

FAR WEST MASTERS GENERAL MEETING – MINUTES

15 APRIL, 2011 – SLOPESIDE, MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN SKI AREA, CA

President Mark Mirviss called the General Membership meeting to order at approximately 2:00 pm. He asked the Board members to stand up, and introduced them. Absent: Don Smith, VP Officials (injured), and Past President Marietta Frinnell (arrived a few minutes later). Secretary Sandy Hogan read the minutes from last year's general meeting, and asked for any corrections or additions. There were none, and the minutes stood as approved electronically by the Board, and again at last summer's Board meeting.

Mark announced the schedule for the upcoming regional, national, and international championships:

- 2012 Nationals – Park City, Utah – March 19 – 23
- Western Regionals – Vail, Colorado - Feb 2 – 5
- FIS World Criterium – Mammoth Mountain, CA – March 27 or 28 – 31

Bob Davis is our FIS liaison, and noted that an FIS license is required to race. A few of the men's classes run in slightly different order than USSA. There will be two 1-run GS's ("Euro GS"), 1 SG, and one 2-run slalom. Bob said that FIS skis are required, and will check on the requirements for older racers to be sure. To qualify for a World Cup globe, racers must have raced in other FIS Masters races, such as those in Valle Nevado, Chile (Marietta has information on these). For the first time, the criterium has a quota (by country) and racers will be required to register (and pay) in advance; Beat required this to host the races, and the FIS finally accepted this constraint. Bill Skinner handles the coordination of the quotas.

Increasing Racer Starts: Mark noted that although our membership is up, the number of racers is down. He led a brief discussion of some ideas on how to increase our racer starts. One idea endorsed by the Board last fall was to give a free entry to any member who brought a new racer. Other ideas:

- Eddie: schedule our races carefully to not conflict with league races; could young racers ski with us (at the end of our races, with no awards given?).
- Mark M.: how to get parents of racers to race with us?
- Troy G.: schedule some races on same day with juniors? (logistical problems noted here)
- Linda C.: try to get some of our former scholarship kids to start racing with us (e.g. Matt), have a scholarship athlete reunion at a race.
- Bill Davidson: use MMSA's MVP e-mail list to make others aware of FWM races? He volunteered to follow up on this with MMSA; Linda volunteered to do the same Alpine, and will check with Rees to see if he would do the same at Mt. Rose.

These and any other new ideas will be a topic at the summer meeting; new ideas always welcome!

Board member elections: Mark noted that 4 Board seats are up for election this year: VP Membership, VP Scheduling, VP Communications/Newsletter, and CTO/Webmaster. Each position serves for 2 years, and the incumbents have agreed to serve, if elected. Mark asked for nominations from the floor for each position: VP Membership: Marcie Pettigrew was nominated, and elected by acclamation (with Pierre objecting facetiously); VP Scheduling: Mike Braun was nominated, and elected by acclamation (with Pierre's objection); VP Communications/Newsletter: Ingrid Braun was nominated and elected by acclamation (same person objecting); and Deb Lewis was nominated and elected unanimously!

Electronic Registration: Mark thanked Deb Lewis and Doug Fulton for their continuing work instituting and maintaining our electronic registration this year; feedback has been very positive.

Race Schedule: Mike Braun asked for feedback about having 3 races on one weekend, other scheduling issues. Eddie noted that some of the time (not every weekend), 3 races on one weekend is good, especially if the weather cooperates. Perhaps we could have fewer race weekends scheduled, if there were a few more of the 3 race weekends. Julie noted that Northstar would be difficult, as the lines are very long there and no racer lines are designated. She also requested that there be no races scheduled for the weekend before Christmas.

Race day registration: This is done at the ski areas, including coordination, and has been done by Elizabeth and Mike Kennedy. It is not a Board position, but done by volunteer(s), and Elizabeth would like to step down, if there are others willing to take it on. She suggested that perhaps there might be one person for MMSA, and one for the Tahoe areas. MMSA is now very easy, with on-line registration and the work done by Elise and Beat (license paperwork coordinated with Park City/Bill Skinner). Linda Crowell suggested that if someone does race registration at the ski area, they should get a free ticket for that day. Marietta said that FWM could pay for the ticket, if the ski area didn't give a ticket for the volunteer. Ingrid volunteered to take on MMSA. The Board will include this item on its summer agenda for further discussion. Anyone interested should contact any of the Board members or Elizabeth.

Scholarship Program: Eddie Mozen asked for questions about the program, including the new college scholarship program. Starting this year, one of our scholarship athletes will be awarded \$10,000 (at \$2,500/year) for a 4-year college scholarship. One of our late FWM supporters, Jeff Wattenmaker, set up an endowment for the FWMSP to make this possible for at least the next 10 years. The concussion testing for athletes is really going well; it's also being done for most other sports now (not related to FWMSP).

Summer Board Meeting: The meeting will be Saturday, July 9, tentatively at the Mirviss residence in Squaw Valley, and open to all members. Please let us know if you plan to attend, as there will be a bar-b-q at the end of the meeting and we need to know how much food to prepare. It's possible we may have a bike ride or golf in the morning, if enough folks are interested. Specific information will be posted on the website as we get closer to the date.

Mike Braun moved to adjourn, Mark Smallhouse seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 2:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sandy Hogan, Secretary