

NOTES

M01 — tie at 52 points between Beau Buehler (CN, 4-1-3) and combined winner Josh Stuart (IM, 2-2-4). Spyder team selection goes to Beau Buehler based on the best-finish tiebreaker criteria.

How Did GS Change This Year?

When the FIS mandated World Cup men to adopt a 35-meter radius giant slalom ski, Ted Ligety was not pleased.



Ted is the best GS skier of the past six years, having won four GS globes. The 35-meter directive from the FIS fueled Ted's already intensive summer training.

In the opening race of the 2012–13 season in Sölden, Austria, Ted made a statement winning by 2.75 seconds. A *huge* win. To put this in perspective, the average GS winning margin has been 0.11 seconds. Ted's 2.75 margin is the sixth largest gap in men's World Cup GS history, and the largest since Ingemar Stenmark won in

Jasna, Slovakia, in 1979. To show that this was not a fluke, he put a 1.76 second margin on Marcel Hirscher in Beaver Creek, Colorado. Ted finished the season winning six of the eight GSs and never finished off the podium.

So how did Ted crush the competition this past season? According to Men's Head Coach Sasha Rearick, five things:

1. Ted was stronger.
2. Ted has exceptional lateral balance.
3. Ted moves from the tip to tail during

the turn.

4. Ted has tremendous leg independence (with ankle flexion).
5. Ted skis a deeper, cleaner line.

1. STRONGER! According to USSA's Director of Sport Science Dr. Troy Flanagan, Ted was 20 percent stronger this year. Being able to resist your body weight and adjust pressure under the ski is essential as speed increases. The best way to achieve the leg strength of Ted is to hit the weight room.

What does this mean for the Masters ski racer?

2. LATERAL BALANCE! Achieving extreme edge angles in bulletproof snow does not leave a lot of ski in the snow to balance against. Don't think bottom-of-the-foot, think of laying your arch on the snow. Learning to balancing on a miniscule amount of edge in World Cup-injected snow is not impossible. Out-of-gates exercises such as "outside ski turns" and "garlands" will enhance gross and acute lateral balance.



Ask Ted.



3. TIP TO TAIL! To arc a ski like Ted requires using the entire ski. Ted initiates the turn with tip pressure. Next, the important part: he then progressively translates this pressure through the midsection and finishing on the tail. This is a very smooth fore/aft movement that has no dead spots in the fore/aft movement. Note that when Ted is on the last centimeter of his ski he is not using the spoiler of the boot... the spoiler is for "emergency use only". This leaves him in an athletic position to move forward for the upcoming turn and repeat the sequence.

Ted's 2.75 margin is the sixth largest gap in men's World Cup GS history.

4. LEG INDEPENDENCE Race cars have independent suspension for a reason. Legs that can respond independently are better at absorbing terrain, responding to terrain irregularities and adjusting pressure. The new skis do not arc the big trenches of the former sticks. This means they do not push as much snow and can be faster, but it also means they are a bit more erratic in feel.



5. DEEPER, CLEANER LINE! When Ted is in the fall line of the red gate he knows exactly where the next red gate is set. His anticipated line has a direction above and to the outside of the upcoming blue gate that he refers to as "deep." Not aiming at the blue gate, but above it permits Ted to ski a round line. Round is fast since it does not decrease in radius (which unduly increases forces). This allows Ted to be clean, with the ski scrubbing virtually no speed.



By Ron Kipp
Photos by Getty Images



Ron Kipp is the USSA Alpine Sport Education Manager. He has worked with the U.S. and Norwegian Ski Teams.

Division News



New England Masters

Nadine Price, chair
www.nemasters.org

As we continue to enjoy some of the best mid-winter skiing April has ever seen, I have to give those prescient old New Englanders credit. The squirrels, with their extra bushy tails, and the caterpillars, with their big fat black belts, were all right last fall when they predicted a long, snowy winter. In a complete 180 from last year, we had record amounts of snow and lots of great skiing. Our numbers held steady and we welcomed a lot of new faces, especially in our younger classes.

