

FAR WEST MASTERS BOARD MEETING – AGENDA
10 July, 2010 – 2 pm
450 Forest Glen Road, Olympic Valley, CA (Mirviss' residence)

President Mark Mirviss called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

Board members present: Marcie Pettigrew, Mark Smallhouse (left after 3 pm), Don Smith, Marietta Frinell (left at 4), Ingrid Braun, Mike Braun, Sandy Hogan, Deb Lewis (by telephone). Others present: Doug Fulton, Sam and Linda Crowell, Pavel Bosin, Dave Garner.

- Board Member Reports:

- *Secretary:* **Sandy** passed out the minutes of April 15, which were approved. (previously approved electronically, without date).
- *Treasurer:* **Mark Smallhouse** passed out the financial report (attached). He noted that we were in good financial shape due to two payments from Lausmann Lumber; decreased mailing and banquet costs; and increased membership and head tax receipts.
- *VP Communications:* **Ingrid** noted that only two Forerunners were sent out, with the end of the year edition held up pending information about the scholarship program. The Board concurred that the end of the year newsletter should be combined with the September membership mailing.
- *VP Membership:* **Marcie** stated that we had a good membership year, as anyone who raced more than once with us became a member. The Board congratulated Marcie for this, noting that she followed up every temporary racer with a letter, which led to this increased membership. Nice work, Marcie!
- *VP Scheduling:* **Don Smith** moved, with **Marietta** seconding, to approve Mike Braun's confirmation as VP Scheduling, to fill out the remainder of Mark Mirviss' term (motion passed unanimously). Mark and Mike presented the preliminary schedule, pending confirmation from the ski areas. It's a very full schedule, with 10 SL, 9 GS, 8 SG, and 2 DH. No SCs are scheduled, but could be offered if there's a demand, and if area(s) wish to offer. Western Regionals will be scored races, as they're home races for us. If races are lost due to weather, we will attempt to reschedule. As of this year, all courses must be homologated.
- *VP CTO/Webmaster:* **Deb** noted that the news "e-blasts" were effective, as was the Forerunner being e-mailed and on the website. Nice job! Member Mary Feddis has expressed interest in taking over the news e-blasts, and also helping Ingrid with the newsletter. Marcie and Deb will be working on streamlining the membership database, probably in September, so that Marcie has good access.
- *VP Officials:* **Don** noted that the officials' clinic will again be in October, hopefully in the Reno area (either at Mark S's or Rees' home), followed by the Board's fall meeting (board should send available or not available dates to Mark M). Once decided, Ingrid will include this information in the September Forerunner, and Mary Feddis will send e-blast, also. We need course officials: remind anyone complaining about costs that officials can request reimbursement for their officials' license, and also get lift tickets. Course conditions are a source of irritation, and therefore course officials need to be firm with host area to be sure that slipping is done (especially for the younger men), dq's dq'd, gatekeepers present, and the start order is followed. If Board members see a problem (i.e dq that gatekeeper misses), they should take it to the official, who will follow up at once.

- *Past President: Marietta* reported on the National Committee meeting, where the only change for next year will be to flip the top 5 for the second run, rather than the entire class. All divisions (except FW) reported decreasing membership.
- *President:* No report

Old Business: (*denotes taken out of order)

- **Sponsorship*/Ordering Bibs:** Sponsorship contracts were discussed during the Treasurer's report. Mark noted that Lausmann Lumber wishes to continue as a sponsor, Dave Garner has indicated interest, and through Linda Crowell's contact with Joel Loan, Skiers' Edge would also like to be a major sponsor. Granite Chief has not yet fulfilled their contract, and they have now moved from Squaw Valley. Mark moved, seconded by Marcie, that Granite Chief be contacted to see if the past contract can be made current through cash, merchandise, ski tuning or other product, but with no new contract. The motion was passed unanimously. Sandy will draft a letter for Mark's review and final editing (followed by Board review), and Mark will hand-deliver the letter to Herb.

- Bib Ordering: **Sam and Mark** led the discussion on bib ordering, which needs to be done this year. We will purchase 412 bibs (including forerunner, leader bibs, and temporary bibs) which should be enough to supply current members and new members for the next 3 years. After 3 years we will probably have to make an additional smaller purchase to supply future new members and leader bibs. One estimate was for \$5150, without shipping. With up-front sponsor contribution of \$1500 each from Lausmann Lumber and Reno Mountain Sports, and the balance from Skiers' Edge, Mark will order the bibs and we will avoid the annual sponsorship/money collection discussions of the past. The Board concurred with Mark's offer to move forward with this.

