



March 2018



The start gate for the Bernard Cup at Squaw Valley.
Photo Randall Sussek.

From the President's Corner...

By Dan Simmons
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It's truly a winter sport, and winter is finally here. Even with this year's challenging conditions we've had 15 races thanks to our scheduling guru Mike Braun and the great work of the race departments at Mammoth Mountain, Squaw Valley and Northstar. Look forward to upcoming events at Heavenly Valley, Mt. Rose and the season finals at Mammoth. Also, many Far West competitors are heading to the Masters World Criterium at Big Sky in March.

Congratulations to our newly crowned 2018 Spyder Masters Team members Don Smith and Deb Lewis for their performances at the Masters Nationals in Okemo. Tim Stewart also put down winning runs in the Super G and Combined, but unfortunately the GS did some shoulder damage—quick recovery Tim.

I anticipate next year's nationals to be in the West, and I am hoping for bids from at least two of our Far West resorts. The decision will be made in March at the National Board meeting in Big Sky.

On the home front, competition for season awards is close in several classes. Check your status on the season standings page of farwestmasters.org. As always Deb Lewis has managed to update the standings shortly after each event. Season awards will be presented at the finals banquet in the Mammoth Mountain Main Lodge on April 14, along with the Teddy Cantanho Award, most improved and best new racer awards. Please forward any recommendations for these awards to me and I'll pass them on the selection committees. Also at the season banquet we will have a general membership meeting to elect the president, treasurer and secretary. The nominating committee welcomes expressions of interest for any of these positions, and nominations will be accepted from the floor at the meeting. Our race program is possible only because of the work and dedication of our board of directors.

My final note is to thank all of our members who have served as race officials, both as TD and referee. We could not run our events without the participation of people to fill these U.S. Ski and Snowboard required positions. Officials are on the hill early at each race assuring proper course sets and safety conditions and are responsible for certifying results and timing at the end of the event. Officials this year include Reggie Bauer, Hamish Butler, Doug Fulton, Paul Laudenschlager, Deb Lewis, Mark Mirviss (our chair of officials), Eddie Mozen, Don Smith, Rees Palermo, Ray Tulloch, and myself. I encourage you to attend an officials clinic next fall to learn how complicated it is to run our races and help out.

See you on the race hill.

Dan

FAR WEST MASTERS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

By Sandy Hogan

This season's 45 Far West Masters Scholarship recipients come from Diamond Peak (3), Mammoth Mountain (13), Northstar (3), Squaw Valley (11), and Sugar Bowl (15). The minimum scholarship is \$250, based on race performance, work ethic, financial need, citizenship, and academic scholarship and can only be used for race-related expenses. Some athletes receive many thousands of dollars, depending on need, years in the program, and expenses at the level they are skiing. In its 24 years, the program has awarded more than one million dollars to our young athletes, thanks to **your** participation in raffles, silent auctions, annual contribution from members, and other financial support. Our program sponsors many of the athletes for a number of years, including those who go on to race in college or with US Skiing. This year we supported Mark Engel and Foreste Peterson in World Cup starts, and AJ Hurt who went to the World Junior Championships and also had several World Cup starts. Mark Engel, and two of our former recipients, downhillers Stacey Cook and Travis Ganong, were selected to compete on the 2018 US Olympic team. However, Travis was injured earlier in the season (ACL) and couldn't compete, Stacy bravely completed two downhill training runs in spite of injuries in the last World Cup downhill, but was unable to compete in the downhill itself. Mark competed in the Olympic slalom, and also the team parallel event, but the team was eliminated before the final round.

Here's a thank you note from one of our second-year recipients and first year FIS athlete, Zazie Huml. She is coached by Northstar's Josh Transue, and some of you met her at our Master's camp at Copper Mountain this past year.

*Dear Far West Masters Scholarship Committee:
Thank you very much for helping to support my skiing this year! I'm very excited to have a wonderful season and am very appreciative of your help in letting me work hard and excel in a sport I love!*

Best regards and many thanks, Zazie



Our scholarship program has no equal in any region, thanks to Chair Eddie Mozen's and Board members Doug Fulton's and Miles Anderson's outstanding leadership, and to **your** continued support!