The USSA Masters Working Group growth strategies were implemented and well received. We believe the long-term impact will be significant. The temporary licenses have been very important in introducing new racers to Masters and in keeping the number of race starts up. We used 95 temps this season, and while only a handful (5 or so) converted to full licenses this year, we are optimistic that many who used them will be back full-time next season. The third major initiative was the "Give it a Try" Clinic held at Wachusett Mountain on January 25. This exceeded our wildest dreams. We had hoped for 35 participants and ended up with 62 and a waiting list of a quite a few more. We distributed vouchers for temporary licenses, including those funded by USSA, and many redeemed them. About a third of the participants entered at least one race. Because the clinic was at the end of January, most did not invest in a full license this season but expressed interest in becoming more involved next season.

For the fifth time, we kicked off our pre-season with a booth at the Boston Ski Expo, made possible in part with the help of USSA. It was our best experience yet. We talked to more people than ever; handed out over 200 of our slick, new brochures; and added more than 50 folks to our mailing list. Many more people had heard of us than in years past and many folks approached us with questions. So we are def-

initely making headway in our quest to get the brand of Masters Ski Racing out there!

Our mid-December season opener at Killington was a huge success. In our third almost-annual joint venture with ASRA, a ski racing organization with races in Vermont and venues a little west and south, we held an SL and a GS on the always-challenging Highline racing trail, with great early season conditions, and, of course, a Saturday evening fun-filled awards party at the Grey Bonnet Inn.

January took us to some traditional venues, a new favorite, and an old favorite

Audet came all the way from Canada to lay down a pair of great runs and take the women's cup.

January's old favorite in a new way was the return to Attitash for four SGs! These races marked our first collaboration of this type with junior races. The venue was Attitash's premier, and very challenging, SG hill, Illusion. Though some might say that pond ice is not ideal, conditions were perfect for the number of racers and races, and the course held up from start to finish. Since the first race each day was included in the National Molecule F Speed

Series, Bill Tomcich and Don Johnson, our favorite jet setting Western speed freaks, joined the small but devout group. The venture worked out well and will hopefully mark the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

Regionals were held at Okemo in early February in the midst of the "blizzard of the century." Intrepid racers from all over disregarded

weather forecasts and driving bans and found their ways to central Vermont and where richly rewarded with a terrific week-end of races and parties. While Nemo was dumping feet of snow on locations not far away, the first of two SGs came off without a hitch. Due to an odd trick by Mother Nature of adding freezing rain, only the women finished the second SG. After it coated the goggles of the first thirty or so racers, the race was stopped. Saturday's single digit temps and 30 mph winds did nothing to daunt the hardy field and the SL was a frigid success. The reward came on Sunday, under a cold, still, crystal-clear sky.

After the President's Day weekend off, the schedule moved on to several of the most popular SLs of the Series. The oldest continuously-run ski race in North America (but for a year off during WWII), the Hochgebirge Challenge Cup at Cannon boasted the largest SL field of the season and included a number of new faces. The race was followed, as always, by the traditional party at the house of one of the oldest ski clubs in North America, the



2013 Eastern Region team.

in a new way! The new favorite, Blackwater, home to the strong ski program of Proctor Academy, confirmed its status as one of our most popular SLs. It was followed by the season's first Rockport Mortgage Corporation GS race at Sunapee, a truly great GS hill and always one of our most popular races. The venue drew a terrific field, including Jeremy Hill, son of NEMS legend Bob Hill. Jeremy won the first run but couldn't hold on in the second, leaving it to Ben Green to claim the victory. The GS at Middlebury, with its always-thrilling upper pitch was back, and as exhilarating as ever. The ever-popular Janeway Cup GS Race at Stratton, a venerable tradition of many years, attracted a large and deep field. The men's overall was all about a pair of class ones who we hope to see more of next season! Stefan Ogle won the first run, but with a killer second run Chris Knortz took the overall. The Janeway Cup, awarded to the fastest man and woman over 40, went to two first-time winners this year. With two smoking runs and an overall fifth place finish, Terence Fogarty claimed the men's Cup. Cinthia

Division News

Hochgebirge Ski Club. Partiers were surrounded by skiing history and fascinating photos of Tenth Mountain Division veterans and some of the sport's pioneers, including Al Sise, founding father of Masters ski racing and our series.

