



The **FORERUNNER**
FAR WEST MASTERS

January 2010



Julie Rolfe and Annette Mirviss
1st and 3rd in Women's Open Class
Squaw Valley Slalom - December 19, 2009

From the President's Corner...

I am happy to report that our 2009-2010 season started out with a bang. A few short of 90 racers for our first race at Mammoth. We had a great party Saturday afternoon at Giavonni's, arranged and sponsored by Randall Sussex. When you see him make sure to thank him. Sunday morning we all waited for the officials to come off the hill and make a decision. Rick Frangillo, the TD, announced that the panels were flattened by the wind, there was pumice all over the hill, a pause, and the chair is not running. Good call by Rick and Deb Lewis, the Ref!

I could not make the Squaw race, but I heard they did an exceptional job. Sorry we didn't have more racers. We probably need some feedback for next year as to whether we are scheduling to close to Christmas? It makes it really tough on our race scheduler (Mark Mirviss) when he goes back to these areas to schedule a race when they can't break even.

Our next race was the 8th at Heavenly, two slaloms in one day and again John Gianotti is sponsoring the party. Hopefully, you didn't miss that one, followed by two more slaloms at Squaw. We have a new program this year. We have always had individuals step forward to sponsor some of our parties, but now we are actively soliciting for all our races. Depending on the race, you can name it and we will recognize you at the awards party, all this for \$350.

The Western Regionals are coming up soon, February 4-7. These are great races and will give you a chance to see where you will place at Nationals (or how much work is left to do). Entries go to Park City. And speaking of Nationals, I need your entries by February 1st for Sun Valley, Please check your comp guide for more info. Their cancellation policy is 2 weeks for full refund, single entry card for all events, ONE check for all events payable to Sun Valley Ski Club and send all this to me, POB 907, Mammoth Lakes, Ca 93546. This is a four event Nationals, the Super Combined does NOT count for the National Combined.

Trying to come up with a ski racers wish for the New Year, somehow "going down hill fast" didn't sound quite right. I will stick to the traditional and wish you all a Healthy, prosperous New Year and may all your dreams come true (including being on the podium).

Marietta

Race Schedule Changes!!!

Due to abundant snow, the Sierra at Tahoe GS Races for January 23 - 24 have been rescheduled to January 30 - 31. Also, in response to changing conditions, we have arranged a "venue swap" between the GS race weekends originally scheduled for February 20-21 at Squaw Valley and on March 20-21 at Northstar. The Bernard Cup GS weekend originally scheduled for February 20-21 at Squaw Valley will now be held on March 20-21. The Northstar GS races originally scheduled for that weekend will now be held on February 20-21. Unfortunately, there will be no Downhill at Northstar this season.

The Bernard Cup GS race weekend will also feature a scheduling experiment that we hope will be fun for competitors as well as giving us some additional flexibility in putting on the races. We will have 3 GS races over the two days, with three runs each day. Eh, you say?! Right - we'll have the first run of the second GS race on Saturday afternoon; the second run will be on Sunday morning. Plenty of time to plan your second run strategy and work on psyching out your competitors! It'll be a little different, but we think it'll be fun to try something a little different.

This Race Brought to you by...You!

For a mere \$350, you can sponsor a Far West Masters Race. You will be recognized at the awards party for your generous sponsorship, and you get the privilege of naming the race. If you want to take advantage of this opportunity, please contact our president, Marietta Frinell.

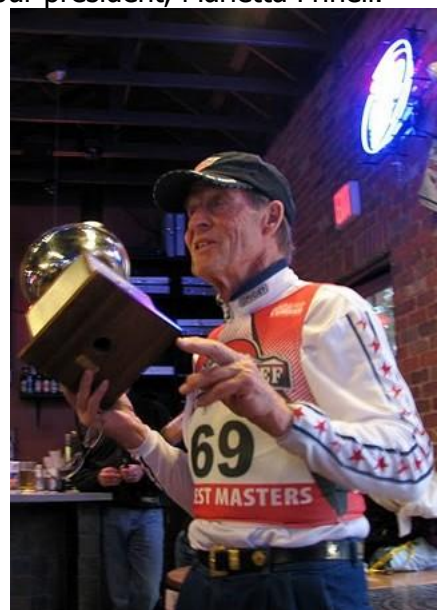


photo by Sasha Glushenko

John Giannotti, our gracious host for Viva Italia!

Thank You Race Department!

Putting on a race is no small task, and we extend our grateful thanks to the Race Departments of Mammoth Mountain, Heavenly Valley and Squaw Valley for their hard work, course maintenance and friendly employees. When you are at a race, please be sure to acknowledge the Race Department employees and thank them for the work they do. Mark Mirviss wrote a special thank you to Squaw Valley after our December slalom races:

Letter of Thanks to Squaw Valley

On behalf of Far West Masters Ski Racing, I would like to extend thanks to your Race Department and on-hill race crew. Our slalom races held last Saturday and Sunday were perfectly prepared and executed by your staff. The timing, hill preparation, course setting, announcing, posting of race results, and even the music being played over the PA system was perfect, and enjoyed by all.