Opening weekend - Mammoth SL

The 2017-2018 race season opened with two SL races at Mammoth on Saturday Dec. 2. The conditions on Andy's Double Gold were good all day and the crack Mammoth Mountain Race Department crew nailed their schedule for the day.

Along with many familiar faces, we were pleased to welcome several new racers to our Far West Masters racing. Newcomer Casey Edgeton paced a strong women's field in her first masters race, posting the fastest time of the day for the entire field in the first race. Quick-footed Andrea Levy recovered her focus after a first run DNF to take the women's title in the second race, placing a very impressive 5th overall.

Newcomer Bjorn Vandug also made an impressive debut on the Far West circuit, winning the men's Open class in the first race and placing second in the afternoon race. Scott Peer topped the field in the second race for his first-ever MOP victory.

Mammoth GS

Our second event of the 2018 season returned to Mammoth Mountain for a pair of GS races on the weekend of Dec. 16-17. The race venue on Andrea's Double Gold (ADG) was firm and consistent - an outstanding racing surface for the entire field.

The low visibility on Saturday was a major challenge to all competitors, with the fog thicker on the second run and some competitors struggling with freezing moisture on their goggles. Tough conditions!

Sunday flipped the switch to gorgeous, with bright sun and warming temperatures that made for spectacular racing conditions. Jodi Melton made her 2018 season debut with a pair of smoking runs to dominate the women's field. On the men's side, Chris Adams and Doug Fulton clearly enjoyed the conditions, nudging aside Saturday winner Jeff Anderson to join leader Mike Braun on the podium.

Bernard Cup – Squaw Valley

Due to thin coverage on the lower mountain, the planned Friday GS was cancelled but replaced by the addition of a second SL race on Saturday, leading to a rare SL triple-header for the annual Bernard Cup trophy.

The Bernard Cup trophy is awarded to the man and woman with the fastest overall time for all three races (definitely a challenge with SL!), using an age-handicap formula to allow comparisons across a broad range of ages. The 2018 women's title went to Andrea Levy, who compensated for her youth in W01 by putting up a series of fast runs to dominate the ladies. Tim Stewart from M09 took the men's title with a strong return from the injury that ended his season early last spring. Congratulations to Andrea, Tim, and everyone who raced this weekend!

National Championships and FIS Masters Criterium

The 2018 Alpine Masters National Championships, sponsored in part by Phillips 66, were hosted by Eastern Division at Okemo on Feb. 6-10, 2018. The nationals are a four-event championships with an alpine-combined along with the 3-event SG/GS/SL races for the combined age class champions scoring.

A small but strong FW team consisting of Deb Lewis, Andrea Levy, Don Smith and Tim Stewart put up some great finishes, with all 4 taking medals, and with a strong showing in Super G. Deb Lewis and Don Smith both finished first overall in their class and made the 2019 Spyder National Masters Team. Congratulations to you all.

Northstar SL Weekend

While there was certainly some disappointment that we were not able to hold the planned SG-GS races at Northstar on Feb. 23-25, due to the limited snow coverage, the revised weekend schedule of two SL races on Saturday and one on Sunday turned out to be an excellent event. The SL courses were set on the upper section of Loggers Loop and the race hill was in excellent condition, thanks to outstanding work by Eric Whittaker's race crew as well as the preparation by the Northstar grooming crews.

Saturday's weather was surprisingly chilly, with overcast skies and strong winds making it a challenge for competitors and crew to stay warm through 4 runs of SL. Making up for the unexpected dose of winter weather on Saturday, Sunday was a gorgeous day with sunny and warmer conditions making for a really fun final SL race. Everyone went home with smiles on their face.



Don Smith - gold medal in the opening SG and Alpine Combined races at the Okemo masters national championships.

From: Far West Masters Racing Series

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The Forerunner

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Your submissions or photos to this publication are always welcome. Please send articles and/or photos to Hamish Butler, forerunner@farwestmasters.org

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