Our return to Crotched Mountain in southern New Hampshire marked the introduction of a new cup. Last season, after the loss of the beloved Harold Wescott, we dedicated our GS at Crotched to his memory. This season, we introduced the Legends Cup to honor those no longer among us. This Cup is unique among our individ-



Legends at Big Sky: Baxter, Dodge, and Cooper.

ual race trophies in that it is scored on a handicap system. The inaugural winners were John Lussier and Nadine Price.

This year, our Finals moved to Cranmore Mountain, and included the venerable Gibson Cup, awarded to the man and woman with the fastest combined time in two races, traditionally a GS and a SL. In addition to the Gibson Cup, a GS, an SL and a Dual GS, the festivities included a Pizza and Awards Party at the Eastern Slope, a fabulous banquet at the base of the mountain on Saturday evening (more than one diner was heard to say "best ever"), and a bike giveaway after the dual on Sunday, won by Tom Lahaise. Though the overall battles were settled by Finals, the level of competition was as high as ever, with the Gibson Cup on the line. In the men's GS, Rick Cesati seized his second win of the season in commanding fashion. Katie Green authoritatively put her stamp on the women's race, proving that she was not to be slowed down by a concussion earlier in the season. The ageless and faster-than-ever Mark George stomped on the field in the men's SL, winning by more than three seconds and Alex Andrews took the women to school, besting the field by six seconds in the women's SL!

The Gibson Cup was very hotly contested this year. After the GS, a mere three

hundredths of a second separated Mark George and Alex Gadbois but Mark's outstanding showing in the SL etched his name on the Cup. On the women's side, Katie Green had a comfortable lead going into Saturday's SL but a very challenging set took its toll and when the dust settled, it was Margaret Vaughn who rose to the top and took the women's cup.

Sunday's dual was a duel in every sense, complete with spills and thrills and no-holds-barred throwing it down. Proving that he knows how to do just that, Charlie Randall lit it up for eight runs and prevailed in the men's A division. In an equally hard-fought battle in the men's B Division, Mike Suriani showed that he is meant to dual and took the division. Alex Andrews took the women's division a bit decisively and in response to the taunts

of the eager crowd, graciously agreed, as did Charlie, to participate in one more round between the men's A and women's winners. Amidst the cheers and hoots of the onlookers, Alex served notice that she was the fastest dueler of the day!

Although temporarily sidelined with a torn Achilles, Ben Green had amassed enough points before his injury to clinch the Overall Sise Cup as well as the Speed and the GS titles, but not enough to hold off the relentless SL ace (and his father-in-law!), Mark George. With the victory in the final SL of the season, Mark took the title.

In the increasingly deep women's field, Lisa Marion claimed the GS title and fended off Jackie Levy to take the women's Speed Series title by a mere twenty points. Alex Andrews made a good run at the SL title, but in the end, Katie Green's lead proved insurmountable and she walked away with the SL title. Katie's consistently excellent skiing also earned her the women's Overall Sise Cup, her second.

The 2013 Tobin Award for outstanding contribution to Eastern Masters ski racing was awarded to former NEMS President and longtime board member Pete Donaghy. His service to Eastern Masters has been invaluable.

The George Anderson Spirit of Masters Award was established five years ago to honor and remember George, one of our

most loved members. It is awarded each year to the NEMS competitor who exemplifies the spirit of Masters ski racing. This year's recipient was Dale Maynard.

One announcement—Check out our new website!

Special thanks go to our Race Administrators, Kip and Lucy Blake, and our Information Manager, Stacey Weston for all their terrific work.

As always, our series is made possible and enhanced by our sponsors. Our GS series has been generously sponsored by Rockport Mortgage Corporation. We wish to thank them most sincerely. Our enduring gratitude goes to Artech, for its generous and continued support. And we thank Denby, Booster Strap, KHS, ProTek, Reliable Racing, Green Ice Ski Wax, and SkiChair.com for their continued support. When you have need or use for any of the products or services our sponsors provide, we hope you will visit them first.



