

FAR WEST MASTERS BOARD MEETING – Minutes
11 July, 2009 – 3 pm
87 Mammoth Knolls Drive, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 (Marietta's home)

Call to Order: Marietta called the meeting to order at 3:15 pm.

Roll Call: Marietta, Mark Mirviss, Mark Smallhouse, Marcie Pettigrew, Deb Lewis, Don Smith, Sam Crowell, Ingrid Braun, Sandy Hogan (all board members present);

Others present: Gary Mouck (past president), Mike Braun, Doug Fulton, Linda Crowell, Kathy Farris

- Board Member Reports:

- *Secretary:* **Sandy** passed out the minutes of March meeting, which had been previously approved electronically.
- *Treasurer:* **Mark Smallhouse** passed out the financial report. We had some savings last year, because of fewer newsletter mailings and the combined membership and newsletter mailing, and also the savings as a result of electronic mailing of the Forerunner. He noted that both of our sponsors are in arrears with their payments. **Sam Crowell** will follow up with Granite Chief and **Mark** will write a second letter to Lausmann Lumber, as a reminder. The Board thanked Mark for his well-written letter to Lawrence family. Deb reminded everyone that we have our own letterhead available for any future correspondence.
- *VP Communications:* **Ingrid** will contact Elizabeth and get all newsletter information. A discussion ensued about the savings due to electronic mailing, and whether those wishing hard copy mailing should be charged extra. An initial motion, moved by Marcie, seconded by Mark S. to charge \$5 extra passed 5-4. After more discussion about the logistics and philosophy of doing this, and other membership issues, a second motion (amending the first) was made by Mark S, seconded by Ingrid, that dues for FWM will be raised to \$25, with a \$5 discount for those who choose to receive the Forerunner electronically. The motion passed 9-0. Fall newsletter mailing deadline will be 10/10.
- *VP Membership:* **Marcie** – As a result of the previous discussion, there was board consensus that this year it is worthwhile to have a separate membership mailing in late August or early September. **Marcie** has the lead, with **Ingrid's** assistance with the membership cover letter and the redesign of the membership form. The cover letter will include information about membership perks, general information about FWM, our schedule, and note the change in USSA temporary licenses (1 weekend only). As a result of a later discussion, there was board consensus to send the membership packet to all racers who had a temporary license last year.
- *VP Scheduling:* **Mark Mirviss** went over the proposed schedule, noting that a few races had not yet been confirmed. Discussion ensued about the Mammoth GS races, scheduled 1 week later during Rokka weekend races. Kathy Ferris offered to check with Rokka and Beat to see if we might be able to coordinate and allow Rokka racers the opportunity to race with us. Mark will finalize the schedule, and send it to Bill Skinner. A question arose about feedback from the ski areas concerning the National Age classes; he responded that there hasn't been any negative feedback, nor much feedback at all. Sam noted that GS's generally get better responses from new and current racers, as slalom can be intimidating. **Deb** will check the numbers to see if the data shows this. **Mark** will see if it's possible to change a few slaloms to GS.

- *VP CTO/Webmaster:* **Deb** discussed some technical items: the Membership computer died, and she will move the data to the website by 09/01; she also plans to rebuild the website by 09/01 using a different hosting site, which will make e-mail blasts a lot easier. Therefore, the sections of the website may be down off and on during this period. Deb led the discussion about registration options, especially focusing on electronic registration. Rocky Mtn. has a good system, but employs a paid part-time system administrator. **Doug** is familiar with the Eastern system, which will be used in some junior races in the FW. Mammoth and Northstar have committed to use this for junior races. **Deb** will research both systems; Doug will send her information about the Eastern system. The goal is to have electronic registration available this year, with the major issue of how to pay for it. This will be a fall agenda topic, with **Deb** as the lead. A discussion followed about late fees on race day, as we would like to do away with these; **Mark Mirviss** will talk about this with ski areas to get their input. One idea was to have a discounted fee for early registration, but this needs further research with ski areas, also.
- *VP Officials:* **Don** noted that we will have an officials clinic again in October; **Mark Smallhouse** offered his house. It will be the 2nd weekend in October, followed by the fall Board meeting. Don noted that in 2 years Masters will have to race on homologated hills.
- *Past President:* **Sam** had nothing new to report.
- *President:* **Marietta** noted that the Alpine handbook is now on the internet; our schedule is due to Bill on 8/1; and the comp guide will be on line 9/7. Entries are due for Nationals 2/20/10, so our members should get their entries to her by the end of January. A quota is given to each division, based upon their USSA membership, and ours was down last year. Hopefully it will be up this year, so that everyone who wants to go to Nationals can go.

Old Business:

- **Mission Statement/Ad hoc committee:** **Marietta** deferred this discussion until further notice.
- **Awards follow-up:** **Marcie** reported on left-over awards, which we'll hold for future use as necessary.
- **Awards parties sponsorships:** **Sandy** summarized what we did this past year to recognize members who sponsored race parties, and after **Marietta** explained how Rocky Mtn. sells their races, **Mark S.** moved that for \$350/race weekend, a member can sponsor and name the race (if not already named), with the money going towards Saturday's party. **Ingrid** seconded, and the **motion was approved 9-0**. The FWM general fund will still augment this sponsorship, so that our Saturday parties will be something special. **Ingrid** will develop a race sponsorship form to be included with the membership packet.
- **Increasing membership/racer starts:** This topic had been touched on earlier throughout the meeting, including Deb's stats/analysis of 2001-2009. **Sandy** reviewed previous input/implementation since 2007, and Marietta reviewed the remaining ideas on the agenda. Doug suggested that the Mt. Rose race was a good opportunity (especially if we had 1 GS there) to get UNR college racers involved. **Ingrid** moved that

we have a \$20 coupon good for that weekend only, to incentivize college racers; the motion was seconded by **Sam**. **Motion approved 9-0**. Several other ideas were noted as being worthy of further discussion and research, and will be included in the **fall Board meeting agenda**. These included Mark S's idea of a follow-up letter within 5 days of a race to all new racers and temporary licenses, and also how to involve the parents of junior racers. Sam's suggested that we offer video race runs done by a coach, with comments (**Sam** will follow up on research and how to do this). **Mark Mirviss** will follow up with selected ski areas to see if we can do a few more 2 races in one day (as done at Heavenly). Pierre's suggestion, submitted by Mike, is to do 1½ races each day on a weekend, for a total of 3 races. Mike submitted Pierre's previous suggestion to drop the outside gates for both slalom and GS, and after a brief discussion, **Sam** moved that we do a 1-year trial of having the turning gate only for Slalom and GS, at the option of each ski area. **Mark M.** seconded, and **the motion was approved 7-2**.

New Business:

- **Team Concept for Year-end Award:** Marietta briefly introduced this topic, which is intended to create a "buddy system" for members to encourage each other to go to races. This topic was deferred to the fall Board agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 6 pm unanimously..