

FAR WEST MASTERS BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 24, 2009
Smallhouse Residence
189 Carleton Court, Reno, Nevada

The meeting was called to order by Marietta Frinell at 3:35 PM

Present for the meeting were: Marietta Frinell, Deb Lewis, Marcie Pettigrew, Mark Smallhouse, Mark Mirviss, Don Smith, Sam Crowell. Sandy Hogan made a cameo appearance. A quorum was established.

It was noted that the minutes of the summer meeting were approved electronically and are posted on the FWM website.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

Secretary- No report

Treasurer- No changes since the summer meeting in our financial status.

VP Communications – No Report. However it was noted that the fall newsletter with the membership information was sent out to current and former members, going back 5 years

VP Membership – To date we have 70 paid memberships, with 2 being new and 1 returning member. Over half of our members have elected to receive the Forerunner by e-mail or via the web site (46). It was decided that a list will be made of returned Forerunners due to bad addresses, and these will be deleted from our mailing list.

VP Scheduling – There will be some changes to our proposed schedule due to Heavenly not being able to hold our race on a Saturday. Mark is trying to move some races around in order to accommodate this change. It was decided to leave our current schedule on the web until everything is firmed up.

VP CTO/Webmaster – On-Line Registration for races is being looked into and will be discussed later in the meeting. At this time the update for the Web site is still back-logged, but hopefully it will be operational sometime in November so that our membership data will be able to be updated. Deb is also working on the possibility of having the FW Masters' President have the capability of sending out e-mail blasts to members.

VP Officials – We need more TD's for our races. At this time we have Rees Palermo, Don Smith, Eddie Mozen and Doug Fulton, and possibly Mark Smallhouse. However these TD's may be available only on a limited basis this season.

OLD BUSINESS

Sponsorship Update: Mark Smallhouse reported that contact has been made with Joe Lausmann and he will be sending a check for \$1000 to cover last year's contract and this year's contract. Sam Crowell reported that Granite Chief agreed to send a check in November. Granite Chief's sponsorship ends this season. Skiers Edge had made an offer to be a sponsor and buy our racing bibs. Hopefully this offer will still be available next season.

Electronic Race Registration: Deb has been in touch with Rocky Mt. with the idea of joining in with their on-line race registration. It won't be available to us this season as the program needs "tweaking" to adjust to our unique needs and they need a funding commitment from us in order for them to move ahead with those changes in their program. Rocky Mt. wants a sliding scale funding commitment at approximately \$6/racer/season for the first year, \$5/racer/season the second year, \$4/racer/season for the third year and \$2.50/racer/season on-going. With the Rocky Mt. system they will be able to handle our "torn check policy" and canceled races. Deb will also explore with them an exit strategy if this system isn't working for us, as well as firm pricing and due dates for payments.

Deb made a motion and Mark Mirviss seconded that FW Masters fund an on-line race registration process with Rocky Mt. for up to \$6/racer/season for the first year, sliding down to \$2.50/racer/season in the fourth and on-going seasons. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership Dues

Discussion was held as to whether our FW Membership dues should be required of our race participants. It was noted that per our charter, dues are required.

Mark Smallhouse made a motion and Mark Mirviss seconded that FW Masters racers will be required to pay membership dues; however a new/first time racer who has paid for the USSA one weekend temporary license will not be required to join FW Masters for that weekend's race only.

The motion passed with Deb Lewis and Don Smith voting against.

Increasing Membership and Racer Starts

Mark Smallhouse suggested that we encourage the parents of jr. racers to race with us, even if they only race at their "home" mountain. We could reach out to the parents of jr. racers at Mt. Rose, Squaw and Mammoth if we are able to get a mailing list.

Sam Crowell will look into the possibility of locating a person or persons willing to video all of our racers during a Saturday race and then playing the video during our after-race party. This may encourage more participation at our parties. Sam will also look into purchasing a camera and batteries for this use.

In terms of holding two races in one day, and/or holding 1 ½ races a day during weekend races, there needs to be a discussion with the participating race department as this will have an impact on them as well. This structure will not work at all areas or in certain weather conditions, thus we need to be selective when considering these. Mark Mirviss will continue to explore this.

Parties and Sponsorship of Races

We have some potential race sponsors: New Venture Atty's (Mark Smallhouse) may be interested in sponsoring a GS at Mt. Rose, Deb Lewis may be interested in sponsoring a race at Mammoth, Mike Braun may also be interested in sponsoring a race at Mammoth. In the past Gate De Mattei and Buck Thys have sponsored the race at Squaw.

Mark Mirviss thanked the Smallhouses for their hospitality (and the wonderful food) for hosting the Official meeting and the Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM

(minutes recorded by Marcie Pettigrew)