Alaska

Gary Randall, chair
www.alyeskaski-club.org

Here in mid April Alaska is still cold, with 3' of snow. We had our last SL race

Saturday, in cold weather and new snow, so we're still in the middle of winter, whereas most of the rest of the US is enjoying warmer weather. As I sit here in my chair writing this article with my left hand, due to breaking my right wrist skiing in Sun Valley, it's still snowing. This year, we developed a new Masters web page, where we can now go to pull up the individual race results and the videos for each race to check out your progress throughout the year. This is a great training tool.

One of the fund raisers for our club this year was the #1 bib. Griff Steiner bought the bib from the Alyeska Ski Club and after each race we auctioned it off (it typically went for \$250) which gave the holder of the bib the opportunity to run first in the course. This racer typically won his or her class.

As we wind down the year we look back at a successful season, with eight races, good training, and fun for all. I hope to see you at the Summer Fun races. Have a good summer and stay active.



Intermountain Masters

Amy Lanzel, chair
www.intermountain-masters.org

Intermountain Masters has just wrapped up one of the best seasons we have ever had. The reasons for this are numerous. First: the snow. This year we were blessed with early snowfall, which led to some great early-season free skiing and drill work. Second, we kicked off the season in a big way with one of our biggest races of the year, the Loritz Pendleton Cup. The event drew over 100 racers from multiple divisions. We had fabulous parties and social events that were helped in a large part to our amazing sponsor partnerships.

Many laughs and friendships developed over the season as we met new members joining the ranks. A season update could not be complete without mentioning Meri Stratton. Meri Stratton serves as our race coordinator, and we could not survive without her. She secured all the race venues and was able to get many three-day race weekends—a request many of our Masters have been requesting for a long time.

We plan on keeping the social and Masters memberships active over the summer, with a new annual golf tournament. We're also working on scheduling mountain and road bike rides. We hope to be announcing a big event next year that should add additional opportunity and hopefully new race venues. Enjoy the summer, stay in shape and keep your skis sharp!

Far West

Article by Ingrid Braun
Mark Mirviss, chair
www.FarWestMasters.org

FAR WEST RECLAIMS THE DIVISION'S CUP!

On Sunday, April 7, Far West Masters wrapped up another successful season of ski racing with our Finals and Banquet. But let's start at the beginning.

Way back in November, we kicked off our season with the Masters Camp at

Mammoth Mountain. Many members seized this annual opportunity to get back on skis and in the gates under the keen instructive eye of Coaches Pierre Jeangirard and Tom Peterson. An early snowstorm pushed back our scheduled races from the first weekend in December to the next weekend, but we put our skills to test on two SLs and one GS. We quickly followed up that great opening with two SLs.

After enjoying a snowy and cold holiday break, we resumed racing in January with the Viva Italia! SLs at Heavenly Valley on a Friday. The Viva Italia Cup is sponsored by John Giannotti and is awarded to the top male and female racers in the first race, utilizing an age handicapping formula. The 2013 Viva Italia winners were



Exuberance at the Nationals at Big Sky.



Rauli Karajalainen, IM speed demon.

Deb Lewis and Ara Papazian. From Heavenly we traveled a little bit west for a weekend of GS racing at Sierra at Tahoe.

Late January brought us back to Mammoth Mountain for some fast skiing. The Rick Conrado SG series of four races honor Rick, a Far West Master who loved to race and was taken from us far too soon. In late February, we headed up to Squaw Valley for the Bernard Cup, awarded to the fastest man and woman in the overall weekend's standings handicapped by age. The 2013 Bernard Cup winners were Tim Stewart and Ingrid Braun, both first-time winners.

Breaking up our race schedule was the 2013 FIS Masters Cup races, sponsored by Phillips 66 and hosted by Mammoth Mountain. It included a large national and international field. The winners of the first SG were Pierre Jeangirard (Group B), Mike Braun (Group A) and Ingrid Braun (Group C). The winners of the second SG were

Pierre Jeangirard (Group B), Willy Scrogins and Dasha Kadulova. We only held one SL race before weather pushed us off the mountain, but the event was a huge success and great fun for all! Big thanks to Bob Davis for making this event happen!