- **Sponsorships of Races & Awards parties*:** **Marietta** noted that this was our first year of formally asking people to sponsor races and/or awards parties, and Randall Sussek sponsored two or three parties. Annette arranged for a very nice party at Northstar, and Eddie and Mark M. personally cooked for several parties. Thanks to all of you!! We'll continue to publicize this in the Forerunner, and if someone wants to sponsor a race, Mike will talk to that race department to figure out how to do it (e.g. "The Dave McCoy Slalom, sponsored by....").

- **Open class discussion:** **Deb** led discussion, with 3 subtopics for decision:

- a) Start position for 2nd run: should this be changed, now that we have gone to 5-year classes? A proposal was to run OP in the middle of the 50's, (between 7 and 6, which is where Intermountain runs their Super Seed). Other variations discussed were deemed impractical. Discussion reiterated that masters is primarily age group racing. A competitor qualifying for Open class has the choice to move out of their age class to run in the Open class.

Sandy moved, with Mark seconding, that we continue to run Open class

after the 50's (class 6). The motion passed unanimously.

b) Open class in speed events: should competitors elect ahead of time, or make their decision after the race run? After discussion, Deb moved, with Marcie seconding, to require competitors to elect OP before the race, with OP classes run at the end of their respective gender, including new requirement to elect OP prior to the race, with no race-day changes. Motion passed unanimously. Deb to follow up this season to improve presentation of reminders, and maybe make entry forms clearer to help competitors remember.

c) Open Class season scoring: shall we change scoring of Open class so that those who run in Open class also receive age class "credit"? Board discussion pointed out that we instituted Open class to create more possibilities for awards. Don moved, Ingrid seconded, to continue to score OP class separately for season scoring. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Streamlining/Critique of End of Year Banquet & Awards:** Brief discussion of year-end banquet, awards, and dual race. Calcutta/dual race is a great event, but we need to be sure that the focus of the banquet is on Masters awards. Discussion included ideas on how to better brief team captains, pre-sell teams, etc.

New Business: (*denotes taken out of order)

- **Membership Records Retention*:** Mark S. advised Marcie that the normal retention for both CA and NV is 6 years, with the signed release being the important document.

- **2010 USSA Masters Survey:** Mark briefly summarized some of the important data from the recent USSA Masters survey, which included non-renewing members, continuing members, and temporary racers. Two of the most significant barriers were time commitment and travel.

- **Statistical summaries:** Deb recapped information from her annual statistical summaries: membership up 13%, race participation up (good snow, few cancellations helped), but average starts per race still down (64/race vs. historical 10-year average of 71/race).

- **On Line race registration:** Deb/Doug Fulton briefed the Board on a topic we covered at last summer's board meeting on whether to commit funds to participate with other masters divisions to expand Rocky Masters online registration system for other divisions use. Doug Briggs (RM?) has restarted the effort (to be called SkiRaceReg.com); costs are essentially the same as last year, a per-head charge based on division membership. Cost would scale down each year over three years to cover system development (\$6/5/4 per head for 2011/2012/2013, steady state operating costs in 2014 and

beyond of \$2.50/head). FWM estimate (250 members from USSA licenses): \$1500 for 2011, \$1250 for 2012, \$1000 for 2013, \$625 thereafter. (Actual fees probably somewhat lower, Deb to negotiate membership figures with RDB (?) based on our division records vs. USSA licenses)

Deb reviewed implementation issues for FWM. Deb would continue up-front work with organizers for entries and race setup. Doug Fulton has offered to take on the position of division contact/administration, to handle the new process step involved in submitting race billing and dispersing funds. Doug thinks online registration system may be future interest to FW division, too (he's on the FW USSA board), and he will be racing more this season with FWM.

Deb and Doug emphasized that there was still a lot of work to do (by FWM and others) before instituting on-line registration this year, and that it was possible that it wouldn't happen this year. The board noted that we are in a good financial position to subsidize the cost so that entry fees would not increase for our members, and that the RM system works very well. Sandy moved, Mark seconded, to fund the proposal as presented by Deb and Doug. The motion was passed, with Don Smith voting no.

- **Membership applications re-design:** Marcie passed out a newly re-designed membership form that fits on one page, and the board gave its approval by consensus.
- **USSA rising costs/drops in membership:** No discussion, as Marietta had left the meeting. Sandy read an e-mail from Marietta concerning this.
- **Hall of Fame Nominations:** Marietta had previously sent several nominations to Bill McCollum for the USSA Hall of Fame nominations. Ingrid moved, Marcie seconded, to approve Marietta's nominations.
- There being no additions to the agenda, Ingrid moved, with Mike seconding, to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 p.m. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Sandy Hogan