

FAR WEST MASTERS BOARD MEETING – AGENDA
9 July, 2011 – 2 pm
450 Forest Glen Road, Olympic Valley, CA (Mirviss' residence)

Call to Order: Mark Mirviss called the meeting to order at 2:18

Board members present: Mark Mirviss, Mike Braun, Ingrid Braun, Mark Smallhouse, Don Smith, Sandy Hogan, Deb Lewis (by conference call). **Absent:** Marietta Frinell, Marcie Pettigrew. **Others attending:** Gaet DeMattei, Rees Palermo, Linda Crowell (arriving later), Annette Mirviss

- Board Member Reports:

- *Secretary:* **Sandy** noted that the amended minutes of April 15 were approved electronically.
- *Treasurer:* **Mark Smallhouse** presented the financial report, consisting of a profit & loss comparison with the previous year, and the current year's balance sheet compared with the previous year. The largest expenses were due to the initiation of the SkiRaceReg with Doug Briggs, and those associated with the printing and mailing of the Forerunner. The bib costs were cancelled out by the sponsorships. Our balance is several thousand above our historical balance.
- *VP Communications:* **Ingrid** noted that around 100 of our members elected to pay a \$25 membership fee and receive a printed copy of the Forerunner. The registration information and letter will go out early this year, probably in August.
- *VP Membership:* **Marcie** submitted a written membership report, which Mark read into the record. Report is attached at the end of the minutes.
- *VP Scheduling:* **Mike** discussed the preliminary schedule, which is just about complete. It will consist (tentatively) of 9 slaloms, 10 GS, 7 SG, and 3 DH. At least one of the MMSA speed series races will be named the "Rick Conrado Memorial". Mike will follow up with Bill Skinner re: the National Speed Series, and also ask if it might be possible to change the National Downhill from Ski Cooper to Big Sky, if Big Sky would be willing to host a downhill either before or after the Western Regionals. These were previously scheduled for Vail, but moved to Big Sky. The dates are Feb. 2 – Feb. 5. Mike and Rees will be working out the dates for the Bernard Cup and McKinney Cup, so that they are not back to back as tentatively scheduled now. The end of the season races will be in North Tahoe, with Northstar proposing to host 2 downhills (plus 1 training run) and 2 SGs on 4/11-4/12, and then Sugar Bowl hosting the traditional GS, SI, and dual on 4/13-4/15. MMSA will host the FIS World Criterium from 3/27 – 3/31.
- *VP CTO/Webmaster:* **Deb** noted that the website is up, and so is the membership database for Marcie. Deb is working on having access to member information for the Board, also. SkiRaceReg (online race registration) has received good input from members (refer to this topic under "Old Business). The website may need to be moved to a new Hosting Service (server) next year. More on this later.
- *VP Officials:* **Don and Rees** led a discussion about some of the issues that have come up re: testing between USSA Phil GillanFarr and FWM. The annual updates that Rees holds for FWM officials are designed for FWM, in general. The date for the fall update at the Palermo residence is 10/15, followed by the FWM Board Meeting. Deb announced that the USSA officials' clinic is scheduled for Nov 11 (pm), and Nov 12, at Northstar.

- *Past President:* **Marietta** was absent, but sent an e-mail suggesting that if we have a long week/weekend of racing, not all races be counted. The Board consensus, after discussion, was that counting of 75% of races for season awards resolved that issue.
- *President:* **Mark** spoke about the many e-mails that he had received about Teddy Cantanho's sudden death, and how Teddy had such a wonderful attitude. He suggested that we initiate a new award in her name, and the Board agreed. One name suggested was the "Spirit Award". He and several other Board members will attend the celebration of her life next week in Gardnerville.

Old Business:

-SkiRaceReg: Deb sent a flow chart to the Board and led a discussion about this subject, noting though it worked well for the racers, there were some issues to be worked out in the back-end process. **Mark Smallhouse** noted that the flow of money was inconsistent and needed work: e.g. Heavenly and Squaw Valley wanted the money up front, whereas Doug Briggs paid the other areas afterward. There was discussion concerning the head tax and who it should go to (either Mark S. or to Danielle at P.O. 55, Verdi). It's all a bit confusing right now, and needs to be sorted out. Deb will work on this with Doug Briggs, keeping Doug Fulton involved, as well, to identify the options. She will be at the fall meeting and lead the discussion. **Fall agenda topic.** Mark S. noted that on a related topic, we had a hard time getting a ticket for one of our visiting forerunners at the Heavenly race, as Vail's comp ticket policy is so stringent. This item needs follow-up.