Before a group of us drove up to Nationals, we fought for the McKinney Cup at Mount Rose. After an SL and a GS, Carol Levine and Matt Savage were declared the newest recipients of the Cup. We then brought 17 racers up to Big Sky for Nationals, where we fought hard and reclaimed the Division's Cup. The Cup has been engraved, polished and is now proudly displayed at the home of Don Smith, who is arguably the heart and soul of Far West Masters.

Now back to where I started...we wrapped up the season at Squaw Valley to give everyone a final opportunity to score some points and vie for a leader bib, awarded to the top ten men and top five women. We presented awards to our Rookies of the Year: Tom Bullard and Tatjana Polyakova, and our Most Improved Racers: Randall Sussek and Ingrid Braun. Last year we created the Teddy Cantho Award to acknowledge the person(s) who best represent the spirit of Teddy and her love of racing. Our 2013 recipients were Elizabeth and Mike Kennedy, both of whom ensure event registration

and check-in runs smoothly at every event. Mike and Elizabeth are moving to the east coast, and we will miss them more than they can possibly know.



Northern Division

Toby Chapman, chair
tobyandali@yahoo.com

The 2013 race season was successful once again, thanks to our neighboring divisions, PNSA and Intermountain. With PNSA and Intermountain's help, Northern

Division News

was able to have a full schedule of races. Thank you!

Master's Nationals were a success this year at Big Sky, Montana! Nationals were well attended by Northern Division competitors, with 19 entries, but unfortunately Northern finished 5th in the Division's Cup. Northern was also well represented by the Big Sky Ski Education Foundation's coaches, volunteers, and race organizers, who put on a great Master's National Championships.

Highlights of this year's Nationals at Big Sky included Toby Chapman and Lisa Densmore winning their way onto the Spyder 2014 US Alpine Masters Ski Team. Lisa dominated at Nationals, winning the SG, GS, and SL in class 6. Lisa also finished 1st and 2nd overall in the SG and GS respectively, for the women. Toby won the SG and GS, and was 2nd in the SL in class 4. Toby was also 2nd overall in the SG, GS, and SL in group A. Other notables at Nationals were Fran Noel placing 2nd in the class 11 DH and 3rd in the SL and combined, Dennis Wilhelmsen finishing 3rd in the class 6 Slalom, William Wasserman finishing 2nd in both the class 14 SL and GS, and Roger Lemke finishing 2nd in the class 4 DH.

A new Masters race program was also started in Red Lodge this year, thanks to Lisa Densmore and Silver Run Ski Education Foundation. Red Lodge also put on a great SL and GS race that combined juniors and the Masters, with the Masters getting to run first, before the kids! There's nothing like running first.

Gate training opportunities for Northern racers are available around the division, with Lookout Pass, Big Sky, Red Lodge, and, potentially, Snowbowl having Masters programs next year. Contact Toby Chapman with questions: 406-541-0866 or email at tobyandali@yahoo.com.

I look forward to seeing you all next season or at Summer Nationals!



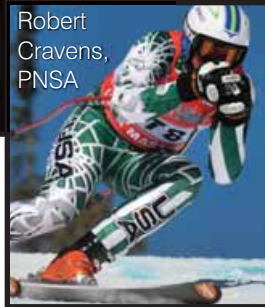
Rocky Mountain

Graham Smith, chair rmmskiracing.org

Wow, it's hard to believe, but I just got back from a wonderful Nationals graciously hosted by the

pros at Big Sky, MT, and we are now hosting our finale for the season at Loveland. Thanks to the wonderful piece Bill McCol-

Brad Scott and Larry Konstacky, class winners on the strength of the last run of the season. Larry was crowned "King of the Road" for amassing 20 more points in the season-long chase.