I know this year is somewhat of a transition year in the race department, and Squaw Valley as a whole, so I would like to especially commend the efforts of Sid Crockett and his staff. In my opinion, it is the efforts of management and supervision that make or break the "grunt" work that is seen by the racers as a successful and pleasurable race. It is obvious that the on-hill staff has been properly motivated and trained. Not only did they do their jobs to perfection, but all interactions between your staff and our racers were very positive.

Thank you,
Mark Mirviss
Race Director

Heavenly and Squaw Slalom Races

The new year brought warm weather and three packed days of slalom racing to the Far West. On Friday January 8, Heavenly hosted a double-header race day on World Cup for the Viva Italia Slalom, with sponsor John Gianotti in fine form encouraging the competitors on the hill and organizing a great post-race party with food, prizes, and a special surprise to celebrate another great performance by our oldest racer Teddy Cantanho. The overall Viva Italia trophy winners this year were defending champion Kurt Beldon, with Deb "I love slalom!" Lewis reclaiming the women's title.



Deb "I Love Slalom" Lewis

photo by Sasha Glushenko

Shifting from the south shore up to the northwest corner of Lake Tahoe, the weekend brought two more days of slalom racing at Squaw Valley on Exhibition. With warm conditions and thin snow coverage on the race hill, the start was moved down from the road and the course setters diligently plotted lines to challenge the racers and make best use of the hill. Some exciting runs resulted among the younger men's classes, but all competed in good spirits. Saturday's post-race party featured some fine catering provided by local chefs Eddie Mozen and Mark Mirviss, and with plenty of great raffle prizes following well-executed speeches by scholarship athletes, everyone went home happy and well-fed.

Regional and National Championships

Western Regionals will be at Park City, Utah, February 4 – 7. Nationals are in Sun Valley, Idaho, March 29 – April 2. Time is running out to send your entry forms for Regional and National Championships. Entries for Regionals need to be sent directly to Park City Mountain Resort by February 27. Entries received after that date will incur a \$20 late fee. Entry forms for Nationals must go through Marietta – see her article for details. Entry forms and more information can be found on both the Far West Masters website, farwestmasters.org, and the USSA website, ussamasters.org.

Notes of Thanks from our Scholarship Winners

Dear Far West Masters,

First off, I would like to say thank you for choosing me as one of the 2009-2010 Far West Masters Scholarship winners. It is such an honor to be recognized by your organization in a time when funds are scarce and many athletes have requested sponsorship. I will be working hard this season, to earn good results both on the slopes and in my studies.

Second, I would like to say thanks for inviting me to the Annual Masters Copper ski camp. It was some of the best training I have ever experienced and I learned a lot from the old and wise. It was great to make new friends of all ages, and experience travel, skiing and living with many different people. I hope that I can be a good example for my peers and younger skiers because of this great experience.

Thanks again for your generosity and for giving me this opportunity.

Sincerely,
Kirk Carlson
Mammoth Mountain Ski Team



first row: Erik Eisen, Isaac Mozen, Kaz Sosnkowski.
Second row: Garret Driller, Pierson Souza, Lachlan Anderson, Nico Monforte, Owen Wattenmaker.
Third row: Stacey Cook, Grace Dolan, Kirk Carlson, Marco Sullivan

Dear Eddie,

Thank you so much for all of your help over the last month. I really enjoyed the Colorado camp and it jump-started my season with terrific training and coaching. The scholarship and Swix sponsorship that you set me up with will free up more money for me to race. Thanks again for everything. I am sure that I will have a more successful season because of all of this help.

James Clifford
Sugar Bowl Ski Team



Kirk Carlson (Mammoth), Grace Dolan (Squaw), Pierson Souza (Squaw), and Garret Driller (Squaw)

Dear Far West Masters,

Happy Holidays! I would like to thank you all so much for your continued support of our children, Tenaya and Garret Driller. They both have had a fantastic time meeting the Far West Masters, skiing with them, cooking and laughing with them that they are both better people for it! We thank you. Having your program, with its many many members, as part of our children's skiing and life experiences is something we will all cherish for a long time. Just listening to the stories from both kids, about the time spent with the Far West Masters, on and off the snow, makes me really believe in and support your program and what you are doing for our kids!

Thank you very much,
Ron and Deedee Driller
Squaw valley Ski Team



The Forerunner

Have you moved? Please let us know.
Send your new address, phone number,
and email information to:

Marcie Pettigrew
P.O. Box 7181
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
Or email 1skigal@earthlink.net

Your submissions and photos to this
publication are always welcome!
Please send articles and/or photos to
Ingrid Braun at ingridemma@sbcglobal.net

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Granite Chief Far West Masters Ski Racing Series

C/O Marcie Pettigrew
P.O. Box 7181
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

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www.farwestmasters.org

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