-Scholarship Program/recipients Information: Sandy noted that she wanted to see more information concerning the scholarship program and the recipients, and had indicated this to Eddie. Ingrid said that he had sent her 6 thank you letters from recipients, and that more information would be incorporated in the Forerunner. Sandy offered to help, if needed. Mark and others noted that 3 of our recipients have been selected for the USST, but as important, many have been honored with academic scholarships and other honors. For example, Sal Montforte was the valedictorian at NTHS, and received many scholarships, as did Brian Tidd, both of whom got one of the FWM \$10,000 scholarships. Others getting this from FWM: Amy Lonza and James Clifford. FWM was the biggest donor, with Jeff Wattenmaker's bequest to FWMSP.

- Awards Party Budgets/Sponsorships of Races & Awards parties: Mark noted that Randall and Mary are heading this program up, and have received some checks, and others have also contributed, e.g. Brian Smith with ribs at Mt. Rose. We had talked about using the Rocky Mountain model, naming a race after the sponsor, but really haven't institutionalized it yet. Mark will put in it the "President's Corner" column again, and in every newsletter. Race party sponsorship is \$350.

-Social events/Info on White Boards: As this was a follow-up item from 10/10 that hadn't been followed up, the decision to purchase white boards was dropped by consensus. As Mary Feddis is heading up social events/sponsorship, the suggestion is that she (or her designee) post the information at registration, and also on the results board at each race.

-Increasing Racer Starts/Pierre/Deb's suggestions for improving racer starts/ Ski Area mailing lists (continued discussion): Some of these have been successfully

implemented, such as single pole slalom, and multiple races on two days. Next season we'll schedule fewer races overall, and see how that goes. **Deb** will review her original list to see what is still out there, and lead the discussion at the fall meeting. Some ideas need further work, such as how to get a free registration if you bring a buddy, so **Mark Smallhouse** will investigate this item. At the spring meeting, using ski area mailing lists to publicize FWM ski racing was suggested. Ingrid will check with MMSA, Linda/Sam will talk to Alpine. ***These items will be a fall agenda topic***

-Race Day Registration (continued discussion from 4/15/11): Race day registration is much less work with SkiRaceReg, but there still needs to be a local coordinator, as the Kennedys have indicated that they are ready to turn this over. **Ingrid** will handle MMSA, but we still need a northern California lead. Consensus was to put this on the website and also have this as ***a fall agenda topic***.

New Business:

-Spending Money: As our treasury is in good shape financially, this topic was added to new business. The Teddy Cantanho "Spirit of Masters Ski Racing" award was discussed, and Ingrid moved, with Deb's second, that we institute an award. The motion passed, with no decision made as to whether it should be an end of the year award or a perpetual award. Mark will announce the award at Teddy's Celebration of Life next week. Don moved, with Mike seconding, to send a \$500 check from the Far West Masters in Teddy's memory to the FWM Scholarship program. Motion passed.

At the fall meeting, **Ingrid** will lead a discussion on this subject, after she investigates different types of awards (trophy, plaque, or other), size, costs, etc. ***Fall agenda topic.***

-Publicity for Races: **Annette Mirviss** offered to design and print flyers for races, and post them in various locations, and have them available for others to post, also. However, she needs ideas for attention-getting "headlines". A few were suggested, such as "Wanna go fast, without losing your pass?", and "Ready to graduate from NASTAR to Masters?". We know that our members can come up with some good ones, so we'll put out a request on the website for more, including this reminder in the minutes.

Please send your suggestions to amirviss@att.net.

Don moved to adjourn, and Ingrid seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:20 to a bar-b-que hosted by the Mark and Annette Mirviss.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Hogan

(membership report attached)

Minutes approved electronically: 7/24/2011

Marcie Pettigrew
VP Membership

FAR WEST MEMBERSHIP REPORT

July 9, 2011

We have a total of 200 Members to FWMasters in 2010-11.

The new membership form worked well this year as there was much fewer confusion as to the cost of membership vis-a-vis paying for a newsletter or getting it by e-mail.

We gained 21 new members, and 15 returning members who had not renewed for some time. I think one reason we got the returning members was the fact that we got new bibs this year. Consequently some people were encouraged to renewed to get their old numbers back, or to request new bib numbers. On another note, there were 51 people who joined, but who did not race at all during the season.

Throughout the season I reached out to racers for whom I had contact information from the 900 Bib Roster for possible membership. This form worked well in terms of getting the 900 bibs back and for reaching out to temporary racers to encourage them to join. There are some members I know I need to reach out in a more personal way, such as sending a completed application and a self-addressed stamped envelope for its return. And I have stopped on the side of Hwy 395 on the way to Mammoth to pick up a membership renewal and check from someone who was also driving on Hwy 395 and flagged me down! Who would think how interesting this position could be!

I have my newsletter article completed and submitted for the fall membership newsletter, and I have already received an application and check from one new member for next season! Deb has the FW Web site prepared for me to do FW Masters' renewals, and hopefully she will have the site ready for me to enter new people by this fall. This will take a lot of pressure off of Deb once the web site is fully up and running for membership.