Robert Cravens, PNSA

lom wrote for *SkiRacing*, "Remembering the Titans." Our last races (a unique triple race format, with an SG, a one-run GS and a one-run SL) were honoring our own titan, D.J. Tengdin, graciously sponsored by the Tengdin family and graced by the presence of D.J.'s father Bob. Highlighting the event were costumes, lots of raffle items, including a pair of skis donated by Foothills Ski and Bike, fun costumes, (with Lauren MacMath winning for best costume as the Easter Moose), lots of food and fun, and some incredibly fast ski racing. The highlight of the racing day was provided by one of our Junior Athletic Development Fund recipients, Jack Plantz from Telluride, fore-running all three courses and scoring the fastest time in each of the three races. Guess we picked a good one! Congrats to the fastest Master female (combined three runs) Jennifer Kaufman, and the fastest Master male, Franz Fuchsberger. A big shout out to the race program folks at Loveland for hosting and supporting such an incredible event.

With congratulations and support as the theme, I also congratulate the RM racers who competed admirably at the Masters Nationals. Two very notable performances were turned in by Broc Thompson and Lauren MacMath, both earning places on the Spyder U.S. Alpine Masters National Team. And for all of us at RM, kudos to all of you who contributed to our 2nd place overall team result. See the results on the USSA Masters website, and more on our season at our website, www.rmmskiracing.org.

Sponsorship is a huge part of our continued operation, so thank you to all our corporate support including: A Culture of Speed (aCos), Alpine Base and Edge, A

Racers Edge, Foothills Ski and Bike, FK/SKS ski tuning equipment, FUXI Ski Racing USA, Greenlight Collaboration, Saucer Wax, Schneehex Photography, and our own trophy and medal store, U.S. Recognition. We could not do this without your generous support and prize donations. And, while on the sponsorship theme, our Sponsor A Race Day program continues to grow and a big thank you to all generous people who financially contributed to our successful race season. They are Kevin Ward, John Davis, Bill and Lisa Gooch, Scott and Jeanette Saylor, Lori Hamilton and Jon Wolf, Kevin Butler, Mike and Susan Horton, the Sandy Treat Family, Hans Oberlohr, Chuck Tower, Rolf Funk, the "Old Guys" (Bob Benson, Charlie Hauser, Bruce Wienke and Lee Kaufman), and of course, Bob Tengdin and the Tengdin family. This generous support provided 100% sponsorship for our entire race season. SALUTE!

On an administrative note, our long-time treasurer, David Velasco, has unfortunately tendered his resignation to pursue and manage his own growing company. David unselfishly gave a great deal of his time and energy to ensure that our organization remained fiscally and financially sound and we, Rocky Mountain Masters, owe him a huge thank you for a JOB WELL DONE. Fortunately, we do have a former board member who knows a bit about banking and has agreed to take the financial reins. Welcome back, Jennifer Kaufman! For the entire Rocky Masters membership, if you want to get involved, don't hesitate to get in touch with me and we'll be happy to put you to work. Speaking of work, I would be remiss in not thanking an integral (most important) person in our working group and that would be Lydia Young, for her tireless efforts in arranging and coordinating all of our post-race parties. They are the reason we gather to ski race!

Last, I want to thank everyone who pitched in and helped me in my first year as president of such a gregarious and active group of people known as The Rocky Mountain Masters. Pray harder for snow this coming season, I don't think He heard us loud enough.

Division News

New York State Snow Masters Series

Jack Eisenschmid, chair
www.nymasters.org

The 2013 NY Masters Series was another great season! Even though we had a late start, we had one of the best ski seasons in years. Throughout, there was nice weather and great snow conditions for our 39th race season. This year, we decreased the number of races to 14 at seven different mountains. We still did not have great numbers for the races, but made up for it with fun and great competition. Along with racers from NY, we were glad to have quite a few from Canada, Pennsylvania and Ohio join us. We still enjoyed finishing four-race runs by 2:00, with time for free skiing and our après race awards party.

Once again, we had great competition among most age classes, as well as for the overall season awards. For the men's overall title it was Greg Sarkis who claimed the Marshall Skiff Cup—his 20th NY Masters Champion title. For the women, it was Gae Orsini who took the women's overall Joan Skiff Cup. Congratulations to Gae and Greg on a great season!

As most of you know, our friend and fellow racer Dick "Rockett" Prentice passed away last fall. This year we re-dedicated the Greek Peak race; it is now the Joan Skiff and Rockett Prentice Memorial race.

This season, we once again had some great sponsors to help keep the NY Masters series going and who also donated some nice prizes. Many thanks to Mountainside Ski and Sports, Reliable Racing, and South-town Beverages for their continued support! Also big thanks to the NY Masters Staff and volunteers that help out each week: Nancy Fella, race Administrator; Laura Moats, webmaster and scoring; Mark Sertl, treasurer; Jack Eisenschmid, chairman; Joie Komarmi; Barbara Settel; Jim Thoman; Ellen Miller; Marsh Rich; Marie Eve Thoman; Judy Vyverberg and Emily Linsler. We can't run the series without your help.

New York Masters had a terrific show-

ing at the Eastern Regionals held at Okemo. We had nine racers on the podium at Okemo, including Dick Komarmi M10, Barbara Settel W8, Pepi Neubauer M9, Mark Sertl M6, Jim Thoman M3, Tom Sheeler M1, Greg Sarkis M6, Doug Paul M4 and Lou Moore M4. No wonder the Nationals are usually held in the West.

At the Nationals at Big

scheduled starts, losing just a few races to weather. 49N had a good turnout in sunshine for their SG; Schweitzer had snow for the Brooks and Molecule F SG races, but boasted interval and speed trap timing while Mt Bachelor got one SG concluded before the blizzard closed in. The two-temporary license rule enabled more racers to travel away from their home area for a second race and brought back some folks to racing, including John Day who brought



Drury Cooper, Intermountain, winding down



Far West's Ara Papazian makes this run his bitch.

Sky, once again Pepi Neubauer won the M9 overall, as well as the DH title. Barb Brumbaugh finished 3rd for the W5 overall.

Up north in Canada, the Ontario Masters Championships were held at Georgian Peaks and Osler. Greg Sarkis won the overall in M6, as well as the SG.

Congratulations all!

Enjoy the next few weeks of spring skiing and have a great summer. See you all at the START in 2014.



PNSA

Ann Ozuna, chair
www.pnsamasters.org

The Pacific Northwest Masters season-long point chase to the championship came down to the last gate of the last run of the season in a blizzard at Mt Bachelor for the two "Road Warriors" who made every race all season long. In class 7, warrior Brad Scott "snugged up" to frontrunner Dave Kornish to steal away the gold medal by 2 points. Class 8's gold medal went to Larry Konstacky by just three points. Larry earned the "King of the Road" title by garnering 20 more points overall than Brad.

This year, we had 14 race venues and managed to pull off almost all of the 34

his son Michael along. We look forward to seeing them again next year. Our schedule is set up to allow three racing opportunities somewhat close to home for Oregon, Eastern and Western Washington racers.

In spite of our "softer" snow, PNSA Masters love to go fast and showed it at Nationals, with the three fastest men overall in downhill: Luke Keenan, Willie Scroggins, and Rob Cravens. Other class DH gold medalists were Karen Killian, Melissa Dettmer, and Andrew Vetterlein. In the SG, PNSA had the fastest man on the hill in Willie Scroggins. Class gold medalists in SG were Rich Robertson, Ann Ozuna, Pam Sheeler, Melissa Dettmer, Luke Keenan and Michael Day. The "tech events" were a little more challenging, with only Michael Day, Pam Sheeler, and Melissa Dettmer taking home gold in the SL. Willi Schmidt, Pam Sheeler, and Luke Keenan scored the gold medals in GS.

PNSA racers atop the combined podium SG/GS/ and SL results in class were Chuck Evans, Rich Robertson, Pam Sheeler, George Frazier, Tim Hill, and Luke Keenan. Overall, PNSA took home 18 Golds, 8 Silvers and 10 Bronze medals at Nationals. See full results, as well as final standings at www.pnsamasters.org.

Luke Keenan repeated as the national champion in the Molecule F Speed series

25th Masters Summer Fun Nationals

July 19–21, 2013 • www.SummerFunNationals.com



This year, we celebrate the silver anniversary of the Summer Fun Nationals at Mt. Hood on Palmer Glacier, July 19–21. Summer is a fun time for ski racing. The weather is warm, the skies are blue, and there is no pressure for season points. The whole family can race together, party together, and enjoy vacation on scenic Mt. Hood and the surrounding area. Mark your calendar for this action-packed weekend of fun! If you have the time, plan on a race camp a few days prior to the race to wake up those ski muscles.

To enter yourself and your family members, go to www.SummerFunNationals.com. While entry is via skiracereg.com, it is not through your regular race series sign-in. Everyone must be a paid current USSA member for the 2013–2014 season, which begins July 1, 2013. All USSA participant memberships are accepted: Masters, Coaches, Juniors, Youth.

In addition to racing fun, the town of Government Camp is the summer home to the ski industry demo centers from around the world. It is a ski racer's paradise, demo-

next season's equipment before it hits the stores (or Internet!). Also available are the last season's leftovers at greatly discounted prices in some of the summer ski shops.

In twenty-five years of Summer Fun Nationals at Mt Hood, over 800 racers raced in the event from across the US, Canada, Europe and the South Pacific. Six racers have made all 25 events: Ann Ozuna, Joseph Mucci, Dave Prochazka, Oliver Lajoie, Knut Olberg and Meri Stratton. There were years these racers, even though injured, worked the race instead of racing—but they were always there. During our 25 years, there have been nearly 150 volunteers, many returning year after year. Our volunteers make the race come alive!

This is your year to make history and come to Mt. Hood for this exciting event.

See you there! You'll be sure to have a lot of fun!

- Friday, July 19**
- Government Camp**
- 3:00–6:00 pm Welcome party and racer check-in
- Saturday, July 20**
- Timberline Ski Area**
- 6:00–7:00 am: late check-in at day lodge
- 6:30 am Ticket office opens
- 7:00 am Lifts open
- 7:45 am Inspection
- 8:30 am 1st run GS
- 11:00ish 2nd run GS
- 4:30 pm Beer/root beer & raffle @ day lodge
- 5:00 pm BBQ dinner
- 6:00 pm Awards: GS
- Sunday, July 21**
- 6:30 am Ticket office opens
- 7:00 am Lifts open
- 7:45 am Inspection
- 8:30 am 1st run SL
- 11:00ish 2nd run SL
- 1:30 pm Awards @ day lodge



Masters volunteer girls



All the Juniors

for the under-60 men's class. Other PNSA racers are also sporting the special Molecule F belt buckle. See full results at ussamasters.org/reports/2013/nss/ES-NSS2013-WCPoints-By-Class.html

Final Year-to-date standings are available at www.pnsamasters.org.

See you at the 25th edition of "Summer Fun"

Nationals at Mt Hood, 3rd weekend in July, and in the gates at a race or training group this summer or next fall. Schedules will be posted at www.pnsamasters.org and www.skiracereg.com. We welcome all levels of racers—take the challenge in the gates with new friends!



Course setting at o'dark thirty am.



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**Whether it's a beaming smile
or the grimace of determination,
PNSA's Tim Hill's face is working
as hard as his legs.**

The VISION of the USSA Alpine Masters is to provide adult skiers with a lifelong opportunity to enjoy the challenges and rewards of alpine ski racing.

The MISSION of the USSA Alpine Masters is to make this vision a reality by developing, promoting, organizing and coordinating the highest level of alpine ski racing throughout snow country in the United States and internationally, and to fulfill our passion for and love of nature, the outdoors, mountains, freedom, self-challenge and accomplishment.

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2014 Major Events

**Phillips 66
FIS Masters Cup**
Park City, UT, Feb. 6-9
SG/SG/SL/SL

**Phillips 66 Masters
National Championships**
Okemo, VT, Mar. 17-22
DH/SG/GS/SL



The Masters
Division Cup